



"Never say goodbye because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting." • JM Barrie, Peter Pan



D.I. General Store

LATE OPENING

May 10th is the last day for Grumpy as owner. The new owners take over on May 11th. The General Store and Post Office will both be opening on Tuesday May 11th at NOON to allow for inventory counting in the morning. *Thank you for almost 11 wonderful unforgettable years. Best wishes to the new owners.*

Can't get better staff. Retiring Grumpy Boss who when he was close to retiring offered his compost business to his son but the son refused saying "I refuse work with compost. It's so degrading".

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Cover image: Grumpy and the General Store
Family - May 2nd, 2021. Photo by Dreadful Imagery



Questions About the General Store

By Grumpy

COMMUNITY INFO

We have been getting some questions about what will be happening at the General Store once the new owners take over so here some questions and answers to the most common questions:

1) Will local produce and products continue to be sold at the General Store?

Yes they will. If anyone is interested in selling local products and produce please contact Jennifer.

2) What will happen with the pre-paid accounts?

The account balances will transfer over and there will be no change in the credit policy.

3) Will we still be able to get garbage tickets and event tickets at the General Store?

Definitely. The new owners will continue to offer these public services. Garbage tickets will remain on a cash or cheque basis as the owners will continue to not charge a commission for this service.

4) When is the changeover?

The new owners take over on May 11th. Grumpy will be in and out helping until May 25. Jennifer will be the manager.

5) Any last words from Grumpy:

One of the many things I love about Denman is its diversity of viewpoints. The sale of the store is no different. Please support the General Store and give the new owners a chance. The General Store supports 14 Denman jobs. The General Store stocks local products. Shopping at the General Store supports jobs not only for the employees but for suppliers like Two Roads Farms, Ima's Kitchen, Yvonne's Baking, Wooden Grove Farms to name but a few. The General Store supports other businesses in the community as well as numerous local groups. Supporting the General Store supports Denman.

A thought on retirement: "A computer once beat me at chess. But it was no match for me at kickboxing."

A quote from Winnie the Pooh: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." 🍓

DI Women Call for Guaranteed Livable Income

By Suzette Cullen

COMMUNITY INFO

This morning, women from Denman Island dropped a banner at the Denman Island BC Ferries West terminal reading "#WomenDemand Guaranteed Livable Income."

Suzette Cullen, resident of Denman Island and one of the women who dropped the banner this morning said: "This is a very good time to speak up and speak out and try to do something about the horrible inequalities in our society. During this pandemic we have seen government actually support people that need it. We want to see it continues. I think guaranteed livable income can create long-lasting positive effects for women and us all."



The banner dropping on Denman Island is a part of a province-wide action led by the BC Women's Alliance. This morning, women dropped banners that demanded Guaranteed Livable Income in other locations in British Columbia including Vancouver, Kelowna, Victoria and Nanaimo.

Last month, the Liberal Party endorsed a resolution calling on the federal government to develop and implement universal basic income. According to Jacqueline Gullion, an organizer with BC Women's Alliance, "As the federal and provincial governments plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, we insist on women's entitlement to better than a 'return to normal' since for many, the 'old normal' was based on economic and other inequalities of women, Indigenous people and people of color. Women require monumental, urgent change, including here in BC. We have a chance to build a just future for women and for all, starting with Guaranteed Livable Income."

Registration Opens for Summer Events

ARTS&LIT

By Gail Dugas • DI Reader's & Writer's Festival

Denman Island – The Denman Island Readers and Writers Festival is looking for aspiring writers who have been inspired or frustrated – or both – by Covid times. The annual event has developed a reputation as one of the best, and friendliest, small venue literary festivals in the country. Organizers were committed to keep it going through Covid, so they expanded the online workshop format to connect new writers with award-winning BC authors with a view to improving their craft. Registration for the workshops close May 31. They take place from July 12-18.

"If you have been writing during Covid and are ready for input, inspiration, and the perspective of published authors then our program fits the bill," says Cindy Critchley, co-chair. "We are keeping the groups small so that participants can get the attention they need and learn from some of the best authors in the province while meeting other emerging writers."

Five BC writers are heading up 3-hour online workshops on topics ranging from spoken word poetry, to writing in a pandemic to creative non-fiction and more. The authors will talk about their own work and lead short writing exercises and group discussions.

The Festival is also sponsoring its popular The Writing Week. This is the fourth year award-winning author Caroline Adderson is teaching the five-day course. This year's workshop is online and limited to 8 people. Participants will be asked to submit their work a month ahead of the July 12-16 start date.

Organizers have also put tentative plans in place for a local event which would highlight performances and readings by Denman Island artists, writers, and performers. It is called Turning the Page. However, a decision to go ahead depends on directives from Public Health officials.

For more information Gail Dugas 250-532-1443

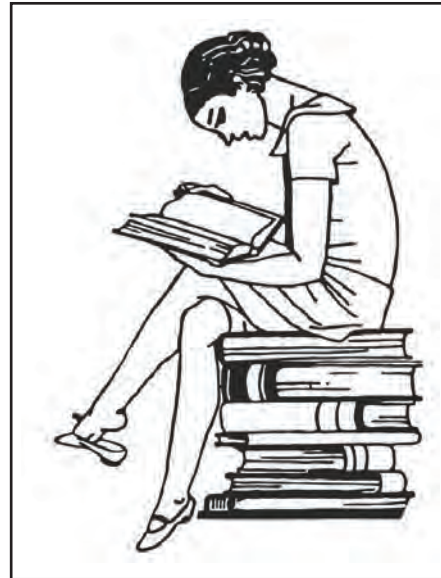
Living Well: Mother's Day

By Verna Isbister

We had been practising for weeks. The song was easy to learn as all we needed to remember was the word "mother". I was in Gr. 5 and our Comox Brownie-Girl Guide unit was putting on a Mother's Day Tea to honour our mothers. The song we sang was called, "M-is for the Million Things She Gave Me." I was fortunate to have a very loving and wonderful mother. I was so happy to stand in the hall and proudly sing this song to the most important woman in my life. Then we poured tea and coffee and offered our mothers the snacks that we had made. It was a special day for me and I hope for my Mum.

Today I want to share some of the million things that my mother gave me:

-she was hospitable and sent me to extend morning coffee invitations to the women in our neighbourhood
continued on P.5...



TIDE TABLE

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

2021-05-06 (Thursday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
03:17	4.7	15.4
10:12	2.4	7.9
15:18	3.4	11.2
20:59	2.1	6.9

2021-05-07 (Friday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
03:56	4.6	15.1
10:52	2.0	6.6
16:35	3.5	11.5
21:58	2.4	7.9

2021-05-08 (Saturday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
04:28	4.5	14.8
11:27	1.7	5.6
17:37	3.7	12.1
22:49	2.6	8.5

2021-05-09 (Sunday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
04:54	4.5	14.8
11:58	1.5	4.9
18:28	3.9	12.8
23:33	2.8	9.2

2021-05-10 (Monday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
05:16	4.4	14.4
12:26	1.3	4.3
19:13	4.1	13.5

2021-05-11 (Tuesday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
00:13	3.0	9.8
05:35	4.3	14.1
12:52	1.1	3.6
19:53	4.2	13.8

2021-05-12 (Wednesday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
00:50	3.2	10.5
05:53	4.2	13.8
13:18	1.0	3.3
20:32	4.3	14.1

2021-05-13 (Thursday)

Time	Height	
PDT	(m)	(ft)
01:28	3.4	11.2
06:11	4.2	13.8
13:45	1.0	3.3
21:11	4.4	14.4



An Unpainted Portrait: Dining

By Leo Simmons

ARTS&LIT



D*inners.* Def: a common misuse of the word to describe the meal eaten at school lunchtimes. Mostly made up of collections of animal proteins and vegetable matter previously declared unfit for human consumption.

For the first three years at the big school, our lunches (or as we always referred to it: 'dinner') fell into two major categories: first, those provided by the school, and secondly, edible food. The latter came in oversized Tupperware boxes (always large enough to ensure tumbling and the inevitable deconstruction of the contents) provided by caring mothers, and from time to time I would dip into the packed lunch scene until I could stand the idea of discombobulated cheese and ketchup sandwiches no

longer, and was forced to return to the horrors of the school kitchen experiments. That tells you how much I grew to hate cheese and ketchup.

Submitting ourselves to the dark arts practised by 'Matron' and her team of orcs - I mean cooks - we were required to form an orderly queue outside the doors of the dining hall, at which point we would be directed by a bored teacher into one of two other queues along the side of the room. One there, we shuffled quietly towards whatever fate had in store for us. By 'fate', I of course mean lunch. Trays and cutlery would be grabbed, and we moved along the serving line, to be witnesses to the grumpy dolloping of unidentifiable masses of goop, goo and green...stuff...onto institutional plates and/or into institutional bowls.

Potato was generally the most familiar item, since it *always* arrived in an ice cream scoop-shaped igloo, was mostly white, and could be trusted to be entirely without flavour. Meats of all kinds were presented with complementary rubbery fat and gristle attached, often in a gravy or sauce which included mysterious granular specks of...something, possibly coal. The green stuff - rumoured to be vegetables - which were never going to be the most popular ingredients of any teenager's meal, were turned into fool-proof objects of revulsion. This was achieved by the aggressive use of industrial boilers within which cellulose was endlessly pummelled and battered. Cabbage leaves became tasteless, watery and somehow squeaky sheets of...something, while runner beans turned into tattered, pathetic baby squid. Broad and butter beans were somehow transformed from perfectly acceptable food into vomit-inducing packages of squishy glop, and indeed to this day, the very sight of a cooked butter bean will have my gag reflex on full alert.

Once in a while (a *very long* while), a dessert/pudding would come along to save our sanity. In keeping with the main course themes, our puddings were most typically enticing items such as Sago or Semolina. In other words: gloppy goop dressed up with a teaspoon of jam dropped into the middle of it. Eating that stuff was the nearest I ever came to being sick backwards. Rice pudding - another dish which cost the local education authority less than it cost us to consume it - was another regular, but this routinely looked so much like something that had been scooped up from the pavement outside of a pub, it was very rarely consumed. The best we could manage was to stir it around in our bowls before despondently pushing it away. Bear in mind that these were hungry teenage boys refusing food; it was that bad. Salvation would, however, appear once every couple of weeks in the form of a sponge of some kind. This meant one thing: sugar.

Spotted Dick was a favourite for the obvious reason - its name was always good for a round of jokes - and the fact that it actually had some flavour, that flavour not being disgusting. Covered with the mandatory thin custard, it made up for the main course that had preceded it, no matter what. Syrup sponge was the king,

however - and news of its arrival would fizz around the school like a lit fuse whenever it happened. Syrup sponge for pudding was Ridgeway's spiritual equivalent of being released from solitary confinement.

One other item had a special place in our hearts, but for some reason (I suspect downright cruelty), it was hardly ever available. It was a pudding (sort of), it was called 'Melting Moments', and I fell in love with it/them/it. Sugary fluffy cake-cookies with a hint of vanilla flavouring and complemented with a dollop of jam (we must have kept the UK's cheap jam industry alive), the Melting Moment really did - as advertised - seem to dissolve in the mouth. It was for me the culinary highlight of the school term. I was so moved by them that I subsequently begged my mum to make some for home consumption, only to be met with a blank expression. I knew that if I pushed it, I would be on thin ice. Needless to say, I dropped the matter, much as I would drop an angry viper.

In the end, towards the end of my first five years at the school, the system underwent the first known change. Suddenly, a cafeteria system arrived in our lives. With it came choice. It might sound harsh to say that we proved to be irresponsible or unwise in our cafeteria food choices, but school records would later show an alarming rise in the ratio of zits/plukes/spots per square inch of teenage faces. This coincided with the sudden availability of chips (French fries) with every meal, as well as burgers. Strange, that...

By the time I reached the sixth form (grade eleven), we were all too cool to attend the dining hall, and our lunchtimes could be spent off the school premises, hunting and gathering for sustenance. This was a refreshing taste of both freedom and trust, which lasted right up to the day when 'Squiffy' Grantham returned to school after lunch in an extraordinarily good mood and smelling ever-so-strongly of Heineken Lager... 🍷

...continued from P.3 -once a month she went out for the evening and played cards with her Bridge club. When her friends came to our house, she made fancy rolled sandwiches with Cheez Whiz and canned asparagus on white bread (she even cut off the crusts). They drank sherry and laughed until midnight.

-every weekend, my parents had friends over for visits, food and drinks

-she walked everywhere, often with my sister and me

-when she was forty-five she took driving lessons

-my mother sat with my father every day after work, had a cup of tea and shared the daily news

-she took naps

-she loved to read in the afternoons and took me to the library

-my Mum made me do chores

-she signed me up for art lessons

-she encouraged me to write poems and send them to my Icelandic, poet grandfather

-my mother took me to dance lessons when I was five and when I started to cry she joined in the circle

-she took me by the hand and confronted the bullies in our neighbourhood who had hurt me

-she made me go next door and personally apologize to a neighbour

-whenever I needed to learn something, she would rush to find the answer and share it with me

-she helped me cut out sewing patterns that I couldn't figure out. She was very patient with me.

-my mother, sister and I had a bowl of ice-cream every night

-she let me buy the expensive coat that I really, really wanted in Gr. 12

-my Mum hummed all the time. I especially remember that she hummed, My Bonnie lies over the Ocean and the lines, "bring back, bring back, oh bring back my Bonnie to me" after I told my parents that Graeme and I were going to go work in Africa for two years

-she wrote letters and remembered everyone's birthday with a card or gift

-she taught me to write thank-you cards

-she took me to church and led the Explorers group-exploring the mysteries of life

-my mother loved her husband and kids and modelled for me how to love my family

-she was an encouraging and devoted Amma, grandmother

-she helped people in need and took me along to clean their houses

-my Mum modelled for me how to give my husband the "silent treatment"

-she visited her mother-in-law every afternoon for many years

-she welcomed me home with warm hugs

-she came to see me in the hospital after our son was born. My father pushed her into the room in a wheelchair as she'd just had her first chemo treatment. She wanted to hold the baby.

I will always remember my mother with such love, gratitude and thankfulness. I know that not everyone has been so fortunate. Relationships can be complicated and hurtful. Even out of those complications, I trust that you might find a good memory to hold of your mother.

We were all devastated when my Mum died of ovarian cancer. My daughter named her first daughter, Marion, after my mother. Her qualities and love live on in the next generation. I wonder what gifts you can pass on to your children and grandchildren?

As we approach Mother's Day this weekend, I invite you to pause and reflect on "the million things," or on one thing that your mother gave you.



2021 Denman Island Recreation Grants

Applications are now available for the CVRD Recreational Grants for Denman Island non-profit Groups which provide sport and fitness related activities. Applications can be picked up at Abraxas Books free mail under "R" or on line <www.denmanresidents.com> link to "Committees and Services" Return to Abraxas books or email to scrutond@telus.net Deadline for submissions is MAY 25 at 5 pm. Funds available approximately \$19,000. Committee members: Dr. David Scruton, Nancy Snyder, Jack Forsyth.

Healthy Islands: The GAP in Our HEALTHcare System

By Christopher Mainella

HEALTH&WELLNESS

Hello Denman and Hornby Community,

Christopher Mainella here, certified and registered Physiotherapist with the BC College of Physiotherapists, I provide Physiotherapy receipts if you are claiming on your extended health benefits or MSP Premium (which covers \$23/session up to 10 sessions). I am currently working on Wednesdays out of the Hornby and Denman Health Care Society building on Hornby and Fridays out of the Denman Medical Clinic. The gardening season is upon us, if you would like some preventative education on how to care for your back and shoulders, contact me!

The purpose of the Healthy Islands monthly article series is to bring about discussions and knowledge sharing.

Being born in Canada, I have always believed we had a Universal health care system, whereby access was granted to all. Working in the health care system for over 14 years, I now see and understand that there are huge gaps and discrepancies in what Canadian citizens and those who are trying to reside here can access.

Health care in Canada is not “free.” While Canadians may not be billed directly when they use medical services, they pay a substantial amount of money for health care through the country’s tax system. Unfortunately, the size of these tax payments is hard to determine because there is no “dedicated” health insurance tax. As a result, individuals and families often cannot fully appreciate the true cost they pay towards the public health care system. We estimate that the average Canadian family (two parents, two children) earning \$119,082 will pay \$11,735 for public health-care insurance in 2015. Meanwhile, a single individual earning \$42,244 will pay \$4,222. Looking back over the last decade, we estimate that the cost of public health-care insurance for the average Canadian family grew 1.6 times faster than the average income between 2005 and 2015. (Barua, Palachios, 2018)

I am so grateful for our health care system, we are very fortunate compared to so many countries in the world but at the same time we should always be thriving to improve it and change it in relation to the needs of our citizens. For all those that do not go to the hospital, use emergency care or visit doctors often, why is there not an alternative health option, whereby the tax money you are paying for your health care better represents your needs? Why is there not government funding for other treatment options such as acupuncture, homeopathy, osteopathy, massage therapy, nutrition, naturopathy, herbology, somatic therapy, conscious behavioural therapy, meditation, yoga, fitness programs, nature therapy, counselling, etc? I believe we also have to invest in our own health and well-being but it would be great to have access to government health tax support.

In this article I will focus on Physiotherapy services and what I know. At the present moment there are two main systems to access Physiotherapy services; the public system (hospital, rehabilitation centres, community setting- home-care) and the private system (clinics, home-care). Some clarifications; to access in patient and out patient Physiotherapy services in your local hospital, you would have had to have had surgery or a fracture. To access public rehabilitation centres, you would have had to have had surgery with a partnering hospital or have had a neurological injury or condition (e.g. stroke, traumatic brain injury). To access community home-care services, you will need to qualify based on age, lack of family, friend support network and check-off a list of criteria that deem you a candidate.

For everything else that falls into the categories of musculoskeletal, vestibular, chronic pain, degenerative conditions (e.g. OA, MS), car accidents (ICBC), work accidents (WorksafeBC) and preventative education, you will need to enter the private system. Many private clinics offer quality services to their clientele, the catch is that you need to have money or an extended health insurance plan. If you have neither, you fall into the gap. Currently MSP Premium (lower income citizens) covers \$23/session up to 10 sessions, the issue is that the average cost of a



Physiotherapy session is \$80 for 30 minutes. As an example, a single Mom with a couple of kids at home, working 1-2 jobs to make ends meet, she hurts her back lifting groceries out of the trunk, what does she do? If she goes to the hospital, most likely she will wait hours (which does not help her back) to get T3s or NSAIDs or muscle relaxants. Maybe an X-Ray which will not show much, except some wear and tear in her vertebra. If she enters the private system, she may need to spend a few hundred dollars, which she may not have. So she goes without treatment and there is a risk she may re-injure her back, have to take more time off work, there are risks that the pain does not subside and it becomes sub-acute then chronic pain. Then what does she do?

What can we propose?

There needs to be an alternative system that fills this gap, that meets the needs of those who do not qualify for the public system Physiotherapy services and who cannot afford the private system services.

On a provincial level, we should be working on changing the access to Physiotherapy to 5-10 sessions/year fully covered if you do not have extended health benefits. Imagine the money the government would save if the focus was on preventative care, in which people could receive education and conservative treatment before the pharmaceutical path and hospitalization. A more holistic path whereby people are more active

participants in their healing process, in which they better understand what is going on with their body and have the time to be heard.

What is Physio Alternative proposing?

I would like to start by blocking off one session per week on both Denman and Hornby Island for those that fall into this gap. Where accessibility is the priority. These sessions will be offered on a sliding scale approach and can involve the barter system as well (see my website for more details). We all have passions, we are all creative, we all have value that is not based on how much money we make, let's bring that value forward and open these discussions. If based on your current situation this approach could benefit you, please contact me.

Another way could be if you are very satisfied with my Physiotherapy services and you fall into the group that has money and/or extended health insurance and you would like to pay a Physiotherapy session or a portion of a session forward for a member of your community, we can make this work. I will create a Community Physiotherapy Pay-it-Forward fund, which those in need can access.

This is all still in a grey zone, but let us shine some light on it. Let us create the change we want to see around us. Let us acknowledge the inequalities and start working towards a present and a future in which holistic and client centred care is accessible to all members of our communities.

My contact information: Physio Alternative (www.physioalternative.ca), physioalternativecm@gmail.com, (514) 605-9398 (Montreal based number) 🍷

Purple Martin News

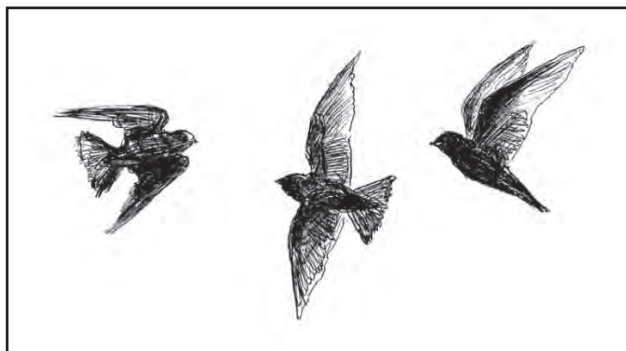
By Peter Karsten

SPECIAL INTEREST



Peter and Dennis building Purple Martin nest boxes

The Western Purple Martins returned about two weeks ago to raise another generation of chicks on Denman Island. This largest species of swallows was very much in decline with only 10 known pairs in BC in 1980. Since then they rebounded to 1200 pairs with the help of a concerted volunteer program to place special nest boxes, mostly on pilings, along the shore line. The birds are leg banded as part of the BC Purple Martin Stewardship and Recovery Program to track migratory routes, dispersal, recruitment, nest box selection and longevity. Joan Scruton monitors the fledglings by reading the leg band numbers with her high power binoculars. Bruce Cousin the program coordinator banded and recorded 50 chicks for the Denman colony in 2020. That is remarkable.



The population increase dramatically between 1985 -2016 and then levelled off in recent years due to wet weather just as fledglings need an enormous amount of insect food. There is also a concern of reduced insect population generally. Available housing has been the limitation for population growth. We placed nest boxes at the community dock and West Denman ferry landing. We mounted six in 2012, two in 2014, six in 2016 and eight in 2020; 22 in total. They were built

continued on P.8...

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The nest box mounting party.

...continued from P.7 with the able help of John Johnston, Dennis Forsyth, Kevin Behrens and Sterling Fraser.

The martins readily accepted our invitation to take up residence. Last year all boxes were occupied. Unfortunately one set of three boxes fell down. It was suspended on a pulley system. We don't know why it failed. Five chicks drowned but I rescued one to nurse it back for release to the colony.

Last week Dennis Forsyth and I built three boxes out of 1 inch cedar boards. I milled them from a dead cedar for the purpose. We had a martin nest box mounting party on Sunday, May 2nd. Graeme Johnston and Ben Jones did the high ladder act helped by Dennis and myself, while Ben's family: Rhianna and children Luka, Marguerite and Adelaide helped pack the scaffolding parts, ladder, tools and nest boxes to the site. In one hour we had the boxes installed and purple martins already inspected them at the time of this writing.

A big thank you to the purple martin care team. We get things done.



CVRD Celebrates Kirk Road Stairs Opening

By CVRD

COMMUNITY INFO

On April 29, 2021 the CVRD celebrated the official opening of the Kirk Road stairs providing a critical link to the almost six kilometer Denman Island Cross Trail. The new stairs and trail connect the Denman West Ferry Terminal with the commercial downtown core of Denman Island.

"The new stairs provide a safer pedestrian passage for the community from the Denman West ferry terminal to downtown Denman Island," explains Electoral Area A Director Daniel Arbour. "We are thrilled to have worked so closely with neighbors and the local Denman Island Residents Association (DIRA) to make this project happen. Now the community has almost six kilometers of trail to connect the community."

Funding for this initiative was proudly supported by the CVRD Community Works Funds. Community Works Funds are provided by way of a transfer of Federal Gas Tax Funds to Local Governments to provide a source of stable, predictable, and long-term funding towards environmentally sustainable infrastructure. The Comox Valley Regional District receives an allocation of funds based on the total population residing in the region's Electoral Areas. The project was completed by a Denman Island contractor.

"The Cross Island Trail is part of Denman Island's extensive network of public recreational spaces maintained mainly by volunteers on DIRA's Parks and Trails Committees and the Denman Conservancy Association. These new stairs at the west end of the Cross Island Trail will be maintained, along with the rest of the trail, by the DIRA Trails Committee and a local Denman Island contractor. We're all grateful to the CVRD for the beautiful stairs and are looking forward to working with them to complete the rest of the trail linking the Denman Island West and East ferry terminals," states Ron Sheppard, DIRA Chair.

To learn more about the Denman Island Cross Trail visit:

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/denmancrosstrail

The Comox Valley Regional District is a federation of three electoral areas and three municipalities providing sustainable services for residents and visitors to the area. The members of the regional district work collaboratively on services for the benefit of the diverse urban and rural areas of the Comox Valley.



Andrew Pringle (DIRA Executive Member), Daniel Arbour (Director Electoral Area A), Laura Pope (DIRA Parks Committee Chair)

Letters to the Editor

Balanced messaging? Or playing with FIRE?

Should we wear masks? Should we get vaccinated? And so on. I admit that I lean towards mask wearing and vaccine loving, world government and the consensus trance. I cling to my liberal disdain for public voices who cite insidious neo-Nazi sources like Breitbart, team up with end of times evangelicals, and project from far-right platforms like Rebel Media. And the Grapevine?

When the Grapevine gave equal time to both sides regarding COVID 19 responses, it confirmed we're an open-minded community where no idea is too specious to get equal time with the conclusions of informed specialists. But the Grapevine's attempt at 'balanced' airing of diverging views on these questions reminded me of the way much mainstream media treated past debates on tobacco and climate change. Many of us are old enough to remember smokers who were reassured by reminders from right wing think tanks that there was absolutely no conclusive proof linking cigarettes and cancer. Imagine the reassurance given oppressive oil states like Russia, Saudi Arabia, or Alberta by reports that it's sun spots not hydrocarbons driving climate change (and besides, carbon capture technology is on the way). Imagine where Bolsonaro's Brazil or Modi's India might be today had their leaders not encouraged a 'balanced' airing of views on COVID responses. Did the Grapevine's 'balanced' coverage help our community respond to the COVID crisis? Or just mislead us? Is it responsible to give obscure, discredited views equal time with those of the vast majority of (overworked) specialists and experts? At what point do repeated suggestions to disregard public health recommendations in the midst of an emergency begin to look like criminal irresponsibility?

We travelled to CFB Comox the other day to get our first Pfizer vaccine. Since then, I have suffered impaired vision, limited hearing, foggy mind, sore testicles, and more. Both my shoulders, not just the shot one, are sore all the time. My arms break out in creepy wrinkles whenever I fold them. If I put my hands straight out, they tremble. Mind you, I had all those things before the shot too. At my age, there is little hope of them getting better. Thanks to the vaccine, I'll be obliged to watch them get worse for years to come. Be warned.

Howard Stewart 🍷

Letter to the Editor

I have been told that my attempts to encourage unthinking critics of the extremely complex processes involved in dealing with Covid is simply **continued on P.10...**

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...continued from P.9 'whistling into the wind'; that these ideas simply breeze by without setting off any critical thinking about what we actually know and what we don't yet know concerning this epidemic. So this will be my last word on the subject.

Phase 3 trials are mostly still ongoing so a final conclusion is impossible at this time; big Pharma does have a lot to answer for but it is part and parcel of a business culture that we all swim in. But this is no excuse for lies, half truths, and bogus theories of events. To start with, it would be useful if they could enlighten themselves as to the real distinctions between bacterial infection (Bubonic plague, TB), viral infection (Covid, SARS, flu), and parasitical infection (malaria, schistosomiasis). Bacteria can propagate on their own and share DNA between species in the form of free-floating plasmids; viruses cannot replicate on their own and need to hijack another organisms manufacturing apparatus; parasites go through several stages in different hosts. And then there is pneumonia, which can be caused by any of the following: a bacteria, a virus, a fungus or a parasite.

Last week (April 29th) we had yet another chapter in the ongoing vaccine hesitation saga from Mr. Chernovsky; let's look at a some of the 'claims' made.

"As for stop a shot because one in a million gets treatable blood clots! Bad idea. Stupid idea."

The complex question behind this statement is our measurement of risk—at what level and in what way we act as a result. There are over 2000 road deaths each year in Canada of which around 400 are pedestrians. So we use a crosswalk because we understand the risk of being hit by an automobile there is lessened due to actions taken to reduce risk—driver education, stop lights, zebra stripes, rumble strips. The writer's simple statement does not indicate an interest in critically thinking about the role of risk in the majority of our decisions.

"... bubonic plague is no longer lethal. Thanks go to rats who built up their immunity and passed it on to us."

Bubonic plague is just as lethal as it has always been with an untreated death rate of between 30% and 90% (there are

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On Saturday, May 15, Union Bay Credit Union is holding a Special General Meeting to announce the results of our vote to merge with First Credit Union.

Regardless of the outcome, it truly will be a special day because it is symbolic of the democratic structure that is the basis for all co-operatives.

When organizations operate as co-operatives, they work for the best interests of their members and the communities they serve, not third-party investors. Credit unions are financial co-operatives guided by some basic principles, not least of which is being directed by democratic member control. Because when you do business with a credit union, you are more than a customer – you are an owner.

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As independent, autonomous entities, credit unions exist to serve members and support local communities. And we are grateful for all our members' continued support of us! To show our appreciation for everyone who took the time to vote, we are donating \$5 to our local volunteer fire departments for every single ballot cast.

Your votes always count – and in this case, they count just a little bit more.



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five species of *Yersinia* with differing death rates). When treated, the death rate 'drops' to around 10%. It cannot be spread human to human; it is spread by certain flea bites. No fanciful, immunized rats vaccinated us; the real saviour here is human designed and implemented communal health procedures—clean water, sanitation, pest eradication and antibiotics; the plague is easily treatable with the latter. Currently the Democratic Republic of Congo leads in outbreaks of bubonic plague; Madagascar began to host regular epidemics from 2000. In 2015 there were 16 cases of bubonic plague and 4 deaths in the United States.

"Mutations arise when a disease is not allowed to run its course."

Mutations arise even while a disease runs its course; with Spanish flu it appears that most of them were more benign than the original. You can never be sure what course a disease will take. You will never approach herd immunity in this fashion—around 20% of the population was infected by the Spanish flu and most estimates of herd immunity are well above 60%. And you will have to live with whatever death rate occurs without our best interventions. Brazil has tried letting Covid run its course and raised the most potent mutation yet.

"Those who didn't get annual flu shots to cheat the disease have the antibodies needed to fight, but not destroy COVID."

As influenza and Covid result from entirely different families of viruses, this one baffles me. It is like suggesting that if you have survived Bubonic plague you will never get tuberculosis. Antibodies are created by our immune system specific to a given foreign protein entering the body; what works for one does not work for another.

"Neanderthals had the right idea."

I know of no one who can identify any idea that a Neanderthal had. Of course I understand that the implied response is again to let the disease run its course and accept all consequences—as Brazil's president has tried to do.

We have still not determined exactly why the Spanish flu 'died' out. We don't even know how many actually died—estimates range from 17 million to 100 million out of an estimated world population of 1.8 billion; nobody was really keeping accurate count. The H1N1 virus responsible for the Spanish flu was only isolated in 1933 with the first vaccine in 1938 and the first approved vaccine for general use in 1942. Herd immunity doesn't seem to have been a factor for, as the writer states, our middle estimate is that only 20% of the world's population was affected. However, many viruses attenuate to less virulent forms as time passes; it is in their interest not to kill all their hosts. But the H1N1 pandemics of 1957, 1968 and 2009 are all descendants of the one from the 1918 H1N1 variety.

TB or 'consumption' as it was often called, is an interesting case. In 1942 Moose Jaw was the first city in North America to offer free TB chest x-rays to identify TB sufferers and I can remember lining up with the rest of my class to have our chest x-ray in the TB van parked in the girls' playground at King George School. TB remains the most deadly communicable disease on the planet with an average of 1.5 million deaths annually—current total world Covid deaths are about double that. The bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* has been found in remains around 17,000 years old making it the oldest identified communicable disease. It is estimated that around 25% of the world's population is currently infected and around 90% of these are latent infections showing no symptoms. About 10% of the latent carriers develop full blown TB. There is a vaccine for TB, first used in 1921, but its efficacy demonstrates one of the difficulties with giving vaccines. It is around 20% effective in preventing infection in children but around 60% effective in preventing full-blown TB in latent carriers like my grandson. Treatment is available with antibiotics but can take months to eradicate the mycobacterium tuberculosis from the system. So you have a vaccine of some efficacy and a treatment which works if caught early enough. In spite of this it is the most widely used vaccine in the world today and 90% of the world's children have received it.

continued on P.12...



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Denman and Hornby Islands are very privileged to have free counseling for women provided by the Comox Valley Transition Society. They have forwarded us the following information about these ongoing services.

"The Comox Valley Transition Society (CVTS) offers Stopping The Violence Women's Counselling, a free counselling service for women in the Comox Valley and surrounding areas who have previously experienced or are currently experiencing violence of any kind, who have been sexually assaulted, or who have experienced childhood abuse or violence."

This service is available on Denman & Hornby Island the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. People are asked to please phone CVTS at 250.897.0511 to book an appointment.

Appointments are offered in person and follow rigid COVID protocols, which require individuals to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and sit at least 2 metres apart. Phone appointments are also available.

For more information, please visit
<https://cvts.ca/womens-counselling/>

In case of emergency please call 911 Advice is also available by calling the Lily House crisis line: 250 338 1227

Free transportation from Buckley Bay to the Lily House transitional emergency housing can be prearranged through the crisis line

...continued from P.11 All this indicates the complexity of problems which our critics fail to address in their desire to pin the problem on a single, simple source. The complex nature of human endeavours is one of the main reasons so many remain frustrated and turn to simple answers. However, I am heartened that although Mr. Chernovsky sees big Pharma as a 'one size fits all' culprit he does advocate using their vaccines.

All the information here is freely available. For anyone who wishes to express an opinion it helps greatly to know what you are talking about. So I can only hope that those hesitating will, if they don't find my explanations compelling, take the time to investigate on their own without prejudice, preconceived notions, or short-circuiting their own intelligence. They might then become the kind of people who can think for themselves: examine their own principles, admit their own lack of knowledge, assess the quality of sources, and change their minds when confronted with knowledgeable evidence and argument.

Oakley Rankin 

Napoleon: What if . . . ?

By Gwynne Dyer • OP May 2nd, 2021

OP/ED

Napoleon Bonaparte doesn't come up much in conversation these days, which is hardly surprising given that he has been dead for two centuries. On the other hand, this week it will be exactly 200 years since he died, so maybe we could make an exception just this once.

People often compare Napoleon to Hitler, another dictator who allegedly tried to 'conquer the world', but that's just wrong. Hitler never wanted to conquer the world. It's doubtful that he even expected to conquer all of France, although he ended up doing just that.

Hitler's real ambitions were all in eastern Europe, where he would get 'lebensraum' (living space) for the German population and access to strategic resources, especially oil. The European part of Russia was also on his list, because he loathed 'Jewish Bolshevism', but that was all. Whereas Napoleon thought much bigger.

Apart from Britain and Scandinavia, there was hardly a country in Europe that didn't get a visit from Napoleon's armies. The campaign that made Napoleon famous in France was his (short-lived) conquest of Egypt, and at one time he even contemplated following in Alexander the Great's footsteps and invading India.

As he explained to Dr. Barry O'Meara, the Irish doctor who looked after him during his final years in exile on the South Atlantic island of St. Helena (1815-1821), "Had I known in 1806 or 1808 [that a 'ship-of-the-line' can carry 80 tons of drinking water in tanks], I would have sent an army of 38,000 men to invade India."

France's only enemy in Europe at that time was Britain, all the other powers having been (temporarily) defeated, and Napoleon had at least 46 line-of-battle ships available. He had arranged an alliance with the Mahratta Confederacy, then the strongest challenger to British power in India, and he was going to load each ship with 800 soldiers and send them there.

The plan was abandoned because nobody told Napoleon that those warships could carry enough drinking water for such a large army. He thought they couldn't, and he never asked. So he wasn't infallible, but he was certainly ambitious – and if the plan had succeeded, it might have ended British rule in India 140 years early. (What would have taken its place? Who knows?)

Nevertheless, Napoleon was responsible for millions of unnecessary deaths. Around three million soldiers and a smaller number of civilians were killed in twenty years of the 'Napoleonic Wars', most of which could have been avoided if not for his addiction to conquest.

By the end France was back to its original borders, and its losses were enormous. And

Thoughts

by Thomas Provençal

*What we forgot
is the power of thought
defines how we live in our space.
Mindful and true
to what we must do
helps manifest goodness and grace.
The lazy of mind
are not of the kind
to evolve from the great herds of
sheep
who follow the throng
when a choice comes along,
unwittingly helpless and feeble.
With logic and will
a mind can distill
the value of what one is thinking.
When people are meek
their thoughts will be weak
and hopes for improvement keep
shrinking.*



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yet it's not only the French who still see him in a positive light.

Hitler was a squalid fascist who built death camps; Napoleon was a child of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution who believed he was bringing liberal values to the people he conquered. He shamefully legalised slavery (banned by the Revolution), but wherever he went in Europe he overthrew the feudal order and enforced religious tolerance and secular education.

Consider his plans for England, if the cross-Channel invasion he was preparing in 1803-05 had come to pass. He told O'Meara in St. Helena:

"Your [British] fleet having been decoyed away...would have left me master of the Channel....Four days would have brought me to London....I have no doubt that your troops would have done their duty, but one battle lost, the capital would have been in my power...."

"[Having taken London], I would have offered you a constitution of your own choice, and have said 'Assemble in London deputies from the people to fix upon a constitution.' I would have called upon... popular leaders to organise one according to the wishes of the people. I would have declared the [end of the monarchy], abolished the nobility, proclaimed liberty, freedom, and equality.

"Think you, that in order to keep the [king on his throne] your rich citizens, merchants, and others of London, would have consented to sacrifice their riches,

their houses, their families, and all their dearest interests, especially when....I only came to [get rid of the king] and to give them liberty? No, it is contrary to history and to human nature...."

"Your principal people have too much to lose by resistance, and your masses too much to gain by a change....If they supposed that I wanted to render England a province of France, then indeed [patriotism could have worked wonders in a guerilla war]. But I would have formed a republic according to your own wishes...."

But what would England be without the royal soap opera and Clown Prince Boris Johnson? It would be like America without Donald Trump. Alternate history sucks.



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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

Instructions/information for reading this poem

The following poem, a Decima poem, requires a smidgen of understanding about the requirements the poet was obliged to consider.

The rhyming scheme had to be follows: abbaaccddc.

Each line in a Decima poem must have eight syllables.

In this particular poem, the poet was required to use the word 'ground' in line b.

Feel free to sing it.

Vaccine Day... But Not the Bues

by Bill Engleson - www.engleson.ca

Halleluiah, I greet the dawn.

Today's the day, it's come around.

Smiled at the sky, and kissed the ground,

COVID-19, you WILL be gone.

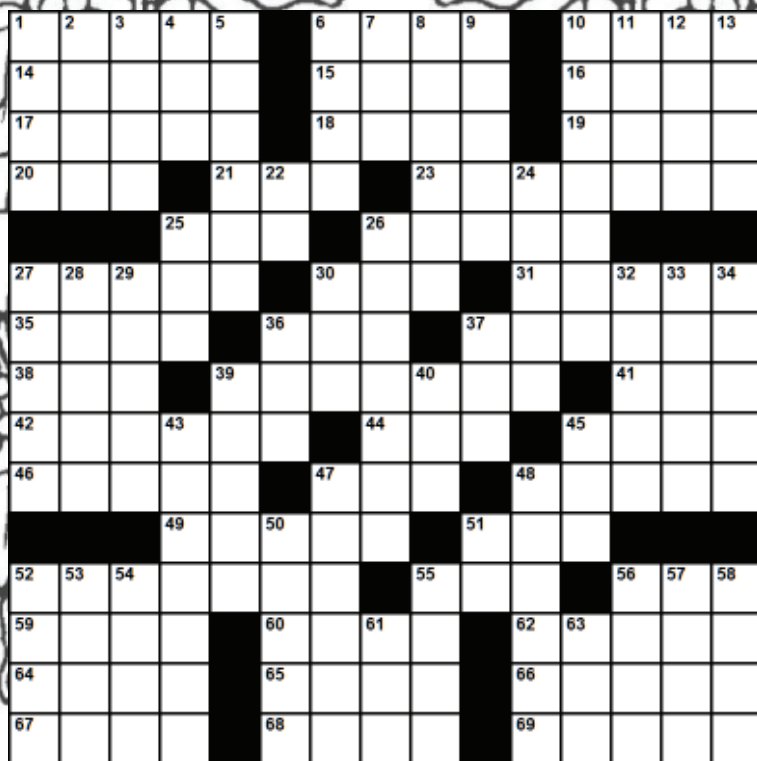
Been quite a trip, the trip we're on

*A locked-up life, the deaths we've seen,
maintaining pandemic hygiene.*

Not over yet, will take a while.

*I'll stand in line, do it in style,
give my thanks to Pfizer vaccine.*

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Cover story
6. Counterfeit
10. Cold cut place
14. Stems of hops
15. Bottled beverage
16. Epic poetry
17. Slow musically
18. Black-and-white cookie
19. Break from a habit
20. Ar chaser
21. Accept applause
23. Rational
25. Big klutz
26. Bake, in a way
27. Coy
30. Infection indication
31. Fancy dessert
35. Fail to include
36. Ballet step
37. Fire bomb substance
38. Basketball hoop
39. Be appropriate
41. Cramp
42. Barker's come-on
44. Boring tool
45. Bit of dialogue
46. Balance sheet item
47. Coal receptacle

48. Aladdin's servant
49. Bow of a ship
51. Enrage
52. Old photo shade
55. Aussie bird
56. Bar bill
59. Contract variety
60. Actor Wilson
62. Bandleader Ray
64. Citrus flavor
65. Deceased
66. Fuel holder
67. Applications
68. Botches up
69. Baseball flub

• DOWN •

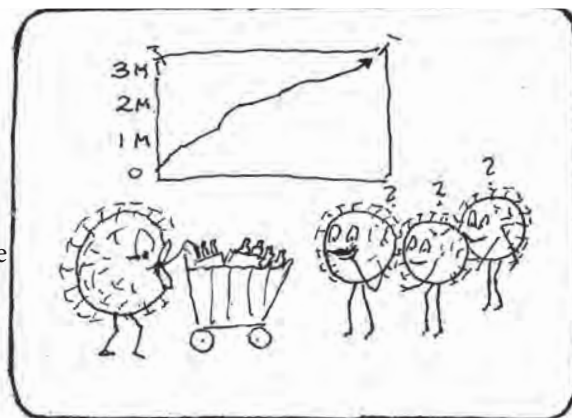
1. Competent
2. Big fibs
3. Guest houses
4. Put on the line
5. Weather map line
6. Garbage vessel
7. 90 degrees from vert.
8. Hebrew vowels
9. New Zealander
10. Morning pearl
11. Alternative to a rapier
12. Bank deal
13. Ain't right
22. -- course!
24. City based
25. Alibi
26. Prolong
27. Back related
28. Discharges light
29. Plays charades
30. Augusta stat.
32. Morning prayer
33. Light pancakes
34. Game host
36. Brisk energy
37. Nothing at all
39. Glazier's need
40. Barley bristle
43. Clublike tools
45. Albanian currency
47. Hops user
48. 90's fashion look
50. Horace offering
51. -- a little tea pot!
52. Fragrant gum
53. Blue flag, for one
54. Appoint
55. Brings to a close
56. Aspen apparatus
57. A chorister
58. Barley product
61. Antony's loan request
63. Bobby of the NHL



He was resistant

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We will have a party hitting 3 million COVID cases
by Peter Karsten

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HIRRA Annual General Meeting BY ZOOM: Wednesday, May 12, 7:30pm. Agenda: MOTION re: RRSPs, 2020 Financials; Management Committee reports; elections/acclamations. E-mail office@hirra.ca to register or for more info.

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/

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BLACKBERRY LANE CHILDREN'S CENTER (Denman Island) seeks certified full-time Early Childhood Educator/Program Manager to implement emotionally literate program. Must be comfortable guiding groups of up to 8 children, ages 1-5. Applicant will be community-minded, positive and engaging. We provide a supportive, non-profit environment in a brand new facility. Wage based on experience and education. Please send resume to blackberrylanecentre@yahoo.com by June 25th. Starting September 2021 or sooner.

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• 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 335-3027 (D/H)
2 halls, commercial kitchen, new sound system
suitable for concerts, plays, meetings, weddings, etc.

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

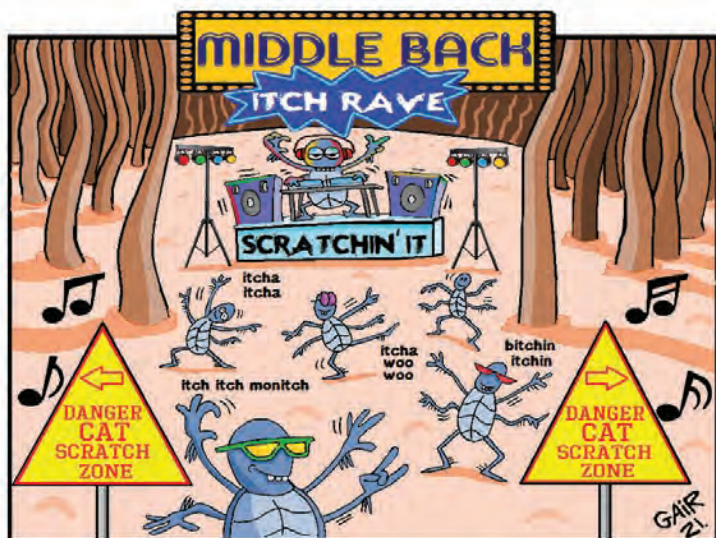
- Bente Pilgaard, RE/MAX The Islands 335-2510 (H/D)
- Cloutier Matthews LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants 338-7367 (All)
- Donna & Janessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)
- Sylvie Schroeder • Royal LePage Denman Island 335-2551 (D/U)
- Katarina Meglic • Pemberton Holmes Realty 778-557-7429 (D/H)

• 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)
- DB Excavations & Clearing • Dorianbaker56@gmail.com • call or text 465-1889 (D)
- 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)
- Kinetic Electric, licenced, bonded & insured 335-1741 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec-Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation 335-3145 (D/H)
- Roc-Isle Drywall, Harvey Hodgeins • 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 •

- Acupuncturist, Herbalist, Physiotherapist • Carmen B-G, RPT, RTCMP 335-2260 (D/H)
- Chiropractic Care on Fridays • Dr. Dawn Armstrong, DC 465-8482 (D)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Denman Works! • Tony Gregson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Edwardsen Tree Service • Jered 250-580-7127 (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Physiotherapy • Christopher Mainella • 514-605-9398 (D/H)
- Tree 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)
- Music Lessons & Piano Tuning • Scott Knight 604-779-9335 (D/H)
- Landscaping & Home Services • Beech&Cedar Home Maintenance (Kane) • 335-0745 (D/H)



FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 6

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

FRIDAY 7

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 8

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9am-dark
- CINCO DE MAYO - TACO NIGHT
- Earth Club Factory

SUNDAY 9

- MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH Earth Club Factory
Happy Mother's Day

MONDAY 10

TUESDAY 11

WEDNESDAY 12

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE 4-7pm
- DHA Zoom meeting 5pm
- HIRRA AGM Zoom meeting 7:30pm



THURSDAY 13

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

FRIDAY 14

- AA Meeting DI United Church 7pm

SATURDAY 15

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9am-dark
- WOOD FIRED PIZZA & BEER
- Earth Club Factory

SUNDAY 16

MONDAY 17

TUESDAY 18

WEDNESDAY 19

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

THURSDAY 20

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

The Monthly Calendar is on hold for now.

Instead we offer a 2 week summary of upcoming events on the Back Page. Email us with your event to be listed in "Fortnight Events".
theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com