



*"Why is summer mist romantic and autumn mist just sad?" • Dodie Smith, I Capture the Castle*



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# THE ISLANDS Grapevine

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photo by Dreadful Imagery

## THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

- DENMAN: 700 • HORNBY: 520 •
- E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 107 •

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

COMMUNITY  
INFO

## October Meeting of the Denman Island Garden Society

By Shirley Ward · DIGS

so we will have a sign-up sheet at the meeting.

There will be a plant exchange outside the Church Hall before the meeting. Please arrive half an hour early (that is, at 1:30 pm) if you want to participate. This is a good time to divide perennials and to pass on to others any divisions, plants, bulbs or seedlings that you don't want. You are invited to bring your contributions (no invasive species please) and to take plants home for your own garden, even if you have not brought any plants yourself. This is a great opportunity to find new treasures for your garden, and for new gardeners to start their plant collections. We do not want any plants left over, so please be prepared to take your contributions home again if nobody wants them.

See you on the 18th! 🍷

ARTS&LIT

## March 27th, 2007 Sandwich Summit

By CS#05943451



**MARK** your calendars for the next meeting of the Denman Island Garden Society. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18th at the United Church Gathering Place, from 2:00–4:00 pm.

The speaker will be Una Keziere and her topic will be the community garden on Hornby. Una has also offered to lead a field trip to the community garden,

**T**o begin the day, Mr. Person informed me that my complaint about the lunches made it all the way into the morning's C.O. briefing, sharing how a good laugh was had by all. As a matter of fact the Senior Corrections Officer, Mr. McClelland, *he of the three stripes*, came down for a formal inspection of our range after breakfast where, after completing his rounds, he sought me out regarding my complaint.

Not to reprimand me for its cheekiness but to get further information on the state of the lunches. And here I elaborated further for him.

I did find it interesting that he appeared to have difficulty holding my gaze. Whether his shifting eyes revealed how weak of a leg he was standing on or spoke to undisclosed medical condition, I couldn't quite say. He responded with the standard party line of "the manual says this..." and, "the allotted calorie counts are..." but his cutout explanations and stiffness in delivery left

me unmoved. At this point he lurched into reminiscing on his days when he was in charge of the highways crew. Regaling me with how often they had hamburgers for lunch when I had touched on our preference for them despite not getting them all that frequently. I countered by telling him how when I first arrived on Crew#2 the presence of hamburgers in our lunch kit was more the norm than the exception to. Conversely, we'd had hamburgers just once in the last three weeks and that was only after we'd submitted our last barrage of complaints. What was a congenial discussion ended with McClelland saying that he, himself, would have a talk with the kitchen staff! Success? Hopefully.

In the course of our chat I didn't miss the chance to mention how highly productive our output on Crew #2 had been. Incidentally, C.O.'s Person & Cunningham had both been the main advocates behind the crew's campaign of complaint letters. Not leaving them to dangle in the wind, I judiciously reeled both of them back to solid ground in sharing with McClelland that I believed they were only lobbying on our behalf because they were truly impressed with how hard we work.

It was quite the opportunity to bend the ear of someone with pull around here. Best of all, it was through a candid conversation rather than

*continued on P.4...*

## Fighting Words

By Team TIG

**T**HE Islands Grapevine (TIG) would never publish hate-speech directed at a marginalized group, but an on-line and word of mouth gos-

sip campaign has mounted into a mob mentality of hateful smears of TIG. While wrapping themselves in virtuous flags of inclusion and diversity, community values and respect for neighbours coexisting, these bullies have joined together to try to destroy a 32 year old community newspaper with false accusations based on hearsay, while TIG employs people who survive month to month on its modest income.

When TIG received an email from Denman Island Bus Service (DIBS) employee Bronwyn Schuster that threatened a withdrawal of publicly funded advertising expenditures in TIG unless its publisher agreed to changes to its editorial policy, TIG replied immediately and privately to inquire whether Schuster wished to share their concerns by publishing them in TIG. We also clarified to Schuster that their accusation that TIG published bigoted hate-speech in relation to transgender people was categorically false. While weeks went by, we did not receive a response from Schuster. It was then that TIG published Part 1 of our Team TIG editorial, Threats, Lies, and the Misuse of Public Funds in its Aug.10 issue.

Schuster's response was to post on Denman social media, admitting to the misuse of their position, but doubled down on accusations of transphobic content published in TIG without providing any specific example, other than to say the transphobic content was contained in TIG contributor Phoenix's article. In that article Phoenix expressed concern for the safety of both cisgender and transgender inmates from convicted cis-male rapists who wished to transfer to women's prisons under a newly enacted law. Phoenix's source was the Government of Canada's Correctional Services website. Whatever one's view about Phoenix's expressed concern, it was the opposite of transphobic, as she had led off the article with a lengthy preamble of her positive feelings toward the LGBTQ2SiA+ communities.

Anyone can read Phoenix's article by reviewing it on theislandsgrapevine.com in the archived July 6 issue.

DenmanWorks (DW) Chair Anthony Gregson's response to this was to admit that Schuster had misused their position, but immediately fired TIG publisher Mike Van Santvoord from his job managing the visitdenmanisland.ca website without explanation, or giving him an opportunity to speak with the DW Board prior to a vote to remove him as a Director as is required under DW's bylaws and the B.C. Societies Act. Gregson has been acting as DW Chair past his 4 year term limit, and has not advertised for new board members, or published the minutes of any DW meetings, both required under the B.C. Societies Act.

DIBS Coordinator Sam Borthwick claimed to want these

matters handled in a more "collegial" manner, but neither he nor Schuster made any attempt to contact TIG in support of a resolution. It was TIG who reached out to Borthwick privately and made an agreement that an apology from Schuster would appear in the following issue of TIG, and that same apology would be posted by Schuster on Denman social media. When the "apology" did not appear on Denman social media, Borthwick claimed that he could not keep his commitment to the social media post, where his spouse Schuster had made the false accusation.

TIG contacted the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), the local government responsible for funding DW and DIBS. CVRD Community Services manager Doug Demarzo offered to support the hiring of a mediator to help resolve these matters. TIG gratefully accepted his offer. Community mediator Karen McKinnon contacted TIG and told us she would be contacting the other parties to see if they were willing to enter into a mediated process. Weeks have gone by, and we have not received an agreement to mediation by Gregson, Borthwick, or Schuster. TIG has now filed complaints in B.C. Provincial Court, under the B.C. Societies Act, and with the B.C. Ombudsperson. TIG has also retained legal counsel to file a defamation lawsuit relating to damages to TIG's reputation, and for the financial damages that have resulted.

Highly respected and 11 year Islands Trustee Laura Busheikin weighed in on social media to endorse Schuster's misuse of their position and public funds. Members of the DIRCS executive and Concerts Denman joined in the smear campaign, demanding an alternative to advertising in TIG. Smelling blood in the water, erstwhile "anarchist" Aaron Muirhead took the opportunity to announce a rival publication, based on his disdain for TIG, and proudly endorsed Schuster's admitted malfeasances. When publicly pressed on his issues with TIG, Muirhead was unable to muster any specific complaint. These are all endorsements of a publicly funded employee influence peddling using public monies.

Apparently, all these virtuous members of our community have misplaced their ethical compasses and any sense of mutuality or integrity. No one is required to advertise in TIG, but they ARE required NOT to attempt to extort policy changes in a community newspaper using public funds as a weapon, especially based on a false accusation. We have reached a point in local culture, not unlike the broader world that surrounds us, that an unfounded accusation is enough of a reason to attempt to cancel a local business and the livelihoods it supports.

TIG is committed to using every legal means necessary in pushing back on these lies and unwarranted attacks, as we demand legal, social, and community justice, and while we continue to serve Denman and Hornby Islands and surrounding areas, 50 weeks a year.



*...continued from P.2* the alternative of being summoned up to the presumably stuffy and official setting of the Senior Correction Officer's lair. Mr. Person confided to me what a kick both he and C.O. Wight got from the letter, as it was Wight who I'd addressed it to. He followed by passing me the compliment, "you certainly have a way with words." I countered, "that may well be..." yet standing there in prison red as if to emphasize my point, I continued, "but it's not as though they haven't gotten me into trouble at times!" 🍷

SPECIAL  
INTEREST

## Shucking Oysters: Stoned & Confused

By Alex Allen

Feeling anxious, anti-social and sometimes homicidal? You are not alone. Fish and other aquatic life are also displaying drug addiction behaviour. New research has found that pharmaceuticals are contaminating waterways

and oceans everywhere. With around 275 million people worldwide using drugs each year, it's no surprise, that what goes in, must come out.

Antidepressants are the highest-documented drugs in US waterways, which has experts worried. The most vulnerable fish populations are those downstream of sewage treatment plants, where prescription drugs consistently show up in higher levels than in other waterways. Wildlife living in rivers and coastal waters where effluent is discharged are exposed to an array of chemical cocktails.

Anti-anxiety drugs like Valium can cause fish to become more active, less social and to take more risks, making them more likely to be eaten by predators. These effects of pharmaceuticals in the waters on fish are likely permanent, because changes in brain chemistry follow exposure. So if pharmaceuticals make a fish more skittish, the fish will always be skittish, even if the drugs are removed.

In one 2018 study, blood tests and tissue analysis were used to screen bone fish, a recreation fish off the south coast of Florida. The pharmaceuticals detected included antidepressants, antibiotics, heart medications, blood pressure medications and pain relievers. The same contaminants were also found in crab, shrimp and other small sea animals that the bone fish feed on, as well as in water and sediment. Contaminants were also found in bone fish tested in waters near the Caribbean, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Belize.

They identified 58 different pharmaceuticals in bone fish sampled along a 200-mile stretch of the coastline over a three-year period. The pharma detected in the fish included eight different antidepressants, at concentrations equal to as much as 300 times the amount prescribed for humans. In one case, the researchers found 16 different drugs in a single fish taken from Biscayne Bay. The study also found concentrations of Parkinson's drugs, antifungal drugs, stomach medications and opiates in the fish.

A US study on exposure to fluoxetine, lovingly known as Prozac, had a bizarre effect on male fathead minnows. They ignored the females and spent more time under a tile. The doses of Prozac added to the fishes' water were very low concentrations, at 1 part per billion. When the dose was increased, at levels found in some waste water, females produced fewer eggs and males became aggressive and killed females in some cases.

Researchers in the Czech Republic deliberately tried to get

dozens of trout hooked on methamphetamine for a water pollution study. The methamphetamine-exposed fish preferred the water containing the drug, while no such preference was shown for the untreated fish. The researchers also found that during their withdrawal period, the methamphetamine-exposed trout appeared extremely sluggish for about 96 hours when moved to a clean tank.

One of the signs of drug addiction is a loss of interest in other activities – even those that are usually highly motivated, such as eating or reproducing. It's possible that fish might start to change their natural behaviour, causing problems with their feeding, breeding and, ultimately, their survival. Exposure to drugs not only affects the fish themselves, but their offspring. In fish, addiction can be inherited over several generations. This could have long-lasting implications for ecosystems, even if the problem was fixed now.

This is not the first study to find street drugs in aquatic life. In 2019, scientists in the UK reported cocaine in freshwater shrimp in all 15 rivers they sampled. Interestingly, they detected illegal drugs more often than some common pharmaceuticals. US scientists discovered traces of opioids in mussels off the coast of Washington in 2018. Canadian researchers also found traces of cocaine in the discharge from water treatment plants in southern Ontario in 2015. Sewage treatment plants don't filter these things out – they were never designed to.

And if that's not enough, we have sharks hooked on cocaine. Florida is a major transit point for drugs entering the US from South America, and the region is a hot spot for floating cocaine bales which are often lost at sea or discarded by traffickers. Last summer, a research team in the Florida Keys, observed sharks displaying unusual behaviours. Researchers are speculating that sharks, driven by hunger and frenzy, might be consuming the packages off the coast of Florida.

A hammerhead, a species that would typically avoid humans, approached the divers directly, moving erratically. They also noticed a sandbar shark swimming in circles, fixated on an imaginary object. The researchers dropped dummy bales in the water, which many of the sharks bit into, and loaded balls of bait with highly concentrated fish powder to simulate cocaine. The effect, the researchers noted, was similar to the impact of catnip on cats.

Last month, the US Coast Guard announced the recovery of over \$186 million of illegal narcotics from the waters of the Caribbean and southern Florida. Apparently, such seizures barely make a dent in an industry operating at record levels.

It's not just drugs in our waters. Plastics. Heavy metals. Chemicals. All our shit. We need to urgently take action to protect our oceans and the diverse life they support. Our actions on land have far-reaching consequences for the health of our oceans and waterways. Remember, as Paul Simon wrote, one man's ceiling is another man's floor. 🍷

## Green Wizardries, What Would You Save?

By Maxine Rogers

I gave a little supper party for some friends and the topic of conversation turned to what would people most like to save from our civilization to send down into the future? This is something Druids think about a lot. I have been thinking about it for years and writing articles on organic gardening, food preservation and making medicines from locally-sourced plants because I think these skills are going to be more and more useful as the decline of industrial civilization picks up speed.

For those of you who think that as soon as we use up one resource, such as inexpensive to produce petroleum products, we can simply switch to another resource; I would say there is some validity in this. I know for a fact that when the Russians who were trapped in Stalingrad in the Second World War ran out of food, they used other resources in place of food.

They ate their wallpaper, leather goods, such as boots and shoes, they ate rats and when they got really hungry, they went to government-run butcher shops and got a piece of meat, nicely cut and wrapped and took the meat home to cook and eat it. The meat was from humans. So, there will always be other resources but they might not be as cheap, efficient, convenient or palatable as the resource that just ran out.

There is no resource that will be able to replace petroleum for the inexpensive transportation of goods so we might just be going into a world where things are going to get a lot more local. You may have noticed that the price of oil spiked to 90 plus dollars a barrel lately. That is because the oil that remains is more expensive to produce than the light-sweet crude of yesteryear.

Oil companies need high prices to stay in business but when the price of oil is high enough to support the oil industry, it wreaks havoc on the world's economy. The price of oil goes so high that demand is destroyed and the price of oil falls back to where it is no longer profitable to oil companies. I expect that oil fields will end up being nationalized but that will not solve the problem.

But, back to our supper party. One of our guests was an electronics engineer and he spent a lot of his career working in the communications industry. He would like to give the future a low-energy means of long-distance communication. I suggested that he might want to teach young people how to build crystal-radio sets. This used to be a popular pastime in the early twentieth century when people were excited by new technology and wanted to participate in it.

I was out walking with a carpenter friend and asked him the same question, what would he want to pass down to the future? He said he would have to give that some thought. My friend is old enough that he began his career when hand tools were still much in use. Now, most carpenters wouldn't know what to do if they didn't have an electrically-powered drill in their hand and a computer-controlled saw to do precision cuts.

My father used to do good carpentry with just hand tools. I remember watching him drill holes in wood with a hand drill. The man had forearms like Popeye. I hope the people who know how to use hand tools will try to pass these skills along to their younger friends and family members.

I recently met a woman who was an Olympic-level dressage rider. She now teaches dressage and I told her I think the skills she is sending into the future are really important. We will have less and less petroleum as time goes by but we will always have horses. Dressage looks pretty but it has a very practical application. Dressage manoeuvres are how you train cavalry horses to fight in formation.

There are all kinds of skills that used to be very common but have fallen out of favour. I wish I knew how to sew, even to do small repairs. My mother in law showed me photos of the wedding dresses she made and of the very smart coat she made my husband when he was little. She used the cloth from her old coat to make him a new one. All the girls in her family were taught to sew clothes to a very high standard.

These skills may not seem relevant now when you can buy fast fashion made by enslaved children working in a locked shop under a single light bulb in Bangladesh. But I ask you, do you really want to participate in such an exploitative exchange?

What piece of our civilization would you like to send into the future and how are you going to do that? If not you, then who? If not now, then when? 🌸

### TIDE TABLE

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

#### 2023-10-12 (Thu)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 05:07        | 3.6  |
| 11:00        | 2.1  |
| 17:35        | 4.5  |
|              | 14.7 |

#### 2023-10-13 (Fri)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 00:12        | 2.2  |
| 05:52        | 3.8  |
| 11:36        | 2.2  |
| 17:52        | 4.5  |
|              | 14.7 |

#### 2023-10-14 (Sat)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 00:33        | 1.9  |
| 06:36        | 4    |
| 12:11        | 2.4  |
| 18:09        | 4.5  |
|              | 14.7 |

#### 2023-10-15 (Sun)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 00:57        | 1.7  |
|              | 5.4  |

#### 2023-10-16 (Mon)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 01:25        | 1.4  |
| 08:09        | 4.3  |
| 13:26        | 3    |
| 18:49        | 4.4  |
|              | 14.4 |

#### 2023-10-17 (Tue)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 01:56        | 1.2  |
| 09:00        | 4.5  |
| 14:09        | 3.2  |
| 19:12        | 4.3  |
|              | 14.2 |

#### 2023-10-18 (Wed)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 02:31        | 1    |
| 09:55        | 4.5  |
| 14:58        | 3.5  |
| 19:38        | 4.3  |
|              | 14   |

#### 2023-10-19 (Thu)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 03:11        | 0.9  |
| 10:55        | 4.6  |
| 15:59        | 3.7  |
| 20:08        | 4.2  |
|              | 13.6 |

#### 2023-10-20 (Fri)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft) |
|--------------|------|
| 03:58        | 1    |
| 11:59        | 4.6  |
| 17:18        | 3.8  |
| 20:48        | 4    |
|              | 13.2 |

## (Leftist) Statement of Principles

By David Rovics  
OP October 7th, 2023  
davidrovics.substack.com  
davidrovics.com

**virtue-signaling.** Organizing is about building networks, finding common ground, establishing common goals. Posting about who is pure enough for you to have contact with and who isn't has nothing to do with organizing, and much better serves the purpose of dis-organizing.



**2) We embrace real justice and reject anonymous attacks intended to smear people.** Although people may commit terrible offenses and holding people accountable for their behavior may be very important, anonymous attacks, smear campaigns, and vigilante justice is a terrible way to try to seek justice or accountability, and is a perfect tool for use by nefarious actors, especially when broadly accepted by a kneejerk "believe the victim no matter what" mentality that has been instilled in much of the population.

**3) We embrace diversity and we reject identitarianism.** Diversity of all kinds in society is a wonderful thing, to be celebrated, not just tolerated. And that has nothing to do with the tokenistic Oppression Olympics that has taken over left discourse. We must not let our diversity get used against us like this, as a tool for divide and conquer, as a means of getting us all to squabble over crumbs dropped from the tables of the billionaires.

**4) We embrace free discourse and reject no-platforming.** No-platforming is a longstanding, inherently authoritarian tendency rife in certain areas of the left over the past century or so, in modern times more known by variations to the theme such as cancellation campaigning or cancel culture. It is a sort of grassroots form of censorship, it has consistently backfired everywhere from a purely pragmatic standpoint, it's a tactic easily exploited by nefarious actors,

*Is the left mainly censorship-happy, empire-supporting, virtue-signaling clowns? Or is that just the impression we get from social media?*

**1) We embrace organizing for a purpose and reject show-boating and performative vir-**

and it's morally repugnant for anyone who believes in free speech.

**5) We embrace free expression while rejecting corporate control.** Freedom of speech is not some bourgeois idea that we should throw out along with imperialism. Freedom of speech is a radical concept that we embrace as the thing that is obviously preferable to the alternative (censorship). We don't want to kick anyone off of any platform for having the wrong opinions. But this is not an endorsement of Big Tech or their plans for world domination! Their monopolistic practices and conflict-producing algorithms need to be exposed and opposed -- but not by making the whole situation worse by calling for people or outlets to be banned from platforms.

**6) We embrace being the media and reject censorship campaigns.** The fact that a handful of gigantic corporations control our means of communication and most of the news we consume is a terrifying fact. We need to do a lot about that, by taking on these corporations and the governments that facilitate them in all kinds of ways -- but not by passing laws allowing governments to censor or throttle content on social media platforms or anywhere else on the internet.

**7) We embrace finding common ground and reject efforts to polarize, divide, and cancel.** The main point in talking about things that divide us is not to make some people feel guilty and others feel virtuous. The point is to find ways to work together to achieve common goals despite these divides, and perhaps even to overcome these divides in that process. This is very different from forming sub-groups within sub-groups in order to further highlight divisions within divisions, for no apparent purpose aside from claiming some amorphous form of higher ground.

**8) We embrace communication and education and reject harassment, vilification, doxxing and other personal attacks.** Nobody learns from being attacked and harassed. In fact, attacking and harassing people tends to just make them angry, and cause them to become more entrenched in their feelings or positions. How did the notion become so widespread that harassing and vilifying rightwingers or other people you don't like is useful in any possible way? It's not. It's the opposite, in fact. It's completely counter-productive. We need to find common ground, build bridges, understand how we're being used, not shout at each other, either online or downtown.

**9) We embrace real organizing and reject word policing and other forms of elitism.** Real, effective, useful organizing means diverse people working together to achieve common goals, such as organizing a union at a workplace to collectively demand higher wages or organizing tenants into a tenant union to collectively demand lower rent. Any such group will inherently involve people with all kinds of differences. In order for a group to function, it can't have some kind of vetting process where anyone getting involved has to know

all the right vocabulary words to use in order not to offend the modern liberal. This is not the way forward. Popular education does not occur in the process of calling people out for using the wrong pronoun or acronym.

**10) We embrace differences of viewpoints and reject ostracizing people who don't share ours.** Yes, we can actually form a union with millions of people all calling for the same demands, even though they have different views on who killed Jesus, who invaded Ukraine, who should or shouldn't get to have an abortion, whether there should ever be drag shows at their local libraries, and all kinds of other vitally important issues. And, in fact, this kind of coalition is the only way anything useful ever happens anywhere. Opposing such coalitions on the basis of someone or some group within it having the wrong views on something is a means of dividing and conquering unions, not a way to build anything, and not a way to win hearts and minds of all of those whose hearts and minds we -- and hopefully not the capitalists and imperialists hellbent on global domination -- need to win. 🍷

OPINIONS

## Gaza War 2023

By Sally Campbell

**G**AZA is a tiny slice of land, slightly larger than Texada Island. Whereas Texada's population is about 1,200, Gaza has a population of 2,375,000. It's one of the most densely populated regions on Earth. 70% of Gaza's population are refugees or descendants of refugees from the 1948 war, dispossessed by Israel and never allowed to return to their homes and land. Gaza has been under Israeli occupation since 1967, and under a full-scale blockade for 16 years now.

Israel controls every aspect of Palestinian life in Gaza. No one is allowed to enter or leave Gaza without Israeli permission. They control the type and amount of food allowed inside Gaza, and put Gazans "on a diet" with impunity. Electricity is severely restricted and has been for years. Now Israel has said it will cut off all food, water, and power to Gaza.

There is a wire fence between Gaza and the rest of Israel-Palestine, with a buffer zone, also known as an "automated kill zone", whose dimensions vary, enforced with live fire. Concrete towers with 50 calibre remote control machine guns line the fence at intervals. In actuality Gazans moving within 1.5km. of the fence are targeted (International Middle East Media Center), so this puts 17% of Gaza's total territory and 35% of its agricultural land off-limits. Every few years Israel performs a major air attack on Gaza; they have been unable to rebuild due to Israeli control over building supplies. Much of the territory is in rubble. The sound of Israeli drones and surveillance planes overhead is a constant.

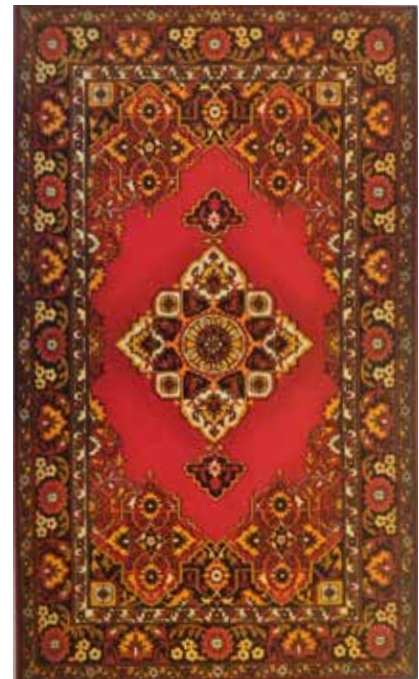
Every Friday for 18 months in 2018-19, Gazans protested their imprisonment during the non-violent *Great March of Return*. Israel's response was to set up sniper positions: 214 were killed and 36,100 were injured, 8,800 of them children. Many became amputees. The world barely noticed. Gazans are human beings who have tried to let the world know of their plight for decades now, and the world has not paid attention. Israel has treated them worse than we treat dogs.

What will a dog do if you keep it caged for years on end, severely limit its water and food supply, beat it regularly, ruin its cage and kill its puppies? What does it have to lose by attacking its cruel keepers? In the case of the Palestinians in Gaza, plenty. Yet Israel's military occupation and well-documented apartheid have caused this tragic situation. Both need to end.

Why is the world not seeing that this latest war did not begin with Gazans' breakout from their cage? Partly because, according to American-Israeli anthropologist Jeff Halper: "Israel has diplomatic relations with 157 countries, and virtually all the agreements and protocols Israel has signed with them contain military and security components" (Halper, *War Against the People*, 2015 @ 3). This intersection keeps the world from naming Israeli settler-colonialism and apartheid for what it is, and from supporting Palestinians to end it. Halper shows in fascinating detail how Israel plays a pivotal role in enforcing control over populations and in suppressing human rights and dissent in many parts of the world, all in the name of "security". Witness how Canada's RCMP and Po

*continued on P.8...*

## JOHN THE RUG MAN SPECIALTY PERSIAN AND AFGHAN RUGS



TRADITIONAL | VINTAGE | TRIBAL

250-792-5646

calredmis@hotmail.com

**Activity Centre**  
**Saturday 14th October**  
**10am to 4pm**

...continued from P.7    lice Departments in Canadian cities issued statements supporting Israel on the Saturday of a long weekend! (Yves Engler, *Canadian Foreign Policy Hour*, 9 October, 2023)

Canada is deeply complicit, by its continual lip service to the Israeli State; its lopsided trade and security arrangements with Israel; its subsidization of illegal settlements in the West Bank through dozens of tax-free Canadian charities; its refusal to support the Palestinian call for non-violent boycott, divestment & sanctions (BDS); its support for the IHRA definition of anti-semitism - making criticism of Israel illegal - and its allowance of recruitment for the Israeli military in Canada. Along with the US, Canada has consistently *opposed* Palestinian appeals for justice to the UN and the International Court of Justice.

Many have spoken about the current warfare in words more powerful than mine:

“It is an undeniable truth that the time has come to change the situation. This region has endured too much pain, too much bloodshed, and too many tears. It is a moment for all parties involved to reflect on the senselessness of this continued conflict and to recognize the shared humanity that binds us all.” (*Families Forum: Palestinian & Israeli Bereaved Families for Peace*, 7 October, 2023)

“We talk about “normalization” with the UAE and now Saudi Arabia, while hoping the world will turn a blind eye to the open-air prison we built in our backyard.

Apart from the unfathomable violations of human rights, we’ve created a massive security liability for our own citizens... Israeli governments... talk about ‘security’, ‘deterrence’, ‘changing the equation’. All of these are code words for bombing the Gaza Strip to a pulp, always justified as targeting terrorists, yet always with heavy civilian casualties. In between these rounds of violence we make life impossible for Gazans, and then act surprised when it all boils over”. (Avner Gvarya, Israeli Veteran, Director, *Breaking the Silence*, 8 October, 2023).

This violence is heartbreaking and from the look of it, more bloodshed and trauma are to come. Let it mean something. *Let it engage us.* Demand a ceasefire and an end to Israel’s occupation. No one will be safe until all the people in that troubled country know freedom, equality and justice. 🍷

## ARTS & LIT Denman Island Author Awarded Prize

By Harbour Publishing

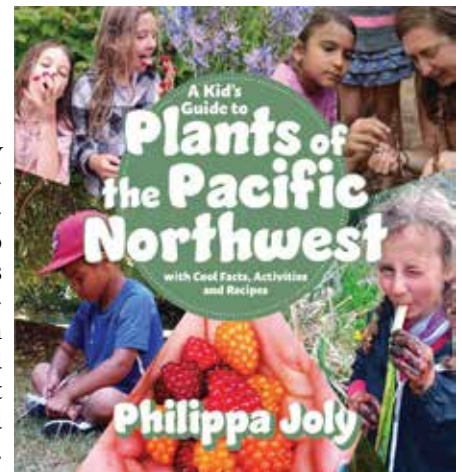
***Gold Medal in the Activity Book: Educational, Science, History Category*** *The Science and Superpowers of Seaweed* by Amanda Swinimer

**A** *Kid’s Guide to Plants of the Pacific Northwest* by Philippa Joly is the recipient of the 2023 Moonbeam Prize Silver Medal in the Activity Book: Educational, Science, History Category. This middle-grade-friendly introduction to Pacific Northwest flora, with outdoor activities, games and quizzes, encourages children to engage with the natural environment. Drawing on her years of experience as a herbalist and outdoor educator, author Philippa Joly features more than fifty richly illustrated plant profiles, including information on identification and ecology, uses in Coastal Indigenous cultures, and fun activities—all in a way that is accessible and interesting to readers of all ages. Philippa Joly is a clinical and community herbalist, paramedic and outdoor educator based on Denman Island. She runs an outdoor school for kids and leads workshops on herbal medicine, plant identification, ethical wildcrafting, herbal first aid, local healing plants and anti-colonial approaches to wellness.

### About the Moonbeam Prize

*The Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards are intended to increase recognition of exemplary children’s books and their creators and support childhood literacy and life-long reading. The Moonbeam Awards recognize and reward the best of these books and bring them to the attention of booksellers, librarians, parents, and children.*

*The 2023 GOLD MEDAL winner of the Cultural Experience Award is Oolichan Moon. In the Activity Book: Educational, Science, History category, the winners are The Science and Superpowers of Seaweed (GOLD MEDAL) and A Kid’s Guide to Plants of the Pacific Northwest (SILVER MEDAL). All three titles are published by Harbour Publishing of Madeira Park, British Columbia. 🍷*



PRESS RELEASE

## First Report on NABIS Act Released

By Victoria Cannabis  
Buyers Club

Oct 11, 2023

**VICTORIA, B.C.:** The independent panel chosen by Health Canada has just released the LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF THE CANNABIS ACT: WHAT WE HEARD REPORT, which will be followed shortly by recommendations to the federal Minister of Health and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. It is expected that Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club founder, Ted Smith, will again be given an opportunity to provide insight to the expert panel once again, after he and members of the compassion club were given opportunities to engage with the expert panel this time around. The final report with recommendation will be presented to the House of Commons by March 2024.

The review covers the entire spectrum of issues that the legalization of cannabis impacts, including the medical use of cannabis. In the report, the panel acknowledges that many patients are having difficulties with the legal medical cannabis program. Some evidence suggests that 74% of people that use cannabis as medicine purchase from recreational sources.

Other issues in the report include: "the affordability of cannabis for medical purposes, noting that excise and sales taxes further compound the lack of affordability and that products from the non-medical market are often less expensive than those from the legal market. Due to the varying needs of patients, stakeholders suggested the need for a greater diversity of cannabis products for medical purposes, including higher THC quantities. They recommend more accessible methods to obtain cannabis for medical purposes, such as pharmacies and retail storefronts, to complement the existing mail delivery system." (pg 10)

Many of the problems that are being experienced by patients in the legal medical cannabis system are not felt by the members of the VCBC because we are in non-compliance with restrictive regulations that would leave patients out in the cold. Sadly, the VCBC is the only compassion club that engaged with the panel because there are no others left operating in Canada. After hearing from our members in a zoom meeting, it seems clear the panel understands the value of storefront medical cannabis facilities like ours.

"Some stakeholders, especially those who work in harm reduction, noted that some patients still struggle to use the medical access program. They noted that



those without access to a healthcare professional, without a fixed address, or who do not have access to the Internet or a credit card, face barriers. They noted that creative solutions, such as the incorporation of compassion clubs (organizations that provide cannabis for medical purposes) into the legal system, could address these gaps in access for marginalized populations." (pg. 89)

A comprehensive analysis of the Cannabis Act was written by Jacq Kittel and Ted Smith in November of 2022 in an early stage of information gathering for this panel. We worked extensively to produce a thorough policy analysis of the Act from the point of view of our patient centric non profit compassion club. Our review and answers to the Expert Review Panel's questions is titled Cannabis

Act Review 2022: Survey Responses from the VCBC, and is available on the Cannabis Digest website.

**For more information contact Ted Smith at 250-415-1063 or [hellovcbc@gmail.com](mailto:hellovcbc@gmail.com).**



## Seniors Lunch

Wed Oct 18 Noon

### Back Hall

Admission by Donation

### Musical Guest

Conrad Campbell

And Scotty Donaldson

Vegetarian and Gluten Free

Options

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additional 30 words*

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how many you should print.*

*- or -*

*we can print it:*

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**1x1 (1.2"x1.2")**

**2x2**

**1x2**

**2x1**

**3x1**

## ***Giving thanks to all:***

by Mr. Unknown

*A holiday last monday  
A break time for family  
Or any important person  
In the life of you and me*

*A time to say thanks  
To the people who were there  
In times of happiness  
Or times of despair*

*Serve up the turkey  
Mash the the potatoes  
Ladle cranberry sauce  
Set the cheery table*

*Gather one, gather all  
Give A compliment for the least  
Hope for a return in thanks  
Before beginning to feast*



### **ISLANDS GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL POLICIES**

**Opinions expressed in the Grapevine do not necessarily reflect that of the Publisher.**

**Inciting violence, hate speech and pejorative language will not be tolerated.**



Whether covering events that entertain us, presenting issues that concern and affect us or highlighting the many interesting and gifted people we call neighbour, the Grapevine celebrates the diversity and inclusivity of our shared island life. 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 are 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.
- Letters to the Editor are published free of charge.

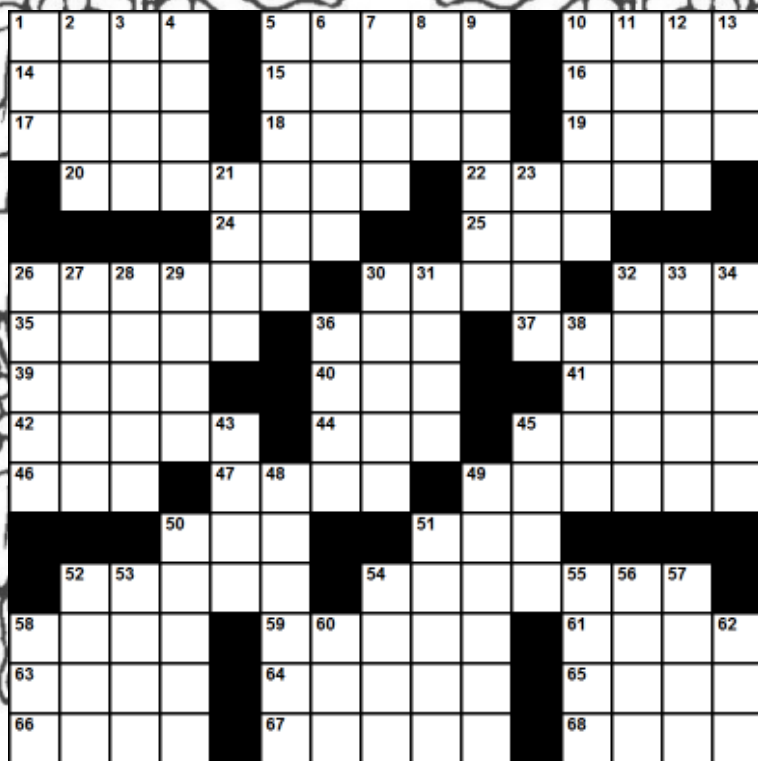
The Grapevine is happy to provide an open, public forum for all islanders to speak and be heard. We are steadfast in our commitment to uphold freedom of expression.

As the record of our times, every issue of the Grapevine is a compilation of that week's submissions. We do not editorialize content, nor do we censor. We ask that writers moderate their own content. The Grapevine reserves the right to edit for brevity.

We are open to contributions from all Denman & Hornby Islanders. If you've something to say, send it our way! No copy and paste submissions. In your own words, please!

---

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Depot info
5. Construction timbers
10. Crowning point
14. Baltic capital
15. Radii neighbors
16. It could be proper
17. Auxiliary
18. Civil unrests
19. Musician Lofgren
20. Certain shade of cerise
22. Coral structure
24. Bran bit
25. Cape in New Jersey
26. Noisy shouting
30. Wild mountain goat
32. Possessive pronoun
35. Greased
36. Oxlike critter
37. Cay or ait
39. Eye at the beach
40. Cooper's tool
41. Cover with wax
42. Army wear
44. Occupation, for short

45. Northern Nigerian
46. Farm home
47. Army site
49. Bit of food
50. Freedom, for short
51. A pair
52. Seeming
54. Tousled
58. Boot out
59. Paine's creed
61. Anthony of the alleys
63. Lave
64. Bring forth
65. Bible twin
66. Harp of yore
67. A butterfly
68. Hades River

• DOWN •

1. Historic time
2. Agalite
3. Chinese gelatin
4. Asian garment
5. College treasurer
6. Cats creator
7. At some other time
8. A welcome sight
9. Halvah base
10. Heckle
11. Mattress part
12. Comedian Martin
13. Mil. rank
21. Frame of mind
23. Approach the terminal
26. Diner employees
27. Candle emission
28. Soothe
29. Earth's heirs
30. Privately made movie
31. Apiary sound
32. Intestinal obstruction
33. Brief
34. Big bargain
36. Chatters away
38. Battle memento
43. African wading bird
45. Skirt spreader
48. Bears
49. Mime
50. Potter's wheel
51. Somewhat dark
52. Docking spot
53. Cold war power
54. Civil unrest
55. Majors and Remick
56. 90-degree heading
57. Cart
58. Barn nester
60. A notorious Peron
62. Illumination unit

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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|   | 3 |   |   |  |   |   | 6 |   |
| 7 |   |   | 1 |  | 9 | 3 |   |   |
| 3 |   | 1 |   |  |   |   |   |   |
|   | 4 |   | 5 |  | 8 |   |   |   |
| 9 |   |   |   |  |   |   | 5 | 3 |

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

Grumpism

“In honour of Fire Prevention Week: I searched online for something to light a fire. It said “no matches found”.”



• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

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**VOLT ELECTRIC BIKE**, 'Elegant'

New, never used

\$1800

Hornby Island

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**3 LOVELY HUMANS** with local

references seeking minimum

3 bedroom rental or house-sit

Jan. - May 2024. Quiet, clean,

respectful, handy, easy-going,

and adaptable! Please email

werkit@proton.me or text 425-

449-1777

**CARPENTER HANDYMAN** living in Qualicum with 30 years building experience seeking residence with shop on Denman/Hornby, willing to work off portion of rent, skills include carpentry, painting, drywall, tile, flooring, minor plumbing/electrical, landscaping, also accomplished guitarist/musician. Trustworthy and reliable, personal and work references available upon request. Paul 604-807-4465

The Islands  
Grapevine  
Calendar  
**CORRECTIONS**

• *The Food Bank  
is open at the  
HUB every  
Thursday from  
4pm to 7pm*

Apologies for any  
inconvenience

**THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE  
CALENDAR**

**DEADLINE FOR  
NOVEMBER  
SUBMISSIONS IS  
OCTOBER 20TH**

Send details of your event to:  
[calendargrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:calendargrapevine@gmail.com)

## • 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 250-792-0128 (H/D)
- Donna & Jenessa Tuele • Royal LePage Hornby 335-1720 (D/H)
- Jordan McDonald • Oakwyn Realty • 604-616-1137 (D/H)

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- Roc-Isle Drywall, Harvey Hodgins • 35 yrs exp. 'certified' 334-4776 (D/H)
- Seaside Electric • LEL0207455 • 702-0570 (D/H)
- Shel Brodsgaard • Excavation & Services • 250-703-3898 (D/H)
- Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck • Kenny Mather •  
250-703-6512 (All) • John Isbister • 250-335-2565 (D)
- Cal's Bobcat Services • Auger, Grapple, Rake • 613-447-8873 (All)
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• 250-650-9986 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation • 335-3145 (D/H)

## • SERVICES •

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- Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP  
335-2260 (D/H)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
- Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac. • 250-508-8160  
• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
- Jessi Schlegel • Personal Training & Fitness Classes • 604-329-3466 •  
online & in-person (D/H)
- Dan Last • Registered Massage Therapist • 250-335-1270 (D)



Believing in the science, mites held in their poo till it killed them.  
The scientists responsible were subpoenaed. Mo Naitch was exonerated.



## OCTOBER 14 3 PM OPEN JAM DAY/EVENING WITH APPIES!

OCTOBER REDO ART SHOW ON THE WALL  
NEW GAMES, GIFTS, CLOTHES, GRAINS ETC.

**OPEN 7 TO 3 DAILY CLOSED MONDAYS**  
ESPRESSO DRINKS, BULK STORE, FROZEN DINNERS  
AND POT PIES, CALL TO ORDER SANDWICHES  
**250.335.2688**

## FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 12

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30pm-6pm



FRIDAY 13

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

SATURDAY 14

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- JOHN THE RUG MAN sale see ad p.7

SUNDAY 15

- DENMAN WRITERS GROUP meeting  
Senior's Lounge 1:30pm New Members Welcome

MONDAY 16

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

TUESDAY 17

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

WEDNESDAY 18

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- SENIORS LUNCH see ad p.9

THURSDAY 19

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30-6pm

FRIDAY 20

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

SATURDAY 21

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

SUNDAY 22

- ST. SAVIOUR'S Ecumenical Service 10:30am

MONDAY 23

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

TUESDAY 24

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

WEDNESDAY 25

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

THURSDAY 26

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 4:30pm-6pm





***Association for Denman Island Marine Stewards***  
***20<sup>th</sup> Denman Island Annual Beach Cleanup***  
***October 28 to November 4, 2023***



**Calling all Sand Witches & Wizards to the Annual Denman Beach Cleanup!**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual ADIMS Denman Island Shoreline Cleanup will be held the week of Oct 28<sup>th</sup> to Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. We are partnering again with BC Shellfish Growers Association (BCSGA) and Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD). CVRD will provide a disposal bin at the Old School for our collected debris, which will then be transported to the Pigeon Lake dump 'Marine Debris Sorting Area'. ADIMS volunteers will focus on cleaning Denman shorelines, while BCSGA (with assistance from BC Clean Coast Clean Waters funding) will contract vessels and teams to collect debris piles from beaches on both sides of Baynes Sound.

DFO's newly implemented 'Conditions of Licence' for shellfish growers provides much stronger regulations as well as consequences and fines to growers who do not secure equipment at their sites. We are pleased to be moving toward ensuring that the polluters clean up their own garbage, finally ensuring that industrial pollution is stopped at the source.

**There is still a lot of plastic out there to be picked up, so please join us!**

**Volunteer Registration Table at the Old School Market Oct 28th.**

**Debris Drop Off: Old School Nov 1<sup>st</sup> - Sat, Nov 4th**

**Final Sorting Event: Sat, Nov 4, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm**

**For pick up assistance contact Liz Johnston**

**Email: [lizjj@telus.net](mailto:lizjj@telus.net)**



*ADIMS provides the residents of Denman Island with a strong voice in protecting our marine environment.*

For more information: [www.adims.ca](http://www.adims.ca) or Email: [adimsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:adimsinfo@gmail.com)