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THE ISLANDS Grapevine

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SPECIAL
INTEREST

Shucking Oysters: When is Enough Enough

By Alex Allen

individual workers, most of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS)* money went to their bottom line. The almighty profit, which shouldn't surprise anyone. As we all know, greed is a very powerful stimulant.

The 2020 financial statements of 53 public companies showed that they received more than \$10 million in wage subsidies, and in just six months, they collectively dished out \$2 billion to their shareholders. At least seven companies bought back shares while receiving the CEWS. In other words, tens of millions of dollars from the government's pandemic aid package went to corporations whose profits went up, despite the colossal economic downturn in 2020. After all, maximizing profit is a moral imperative, people.

Much like a human psychology experiment, the behaviour of corporations that received CEWS payments varied widely. Many suspended or cut dividend payments and some introduced different forms of discretionary spending. Others, as humans do, spent lavishly on non-payroll expenses, which is perfectly legal under the emergency wage subsidy.

The Montreal-based trucking giant TFI International, for instance, received \$63 million in wage subsidies, while also paying out \$45 million in dividends amid rising profits and a soaring share price. As it laid off 1,600 workers, the company spent nearly \$9 million buying back shares and then announced it was increasing its dividend by 12%.

"We are not ashamed," about taking the wage subsidies, TFI CEO Alain Bédard told a Montreal newspaper. "Not taking it would be like refusing a tax exemption. It would be like saying 'We're more Catholic than the pope.'" During that time, Bédard sold stock options in TFI worth more than \$20 million.

Canada's big three telecom companies collectively received more than \$240 million in emergency subsidies. Bell received \$122.9 million, Rogers \$82.3 million and TELUS \$38.6 million. BUT, the three companies continued to pay out regular dividends to shareholders; Bell and TELUS even announced increases to their annual payouts. Meanwhile both Bell and Rogers laid off workers at their "hard-hit" media divisions. Rogers paid out just over \$1 billion in dividends while Bell paid shareholders close to \$3 billion; and TELUS paid almost \$1.5 billion.

Air Canada received the most in emergency funding ... \$656 million to "pay" its employees. They reported an operating loss of \$3.776 billion in 2020 compared to an operating income of \$1.650 billion in 2019. Yet the company paid its top executives and managers a combined \$10 million in bonuses tied to the pandemic. The airline justified the bonuses and stock awards to shareholders by saying the senior executive team "reacted urgently, decisively and skillfully to mitigate the impact." Those actions included slashing over 20,000 employees from Air Canada's workforce, a reduction of more than 50%.

The second-highest sum paid to a publicly traded company, a paltry \$120 million next to Air Canada's wad, went to Imperial Oil. The Calgary-based energy giant's annual gross profit for 2020 was \$2.648 billion, a 46.67% decline from 2019. And yet they still paid out \$162 million to their shareholders during the pandemic.

And then we have the brazen private "premier" Royal Ottawa Golf Club, who managed to build up a surplus thanks mostly to federal subsidies for workers' wages. Faced with lockdown restrictions, the club asked for and received \$1.019 million for just one season, and ending its 2020 fiscal year with an

continued on P.4...

Fighting Words Part 2

By Team TIG

IN last week's The Islands Grapevine (TIG), we published a denouncement of the false claims made by Bronwyn Schuster, publicly slandering TIG as having published transphobic hate-speech, following their email to TIG that was an attempt at influence peddling using public funds. While other Denman public servants have publicly endorsed Schuster's admitted misuse of their position, the seeds of the malice directed at TIG had already been planted. **From Bronwyn Schuster's threatening email.** (July 19/23)

"I understand you have been holding an editorial policy of no curation".

"I have found it difficult to weed through article after letter of COVID misinformation."

Ironically, both of these claims are misinformation. TIG publishes its editorial policy in each issue, and we spend time each week asking contributors for revisions. Ninety percent of all the public health information TIG published was from government sources, at the local, regional, and Provincial levels. Prior to the pandemic, TIG had not received any critique of its editorial policies.

The small fraction of dissenting content TIG published, has in some cases turned out to be correct, and in some cases the Public Health advisories turned out to be incorrect. TIG was one of the very few media spaces that did not censor ALL dissenting viewpoints. What is clear from Schuster's claims, and the claims of other local public servants, is that they have now declared that dissent is impermissible, and will not be tolerated. This is the elephant in the room, and it is a dangerous and authoritarian ideology.

After TIG committed the "original sin" of publishing a few letters that held a dissenting view on the response to the pandemic, some of the privileged liberal class of our community have aligned themselves with censorship of dissent, and granted themselves the entitlement of attempting to cancel a local business and the extremely modest livelihoods it supports. They are publicly spreading slander and lies, including the false accusation of "promoting" bigotry, in order to justify their anti-democratic and censorious ideology. While these bullies never provide any evidence, they rely on the silence of those too afraid to speak up. **From Aaron Muirhead, on Denman social media, in a moment of self serving opportunism:**

"I for one am thankful and think its about time that a 'public official' actually took responsibility and refused to use 'public' money to support a private for profit buisness that as a matter of policy, regularly publishes clear falsehoods and promotes bigotry in the community... this seems to me a case of a responsible use of 'public' funds [sic]".

Muirhead made the above comments as part of his announcement of his rival publication. He could not cite any specific "falsehoods" or "bigotry", but takes pleasure in the act of joining the mob slandering TIG. Some Board mem-

bers of Denman non-profit organizations have joined the chorus of hateful comments directed at TIG and in support of directing publicly funded advertising dollars away from TIG to Aaron's new publication. **From Laura Busheikin's Denman social media post:**

"From what I've heard, [Schuster] let a business owner know that she (as an individual and as a contract employee responsible for advertising choices) would no longer be purchasing their product unless the business practices changed. This could be seen as a threat, but not in a criminal way. It could also be seen as a decent thing to do, as it gives the business owner a chance to consider making changes in response to customer feedback.[sic]"

Let's start with Busheikin's words, "From what I've heard", as it speaks to her reliance on hearsay, and an assumption that the accusations were true. In this case, the "customers" are each and every local resident, not the publicly funded employee. **More from Busheikin:**

"If I have responsibility for an advertising budget for a publicly funded activity, unless my contract or a terms of reference states otherwise, I would be within my rights to make decisions about that budget. And yes of course I have done this, and will continue to do this in my various community roles. That has included seeking out alternatives to the Grapevine when possible." And further: "to talk to the staff person directly, and CERTAINLY NOT to repeatedly make inflammatory public statements about the contract employee on social media. (And omg why I am even weighing in on this????[sic])".

This is an astounding admission of unethical behaviour, and an incredulous take on the issues at hand. Had Busheikin not relied on hearsay, she would have known that we DID reach out to Schuster privately, offered to publish their concerns, and received NO response from Schuster at all. TIG did NOT take these issues to social media, Schuster did, where THEY made "inflammatory public statements" about TIG. And why indeed is Busheikin weighing in on this on social media, after saying that social media wasn't an appropriate forum for addressing these issues?

TIG has reached out to Busheikin privately on two occasions, and in a cruel irony, she has refused to discuss these matters or comment at all. Busheikin's lofty declarations on Denman social media do not align with her own actions. She has joined a slanderous social media mob in attempting to cancel a local business, based on hearsay and provable lies, and admitting she has done the same thing with public advertising dollars relating to TIG, in her "various community roles." TIG wants to know which publicly funded roles? As a Local Trustee, this behaviour is a violation of the Islands Trust Standards of Conduct. https://islandstrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/tc_1994-09-12_212_standard-sofconduct_pol_final.pdf

All of these bullies, dressed up in performative virtue suits, have lost any moral or ethical authority in managing a public service on Denman Island. 🍷

...continued from P.2 extra \$825,000 — 19 times more than the \$43,883 operating gain the club reported the year before.

When you live in a world of pure money and greed, eventually you lose feeling for the real value of things. It's called cognitive numbness. The question is, why do people who "have everything" (especially the three amigos, Elon, Jeff, and Mark) always seem to want more? Making money cannot be an end in itself — at least for anyone not suffering from an acute mental health disorder. To say that my purpose in life is to make more and more money is like saying that my aim in eating is to get fatter and fatter.

As someone once said, a good definition of hell is having no choice but to tolerate the intolerable.

** There was also an additional pay out of \$82 billion to individuals impacted by the pandemic through the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit. I affectionately called this group, the CERBIans, young people aimlessly "nomading" in 1970s Winnebagos, 80s cargo vans, and questionable pick-up trucks. Some of them are still here. 🍷*

SPECIAL
INTEREST

Green Wizards, Preparing for the Future

By Maxine Rogers

A friend gave me a couple of feed bags full of organically-produced pears. Pears are a wonderful crop but they must be picked unripe and then ripen off the tree. The lore states that you need only bring a bowl of unripe pears into the warmth of the kitchen and they will ripen in a few days. I have found this to be not quite true and have sometimes found a whole box of pears in cool storage that have gone ripe all at the same time, necessitating a day of impromptu canning.

This happened again to the sacks of pears my friend gave me but I was ready for them and canned over 100 half-pint jars of pear baby food. Yes, we are expecting an addition to the family. I have never made baby food before but it seemed like a good thing to do and is a simple process. Parents tell me that pear puree is the most tasty of all the baby foods.

To make the baby food, I cut the pears up and took the seeds out. I did not peel them. I put the chunks of pear in a pan of boiling water for a few minutes and then put the cooked chunks in the blender. I poured the resulting puree, with no added sugar or preservatives, into the half-pint jars and put lids on and popped them into the water-bath canner. When the water came back to the boil, I timed 15 minutes and then brought the jars in to cool.



The next day, we take the rings off the jars and lifted each jar by the lid. If the lid is secure, you know you have a good seal. Food preserved in this manner can last for years.

Baby food, in general, is easy to prepare. Steamed vegetables can be pureed in a blender or a food mill which is an old-fashioned hand-drolic device that does much the same

thing as a blender but has the added advantage of removing skins and seeds as it purees food.

I spoke with one young family on Denman and their baby had cost them almost nothing as they simply pureed some of the food they had prepared for themselves and fed that to their chubby, happy baby. I see those little pots of baby food for sale in the grocery store and really wonder at them being able to sell such a product when freshly-steamed vegetables and fruit or stew would be so much better for a little person and a lot less expensive.

Another way we are preparing for the future is to manure, lime and leaf empty beds in the vegetable garden. You always have to put more in each year than you take out from the garden. We add heaps of lime in the autumn as our soil on the Coast is so acidic. The soil is both acidic and nutrient deficient because of the heavy rains we experience, with any luck at all, in the winters. Rainwater is naturally a little acidic but we get it in such quantities that it both turns our soil acidic and washes nutrients out of the soil.

So, after liming, we manure with compost and waste hay and manure from the stable. The hay will send up grass seedlings which are not wanted in the garden so we rake up all the leaves from our huge maple tree and cover the manured beds with maple leaves. This is enough to stop the seeds from sprouting and adds a layer of both food and insulation to the soil.

I am protecting this year's garlic bed under a layer of oats and buckwheat that I sowed right after we got the garlic up in the summer. I did not get as many oats as I had hoped but the buckwheat filled that bed with lots of lusty plants and had heaps of white blooms that the pollinators went crazy for. We even got a crop of buckwheat seeds!

The oats are an excellent cover crop for a heavy soil as the roots are as deep as the oats are tall. This is a way of pumping carbon into the soil. When the winter kills the top of the plant, the roots also die and decompose deep in the soil, leaving channels for both air and water to penetrate the soil. The roots are mostly made of carbon and that stays in the soil and enriches it. The standing plant matter and the compost and leaves all protect the soil from frost, the punishing effects of rain on bare soil, erosion and provide food and habitat to all the creatures that are essential for soil health.

One day, we hope to pass our smallholding down to future generations in a better condition than we found it. 🍷

SPECIAL
INTEREST

Phoenix Riting!

By Phoenix Bee

I did attend the September 26th Community Engagement Session meeting at the Hall, and I found it hopeful and inspiring. We rotated through several tables, each one devoted to a different topic relevant to our future (ie environment, arts and culture, various forms of industry etc) and brainstormed our ideas and visions for the future as a community. I was impressed by how aligned we were as a group. Certainly, there was disagreement, but it seemed minor, at least at the tables I participated in. It felt good, and very productive. Our core values were reaffirmed, to honour our island's natural limits, to seek to live harmoniously in our environment.

In particular, at every table we agreed as a community to valuing differences, and that disagreements are okay. Community resilience depends on being adaptable, hearing each other, and working toward solutions together. Sometimes, events on this island have a resonance of unity, as if a greater entity were working through us, and we are all simply voicing its needs. Maybe it was just the thrill of meeting in person after so many Zoom meetings, but I walked away feeling uplifted and full of optimism for our shared future. This feeling is everything to me, for though realistically we will always have problems, our shared commitment to core values is holding steady. I look forward to the next session at the Hall on November 14th.

In contrast, the rest of the world seems to be going slightly insane. For example, the furor over my July 6th column apparently continues behind the scenes, as evidenced by last week's editorial. After a whole summer of hearing nothing at all, I recently received a lengthy email from a prominent Denman Islander, explaining to me exactly why she believed my column was 'transphobic.' I did read the whole thing. The writer denied me permission to quote or reference what was said, so I won't address it directly here at this time.

I very much appreciate the feedback. I found the email interesting and a little frustrating. It gave me much food for thought. While they affirmed their belief in my 'transphobia,' they did not, to my mind, in any way show how what I wrote could possibly contribute to hatred, disgust or violence toward trans people (the definition of transphobia). 'Transphobia' seems, now, to be a code word for something far more abstract and nebulous than the definition suggests.

I am told, in essence, that my opinion is dangerous and that I am selfish for expressing it, but not what the danger is. I have the sense that the writer and I speak different languages. It's a tangle, and I will need to take more time to reread and digest what was said before I can formulate a response. The email was thoughtful, well written and the tone was non-attacking (though the underlying accusation is still there).

With that, I am tired. The world is going mad. Don't even get me started on what is happening in Israel right now. My heart is both light and heavy at once. I feel oppressed and freed. Paradox! These are strange days indeed.

Many blessings to you all, as we plunge into the dark time. I'm going to the Hall on Saturday night to dance to Led Zeppelin tributes and oh wow. Few things can't be cured with dancing, at least in my life. I'll go dance it all out, and save the world in the process. I can't wait! I'll see you there.

That's what I think. What do you think? Email me at phoenixonhornby@gmail.com 🍷

ARTS & LIT

March 28th, 2007 Sandwich Summit 2, Roadside Edition

By CS#05943451

AS I hoped, I hit the sweet spot between wildfires and snow for my road trip to Edmonton. It was lovely, sunny and the fall colours were glorious; the rains began the day I returned. It's wonderful to be home in the pouring rain! I timed it well.

As we were heading out this morning as *always* we hit the kitchen to pick up our coffee and lunch fixings. As C.O. Person sorted through the assembled fare his ire began to boil. Meat and cheese sandwiches once again! He posed the question to Paul, the cook, "Is there any butter or mayonnaise on them?"

Paul rather smugly replied, "No."

TIDE TABLE

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

2023-10-19 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:11	0.9	3.1
10:55	4.6	15
15:59	3.7	12.1
20:08	4.2	13.6
2023-10-20 (Fri)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:58	1	3.2
11:59	4.6	15.1
17:18	3.8	12.4
20:48	4	13.2
2023-10-21 (Sat)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:53	1.1	3.5
13:05	4.6	15.1
18:54	3.7	12.2
21:52	3.9	12.7
2023-10-22 (Sun)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
05:56	1.2	3.9
14:04	4.6	15.2
20:12	3.5	11.5
23:34	3.7	12.2
2023-10-23 (Mon)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
07:03	1.3	4.3
14:52	4.7	15.3
21:07	3.2	10.4
2023-10-24 (Tue)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:20	3.7	12.1
08:10	1.5	4.8
15:31	4.7	15.4
21:53	2.7	9
2023-10-25 (Wed)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:49	3.8	12.4
09:11	1.7	5.4
16:05	4.7	15.5
22:35	2.3	7.4
2023-10-26 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:07	4	13
10:09	1.9	6.3
16:36	4.8	15.6
23:17	1.7	5.7

continued on P.6...

...continued from P.5

The day was not getting off to a good start.

Back at the crummy, Mr. Person unwrapped the cellophane to inspect the sandwiches himself. In a fit of blind rage, he stormed into the main building, sandwiches in hand, leaving us there. Minutes afterward, he re-emerged from the building without the sandwiches and we were off. We were all cracking up in the back of the crummy as we sped off to work. Fred piped up, "he's going to have a heart attack!" which only spurred us onward. Once at the work site, Mr. Person conveyed to us that he went above C.O. Wight's head and plunked the unbuttered sandwiches, without mayo, down on the desk of some white shirt who's name escapes me. If not for Person's indignant insistence that the lunches need improvement, I doubt that we inmates would raise such a fuss. It is jail, after all. To have our C.O. invest such emotion about it could conceivably lead us to believe we have rights beyond the reality. Lunches certainly have gone downhill in my short tenure here and every C.O. that I've spoken to on this matter has told me that *when they were in charge of Crew #2*, the lunches were a comparatively lavish affair. But this is of little consolation to us these days. Repeated attempts to address the perceived shortcomings of our midday jail-house meals seem to have butted up against a much more immutable force. BUREAUCRACY. Somewhere within the bowels of this multi-headed beast, our calls for attention to this matter get lost without prompting nary a burp of indigestion or the discomfort of heartburn. Where the same cannot be said of our lunches.

So anyways, as we reluctantly crept upon the lunch hour, who should arrive upon the scene but Mr. Wight. Tossing a last few alder branches on the pile I was stacking, I turned to heed Mr. Person's call for lunch. As I approached the crummy Mr. Wight, all 6'2" 260 lbs of him, appears around the side of the crummy and declares me 'spokesman' of the crew. It seemed that a lunchtime discussion about the lunches was in the offing. As Mr. Person was frying up potatoes and onions (staples he brought from home out of utter resignation at our plight), Mr. Wight and I chatted. The crew idly stood by. With the occasional inciteful remark from Mr. Person wafting over from in back of Wight's imposing frame, I listened to the Senior Correction Officer's ability to recite the formatted responses to my questions. No doubt revealing just how he rose to such an esteemed rank. He was unflappable. He was good. He was big! He explained to me how the diet we're given is derived from the empirical knowledge of a dietician, and standardized. 'X' number of this, so many millilitres of that and so forth. He even went on to say that the reason there is no mayonnaise in the sandwiches is because of the potential for it to spoil in our cooler tote. Whilst waiting out the perilously long 5 hours from being spread to being consumed, it seems. The reason for no hot-dogs or hamburgers in our tote is due to the presumption that we



might not cook them properly and get ill. Salmonella. From in behind me Fred pipes up, "Salmonella? That sounds better than what we've been getting!" The tone of our summit suddenly besieged by stifled laughter and outright guffaws, Mr. Wight informed us that we need to have a certified cook in order to perform such a tricky feat. A potential trump card was thrown out in the form of Person, himself. It turns out that he IS a certified cook, but I suspect this fact was seen more as an inconvenience to Mr. Wight's stonewalling. I was beginning to see the futility of it all. If anything, Wight's appearance, there on the side of the highway, was meant to placate us rather than relent and forge a revised, more appetizing menu. Having to let go the lunch I decided to take up the seemingly more benign issue of our lack of coffee. His reaction was to again swaddle himself in the standardized response to any affront to the standardized wisdom of what I can only assume is one seriously gaunt dietician. We're apparently allotted but a mere 8 oz cup of black gold per head!

Now, a person's skin is their largest organ. Prone to all sorts of stimuli. Upon hearing Mr. Wight's token response, the entirety of my largest organ began to constrict! We're talking about the elixir of life now. Of which, by his view, I'd drank enough for five inmates prior to starting work and **still** I felt deprived. With dilated pupils and my bones creaking under pressure, I decided turnabout was fair play. It was time to humour him. Using his most eloquent recitation of the dietician's spreadsheet as a template, I wondered aloud about the likelihood of a standardized amount of work expected from such a standardized approach to fuelling such work. "Surely Mr. Wight, you can agree that every individual has their own metabolic rate. Each person that eats the standardized diet therefore processes said diet differently." He not only agreed but offered that his 260 pound system metabolizes much more slowly than my 145 pounds. To look at his belly, that much was evident.

"Further to my point," I continued, "each individual possesses their own unique approach to work. But presumably, with such a standardized caloric intake, would it not follow that those who have a tendency to work at a higher rate conceivably run out of energy from the provided calories sooner than the others who don't exhibit such qualities? If there is no standardized amount of ergs expected to be expended by each individual, would it be prudent to pace oneself in their work? The herd mentality that prevails when feeding it must also prevail in expectation of output, no?"

It seemed that he was genuinely perplexed. I said all of this with a straight face. A hint of a smirk to confirm it was purely a red herring proposition. The glint in his eye and the return of a smirk told me I hadn't overstepped my bounds as crew spokesman. He conceded with a promise of a pound of Hawaiian coffee for tomorrow that he had sitting in his freezer at home. I had won! No changes in store for our lunches but when it came to the beloved black gold, he said that beyond his offer of a pound of premium coffee, he hadn't a problem if Mr. Person wanted to contribute extra beans beyond his. A small but sweet victory over a three stripe corrections officer.

I couldn't help but take my little trophy and raise it on high by saying, "seeing that you're willing to offer us something from Hawaii, do think you could get us some pakalolo?"

"Pakalolo, what's that?" he said.

"You know, the crazy weed!" I countered, replete with a cheeky little hula sway of my hips and arms for emphasis.

Standing beside one of our many roadside piles, Wight reached down, snapped a twig off a branch and deadpanned, "Here, smoke this!"

Open Letter to the Minister of Transportation

By Sharon Smaslls

Date: October 12, 2023
To: The Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
From: Sharon Small, Denman Island Resident
Subject: Corporate Hubris Keeps a Failed Cable Ferry Experiment in Service

DEAR HONOURABLE MINISTER FLEMING:

Fining B.C. Ferries (BCF) for cancellations due to staffing shortages has given Denman and Hornby islanders hope that you will compel the corporation to decommission the Baynes Sound Connector (BSC). With NDP oversight and CEO Jimenez at the helm, it was shocking to learn that Commissioner Hage, who is charged by the provincial government to oversee BCF, supports the myth that the cable ferry has exceeded corporate expectations. In fact, the cable ferry has been a predictable failure and a product of continuing corporate hubris.

The February 2023 Anderson Review (BCF Denman/Hornby Community Page) provides compelling evidence for decommissioning the BSC for the following reasons:

- . *Design and systems present unique technical challenges;*
- . *Mechanical reliability remains a concern;*
- . *Hull fouling causes service speed reductions;*
- . *Maintenance has been higher than anticipated;*
- . *Costs remain above business case estimates;*
- . *Issues remain unresolved.*

The review fails to mention that a cable could fall off in winds higher than 39 knots. Should this occur when the vessel is running, BCF instructions are to proceed to dock because it can operate on the two remaining cables. As the BSC is the longest cable ferry in the world, afflicted with continuing mechanical issues, how can BCF possibly be confident that it is safe to proceed in high winds?

The review also fails to address how islanders feel about being stuck with a failed experiment. Their anguish, frustration, and mistrust of BCF can be read in the May community engagement summary and online survey comments posted on the Denman and Hornby Community Pages. Parents of children going to school or participating in activities off island are especially fearful for their safety. They have been stranded overnight when sailings are cancelled due to mechanical failure or when winds exceed 39 knots. If winds rise when the ferry is heading to Buckley Bay, how long would the children be stranded or would the vessel even reach the dock?

In a letter to Commissioner Hage, I provided a preponderance of evidence confirming that BCF systematically underreported the cable ferry's performance in annual reports and failed to address islanders' collective and sustained negative feedback in decision-making. These actions violate both BCF's Code of Ethics to report accurately and the Coastal Ferry Act to include community feedback in decision-making.

The myth that the cable ferry exceeded corporate expectations began in the October 2015 Ferry Advisory Committee meeting when the ex-CEO passed on the views of the shipbuilder that it had "exceeded expectations, better than expected" (<https://youtu.be/>

continued on P.8...



Notice:
ADIMS Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023, 4 pm
Invitation to ADIMS Members and Public

Please feel welcome to join us for our Annual General Meeting. The meeting Invitation details will be posted on our website and emailed to our members the week prior to the event, as final venue details need to be finalized.

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

For more information:
www.adims.ca or Email:
adimsinfo@gmail.com



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...continued from P.7 o234q_K3XkA?si=Ntu33dfZQjb8JOob). The former CEO predicted that it would save tax payer dollars by requiring fewer staff than conventional vessels; be good for the environment; and provide excellent service.

This myth has been repeated during its seven years of service. For example, in the 2023 Annual Performance Review of the BSC, VP Barabush stated, "The BSC and cable ferry system has been a success. The vessel, similar to its predecessor, regularly provides service in excess of the core service levels..." The Commissioner responded, "Despite an increase in the number of service interruptions recently, the BSC has been successful in providing a higher service level than its predecessor.... It operates on a par with other vessels in the fleet."

The expectation of saving money because the cable ferry would require fewer staff than a conventional vessel is questionable given the necessity of hiring more staff to run it and the Kahloke in the summer; to control traffic at terminals; and to fix the frequent mechanical problems. Expert critics speculate that cables have already been replaced around **sixteen times at \$250,000 a pop**. Repeated attempts by the Hornby Ferry Discussion Group to obtain a copy of BSC expenses through freedom of information channels have failed.

In studies of corporate hubris, symptoms include failing to be transparent, altering statistics, and omitting or dismissing facts that expose flaws in the myth. Also, CEOs who make grandiose claims that cannot be delivered, garner support from their executives by handing out bonuses, as did the former CEO. The last stage of the corporate hubris cycle is faltering and falling. This stage is confirmed by the cascading problems facing BCF presently and the firing of the former CEO. To counter the perils of corporate hubris, CEOs are advised to return to providing long term essential service.

It is preposterous, therefore, that stretching the cable ferry to provide more vehicle space was again floated at the last BCF Ferry Advisory meeting. Given the vessel's service history, how can a mechanically challenged, potentially dangerous, and costly stretched vessel even be imagined? Such a fantasy smacks of continuing corporate hubris when rather than taking a risk, executives play it safe to protect their positions.

In the Youtube video of the 2015 Ferry Advisory Committee meeting, the ex-CEO dismissed criticism of the cable ferry by exclaiming, "At the end of the day, we are big bad guys and we can take it!" Perhaps BCF executives can take it, but Denman and Hornby islanders are suffering. We look to the Ministry of Transportation, therefore, to hold BCF accountable to its Mission Statement by providing Route 21 with a reliable and safe conventional ferry that exceeds **OUR** expectations.

Respectfully,
Sharon Small
Denman Island Resident 🍷

Letter to the Editor

"Every time we witness an injustice and do not act, we train our character to be passive in its presence and, thereby, eventually lose all ability to defend ourselves and those we love." - Julian Assange

WE are standing up for Freedom of Expression and the peaceful exchange of ideas. From the onset of Covid, we have witnessed deep polarization in our beloved community of Denman Island. The Islands Grapevine was our only news source willing to publish all sides of various contentious issues.

Since the end of August, some contributors have felt that they have been censored. Free Speech is the foundation of a free society. We feel strongly that we need to support critical thinking.

We encourage The Grapevine to embrace its policy of encouraging all points-of-view to be expressed in our weekly newspaper.

By supporting The Islands Grapevine through advertising we can support free speech in the long run. It is our hope that Denman and Hornby islanders will be encouraged to contribute their ideas and opinions on a platform on which Free Speech is honoured.

Perri Gorrara
Tom Provençal
Louis De Ernsted 🍷



♥ Kudos to the Hornby ferry crew who during 40k winds (on the aft of October 10th) drove out into the middle of lashing waves to fix a broken bumper that could not be repaired while docked. Within less than half an hour they returned to Gravelly Bay to pick up a load of grateful people & their vehicles. I was travelling with our cat who had just been spayed at the Denman clinic & I was so thankful to be able to return home with her to the warmth of the woodstove!

& While I'm at it I would like to thank Mike & the Grapevine crew for standing strong with their diversity of writers. Rather than focusing on criticizing them for this why not just read the articles that one is drawn to & skip over the rest? There is surely enough selection in each issue to provide some worthwhile reading for everyone! ♥ Kirsten Sonstebö

Israel-Palestine: *We're All in This Together*

OPINIONS

By Sally Campbell

EVERYONE in Israel-Palestine must be suffering trauma right now, and those with connections to that troubled region and its inhabitants are heartbroken, deeply concerned and afraid of what is to come in a catastrophe worsening by the day.

We grieve all the losses of life. No life is less valuable than another. We grieve Hamas' violent and murderous assault on Israelis, amplified by the memory of the Holocaust. At the same time, we grieve Palestinian longtime suffering under occupation, and the ongoing pummeling

of Gaza. We watch in horror as governments send more weapons to an area that needs no more warfare, an area already darkly marked by the blood of innocents.

I remember taking a three day course on Trauma at the Justice Institute of BC many years ago, presented by New York psychologist/trauma specialist, Dr. Joe Solanto. He said that after 9/11 all the therapists arrived in town to help ease the situation, but "talk" was not what people actually needed at the time. What do body and soul need when trauma is up close? Comfort. Warmth. Food. Hot soup and bread. Not analysis, not endless explaining or condemning, or especially, vengeful planning of retaliation.

So here is my very simple recipe for Walnut-Date Bread from one of my esteemed role models, the late great artist Georgia O'Keeffe. I hope it will offer some comfort.

Georgia's recipe, only slightly altered by me:

¼ C softened butter
¼ C brown sugar
½ t. salt
1 t. baking soda 1 C dates (8)
½ C walnuts, chopped 1 egg
1 ½ C organic whole wheat flour 1 C boiling water

Cream butter & sugar, add egg & salt. Combine flour, nuts & dates and mix water in. Combine with butter mixture.

Bake @ 350 in an oiled bread pan for 50-60 minutes. Delicious warm or cold! Enjoy. 🍷



Remembering Matta



Join us for the celebration of life for Matta Andrea Schaal November 4th, 2023 at the Denman Community Hall 3pm onward.

There will be a chance to speak at an open mic, a show and sale of Matta's art, a community dinner potluck and to finish a dance party at 8pm.

Please come help us celebrate and remember this remarkable friend, mother, and community member. For more info call 250-650-9171



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Maureen Galbraith **July 19, 1925 - April 3, 2023**



Maureen was born and raised in London, England. She was the oldest of 3 children. After she finished school, she attended college and became a secretary.

During WW2 the family stayed in London for awhile before evacuating to a family friend's in the country.

It was while she was there that she met Bob, a handsome Canadian soldier that stole her heart. After he returned to England from Europe in 1945 they were married. He came back to Canada first and Maureen became a 'war bride' on the Aquitania in 1946.

They lived in Ontario until 1953 when they sold everything and bought a travel trailer and headed west on a new adventure.

They lived in Burnaby first, then Fort Langley before making the final move to Denman Island in 1977. They quickly settled into island life. Bob retired almost right away but Maureen worked for Dr. Usher for quite a few years before retiring.

They both enjoyed gardening, Bob growing, Maureen preserving/freezing. So much that they had to buy a second freezer.

Maureen was a secretary all her life, working at various places - The Royal Bank, CIBC and Philips Electronics. She took great pride in knowing her Pitman Shorthand and never forgetting it. She could

always write things down and no one knew what it said except her!

After Bob passed away in 1998 Maureen took up badminton for awhile and picking up her paint brushes again. She became part of the art group - A Group of Several.

She had an amazing group of friends and enjoyed hosting dinner parties and afternoon teas - which usually involved more sherry than tea!

Maureen managed to live alone with the help of home support and friends in later years. Unfortunately, after the fall that broke her hip, the doctor told her she couldn't live alone anymore. She moved into a care home near her family but always dreamed of returning to her home on Denman.

She went into kidney failure on March 30th and passed peacefully in her sleep on April 3rd.

Maureen is now back on Denman, in her favourite spot, watching the ocean.

An Island Rhyme

*When people think of
Denman,
Some see a rocky shore,
And some see a forest dense,
Where wild flowers bloom
galore.

Some will see green meadows,
Where cattle rest and graze,
Some hear it's streams
murmuring,
Through sunlit summer days.

Some will smell the briny,
And softly scented air,
Others see an island,
With many havens there.*

*Some will find its treasures,
Lying by the sea,
Patterned and all sizes,
Some in filigree.*

*Some will see the autumn,
And tinted leaves of gold,
Others see the deer
As they become more bold.*

*Some will spy a sea lion,
Splashing as he plays,
Others see some otters,
Loping up the grade.*

*Some will see the mountains,
With a rim of blue,
Others see the meadows,
And trees, moist with dew.*

*People come to Denman,
To breathe the fresh clean air,
To hear the waves rush in and out,
As the wind blows through their
hair.*

*Others come to visit,
Mainly just to look,
Then find themselves surprisingly,
Absolutely hooked.*

*Such is Denman Island,
A gem in the sea,
A peaceful place, a restful place,
Where one can happy be.*

***Written by Maureen Galbraith
in 1984.***

How the middle became the RIGHT



Friend with nature:

by Mr. Unknown

*If you have the idea
To cut down a plant or tree
It be any plant
That began from a seed*

*Then you are no friend
Leave this planet be
For greenery provides oxygen
Needed in you and in me*

*Leave the forest to slumber
With thing dying and forming
If you want to escape
The wrath of global warming*

*So, enjoy nature
Be it's number one fan
If our mistakes get the best
of us
Go for a walk while you can*

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:

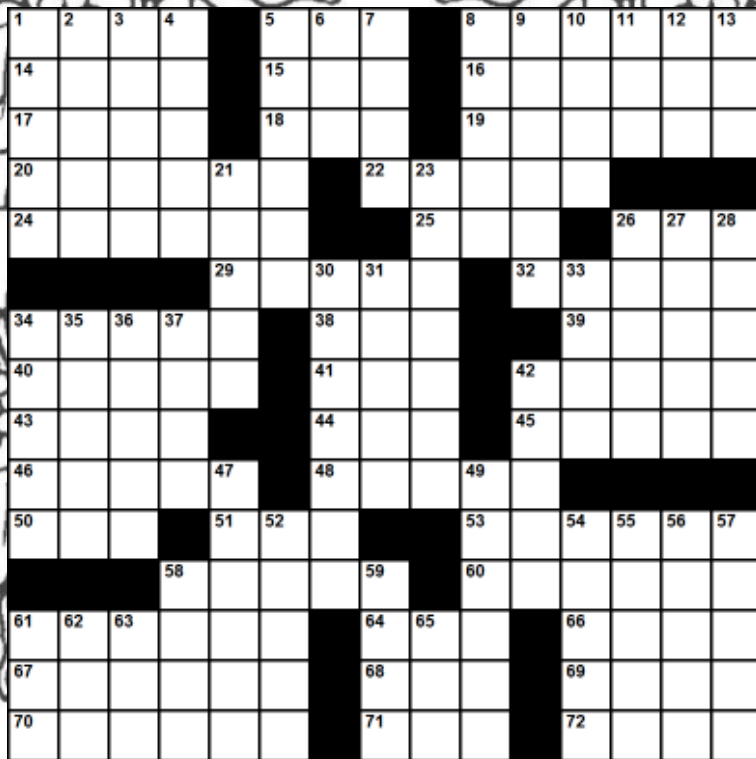
- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op ed are published free of charge.
- Literary content including poetry, stories, belle lettres are published free of charge.
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service 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. Capital of Peru
5. Kind of dance
8. Ship's planking
14. Cry of concern
15. Aves, once
16. Bleach
17. Cheese coating
18. Brisk energy
19. Bakery byproducts
20. Go poof
22. Costello's partner
24. Relative of mimosa
25. NAFTA member
26. However
29. An anesthetic
32. Lead-tin alloy
34. Ballet company
38. Chicago lyricist
39. Complain repeatedly
40. Avoid artfully
41. 12-foot bird
42. Banks and Ford
43. Capitol topper
44. Abby's sister
45. Push against gently
46. For the mill
48. Little children
50. Appreciation for beauty

51. Do slaloms
53. European fish
58. Corn husk
60. Checkup concern
61. Resembling algae
64. Country lodging
66. Exemplify
67. Raoul or Fidel
68. Ring around the collar
69. Had down pat
70. Banquet features
71. ABC rival
72. Formal addresses

• DOWN •

1. Bug-to-be
2. Kind of vein
3. Exodus edible
4. Measuring equipment used in water
5. Formal headwear
6. 5th or Park
7. Bear dad
8. Deck mops
9. Vampire target
10. Civil unrest
11. \$\$\$ dispenser
12. Green parrot
13. Mil. rank
21. Sifter
23. Laugh-in venue
26. Type of product
27. Undo
28. Conical abode
30. Relating to blood
31. Black wood
33. Beige
34. Small anchor
35. Elephant tusk
36. Bast fiber plant
37. Amatory writing
42. Follow in order
47. Popular pullover
49. Race related
52. Accolades
54. Boutique fixtures
55. Light pancakes
56. Fur type
57. Muscles
58. Barflys
59. Hot box
61. Be a stage star
62. Certain Asian
63. BSA relative
65. Bird's beak

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

	8					9	
4			1				
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8				9			6 1
				1			7
	5					8	

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

Grumpism



“Did I tell you the joke about the jump rope? Never mind, skip it.”

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

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• **COMMUNITY NOTICES** •

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• **WANTED** •

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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

• 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)

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- Aquarian Systems • Water Cisterns • Ed Hoepfner 335-2037 (D/H)
- DB Excavations • 250-465-1889 • dbexcavations@gmail.com
- 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)
- Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer • Lora Mercieca
• 250-650-9986 (D/H)
- Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation • 335-3145 (D/H)

• SERVICES •

- Denman Works! • Tony Gresson 250-335-0287 denmanresource@gmail.com (D)
- Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)
- Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)
- Home Town Shredders • Document Shredding • 334-7111 (D/H)
- Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)
- Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D/H)

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- Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac. • 778-992-0165 (D)
- Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP
335-2260 (D/H)
- Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
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• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
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FORTNIGHT EVENTS

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 4:30pm-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
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- 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 4:30-6pm

FRIDAY 27

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

SATURDAY 28

- 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 29

MONDAY 30

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

TUESDAY 31

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

HALLOWEEN!

WEDNESDAY 1

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

THURSDAY 2

- 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



ForestFest 2023



'HORNBY FORESTS: TODAY AND TOMORROW'

FRI. OCT. 27 — SUN. OCT. 29

FORESTFEST EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH AT THE HORNBY ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL

AGM 6:30 PM **JOHN VAILLANT** BEST SELLING AUTHOR 7:30 — 9 PM



LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD IN NONFICTION, Keynote Speaker John Vaillant's book **Fire Weather** is a stunning account of a colossal wildfire that collided with a city, and a panoramic exploration of the rapidly changing relationship between fire and humankind from the award-winning, best-selling author of **The Tiger** and **The Golden Spruce**. Be sure to bring cash for refreshments. John's books will also be available for purchase.

Tickets available at conservancyhornbyisland.org/forestfest2023

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH AT THE HORNBY ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL

FOREST SCHOOL 9:30 AM — 2:30 PM



Saturday is dedicated to exploring Hornby Island's forests and understanding the challenges they face:

- **K'ómoks First Nation**, Elder Barb Whyte: 'History of the Cedar Tree— 'The Tree of Life''
- **Forester**, Grant Scott: 'Overview of Hornby Forests'
- **Forester**, Rick Ellis: 'Climate Change: Global Trends'
- **Plant Ecologist**, Del Medinger: 'Changing Forests Due to Climate Change'
- **UBC Professor**, Lori Daniels: 'Wildfires in British Columbia: Causes, Consequences and Coexistence'
- **Hornby Island Fire Chief**, Doug Chinnery: 'Wildfire Preparedness'

The day concludes with an engaging **Panel Discussion** where experts and attendees alike can exchange ideas and insights

As per Friday's event, be sure to bring cash for coffee, tea, and lunch!

Tickets available at conservancyhornbyisland.org/forestfest2023

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH (AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS)

GUIDED FOREST WALKS 10 AM & 1 PM START TIMES



- Lea Smith Rainforest Loop: 'A Walk and Talk through one of Hornby's Most Magnificent Forests' with Grant Scott
- Coltsfoot/Beulah Creek Loop: 'The Coastal Douglas Fir Forests of Mount Geoffrey' with Ralph Archibald, Rick Ellis, Brian Nyberg, and Don Eastman.

Tickets available at conservancyhornbyisland.org/forestfest2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FORESTFEST...



conservancyhornbyisland.org



[@conservancyhornbyisland](https://www.instagram.com/conservancyhornbyisland)



facebook.com/ConservancyHornbyIsland

Introducing Myself:

I'm Laz contracting as "The Other Guy" doing renovations, providing finishing sub-trades and maintenance services over the past 50 years.

- ◆ Certified Painter in 3 provinces since 1968 including commercial spray re-finishing of cabinetry and furniture.
- ◆ Drywall boarding and taping.
- ◆ Ceramic and Glass Tiling: Schluter system specialist. Walk-in Shower builder.
- ◆ Trim Carpentry, doors and windows replacement, skylights, locks and keyless entry
 - ◆ Lighting, ceiling fans, motion sensor switching
- ◆ Plumbing services such as Hot Water tanks, taps, toilets. Custom built pumphouses, cisterns, UV Bulbs. Small Water Systems Operator Certified.
- ◆ Roofing Shingles, Stick-downs, Hidden fastener Metal roofing
 - ◆ Flooring, click and glue-down laminates and LVTs
 - ◆ Decking and stairs

***13 years on Hornby and now on Denman
Consultations and estimates always free***

References and viewer tours of recent local projects available



The.other.guy207@gmail.com