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## THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

- DENMAN: 700 • HORNBY: 520 •
- E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 105 •

**PUBLISHER Mike Van Santvoord**

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Keith Porteous  
DESIGN/PRODUCTION Chris Seguin

2550 Lake Road  
Denman Island, BC  
V0R 1T0

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com  
www.theislandsgrapevine.com

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

COMMUNITY INFO

## Trivia Night: A Fundraiser for Local Students

By Miki DICES

February 17, 2024

**A**TTENTION all Trivia buffs and their friends! The Denman Island Community School, the Parent Advisory Committee and the Denman Island Community Education Society are hosting a fantastic evening at the community hall that you're going to love! Bring the whole family for a night of fun, food, games and prizes!

**TRIVIA NIGHT - Saturday February 17, 2024**  
Denman Island Community Hall

Doors at 5:00 pm  
Food galore!

Games start at 6:00 pm with Quiz Master Daniel Farrow and special guests!

Kid's Party in the Hub starts at 5:30

Registration on NOW until February 12!

Sign up a full team of 8; if you only have a partial team or want to join as an individual, please sign up! We will connect folks to make full teams. Registration forms are available online - check the local social media bulletin boards for the link. If you prefer phone or email, we can help you with the registration process. Cost is \$20/person - no one turned away for lack of funds - just ask by email at dices.communityprograms@gmail.com or call us at 250-335-2058.

This is a FUNDRAISER for the Denman Island Community School Parent Advisory Committee and Denman Island Community Education Society with support from the Denman Island Community School. Together we are raising funds in support of educational and recreational opportunities for Denman students.

We hope to see you there, Saturday February 17, 2024 at the Denman Island Community Hall. 🍷

COMMUNITY INFO

2024

## Charity Auction

By Stirling Fraser

**T**HE biennial charity auction will be held on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 10 am!

**THE DATE IN IN THE FEBRUARY FLAGSTONE WAS WRONG. THE CORRECT DATE IS OCTOBER 20. OUR APOLOGIES.**

The Live Auction with a real auctioneer will be in the community hall, and the Giant Garage Sale will be in the Activity Centre for the entire weekend under the able hand of Major-domo Evan Penner once again.

The auction relies entirely on the generosity of the Denman community contributing its unwanted items and buying these amazing bargains.

What we want\* are items too big for the free store, items your neighbours need or just covet and you are so done with, but there they sit glowering in the corner and taking up space.

LET THEM GO! All proceeds to island charities (more on this later).

We will pick up large items by arrangement closer to the date. For more (but not much more) information you can call Roxanna at 2576 or Stirling at 1009.

\*Furniture, tools, appliances, tools, sporting goods, bikes, boats, kayaks, oddities, collectables, toys. Sorry but no books, helmets, child car seats, or treadmills. 🍷

SPECIAL INTEREST

## A Page of Island History

By Karen Ross HICEEC

**I**f you live on Hornby or Denman, odds are that in a drawer somewhere in your house is a cleverly folded piece of sturdy paper with a map of Hornby on one side, and of Denman on the other. Ads for local businesses sprinkled about, and a bit of island philosophy: The Hornby/Denman Visitor Guide. *continued on P.4...*

SPECIAL INTEREST

## Phoenix Riting!

By Phoenix Bee

**T**HIS is my third attempt at a column this week. I write, I reread, then sigh and start over. So many wrong ways to say the right thing. The Island Grapevine's cancelling is, I am led to believe (not by the publisher, who has been nothing but gracious), my own doing. An article I wrote in these pages back in July caused certain people, within an hour of my article seeing print, to lose their minds and rush to cancel the publication. "Fire the publisher from his job! Kick him off the board he sits on! Boycott the Grapevine! Boo hiss!"

I didn't learn anything of this for months, but it's turned into a Huge Big Deal, and the cancelling appears to be working. Now, it's trickled down to me, because my platform is disappearing. How bizarre. I've struggled to make sense of it ever since, because to my mind, my article was, while controversial, fairly inoffensive. Call me naive, but I did not expect this outcome, especially given the controversial nature of so many other opinions expressed in the same paper. It's what the Grapevine stands for--freedom of expression.

I've had my wrong thinking explained to me, patiently and in depth, and while I'm grateful to those people who took the time to try to lay out exactly how my column was problematic, their responses failed to convince. Nobody called me hateful or a bigot, though I found out later that those words were used behind the scenes. Everything they said seemed like a reason to write a heated letter to the editor, not cause to cancel the publication that dared to platform me. And then there's this: the vast majority of the by-now copious feedback I received has been approving, most often along the lines of "I would never dare, but thank you!"

The trouble with humans is our tendency to polarize--to believe that if something is right, then the opposite of that thing must be wrong. But that is simply not true. Multiple things can be true at the same time. The opposite of a right is not necessarily a wrong; quite often it's another right. It's daytime here, but you'd be wrong to argue the point with someone in Australia, where it's night. Context is everything.

People are complicated; needs can come into conflict, but

SPECIAL INTEREST

## Shucking Oysters: The First Edition with a Balsamic Reduction

By Alex Allen

*Full disclosure:* I am editor of the iconic monthly Hornby Island paper, *The First Edition*.

**I**T is no easy task being the editor of a paper, let alone an editor of a small community paper. People have no issues calling you up and giving you shit about something someone else wrote. Or accosting you at the local grocery store because you didn't publish their article. There are no boundaries in small communities. If someone has a beef, you are most definitely going to hear about it either from the horse's mouth or some other aperture.

It's a thankless job. No matter how much you try to please one and all, and print the paper without any noticeable glitches, there will always be some curve ball tossed your way. The gig

that doesn't necessarily make one person's need wrong and another's right. Relationships break up all the time because of conflicting needs, without either of them having to be in the wrong. For any controversy, there are so many ways to look at it, and how we see it depends entirely on point of view.

It's so easy to dismiss the suffering of whoever we view to be in the wrong, but pain is pain. To dehumanize someone, to demonize them or diminish them, is itself wrong. When we get to know someone, to understand the history and subjectivity of their pain, we can only empathize, and so they begin to become real to us, and no longer so wrong. Demonizing opposition, calling them the enemy is a tool of war; we should resist the impulse to do so at all costs.

If we are not allowed to publicly discuss and weigh the balance between conflicting rights, then terrible wrongs inevitably follow. People perceive reality differently from each other, depending on their lived experience and point of view. Individuals are differently vulnerable. People with disabilities, mental illness or neurodivergence, poverty, survivors of war, trauma, misogynistic oppression, all suffer, and all matter. It makes no sense to hierarchize suffering as though the pain of some should weigh more than the pain of others.

We are still a long way from a fair and equitable society, and in order to grow, we need to talk about it. We need to bring forward the arguments in favour of and against, to weigh consequences, to find balance. Everyone deserves to live freely and authentically as their true selves, no matter who they are.

Note: TIG has been a unique resource and outlet for folks to share their opinions the old-fashioned way, in a local paper, accessed by the community. If you support the Grapevine, and want it to survive and continue to be a committed, free speech voice for our communities, please consider advertising or submitting some form of paid content.

*That's what I think. What do you think? email me at phoenix-onhornby@gmail.com*



is not for the faint-hearted, that's for sure. Criticism is long and praise sparse. For every compliment we receive, there are dozens of complaints. I often think that I must enjoy the abuse or just a little.

It always surprises me that someone can come up to you in public, face-to-face, and tell you how terrible they think you are, just because they don't like something you wrote. It's even worse when you, Gawd forbid make a mistake, which we all do from time to time, because we're human. Thankfully, I am not on social media, so I remain blissfully oblivious and protected from the other unruly mob.

I've lost count how many times I've received angry phone calls and emails from individuals because their submission was not in the paper. The occasional email, yes, I may have somehow humanly missed, but when I get reamed out be

*continued on P.4...*

**...continued from P.2** Paper? How retro. But hey: No battery or reception problems, no trying to see the world on a screen smaller than your hand. And there's history here: the Guide is a long-standing inter-island project.

It all started sometime in the mid-1980s, when Isaac Kramer of Bradsdadsland, Suzie Bishop from Sea Breeze Lodge, Karen Ross from the Thatch Pub, and Mike Comeau from the Denman General Store decided to pool their advertising resources. Other participants came forward and a single-colour, home-grown brochure was produced (on recycled paper, of course). Candidates for the byline included "Hawaii of Canada" and "Crown Jewels of the Gulf Islands", but "Undiscovered Islands" won out.

Each island got one side of the Guide. The Denman map needed more space, though, so the front and back covers for the folded version fell on the "Hornby side" (as is still the case).

Eventually, Mike Comeau took on the whole project. Under his able leadership, and with the growth in our communities, the Guide flourished, gaining more advertisers and wider distribution. Every summer visitor seemed to be carrying a copy, and every island household had at least one, to use for the local business contact info it provided, plus the ferry schedule on the back. Somewhere along the line, "Undiscovered Islands" was dropped.

When Mike retired, Margie Gang picked up the baton.

In 2014, when Margie decided she had done enough, Donna Tuele and Gary Manzer on Hornby stepped up. They took the brochure modern, going full colour on good-quality

**...continued from P.3** cause someone had the wrong email address, sorry, that's not my problem. But, apparently it is very much my problem. In my eight years as editor, I have published every article submitted except for one because it was horribly written. Another time, I had to edit out a Nazi analogy in an article, because it upset our printer. Other than that I have been fairly mellow in my role and most readers have been generous in compliments.

Our masthead reads, "Ingredients of articles and letters do not necessarily represent the tastes of the editor, nor is their accuracy guaranteed or true meaning often understood. We do, however, encourage diverse opinions that may or may not represent your views, but do reflect the content of our very diverse community." In other words, the *First Edition* is not some homogenized version of our community. We don't all love our neighbours, but we certainly tolerate them.

Underneath my desk I have a pile of *First Editions* dating back to the 80s and 90s (that someone graciously unloaded on me). Randomly reading a few the other day, the obvious thing was the amount of advertising. In the old double-sided legal version, a 30-page 1994 *First Edition* had a colossal 53 ads (many full page ads). The masthead indicated there were 25 individuals involved in getting the paper out, from typesetting (before computers) to collating.

print stock, with a professionally enhanced map.

In 2015, the Tuele/Manzer duo turned production of the Guide over to the Hornby Island Community Economic Enhancement Corporation (HICEEC), with continuing support from Denman Works. In 2017, in the interest of securing more revenue to help with the costs of adding another fold, the geographic boundaries were extended to include the seaside communities of Buckley Bay, Fanny Bay, and Deep Bay.

Before COVID hit, annual production of the Guide had reached 55,000 copies. Distribution of the brochures extended beyond the islands to BC Ferries and across BC. In 2020, out of respect for limiting visitation during COVID, the distribution was reduced. The Guide's focus shifted to education of guests already on the islands.

COVID went from pandemic to endemic, and the Guide adapted once again. Now it provides information to people already on their way here—visitors receive a copy at the Buckley Bay Ferry ticket booth—and to those already here. Focused distribution has helped keep the advertising costs for our local businesses well below normal market rates, so ads are very affordable, and nicely targeted. The interesting ads, local contact information, island maps, Denman Events calendar, and the summer ferry schedule for both routes continue to make the Guide a "must have" and "must hold".

After almost 40 years of production, the Guide has grown, but it remains responsive to the needs of those earning a livelihood, those visiting, and those living in our communities. Thank you to the advertisers for their contributions in keeping the Guide alive. It remains a living example of an island ideal: good neighbours working together for a common goal. 🍷

The February 2024, 32-page *First Edition*? Twenty-four ads, mostly business card size and only four individuals at the helm. One to edit and do the layout, two to collate, one to bill, and one to print. At one point, the editor and printer were paid. Then just the layout person and printer. Then the editor and printer. And during my time, only the printer is paid. It's a labour of love, obviously.

And now, every paper is struggling with the clusterf\*ck of social media. Just last week, our local credit union (a regular advertiser for years) announced that they will no longer be advertising in *The First Edition*. Instead, they will be "pivoting their marketing strategy towards digital channels that enable them to better measure results." I think that's a polite way of saying, "You're so old-school."

In 2028, it will be the *First Edition*'s 50th anniversary. Like a 99-year-old holding on for dear life for the milestone, we are hoping we can at least survive until that time. Our printer and billing person are retiring this year, which is another change of the times. The volunteers are getting old; we're all getting old. Are newspapers as well? Last year, 29 local community newspapers shut down in Canada and I'm sure more to follow.

The closure of local news outlets has left a significant communication gap in many small communities, making it chal

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lenging to inform those who are not active on social media. In the *First Edition*, we have community news, from our ratepayers' reports to emergency preparedness updates and every other group in between. Some excellent writer's contribute their thoughts in poem and narrative. There are calendars of events from theatre to quilting. And there is always a local group or person highlighted in some way. We are community.

As one former staffer of the now deceased *Kamloops Weekly* said, "We all care. That's why we do this. We're not in it to get rich. We care about our communities. And we think what we do is important, so that's why we're doing it."

But the reality of small newspapers is they're basically ads with stories in them. In the end, as Jeff Benziger wrote, "your work ends up in scrapbooks or for wrapping fish or lining bird cages." Or fire starter. 🍷

**ARTS&LIT** **April 9, 2007**  
**FREEDOM**  
 By CS#05943451

**A**FTER getting so engrossed in my current read of 'Watership Down,' I turned in last night at about 1:00 am. I awoke after what felt to be a good sleep but the imagery of my dreams made me wonder if my sleep wasn't more fitful.

It seems that I was out of jail. The impression was that my sentence was officially completed! I recall visiting with James and Bronwen and they told me that they had a good deal of money for me. All seemed good. I proceeded to the liquor store to purchase a six pack of beer but something compelled me to avoid purchasing my beloved Sleeman's due to its prohibitive cost. Despite the understanding that my finances were healthy, I looked to buy a cheaper beer as though I was thoughtful of stretching my account money. Much as we are mindful of in placing a canteen order. I remember hemming and hawing in between the two displays of disparately priced ales. Suddenly, a man in a wheelchair slid alongside my indecisive self and rolled over the the outside of my foot. I suppose that helped me to decide on the cheaper beer and after purchasing it, I left. Free with beer. Ah, things were looking up indeed. It seemed to my mind that I was out and about in a town of little correlation to any I know but I was apparently familiar with it. In the midst of my roaming around a thought came to roost upon my mind, troubling me. Despite being free, I couldn't seem to recollect the months between spring and what must have been mid-September if I were truly free. I'd drank a few beers and while I didn't feel that I was A.W.O.L. from jail as in previous dreams, part of me was doubtful that September and my freedom had occurred so swiftly, and without remembrance of it. It worried me now that I had drank some beer if indeed I wasn't supposed to be free yet. What if I had to go back? I needed to confirm the date so I returned to James and Bronwen to ask, but they told me that it was, indeed, September. Odd it was. So odd, as a matter of fact, that I awoke just in time for another jail house breakfast.

It's amazing to me how my circumstance permeates my subconscious. To the point of not even being able to escape it in dreams. It just reveals exactly how heavy this all plays on my mind. From the very first, when I got caught, all the way till now, I've been smothered by this weight. My mood seldom light or truly unaffected in some way, even minutely, by this whole distressing reality. It makes me wonder how long after my actual release will my dreams hold imagery of this experience? Robbing me of peace of mind as it seems to so readily do now. One month? Two? One year? Maybe only a couple of days. Sloughing this burden will be aided by awaking in one's own bed for sure. A few mornings of that might help to remove some of the soggy layers that help saturate my subconscious.

I've been living with the down of this whole experience for so long now that I fear I've lost my bearings completely. What will life feel like to not be hindered in any way further after it is all over and done? To be free. Will I prove capable of feeling that release? Will my dreams move on from this episode when my physical self does on September 15th? 🍷

TIDE TABLE		
• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove •		
• Source: tides.ec.ca •		
<b>2024-02-01 (Thu)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
02:48	2.6	8.6
09:29	4.6	15.2
16:46	2.3	7.5
22:57	3.5	11.4
<b>2024-02-02 (Fri)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
03:28	3.1	10.1
09:53	4.5	14.9
17:34	2	6.6
<b>2024-02-03 (Sat)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
01:12	3.7	12
04:27	3.5	11.4
10:22	4.4	14.6
18:29	1.7	5.6
<b>2024-02-04 (Sun)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
02:49	4	13.1
06:04	3.8	12.5
11:02	4.4	14.3
19:27	1.4	4.7
<b>2024-02-05 (Mon)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
03:47	4.3	14.1
07:51	3.9	12.9
11:59	4.3	14.2
20:25	1.1	3.6
<b>2024-02-06 (Tue)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
04:32	4.5	14.9
09:05	3.9	12.9
13:11	4.4	14.3
21:19	0.8	2.6
<b>2024-02-07 (Wed)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
05:11	4.7	15.4
09:58	3.8	12.6
14:20	4.5	14.7
22:09	0.5	1.7
<b>2024-02-08 (Thu)</b>		
<b>Time PST (m)</b>		<b>(ft)</b>
05:47	4.8	15.7
10:43	3.7	12.1
15:21	4.6	15.1
22:55	0.4	1.2



## Green Wizardries, My Favourite Herbs

By Maxine Rogers

I have only been growing, preparing and using medicinal herbs for the last few years. I have been amazed at how effective they are. I believe anyone who wants to can reduce their reliance on expensive and dodgy pharmaceuticals by growing and preparing their own medicinal herbs.

When you are making your own medicines, you will not be concerned with making a profit, only a good medicine. Big Pharma does not want to produce cures, they want to create repeat customers. There are a lot of articles out now stating that some European Governments are urging people to stock up on pharmaceuticals as they are expecting shortages.

I think the first herb for general usefulness must be comfrey. It is a deep-rooted perennial plant that has big, fuzzy leaves shaped like a mule's ear. They grow a stalk of leaves and bell-shaped flowers in blues and pinks that bumblebees just love. Bumblebees have a long tongue but short tongued species of bee also drink the nectar by biting a hole in the top of the flower and drinking the rich nectar from there.

A couple of the common names for comfrey include ass's ear and knitbone. This herb has been used by the Ancient Greeks since at least 400 BCE. The Ancient Romans and Greeks used the herb mostly for healing wounds and broken bones. Comfrey contains the chemicals allantoin and Rosemarinic acid. The allantoin accelerates the process of new tissue growth and the Rosemarinic acid relieves pain and inflammation. Comfrey is used topically as a compress, poultice, salve or ointment.

Some orchardists recommend making a salve with the crushed leaves of comfrey and putting that on injured areas of a tree and bandaging it on to speed healing. It certainly works on human flesh so why not a tree? You can also plant a circle of comfrey around trees to form a fence that will keep out encroaching weeds and grass.

Comfrey flowers from May to August so it is a great resource for pollinators and the plant and flowers are very pretty, a nice addition to the back of the flower border. The mature plants can be up to four feet tall.

I use comfrey-infused olive oil to make my face cream. A young Algerian man recently asked me how old I was and was surprised when I said, "Nearly sixty." The allantoin has a very soothing effect on the skin and keeps it looking smooth and healthy. Besides that, commercially-prepared cosmetics and face creams contain synthetic scents and preservatives that upset the human endocrine system and are best avoided.

### DENMAN ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**Denman Island Residents  
Association has an opening for  
an experienced bookkeeper/  
accountant.**

*Regular duties involve the preparation of cheques and bank deposits, monthly reconciliation of bank accounts, maintenance of financial records and reporting to the DIRA Board when requested. The financial records are currently maintained in QuickBooks.*

*Periodic duties include assisting in the preparation of budgets and financial forecasts and the preparation of year-end consolidated financial statements.*

*The work involved should take approximately five hours per month for the regular duties plus an additional 15 hours per year for budgets and year-end reporting.*

*This position requires an individual with strong accounting skills who is able to work independently.*

**Interested candidates should submit their questions and resumes to Denman Island Residents Association, 5901 Denman Road, Denman Island BC, V0R 1T0 or email to [dira.residents@gmail.com](mailto:dira.residents@gmail.com) by February 16, 2024.**

Comfrey can be picked, chopped and steeped in a barrel of cold water for a few weeks until you have a barrel of thick, dark tea. Dilute this natural fertilizer with ten times its volume in fresh water and water the hungry crops like pumpkins and peppers. Comfrey is often used as a chop and drop plant as it makes a good mulch and a good fertilizer. It acts as a compost accelerator and adds valuable nutrients and minerals to the compost. Cut the plants down after they have flowered and before they have set seed. The plants will regrow and flower again but do not cut them more than four times a year or you may kill the plants. Comfrey is best propagated through root cuttings early in the year or plant divisions in the autumn.

Another tough customer that is a great healer is the yarrow plant. It is a perennial and the best yarrows for medicinal use are the wild white-flowering *Achillea millefolium*. There are other coloured hybrids that will look very pretty in a flower garden. Yarrow flowers are especially attractive to butterflies, wasps, flies and bees.

Medicinally, the plant is best gathered while in flower as it has the richest concentration of medicinal oils while it is in flower. Both the leaves and the blossoms are used to make medicines. I love yarrow for its styptic properties which means it stops bleeding. It is also strongly antimicrobial which is nice. I make an ointment from olive oil infused with yarrow and comfrey and it is wonderful to clear the complexion of young people suffering from acne or pimples.

I make an aftershave with yarrow and spices and it smells great and stops bleeding from shaving cuts. I use this aftershave as a first aid treatment for any cut or scratch to clean it and stop it bleeding.

The recipe for the aftershave is very simple. Put two cups of vodka into a glass jar and add one sprig of fresh rosemary, one sprig of fresh mint, 1 cinnamon stick, 9 whole cloves, two strips of organic orange peel, two strips of organic lemon peel, ten drops of bitter orange essential oil, one tablespoon of finely-chopped fresh yarrow leaves and flowers and a pinch of blue vervain if you have it. Steep two weeks and enjoy. Yarrow has many other medicinal uses. It is propagated from seed. 🌱

**Letters  
to the Editor**

**I**, and many in my family, wholeheartedly support all your efforts to stay in business. You and your staff

have provided an excellent paper for both Denman and Hornby....so many interesting and informative articles whether one agrees with or not. It's astounding that you are having to go through this process against a group who are paid by us taxpayers. It has the distinct odor of illegality and I am truly shocked that this has even got this far.

We and so many others, here on Hornby look forward to our paper and it will be missed....hopefully not that outcome. Although much of the paper focuses on Denman, activities and all, Denmanites will most certainly lose the most. Sincerely hope that somehow the light shineth on whoever can curtail such a misjustice and TIG will be back in business asap.

Very best wishes for a positive outcome for this most welcome, informative newspaper.

**elspeth armstrong, hornby island** 🍷

**Letter to the editor**

**I**n appreciation of your open mind with regards to freedom of speech, I'm sending you a cheque to support the great work you are doing. Without freedom of speech, the world gets narrower and the light can't get in. I look forward to your weekly paper.

**Yours Truly  
Judith Walmsley  
Hornby Island** 🍷

**D**EAR Mike,  
Thank you for all of your efforts to keep the Islands Grapevine censorship free. Your commitment to free speech is very much appreciated, as is your courage in standing up to the bullies in this community. Keep up the great work!

*"In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act."*  
George Orwell

**Elizabeth Chapman** 🍷

**FREEDOM!**

**T**O Denman Works, Director Daniel Arbour, CVRD Manager Doug Demarzo: If you wish to be leaders, you will be frustrated, for very few people wish to be

led. If you aim to be servants for your communities, you will never be frustrated!

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes. (Gandhi) It is time to get out of the self-imposed cul-de-sac down which the ideas and inspirations of TIG have been lured and then quietly strangled! As censors, you make it apparent that you know more than you think we ought to know. And in your silence, the argument is carried on by other means.

This manipulation of our freedom has got to change. For as Kingsley Amis says, 'If you can't annoy somebody, there is little point in writing!' I have always enjoyed the publications of small Island papers like the Gulf Islands Driftwood and in my Thurs walk to the post box, eagerly look forward to the varied views expressed in The Islands Grapevine. I am no prophet, but if you continue to deprive publicly funded dollars from our community paper, you will open a pandora's box that has no end. You have the opportunity to quietly and publicly sow the seeds of freedom by restoring the public funding of our press.

**A concerned resident,  
Bob Morley** 🍷

**Letter to the Grapevine, Jan 30, 2024  
Submitted by Stephen Malthouse, MD**

**Dear editor,**

**T**HE Grapevine has provided a community mirror by publishing dissenting opinions, so it is not surprising that some don't like what they see. Censorship is a tool for hollow men and those would-be tyrants that lack the substance to defend their opinions.

Aren't we tired of the fake names and avatars of Facebook and Twitter that allow us to censor, vilify and marginalize, without responsibility? The clever comeback. The intellectual snipplet. God – give me a real newspaper! Then there are the ad hominem attacks and the false debating tactics that use consensus and expert authority, instead of evidence, to strike down an oppo

**continued on P.8...**



**B.C. LAND SURVEYOR**

**PETER T. MASON**

**P: 250-757-8788**

**surveyor-ark@uniserve.com**

...continued from P.7 *ment. How tiresome! Combine this with gaslighting, lying and intellectual laziness and you could be describing a visit to the doctor after a Covid vaccine injury.*

*Yet, there are other methods to convince and coerce that do not require your frontal cortex. “Be kind, be calm, be safe” is a classic brainwashing slogan, almost certainly created by a psych team and aimed at your subconscious. How similar it is to “Build Back Better”, which requires destroying everything first, usually in the name of safety. Fifth generation warfare is a psyop that does not require bullets and, like the boiling frog, its insidious implementation leaves the enemy unaware that they are even in a war. Denman seems like that – oblivious to the coming calamities. Drinking tea and tending flowers while the cell door is closing. Who is there to warn us?*

*Under a regime of extreme censorship, it is almost impossible to find the truth. Politically motivated Google algorithms only bring up a one-sided narrative (who still uses Google anyway?). Our usual sources of information, the CBC, Global and CTV, have been turned into propaganda machines that receive huge payoffs from the Liberals, abetted by the NDP, Conservatives and Greens. Unless we know where to look, like The Highwire or Shadoe Davis, or subscribe to uncensored substack articles, we will be left with using common sense and reading the Grapevine. The former is one of the senses that disappeared with Covid, but we still have the Islands’ newspaper and an editor that believes in free speech. Our community cannot afford to lose either of them. 🍷*

OPINIONS

## Respecting International Law

By Sally Campbell

**C**ANADA has always prided itself on its adherence to international law. Canada has supported the last 3 cases against genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, the world’s highest court of law. These cases involved Bosnia vs. Syria (1993), The Gambia vs. Myanmar (2020), and Ukraine vs. Russia (2023). We are on record in each of those cases as strongly opposing genocide and advocating for respect for the international rule of law as expressed through the ICJ.

We are a States Party to the **Genocide Convention (1948)** along with Israel and 151 other countries. Adherence is so widespread it is considered “international customary law”, binding on all states, whether they have ratified it or not. Canada’s response needs to be consistent, supporting the **Provisional Measures Order** made by the ICJ on January 26, 2024, against Israel, with respect to South Africa’s complaint of Israeli genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza.

The order does not call for a ceasefire as the more than 2,000 organizations supporting South Africa’s complaint had hoped. Those organizations represent ½ billion people from nearly 100 countries. (Marjorie Cohn, former head of *US National Lawyer’s Guild*, *Codepink*, 16 January, 2024.)

But the order does require Israel to “take all measures within its power” to prevent:

1. killing members of the group (Palestinians);
2. causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and
4. imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; Further, Israel must:
5. take all measures to prevent and punish direct and public incitement to genocide; and



### Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan

Our Region, Our Future Parks.

## Share Your Input

The Comox Valley Regional District is seeking input from the community to review emerging directions for the Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan process.

### Ways to Get Involved

- Attend an open house (Jan 24 - Feb 7)
- Participate in an online session (Feb 8)
- Provide your feedback through the community survey (until Feb 19)

Visit: [engagemoxvalley.ca/RegionalParksPlan](https://engagemoxvalley.ca/RegionalParksPlan)

For more information, call: **250-334-6000**



6. implement immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance in Gaza; and
7. report to the ICJ in one month on its compliance with the Order.

The ICJ also called for the immediate and unconditional release of hostages still held in Gaza.

Michael Lynk, Law Prof at Western, former UN Special Rapporteur for Palestinians, said that in his view, there is no way Israel can comply with the terms of the Order without a ceasefire. (*Canadian Foreign Policy Institute* Press Conference January 26, 2024.)

Every country who is party to the **Genocide Convention** will be impacted by this decision, as the convention requires all States Parties to *participate in the prevention and punishment of genocide*. The ICJ said that South Africa has made the required “plausible case” of genocide by Israel vs. Gaza, so that is why they made the Provisional Measures Order. The decision “on the merits” respecting the claim of genocide will take several years, and all States Parties are invited to send legal arguments to inform the Court.

The next step is for the ruling to go to the UN Security Council for enforcement, where the US will no doubt veto any resolutions arising from it. Then the matter will go the UN General Assembly who *can* take action, including calling for sanctions against Israel. Israel will experience a “mobilization of shame” from the world community at the UN and “is very worried about it, because for Israel the narrative is everything”. (Marjorie Cohn, above)

Not surprisingly, the very day the ruling came down, Israel *suddenly* made allegations that 12 of 30,000 UNRWA employees were part of the October 7th attack on Israel, providing no proof, so now the US, UK, a few European states and compliant Canada have “paused” financial support of UNRWA, the chief provider of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. This appalling move grabbed the headlines and shows the level of callousness operating here. Israel is ordered by the world’s highest court to enable humanitarian aid to a starving, 85% homeless people and the West responds by cutting off funding for that aid. What is going on here?

As Blinne Ni Granleigh, Irish lawyer on the South African legal team, stated in her argument to the ICJ January 11, 2024, this is “the first genocide in history where its victims are broadcasting their own destruction in real time in the desperate, so far vain hope that the world might do something”. (See her on YouTube.)

Canada did not express any support for the ICJ’s ruling and instead of putting pressure on Israel to comply with the Order to allow humanitarian aid, we cut our funding to the main supplier of that aid. According to UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, defunding UNRWA “overtly defies

*continued on P.10.*

### **Notice of Parcel Tax Roll Review Panel Graham Lake Local Water Service**

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has prepared the 2024 parcel tax assessment roll as required by section 202 of the Community Charter. Letters were sent to property owners who are being assessed a parcel tax for the first time in the Graham Lake Local Water Service area. Property owners may view the roll after February 7, 2024 at the CVRD office during regular office hours or on the website at: [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/parceltax](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/parceltax)

The parcel tax roll review panel will meet to hear requests that the roll be amended on February 21, 2024 at 9:30 am in the CVRD Civic Room, 770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay.

**In order for a request to be considered by the panel, it must be in writing in accordance with specific criteria and received at the address below at least 48 hours prior to the sitting of the parcel tax roll review panel.**

For more information, visit:  
[www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/parceltax](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/parceltax)

Enquiries can be made by calling Eleni Hibberd, Financial Accounting Technician: 250-334-6033.

Lucy Wiwcharuk, CPA, CMA Chief Financial Officer  
770 Harmston Avenue  
Courtenay, BC



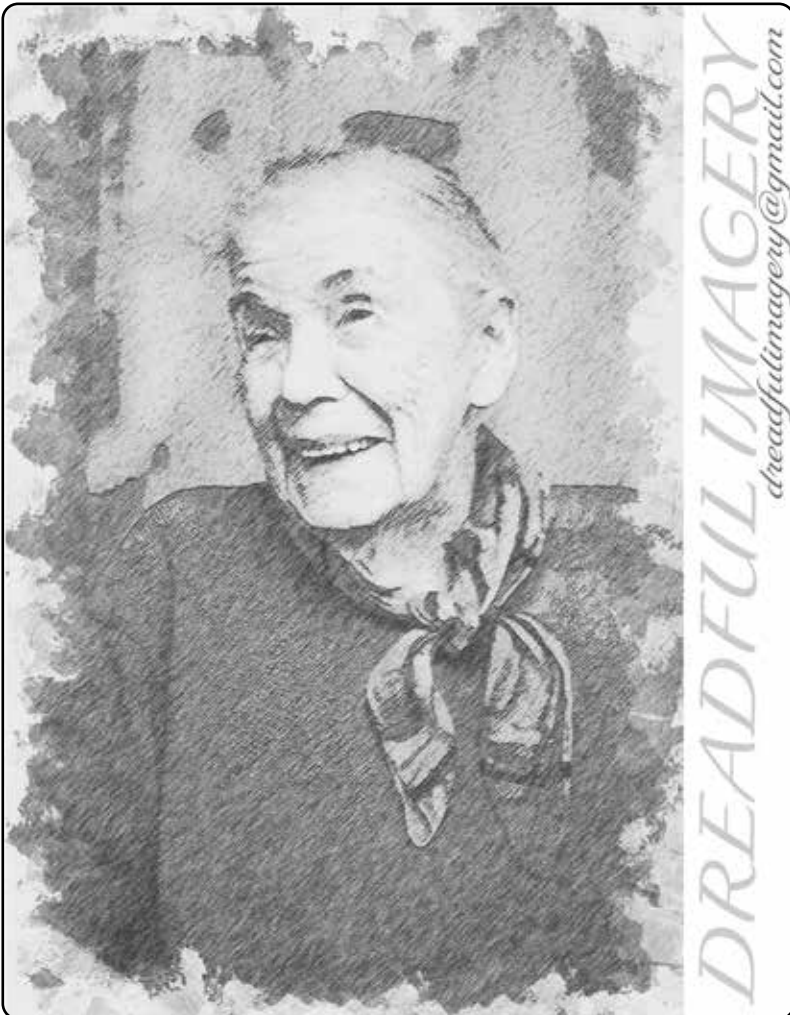
...continued from P.9 ICJ's order to allow effective humanitarian assistance.”

We Canadians can do something. We can hold our government to account for its complicity in allowing this unprecedented human disaster, this huge moral failure, to continue. **We can press them to reinstate, and in fact, increase UNRWA funding, call clearly for an immediate ceasefire and abide fully by the ICJ Provisional Measures Order.** This is the true test of our humanity and our respect for international law. 🍷



## TREE SERVICE

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  - Spiral pruning • Tree topping •
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  - Danger tree assessor & faller •
  - Certified faller, insured, local •
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### *the first swim*

by Alan Black

We stood  
drunk  
in the dark pacific night  
at the edge of a rusty red metal oyster  
fence  
and the crabs scuttled by our feet in the pale blue  
green water

trapped by the oyster fence  
I picked up one that was six inches across  
admired its soft red shell in the dim light  
as it tried in vain to pinch me  
laid it back down on the other side of the fence  
and we strove forward  
in our black underwear  
diving into  
the waveless sea.

the second swim:

the heavens raged  
inch long pellets of rain  
I summoned the gods,  
“Come ye forth Ragnar,  
Zeus,  
Beelzebub,  
Ronald MacDonald,  
Medusa,  
Ronald Ragan,  
Donald Jay Trump,  
all you fat bastards,  
I will take on any one of you,”  
and then dove boldly into an ice cold green wave  
pulling myself out of the clutches of the dark sea  
I turned and trotted back up the beach stairs to  
the hot tub  
barely holding on to my soaking wet gaunch.

**Gossip**

by Angelika Forray

Speaking foul of a being not present  
Makes the whole room stink  
Everyone is uncomfortable

The more spewed  
The worse the stench

And when they leave  
The scent follows  
Like a loyal dog  
Who has rolled in shit

**Strange Groceries**

by Caitlin Johnstone

What strange groceries that man is carrying  
Odd shapes in two plastic bags  
Dripping blood  
They look like they weigh more than the world  
Head bowed  
Eyes screwed shut  
Step after step, feet like lead  
Allah, Allah, Allah, Allah  
What are those strange groceries you carry, sir?

These are my children, he says through a clenched jaw  
They have had a long and weary day  
And it is time to put them to bed  
His face is wet with tears  
And his arms are shaking  
He walks on  
Heavy feet with a heavy burden  
Allah, Allah, Allah, Allah  
Oh Allah

**JOHN THE RUG MAN**  
SPECIALTY PERSIAN AND AFGHAN RUGS



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calredmis@hotmail.com

**Denman Island Activity Centre**  
**Saturday 3rd February**  
**10am to 4pm**



Islands Trust

**Denman Island Local Trust Committee**  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
**Proposed Bylaw Nos. 228 and 229**  
**Denman Farming Regulations Review Project**

The Denman Island Local Trust Committee invites the public to attend a Public Hearing beginning at **10:30 am, Tuesday, February 13, 2024, Denman Activity Centre, 1111 Northwest Road, Denman Island**, to hear your views regarding **Proposed Bylaw Nos. 228 and 229**.

- **10:15 AM – Community Information Meeting** will be held before the Public Hearing for you to learn more about the bylaws and to ask questions
- **10:30 AM – Public Hearing**

**What are Bylaw Nos. 228 and 229 about?**

Amendments to the OCP and LUB are part of the Denman Island Farming Regulations Review Project to formally protect Denman Island’s land base for agriculture.

**Bylaw No. 228** will amend the Denman Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 185, 2008 (OCP) by:

- Re-designating all lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) to a new ‘Agriculture’ designation; and
- Several new policies supporting agriculture uses consistent with the Agricultural Land Commission regulations.

**Bylaw No. 229** will amend the Denman Island Land Use Bylaw No. 186, 2008 (LUB) by:

- Regulating dwellings in the ALR;
- Regulating agritourism use and accommodation;
- Updating several agricultural related definitions; and
- Updating setback regulations for associated agriculture buildings.

**How Do I Get More Information?**

Copies of the proposed bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information is available **online** from January 30 to February 13, 2024 here: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/denman/projects/> and at the Islands Trust Northern Office, 700 North Road, Gabriola, BC V0R 1X3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding statutory holidays, after January 30, 2024.

**Enquiries?**

Contact the Islands Trust Northern Office, by **email**: [northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca), or **phone**: 250-247-2063.

**Written submissions?**

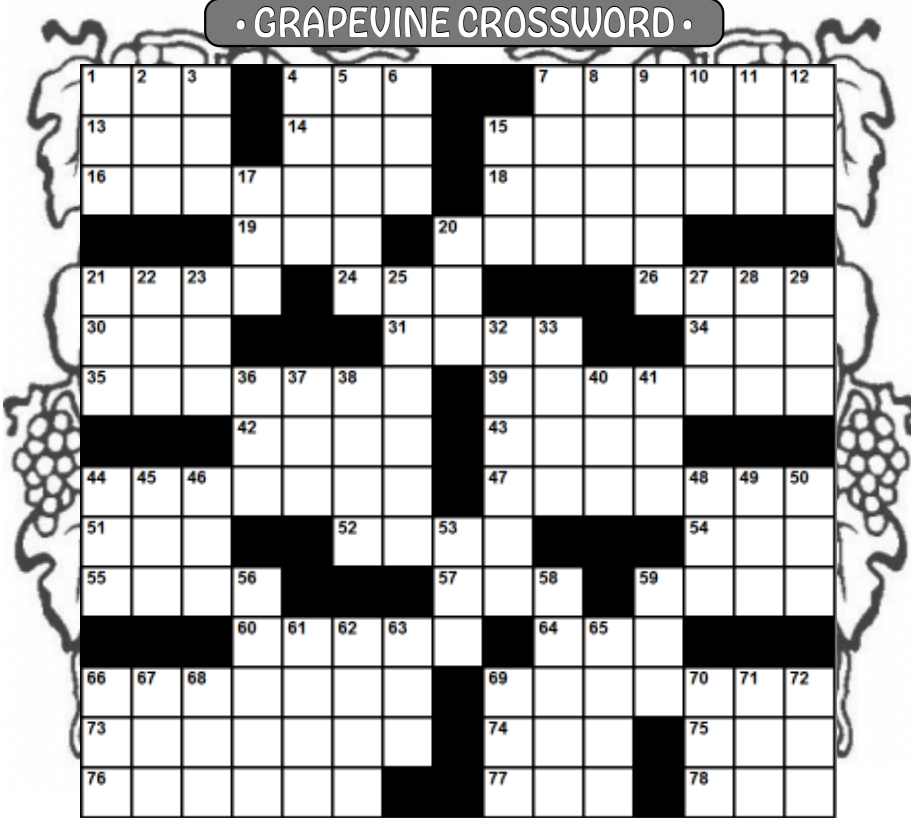
**Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., February 12, 2024 to:** Islands Trust, 700 North Road, Gabriola Island, BC, V0R 1X3 or **email**: [northphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:northphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca)

Written submissions made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

**NO WRITTEN OR ORAL REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE DENMAN ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE, OR ITS MEMBERS, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**Nadine Mourao, Deputy Secretary**

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• ACROSS •

1. Uris novel, with The
4. 1773 jetsam
7. Hotel suite feature
13. Arab noble
14. Dispose of
15. Vent
16. Ruin, as plans
18. Lacking zest
19. Barely manage
20. Birch kin
21. 2-D measure
24. Foyer spread
26. Dandy
30. Ottoman dignitary
31. Crier's delivery
34. Enemy
35. Supervised
39. Smoked fish
42. Celts' land
43. Eager, and then some
44. Red root vegetable
47. Say in passing
51. Carrier of genetic info
52. Bit for Fermi
54. Alias org.
55. Pig noise
57. Change the locks
59. Cry out
60. Daredevil's need
64. Bakery choice

66. One released early
73. Orate
74. NAFTA member
75. Basis of light
76. Grab the ball carrier
77. A pop
78. Chicago lyricist

• DOWN •

1. Beaver or boater
2. Antiquity
3. Discordance
4. Rough trip
5. Duck down
6. Big flap
7. Air force
8. Celtic
9. Baseball's hot corner
10. Jazz genre
11. Aladdin prince
12. Apple color
15. Afflict
17. Black-eyed item
20. Aquarius, e.g.
21. Blood system group
22. Auto gear, abbr.
23. Appreciation for beauty
25. Not mourned for
27. Craft of sci-fi
28. AMA type
29. Cry over a mouse
32. Cast a spell
33. Deliver from peril
36. Part of RSVP
37. Bara film
38. A Met score

40. Clamor
41. Banned substance
44. Anti anti
45. Cuckoo
46. Contended
48. Arctic surface
49. Black gold
50. Baby's break
53. Adorer's writup
56. Octane target
58. Banish blunders
59. Affirmative reply
61. Chosen, in Chartres
62. Anatomical network
63. Churchill's trademark
65. 2001, e.g.
66. Animal friend
67. According to
68. Big bird of legend
69. Davis or Ryder
70. Avail oneself of
71. Act the bandit
72. Church vestment

Grumpism



“I was going to download one of those apps that has all the images from orbiting telescopes, but I don't have space on my phone.”

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

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WAGNER FIREWOOD. 2 cords to Denman, \$680 plus GST. Hornby, \$720 plus GST. Text or call Scott at 250-334-7323

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

PROFESSIONAL PIANO TUNER-TECHNICIAN GREG JOLY will be tuning on Denman/ Hornby on the 10th, 12th, and 13th of Feb. Call 250 475 1106 or email harmon-icwindharps@gmail.com to book.

COMOX VALLEY TRANSITION SOCIETY EMERGENCY CRISIS LINE: 250-338-1227 or Text: 250-218-4034 For more info visit https://cvts.ca

• WANTED •

Dear Denman, Kieran and Roxanne here, looking for housing. Our current rental ends April 1st. we would prefer long term. One or two bedrooms, for two adults and two dogs. Ideally under \$1,400/ month. Would consider short term that would take us to October 1st as we would

have the opportunity to rent again our current rental. We are both working at recycling and Kieran also drives the DI bus in the summer. Text or call Kieran 250-702-7770 or email Rox at r.k.lachance@gmail.com Thanks for your consideration

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT looking for part-time & remote work Ten years experience in fast paced industries in Europe and Canada. Skill set involves scheduling meetings and organizing event/travel, data entry, administrative tasks, content translation (english/french) and property management. Other services also available. Charging hourly or per project. Resume and references available upon request. Claire Debleu, Denman resident denmanpersonalassistant@gmail.com (236) 380 0726

• EMPLOYMENT •

INTERESTED IN TIMBERFRAMING? Kettle River Timberworks is hiring a Construction Labourer for a new Timber frame home on Denman Island. Check out our website at www.kettlerivertimberworks.com For more information contact: keenan@kettlerivertimber.com"

**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!

**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)

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• Jordan McDonald • Oakwyn Realty • 604-616-1137 (D/H)

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250-703-6512 (All) • John Isbister • 250-335-2565 (D)

• Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer • Lora Mercieca •  
250-650-9986 (D/H)

• Ray Ulovec • Backhoe/Excavator, Septic Installation • 335-3145 (D/H)

• Wicked Shovel Excavating & Landscaping • Doug Schmidt •  
250-222-8076 (All)

• Landscape Construction & Gardening Services • Beech and Cedar Home  
Maintenance • (Kane) 250-327-1073 (D/H)

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• Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)

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• Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (All)

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• Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP •  
335-2260 (D/H)

• Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)

• Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac • 250-508-8160 •  
www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)

• Dan Last • Registered Massage Therapist • 250-335-1270 (D)

**OPPOSITES ATTRACT NEWS**



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**3 PM START**  
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**FORTNIGHT EVENTS**

**THURSDAY 1**

- 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 2**

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

**SATURDAY 3**

- 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 see ad p.11

**SUNDAY 4**

**MONDAY 5**

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

**TUESDAY 6**

**WEDNESDAY 7**

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

**THURSDAY 8**

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

**FRIDAY 9**

- 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

**SATURDAY 10**

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

**SUNDAY 11**

**MONDAY 12**

- 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

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DI United Church  
Gathering Place 7pm
- DIRA public meeting Back Hall 7:30pm

**TUESDAY 13**

**WEDNESDAY 14**

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

**THURSDAY 15**

- 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