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

COMMUNITY
INFO

Denman Seniors Lunch

By Kathy Rieder

Feb 21...in the Back Hall at noon

WELL, our team of volunteers are getting pretty good at turning the Back Hall into a trendy bistro complete with entertainment.

The hall is nice and warm, and the soup, both vegetarian and meat based are delicious. Our musical entertainment this month is going to be a sing-a-long, with David Haywood providing the words on a screen and great guitar accompaniment. I am sure this will leave our guests smiling. We invite all seniors to come along, and you are sure to leave feeling warm and fuzzy about our wonderful community. I always do.

Admission is by donation

If you need to be picked up or you can pick someone up, please call me

Kathy 250-335-0559

COMMUNITY
INFO

The Summer Gallery 2024

By Judith Scruton
Summer Gallery

CALLING all Denman Artists. Once more the Summer Gallery Committee is looking for Artists to fill the Gallery with amazing artwork for our visitors and local community to enjoy.

This year we have already been approached by some local artists and it is time for everyone to put in formal proposals.

The Gallery season will open on June 6th and continue until September 3rd. During this time we are looking for shows by single artists and groups of two or more to fill the Gallery with a variety of media: paintings, pottery, photographs, sculpture and any other art forms. to provide an exciting mixture of work.

We have many new artists on the island now and we are particularly interested in helping them become more well known. To this end we provides lots of publicity, an Opening night, with wine, to provide an opportunity for artists to speak about their work and a Curator to help set up the show.

All you need to do is grab a proposal package from Abraxas in the Arts Denman box, or send your completed proposal to Andrew at andyfis@hotmail.com.

If anyone needs further information please call Judith Scruton at 250 335 2069 or any one on the Summer Art Gallery Committee. The closing date for proposals is March 29th and the committee will meet on April 2nd to review the proposals.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

SPECIAL
INTEREST

Shucking Oysters: Licking Your Fingers Helps

By Alex Allen

WITH all the stroking and squeezing going on, shopping for fruits and vegetables should be a pleasurable experience. Kind of like a speed dating session, where you get to be "touchy" and pick and choose. Check out the Mexican avocado and get to know them. Meet up with a California peach. Next, perhaps a Chilean green pepper. Is there an instant attraction or chemistry between any of you? Then go home together. What could possibly go wrong?

When I walk into produce departments, I'm poised with trepidation for the inevitable. Does anyone else find it practically impossible to open those plastic produce bags? I'm constantly rubbing my thumb and fingers over and over the top of the bag, furtively, like I'm rolling a joint, only to discover that I'm trying to open the bottom of the bag. It's awkward and it looks suspicious. I ask myself, do I really need broccolini? Sometimes I eventually open the bugger. My current record is 83 seconds to the grand opening.

Ever the sleuth I found that I was not alone. A Reddit conversation thread enlightened me. "One time I had a stranger walk up and open the bag for me cause they were watching me struggle for so long." "Used to work in a produce dept. Helped people open the bags all day" *continued on P.4...*

Publisher's *No Space For Hate...* Notes

NOT long after my last Publisher's Note from our Jan.25th issue, a well intentioned local took to Denman social media in hopes of rallying support for this 32 year old community paper. News of The Islands Grapevine's (TIG's) possible demise led them to make a post imploring people to brainstorm ideas that might help steady the fortunes of a small business and the jobs it supports.

Suggestions ran the gamut from putting out a jar at the Recycling Centre all the way over to organizing a bake sale. In truth, of the over 300 comments registered, those were the ONLY suggestions. Such is the spirit of our local social media that swaddles itself in a colourful flag emblazoned with a rather ironic declaration of holding, "No Space for Hate." That well intentioned local managed to escape with their life, just barely.

Aside from mine own, the remaining commentary coming from fewer than 2 dozen participants within the thread focussed on ripping the paper, its editorial policy or further insisting TIG was printing transphobia.

I was even publicly offered some business advice given my seeming inability to plan for the inevitable ebbs and flows of the season.

Two things I will say to this:

Firstly, I refuse to start a GoFundMe to prop up this paper's prospects, unlike the individual offering said advice has resorted to on occasion.

Either the business makes sense financially or it doesn't. It's beneath me to ask for handouts.

And secondly, for 5 years of 'ebb and flow' it HAS made marginal sense, but a year long advertising boycott headed up by several taxpayer funded island non-profits led me to conclude otherwise in sharing with TIG readers where matters currently stand.

When I pressed for evidence of transphobia I was met with; "There are directly transphobic statements in this article, but I'm not going to quote them here because I don't want to give them airspace." Judge, Jury and Executioner. Mmkay.

The justification employed for this ongoing boycott infers that "transphobia" was contained in a piece written by a woman who discussed her sexual assault and trauma by referencing a government website that said there were some cis males (a person who identified as male following being assigned as male at birth) who had been convicted of raping women, who were attempting to be put in a women's prison by identifying as a trans woman. This, in no way, was intended to suggest that trans women were dangerous in women's prisons, or anywhere else. As the study from that government website noted, some men are attempting to game the system because rapists are vulnerable in a man's prison and are only perceived as just above a child abuser in the prison hierarchy.

I will take this moment to categorically state The Islands Grapevine opposes transphobia and all bigotry and would never publish bigoted material. To suggest otherwise is simply insulting to my intelligence. I understand saying this much will have no effect on an unmoderated social media board where

ideology clouds reading comprehension but I feel it needs to be said for the sake of our readers nonetheless.

As we've covered previously, our issue is related to a publicly contracted employee weaponizing tax funded advertising dollars in attempts to extort an editorial policy change by withholding ad buys based on their own personal politics. Citing this claim of "transphobia" as their reasoning. Upon receiving this threat in late July we looked into matters further to learn they had already been withholding advertising funds for a full two months prior to the "offending" article in question. It was further confirmed in discovering that they had continued to buy ads in Hornby publications during this timeframe. The truth of the matter is TIG has seen a boycott of advertising ever since it published dissenting views on Covid, so we're kinda used to it by now. Yet not once in the intervening years has our 1250 strong circulation had to listen to me complain about it. NOT ONCE. I understood it came with the territory. To be incessantly reminded on our local bulletin board how, "advertisers are free to choose where they spend their ad dollars" (as though this had never occurred to me) is another weak attempt to deflect from the issue at hand. Written threats to extort a private business with taxpayer monies is a bully move. Straight up. One that TIG has called out and will not back down from. Its editorial policy stands.

We've tried to settle all of this privately a few times, and in each instance we were rebuffed. The most recent effort was to accept a proposed mediation process from the CVRD. The other parties rejected it and to this day the smears of TIG continue on the Denman Island Bulletin Board.

On the other hand, we've received a tremendous amount of private support from people who are afraid to speak up publicly for fear that these same bullies will come after them.

We've also received support from people who have sent us letters to publish and we thank them for doing so.

Of their own volition, a petition crafted and circulated by Hornby Islanders in support of TIG's editorial policies has garnered 165 signatures and counting. This petition has been forwarded on to the relevant parties with the CVRD and is included as an insert in this week's issue for our Denman circulation with the intent of adding to that number. Thank you to our Hornby Island readers! I'm moved that you would take such initiative.

Alternatively, you can send us letters of support and also write to Denman Works and the CVRD at the following email addresses to voice your concerns:

CVRD General Manager of Community Services, Doug Demarzo ddemarzo@comoxvalleyrd.ca

CVRD Area A Director Daniel Arbour reachme@danielarbour.ca

DenmanWorks Chair Anthony Gregson denmanresource@gmail.com

In the meantime please enjoy Issue #1621!



...continued from P.3 long.” Not once has a stranger or an employee offered to rub their thumb and index plus middle finger together in tiny circles to open a bag for me. Ever.

There is hope for us static electricity challenged folks. Some say it is all about moisture. If you're buying green onions or lettuce that are damp, touch the wet ends and use the moisture to open as many bags as you'll need all at once. If moisture is not your thing, just rub the bag vigorously between your palms. Not fingers, full palms. Another suggested stretching, “not to the point of ripping, a little segment of these filmy plastic bags. Like an inch or two along the top, which then relaxes into the two separated layers.”

Further remedies ... Breathe hot air on the bag and immediately rub the bag between two fingers or rub the bag back and forth a couple of times like you're washing your hands. One humble individual shared: “I can't speak for all bags, but try to look at the sides of it. You can see one layer is on top of another (kind of like that third tag on candy wrappers). Split that in half and run your fingers to the top and boom, you have just figured out how to open a plastic bag.” And for sheer ingenuity? Grab a sticker from a piece of fruit and open it that way.

And finally in the conversation ... “You still have plastic bags in the produce section? Yikes.” Realistic doughnut 71 wrote: “This is why I knitted a bunch of reusable produce bags. No more annoying plastic bags!!” Yes, it is odd, that we ban plastic bags at the tills and yet every grocery produce section still has polypropylene bag dispensers.

A 2023 report *Left Holding the Bag: A Survey of Plastic Packaging in Canada's Grocery Stores*, based on an audit of 54 high-traffic grocery stores across Canada, found 71% of

SPECIAL
INTEREST

Phoenix Riting!

By Phoenix Bee

I've been thinking a lot over the winter. So much thinking, keeping my brains warm. Winter is a good time for that, but now the nettles are up! Yummm... And our garlic is up, daffodils are springing forth, there are snowdrops galore. The world is awakening once again. Oh, glorious spring, you never fail us, every year you return, no matter how hard and cold and dreary the winter has been. Yes, it's only February, but even if it snows and blows and the buds freeze on the trees, you know that spring is right here, waiting beneath the guise of winter. The second the temperature rises again everything will pick up where it left off. Today, the sun is shining, and yes, it froze overnight, but that's nothing. Spring can handle it.

I was born in spring (April), so it's my season. Summer is great, but a bit much really. Autumn is pretty but it comes before (ugh) winter. Spring is the soft season, the strong season, full of promise and joy. I'm feeling good! (And my album is almost finished! More on that when the time comes.)

Even when I peek through the electronic window onto the world, my body remains firmly planted on the ground of glorious spring. The human world is spinning off its kilter, politically, emotionally, intellectually. Crazy rules.

items in the produce department were packed in plastic, and only 27% were available with no packaging (as in available to be put into the proverbial plastic bag).

Plastic packaging makes up more than half of the 4 million tonnes of plastic discarded in Canada each year, and less than 15% of that is recycled. Flexible plastics like pouches, sachets and bags are even worse—only 1% of those are recycled. The rest as we all know, ends up in landfills, incinerators, or directly in the environment.

According to one study, a standard plastic bag weighing an average of 32.5 grams (about two-and-a-half times as heavy as a paper clip) emits 200 grams of carbon, which is just a bit lower than the amount of carbon emitted from driving 1 kilometre in a gasoline-powered vehicle. This means that 1 kilogram of carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere for every five standard plastic bags we use. While this may appear insignificant compared to driving or flying, the collective impact of billions of plastic bags used globally each day is huge.

In the US alone, each person uses on average one plastic bag a day; equivalent to more than 100 billion plastic bags used in just one year. This means that the US emits around 20 trillion kilograms or 20 billion metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere each year just from plastic bags. For perspective, this equals approximately 300 million one-way flights from New York to LA.

So, next time I'm in the produce department, I'm going to keep an open mind. Try to relax and be myself. With luck, I may find the perfect melons. If not, hopefully I'll at least meet a few interesting fruits and vegetables and have a good time. And must not forget the new cotton mesh bags ... again ... 🍇

Oh the world is weird! The world is wide! Many things are possible, and they are all happening at once. Here on Hornby, we are beyond privileged. We are blessed. To live here of all places is a gift no one has earned, and as a consequence we carry a responsibility to care for this fragile environment. We have escaped wildfires, so far, thanks to our ever-diligent firefolk and watchful citizenry. Our island remains a paradise and everybody wants to be here.

An argument I hear repeated--over and over in fact--goes something like this:

"Just because you live on that island, doesn't give you the right to keep other people out. Everybody else has the same right you have to come and go as they please. Who the heck do you people think you are?"

This argument holds no water. If everybody who wanted to be here was here, what makes Hornby so attractive would die. We have already slid across the line into multi-unit housing developments, with more to come if we ever get our affordable housing project on Beulah Creek built. Maybe we can stop it there, but only if we empower ourselves with the right to say, no, that is quite enough. Growth is fine, but it needs to be planned for, and limited if the infrastructure cannot sustain it.

In answer to the question, who gave us the right to be gatekeepers here? Nobody had to. Rather than claiming some sort of abstract 'right', we instead have the responsibility to the island as a whole, including its wildlife population, and we hold an obligation to stand up for their right to live in peace without undue disturbance to their habitats and feeding/breeding grounds.

Humans are a strange species. We evolved as prey, with all the emotional reactivity of a prey species. We were--we are--scared all the time. So over the past few hundred years, we developed technologies to keep us safe, warm and fed. Then just to make sure, we developed bigger, more powerful technologies to make certain no other creature, no lion, no tiger or bear, could ever hurt us again. Bigger! More powerful! Let them fear us! Raaahrr! Humans now call ourselves apex predators, thanks to our technologies. Of course, if we were dropped naked into a lion's den, we would not pose the lions any sort of difficulty. We would merely be a tasty meal.

It's time to question our human drive to beat up and dominate the rest of the world. We need to take a collective step back and find out how we can harmonize within the context that created us. We belong to the world, it doesn't belong to us. We are not predators, even though we can pretend to be, with our fancy toys and massive power structures that enable us to destroy and create beyond our former wildest dreams. At core, we are soft and weak. We walk upright to expose our hearts, we have soft bellies and arms that can spread wide to care and hold. Humans evolved to love. It's time to claim our birthright. And it starts right where we are--here and now--on this beautiful piece of paradise. We can and should care for our visitors, yes. But let's not forget who we are and what our responsibility is to our small piece of the world. 🍷

ARTS&LIT

Dishwasher April 6th, 2007

Down

By CS#05943451

IT'S just past 11:00 pm as I get to writing now. The day has been long. Longer than the usual as the spectre of five straight days away from work permeates the grey matter. For the most part I've

been reading all day. I'm currently engrossed in a book by Richard Adams. 'Watership Down' has been a thoroughly entertaining read. I had been reading a Carlos Castañeda work previously but it proved exceedingly dry compared to Adam's story about rabbits. 'The Yaqui Way Of Knowledge' seems more like a college essay or thesis, telling of a young man's apprenticeship with a native elder. Experimentation with hallucinogenic plants like mescolito, datura and devil's smoke, in the pursuit of gaining strength and wisdom, ultimately becoming a man of knowledge. Its dryness lie in the fact that it is less of a story and more an account documented for the purpose of conveying it in a paper. 'Watership Down' however, is a story richly told. Wonderful descriptive, thickening plot and adventure and suspense in most every chapter. An allegorical tale told through the experiences of long-eared, furry, four-legged creatures. Perfect Easter weekend reading!

Given I've hidden away with this book that Shana brought down for me from last weekend's visit, I've not got much to write on from the day's events. Pretty much your standard day here in Campbell House.

Our meals of late have been served increasingly in styrofoam cups, plates and disposable cutlery as the kitchen dishwasher is on the fritz. It has been so for four days now. It was hardly of note to begin but after having our soup in styrofoam cups for the last three days, it was a bit of a lark to have this morning's porridge served in one as well! Cold toast, muffin and porridge in a styrofoam cup. Lukewarm at that. You can just taste the love! While it isn't very warm at least it's not fuzzy! I can't imagine what will happen should they run out of the disposable vessels they're rifling through straight to the landfill whilst waiting on the repair. Whatever etiquette I had instilled in me prior to landing here will have to be disregarded altogether come the day my cold morning porridge is served to me in my hands! I'm told that special considerations are taken with the menu during occasions such as Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. Whatever those 'special considerations' may be I imagine they'll be largely moot when left to using plastic cutlery on disposable plates. But then, yes, I suppose this is what jail is all about. 🍷

TIDE TABLE

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

2024-02-15 (Thu)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
03:09	2.6	8.6
09:16	4.9	16
16:26	1.4	4.7
23:15	4.1	13.4
2024-02-16 (Fri)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
04:04	3.2	10.4
09:49	4.7	15.4
17:22	1.3	4.1
2024-02-17 (Sat)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
00:57	4.2	13.7
05:19	3.6	11.9
10:24	4.5	14.7
18:21	1.2	3.9
2024-02-18 (Sun)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
02:27	4.4	14.4
07:00	3.9	12.7
11:07	4.2	13.9
19:22	1.2	3.8
2024-02-19 (Mon)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
03:36	4.6	15
08:47	3.9	12.7
12:12	4	13.3
20:24	1.2	3.8
2024-02-20 (Tue)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
04:29	4.7	15.3
10:07	3.7	12.2
13:35	3.9	12.9
21:21	1.1	3.7
2024-02-21 (Wed)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
05:12	4.7	15.4
10:55	3.6	11.7
14:45	3.9	12.9
22:11	1.1	3.7
2024-02-22 (Thu)		
Time PST (m)	(m)	(ft)
05:46	4.7	15.4
11:29	3.4	11.2
15:41	4	13
22:52	1.2	3.8



OPINIONS

Sometimes Date Bread

By Sally Campbell

SOMETIMES it's just too discouraging to write about the failures of the West in actively supporting what we claim to oppose – from the clearly documented Apartheid in the State of Israel to the ongoing ethnic cleansing in Gaza. That we continue to provide cover for a State under investigation for genocide by the International Court of Justice, that we withdraw funding to UNRWA, the only agency in a position to provide humanitarian assistance to the suffering in Gaza. That we withdraw funding on the basis of yet another unsubstantiated claim by the Israeli propagandist machine. That we look the other way when according to the UN, 80% of the world's hungry are huddled and terrified in a place the size of Texada Island.

How have we become so disconnected? Why are we so worried that a student at Harvard may feel “unsafe” hearing a pro-Palestinian speaker when Israel is well into the 4th month of an utterly mad and murderous rampage, incited by its elected leaders, supposedly in the name of Jewish “security”?

Why do we continue to hear news stories (vetted by the Israeli military) about October 7th, citing “atrocities” by Hamas (beheadings, burnings, babies in ovens, rapes) that have been exposed as outright lies or left completely unsubstantiated? Why would we believe fake videos of finding tunnels under a Gazan child's desk leading to some unseen weapons cache? Or the recording by Israelis of “Hamas” (ooops, wrong accent) planning to destroy one of Gaza's beleaguered hospitals? Why would we believe anything uttered by the Israeli government or its soul-destroyed military?

We know they have been lying since Zionists said they'd accept the **1948 Partition Plan**. David ben Gurion privately made clear to his own people that the Plan, (allocating 55% of historic Palestine for a Jewish state despite their owning only 5.8% of the land at the time), was just a start. (Ilan Pappé, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, 2006)

OPINIONS

Shortages in the Land of Plenty

By Helen Grond

The Dark Triad

THERE are a number of diagnosed personality disorders, covering a broad range of traits, that contribute to social toxicity. They are grouped into three categories – clusters A, B and C with cluster B disorders being the most destructive. Cluster B includes the psychopaths, malignant narcissists and machiavellian types. A common term being applied to the trio of malevolent styles is the Dark Triad. The Dark Triad collectively makes up about 7% of the population and they are all around us.

People with dark triad personality traits may exhibit:

- ◆ an unhealthy fascination with themselves
- ◆ lack of empathy and respect for others
- ◆ a preoccupation with obtaining power by any means
- ◆ manipulation and lying
- ◆ stealing and potentially criminal behavior
- ◆ violence or explosive anger
- ◆ violating social norms, especially around empathy

Why indeed. Each of us could ask ourselves these questions and ask: why do we in the West look away? The current trajectory is extremely disheartening, and one that Dr. Gabor Mate recently indicated may go down as the biggest mistake ever made in Jewish history. (*YouTube* talk among Gabor, Daniel & Aaron Mate, Feb.7th, 2024.)

Holding these thoughts and hard realities is weighty; we can't remain steadfast and engaged, working for a world of freedom, justice & dignity *for all*, without doing the self-care necessary for well-being. To me that means gratitude for our abundance, noticing and savouring the small joys of life.

In that vein, I'll offer a simple recipe for comfort food made with delectable Palestinian dates from the Jordan Valley, the 2023 crop miraculously having arrived in Canada the other day, soon to be arriving on Denman & Hornby when you place your orders!

Banana-Date-Coconut Bread

(I use organic ingredients as much as possible)

- 1 C (8) Palestinian dates, chopped
- 1 C coconut flakes
- 2 C whole wheat flour 1 tsp. baking powder 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 large ripe bananas, chopped 1/3 C butter
- 1/4 C brown sugar 1 C buttermilk
- 1 tsp. almond or vanilla extract
- 2 eggs

Cream butter and sugar, add rest of wet ingredients and mix. Mix together dry ingredients. Add and mix bananas.

Combine all and bake @ 350 in an oiled loaf pan for 30-40 minutes. Delicious warm or cold for breakfast, coffee/tea time or dessert.

May you savour it. 🍇

- ◆ lack of remorse for any harm caused
- ◆ arrogance
- ◆ a need for praise and attention

Present day politicians appear to have many of these traits including a strong desire for dominance over others. Even though they can appear incredibly charming, they are almost always authoritarian and follow hardline policies. They try to subvert democracy, reduce the freedom of the press and clamp down on dissent. They are obsessed with prestige, often persecute minority groups and rely on classic divide and conquer techniques for control. They are always corrupt and lacking in moral principles.

They don't become leaders because of their ability or intelligence but simply because they have a tremendous desire for power and are ruthless in their pursuit of it. Honest politicians are easily marginalized in this environment. Dark Triad personalities are “social predators and like all predators, they are looking for feeding grounds. Wherever you get power, prestige and money, you will find them” *Dr. Robert Hare, forensic Canadian psychologist and creator of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist.*

Justin Trudeau is the subject of ongoing worldwide disdain and his actions during the Trucker's protest of 2022 have been widely condemned. A recent ruling (January, 2024) by the Federal Court states that "**The Liberal government's decision to invoke the Emergencies Act in response to the 2022 Freedom Convoy protests was unreasonable, unjustified and violated the Charter.**" Trudeau incited Canadians to support his actions by convincing them that the peaceful protest was dangerous. The now infamous image of a Nazi flag was displayed repeatedly on national media in order to inflame the public. A big issue for Trudeau was that no one actually saw the flag at the protests in spite of hundreds of thousands of Canadians (most armed with camera phones) attending. Significant cash rewards were offered to anyone who witnessed the flag. No one came forward. The flag was almost certainly a plant. Dirty tricks such as this are ridiculously easy to pull off and are classic Dark Triad political ploys. Trudeau relied on the image for months afterward and the courts have recognized that Trudeau used the media to demonize innocent Canadians. Political prisoners still languish in prisons in this country – held without charge after two years.

In September, a former Ukrainian Nazi SS officer was somehow honoured in parliament. The speaker of the House, Anthony Rota took the fall for the scandal and Trudeau claimed he knew nothing about it. A Freedom of Information request revealed last week that the invitation actually came directly from Trudeau! It seems that Trudeau cannot admit fault. What kind of person flaunts nazism in the most hallowed of Canadian institutions and then lies about it?

People with narcissistic and psychopathic traits have a strong desire for dominance and are disproportionately common in leadership positions. We know that politicians are rarely loved, admired or respected for long. Their grandiose sense of self-worth initially comes across as confident and strong –

features we look for in leaders. It isn't until their true nature leaks out that we realize how ruthless and manipulative they are. They often capitalize on their position to benefit themselves and people within their inner circle. Justin Trudeau's net worth when he took office was \$1.2 million (1). A recent update shows it at \$128 million (2)!

Is the world we are experiencing today dominated by a team of Dark Triad leaders? Forever wars and the destruction of whole nations are easy for these leaders if it advances their personal agendas. What can we do? We must educate ourselves about the reality of what we are dealing with. How can we protect our political systems and prevent dominance by deviant personalities capable of charming any average person who isn't aware? Dr Robert Hare has asserted that even after decades of studying them, he is still fooled by them. There is no political system safe from their influence and they are largely untreatable.

There is some good news though. In recent years, advances in neuroscience and medical imagery show clear anomalous brain patterns, unique to various toxic personality disorders. It is within our ability to predict from brain scans, who might be unsuitable for the extremely important jobs of our elected officials. There are virtually no restrictions or prerequisites for individuals running for leadership roles in Canada today. Perhaps a diagnostic brain scan could be implemented to screen candidates – for the greater good.

"Hard times create strong men, strong men create good times, good times create weak men, and weak men create hard times."
G. Michael Hopf

(1) <https://globalnews.ca/news/392961/justin-trudeau-reveals-details-of-his-1-2-million-inheritance/>

(2) <https://www.caclubindia.com/wealth/justin-trudeau-net-worth/>

OPINIONS **Gravelly Bay:
One Year Later**

By Eartha Muirhead

A year ago, on a cold February 12, a bunch of feisty folks stood in front of small and giant industrial trucks, chewed out BC Ferries staff and held space on the roads at Gravelly Bay, resulting in around 110 trees being saved from the axe. BC Ferries and their workers tried placating us, arguing that Denman community had fair warning of their expansion plans. Some hyper-charged workers, eager to spill/fell trees, used intimidation tactics of vari-

ous kinds but no one got hurt. The RCMP showed up and asked us what we wanted, which of course was a silly question and then proceeded to ask us to leave several times. With firm resolution, we continued to block industry from cutting down any trees. By the end of the day, no compromises were made and we achieved our goal. BC Ferries seems to be in hiding when it comes to any further mention of Gravelly Bay but we are watching them closely.

"...trees and plants have agency. They perceive, relate, communicate; they exercise various behaviours. They cooperate, make decisions, learn and remember-qualities we normally ascribe to sentience, wisdom, intelligence. By noting how trees, animal and even fungi-any and all non-human species- have this agency, we can acknowledge that they deserve as much regard as we accord ourselves." Suzanne Simard, in her book *Finding The Mother Tree*, explores her life-long passion for understanding forests as living super-organisms. Intact forest ecosystems are our best solution for mitigating climate change. But we must save all forests as part of being allies to Indigenous peoples, whose lands were stolen by our ancestors, and for the sake of their inherent beauty, elegance, inspiration and sanctity. And for the sake of their rain-making capabilities, their vast biodiversity, and their role as sanctuaries for endangered and even unknown animal and plant species. 🌿



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OPINIONS

Continuing To Support Israel At This Point Just Means You're A Garbage Human Being

By Caitlin Johnstone
OP February 13th, 2024

October 7 in the emotional heat of the moment, and this is just who you are as a person.

I am so fucking done with people handwringing about October 7 while Israel has been October 7ing the Gazans every day since.

Four months. This has been happening for four months. If you're still supporting Israel after four months of atrocities, then you're just a shitty human being. After four months you've lost any possible claim to have overreacted to



If you can even excuse **genocide** to justify your continuing support for a nation or political party, then you can excuse literally anything. There is absolutely nothing the leaders of your political faction could possibly do that would cause you to stop supporting them. If this isn't your red line, then you don't have any red lines.

What this means is that your politics are not actually guided by any interest in truth or ethics; they are guided solely and exclusively by arbitrary team loyalty. You cheer for your side for the exact same reason someone born in Texas cheers for the Dallas Cowboys. You might make up some grander reasons for your support which involve appeals to truth and morality, but you've made a liar of yourself and proved those reasons false by the fact that you are currently excusing an actual, literal genocide.

Israel was always headed for this point. It's been on the trajectory toward this moment in history from its very inception. The horrors we are seeing in Gaza were baked in from the beginning. The trigger was pulled generations ago, and only now has the bullet properly landed.



This is what Israel is. This is what Israel has always been. It's impossible to support Israel without also supporting its genocidal atrocities in Gaza, because there is no "Israel" separable from the factors which have given rise to those atrocities; trying to separate the two is an exercise in fantasy. A hypothetical Israel that wouldn't have done what Israel is currently doing would be unrecognizable from the Israel of today. It wouldn't even make sense to call it by the same name.

Israel was intended as a colonialist outpost of western powers from the very beginning to bludgeon the populations of west Asia into compliance with the interests of the global north, and that's what it has been from day one. This genocide isn't a freakish aberration in Is-

 **Caitlin Johnstone**  @caitoz

Israel apologists will drop their "Jews are indigenous to Israel" schtick and say Israel is perfectly analogous to previous genocidal settler-colonialist projects the millisecond they think they can win an argument by doing so.

 **MrR Big Pink Pig (oink/oinks?)** @WestWorxs · Feb 12

Replying to @caitoz
Let's see what you do if 3000 Aboriginals run around killing 1200 White Australians.
You will round them up in concentration camps.
You guys love that.

 Last edited 10:29 AM · Feb 13, 2024 · 22K Views

256 Reposts 1 Quote 858 Likes 19 Bookmarks

rael's way of being but the ultimate manifestation of it. The infernal sprouts we are now seeing arise from seeds that were planted long before most of us were even born.

Responding to accusations of atrocities and genocide by babbling about Hamas is stupid and nonsensical. Everyone who has ever committed genocide believed they had valid reasons for doing so. Everyone who's ever committed genocide believed they were doing it to protect themselves.

Responding to condemnation of Israel's actions by talking about Hamas is just saying "No no you don't understand, we're not like those evil bad guys who've committed genocide in the past: we have REASONS for doing what we're doing!" Which is what everyone else who has committed genocide in the past would have told you as well.

If you have to keep justifying something, it's probably not very just. Stop flailing around trying to justify obvious atrocities with a bunch of verbiage about what someone else did and get real with yourself for once in your fucking life.

100 percent of Israel apologia is just people making up reasons why it's righteous and justified to do something evil and unforgivable.

Israel apologists are like, "You don't support genocide? What are you, a Nazi?"

On social media there's no good reason not to immediately block someone who openly advertises their support for Israel and Zionism. For me it's like being approached by a stranger at a party with a card on their forehead that says "I have a bad personality and am incapable of real conversation."

It's so fascinating how empire propaganda herds the public into two mainstream political factions and then gets them both cheering for the empire's actions but for different reasons. Liberals are propagandized into cheering for the imperial war machine because humanitarianism and sovereignty and anti-fascism and self-defense, while rightists are propagandized into cheering for the imperial war machine because yeehaw we're in charge fuck them commies and Arabs.

The specific narratives for why they're cheering for the imperial war machine might be different, and even the specific agendas they support are often different as well—liberals are more amenable to hostilities with Russia while rightists are more amenable to hostilities with China, for example. But the end result is that they're both kept cheerleading for the relentless forward march of the war machine.

It's a really incredible feat of social engineering. It would inspire awe if it wasn't so damn evil.



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SCAN ME



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Preserving and protecting over 450 islands
and surrounding waters in the Salish Sea

Letters to the Editor *Puzzlement by Maxine Rogers*

I have a suspicion that this is going to be a weird year. The World Health Organization (WHO) is going about saying they are expecting another pandemic, which would be good business and a stroke of luck for them. They go on to say it will be twenty times stronger than Covid 19 was.

The WHO is an unelected and, seemingly, unaccountable organization. They produce no evidence to back up their prophecy. No outbreaks of disease X have been reported anywhere in the world. They have had no sample cases to study but they come out with a very precise estimate of how deadly their, currently non-existent, plague will be. It is possible they they have a very good crystal ball or a clairvoyant who can see the future.

Another possibility is that they are cooking up some virus in a lab. I can see no other ways that they would have such detailed knowledge of a currently nonexistent ailment. You see what I mean about it being a weird year.

What makes me wonder all the more is that I see no discussion on mainstream media about how the WHO has come to such a startling knowledge of the future. Other topics missing from mainstream media include the enormous farmer protests in Europe. The French farmers, in particular, seemed to be having heaps of fun blockading cities, setting fire to many tractor tires on motorways and similar. An international group of farmers protested in Brussels with burning tires, lots of eggs thrown at the EU parliament and not a word on the CBC or the BBC.

I used to think their job was to report the news but they really seem more interested in suppressing the news. They never mentioned the enormous farmers' protests in the Netherlands at all. I just checked and the BBC World Service has a nice article on Taylor Swift going to watch a sports game her current boyfriend is playing in. Honestly! Are there not more important things happening in the world?

More worryingly, the excess death rate is still very much elevated in all the countries where people took a lot of the Covid 19 vaccinations. Countries where the uptake was a lot less, Eastern Europe and Africa for example, have much less troubling excess death rates. I find that bit of information suggestive but that is only my opinion. These excess deaths never seem to make it into the mainstream news.

People are dying of cancer in a matter of weeks from diagnosis to death which may be a good thing for the individual as having cancer for many years must take much of the fun out of

life. Some people are dying before they receive a single cancer treatment. It used to take people far longer to die of cancer.

These new turbo cancers have popped up in the last few years along with the very elevated excess death rates. I hear not a word of this on mainstream news. I am sure we have all heard of examples of turbo cancer taking people on our little islands in the last few years. I find it odd this this is not being reported on.

Our neighbours south of the border seem unable to decide if they should make war on Russia, China, Iran or Texas. Let us hope their puzzlement leads to their not being able to pick a target. It would be very sad for them to have another Civil War.

The last one did not do them much good. Yes, the slaves won their freedom but it would have been far cheaper for the Federal Government to simply buy and set free all the slaves in the slave states. It would have cost vastly less than the war did. If the Americans do decide to go to war this year, I am puzzled as to how they plan to pay for it. Their national debt is stratospheric. We do live in interesting times.

BC is looking at a very small snowpack this winter. If more snow does not come we will be very short of water and that means we will also be short of hydro electricity. I expect the price of both water and power to go up sharply. My family in Vancouver has never had to worry about water but there are already calls for people in the cities to curb their water usage as the reservoirs of Vancouver are still very low.

That will be a challenge for most people from Vancouver as they have previously lived in an enchanted world where water always came out of a tap, no matter how much they used. Alberta is looking very dry too. Perhaps we will hear something about that on the mainstream media but I am not holding my breath. 🍷

“Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one’s thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist”
- Frederick Douglas

IT’S very disappointing that some people are putting the screws to a magazine made excellent by its willingness to support any person’s view via Freedom of Speech - an important and fundamental right supported by Section 2 of our Charter.

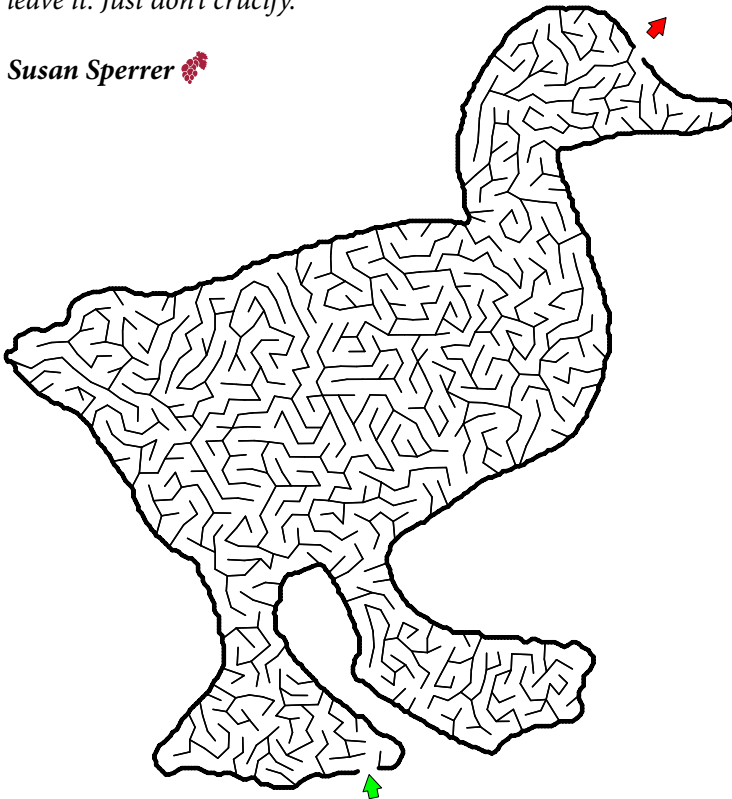
Freedom of speech has created democracy, given rights to women, abolished slavery, established marriage equality, etc., and is practiced freely in our House of Commons. Yet somehow, for TIG, freedom of speech has become unacceptable. Had TIG inserted ads and stories endorsing alcohol and phar

maceuticals to support Mike's efforts, no one would blink an eye. Now let's do some comparisons...

- ♦ Globally, deaths from Covid since 2020 has amounted to 7.3 million according to W.H.O.
- ♦ Global annual deaths from alcohol consumption is 3 million. It also comes with the added effects including harm to family, friends, co-workers and strangers via intentional or unintentional injuries caused by vehicular accidents, rage, violence, suicide, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, mental health issues, tuberculosis and HIV. Then take into account DALY (disability adjusted life years) - this amount is staggering!
- ♦ The third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer is attributed to side effects from prescription drugs (nim.nih.gov)
- ♦ Global annual deaths attributed to tobacco, alcohol and drugs totals 8.71 million!

So consider this - when you purchase or view such media as magazines, newspapers and television endorsing alcohol or pharmaceuticals, you contribute to the above stats, Covid aside. Shouldn't this then also enter into censorship or should it remain in the arena of hypocrisy? Do you get the drift? TIG merely prints viewpoints as any good rag should and you should take it or leave it. Just don't crucify.

Susan Sperrer 🍷



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\$4.70/week for each additional 30 words

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- or -

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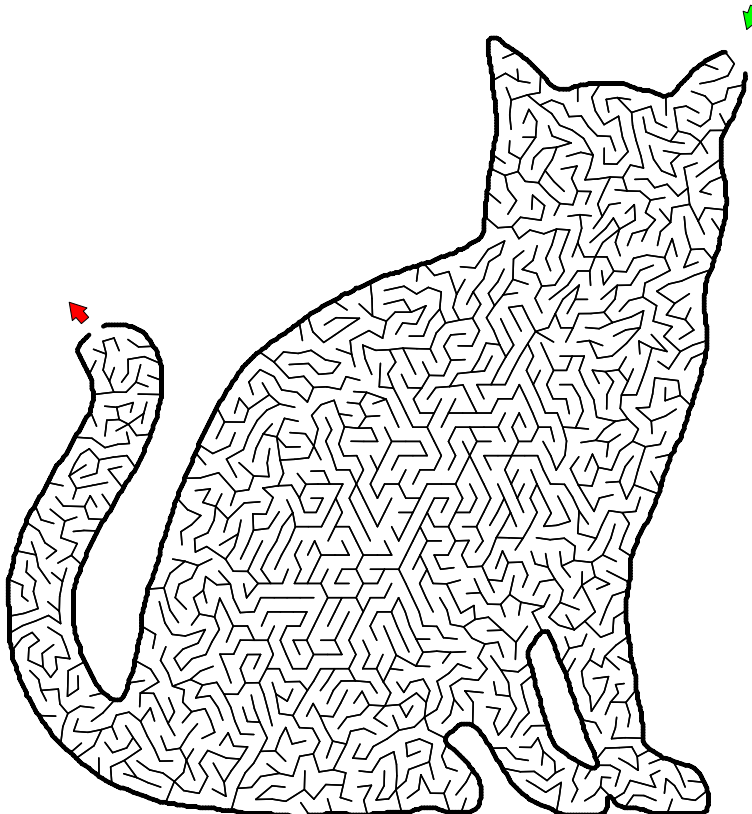
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the best ways to get rid of blood

*It will be cold on the mountain today
but we are the cleaners
and we must clean the suite
of the dirt of others:
the long hairs and little curly hairs stuck to the
tub,
the sink,
the toilet
and the sheets of the children
and the adults
stained with greens,
reds
and browns
and sometimes the hair of the dogs
furry knotted tumbleweeds
but it is honest work
and because it is cold on the mountain
no one has brought cockroaches
or bed bugs
or committed a murder
but if they do
I have learned in my research
the best ways
to get rid of blood,
roaches
and bed
bugs.*

Alan Black

Alone, Together

We look eye to eye but we do not see
We live in different realities
Our words fall
Without reaching the other

We try and try
But instead of understanding
Our voices raise
Our heart beats
Our pulse quickens
A sweat is broken
Palms tighten

We look eye to eye but we do not see
Blinded by perceptions and ideologies

We are not present
And do not know
How to belong to the 'other'

So we remain
Alone, together

Angelika Forray

Power outage
by Mr. Unknown

The lights flicker briefly
Before clicking out
No time to worry
No time to pout

You find the flashlights
And candles to ignite
Cast them aglow
No panic or fright

Continue a book
Or stock up a fire
The darkness reminds you of something
You begin to feel tired

As your head hits the pillow
In your mind, you pledge
"Thank you, oh thank you,"
"Dear power outage"

*A Free press can, of course,
be good or bad, but, most
certainly without freedom,
the press will never be
anything but bad.*

Albert Camus

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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.

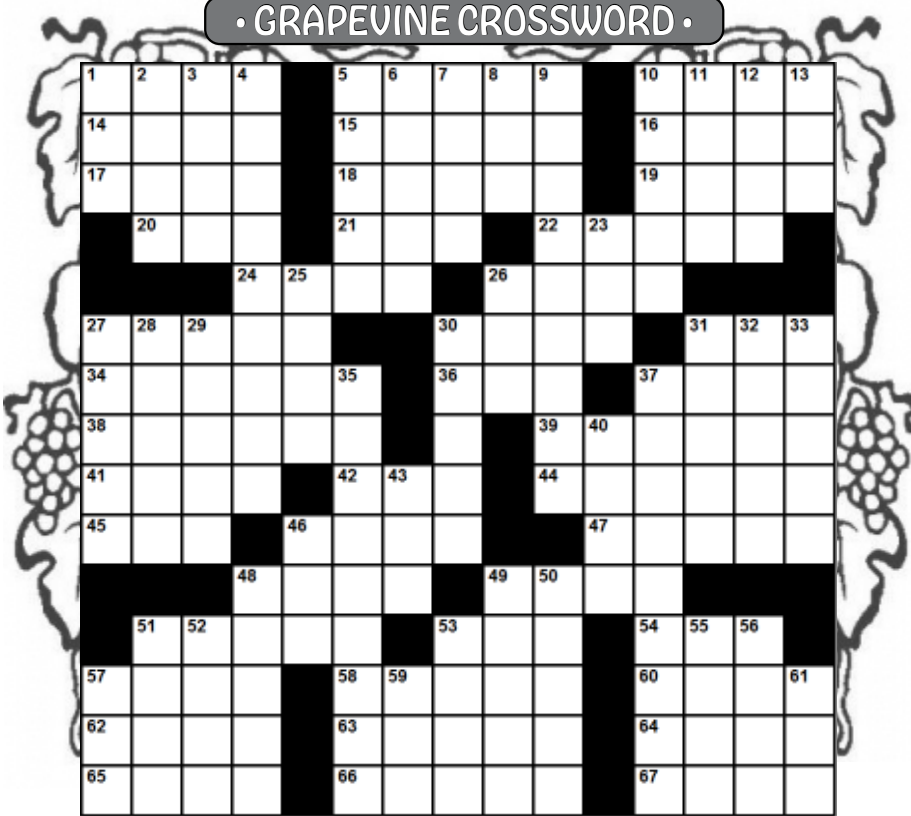
The Grapevine is happy to provide an open, public forum for all islanders to speak and be heard. We are steadfast in our commitment to uphold freedom of expression.

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 •



• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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• ACROSS •

1. Auxiliary
5. Fit of terror
10. Invitation encl.
14. Deliver from peril
15. Italian friends
16. Helm position
17. City near Chernobyl
18. Alarm button
19. Computer fare
20. Grade of wine
21. Cuckoo
22. Onetime pupa
24. Failed to win
26. Former Russian ruler
27. Flat bottle
30. Bird feeder treat
31. Back at sea
34. Cowcatcher
36. Actor Olin
37. Curved arch
38. A stream or brook
39. Sales offer
41. Court pro Lendl
42. Amusing person
44. Toadies
45. Deposit
46. Add to the pot
47. Goes ahead
48. Return one's call

49. Drop on Wall Street

51. Alluvial plain
53. Formal address
54. Any miss
57. Biblical trio
58. Alpaca kin
60. Greek letter
62. Fail to include
63. On the up-and-up
64. Autumn birthstone
65. Altar area
66. Declare
67. Barge setting

• DOWN •

1. Answer on Jeopardy
2. Of the flock
3. Affirm positively
4. Nausea
5. Former Turkish coins
6. Catkin
7. Unless, to Cicero
8. Arctic surface
9. People of a country
10. Airport need
11. Fused refuse
12. D.C. denial
13. Black-eyed item
23. A welcome sight
25. Fair-to-middling
26. Actor's hint
27. Wave wildly
28. Bug-to-be
29. Body of troops
30. Ape Hans Brinker
31. Colorful lizard
32. Regaled
33. Bar Mitzvah boys
35. City buildings

37. Excessive

- enthusiasm
40. Electric fish
43. Japanese admiral
46. Be a stage star
48. Choice group
49. Curtail
50. Deliver a speech
51. Clammy
52. Sponsorship, var.
53. Epic
55. Arizona artisan
56. Abbr. after a list
57. 12-foot bird
59. Allow to
61. A Canadian export

Grumpism

“Did you hear about the bed bugs who fell in love? They're getting married in the spring!”



• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

C	R	U	S	T		S	U	D	S		P	H	I	L	
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A	D	A	R			R	E	D	O		E	R	G	O	
P	A	R	A			T	R	E	K		S	E	A	L	

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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

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

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More for a good set. 250-335-1079

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For more information contact: keenan@kettlerivertimber.com

THE GENERAL STORE needs a part-time employee - for up to 24hrs/wk - must have Serving It Right and be at least 19. If you are interested please call Jennifer at 250-335-2293 or leave a resume with the store employees.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

• 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. • 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)

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

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



FRIDAY 16

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

SATURDAY 17

- 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
- TRIVIA NIGHT Community Hall 5pm

SUNDAY 18

MONDAY 19

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DI United Church
Gathering Place 7pm
- FIRST EDITION deadline see ad p.11

TUESDAY 20

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- DILTCC Zoom meeting 2pm

WEDNESDAY 21

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

THURSDAY 22

- 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 23

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

SATURDAY 24

- 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 25

MONDAY 26

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

TUESDAY 27

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

WEDNESDAY 28

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

THURSDAY 29

- 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

