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### THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

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

**Voices of the Islands** A fascinating compendium of stories chronicling the creation of local nature conservancies, and the people behind them, on seventeen islands on the Salish Sea from the 1990s

By Sheila Harrington

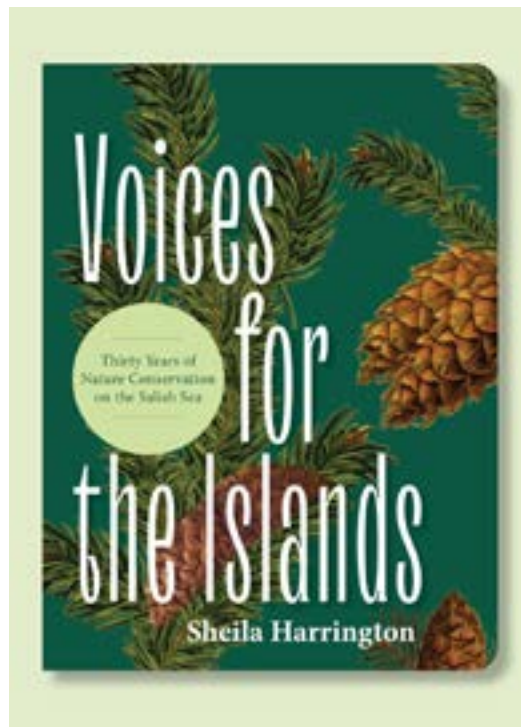
to the present day.

Voices for the Islands brings together the stories and experiences of those who rose to protect areas at risk within their island communities. Narratively linked by author Sheila Harrington's three-year sailing journey among the islands to interview more than fifty veteran conservationists, the book shares an in-depth view of local protests and the history and evolution of local conservancies from their timely emergence through legal battles and successful partnerships. It highlights how local, provincial, and national support was won, through the collaborative efforts of dedicated locals, resulting in hundreds of new protected areas and parks within one of the most at-risk ecological communities in Canada—the islands of the Salish Sea.

Beginning in the 1980s, when logging and development threatened the fragile ecosystems and natural habitats, and culminating in the creation of more than seventeen local conservancies and the Gulf Island National Park Reserve, Voices for the Islands will inspire readers to turn apathy into action and support the cause of conservation and reconciliation in an era of species extinction and climate change.

Full of colour photos, maps, and fascinating first-hand stories by unsung heroes of conservation—many of whom are now elders—this book reveals how local people and grassroots movements have the power to transform the future of our precious planet.

SHEILA HARRINGTON is an author, sailor, and environmental advocate with a thirty-year career in the conservation field. She was the founding executive director of the Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC) from 1997 to 2011 and a director of the Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy for more than twelve years. She is co-author of the bestselling Islands in the Salish Sea Community Atlas, a finalist for two BC Book Awards and third-place winner of the BC Historical Federation prize. She edited and published Positive Vibrations magazine in the 90s and Giving the Land a Voice, Mapping Our Home Places and the BC Kingfisher magazine in the early 2000s. She currently lives off-grid on Lasqueti Island.



## Shucking Oysters: It's Complicated

By Alex Allen

I am not the most patient person nor do I have a special way with tools. Some would say that I'm mechanically challenged and tool illiterate. I blame it on all those so-called self-empowering manuals. And being a klutz all my life, I have only just learned that I have FIOS, Fear of Inanimate Objects Syndrome. It's remarkable that there are terms to explain every quirky part of myself. And I'm sure with age, I'll probably have a few more acronyms to explain my further eccentricities.

My first challenged episode, as it were, that I can remember, was when I was six years old. I was trying to fix the flat on my bicycle and I couldn't get the tire back on the wheel frame. After about six minutes of sheer brain torture and then hurting myself with the screwdriver, in frustration I threw the tool as hard as I could in no particular direction. Unfortunately, the direction was towards a small window in our basement. Unintended consequences. I hate that lesson.

Fifty years later, I am still punishing inanimate objects for hurting me. Recently, the hammer hit my thumb with such psychotic bravado, that I threw the loathsome tool far enough that it took me 20 minutes to recover. The hammer physically and then me mentally. The thumb took a little longer.

And what about complicated fixes? Let's start with my lawnmower which has been operating on only one self-propelling wheel for two years. With this handicap, mowing is real fun, especially the hills. I have to channel my inner Hulk to move the fucker up the inclines. This year, I'm quite proud of myself. I've been more Zen in my reactions and actions. I finally figured out that I need a gear pinion. After a month of waiting, the part came in, and miraculously I removed the rear wheel without incident. Except the pinion has to have some weird claspy thingie that I have to remove. Be chill. Relax. After watching a video on YouTube, I'm told I need to get a pair of snap ring pliers. OK, I can do that. But, really? Why can't it be a simple bolt or washer?

Snap ring pliers are not as implied as they sound. I picked up a set at our local hardware and was full of excitement and hope. The set has three ring pliers for different angles and a grip handle to attach. But how? There's also this tiny metal bolt thingie with a swinging metal thingie in it, and a spring that is supposed to be attached to the handle. But where? I'll look at the instructions on the back. No instructions, just two images that are exactly

the same, one labelled "for external use" and the other "for internal use." None of the pliers fitted the holes. After sharing some expletives with my neighbours, I gave up. Did I say that I spent 10 minutes trying to find the spring (the size of my thumb nail) in the grass as well? Life shouldn't have to be this complicated, externally or internally.

And don't get me started with weed whackers. I've gone through six over the past seven years. Feeding the line is the worst form of torture ever. Even operating them makes me tense and angry. It's taken me a mere three years to figure out how to wind the line through the spool head on my current weed whacker. Now that I had it explained to me by a well-meaning service guy, I'm way more relaxed

*continued on P.6...*

### TIDE TABLE

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

| 2024-05-30 (Thu) |         |      |
|------------------|---------|------|
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 07:24            | 3.1     | 10.1 |
| 11:08            | 3.4     | 11.1 |
| 17:51            | 1.5     | 5    |
| 2024-05-31 (Fri) |         |      |
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 01:19            | 4.7     | 15.4 |
| 08:17            | 2.6     | 8.5  |
| 12:56            | 3.3     | 10.9 |
| 18:52            | 2       | 6.5  |
| 2024-05-01 (Sat) |         |      |
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 01:54            | 4.7     | 15.3 |
| 09:03            | 2.1     | 6.8  |
| 14:45            | 3.4     | 11.3 |
| 19:57            | 2.4     | 7.9  |
| 2024-05-02 (Sun) |         |      |
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 02:28            | 4.7     | 15.3 |
| 09:47            | 1.5     | 4.9  |
| 16:19            | 3.8     | 12.4 |
| 21:05            | 2.8     | 9.3  |
| 2024-05-03 (Mon) |         |      |
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 03:02            | 4.6     | 15.2 |
| 10:29            | 1       | 3.2  |
| 17:31            | 4.2     | 13.7 |
| 22:13            | 3.2     | 10.4 |
| 2024-05-04 (Tue) |         |      |
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 03:37            | 4.6     | 15.1 |
| 11:10            | 0.5     | 1.8  |
| 18:30            | 4.5     | 14.8 |
| 23:18            | 3.4     | 11.2 |
| 2024-05-05 (Wed) |         |      |
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 04:13            | 4.6     | 15   |
| 11:51            | 0.2     | 0.8  |
| 19:21            | 4.8     | 15.7 |
| 2024-05-06 (Thu) |         |      |
| Time             | PDT (m) | (ft) |
| 00:19            | 3.6     | 11.7 |
| 04:52            | 4.5     | 14.7 |
| 12:33            | 0.1     | 0.3  |
| 20:08            | 4.9     | 16.2 |

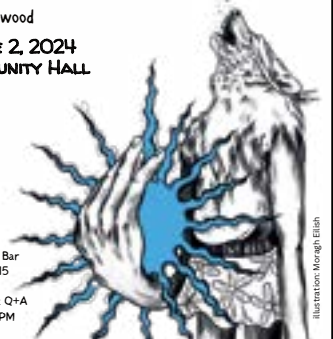
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## **Guess who ELSE is coming to Denman?**

By Sally Campbell

OPINIONS

**Y**ves Engler is an unafraid truth-teller about the darker side of our beloved Can-

ada. We sorely need this kind of researcher/author/activist in our midst because we are awash in propaganda painting our nation in only a positive, peacekeeping light. How many of us know for example, that our Canadian military has the biggest public relations apparatus in Canada? According to Yves, (30th May, 2022) Embassy Magazine in 2016 put it at 661 employees in 50 offices across Canada! Their job of course is to promote our military & military expenditures. Now, we could task our military with a true “defense only” mandate, and put them to work with civil defense, coast guard, repurposing bases to the service of climate crisis, remediation of our contaminated sites, and much more. But instead, we continue to hitch it to the service of empire, first the British empire, now the US. This toadying to imperialism is cloaked under the guise of NATO, which was established in 1949 to “keep the Soviet Union out, the Americans in, and the Germans down” (1st NATO Secretary General, Lord Hastings Lionel Ismay). NATO has from the start been run by a US military officer, with a European administrative Head. (That’s one reason why Chrystia Freedland’s bid to be head of NATO failed.) It is only recently that people have begun to question our blind adherence to NATO and its expansion. Yves has been on it for quite awhile now. He has dedicated his keen mind to uncovering and exposing our idealized bubble surrounding the Canadian military’s real role in the world, and while uncomfortable to learn, it seems to me essential that we DO learn about it.

The Canadian Foreign Policy Institute was founded by Yves, Bianca Mugenyi and other progressives in 2020. Its mandate is to bridge the gap between government policy and public perception. Among other functions, it hosts webinars featuring experts on various aspects of Canadian foreign policy, which are always thought-provoking and challenge the status quo. Let’s face it; the status quo is no longer working all that well. We’re moving at a glacial pace to combat the climate crisis and we are speedily increasing tensions with China. Further, the West has reignited the “cold war” with Russia, arguably through NATO’s unnecessary provocations on the Russian border. The Ukraine War, which people now realize is a civil war, a Russia- Ukraine war, and most of all, a US proxy war with Russia, the US having stated on the record that its goal is to “weaken Russia”. Sadly it drags on, with Ukrainians doing the sacrificing and suffering. The horrific Gaza genocide is 8 months in, yet could end tomorrow if the US stopped supplying Israel its massive weaponry and the West ended its shameful complicity.

The US has lost stature worldwide for its aggression and destabilization of so many countries. The Institute for Economics & Peace publishes the annual Global Peace Index, which measures the state of peace across 3 domains:

1. Level of societal safety and security
2. Extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict
3. Degree of militarization.

The US ranks 131 out of 163 countries in the 2023 Index. (Canada ranks 11th.) Do we really aspire to have the same global reputation as our neighbour to the south? How well is it serving us to be part of the problem globally, as NATO has become? We need to examine and challenge our government’s plan for a \$73B increase in military spending in the next 20 years. (April 8, 24



*Please join us to honour  
and explore dimensions  
of  
Mary: mother, bealer,  
apostle and  
spiritual guide.  
We will gather  
in the sanctuary  
at the United Church,  
this Sunday June 2nd  
at 10:30 am.*

report to Parliament: “Our North, Strong & Free: A Renewed Vision for Canada’s Defense”) After all, our military spending is already up 49% since 2014 (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute - SIPRI). Have taxpayers’ wages increased that much? Hmmm.

*continued on P.5...*

*...continued from P.4* as Canadian mining interests abroad, Canada's role in keeping Haiti down, our government's complicity with Israel, and CRA's charitable status for organizations supporting illegal Israeli settlements & recruitment for Israel's army (illegal in Canada). These and much more. Yves is also a radical "disrupter", meaning that he challenges current political leaders in public forums, by asking them very hard questions. Some of these video'd events are hilarious. He rattles the complacency of leadership, and his verbal confronting may not be the preferred approach of everyone, but he certainly gets their attention and international media coverage to boot!

Though relatively young, he has published 11 painstakingly-researched books, from 2005's "Playing Left Wing" to "Stand on Guard for Whom? A People's History of the Canadian Military", about which I have written previously. He is now embarking on a speaking tour for his latest, co-written with Owen Schalk: "Canada's Long Fight Against Democracy".

And the great news is that he is coming to Denman to give a talk on June 10th Noon, Back Hall: "Unveiling Canada's Complicity in Palestinian Genocide", sponsored by Denman4Palestine. I've heard Yves speak live in Nanaimo, on his last book tour, and I am really sorry I'll be away for this one so close to home. He is a fearless thinker and an engaging speaker. I urge you to go see, listen, question and learn for yourself! 🍷

## Coming to Denman Island:

# Yves Engler

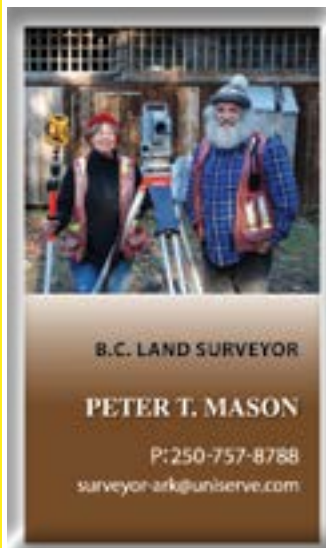
## Canada's Complicity: Unveiling the Truth Behind Palestinian Genocide

Join us for an eye-opening discussion as activist and author Yves Engler takes the stage to unravel the intricate web of Canadian imperialism and its complicity in the ongoing atrocities against the Palestinian people. In this compelling event, Engler will delve into the heart of his latest book, "Canada's Long Fight Against Democracy," shedding light on Canada's dark history of backing coups and undermining democratically elected governments worldwide.



## June 10 noon to 1:15pm Denman Back Hall

Sponsored by Denman4Palestine



...continued from P.3 about it. (Feed 12 feet of line through hole on one side to the other evenly, then wind the head until there is 4 inches of line poking out each hole.) The current weed whacker and I are getting along for the most part. Be Stihl my beating heart.

And speaking of instructions, manuals these days are designed to aggravate, emancipate, and just plain fuck with you. I'm not an idiot, but I certainly am when it comes to reading, let alone understanding manuals. My Japanese SUV manual has more pages devoted to seat belts and the "supplemental restraint system" than the instrument panel. The other day, I wanted to know what fuse is for my low beam headlight and which fuse box. So, I look up "fuses" in the index and three pages tell me that type A fuses are in the engine compartment and type B fuses are in the passenger compartment; in the engine compartment replace old type A fuse with new fuse A; and in the passenger compartment replace old fuse B with new fuse B (with illustrations of the same fuse!). That's good to know, thanks. Nowhere in the manual does it explain which fuse is for what part or function of the vehicle, let alone diagrams of the fuse boxes. It's like Proust wrote the manual. There is no discernible or coherent plot. And was it really necessary to have those extended seat belt scenes, some of which lasted over 50 pages? Couldn't the manual have been tightened up a little and cut down to 300 pages?

Some manuals have little words – like Ikea's. Many customers say that the wordless instructions make the furniture assembly easy, while others are confused by the company's diagrams. I had issues with the Allen key, myself. No matter, Ikea's instruction manuals have been internationally recognized, winning the prestigious Paul Mijksenaar Design for Function Award. As Paul Mijksenaar, the visual design expert behind the award, exuberantly put it: "Ikea has managed to create an almost unparalleled, consistent and beautifully executed oeuvre. An oeuvre that, rather than being merely recognizable, has proven to be effective for years." We're talking about a manual to build furniture, are we not?

Still confused? Flummoxed? Frustrated? You can always try customer service...it can't be that complicated. 🍷


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**June 2024 / juin 2024**

| Monday<br><i>lundi</i>             | Tuesday<br><i>mardi</i> | Wednesday<br><i>mercredi</i> | Thursday<br><i>jeudi</i> | Friday<br><i>vendredi</i> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3<br>Denman Island<br>9:00 - 3:00  | 4                       | 5                            | 6                        | 7                         |
| 10<br>Denman Island<br>9:00 - 3:00 | 11                      | 12                           | 13                       | 14                        |
| 17<br>Denman Island<br>9:00 - 3:00 | 18                      | 19                           | 20                       | 21                        |
| 24<br>CLOSED<br><i>Fermé</i>       | 25                      | 26                           | 27                       | 28                        |

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## **Beware The Shittening**

*By Conrad Campbell*

Once upon a time there was a tiny emerald island in the Salish Sea - an idyllic utopia where people lived their lives in peace and harmony and all worked and played together for the common good and never an unkind word was uttered. Then one day someone said, "We need to build a board of public notice, it would serve us well, a place to ask for things we need, or to post offers of help, and if someone's pigs escaped, this would be a place to provide updated information on their whereabouts...there is no limit to the good it would do!"

People grew very excited as word of the board spread, and a meeting at the hall was called where all the villagers gathered and after a short time it was agreed upon and approved. They hired the lovable but curmudgeonly Lindsay Michaels to build the notice board, because she was good with tools. After a short time the board was completed and all in the land gathered to witness the ceremonial unveiling in the town square. The board soon grew quite popular as postings of lost kitties, escaped dogs, and vegan nut loaf recipes were shared. It was a wondrous thing and everyone would scramble to gather and gaze upon it in awe filled reverence in anticipation of the joy they would surely find.

However, as time passed, dissent found it's way to the beloved board. Disagreements were had, neighbor became pitted against neighbor, and soon slurs became the order of the day. Lifelong friends became bitter enemies, and even family members became divided. The islanders were foreign to such hate, and to some it was repulsive, but to others, it was like an elixir that drew them like moths to a flame. And that's when the first shit pile revealed itself. People were baffled and confused..."What kind of shit is this?" they asked, not knowing that they were what had caused the shit to appear. Rumors began to swirl as more shit emerged, and the people were whipped into a frenzy of fear and paranoia. "There's shit everywhere I go now...I can't even travel to the market without encountering shit on some level" said Coriander Nettlebottom. "I know, I've never seen so much heavily concentrated shit...it's as though a plane made a strafing shit run...or a series of planes dropped a payload of shit bombs upon us" replied Boho Yogapants. A local shrubber turned raconteur Pompadour Joe was blamed, and a witch hunt ensued. "I heard someone saying something I didn't like, and Pompadour Joe just stood there, letting them talk...and he didn't even try to stop them!" exclaimed Patchouli Serenade. Others began to chime in, and soon Pompadour Joe found himself publicly shamed and the butt of scorn and contempt. "Let's ruin his life!" they cried, "We'll prohibit him from talking and make his stories against the law, and banish him!"

One day a wise man travelled from afar, and told of an ancient tale - one of a people that the same fate had befallen. "Beware the Shittening" he warned, "for within the hearts of all among us the shit lies dormant, but at any time can grow, picking up speed and intensity, becoming stronger by the day, until before long it's too late...upon which your entire island will be sucked into the undertow of a massive shitnami, and all will be lost forever". Then suddenly a small dirty faced waif uttered the words, "It's the public board, that's when this all started". And all at once the townsfolk fell silent, for in the child's voice echoed the sounds of truth. "I'm sorry Thadeus, I shouldn't have called you a socialist halfwit low resolution thinker", and Thadeus replied, "I'm sorry too Trevor, I shouldn't have called you a far right conspiracy theorist Christian pig fucker and tried to get you fired from your job".

"It is the public board...it has brought evil to our land, we must burn it, and peace will reign upon us once again", someone cried, and it was agreed that the board be taken down and burned, and not to be spoken of again. Then another was heard to say, "Well, it looks like we owe Pompadour Joe an apology..." and the crowd all looked about and after a moment a voice replied, "Nah, fuck that, he's a asshole!" and massive cheering erupted and warm embraces were had and everyone agreed that it was far easier to blame someone else rather than self reflect and admit any malfeasance on their

*Continued on P.8...*

---

....continued from P.7

own behalf. And, as the legend goes, that very moment, a giant brown shit cloud enveloped the island, and one by one, the shिटdrops began to fall, and before long it had turned into a full blown atmospheric shिटstorm that caused the riverbanks to swell until finally, all those that lived there were swept into the ocean, forever gone.



And one sunny morn, in a far away land, a bottle washed up upon the shores of another tiny island, and in it a note that read simply, “Beware the Shittening...” 🍷

## Green Wizardries: The First Steps

By Maxine Rogers

Last week, we discussed the single-income family as an adaptation to lean times. Frankly, the system is gamed against families where both spouses work. You end up paying far too much of your income in taxes and when you do drag your cadaver home from work and commuting, the house is a mess, the laundry is dirty and no one has cooked supper. No one could as the whole family was out for the day.

I had a couple of letters from friends who read last week's column. Both of them have experience being in a single-income household. One was a house husband for some years and the other was the working-for cash husband. Both of them felt having one person at home was a real blessing. One partner would go out and get the cash and the partner who stayed home made sure as little of it left the family as possible. Both friends are quite well off now.

That is the secret to financial *Continued on P.9...*

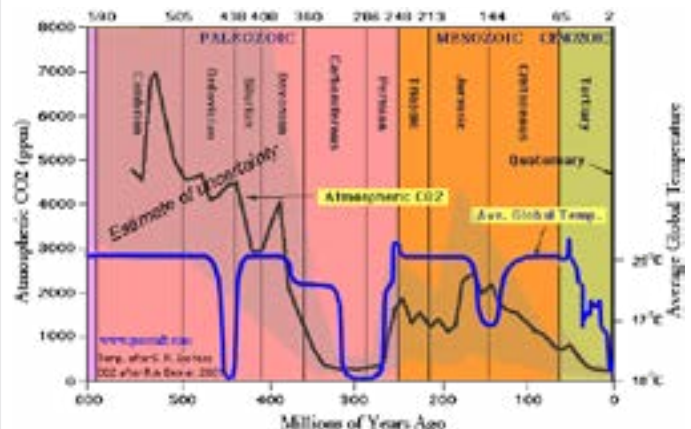
## Shortages in the Land of Plenty

By Helen Grond

OPINIONS

What have CO2 levels been up to in the last 600,000,000 years? CO2 in the atmosphere currently sits at about 420 ppm and has risen close to 200 ppm in the last 150 years. It's only ever been this low once before in the last 325,000,000 years. It's been as high as 7000 ppm. By all accounts, life on the planet thrived when CO2 levels were at their highs. Commercial greenhouses use CO2 to stimulate growth and prefer levels around 1200 to 1500 ppm for maximum benefit.

As you can see in the graph, there is no historical evidence that CO2 causes warming of the planet. If anything, warming temperatures may CAUSE CO2 levels to rise. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who have appointed themselves the world's leading voice on all things climate, has access to the data yet refuses to acknowledge it. They prefer to use computer models to predict future warming trends where they control the variables and get to pick and choose which ones they like. After 35 years, virtually every computer prediction put out by them has been way off and the alarming temperature increases have never materialized. They never admit that part. It would almost be comical, except they are wasting vast amounts of money that could be used to solve real environmental issues.



The CO2 theory of global warming has been largely discredited by climatologists working outside of the highly political IPCC, but there are still significant reasons why humans are contributing to global warming including urbanization, industrial *Continued on P.10...*

*...continued from P.8* That is the secret to financial stability. Never worry about the money that is coming in to the household. There will always be something, even if it is only welfare. Only worry about the money that is going out. We did that and got out from under a heap of debt incurred before we got together. We became debt free very quickly. From then on, we have never had any money problems.

I became ill in my last year of university and my health was not stable enough to hold down even a part-time job. I was devastated because our society teaches us that we are only worth the amount we earn which is total crap. I was able to create and manage a budget, cook healthful meals from scratch, make my husband packed lunches for work and iron shirts up to the level expected of a Lieutenant- Commander. I even learned to make my own spray starch. It was fun and I felt good that I was able to be a help even though I was not earning money.

Because of our approach, we were able to save a lot more money than other Navy couples where both worked at professional jobs. Most of them are probably still paying for their mortgages.

I was able to figure out how to do all this because I had a library card. I got out books on frugality and voluntary simplicity. I recommend, "Your Money or Your Life," by Vicki Robin and Joe Dominguez and, "The Tightwad Gazette," by Amy Dacyczn. Amy got out of paid employment so she could have children and spend time with them. She was able to manage the family finances, raise five children comfortably on one income and pay off their house. Reading those two books will be very good first steps.

The next step is to plant something, even if it is just a pot of herbs on the windowsill. If you have a bit of land that is weedy and needs a huge amount of labour to get it ready to grow some vegetables or flowers, you can skip all the double digging and just plant some squash. If the soil is not very fertile, you will not get very big squash but the leaves of the squash will shade out and kill the weeds.

One farmer I know did this with a field that was badly infested with bindweed. He planted it to pumpkins and was able to make a fair bit of money selling the you-pick pumpkins at Halloween. After a few years of this, the bindweed had given up and died leaving the field open to cultivation of other crops.

The next thing to do is look at your unavoidable expenses. That is rent or mortgage payments, various insurance payments (usually a scam), cable, internet, groceries and so on. Total that up and then decide if you really need the cable and internet. I know a person who decided their internet was too costly so they phoned up and asked to cancel their internet service. The service person was very helpful and finally just asked what they would like to pay. They agreed on \$25 a month and that is what they pay to this day. They pointed out to the internet rep that they could go for a cup of coffee and a piece of pie at their local cafe and use their internet for free and that money would stay in their community and still be less than the ghastly amount the internet company wanted for their monthly service.

Next, you need to have a library card and get some cookery books from the library to teach you how to cook inexpensive and nutritious food from scratch. It is not that hard. My husband is still amazed at the speed with which I get a meal on the table.

From there, you can learn to brew your own wine and beer for pennies a bottle. Mend, sew, knit and do all that fun stuff that we have been taught is a chore. Grow lots of flowers to put on your table with really fresh salads and home made pickles and bread. Life really will get better with these few, simple first steps. 🍷

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*...continued from P.8* agriculture and the release of waste heat.

One glaring way that urbanization contributes to warming is through the “Urban Heat Island” effect which in a city like Phoenix, Arizona can result in a 20 degree F. temperature elevation, relative to the same conditions outside of the city. Imagine, what that does to skew weather station temperatures and the majority of stations are located in urban areas! There are no laws that say you can’t build a Walmart right next to an historical weather station. A recent study indicates the effect can be as high as 20%. <https://www.drroyspencer.com/2023/07/the-urban-heat-island-effect-in-ghcn-station-temperatures-urban-locations-show-large-spurious-warming-effects/>. NOAA, who creates the temperature data sets, blends the urban temperatures in with the rural ones, giving a nice man-made bump to the overall averages. Flawed weather station data could disguise worrisome cooling trends as some seem to be experiencing in the last number of years. We could only know by watching our gardens struggle in cold wet springs.

It seems foolhardy for the IPCC to be so attached to their belief systems when real and serious environmental threats exist and are largely ignored. For the vast amounts of money wasted over 35 years, we could have solved most pressing world environmental issues. Heavy sigh... 🍷

### **Letters to the Editor**

**I** am a wee bit grumpy after scrolling through countless pages of climate denial on the website “Climate Conservative Consumer” ([www.c3headlines.com](http://www.c3headlines.com)) as cited by Helen Grond, in her last week’s article titled “Give Science A Chance.”

In case you don’t have time to look at it, here are a few lowlights.

The New York Times reporting of climate change is scorned as “climate porn” and “fear-mongering....the essential US propaganda instrument for left/liberal/progressive policy.” Bjorn Lomborg, who claims “climate change is real but not the apocalyptic threat we’ve been told it is” and author “False Alarm” “is called an anti-CO2 activist.” Greg Blanchett, not found on my internet search, is named as a member of “The Very Sick Fuck Club.” A FB group by that name spouts violent, racist and sexist jokes.

“Leftists” like Joe Biden and Barack Obama are using propaganda to conspire against true science: “....the global warming hysteria and conspiracy of the left’s science will hopefully be another cleansing episode that reduces the high fever of corruption ....that the ruling elites are using.” This sentiment reminds me of hearing a radio interview with the BC United Party leader who repeatedly claimed that the NDP are “radicals”. Political historians will be rolling over in their graves if they catch wind of this double-speak..

“Give Science a Chance” claims that the International Panel on Climate Change refuses to engage with the world’s leading climate scientists. Yet, in 2009, James Lovelock, an independent scientist claimed “when I criticize the IPCC, I am most of all criticizing the the lack of wisdom amongst managers and politicians who forced scientists to manipulate data until it satisfied all of the nations present.” The IPCC was watering down the facts in an attempt to gain consensus from as many nations as possible. Meanwhile, Grond want us to believe that the IPCC has been exaggerating their findings, which “ignores the 150 years of established climate change research.” In 1972 I do recall my biology prof speaking of climate change but that was not 150 years ago.

As for the claim that the world is cooling; The Pacific Salmon Foundation reports ever-increasing warming temperatures in BC’s rivers and oceans. Currently CO2 levels are at 427 ppm, compared to 365 ppm in 2002 and up by 50% since the 18th century. I sure wish it was merely a coincidence that the climate is becoming increasingly unstable while CO2 levels rise. I sure wish these fanatical climate pornographers would leave us alone.

## **The Rise Of The Atom To Omnipotence In The Thin Skin Of Our Biosphere**

*By King Anderson*

I'm here on the eastern edge of the outer island on the inland sea, next to the weird island which is next to the big island, which is nestled along the western edge of Turtle Island in the northern hemisphere of a very small blue planet called Urth (Earth) that is mostly covered in water. Every 24 hours if I choose I can sit on the beach and watch the nearest star rise above the horizon to warm the day.

Urth at its equator spins/rotates at about 1000 miles per hour. It moves around the nearest star at 18.5 miles per second or 67,000 miles per hour and it takes about a year (our time) to go around the star once. The nearest star and its planetary system is moving through the Via Lactea Galaxy at approximately 450,000 miles per hour. So fasten your seat-belts kids, hang on to your hats and keep an eye on the space weather!

At its equator Urth is 7926 miles in diameter and the one world ocean that surrounds the planet is almost 7 miles at its deepest. The highest point of land in the ocean of air is Mount Everest, 5 miles high. So the biosphere is about 12 miles thick and contains all the plant, animal, insect, reptiles, birds and ocean life AND over 8 billion human beings. The biosphere contains all the needed air, water and soil to nourish all the life we know, from the giant whales to the microbes, bacteria and viruses. The zone that sustains most of life on Urth is actually about 5 miles thick. In scale, if Urth was reduced to the size of a high school classroom globe, our biosphere is thinner than a coat of paint on the globe.

Here's where it gets interesting, like not even a hundred years ago ... since 1945 and the end of World War 2 a number of countries on Urth developed and produced atomic & nuclear bombs. By 1986 there were 70,300 of them !! Since then over 12,000 of them have been dismantled and are stored but not destroyed. Now in 2024 Russia has 1674 nuclear missiles ready to launch and the USA has 1770 missiles ready to launch, all at a moments notice. Available online statistics vary somewhat, but still, WTF ?!!

Around the world in this thin skin of the biosphere there are 416 atomic power stations producing electricity. They create 400,000 tons of radioactive waste every year, along with all the waste from the production, maintenance and decommissioning of all the nuclear submarines, nuclear aircraft carriers, plus all the nuclear weapons. Most of this radioactive waste has to be isolated from the biosphere for 10,000 to 250,000 years. For instance plutonium has a half life of 24,000 years.

For the past 20 years Finland has been digging deep storage tunnels into the bedrock to store their nuclear waste. It is called Onkalo (cave or hiding place) and many documentaries can be seen online about this project. In a few years Finland will start permanently storing their nuclear waste in these tunnels. One documentary said that the Onkalo project will take 200 years, generations to complete. How does the nuclear industry communicate to people 10,000 years or further into the future, to tell them to stay away from this poisonous radioactive shit? Interesting language and semiotics problem.

In America there is a huge controversial nuclear waste storage cavern in New Mexico. Over our southern border in Washington State by the Columbia River is the Hanford Nuclear Reservation set up in 1943 for the Manhattan Project which created the world's first atomic bombs. Many thanks, Oppenheimer. Hanford is full of many temporary storage sites for America's nuclear waste that hopefully is slated for permanent storage in Yucca Mountain in Nevada. That project is also fraught with atomic problems to this day, see Wikipedia for details. In August 2023 the Fukushima Nuclear Power plant in Japan dumped 13 million tons of radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean ... O Well. The whales are going to love that.

New York journalist author, Annie Jacobsen has a new book, "Nuclear War" which spells out all the gory details of what will happen if nuclear war suddenly happens. There are interviews with Annie Jacobsen on YouTube if you really want to scare the shit out of yourself. Now Putin is rattling his atomic sabre and all of Europe is nervous.

North Korea could launch a missile and 20 minutes later detonate a high altitude nuclear pulse bomb (HEMP) over the centre of North America. That would black out all the electricity that runs

*Continued on P12...*

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...continued from P.11 what would happen after that?

In the US response to North Korea, Russia could think it was being attacked and launch 1000 nukes at all the major cities in North America, and all of the continent would be consumed by fire. The US president would fly around & around in Air Force One until it ran out of fuel. How would American nuclear submarines with their nuclear missiles in the oceans around the world respond? In a significant exchange between North Korea, the USA and Russia of the nuclear missiles on high alert, our northern hemisphere would become uninhabitable. The very few survivors would envy the dead. A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

Nuclear nations on Urth are aware of this horrific outcome, as a result there is a deterrent policy called, Mutually Assured Destruction ... and it is truly MAD and F@&K#D UP !! Will MAD stop the irradiation of the northern hemisphere and our thin skin life support system ? ... I sure hope so. By the way Nuclear Winter is not the answer to Global Warming.

The Doomsday Clock at the University of Chicago creeps closer and closer to Midnight. Doctor Strangelove is getting ready to leap out of his wheelchair and kiss his ass goodbye.

Sometimes I wonder how many more times I can sit on the beach in this thin skin of air and water and watch the nearest star rise above the edge of the world, on this very small pale blue dot of a planet in this vast and infinite universe. Think about what has to be done. Take good care out there and enjoy the days. 🍷

### **Like So Much Else, The Fuss Over 'International Law' Is About Narrative Control**

By Caitlin Johnstone

The other day ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said that when preparing to apply for the Israeli arrest warrants he was told by “a senior leader” that “This court is built for Africa and for thugs like Putin.” You don’t typically hear empire managers voice this kind of frank view when addressing the public, but it’s not surprising that they hold this view behind the scenes. And in practice it’s not even technically false—a casual glance at the list of prisoners detained at The Hague turns up individuals from small, weak, mostly African countries.

It’s just a cold, hard fact that “international law” is never enforced against powerful nations or their protected allies, because there’d be no way for the international community to enforce those laws upon them without waging a massive world war involving nuclear-armed states. The US notoriously put in place its “Hague Invasion Act” between its invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq to ensure that it can use military force to free any military personnel of the US or its allies (this would include Israel) who wind up detained by the ICC. There is currently no force in the world that would be both willing and able to stop the US war machine from doing such a thing.



A law isn’t really a law if it can’t be enforced. If I kill someone in a modern city, a bunch of law enforcement officials will come and arrest me and I’ll be sent to prison. If I killed someone in the western United States during the nineteenth century, it wouldn’t matter what the laws of the town happen to say if the sheriff and his posse are too afraid of me to bring me to justice. That’s kind of what’s happening on an international level—there’s a big band of lawless thugs who do as they please, because there’s no one else around with enough firepower to enforce any laws on them.

*Continued on P13...*

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...continued from P.12 In reality, “international law” is a lie in two significant ways. It’s a lie in the sense that western powers falsely purport to value and uphold it, and it’s a lie in the sense that it has no meaningful existence since it’s only ever enforced on small, weak powers.

The actions of the ICC and ICJ are useful only insofar as they help disabuse people of the delusional belief that western powers care one iota about international law, and in that they make it clear to the whole world that Israel and its powerful western allies are openly violating the rules they pretend to stand by. It’s useful as a counter-narrative against the official imperial narrative about what’s happening, but it’s not useful as a legal construct or means of ending Israeli atrocities in and of itself.

That’s why you see US and Israeli officials raging and fuming about the actions of the ICJ and the ICC. It’s not because they’re worried those courts will be able to enforce the rulings they make, it’s because it weakens their control of the narrative. These rulings are being made in front of the entire world, and they say very bad things about what Israel and its allies have been doing in Gaza.

Israel and its defenders rage and fume about these developments for the same reason they rage and fume about any development that affects their narrative control in any large-scale, mainstream way. They rage and fume at the ICJ and the ICC for the same reason they rage and fume at celebrities who criticize Israel, or at the student protesters at university campuses around the world.

Anything that causes the empire managers to lose their grip on the dominant stories people are telling about what’s happening in the world is a direct threat to imperial power, because it shakes people out of the propaganda-induced stupor which causes them to consent to the imperial status quo. That’s why the US and Israel pour so much effort into controlling the collective narrative in the west; they need people consenting to things which no psychologically healthy person would ever consent to without being manipulated and deceived.

Empire managers work so hard to control the dominant narratives of our civilization because they understand something that ordinary people do not: that real power comes from narrative control.

The only reason our society looks the way it looks and moves in the way that it moves is because of the narratives which we have collectively agreed to treat as true and real. It’s the only reason power sits where it sits and operates the way it operates. It’s the only reason money works the way it works. It’s the only reason laws are laws and social etiquette is social etiquette.

Everything about our society is determined by collectively agreed-upon narratives, which means that whoever can control those narratives can control our society. If everyone suddenly developed an acute awareness of the fact that this whole thing’s made up and we can change our collectively agreed-upon narratives whenever we want to, our rulers would no longer be our rulers, and we could create whatever kind of society we wanted to.

So there’s a lot riding on this narrative control thing. It’s actually the very substance from which power is woven. That is what the empire managers are really worried about here, not “international law”.

So while Gaza will not be saved by any actions by international courts, it just might be saved by enough people waking up from the narrative control of our rulers to force

real change. If enough people unplug their minds from the matrix of imperial propaganda and manipulation, there’s no limit to what humanity can achieve as a species. 🍷



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## Be Kind to YOURSELF!

Private virtues made public  
A basket of deplorables  
Be kind to YOURSELF!

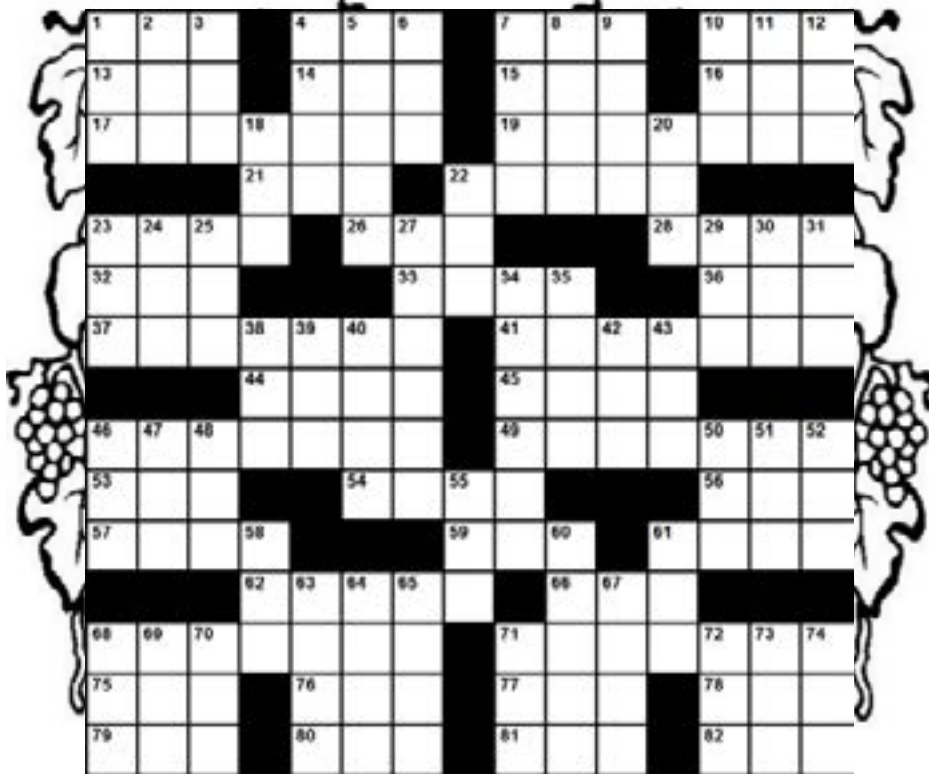
A jerk of kindness  
Tissue and motion  
Smooth pulsing  
A furious finish

In smithereens  
A blown up ship  
A grown-up’s grip  
Dithering on the trip

A strained plant  
Withering toward the tip  
Be kind to YOURSELF!

By thomas p. hunterson

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Drop back
4. Band aid
7. Exemplar of patience
10. Con artist's target
13. Historic time
14. Act dovish
15. Aladdin prince
16. Affected manner
17. Heinz condiment
19. Wonder
21. Bakery choice
22. End early, NASA style
23. Group of larks
26. Check erosion
28. Being, in Latin
32. Altdorf's canton
33. Failed to win
36. Beer barrel
37. Stormy petrel
41. Limping
44. Prowl
45. Extend upward
46. Church cry
49. Like many retirees
53. Craft of sci-fi
54. Act the rodent
56. Assent asea
57. Salamanders
59. Cooper's tool
61. Had down pat
62. Sailing vessel
66. A Canadian

export

68. Compound used in plastics
71. Cantab's rival
75. Grandson, perhaps
76. Arctic surface
77. Book jacket item
78. Acct., often
79. Antiquity
80. A relative
81. Belief, in brief
82. Asian currency

• DOWN •

1. Albanian currency
2. A verb for you
3. Gangster's weapon
4. Like a bad back
5. Contorted countenances
6. Balloon sound
7. Lintel companion
8. Musical medley
9. Whirring sound
10. Bio-pouch
11. Afflict
12. Before beginning
18. 1951 Johnnie Ray song
20. Breakfasted
22. Big flap
23. Clear tables
24. Anteceding
25. By means of
27. Hemingway's Santiago
29. Aspen gear
30. Bigwig in D.C.
31. Batter ingredient
34. Cagey
35. Animal appendage
38. Bandeau, for short
39. Atom fragment
40. Knelled
42. Dr. Tim's drug
43. Ball perch
46. Colorization
47. Disconnected
48. Heavy imbiber
50. Contended
51. Cleansing agent
52. Flexible wood
55. Dismissing comment
58. Blue above
60. 3-Dimensional co-ordinate
61. Actor Olin
63. Discharge
64. Cal or Georgia
65. Algonquian language
67. Hang over
68. Apple dessert
69. Black gold
70. Top
71. Decorative belt
72. Far from friendly
73. Be unoriginal
74. Actress Grey

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM



“ I went to a conference about pumps and ended up feeling drained.”

• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

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#### • COMMUNITY NOTICES •

WATZI: A Weird Denman Dog Show, family & dog friendly fundraising event for Hiladi. June 9th @ the Community Hall park. Come with or without a (leashed) dog for tail-wagging fun, dog & human treats, competitions, dog photos. \$5-\$20 sliding scale (children free). Questions? Call Max 335-0364

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## Angled



### 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!

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• (H) Hornby • (D) Denman • (UB) Union Bay •  
• (FB) Fanny Bay • (C) Courtenay/Comox •

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• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)
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## FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 30

- 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 31

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

SATURDAY 1

- 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
- Margaret Atwood @ The Community Hall  
10am-Noon & 7:30pm-9:30pm

SUNDAY 2

- Mary: Mother, Healer, Apostle & Spiritual  
Healer  
DIUC Sanctuary 10:30am

MONDAY 3

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

TUESDAY 4

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- DILTC Meeting, 10am D.A.C.

WEDNESDAY 5

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

THURSDAY 6

- 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 7

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

SATURDAY 8

- 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 9

MONDAY 10

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

TUESDAY 11

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

WEDNESDAY 12

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

THURSDAY 13

- 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

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