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### THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

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## Letter to BC Ferries Commissioner Hage

September 27, 2024

To: Commissioner Hage, info@bcferrycom-  
mission.ca  
By Sharon Small

cc <Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca, <Engagement@bcferries.com, <Josie.Osbourne@leg.bc.ca>, <karen@hiceec.org>, <sborthwick@islandstrust.bc.ca> <leciastewart@bcferryauthority.com>, <nicolas.jimenez@bcferries.com, <tdpinfo@bcferries.com>, <terry.farrell@comoxvalleyrecord.com>,media@taxpayer.com

**Subject:** B.C. Ferries Uses Trump's Deny, Deny, Deny Playbook to Avoid Accountability

Dear Commissioner Hage:

Directing BC Ferries recently to strengthen its deteriorating relationship with ferry dependent communities by making us feel *respected, heard and valued* is long over-due. Denman and Hornby islanders, however, do not trust BCF's response that they value this feedback as BCF has dismissed our collective feedback about the unreliability of the Baynes Sound Connector cable ferry for over eight years.

Despite expert industry criticism that a cable ferry could not do the job, ousted CEO Collins replaced a perfectly reliable vessel with a perfectly unreliable cable ferry. Since the beginning of the vessel's sorry lifeline, the following list of BCF actions confirm a pattern of denying negative feedback that is incompatible with a mandated collaborative decision-making policy:

### Ignoring Feelings and Experiences:

- Dismissing our collective anguish, anger, and despair due to depending on an unreliable vessel every day for eight years.
- Dismissing our collective fears for our school children and other vulnerable islanders who need lodging and food when stranded overnight.
- Dismissing our collective outrage when important appointments are missed or when ailing islanders cannot get to the hospital in time for care.
- Dismissing our collective economic anxiety concerning service providers doubling and tripling transportation costs due to ferry insecurity.
- Dismissing our collective anxiety and expenses when organizing lodging the night before flights or other important commitments because we cannot trust the ferry will be on schedule the next day.

### Engaging in Deceitful Practices:

- Using a survey of islanders' positive responses to the summer tandem service to support keeping the cable ferry in service.
- Underreporting service interruptions in annual performance reports.
- Continuing to claim, without evidence, that the

*continued on P.4...*

## Denman Island Community Education Society's AGM

The Board of Directors of DICES invites you to the Annual General Meeting on October 15th, 2024 at 2:45 in the Hub.

By DICES We'll be serving tea, coffee, and snacks for your enjoyment. Come and find out what we are up to and how to

get involved!

DICES provides a variety of educational and recreational services to children, youth, families, and adults in the community.

Our programs include After School, School Lunch and support, Teen Night, Growing Up Denman, Summer and Spring Camps, Food Bank, Holiday Hampers, Farmers Market Coupons as well as health and wellness education, continuing education for life-long learning, and recreational programs.

See you on Tuesday, October 15th in the Hub (food bank location)! 🍷



## 2024 Denman Island Apple & Nut Fest

By DIGPA

2024 Denman Island Apple and Nut Fest, a Denman Island Growers and Producers Alliance(GPA) Event. Special Feature is Free Seed Cleaning for Denman and Hornby Island Growers.

If you have some time on Oct 12, please come see some of us at the Denman Island Farmers market 9:30 to 12:30 for our annual apple nut fest.

The event will be smaller this year and organized a little differently.

I am hearing that vendors will have Juice, Apple Pies, many treats plus their regular fair. The GPA will have a display of some of our community equipment plus other things that might interest you. Examples are:

Locally grown apple, nut, pear trees for sale that have done well in our local climate. Plus we are hoping that Peter Janes can supply us with some other tree fruit varieties.

Most Apples do well here, come see our apple display featuring apples grown by some of the many growers on Denman.

Nuts are a great source of protein and vitamins. There will be a nut display and you can talk to Dillion about Nuts.

Have you got gardening questions? The purpose of the GPA is to help and support local growers producing food. You are welcome to ask the question, we will try to get you the answers you are looking for.

And a game or two to lighten the mood.

Our special feature is a trailer equipped with seed cleaning equipment. The GPA has sponsored Farm Folk City Folk to come and clean your locally grown seed. This service is free to growers and open to any **Denman** and **Hornby** resident.

For more information, please contact Doug Wright at 250 335 2282 or Email [dugright@hotmail.com](mailto:dugright@hotmail.com) 🍷

## TIDE TABLE

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

### 2024-10-03 (Thu)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 01:05        | 1.9 6.2  |
| 07:09        | 4 13.1   |
| 12:43        | 2.5 8.1  |
| 18:39        | 4.5 14.6 |

### 2024-10-04 (Fri)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 01:29        | 1.7 5.4  |
| 07:52        | 4.1 13.4 |
| 13:14        | 2.8 9    |
| 18:55        | 4.4 14.5 |

### 2024-10-05 (Sat)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 01:53        | 1.5 4.8  |
| 08:36        | 4.2 13.8 |
| 13:46        | 3 9.9    |
| 19:12        | 4.4 14.3 |

### 2024-10-06 (Sun)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 02:20        | 1.3 4.4  |
| 09:23        | 4.3 14   |
| 14:24        | 3.3 10.8 |
| 19:30        | 4.3 14   |

### 2024-10-07 (Mon)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 02:51        | 1.2 4.1  |
| 10:16        | 4.3 14.2 |
| 15:09        | 3.5 11.6 |
| 19:51        | 4.2 13.7 |

### 2024-10-08 (Tue)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 03:29        | 1.2 4    |
| 11:18        | 4.4 14.3 |
| 16:10        | 3.7 12.2 |
| 20:15        | 4.1 13.3 |

### 2024-10-09 (Wed)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 04:15        | 1.3 4.2  |
| 12:30        | 4.4 14.4 |
| 17:45        | 3.8 12.5 |
| 20:45        | 3.9 12.9 |

### 2024-10-10 (Thu)

| Time PDT (m) | (ft)     |
|--------------|----------|
| 05:13        | 1.3 4.4  |
| 13:45        | 4.4 14.5 |
| 19:44        | 3.8 12.3 |
| 21:44        | 3.8 12.4 |
| 18:39        | 4.5 14.6 |

...continued from P.2 cable ferry has *exceeded corporate expectations* in saving tax dollars and providing *service on a par with its predecessor*.

- Engaging in questionable record-keeping of the ferry's operating expenses that have triggered an appeal to the Auditor General to conduct an investigation.
- Gaslighting after media exposure of lengthy cancellations that the *complications* are resolved and that *service is improving*.
- Continuing to promote a mandated community engagement policy despite evidence that BCF has yet to move beyond the gathering and reporting feedback stage to reach a collaborative solution.

#### Engaging in Irrational Decisions:

- Failing to factor in expert industry advice when considering the cable ferry in 2013 or create a contingency plan should the experiment fail.
- Ignoring evidence of trial failures that are redacted in a full page of the shipbuilder's promotional literature.
- Designating \$17M in the current budget cycle to stretch a vessel that remains handicapped by unresolved mechanical issues and service unreliability.
- Considering stretching the vessel despite evidence that heavier cables and a heavier engine would reduce the vessel's current kayaking speed even more.

The above actions are predictable symptoms of corporate hubris or arrogance when a CEO goes out on a limb to make a promise that cannot be delivered. In studies of corporate hubris, these actions inevitably lead to corporate failure. In order to avoid this outcome, new CEOs are advised to right the wrongs of their predecessors by firing executives who frequently, as in the case of BCF, appear to remain loyal to past leadership and by returning to *essential service*.

**A return to essential service for Denman and Hornby islanders demands replacing an unreliable vessel with one that *exceeds OUR expectations*. Only then will we feel respected, heard, and valued and begin to trust BCF.** Since islanders do not expect BCF to change course, I am appealing once again to you to follow your mandate to balance the needs of **ALL** stakeholders by guiding BCF to end an eight year long charade that creates profound suffering for islanders.

Respectfully,

Sharon Small,  
Denman Island Resident



SPECIAL INTEREST

### **Shucking Oysters: Shopping Cartels**

By Alex Allen

**I** was in Nanaimo for a three-day conference last week. It was not the content of the conference that moved me when I was there, it was the content of the city. Downtown in every nook and cranny, wherever you looked, you saw the horrible effects of opioids and homelessness. Most, if not all, had that familiar contorted body, the “fentanyl fold.”

A guy bent over pushing a shopping cart full of random objects, screaming at no one in particular. Another yelling, aiming a guitar menacingly as if it was a rocket launcher at some unseen threat. Two bundled individuals, huddled on the pavement, awkwardly trying to feed each other spoons of ice cream. A young woman with sores on her face, sitting on the sidewalk, legs twitching, staring vacantly, dead eyed. How did we get here?

The following evening, I wandered around downtown trying to find a place to eat. The smell

*continued on P.5...*

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*...continued from P.4*

of urine permeated the air. Many places were closed or boarded up. Corner after corner, personal encampments at entrances to buildings, parking lots, and alleys. It was like a game of not-so hidden object. And then the ones who continually push their shopping carts throughout the night, searching for a place to feel safe and sound. Which, sadly, they may never find.

Eventually, I found an Indian restaurant. It had a makeshift wood front door, with a sign warning us to open and close carefully. The daughter of the owner said the restaurant had been broken into a week earlier, and cash, a stereo and speakers were stolen. Regular break-ins and thefts are happening so often that more and more businesses are moving away or closing down. Nearby residents are having their cars and garages broken into. People don't feel safe on the streets.

According to StatsCan, Nanaimo was pegged as Canada's sixth-worst municipality for crime. To date, the city has lost 68 residents to drug-related deaths, 5% of all opioid deaths in BC, despite being just 2% of its population. There are 76 emergency shelter beds for 600 known homeless individuals – a whopping 200% increase from 2016.

With the imminent provincial election, it's not surprising to hear Premier Eby announce in the middle of September, that they are working with Nanaimo to open a 60-bed navigation centre "to provide accommodation and supports for people experiencing long-term homelessness." Just a few days later, the province also announced that Nanaimo would be getting one of six new Assertive Community Treatment teams, which will focus on "delivering community-based mental health services for people with serious challenges."

In Vancouver, whack-a-mole mayor Ken Sim announced that he will be increasing visibility of officers to deal with the homelessness. Sim says more focused attention will be brought to the downtown Eastside using several "police resources and tactics." He's confident the added police presence will address chronic shoplifters and bring relief and security to the area. My spidey sense says not. Patrolling cops in armoured body wear and helmets will not provide comfort and joy. More like agitation and fear, which will further exacerbate already unbalanced, vulnerable human beings.

This is an express lane to incarceration not streamlined access to humane treatment. Like every city in North America, we are divided on how to combat the fentanyl crisis. Some want the streets swept clean, others favour a more compassionate, health-based approach. Punishment and retribution versus compassion and hope.

It is this population, those with severe addictions and mental health issues that often don't receive the help they need from community support systems. Either the services don't exist in an official capacity, are chronically underfunded, or in the words of downtown Eastside psychiatrist Dr. Bill MacEwan, the people themselves are viewed as "too difficult" or "too unsavoury" to deal with. 🍷





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## **A Stroll Down the Memory Hole With Gwynne Dyer**

*By Keith Porteous*

**L**ondoner Gwynne Dyer's name was mentioned recently in a letter to the editor, providing a well timed opportunity to revisit the 81 year old military historian's contributions to The Islands Grapevine since February 2022. Everything Dyer predicted about the US proxy war against Russia in Ukraine has turned out to be wrong, and worse still, the opposite has turned out to be true. And yet, for those stuck in a Cold War mindset, Dyer's credibility never seems to take a hit when he carries water for the warmongering NATO cabal in Washington D.C., London, and Brussels.

Dyer's prediction in April of 2022, was that the "devastating economic sanctions" would cripple the Russian economy. The sanctions that blocked foreign investment by Russian billionaires caused their fortunes to be repatriated into the Russian economy, which not only filled the void created by the exodus of Western corporate interests from Russia, it resulted in record investment in domestic infrastructure. Russian gas is now sold to third parties, and purchased by the same European countries enforcing the Russian energy boycott, at highly elevated prices. The Russian economy and currency are doing extremely well, and it is the European Union countries who've paid the price and are facing massive de-industrialization.

In May of 2022, Dyer employed his crystal ball to claim Russian President Vladimir Putin would soon be removed from office because "the war in Ukraine has fatally undermined his credibility among Russians." According to Western polls, and the 2024 Russian General Election, Putin's popularity has only been heightened to a level well above 80%. The U.S goal of weakening Russia, regime change in Moscow, and isolating Russia from the West, has only benefited the Russian government and inspired much closer relations with China. By October 2022, Dyer declared that "Putin still refuses to accept that this war in Ukraine is lost." It's nearly two years later and we see that it is the Western pundits like Dyer who refuse to acknowledge reality. Ukraine has lost this war, and they've lost it by a wide margin.

The two Minske Peace Accords had failed, with NATO admitting that it had been buying time to arm the Ukrainian ethno-nationalists in Eastern Ukraine, including Svoboda, Right Sector, and the neo-Nazi white supremacists of the Azov Battalion, who had killed 15,000 ethnic Russians since 2014. With the U.S. backed government in Kiyiv threatening to join NATO and put nuclear armaments on Russia's border, Russia invaded the Donbas region in Feb. 2022 with a stated intention of protecting ethnic Russians, de-Nazifying the region, and demilitarizing Ukraine. We all know what the U.S reaction would be if Russia made a pact with Canada or Mexico to place nuclear weapons on its border, as we've already been through the existential drama of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Dyer described the Russian incursion as "unprovoked."

Today, more than 500,000 brave Ukrainian soldiers are unnecessarily dead, with an untold number of casualties, when a peace deal had been reached back in April of 2022, a deal agreed to by the respective negotiators in Istanbul, as confirmed by former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennet who was there. At the last moment, clown hair model and former Conservative Prime Minister of Great Britain, Boris Johnson arrived in Turkey as NATO's emissary and told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that the lifeline of Western financial support for Ukraine would be withdrawn unless he agreed to walk away from the peace agreements he'd made. Zelensky was offered billions of dollars more in military aid, and instead of an end to the war, the U.S. and NATO wanted to "fight until the last Ukrainian." American arms manufacturers rejoiced.

Apparently, all these brave Cold Warriors no longer fear nuclear conflict, and the end to all life on the planet as we know it. While the Cold War was based on the dubious premise that fear of nuclear annihilation was a deterrent to a direct conflict between nuclear powers, octogenarian Gwynne Dyer is now praying for a nuclear rapture prior to his more natural expiration date. "Better dead than red" is Dyer's Russophobic inclination when it comes to who governs the Russian speaking oblasts in eastern Ukraine.

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*Continued on P.7...*

...continued from P.6

Ukraine was the most corrupt country in Europe prior to the war, and is now a failed state with no elected government, no functioning economy, no free press, no political opposition, and with some branches of the Orthodox Church having been outlawed. A quarter of Ukraine's population now lives in exile, and most are unlikely to return. Nothing says, "freedom and democracy" like Volodymyr Zelensky's martial law, his elected term having ended in May of this year. Thanks for the memories Gwynne! 🍷



OPINION

## Navigating troubled times

By Sally Campbell

Let's not demonize the truth-tellers. It is normal in times such as these to feel so desperate and frightened by the news that we distance ourselves from information that is too hard, too painful to hear. We seem to be going from horror to horror these days - one minute wringing our hands over the Israeli *deliberate obstruction* of aid to the starving and homeless people of Gaza, the next, reeling in astonishment at the fact that the largest empire in the history of the world will be "presided over" until late January, 2025, by a man with dementia, who is blindly sending billions of dollars in weapons to a genocidal rogue nation, and the next, learning of a new kind of warfare - injuring thousands of Lebanese innocents and killing many by detonating communication devices, followed by devastating aerial bombings - warfare being conducted, once again by Israel, to terrorize a population. It is all surreal, and the deep threat posed by these realities gets covered over by media and politicians' endless absorption in the next US election. And by whether or not you like the writing of Caitlin Johnstone. If you don't like her writing, don't read her. Focus on what matters. What matters in my view is that in the last several months, two of the more moderate leaders in the informal alliance called the "axis of resistance" (Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran and the Yemeni Houthis) - Ismail Haniyeh (Head of Hamas' political wing) and Hassan Nasrallah (Lebanese Secretary-General of Hezbollah) - have both been assassinated by Israel. These are two men who saw the big picture and have shown over the years their willingness and ability to negotiate. Naturally most people don't know that because attempts to negotiate and offers of peace agreements "from the enemy" don't make mainstream news. They are rarely reported, unless you go to such independent outlets as Democracy Now!, Helena Cobban/Just World Ed., Canadians for Justice & Peace in the Middle East, Max Blumenthal & Aaron Mate/The Grey Zone, Jewish Voice for Peace, Mondoweiss, Jonathan Cook, and Progressives International, to name a few.



Ismail Haniyeh  
circa 2020

Sayyid Nasrallah  
circa 2019

If the moderates are assassinated, it is not rocket science to expect that those more radical will take their place. What on earth is Israel thinking? That is anyone's guess, but Mouin Rabbani, a Dutch-Palestinian political analyst who has dedicated his scholarly career to Middle East issues, considers that Israel is deliberately using provocation. By murdering Hassan Nasrallah September 27th, and taking hundreds of innocents out with him, it is seeking to engage the countries surrounding Israel in a military conflagration that will necessarily involve the US and "fundamentally transform the strategic equation in the Middle East."

Rabbani says that Nasrallah was known as a strategic thinker, for playing the long game. That after 32 years in his leadership role, where he had deep personal bonds with his constituents, he may well be replaced by a younger generation focused on seeking revenge for its losses.

Israel wants to de-link Hezbollah from Gaza according to Rabbani, but Hezbollah is "not a small militia. Decades in the making, it is a very deeply entrenched and sophisticated organization...it would take years of much more intensive efforts to dismantle it, ...[as it] has a very deep bench". (Owen Jones interview with Rabbani, 28 September, 2024) Hezbollah has for years

Continued on P.8...

...continued from P.7 been part of the Lebanese coalition government, is an integral part of Lebanese society, and currently has two government ministries.

Over the course of the last 11 months, we have heard of numerous incursions by Hezbollah into Israel and the displacement of thousands of Israelis from Northern Israel, but it was only a BBC investigation that recently reported that 80% of the armed military exchanges came from Israel against Hezbollah. And how often do we hear that hundreds of thousands of Lebanese have been displaced from Southern Lebanon at the hands of Israel? This is just another example of media bias and why it can be so confusing to unravel.

More on the late Ismail Haniyeh, former Head of Hamas' political wing, coming soon.

As my dear mum would occasionally say: "I've heard both sides and I just don't know who to blame". Well, in this case as with the US proxy war in Ukraine, it does not need to be about blame; it's about responsibility and accountability. Who is supplying the weapons? Who is fueling the fight from the sidelines? What is our role as Canadians? Who is demonizing one side and making diplomacy a non-starter? Most of all for me as an old person, what are we teaching our young ones when we consider this dangerous state of affairs our "new normal"? We all know that violence begets violence and we must not ever become inured to it. We have to take a strong stand for an end to the violence and a return to other ways of resolving conflict. It is easy to negotiate with people we identify and agree with. Much harder and absolutely necessary in these troubled times is the act of "having tea with our demons". Our leaders have to sit down like grownups and talk about their differences with "the enemy". This is big work and there are many capable people who can assist in such endeavours, including Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who is calling out to the world to recognize its double standards and abide by international law. So let's not let ourselves become distracted by the blame game. Eyes wide open. 🍷

## Letters to the Editor Caitlin Johnstone: An Alternate View.

Caitlin Johnstone is a fully crowdfunded journalist who answers to no one and can speak her truth as she sees it.... Just as we can do in our beloved Grapevine. Her goals;

*"To do every little thing I can do to help save the world. Humanity seems to be hurtling toward extinction by way of climate destruction or nuclear annihilation, both of which are movements held in place by a transnational alliance of plutocrats and secret government agencies. This unelected power establishment, (which is sometimes referred to as the Deep State...) seems to be motivated not by any ideology, nor any loyalty to any particular nation, but by sheer hunger for limitless power. I place emphasis on the United States because that's where the largest amount of power appears to be centralized."*

I will continue with one more quote from Caitlin:

*"It isn't the West versus Russia. It isn't Left versus Right. At this time, the real conflict in our societies is a few ruling elites and their cronies versus humanity's natural impulse to act in a way that is beneficial to humanity."*

*All we need to do is to help that Impulse to flourish, get out of our oligarchy imposed brain boxes, and build a new world."*

These quotes clearly demonstrate to me why Caitlin and her partner, Tim Foley's work merits a place in our Islands Grapevine. We are living in a time when the behaviour and the goals of the Elite are coming into view, slowly but surely. Hopefully, our brain boxes" will continue to discard the programming that we have all been subjected to and help us to create a much healthier, holistic world in the near future.

Carpe Diem and Peace and Love as us old hippies say.

## Capitalism Is A Mental Illness

By Caitlin Johnstone  
September 26th, 2024

I saw a fascinating tweet by BloomTech CEO Austen Allred the other day that stirred up a lot of thoughts here.

“Of the Silicon Valley founders I know who went on some of the psychedelic self-discovery trips, almost 100% quit their jobs as

CEO within a year,” Allred said, adding, “Could be random anecdotes, but be careful with that stuff.”

Allred tweeted this in response to writer Ashlee Vance sharing that he’d been told by a venture capitalist, “We’ve lost several really good founders to ayahuasca. They came back and just didn’t care about much anymore.”

There’s some very useful information in those words. They reveal a lot about the insane mess our species finds itself in in today’s world, and provide insight into how we might find our way out.



I mean, think about it. How bizarre is it that our entire civilization is structured around values and priorities which are so fake and ridiculous that ingesting an ancient psychedelic potion causes even wealthy CEOs to quit their jobs and change their lives?



All it takes is a slight shift in consciousness, a

little tilt in perspective, and you immediately see that this whole rat race of domination and acquisition and productivity and wealth hoarding that all our political

and economic systems have as their foundational premise is completely destructive to happiness and human thriving.

It’s not surprising that this is happening, though. People achieve their goals and become immensely wealthy, and they start wondering why they’re still unhappy. They do a little seeking and wind up taking ayahuasca in Peru, and then they watch all the psychological mechanisms which drove them to claw their way up the corporate ladder crumble before their very eyes.

Of course CEOs are now warning each other to “be careful with that stuff”; it poses a direct existential threat to their CEOness.

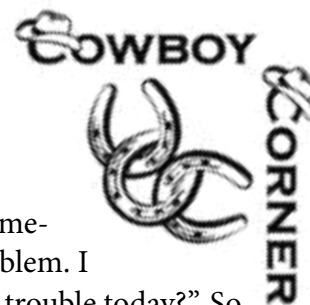
Psychedelics are useful not for the hallucinations they provide but for the hallucinations they dispel. You actually have to be mentally ill to achieve what this profoundly sick society of ours defines as “success”. Your head has to be full of a bunch of fantasies and fictional narratives which have no basis in material reality. You’ve got to have a hole in yourself that cannot be filled with any amount of wealth or power or private jets or private islands. That’s the only thing that can propel you to step on top of all the people you need to step on in order to become obscenely rich. And those are the hallucinations that a good hallucinogen can knock right out of your skull.

It isn’t necessary to travel to the Amazon rainforest to be liberated from the madness of this capitalist civilization. It isn’t even necessary to take psychedelics. All it takes is rigorous self-examination and inner work, and a burning desire to perceive life as it really is. Devoutly and sincerely question all your beliefs about reality, right down to your most basic assumptions about the nature of fundamental aspects of your experience, like existence, self, other, perception, thought, and awareness. Find those gaping emotional wounds and maladaptive coping mechanisms within yourself, and with uncompromising self-honesty bring them into consciousness to be healed.

Do this and inner clarity becomes inevitable. The unavoidable fruits of deep, sincere looking make it impossible to sustain the will to do all the backstabbing and throat cutting necessary to obtain that next billion dollars, but they will give you the peace and wellbeing that you are actually looking for underneath that false desire. They will fill that hole you were trying to fill with wealth and achievement and our society’s perverse definition of success. They will allow you to have real happiness, not because of anything you have accomplished or obtained or won from your imagined competitors, but because you exist, and because this world is unfathomably beautiful. That’s all we’re really seeking. That’s what people are really going for when they dedicate their lives to becoming millionaires and then billionaires and then trillionaires. We all just want inner peace and happiness, which we can have if we do what’s necessary to dispel the hallucinations that keep us from realizing it’s already here. 🍷

## Cowboy Corner: A Visit To The Doctor

By Conrad Campbell



I finally had to succumb to the pain in my shoulder. It just became unbearable. I tried all these home remedies and nothing worked. At first I figured I strained it by lifting something really heavy. Then I thought that maybe I had some sort of repetitive motion disorder brought upon by several years of something I have no recollection of doing. So I decided to go to a Doctor to figure out the problem. I walked into her Office and the first thing she said was, "Hello! And what seems to be the trouble today?" So I briefly explained my symptoms and then she interrupted and said, "Well, first of all, you've got an arrow sticking out of you. How long have you been walking around like this? It's a miracle that you're alive". Then I looked down and realized she was right. So I gave her twelve dollars because that was all the money I had on me at the time and went home and drank which I will readily admit was quite a bit more beer than I should have and then had a smoke or two and decided the logical course of action was to pull the offending projectile out with a pair of vice grips. It worked, but I would not recommend this procedure at all. However, if you do, you will need to take a 12 or 16 gauge shotgun shell, insert a knife into the top portion between the folded edges, carefully bend the flaps back, empty out the pellets, then pry out the paper wad below with the same knife, then pour the gunpowder into the wound, and light. This procedure will cauterize the area and decrease the likelihood of infection. Oh, and don't attempt this near an open jug of kerosene. I learned that the hard way. 🍷



Fall morning on east Denman  
Randall Jason Fox

**Wicked Shovel Excavating and Landscaping**

Clearing and debris removal,  
post pounder, auger and custom  
fencing  
Stump grinding, tree transplant,  
ditching and drainage, custom  
landscape design, trail building,  
beach access

**Doug Schmidt** 250 222 8076

## Otto of the beach

By Alan Black





250-335-9143

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

## ADVERTISING SERVICES & PRICING

*Prices effective as of Sept. 5th, 2024*

*All prices include GST*

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- 1 week • \$10.35
- 2 weeks • \$18.96 (\$9.48/wk)
- 3 weeks • \$25.89 (\$8.63/wk)
- 4 weeks • \$34.52 (\$8.63/wk)
- 5 weeks • \$40.95 (\$8.19/wk)
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*- or -*

*we can print it:*

*\$9.82/100 (letter-sized - one-side)*

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Front Page • \$25.87/1x1

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*Please ask about our discounts for ordering and prepaying for multiple ad placements. Refer to examples below for actual ad sizes. We cover everything from a small 1x1 to full page.*

1x1 (1.2"x2.4")

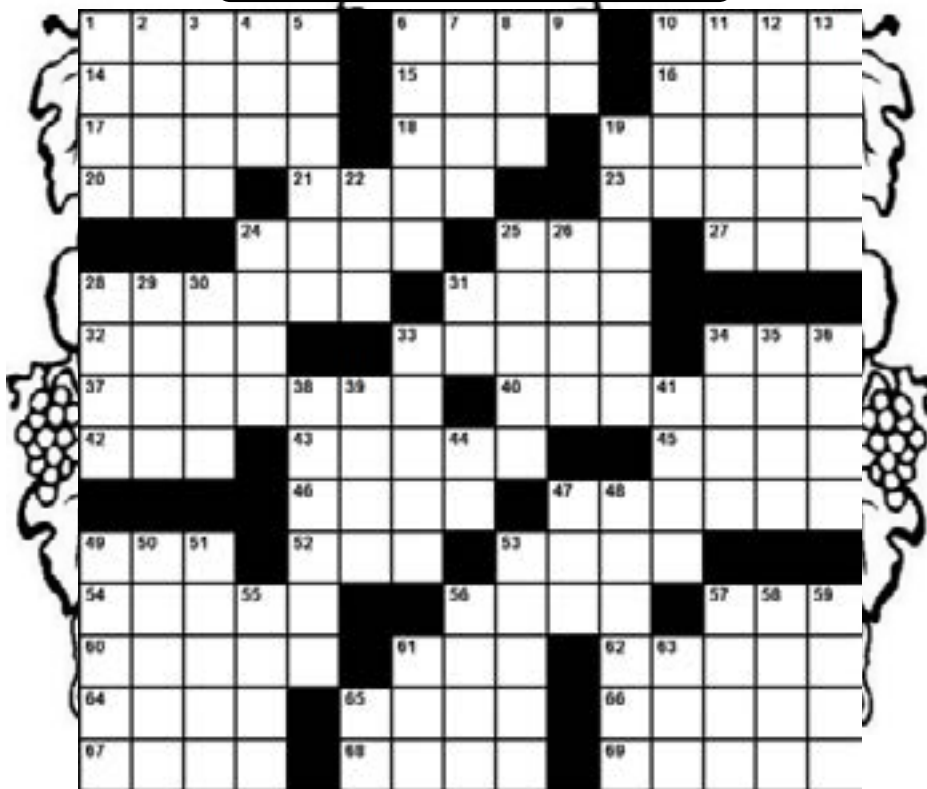
2x2

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3x1

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Ballet company
6. Baby's call
10. Slays, gang style
14. Cockamamie
15. Has a bill
16. Airplane fixture
17. Common door sign
18. Bar concern
19. Any Elvis recording
20. Asst. prof.
21. 6/6/1944
23. Country pathway
24. Sullen
25. Air pump meas.
27. High deg.
28. Bailiwick
31. Before mobile or mat
32. Hard work
33. Force out
34. Be left on base
37. Of a son's love
40. Emetic plants
42. Breakfasted
43. Entangled
45. At the apex of
46. Bar fixtures
47. Florist's study
49. Con's flight
52. Bauxite bonanza
53. Not his and hers
54. Cover story
56. Canary or wren
57. Cause for

overtime

60. Bustles
61. Nothing at all
62. Dramatize
64. Justice Black
65. Concocted
66. Poet Conrad
67. Biblical garden
68. Retired
69. Tibetan capital

• DOWN •

1. New Zealand bird
2. A party to
3. Butters
4. Any person
5. Pushcart operator
6. Drilling site
7. On leave
8. Cat's cry
9. Like
10. Capital on the Aker river
11. Sick and tired
12. Kind of healer
13. Charger
19. Baltimore bird
22. About to arrive
24. Cold cut place
25. Iris center
26. Dance piece
28. Attic promenade
29. Bard
30. Animal skin
31. Wood chopping tool
33. Bolt together
34. Computer fare
35. Computer pix
36. Get a glimpse of
38. Regional dialect of a language
39. A ways off
41. Alley prowlers
44. You and I
47. Chestnut cage
48. Trying experience
49. Potter's wheel

50. For all to hear
51. Gnat cousin
53. Greased
55. Blessing
56. Linger
57. Currency of Bangladesh
58. Cools
59. A suburb of Pittsburgh
61. Arrest
63. U.S. med. research ctr.
65. A Kettle

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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| 5 | 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ 2 years ago, the doctor told me I was losing my hearing. Haven't heard from him since then. ”



• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

• **SERVICES** •

Exterior cleaning service. Offering cleaning solutions for your windows, gutters, roofs, decks, driveways, chimneys, siding, awnings, etc. Reasonable rates with professional results. Call or text Bjorn for free estimate. 250 465 8645

GUTTERS seamless, supply and install also repairs, for free estimate contact Kevin at 250 335 1986 or cell at 250 667 3233. Serving All Areas.

MR. FIX-IT PLUMBING & All household major and small appliances. All large and small machinery. Yard machinery, chainsaws, outboards, automotive, sharpening, welding and fabricating. Call Rick Graham 335-0954.(HI)

• **FOR SALE** •

ALPACA fleeces for sale. 2024 shear. ALPACA YARN. ALPACA SOCKS & MITTS 335-1117 Rose - Denman Island

Denman Island local cedar kindling sales. Wildcrafted. Artisanal! Damn Cheap! Your fire will thank you! By burning!!  
DISCLAIMER: "Denman Island natural cedar kindling" is not intended to diagnose or treat any medical condition. For external use only. 250-897-8184

• **CLASSIFIED ADS** •

+APPLIANCES FOR SALE. Ranges, washers, dryers, fridges, dishwashers, gas/electric range. All fully restored and come with a full six month warranty. Call Rick Graham 335-0954.

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

• **FOR RENT** •

27 ton log splitter for rent . \$60/day \$200/week, delivered. 2507025933

• **LESSONS** •

Drum Kit Lessons  
Beau Stocker - beaustocker.com  
Denman/Union Bay/Buckley Bay/Fanny Bay  
In person - in your house/studio or my Union Bay Studio  
60/45/30 minute lessons  
lord.dusty92@gmail.com

• **COMMUNITY NOTICES** •

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

**HIRRA meetings back at the Hall:** Wed., Oct 9, 7:30pm. Hybrid meeting in-person at the Community Hall and by Zoom. **AGENDA:** Islands Trust, CVRD Director, HICEEC. Everyone welcome! E-mail office@hirra.ca.

• **Lost & Found** •

**Found:** Toyota hubcap at corner of Denman and Farley, across from the vet's office. It's now propped up against the stop sign awaiting retrieval.



*RIP Ashes  
2007-Oct.1st, 2024  
Such a sweet kitty!*

**ISLANDS GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL POLICIES**

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

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

Whether covering events that entertain us, presenting issues that concern and affect us or highlighting the many interesting and gifted people we call neighbour, the Grapevine celebrates the diversity and inclusivity of our shared island life. The following is our policy on content:

- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op ed are published free of charge.
- Literary content including poetry, stories, belle lettres are published free of charge.
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service announcements, notices of meetings, and news releases will be published for a fee. Exceptions will be made for emergencies where the public is immediately endangered.
- With regret, no exceptions can be made for non-profit status.
- Letters to the Editor are published free of charge.

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

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

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



## • BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

### • ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

• Denman Activity Centre (Seniors) Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)

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

• Tuele Group, Royal LePage in the Comox Valley,

Jenessa & Donna 250 335 1720

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• Shel Brodsgaard • Excavation & Services • 250-703-3898 (D/H)

• Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer

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

• Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer • Lora Mercieca

• 250-650-9986 (D/H)

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

• Wicked Shovel Excavating & Landscaping • Doug Schmidt •

250-222-8076 (All)

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

### • SERVICES •

• Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)

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

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

• Tree Service & Towing • Antoine • Certified • Insured • Local 250-207-3884

• Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D/H)

### • HEALTH & WELLNESS •

• Acupuncture • Margot Davey, R.Ac. • 778-992-0165 (D)

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

• Physiotherapy • Christopher Mainella 250-335-2260

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

• Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac. • 250-508-8160

• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D/H)

## FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 3

• 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  
• Contemporary Dance Class 5:30-6:30pm D.A.C.  
• Hatha Yoga 4:15pm-5:30pm The Gathering Place

FRIDAY 4

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• AA Meeting DIUC United Church  
Gathering Place 7pm  
• Trauma-Skilled Workshop 6-8:30pm Back Hall

SATURDAY 5

• 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  
• Trauma-Skilled Workshop 10am-3pm Back Hall

SUNDAY 6

• 'Yintah' Film screening 6pm Community Hall

MONDAY 7

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm

TUESDAY 8

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• Chair Yoga 11am-12:15pm The Gathering Place  
• D.I. LTC Meeting 10am DAC

WEDNESDAY 9

• RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm  
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm  
• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• Gyrokinesis 9:30-10:30am D.I. Arts Centre  
• HIRRA Hybrid Meeting 7:30pm Hornby Hall

THURSDAY 10

• 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  
• Contemporary Dance Class 5:30-6:30pm D.A.C.  
• Hatha Yoga 4:15pm-5:30pm The Gathering Place

FRIDAY 11

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm

SATURDAY 12

• RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm  
• BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm  
• FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30  
• FREE STORE 9-Noon  
• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• DI Apple & Nut Fest 9:30-12:30pm Old School

SUNDAY 13

MONDAY 14

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm

TUESDAY 15

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• Chair Yoga 11am-12:15pm The Gathering Place  
• DICES AGM 2:45pm The Hub

WEDNESDAY 16

• RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm  
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm  
• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm  
• Gyrokinesis 9:30-10:30am D.I. Arts Centre  
• DAAC Open Mike 7:30pm Back Hall

THURSDAY 17

• 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  
• Contemporary Dance Class 5:30-6:30pm D.A.C.

