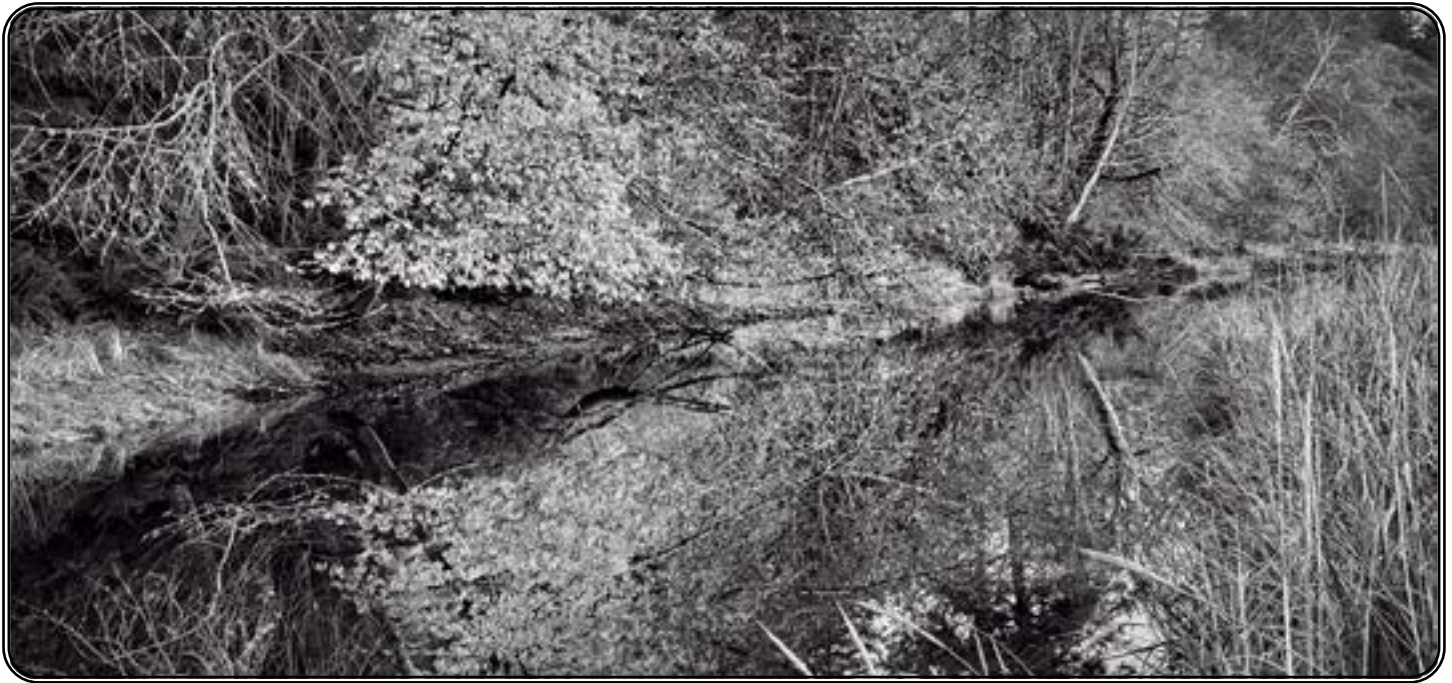




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Beadnell Creek in the Fall

by Mark Prior

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



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Blackberry Lane Children's Centre Dessert Table at the 2024 Christmas Craft Fair

COMMUNITY NEWS

By Blackberry Lane Preschool

It is being held on December 7th & 8th, and Blackberry Lane, the island's only licensed childcare facility, is once again hosting the dessert table in the back hall and has been for over 20 years! We rely on donations to make this event a success and our Centre relies on fundraising to help us continue to operate. This is a great time to bake that special item you love to make but don't want to eat all of or maybe you want to double your favourite recipe to share. Brownies, cinnamon buns, pies, cakes and gingerbread creatures are always excellent sellers! We accept donations starting at 9:30 on Saturday morning in the backhall, and throughout the weekend. Please label dishes if you would like them returned and including an ingredient list is helpful!

In addition to baked goods, the Blackberry Lane table will also be selling bags and raffle tickets for an amazing raffle we are drawing for in February 2025. We will have hot coffee and tea to enjoy alongside our delicious treats. Thank you to our wonderful community for your ongoing support of Blackberry Lane Children's Centre which has been in operation for over 43 years! 🍷

COMMUNITY NEWS

Olde Tyme Christmas Dinner

By The Olde Tyme Christmas

Dinner Committee

Be sure to mark Sunday, December 22nd on your calendar. That's the date of this year's "Olde Tyme" Christmas Party at the Denman Community Hall, starting at 5:00 pm.

This unique historical event, started by Diana and Mike Comeau more than 20 years ago, brings together many community members in the spirit of friendship and sharing. Watch, and listen for, Santa and his Elf to arrive at about 7:00.

Families with young children might want to consider arriving after 6:00, as we know how excited little people can get restless in anticipation.

The basics – turkey, dressing, potatoes, peas and carrots, gravy, cranberries and beverages – are provided.

We request that you bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Also to help reduce the amount of trash created, please bring your own plate, cup and cutlery.

Your help is needed. This event would not happen, were it not for the volunteers (about 60) who work the morning of, during the party, and the morning after, not to mention those involved in the preparation the week before. Shifts on Sunday are approximately 1 to

continued on P.3...

Co-Counselling Training Introduction

By DICES

Co-Counselling Training Introduction
with delicious vegan soup!
Wednesday, December the 11th
5:30-7:30 pm in the HUB
Free!
Pre-registration required.

What is Co-counselling?

Co-counselling is a peer-to-peer framework where people take turns holding space for one another to attend to their emotional struggles. Each participant has equal time to receive and give support using the co-counselling method. In this introductory evening, you will learn more about the method and have opportunities to practice co-counselling skills. This evening is an opportunity to see whether you might like to join us for an upcoming 10-week training course beginning in January.

The training course (20 hours over 10 weeks) is designed for individuals who want to explore and gain skills around emotional literacy. The training provides a safe, supportive environment to learn and practice co-counselling skills. Whether you're seeking emotional insight for yourself or tools to help others, this hands-on training equips you with the knowledge, techniques, and experience to practice co-counselling effectively. Co-counselling is an accessible, community care model for everyone. This training will deepen participants' listening skills, mindful communication, and emotional awareness. These skills can be applied in a variety of settings (including, but not limited to, intentional peer-to-peer support sessions).

Is there a cost?

This introductory session is free of charge. The 20-hour training course (to be offered January 8–March 12, 2025) has a fee attached (TBA). Once you have learned the skills and can practice them effectively, practicing co-counselling with others is free for the rest of your life.

Who is leading the course?

David Berger <https://www.davidaubreyberger.com/> and Miki Fox <https://www.mikifox.rocks/>

Pre-registration is required for December 11th.

Email Miki at dices.communityprograms@gmail.com or call her at 250.335.2058.

...continued from P.2 1 ½ hours long.

Last year we served a record 350 meals. Let's see if we can break that record. The dinner is financially supported by donations from the community to purchase all food, drink and gifts. Donations can be dropped at earth club factory in jar or etransfer to oldeTymeChristmasDinner@gmail.com or to volunteer.

Thank you

The Olde Tyme Christmas Dinner Committee

TIDE TABLE

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

2024-11-21 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
03:07	1	3.1
10:51	5	16.4
17:33	3.4	11.1
20:49	3.6	11.7
2024-11-22 (Fri)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
03:55	1.4	4.6
11:39	4.9	16.1
18:55	3.1	10.1
22:17	3.3	10.8
2024-11-23 (Sat)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
04:46	1.9	6.1
12:25	4.8	15.7
19:56	2.7	8.9
2024-11-24 (Sun)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
00:08	3.1	10.3
05:42	2.3	7.6
13:05	4.7	15.4
20:40	2.4	7.7
2024-11-25 (Mon)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
02:09	3.2	10.6
06:42	2.7	8.9
13:38	4.6	15.1
21:15	2	6.6
2024-11-26 (Tue)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
03:39	3.5	11.4
07:43	3	10
14:05	4.5	14.9
21:44	1.7	5.7
2024-11-27 (Wed)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
04:39	3.8	12.4
08:44	3.3	10.9
14:28	4.5	14.6
22:10	1.5	4.8
2024-11-28 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
05:24	4.1	13.3
09:39	3.5	11.5
14:49	4.4	14.4
22:35	1.2	4.1



Shucking Oysters: We Warned You

By Alex Allen

When we buy a bag of peanuts (“ingredients: 100% peanuts”), do we really need a warning – just in case we had a momentary memory lapse – that the bag “contains peanuts”? And do we really need the warning on plastic bags reminding us “this bag is not a toy”? (Well, actually in my youth it was a toy, along with an empty appliance box.) Is it because we are all dewy eyed cows in a pasture oblivious to the dangers that surround us? Or is there something sinister going on?

Gerald D. Skoning wrote in the American Spectator that, “Despite all the warnings in the marketplace, folks are injured, maimed, and even killed because of their own stupidity.” In the US, the most litigious society on earth, the rules of the government favour those hoping to make a quick buck. Companies have been sued successfully so many times for not having warning labels that they have to be overly-the-top-protective. To the point of parody.

On a package of children’s Benadryl, “avoid alcoholic drinks...be careful when driving a motor vehicle...if pregnant or breastfeeding...keep out of reach of children.” This is an antihistamine for children. A warning sticker on a Snow Flite (a plastic roll-up carpet sled): “Do not use on or near streets, roadways, driveways, sidewalks, near trees or obstacles, on steep slopes or icy conditions, serious injury or death could occur from these.” “No Taylor, inside on the living room floor. And put your helmet and goggles on. I don’t want to hear another peep about it.”

If you’re able to read .005 mm type, on a Bic lighter you are warned: “Ignite lighter away from face and clothing.” Even in an electric drill manual we need to be reminded: “Do not use a power tool while you are tired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication. A moment of inattention while operating power tools may result in serious personal injury.”

For the rest of us who have a modicum of common sense, these warnings are sad. Skoning adds, “the seat belt alarms, door ajar buzzers, this vehicle-is-backing-up warning beepers, and the blizzard of warning labels are an insult to anyone with the IQ of a turnip.” [Let alone, a Daikon radish.]

In product liability law, marketing defects, known as “failure to warn claims,” are among the most common types of claims brought against manufacturers and sellers. Warning labels are critical pieces of evidence making or breaking the outcome of a product liability case. You were almost suffocated when you were playing with the plastic bag? Sorry, we warned you.

Manufacturers and sellers have a duty to warn. Not just to what might happen when someone uses their product properly but also to what might happen if someone doesn’t. On a box of Eddie matches: “Close box before striking.” The warning has to be specific about the potential risks and provide clear instructions on how to avoid them. “Do not use iron while wearing clothing.”

Those car sun shields that provide a privacy screen and protect your dashboard have a warning: “Do not drive with sun shield in place.” (I wish I read the warning before boarding the ferry one summer, it wasn’t pleasant.) In a court of law, “if misuse is foreseeable and not warned against, it may be considered a failure to warn.” Idiot proof. And the most ignored warning of all? On the box of Q-Tips: “Do not insert swab into ear canal.”

So, essentially manufacturers have to consider every conceivable, plausible, hare-brained, idiotic, stupid thing someone could do with their product and warn people accordingly. That’s insane. Consider the ubiquitous scrubby sponge. Warning! This is not a cosmetic applicator. Warning! This is not a toy. Do not leave with child unattended. Warning! Do not eat. Warning! Abrasive surface. Warning! Do not use as fire starter. Warning! May cause slippage when wet. Warning! Do not use as insulation. Warning! Choking hazard. Warning! This is not a flotation device. Warning! May contain crustaceans.

We are a sorry lot. Not only do we have to be saved, coddled and protected from the dangers *continued on P.5...*

...continued from P.4 we encounter, we need to have our hand held every step of the way. We require detailed instructions on everything. My partner bought a "fashion scarf," with these complimentary steps attached: "hold one corner of the scarf (a) and grab the middle. Wrap around your neck (b) and adjust as needed." If those instructions were too complicated, illustrations were provided. You wonder how women were wearing the scarf before. Tucked in waist (c) and wrapped around left wrist (d) while tossed over right shoulder (e)?

I bought a bird feeder the other day. Glad I read the "Filling Instructions" which helpfully reminded me to remove lid and then fill with seed and then replace lid and hang feeder. I would have been lost without those words of guidance. Now, where do I hang the feeder?



If it's all about jackasses and liability, maybe we should just put this warning on everything: "Using while stupid may cause serious injury." 🍷

SPECIAL INTEREST

Palestine Film Night: Tues. Dec 3rd

By Eartha Muirhead

All are welcome to a screening of *Where The Olive Trees Weep*, at the DI Community Hall, on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Doors open at 5:30 pm, film begins at 6pm. Entrance is by donation and since this is over the dinner hour, soup and bread will be available by donation. All proceeds go to help children in

Gaza.

Where Olive Trees Weep offers a searing window into the struggles and resilience of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. The film explores themes of loss, trauma and the quest for justice and follows Palestinian journalist and therapist Ashira Darwish, grassroots activist Ahed Tamimi, and Israeli journalist Amira Hass. Featured also is Dr. Gabor Maté, who offers trauma-healing work to a group of women who were tortured in Israeli prisons. This emotional journey bares the humanity of the oppressed while grappling with the question: what makes the oppressor so ruthlessly blind to its own cruelty?

After the movie we are offering a facilitated conversation as a safe space to share the thoughts and feelings that the movie evokes.

According to Democracy Now, Israel's siege is blocking almost all humanitarian aid and supplies into Gaza. This siege can not be seen as self-defense, since it affects mostly Palestinian civilians, women and children. Top UN officials are again warning that the ENTIRE Palestinian population in North Gaza are "at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence." Jan Egeland, a seasoned diplomat and Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, was recently in Gaza. He described what he saw as "apocalyptic... an indiscriminate military campaign that is killing mostly women and children." Egeland is pleading with Biden to withdraw all weapons sales to Israel and says that: "It is not in Israel's interest to destroy Gaza. It will create new generations of hatred." To learn more about the Palestine/Israel conflict, please attend a showing of *Where The Olive Trees Weep*, at the DI Community Hall, on Tuesday, Dec. 3, soup and bread available, doors open at 5:30 pm. Film begins at 6pm. By donation.

If you want to find out more Independent Jewish Voices and Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East are two organizations with informative websites and come join us on December 3rd. 🍷

Green Wizardries: **The Way Forward**

By Maxine Rogers

When it comes right down to it, life is pretty simple. When you don't have much, putting food on the tables and, indeed having a table under a roof, takes on a new and alarming significance. Food prices have gone up 26% over the last five years according to a study on food prices done by five Canadian universities. I think we have all noticed the sharp rise

in food prices.

I read the 2023 study that forecast a Canadian family of four would be spending \$1,358 a month on food in 2024. That is not what happened in many cases as families simply did not have the extra money to spend. What did happen is that people stopped eating out, started to skip meals and they started to change the types of food they buy and prepare.

If there was ever a time to start a food garden, this is the year. To give you some idea of how growing some of your own food can help with your budget, I talked to a family I know who grow a lot of their own food. They spend \$550.00 a month on groceries for a family of two. Their grocery purchases include things like soap, detergent for the washing machine and other non-food items.

They also have animals and spend \$360.00 a month on animal food for their chickens, other livestock and pets. That brings them up to a total of \$910.00 for food for their whole establishment. They are downsizing the number of animals they keep as the price of animal feed is becoming very expensive too. The animals provide a great quantity of manure for their garden which is quite lush and productive. They grow fruit, vegetables, flowers for the table, culinary herbs, medicinal herbs and dye plants.

This year, some other friends got some seeds for squash from the Woven Grove on Denman. This is a little farm run by Dylan Gale and his wife Emily Guinane. They had seeds for the Oregon Homestead Sweetmeat squash bred by author Carol Deppe. Deppe has a PhD in genetics from Harvard university and she is committed to breeding open-pollinated crops that will produce heaps of food. Her books on farming and gardening are a treasure trove of great information. The crop of Oregon Sweetmeats this year was a bit frightening.

I was growing food with a couple of other families. I grew the garlic and split it among the three families, one family grew sweetcorn and the third family grew the squash. The squash family grew some Red Kuri squash which are small and pretty. "Kuri," is Japanese for chestnut as the flesh of this squash is very dense and sweet and has a nutty flavour. I thought I had made a very good trade when my friend turned up with a wheelbarrow of these lovely little red squash. That was the first delivery.

The next day, she came by with a carload of Oregon Sweetmeat squash which are supposed to be 10 to 20 lbs but some of the ones I received were much larger so that I could scarcely lift them. Deppe bred them to produce a great deal of food so their seed chamber is very small. I had one too large to fit in my oven so I had to cut it in half. One half was solid meat and the other half had a little pocket of seeds.

These squash are more yellow and not as sweet as the Kuri squash. Once baked, their meat has a consistency similar to spaghetti squash and is very tasty in a soup or roasted and served with butter. Winter squash also go well in Thai and Indian curries. Roasted and mashed squash freezes well for later meals.

Some people raise a lot of these huge squash and cook the second-quality specimens up to supplement the feed for their ducks and chickens which is a good idea with the high cost of animal feed. Squash are also a great food for sheep who benefit from eating the seeds as they are a good wormer. The Ore-

continued on P.7...

...continued from P.6
gon Sweetmeat squash is a very good keeper, lasting in some cases until the next summer so they are a good source of food in the early spring, Huger Gap.

You will be able to find some seeds for these excellent squash, which also make great pies, at Denman's Seedy Saturday's Seed Exchange Table 25 January 2025. Woven Grove does not sell seeds but they do share seeds with the community. They should also have seeds for a Butternut Remix which is a landrace of open-pollinated butternut squash that come in all shapes and sizes of the Butternut range.

Another seed they should be offering is the Gem Squash which is a summer squash from South Africa but it is more like a starchy winter squash although ripe in the summer. In South Africa, they boil the Gems. Dylan prefers to cut them in half and bake them and eat them with some butter. The Gem is ready by late July so that is another interesting squash to try. Next week, I will be explaining how to start a garden bed now so it will be ready to work in the spring. 🍷



Loving the Small

By Sally Campbell

I used to dread November every year. After all, my birthday was over, Thanksgiving done, not yet ski season, light diminishing daily, arrrgh, far away from family and friend celebration time, especially Solstice in our case (you can fill in your own event here). And oh the music of the holiday season. If you can avoid the canned, overplayed “pop” carols which, like french fries, are so great to begin with, such old familiars, but unlike old friends, pretty quickly become soggy and tiresome – there is so much wonderful music at year’s end. But November means we’re not there yet. I mean, aren’t we still in the fall? My November-is-miserable mind labored hard to resist the inevitable. I guess that “inevitable” part didn’t occur to me. This is one of the real gifts of being old. Things that were not apparent during my earlier years have become really clear, in some cases, and it makes my life so much easier. My mindset around November is an example. So, I really did not look forward to November despite the fact that it occurred every year without fail, truly without fail. What was I thinking? In the past, I dealt with the annual negativity by working a lot during November which turned out to be a pretty good strategy if you are a person who loves their work, as I did.

Now that I don’t work anymore, I needed a different strategy. I didn’t want to be busy and accomplishing all the time. I remember starting T’ai Chi Ch’uan with Doreen Hynd when I was age 63. I fell in love with it my very first lesson. Very soon after, I “gave myself” 7 years to learn the practice well enough to be able to teach it. This I knew was ambitious, given that Doreen herself went back to the very beginnings of her practice and “began” all over again after 12 years of learning. That was her lesson to me about beginner’s mind. It took me maybe a year into lessons with Doreen to realize that I actually could just simply enjoy what I was doing and not have to become proficient at it. Doreen never spoke to me of that, but nonetheless it was a lesson I learned from her. T’ai Chi Ch’uan (“The Practice of the Essence”) is a life-long learning event. And the joy is in *continued on P.8...*



...continued from P.7 the journey because you never will reach perfection. The perfection is being in the pattern of movements that comprise the Wu style which Doreen taught. The perfection is in the practising; there is no end goal.

I receive so many lessons from this practice, as I would expect with any ongoing learning experience that ideally takes place outside, involves movement, the senses, and a quiet mind.

Now I realize I appreciate November more each year. This time of noticing and engaging in the little things. The time of making applesauce and soup, of going to bed a bit earlier with that book, of lighting the fire with gratitude for where we live. Time of the hot bath or savouring the long hot shower. Just getting outside whatever the day; that makes the difference for me. Small things like warm socks. Contacting a friend I haven't been in touch with for awhile and renewing the connection. I also like the cooking part of these early darkening evenings – just having something “local” on the stove or in the oven brings good feelings – food prepared locally, sold locally, grown locally, I love that we can do this, living here on our treasure islands. What do you like best about November? 

OPINION

Letters To The Editor CityWest Optic Cable

Like many of us on Denman and Hornby I have now been connected to the CityWest optical system. I opted for the slowest speed of 30Mbps at \$68 monthly, internet only; I am keeping our phone with Telus so far; we have no use for a suite of cable TV channels.

The installation was easy, direct, and quick. The first stage was a trench up our driveway to install a gray connection box on the side of our house. They easily avoided our underground power cable. Then a thin 6mm (quarter-inch) cable was run from the connection box up the outside wall and through into my heated crawl space. From there a single hole through the drywall brought the cable to the same place on my desk that the Telus modem occupied. Once the optical cable was connected to the Gigaspire Blast u6x modem and tested I simply switched all my internet cables from the Telus Actiontec T3200M—I like to wire as many devices as possible; then I went online and changed the Gigaspire passwords to match the Telus ones and, presto, all wireless devices I have now connected with no problems whatsoever.

So will it all make a difference? For me not much. I generally have only a single machine accessing the internet at any given time and I usually keep it wired rather than using WiFi. On my computer I don't indulge in many data intensive operations but I do watch several video streaming services using an internet connection—Mhz, Britbox, France24, DW, Acorn, Kanopy, Aljazeera, CBC Gem, etc.—and my consistent Telus speed of 5 Mbps over the past decade has sufficed to handle all this without buffering. At my pace the only real difference I see is a satisfactory increase in downloading speed for the very few large files I occasionally get. The real advantage will show up is in those households with more and more people and devices all attempting to use the internet at the same time. Or those users who pass gigantic files back and forth on the internet. Or 4K broadcast TV when it becomes widespread. And gamers, of course. So why did I choose to switch? Largely because of Telus' poor policy. A year ago Telus phased out installation of any new copper cable service but offered no plans to supply the optic replacement to folks out in the boonies. I had a Telus sales person offer me a 1000 Mbps service for \$35 monthly and when I explained that this required optical cable and was impossible on our island she simply ignored me and continued to ask me to sign up for a service unavailable on Hornby. Although I have to admit that \$35 for a service that CityWest charges \$138 was kind of appealing!

For those of you who might be worried about being blasted with an increased dose of EMR you can take heart for optical cables do not transmit electricity and thus do not have a electromagnetic field generated around them. The light that is transmitted is a part of the overall electromagnetic spectrum but it does not share the relationship of electricity and magnetism and so does not create any EMR. So the cable coming up my driveway as well as the cable from the connection box to the modem have actually di- *continued on P.9...*

...continued from P.8 minished the amount of EMR generated by your Telus telephone line although, if truth be told, the EMR field generated by a telephone cable is infinitesimal compared to that of the power lines passing by and into your home. The electronics in the Gigaspire modem have exactly the same current requirements that my Telus modem has—12 volts DC and 3 amps, somewhat less than an old 40 watt incandescent light bulb. WiFi is, of course, broadcast EMR and I am told by the CityWest installer that the Gigaspire has no more range than the Telus Actiontec as range is restricted by Federal Law. So if you have been running a Telus modem similar to mine the Gigaspire should be no different as to EMR radiation but the lines running into it certainly will be. And I apologize for my earlier screeds in the Grapevine for suggesting that the Gigaspire had a much greater range; I am afraid I was taken in by the hype about their modems on the manufacturer's web site.

Another question sparking anxiety is whether CityWest telephone service be available in a power outage. And the answer is it easily can be PROVIDING you have an alternate power source for the Gigaspire modem. This could be a Universal Power Supply (UPS) as one or two of my neighbours have purchased; when the power goes out this will automatically switch to keep your modem powered for a limited time. Or a generator to keep the modem running and annoy your neighbours. Telus lines on the hydro poles are, of course, extremely strong and a mid-sized tree will usually hang on them or break itself. However if the Telus line is hit by an over-height semi-trailer, as ours was a couple of years ago, it will take Telus about 3 to 4 days to restore telephone service to you and all your neighbours—as it did. You might contrast this with the 30 hours it took CityWest to repair their cable under water!

So is CityWest prone to more outages than Telus? Probably a few more for the reason that it is a buried cable and there are a lot of backhoe operators working around doing things like culvert installation and various trenching jobs. Cutting through an optical cable is inevitable but I don't believe it will happen sufficiently often to cause any real problems although the increasing number of folks who are on social media seconds after an outage saying the whole system is broken will take it as grist for their mill of perfection. Why does social media encourage folks to believe that a system covering a huge area of our province, involving thousands of people and thousands miles of cable, of running on banks of complicated electronic machinery, with tens of thousands of customers, is completely broken when a rare accidental event takes place? We used

*Notice of AGM
Please join us for the
Denman Seniors and Museum Society's
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday December 4, 2024 at 7 p.m.
Location: Activity Centre Lounge*

to know that human constructions, like humans themselves, were fallible and we accepted accidents; social media seems to feed us the fantasy that we really are, or should be, perfect. And I am not the only one who has noticed; Shosanna Zuboff of Harvard in her book *Surveillance Capitalism* gives an idea of why this might be. At my grandson's graduation she encouraged him and the other 900 engineers graduating to resist the technocratic imperative and to spend adequate time with the arts and humanities. I can only say aye, aye.

Oakley Rankin



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 AT HORNBY NEW HORIZONS



Hunter Jarrett, aka The Invasive Species Guy, with over 37,000 followers on TikTok and a graduate of VIU's Bachelor of Natural Resource Protection, will be speaking at New Horizons on Saturday 23 November at 1:00. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Bring your questions or come to learn about our precious native plants and what to do about the relentless encroachment of invasive plants in our Moist Maritime Coastal Douglas Fir climate zone (CDFmm). Entry is by donation with proceeds going to HIRRA Invasive Plant Control committee. **For more info:** invasiveplants@hirra.ca

Biden Ramps Up Nuclear Brinkmanship On His Way Out The Door

By Caitlin Johnstone

November 6th, 2024

The New York Times reports that the Biden administration has authorized Ukraine to use US-supplied long-range missiles to strike Russian and North Korean military targets inside Russia—yet another dangerous escalation of nuclear brinkmanship in this horrific proxy war.

The Times correctly notes that authorizing Ukraine to use ATACMS, which have a range of about 190 miles, has long been a contentious issue in the Biden administration for fear of provoking military retaliations against the US from Russia. This reckless escalation has been authorized despite an acknowledgement from the anonymous US officials who spoke to The New York Times that they “do not expect the shift to fundamentally alter the course of the war.” As Antiwar’s Dave DeCamp notes, Vladimir Putin said back in September that if NATO allows Ukraine to use western-supplied weapons for long-range strikes inside Russian territory, it would mean NATO countries “are at war with Russia.” This is about as unambiguous a threat as you’ll ever see.

NYT reports that Biden’s policy shift “comes two months before President-elect Donald J. Trump takes office, having vowed to limit further support for Ukraine.” And it is here worth noting that last week it was reported by The Telegraph that British PM Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron had been scheming to thwart any attempt by Trump to scale back US support for Ukraine by pushing Biden to authorize long-range missile strikes in Russian territory.

But it is also true that the day before the US election Mike Waltz, Trump’s next national security advisor, had himself endorsed the idea of authorizing long-range missile strikes into Russia with the goal of pressuring Moscow to end the war. His plan for disentangling the US from the conflict entails ramping up sanctions on Russia and “taking the handcuffs off the long-range weapons we provide Ukraine” in order to pressure Putin into eagerly accepting a peace deal.

So while this is being framed as an administration that’s more hawkish on Russia executing a maneuver that’s designed to hamstring the peacemongering of an incoming administration that’s less favorable to assisting Ukraine, in reality it may just be goal-assisting the next administration in a policy change it had planned on implementing anyway.

Either way, it’s insane. Putin ordered changes to Russia’s nuclear doctrine in September in order to ward off these sorts of escalations

by lowering the threshold at which nuclear weapons could be used to defend the Russian Federation, and they’re just barreling right past that bright red line like they barreled over the red lines which led to the invasion of Ukraine. And the fact that they’re adding yet another nuclear-armed state into the mix with North Korea is just more gravy for the nuclear brinkmanship pot roast.

At one point in 2022, US intelligence agencies reportedly assessed that the odds of

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OPINION



...continued from P.10

Russia using a nuclear weapon in Ukraine was as high as fifty percent, but the Biden administration kept pushing forward with this proxy war anyway. These freaks are taking insane risks to advance agendas that stand to yield the slimmest of benefits even by their own assessments. We are living in dark and dangerous times. 🍷

CALL TO ACTION

Petition to the B.C. Ombudsperson to Investigate the B.C. Ferry Commissioner

Ombudsperson petition update: Below is a response from the Office of the Ombudsperson re opening a file to investigate the B.C. Ferries Commissioner for non-compliance of her mandate to hold B.C.F. accountable. **If you received a response to a complaint from the Commissioner, pls email me a copy of the letter** (sharonsmall@gmail.com). I have two sample responses that include the predictable: the current budget cycle doesn't permit vessel replacement and/or this decision is B.C. Ferries', but more examples would strengthen our case that Commissioner Hage's responses to our complaints have failed to resolve our decade long problem with the corporation. I understand that if the Ombudsperson decides to investigate, that they will meet first with community members. .

November 14, 2024

File: 24-006480

Sharon Small

Dear Sharon Small:

Thank you for speaking with me today, November 14, 2024, outlining your concerns about the BC Ferries Commissioner. You informed me that you were concerned about the responses you had received from the Commissioner and that your community on Denman Island was feeling unheard.

To clarify the details of your complaint and determine what role our office may have; we require additional details from you. Please provide the responses you have received from the BC Ferries Commissioner. This information will assist in the further assessment of your complaint.

Please visit our website at www.bcombudsperson.ca for further information about the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Rousseau (she/her)

BC Ombudsperson

Early Resolution Officer 🍷

Otto of the beach: Otto Dances

By Alan Black

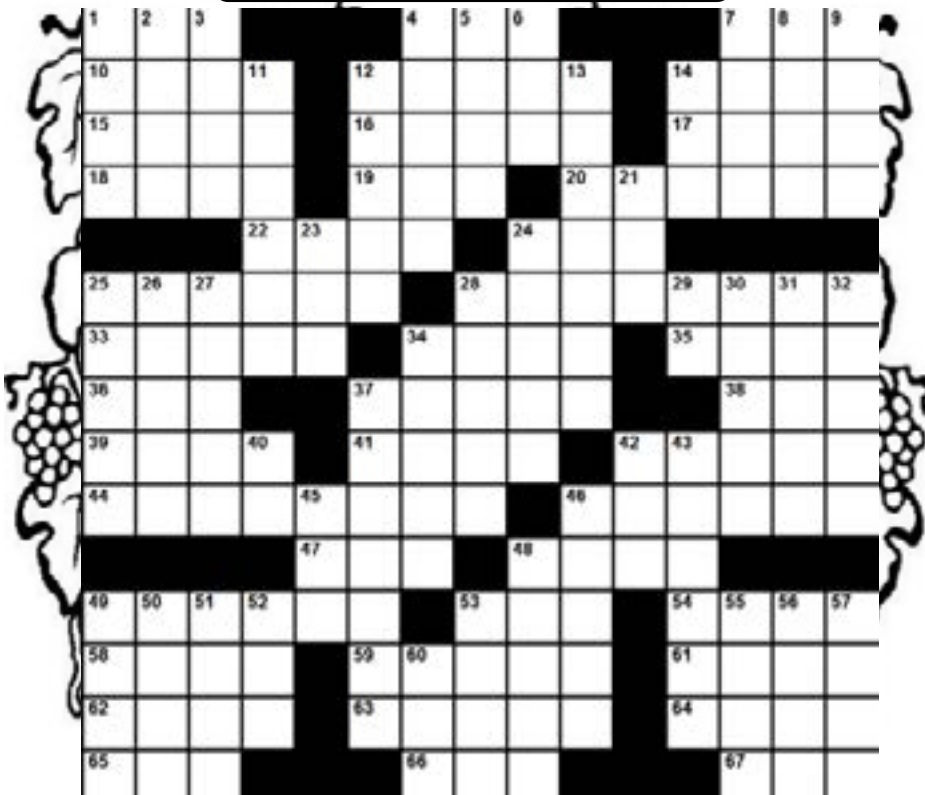


We Can't Wish it Away

There's nothing we can do
 There's nothing left to say
 As painfull as it is
 It will happen anyway
 Hold on tight to what is right
 As the truth is thrust into the light
 It will sting like hell
 As millions tell
 Only pain can take
 The hurt away.

Helen Grond

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. According to
4. AMA type
7. Dash
10. Browse the web
12. Hang downward
14. Celts' land
15. As a result
16. Barbershop need
17. Big fibs
18. Galactic time period
19. Barely manage
20. Clumsy
22. Health measure
24. Back at sea
25. Vials
28. Career
33. Made like a sheep
34. Bone dry
35. A dash of dash
36. 10th mo.
37. Gauzy
38. Be left on base
39. Mangle
41. Dry goods unit
42. Not those
44. Perkins
46. Reticulated
47. Cooking pan
48. Become frayed
49. Weigh down
53. Actor McKellen
54. Pitch black
58. At some other time

59. Gossipy one
61. Bar follower
62. Actress Kudrow
63. Lodging place
64. Author Greene
65. Airport info
66. And also not
67. Hardly square

• DOWN •

1. Drifting
2. Artificial bait
3. Fifty oared ship
4. Male duck
5. Flow slowly
6. Act dovish
7. Eight on a sundial
8. Burns one up
9. Become engaged
11. Hot saucelike chocolate dip
12. Attire oneself
13. Tender
14. Claus aide
21. Did lunch
23. Archaic
24. Ventilated
25. Big blaster
26. Portuguese province
27. Barbeque spot
28. Suspicious of
29. Both of us
30. Days of yore
31. Boost
32. Struck a low blow
34. Poor pad
37. Thesaurus word
40. Goodness gracious
42. 1773 jetsam
43. Employing
45. Blow away
46. Open to bribes
48. Bottle buy
49. Bundle hay

50. Apartment
51. Artist Bonheur
52. Chromosome letters
53. Centerward
55. Flood survivor
56. Banjo locale
57. Cry out
60. 1 billion years

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ I ended up leaving my vacuum at Shane's both. All it was doing was collecting dust. ”



• LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS •

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

• SERVICES •

Have a trailer available for yard cleanup of unwanted junk around your yard or house.

Call Brian for an estimate at:
250-650-2390

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

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

• FOR SALE •

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

ALPACA SOCKS, MITTENS, HATS, TOQUES, SCARVES.

ALPACA YARN - handspun skeins and balls. Warm & Cozy. Rose 335-1117

+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

• FREEBIES •

Seeking a good home for a beautiful dark tabby spayed female cat born on Valentine's Day 2023. She's an indoor/outdoor cat, shy but affectionate & a good mouser. Reason is disharmony with our other female cat, fine with our male cat. Can deliver from Hornby. Please phone Kristin at 250-335-1192 or PM Kristin Sonstebo on Messenger.

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

COMOX VALLEY TRANSITION

SOCIETY EMERGENCY CRISIS LINE:

250-338-1227 or Text: 250-218-4034 For more info visit
<https://cvts.ca>

• EMPLOYMENT •

Your Denman Island Community Education Society (DICES – www.dices.ca) is hiring an Executive Director.

Come join our dynamic team with deep roots in the Denman community. This leadership position works closely with DICES council, staff, volunteers and community partners to create and deliver education and recreation programs for all Denman Islanders, and to ensure DICES is sustainable, financially stable, and meeting community needs.

We are looking for someone with experience and skills in: management of a not-for-profit organization, fundraising (community and grants), project management, communication, and financial administration.

30 hours/week; pay depending on experience. Start Date:

January 2025

Application Deadline:

December 6, 2024 at 5PM

Send your cover letter and resume to: dices.chair@gmail.com

ISLANDS GRAPEVINE EDITORIAL POLICIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

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

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

- Jordan McDonald • Oakwyn Realty • 604-616-1137 (D/H)
- Tuele Group, Royal LePage in the Comox Valley,
Jenessa & Donna 250 335 1720

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

- 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)
- Ben Purc, licensed Electrical Contractor, 705-351-2689 (ALL)
- 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)



numble.com/stewmango

graypiety.com

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 21

- 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.



FRIDAY 22

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

SATURDAY 23

- RECYCLING CENTRE 9-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-Noon
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

SUNDAY 24

MONDAY 25

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC
- Farm2Family AGM 5pm Back Hall

TUESDAY 26

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

WEDNESDAY 27

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Gyrokinesis 9:30-10:30am D.I. Arts Centre

THURSDAY 28

- 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.

FRIDAY 29

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

SATURDAY 30

- 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
- Scrooge 2pm Dec. 1st Front hall

SUNDAY 1

MONDAY 2

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

TUESDAY 3

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Palestine Film Night 5:30pm Back Hall

WEDNESDAY 4

- RECYCLING CENTRE 2-6pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-6pm
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Gyrokinesis 9:30-10:30am D.I. Arts Centre

THURSDAY 5

- 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.



THE
ISLANDS
Grapevine
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HORNBY ISLAND & DENMAN ISLAND
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER