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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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SPECIAL INTEREST

Green Wizardries: Nuclear Noodle Soup

By Maxine Rogers

I was planning to write about herb gardens and why my readers might want to plan one or expand the one they already have. That will have to

wait as it seems there is a bit of a cold going around. I learned about this soup more than twenty five years ago and it has been our standby cold and flu treatment ever since.

Soup is not our only line of attack. We drink copious quantities of ginger tea which is very anti-inflammatory as well as being tasty and comforting. We take elderberry syrup made from our own frozen elderberries and it is both highly effective at banishing colds and flu while being so very tasty. We also do the old-fashioned head steaming over a basin of hot water with oil of oregano in it (3 to 5 drops only) and a towel over the head. This last is very good to treat or, better still, to prevent chest infections.

To make a great Nuclear Noodle Soup, I start out with chicken stock which naturally contains an enzyme that helps to keep the lungs clear of congestion. I make this stock from the oldest hens possible as they are tough and can take the long simmering to get all the nutrients and flavour out. I only use my own birds as I am very fussy about their nutrition and they get a lot of greens to eat which makes their eggs and flesh very healthful.

I usually make a huge cauldron of stock and then pressure can it. When I started pressure canning, one of my walking buddies asked why it was that I wanted to be a nineteenth century housewife? This would be because I know for a fact that it is not possible to buy a nutritious and tasty stock of any kind. My sister in the city was using some store-bought stock and I tasted it. The flavour reminded me of nothing so much as dirty dishwater. My brother in law, who is quite the foodie, says that my stock is the best he has ever had.

If you don't have stock already made, it is easy to make stock so grab a chicken carcass and find a recipe you like. Once you have mastered the art of making a good stock, your cooking will improve by a whole letter grade.

I chopped two of my beautiful red onions and began to fry them in some golden rendered-chicken fat. The fat on a chicken should be deepest yellow to orange. If it is white, the bird never got any greens and the flesh is not nutritious. The eggs we produce here have yolks that are orange and friends from rural China say the eggs on their farm had yolks that were nearly red. They kept the hens free range and that is the best way. Here, we feel we have to lock our hens up as there are so many predators, such as mink and eagles, that we feel it is not kind to expose them to so much danger.

After the onions, I would normally add garlic, home-grown of course, but not today. I chopped up a heap of fresh garlic and ginger, which I keep frozen in chunks, and I added them at the end of the cooking process as they have more medicinal value when eaten raw. I did add a bunch of chopped leeks, carrots, peas, sweet red peppers and a quart of

continued on P.5...

Shucking Oysters: Ashes to Asses

By Alex Allen

Post-apocalyptic. The term brings up the usual dystopic images. Roving bands of raiders. Mad Max wastelands. Deep nuclear winter. Crazy mall zombies. All popular motifs, particularly in the film industry. And now, without irony, Hollywood is starring in its own post-apocalyptic blockbuster: the LA Wildfire Inferno. Like a typical Hollywood disaster movie, from Anthony Hopkins to Billy Crystal, big stars appear as cameos, with a cast of extras we will never know.

Lytton and Banff gave us a preview to what the combination of powerful winds and dry conditions can do. In LA County, three large fires continue to burn: over 23,000 acres in the Palisades; more than 14,000 acres in Altadena, Pasadena and Glendale; and almost 800 acres in the Hurst area. Thousands of structures have been destroyed, many iconic, like the Bunny Museum in Altadena that held over 46,000 rabbit-related objects; the Topanga Ranch Motel built by William Randolph Hearst in 1929; the Will Rogers State Historic Park in the Santa Monica Mountains, and countless homes and businesses of the rich and not so famous. According to JPMorgan, the insured losses alone, could be at least \$20 billion, and economic losses could reach a staggering \$50 billion, the costliest blaze in US history.

Thousands of firefighters are battling the wildfires. Despite being threatened with a nasty tariff and childish taunts, firefighters from Mexico and Canada have been deployed. We won't hear any thanks, though, Donald Trump is more interested in our ever-flowing "faucet." Last fall, speaking about California's drought issues, while pointing his finger at California Governor Gavin Newsom, Trump said: "So you have millions of gallons of water pouring down from the north, with the snow caps and Canada and all pouring down and they have an, essentially, a very large faucet. You turn the faucet on – and it takes one day to turn – it's massive, it's as big as the wall of that building right there." Translation: We have a HUGE faucet and Trump wants to drain it.

And then, oddly, we have the Ukraine offering to send 150 rescuers to help fight the fires. That's like Haiti sending 105 troops for humanitarian assistance. Is this the direction of US political diplomacy? Kissing ass?

Back in LA, like the gang of misfits in the Mad Max movie franchise, survivors must navigate a world in ruins, deal with scarce resources, lawlessness, and the constant threat of danger. A reviewer presciently wrote in 2015, Mad Max: Fury Road "is not just about the tyrannical rule of scarce resources, it's about our own naive misconceptions of taking nature for granted, and our subsequent demoralization in realizing what once gave us comfort no longer exists." This

is the hamster wheel of our existence and each year we only have more to lose.

The ugly. While members of the National Guard are helping to enforce a 6:00 pm to 6:00 am curfew, looters dressed as firefighters continue to pillage the residential areas. Firefighters complained about dropping water pressure (or no water) in many hydrants. From day one, the governor has received severe backlash over his handling of the wildfires. On day three, Trump posted: "The fires are still raging in LA. The incompetent pols have no idea how to put them out."

The bad. Some "survivors" can hire \$2,000-an-hour private firefighters to save their million-dollar homes and businesses. Keith Wasserman, a real estate investment partner, provoked fury after posting: "Does anyone have access to private firefighters to protect our home in Pacific Palisades? Need to act fast here. All neighbors [sic] houses burning. Will pay any amount. Thank you." Social media users were quick to react, criticizing Wasserman, and calling his post "incredibly tone deaf"

TIDE TABLE

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

2025-01-16 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
00:54	0.73	2.4
08:12	5.01	16.4
14:02	3.28	10.8
18:35	4.10	13.5
2025-01-17 (Fri)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
01:30	1.08	3.5
08:39	4.98	16.3
14:51	3.05	10.0
19:29	3.88	12.7
2025-01-18 (Sat)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:02	1.50	4.9
09:04	4.94	16.2
15:39	2.80	9.2
20:26	3.65	12.0
2025-01-19 (Sun)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:32	1.98	6.5
09:27	4.87	16.0
16:28	2.55	8.4
21:33	3.44	11.3
2025-01-20 (Mon)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:59	2.48	8.1
09:49	4.77	15.7
17:15	2.31	7.6
23:05	3.34	11.0
2025-01-21 (Tue)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
03:26	2.96	9.7
10:09	4.65	15.3
18:02	2.09	6.9
2025-01-22 (Wed)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
01:30	3.47	11.4
03:57	3.40	11.1
10:29	4.52	14.8
18:49	1.88	6.2
2025-01-23 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
03:27	3.79	12.4
05:03	3.77	12.4
10:54	4.39	14.4
19:36	1.67	5.5

continued on P.5..

Services Showcase and Volunteer Drive

By Hornby Denman Health

"The great innovations in life are mostly not the result of very clever people inventing new and extraordinary things. More often than not they are the result of regular, savvy people coming together to connect ordinary things in extraordinary ways," Cormac Russell & John McKnight, The Connected Community.

Denman Island has a powerful history of volunteerism that has helped to build the community we know and love. On Saturday, February 1st from 10:30am to 2:00pm at the Community Hall, we're inviting residents new and old to come out and celebrate the non profit societies and community groups that make our island unique. From senior services to housing assistance, emergency preparedness, youth programmes, food resources and more, it's your chance to discover valuable resources and make meaningful connections. Most importantly, these

organizations need your help to keep our community vibrant. We hope you'll sign up to volunteer, add your voice and make an impact.

There will be short talks from each organization with local food available to purchase from Farm to Family and local chef Tahiti Rey.

If you're part of a community group that would like to share information and we haven't already heard from you, please reach out to leanna@hornbydenmanhealth.com.



Community Volunteer Drive

Join us for a community services showcase and volunteer drive with local food and community building.

SAT FEBRUARY 1ST 10:30AM - 2:00PM

DENMAN ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Local food available by Tahiti Rey and Farm to Family

Connect with local Denman non profit organisations and learn about the volunteering opportunities available. Volunteering gives you the chance to share your gifts with the island, make a difference, meet new people, stay active and build the community you want to be a part of. Join us to learn how you can help.

If you are a non profit and would like to be involved please contact: leanna@hornbydenmanhealth.com

...continued from P.3

Billionaire developer and former mayoral candidate Rick Caruso also received rage online after it was reported that he had hired private fire crews to protect his mansion and luxury mall in the Palisades Village. With irony, Rick served two terms as president of the Department of Water and Power.

A wealthy resident was quoted: “This week’s events have shown you can’t trust the city to protect your property.” Some argued that if the city cannot be trusted, then celebs have every right to hire private contractors. The source added with no irony: “I have the money, so why not?”

The sad. Private firefighters are nothing new. Kim Kardashian admitted that her home in Hidden Hills was saved by her private crew in the 2013 wildfires. In LA, water-conserving measures have been in place since 2022, restricting residents to watering their gardens just twice a week, eight minutes at a time. Kardashian was fined for going over her water allowance in 2022, using 232,000 gallons of water more than her allocation. A neighbour of Ms K said: “Everyone was told to cut back on water precisely for this situation, to preserve it to fight fires. She carried on watering because she could afford the fines.”



The mad. Meghan and Harry of Montecito, with faces hidden by masks, distributed food to the displaced, many of whom had no idea who they were. Meanwhile on social media, actor/filmmaker Justine Bateman posted: “Meghan Markle and Harry are no better than ambulance chasers. What a repulsive “photo op” they achieved. They are ‘touring the damage?’ Are they politicians now? They don’t live here; they are tourists. Disaster Tourists.” The post was viewed 1.8 million times.

The moral? Humans are a sorry lot. 🍷

...continued from P.2

canned tomatoes, all from our garden. The soup looked very pretty and that is important to tempt the appetite of a sick person. I also threw in about a tablespoon of chili flakes.

That might sound like a lot of chili but we ended up with six quarts of soup in the end. I seasoned it with salt and pepper and then chopped up a generous bunch of cilantro and added that right before serving.

Now, it is called Nuclear Noodle Soup so where do the noodles come in? I like to cook with rice noodles, especially the broad kind. I cook them separately, cool them under cold running water and place some noodles in the bottom of the soup bowl. Any extra noodles should be placed in a covered dish in the fridge. The soup should be served with chili sauce on the side.



The soup is tasty, pretty and comforting. It is easy to put the leftover soup in quart jars while it is very hot and put the lids on. As they cool, a seal develops which enhances the keeping quality of the soup. This is not canning, just a little hack for keeping the soup fresher longer. It still needs to go into the fridge. I hope you will try making this soup as I am sure it will do you good. 🍷

SPECIAL INTEREST

Exciting News for Denman Families with Young Children

By BBL Preschool

Blackberry Lane Children's Center is bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Denman Island. The Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting FREE books to children from birth to age five, helping them build a foundation for lifelong learning. The Imagination Library is made possible through the generous support of Dolly Parton herself, alongside contributions from local Program Partners. Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee. Today, her program spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world. There is never a charge to the families who participate in the program. Every book is personally addressed and mailed every month to each individual child and carefully selected by a panel of experts in early childhood literacy and reading. Over 1.8 million children worldwide are part of the Imagination Library, and now Denman kiddos can be too!

Blackberry Lane has provided high-quality and loving childcare on Denman since 1981. It is operated by the Denman Island Pre-school Society, a diverse community of parents, staff, board members and community supporters that work together to provide a safe, inclusive, caring, and playful learning community for the children of Denman Island. Blackberry Lane Children's Center is open from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. They provide daycare, before and after-school care, and child-centric community programs in a beautiful purpose-built facility located beside the Denman Community School.



"We're overjoyed to sponsor and facilitate this incredible early literacy program here on Denman. We're bringing more books, more snuggles and more reading adventures to Denman kiddos and their caregivers" shares Society Board President Kristen Wright.

Sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Community Charity Auction Committee for being the first financial sponsor for 2025's books. Their generous support is being put to good use in a very special way with the launch of this program!

Enroll your Denman Island child today - visit <https://imaginationlibrary.com/ca/affiliate/BCDENMANISLAND/>

To tour the Blackberry Lane Children's Center, enroll your child in one of their programs, volunteer on the Denman Island Pre-school Society loving and inspired Board of Directors, and/or to become a financial sponsor of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Denman Island, please email denmanislandchildcare@gmail.com or call 250-335-1029



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A detailed black and white illustration of a vintage printing press, showing the large flywheel, the carriage, and the paper tray.

The Quarantones
Male Chorus Presents
“Winterlude”

By Greg Cousineau

The Quarantones Male Chorus is thrilled to announce their upcoming concert series, Winterlude, a heartwarming musical event that will provide a welcome respite from the winter’s darkness and chill. The program extends an invitation to pause, reflect, and connect through music. Performances are scheduled for January 24 in Cumberland, January 25 in Comox, and January 26 on Denman Island.

“Winterlude is a wonderful mix of songs that will touch the audience in many ways,” says Musical Director Denise Marquette. She continues, “The Quarantones bring a genuine love for what they do, along with the technical skill and emotional expression to make each performance special. We are excited to share our joy of singing and connect with the audience in a meaningful way.”


The program features Edvard Grieg’s rousing “Brothers, Sing On!”, the chorus’s signature opening number and Ralph Vaughan Williams’ lively arrangement of “Down Among the Dead Men,” a classic drinking song celebrating camaraderie and merriment. Billy Joel’s nostalgic doo-wop gem “The Longest Time” reflects on rekindled love, while Gordon Lightfoot’s tender ballad “Song for a Winter’s Night” conjures a vivid picture of yearning for a distant love, wrapped in the beauty of a snowy night.

Adding a special dimension to the concert, the Quarantones present three songs in honor of Scotland’s beloved poet, Robert Burns. This selection features “Flow Gently, Sweet Afton,” a serene melody inspired by his timeless poem, the lively “Bonnie Dundee,” and The Proclaimers’ spirited “I’m Gonna Be (500 Miles),” celebrating Scottish heritage with joy and vigor.

Also highlighted are Kyle Unterseher’s The Steady Light and Morten Lauridsen’s Sure on This Shining Night, two poignant pieces that combine lush harmonies with poetic texts. These works invite deep reflection and foster a profound sense of connection to the beauty and wonder of the world. Adding to this rich tapestry, William Spivery’s soulful “Operator,” features the vibrant and powerful voice of Orlando Wiebe, and Charles Albert Tindley’s uplifting gospel anthem “The Storm Is Passing Over,” features the smooth and expressive voice of Glenn Gustafson.

Together, these works create a diverse and inspiring musical experience, celebrating the enduring connections that unite us.

Tickets are priced at \$25 for adults and \$10 for youth 18 and under and are available at Blue Heron Books in Comox, House of Color in Courtenay and Denman Island General Store, and online at: www.quarantonesensemble.com

For more information, please visit:
www.quarantonesensemble.com 



Forensic Architecture: Sleuthing for Justice

By Sally Campbell

Last week, I wrote about the patterns Forensic Architecture searches for in its interrogations of violent conflicts and environmental destruction. These patterns help to establish intent, a prerequisite for judicial determination of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

I referred to the Israeli government's intent to commit a Genocide against the Palestinian people, how that shows up in examination of various government policies and actions since 1948. In order to have all the land, there is also a need on Israel's part to destroy a certain sense of Palestinians *as refugees*, which has existed since the 1948 Nakba. With awareness and recognition of refugees, under international law comes their well-established *right of return*, something the Israelis have sought to deny from the very beginning. A significant thorn in Israel's side is the existence of UNRWA, the *United Nations Relief & Works Agency*, specifically established after the 1948 Nakba to assist Palestinian refugees. UNRWA's existence was intended to be only temporary, until refugees could return to their homes and lands. We have seen Israel in 2024 accuse UNRWA employees of being Hamas members, without providing any evidence, and Western nations moving in lockstep to defund UNRWA - the single organization upon which Gazans, 75% of whom are descendants of 1948 refugees, most depend for education, supplemental food, medical aid, and emergency shelter. UNRWA is the one organization fully capable of delivering such support. It has all the infrastructure in place. Many of these nations have reestablished their support of UNRWA under sustained pressure from protesting citizens. Forensic Architecture's efforts help us to understand that the current Israeli intention to destroy UNRWA is all part of yet another pattern of erasure of Palestinians from the landscape. If there are no refugees, all those claims against the land of "Eretz Israel" evaporate.

Another example comes to mind: the pattern of destruction of health infrastructure was earlier evident in Israel's deliberate targeting of ambulances in the West Bank and in Gaza, together with the killing of medics, during Gaza's 18 month-long *Great March of Return* (2018-2019), which the world ignored. Dr. Alice Rothchild, retired physician/faculty member of Harvard Medical School, has followed the Israeli onslaught on Palestinian health care systems for decades. She has taught and worked in the West Bank and Gaza. Her latest book, *Condition Critical*, details her findings, and shows the long pattern of oppression and suffering of Palestinians through the health care system, at the hands of the Israeli occupation. All the work of such reputable scholars, with no agenda other than uncovering the truth in service of justice, shows that this entire catastrophe we are witnessing in Gaza did not begin on October 7th, 2023. It began when Zionism took hold as an ideology and a strategy for creating a homeland for Jewish people at the expense of the indigenous Palestinian people.

What is unique about Forensic Architecture's approach is that it involves a whole way of thinking, a kind of integrated knowledge where the model constructed is a multi-dimensional system. Using vast amounts of information - such as aerial photos, land-based photos, eyewitness testimonies, and survivor's accounts, they superimpose multiple data points on maps and show how every bit of information relates to the whole, in time and in space. They

are at the forefront of information modelling. Once they have the digital model, they can change the parameters of that model and "see" it through time. They eliminate the possibility of ambiguity wherever possible, using methodology that is irrefutable. If you go to the link: www.gaza.forensic-architecture.org, you can discover their compelling work for yourself.


As an Israeli himself, Eyal Weizman has a very particular connection to the history and the land of Israel-Palestine. As he recounts, "Israelis are the perpetrators of Apartheid but also can't breathe within it". He would like to see a world where everyone can breathe.



Letters to the Editor

Contrary to Trumpelestiltskin's assertion that many Canadians wish that Canada would become the 51st state of the U.S., there may actually be one or two who are stupid enough or ignorant enough to wish for Canada to be absorbed into a country with endemic violence, racism, the pathological misogyny of the anti-abortion movement, a health care "system" which is of benefit only to the insurance companies which control it, etc. The list of U.S. deficiencies and malignities could go on and on. On the other hand there are many citizens of the U.S. who wish that they could become Canadian and live under Canadian conditions. Rather than Canada becoming the 51st state, perhaps Canada could acquire new provinces by annexing the former states of New York and those grouped under the name of New England, of Washington and Oregon and California and a few other geographically scattered states. What is left then of the U.S. would quickly devolve into Margaret Atwood's Republic of Gilead, or even into something worse than that.

Finally, perhaps the best response to Trumpelestiltskin's ravings is to quote from "America", a poem in Allen Ginsberg's book "Howl and other poems": "Go fuck yourself with your atomic bomb."

Harvey Abramson 

There is so much talk about Canada's sovereignty amidst the 51st state nonsense that Trump is yammering about these days. The reality is that we are not, and have never been an independent nation .

It is a myth that we believe we are an independent country. In fact, we are still a colony under the supervision of the British Crown.

A great demonstration of this reality has just occurred. Our government was just prorogued by the King of England's, Governor General of Canada this week, when the vast majority of Canadians wanted a snap election.

If we are serious about true independence, it is time to end our colonial hangover and become the independent Republic of Canada.

A country with a strong constitution and a real Charter of Rights and Freedoms that Canadian governments must respect and adhere to.

Carpe Diem!!!!

Perri Gorrara 



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 February's Flagstone
 is Friday
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**THE
 FIRST EDITION**
 Hornby Island's Community Paper

Monthly Deadline: 11:59:59 pm the 19th. Email: hornbyfirst@gmail.com

How To Be Happy In A Genocidal Dystopia On A Dying World

By Caitlin Johnstone

January 14th, 2025

I honestly don't know if we'll make it. I can't say with any degree of certainty that truth and sanity will prevail, that the world will stop burning, that we'll stop being cruel to each other and start moving toward health and harmony. Maybe our species is approaching the end of its run here. I cannot tell you for sure that it isn't.

What I can tell you for sure is that there is a magpie outside my window, and that my eyes are dripping with love for it. I can tell you I went for a walk about an hour ago, and the ground felt delicious on my feet while the wind caressed my hair.

Maybe we don't get to be here for much longer. I can't honestly tell you otherwise. But I can tell you it's very possible to relish each precious instant we are here.

The universe will sing to you, if you listen. There are kisses hidden in the rustling leaves. There are galaxies hidden in the sounds of trains.

We can live from there. Even amid the raging fires. Even amid the genocide and pain. Even amid all the advertising, the vapid Hollywood dogshit, the fast fashion, the phoniness, the deceit. We can cherish the world like a mother cherishes a newborn baby, even if we wind up doing so while watching it die.

We are living in dystopia, but we don't need to be living in hell. As fraudulent and destructive as this civilization is, and as all-pervasive as its madness seems to be, it is still built on the surface of an ancient planet which pulsates with primordial wisdom. Just below the superficial layer of the cacophony of human madness, there are uncharted depths in which strange leviathans swim.

I'm not here to tell you we're going to win this thing. I'm not here to sell a false and unearned certainty in a happy ending. I'm here to tell you that this world is one hell of a glorious ride regardless of what happens, and that it would be a damn shame if you didn't appreciate it while it lasts.

You don't need to waste your life as one of those jaded, world-weary politically conscious people who think they know too much to be happy, and that everything is too dark and dismal to enjoy their time here. You don't need to choose between being happy and being well-informed. We are engulfed in an endless explosion of miracles and beauty in every living instant on this earth no matter what happens and no matter how much we know. It is only a failure of our own perception if we don't recognize this.

We've got a lot of work to do here, and we're going to continue seeing some very ugly things happening in our world for the foreseeable future. It does nobody any good for us to let the darkness burn us out and exhaust us instead of learning to enjoy our time on this planet while we fight.

I know I've shared this same message before in various ways, but that's only because I see a great need for it. I've heard too many people saying they are feeling torn down and broken by the terrible things happening in this world, and that they don't know how to go on.

You go on by going in. By diving right in to reality, in all its burning, blood-soaked, agonizing glory. By feeling it all, all the way through, without trying to lean back and compartmentalize any part of yourself away from it. The ocean is unbothered by the waves not because it is separate from them but because it is inseparably one with them.

Feel the pain. Cry the tears. Witness the suffering. Experience the beauty. Notice the endless eruption of love which lies at the heart of all things. Celebrate the magpie. Cherish the wind in your hair and the ground beneath your feet. No matter what happens, nobody can take these things from you. No matter what else the bastards might take, they can never take away your innate exuberance at living a human life on this terrestrial wonderball.

That's the secret to finding happiness in the midst of a genocidal dystopia on a dying world. Not by hiding from the reality of it, but by diving right into it without holding anything back.

If you do this, you will find that there is so very, very much more joy, love, beauty and exhilaration in this adventure than there is heartbreak and pain. There is vast delight to be found in the smallest of things.

Our minds tend to focus on what's wrong and what's bad, while overlooking how absolutely fucking amazing it is to be living as a human organism on this earth. This habit can be unlearned. The gift of each moment can be appreciated as it comes. Everything that arises can be met for the first time with wide-eyed marvel.

And we can keep fighting in the meantime. And we can do so with deep gratitude in our chests for every magical instant.





12 27 24 the penis is a flower

**"The penis is a flower,"
said the graffiti
on the pub washroom wall
and I looked down
to see if I could spot my petals
but there were none
to be found.**

Alan Black

Peeling back the layers

**You grow them yourself.
Lovingly, preparing the soil.
Planting, mulching,
weeding and watering.
Confident your harvest
will yield a sound crop.
Are you not known far and wide
for your fabulous onions!
The day comes when you reach for the first one.
It looks so firm and wholesome.
But when you squeeze it, it feels a little squishy.
When you sniff it, you get a faint whiff
of something slightly amiss.
You gingerly peel back the first firm layer
to expose the second.
Brown and yucky. Superficial you think.
Onto the next. Worse.
One by one you peel back the layers,
hoping you will eventually get to
a solid, healthy, honest core.
Alas, each layer reveals even more damage.
All you have before you is a rotten slimy mess.
You can be sure you have more bad onions in your stash.
You know what to look for.
Start squeezing, sniffing and peeling back the layers.
It's time to sort your onions.**

Helen Grond

JOHN THE RUG MAN
SPECIALTY PERSIAN AND AFGHAN
RUGS

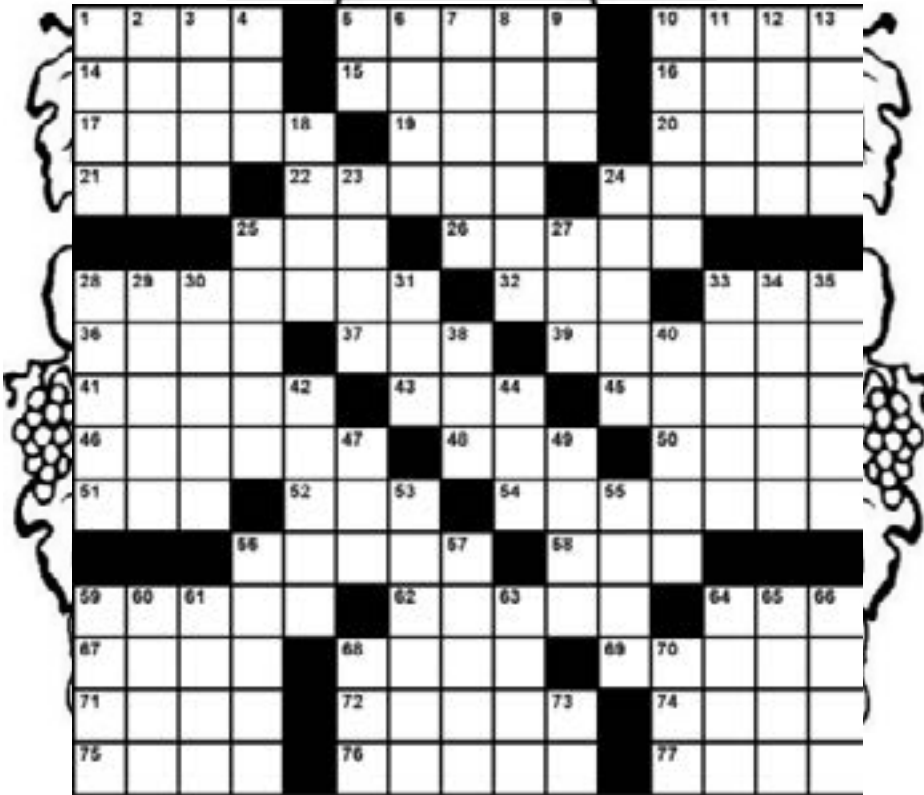


TRADITIONAL | VINTAGE | TRIBAL
250-792-5646
calredmis@hotmail.com

Hornby Community Centre

**Saturday 18th January
10am to 4pm**

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. College worker, abbr.
5. High ranking Ottoman
10. Defect
14. Asian monk
15. Conceal identity
16. Extend upward
17. Action setting
19. Duct
20. A 1977 movie
21. Far Eastern money
22. Rear of a ship
24. Beau
25. 1773 jetsam
26. Warm dry Alps wind
28. Boat motor type
32. Bandeau, for short
33. Asphalt
36. Nordic goddess
37. Baked Hawaiian dish
39. For some time
41. Jungle vine
43. Possessive noun
45. Marine rays
46. In addition to
48. Possessive pronoun
50. 2001, e.g.
51. Certain cyst
52. Brisk energy
54. Sailing ship part
56. Bake, in a way
58. Contended
59. Elbows or shells

• DOWN •

62. Fluorescent red letters
64. Chromosome
67. Wealthy, in Madrid
68. Get lighter
69. Bachelor no more
71. Bouquet
72. Dolphin's home
74. Citrus hybrid
75. Moist, at sunup
76. Graph starter
77. Fix, in a way

• DOWN •

1. Act as
2. Barely cooked
3. Auspice
4. Ardent follower
5. Letter before rho
6. Add to the pot covering
8. Associate with
9. Aquarius, e.g.
10. Unhappy look
11. Ankara dollar
12. Fungi spore sacs
13. Break from a habit
18. Drifting
23. Diamond coverage
24. Oboe's forerunner
25. 1000 kilograms
27. Historic time
28. Spouse's kin
29. Clamoring
30. Muscle power
31. Homer's phooey
33. Ringworm
34. Chapel area
35. Fix Venus
38. Grandson, perhaps
40. Composer Franz Joseph
42. Dominant male
44. Farm abode
47. Ring around the collar

• DOWN •

49. Asian garment
53. Deliver a sermon
55. Knelled
56. Bedtime treat
57. Country contest
59. Elbow action
60. Assistant
61. Garbage vessel
63. Airplane fixture
64. Genoa magistrate
65. One time Steelers coach
66. Encompassed by
68. Dandy
70. Foyer spread
73. Answerer's choice

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ Did you hear the rumour about butter? Well, I am not going to spread it.”



Thank you Anonymous

• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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

• SERVICES •

Octopus Gardener

Here to help with all your garden and yard work!

For more info call or text:
250-650-7626

Chainsaw Operator for hire: limbing, brush clearing, fire mitigation, bucking, forest thinning, and storm cleanup. Yard maintenance, garden prep, and small carpentry also available. Contact Eddie @ 250-221-9786.

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)
GUTTERS seamless, supply and install also repairs, for free estimate contact

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

Kevin at 250 335 1986 or cell at 250 667 3233. Serving All Areas.

• 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

+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

• WANTED •

WANTED RENTAL HOUSING

Bruce Hayward, a long time Denman Island resident, is looking for permanent rental housing. He has over 40 years of island experience. A quiet non smoker, Bruce has been a caregiver and a caretaker. His requirements are modest: electricity, running water and telephone.
CONTACT: Bruce Hayward (250) 335-9111
References upon request.

Young couple seeks garage-sized space for eco-friendly tannery. Needs water, electricity, and heating or insulation. Passionate about sustainable craftsmanship. Ideal for sheds, barns, or garages. Call Eddie @ 250-221-9786.

LICENSED GUN BUYER wants your unwanted shotguns & hunting rifles. Cash buyer, call 250-335-1686 or 250-650-0355

• HELP WANTED •

The General Store needs a part-time employee. Must be 19 or older. Please call Jennifer at 250 335-2293 or leave a resume at the front till.

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY: HIRRA's Community Hall Management Committee is seeking a qualified local contractor to perform regular maintenance and repair of the Hornby Is. Community Hall buildings and equipment as needed for a one-year term. Expressions of interest (incl. qualifications and rate) accepted by e-mail (office@hirra.ca) or mail (HIRRA, 4305 Central Rd. Hornby Is. BC) until Feb. 6, 2025.

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

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)

• SERVICES •

• Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service • 250-338-8822 (D/H)
• Tree Service • Darian Chase • Arborist 218-0404 (ALL)
• Tree Service • Antoine • Certified • Insured • Local 250-207-3884
• Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D/H)

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

• 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. • Leah Kelly 335-2584 (D)
• Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac • 250-508-8160
• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D)



rumble.com/stewmongo

garypiercy.com

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 16

- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm

FRIDAY 17

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Deadline for February's Flagstone

SATURDAY 18

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

SUNDAY 19

- Deadline for February's First Edition 11:59:59pm

MONDAY 20

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Jin Shin Jyutsu D.I.Comm. School Gym 6:30pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

TUESDAY 21

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Chair Yoga 11am-12:15pm The Gathering Place
- Moderate Hatha Yoga 4:15-5:30pm
The Gathering Place
- D.I.L.T.C. Meeting 10am DAC
- Tai Chi 8:30-9:30/9:30-10:30 The Gathering Place

WEDNESDAY 22

- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- Vigorous Hatha Yoga 5-6:15pm
The Gathering Place

THURSDAY 23

- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- Gentle Hatha Yoga 3:30-4:45pm
The Gathering Place

FRIDAY 24

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

SATURDAY 25

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

SUNDAY 26

MONDAY 27

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC
- Jin Shin Jyutsu D.I.Comm. School Gym 6:30pm

TUESDAY 28

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Chair Yoga 11am-12:15pm The Gathering Place
- Moderate Hatha Yoga 4:15-5:30pm
The Gathering Place
- DIGPA AGM 6pm Back Hall
- Tai Chi 8:30-9:30/9:30-10:30 The Gathering Place

WEDNESDAY 29

- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- Vigorous Hatha Yoga 5-6:15pm
The Gathering Place

THURSDAY 30

- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- Gentle Hatha Yoga 3:30-4:45pm
The Gathering Place