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SPECIAL INTEREST

Green Wizardries: Spring Cleaning with Non-Toxic Cleaners

By Maxine Rogers

cleaning. This is the only time of the year I would rather be inside so I plan to make the most of it.

The first step in the cleaning process is to declutter. I have been making strides in this area since I found a teacher on YouTube who was just as bad at cleaning as I am. Her YouTube channel is titled, "A Slob Comes Clean." I tend to get overwhelmed by clutter and I don't know where it is supposed to go. I have always envied tidy people and wondered how they do it.

Years ago when we still had a railway, I took a train trip up Vancouver Island. All the way along the route, I found myself looking into backyards and marveling at the junk and chaos. I asked myself why anyone would have an ancient, decaying motorboat with holes in the hull decorating their yard? I should have been asking myself why my office looked like these decrepit backyards.

It is too cold out to do any gardening, even pruning in this sub zero weather is unpleasant. So, the efficient housewife and house-husband's thoughts turn to spring

continued on P.3...



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BC Ferries

...continued from P.2

The reason my house is so untidy is that I never learned how to house keep. My new Guru, Dana K. White, learned as an adult and she has also struggled with clutter. The worst thing about clutter, is that you can't really clean a cluttered house.

Dana started to see her house as a container. She would keep only the things that fit in the container. Some strategies suggest you should go through your stuff and keep only that which gives you joy. Clutter people love their stuff and that is why it is heaped on their other stuff.

So, I take a bag for garbage and a box for donations and mercilessly go through a space until I am left with just what fits in the space or even to the point where I have room on bookshelves! I have trouble parting with books but really, if I have not read them in years, no matter how much I love them, it is time to let go.

Once the decluttering has been done, I start from the top down. I use a freshly-washed broom to sweep the ceiling and walls. Spiders love my house. Next I sweep the floors and finally go over the space with a mop. Windows get washed and we are done. A nearly bare space is so easy to clean.

For windows, Herman de Vries, may he rest in peace, taught me to use a bucket of hot water, a splash of white vinegar and a few drops of liquid dish detergent. No one cleaned windows better than Herman. If a house on Denman would not sell, realtors would get Herman to go in and clean the windows. His shiny windows made every house look worth \$500,000 more. Then, the house would sell easily. Get a proper window-cleaning squeegee. They are worth the expense and you will never go back to trying to wipe windows.

For washing floors, I use a bucket of hot water with a 1/4 cup of borax and a little soap. Ivory soap grated and soaked in a jar of hot water is excellent for this. For cleaning tubs and sinks, I mix up baking soda with dish detergent and use that. It works great and will not set in your drains like the powdered cleaners that set in the pipes like concrete.

To wash clothes, I use a bar of Ivory soap on grease spots or heavily soiled areas and let the clothes sit overnight. The next morning, I add a couple of tablespoons of borax to the washing machine and a very little liquid laundry detergent. My machine is very old and I can turn it off after it has filled and agitated a bit. I soak the clothes in the hot water for an hour which lets the borax and detergent work on the dirt. Then, I turn the machine back on and end up with lovely clean clothes.

To unblock the drains in the kitchen sink, I pour a cup of baking soda in the drain and follow that with a cup of white vinegar. A bit later, I chase it all down with a kettle of boiling water and this method has never failed me.

All that is needed for cleaning supplies are white vinegar, real soap such as Ivory soap, borax which is just a simple salt, liquid dish detergent is convenient too. Any commercially-manufactured cleaner may contain dangerous, unhealthy chemicals such as scents which dis-regulate the human endocrine system and pollute the environment when you pour them down the drain. 🍷

TIDE TABLE

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

2025-02-13 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
06:56	4.81 15.8
12:47	2.98 9.8
17:44	4.17 13.7

2025-02-14 (Fri)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
00:27	1.24 4.1
07:18	4.81 15.8
13:24	2.73 9.0
18:33	4.07 13.3

2025-02-15 (Sat)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
00:58	1.58 5.2
07:39	4.80 15.7
14:01	2.48 8.1
19:23	3.94 12.9

2025-02-16 (Sun)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
01:26	1.99 6.5
07:58	4.77 15.6
14:36	2.26 7.4
20:16	3.82 12.5

2025-02-17 (Mon)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
01:53	2.42 7.9
08:16	4.71 15.4
15:11	2.07 6.8
21:14	3.73 12.2

2025-02-18 (Tue)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
02:19	2.84 9.3
08:33	4.61 15.1
15:47	1.94 6.3
22:27	3.69 12.1

2025-02-19 (Wed)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
02:50	3.24 10.6
08:51	4.48 14.7
16:28	1.83 6.0

2025-02-20 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
00:14	3.75 12.3
03:31	3.59 11.8
09:12	4.34 14.2
17:19	1.75 5.7

Shucking Oysters: Strong and Not Free

By Alex Allen

Are we having fun yet? Isn't 2025 turning into a great year? Everyday, yet another preposterous, scary curve ball. Everyday, we are confronted with the unimaginable. Everyday, we are exposed to the worst examples of humanity (if such a word exists). We are coming for you Canada. Watch out Greenland. Bend over Panama. And Gaza, the "Riviera of the Middle East." Leaving all of us to wonder whether Lord Rump is truly out of his mind and not just thinking outside his Pandora's box. Judging from his bulldozing persona, we ain't seen nothing yet.

This is an existential version of the Cold War. Geopolitical tensions. An atmosphere of uncertainty and fear. Dystopian literature, like *Brave New World* and *Fahrenheit 45*, which embodied the anxieties about totalitarianism and nuclear war, was the norm. It was a time of social movements and calls for civil rights and freedoms. Sound familiar?

If you read any newspaper (yes, they still exist), every opinion piece can't avoid acknowledging the elephant in the room. With a slight reprieve we welcome, as a *Globe and Mail* editorial noted, "the breather we needed from the trauma of enduring an American leader who seems to wake up every morning and ask himself, How will I make good people sick to their stomachs today."

Fear seems to be Trump's favourite diplomatic tool. For the first time in Canadian modern history, a US President is threatening to annex Canada by economic force. Canada is simply a piece of real estate with valuable rare earth minerals and crude oil to be raped and pillaged. The Trumpet's plan is unclear, yet he seems to want to hurt Canada so hard through tariffs and economic turmoil that we will beg to join the United States. I beg to differ.

The Demander-in-Chief keeps pointing ominously to a 1908 treaty with Great Britain, that established the 49th parallel as the boundary between the US and the then-Dominion of Canada, blatantly suggesting it could be erased. It is a little more complicated than that, the Canadian Constitution replaced the Treaty making it clear that we have sovereignty over our own territory, twit-face.

How do Americans and Canadians feel about it all? Bloomberg revealed that only 26% of Americans want Canada to become the 51st state. Most Americans do not support Trump's "muscular foreign policy of bullying everyone around." *The Toronto Star* revealed that 71% of Canadians are against Canada joining the United States. Clearly, there is no political room for Trump to merge Canada and the US, but as we have witnessed, it's not about politics, it's about the almighty American dollar with a shit load of narcissism.

The White House claims that the reason for the tariffs is to stop the illegal smuggling of fentanyl into the US. Like the accuser, there is no rationality to the accusations. A mere 0.08% of all fentanyl seized in the US was from our border. 0.08%. Economist Paul Krugman explained that the use of fentanyl to justify Trump's trade war is no different than claiming the existence of "weapons of mass destruction" to invade Iraq. "It's just a plausible-sounding reason for a president to do what he wanted to do for other reasons – George W. Bush wanted a splendid little war, Donald Trump just wants to impose tariffs and assert dominance."

This is not the first time that the US has considered taking over Canada. The War Plan Red of 1930 was drummed up by the US Department of War on how to invade Canada if ever needed. It involved kicking the attack off the east coast with poison gas in Halifax, and working their way inward. On our coast, military strategists planned a naval attack on Victoria, launched from Port Angeles, as well as a combined assault on Vancouver and Vancouver Island. I'll spare you the details of the war on other provinces, but you get the idea.

Although the Plan was declassified in 1974, the *New York Times* reported that the Unit-

continued on P11...

The Sla-dai-aich Rest and Repair Network

By Philippa Joly

We are writing to you to seek support for our community initiative called The Rest and Repair Network. Please read on to learn more about what we do. Right now we are especially seeking donations of accommodation.

About the Network

The Rest and Repair Network supports Indigenous land and water defenders engaged in building Indigenous sovereignty by providing them with retreats to Sla-Dai-Aich (the Pentlatch word for what settlers know as Denman Island). Our intention is to provide respite, nourishment, and access to the healers of our community to people working for the sovereignty of their lands and waters. Our program is supported by a broad network of community members, settlers and anarchists most of whom live on Denman Island who we thank deeply for their continued support and collaboration.

The Rest & Repair Network has been successfully operating on the basis of word of mouth and mutual aid since early 2023 and has hosted 18 land defenders and children for 3 - 7 day retreats up to this time. We support Indigenous sovereigntists and their families and loved ones through mutual aid by supporting the people who are doing the work of protecting the land and water for all of us, including the future generations from the devastating effects on the climate and ecology due to resource extraction and profit driven mentality.

Up to this point we have connected land defenders with accommodation, acupuncture, counselling, herbal medicine, massage, reiki, counselling and other treatments. We also provide land defenders with delivered dinners, the opportunity to use a vehicle or be guided on the island and the opportunity to connect with supportive community members.

As a community we can leverage the network of skills and resources we have to offer. We are motivated to provide services which are meaningful and helpful to our various guests and incorporate them in shaping what their retreat looks like within the possibilities we have available.

In keeping with the grassroots and community focus of this project we are asking the broader community to help support this initiative. If you would like to get involved please email us at philippajoly@gmail.com

Ways to help are:

-Offer your cooking skills and be on our list of people who would like to donate a cooked meal when we are hosting guests.

-If you have private accommodation that you would be willing to share either free or at a reduced rate for our guests (3-5 days usually), please let us know. This is one of the most important parts of what we offer and one of the biggest costs. We would add you to our list of supporters who can offer accommodation, so there would be no pressure to offer it at all the time.

-If you are a health practitioner of some kind and would like to offer your skills either free or by donation

-If you or your group would like to do some fundraising

-And please consider signing up for an ongoing monthly donation by clicking here:
<https://chuffed.org/project/respire-for-indigenous-land-defenders>

Keep your eyes out for some fun fundraising events coming this spring!

Thank you for all the great work you do in this community.

Sincerely,

The Sla-dai-aich Rest and Repair Network 

Don't forget to come to the Activity Centre Gym
on Sunday 16th of February at 2pm
to see the movie

The Great Balance.

Mark your calendar, it is going to be great!

Entry by donation to the
Museum and Archives group.

A New Energy Justice Program for Islanders

By Michael-Anthony Lufty

Home energy workshops coming Feb. 22th & 25th
Michael-Anthony, Regional Program Manager, Ecotrust Canada

EcoTrust Canada

Affordable housing and the rapidly rising costs of living are two of the most pressing issues in B.C. When housing does appear to be “affordable” it often has high energy costs, rendering it again unaffordable. Inefficient heating systems, old windows, poor air sealing, and inadequate insulation, to list a few, are culprits for high energy bills in many coastal homes. But there are solutions coming to Denman and Hornby.

Ecotrust Canada is a registered charity that works with rural and remote communities. We are now offering our free Home Energy Savings Program to Denman and Hornby residents. The program removes some of the barriers that many rural residents face when making energy-saving home renovations. We give personalized, one-on-one support for households to qualify for provincial rebates and find contractors, so that rural households can save on their energy bills and improve the comfort of their home.



Michael-Anthony, Program Manager, (right) and Jay, Sointula resident, (left) speaking at Malcolm Island Home Energy Workshop

One in seven Canadian households report needing to cut back on basic necessities, such as food and medicine, for at least one month per year just to pay energy bills. Rural communities often face especially high energy costs compared to cities. Households living with energy insecurity - a lack of access to affordable energy - also experience worse health and well-being. This is because of factors like overheating and underheating, excessive humidity, mould, polluted or smoky outdoor air quality coming inside, and dirty indoor air from cooking and fossil fuel heating. These increase the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses, anxiety, depression, and poor sleep. With the rise in forest fires, extreme heat events, and power outages, we need to improve our homes to be better prepared. Switching a heating system from a fossil fuel like oil or propane to a heat pump allows a household to no longer be dependent on a very long energy supply chain and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Heat pumps are also much less expensive to operate, often 40-60% cheaper, and provide cooling during extreme heat events. “But what about power outages, heat pumps require electricity?” This is correct, and fossil fuel heating systems also require electricity. A home’s energy cost and comfort are not solely determined by the heating or cooling system. Air sealing, more insulation, and new windows create a better buffer against outdoor temperature, whether that’s heat or cold. In case of an outage, this means less wood burned per day, more generator time for refrigerators rather than space heating. Lowering the amount of air that leaks in and out of a home also means less forest fire smoke and pollution seeping in.

CleanBC offers households up to \$44,900 towards energy-saving renovations depending on income. A lower-income household can often get a nearly-free heat pump and up to \$5,500 towards upgrading insulation. A household of two with a combined income of less than \$58,522 or a household of four with an

continued on P.8...

4 HEADED MONSTER **STILL AT LARGE**

**Music, Dance and Surrealist Visual Art Join Forces at the Back Hall
(Sat FEB.22)**

By Ron Sakolsky

As an 80th birthday gift to myself and the community, I rented the Back Hall earlier this year on behalf of the Fools Paradise Sound System with the open-ended idea that other companion events and kindred spirits might emerge to share the bill that evening in a downhome “jes’ grew” spirit. As the DJ of the Fools Paradise Sound System, I play African and African-charged music ranging from Afrobeat to Afrobeats, from Afrofunk to Afropop, from Afrofusion to Afrofuturism, and all the wondrous Afrodiasporic stops along the way as the music of the Motherland has bounced back and forth between Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas taking many exciting hybrid forms over the years.

Not long after securing the venue, I was contacted out of the blue by my former Denman pals Jimmy Dawn (aka Bill Phillips) and Shaun Day Woods, who are the wordsound shapers of the deeply intense electro-poetic duo SIX POINTS, about the possibility of booking a joint gig here in February. Soon Fools Paradise combined with Six Points became a 2-headed monster. Next, I was asked by the mysterious Diesel Davis about finding a spot that nite for himself and the Co-Ho(e)down Snaggers of the Death Eats an Orange band as part of the festivities. Diesel describes the band as “a marriage of old-time music and spoken word that builds on both of these traditions’ roots in rural music.” Sure enough, they were up for doing a cameo performance as the opening act, so now a 3-headed monster was set to stalk the stage. But even before Diesel and his outlaw band throw down that nite, a pop-up surrealist art installation will enhance the Back Hall ambience immediately when the doors open at 7PM.

This fourth head was magically installed as part of the collaboration when I was contacted by longtime friends and musical/visual collaborators, Jesse Gentes and Destanne Lundquist of Cumberland, who had gotten wind of our spontaneously developing Inner Island event. Jesse, one of the curator/participants of the envisioned art installation, calls it “a surrealistic expression of love and gratitude that will be a decorative installation of many surprises.” When he originally approached me about contributing to the evening’s offerings, my first thought was that it would be a nice touch to reanimate the lately neglected Denman tradition of artfully decking out the Back Hall when doing an event rather than merely sticking to the bare bones essentials of just keeping the woodstove well stoked. On a previous occasion, Jesse, and his partner in art and fabric, Destanne, had conjured up the marvelous Funeral of Empire surrealist art installation in Cumberland. The upcoming installation here on the rock will be co-curated by Jesse, Destanne, and artist-back-in-residence, Cathy Stoyko, with imaginative contributions by local/regional artists including Scot Bullick, Nathan Garfat, Rose Dickson, Poete Maudite, Taysia Sommers, and Erik Volet. Last but not least, introducing all 4 heads of art and music as MC will be my Oystercatcher partner in surrealist thought crime, Sheila Nopper.

Sat. Feb. 22/ Back Hall / FREE Public Event
7 PM: Doors

Head (1) Surrealist Art Installation
8 PM-Midnite:

Music lineup in order of appearance:

Head (2) Diesel Davis with Death Eats an Orange

Head (3) SIXPOINTS

Head (4) Fools Paradise Sound System



Artist Credits: Jesse Gentes, Destanne Lundquist, Sheila Nopper, & Ron Sakolsky

"Wildlife Wednesday" Nature Series

D.I. Community Hall (Back Hall) 7:30 to 9 pm **February 26th**, 2025
Saving rare turtles, frogs and butterflies by Andrea Gielens, WPC.

By The Purple Martin Preservation Project

Dear Islander and visitors to our beautiful Island.

Thank you for your attendance of Wildlife Wednesday January 22nd.

It was the prelude to the 4 months speaker series on wildlife conservation in our part of the world. We had a full house. And thank you sincerely for your contribution to fund our Purple Martin Preservation Project of DIRA in Partnership with Wildlife Preservation Canada (WPC). We learned about the genesis of the ex-situ conservation breeding of the Taylor's Checkerspot in Canada. We explored the plight of this highly endangered species that only exists (as far as we know) on Denman and Hornby Island and a site near Campbell River in all of Canada and some of the intricate procedures propagating it in human hands and returning it to the wild. WPC has supported it from the beginning in 2013 and still does.

In February Andrea Gielens Lead Biologist of WPC's BC Programs reveals to us the fascinating secrets of headstarting and breeding Western Painted Turtles, Oregon Spotted frogs and Checkerspot Butterflies for augmentation of these endangered species in the wild (in situ). The remarkable part is that Andrea is continuing to breed Taylor's Checkerspot at the Greater Vancouver Zoo after I had to pass it on due to family health concerns in 2016. This is the perfect presentation and follow-up to show us how the Checkerspot recovery program continues. WPC is enabling other species recovery program you can read about in their website: <https://wildlifepreservation.ca>. For the lineup of our speakers there is a change from our last announcement.

The speaker for **March 26th** will be Malcolm McEadie, DVM, Manager of the Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery Program and Marmot Recovery Foundation.

For **April 23rd** will be David Hancock, founder of Hancock Wildlife Foundation. David will speak on Bald Eagle conservation through the establishment of man-made nest and population monitoring.

The Speaker series is created to celebrate the saving of endangered species by outstanding conservationists and conservation organizations. We look forward to your continued participation and support. The Purple Martin Preservation Project team (PMPP).



...continued from P.6 income of less than \$87,350 would both qualify for the highest level of support. This money is paid by the province directly to contractors, so the household does not need to pay up front. Tenants are also eligible for these rebates if they have a BC Hydro account. Of course there are other eligibility requirements, and caveats, and paperwork. The process can be overwhelming for some and knowing what to choose is a challenge for many. This is why Ecotrust Canada is offering free, one-on-one support to get you through the process and help you make the best-informed decision for your home.

Over the past year, Ecotrust Canada's Home Energy Savings Program has been providing our service in the Mount Waddington and Prince Rupert areas. In February 2025, the program is expanding to Quadra and Cortes, Denman and Hornby, and the qathet region. You can sign up online, in person at our workshops, or over the phone if emails are a challenge.

Please join us at one of our upcoming workshops that cover this free service, an intro to building science, and the CleanBC rebates. The Denman event will be catered by Farm to Family, serving local, seasonal white bean & winter veggie soup (option of vegan or local sausage) with fresh herby focaccia or GF crackers, free to all attendees.

February 22, 2:00pm, Hornby Community Hall

February 25, 6:30pm, Denman Community Hall (free soup starting at 6:00pm)

Learn more about Ecotrust Canada and our Home Energy Savings Program at

www.HomeEnergySavingsProgram.ca



Home Sweet Home pt.2

By Sally Campbell

Hornby Housing is in the midst of a strategic planning process and they will have more clarity about their needs and goals following their meeting this coming weekend.

In the meantime, what are some of the things we know about home?

When I was a young adult living in Montreal, with my father newly remarried in Vancouver and my mother having moved to California to embark upon a disastrous remarriage herself, I remember going through a time of feeling I had no home. Our family home had been sold with the divorce; neither of my parents' new partners seemed inclined to invite a grown "step- daughter" to come and live with them. I was about to graduate from university, but had no employment prospects or even a sense of what I really wanted in terms of a career. I loved Montreal, but it was far too harsh a climate for me to consider living there permanently. I was floundering. One day an older woman gave me a temporary answer: "Home is where the heart is". For me at the time, that seemed to mean: home is where my love interest is, so that took me to Philadelphia for 7 years, in a classic 60's case of "If you don't know what to do next, why not get married?" Bad idea. Ah well, as my grandmother wisely told me, we each have to learn our life lessons in our own way!

When I think of Trump's odious assertion that he's going to give the Palestinians a "better life" by "owning" their land and resettling them who knows where, it harkens me back to the title of Mahmoud Darwish's selected poems, *"Unfortunately, It was Paradise"*. For Palestinians, their hearts will always be in Palestine, whether that be Gaza, the West Bank, or their Palestine before the ruthless Israeli land grab of 1948. That is where their home is – the land, their culture, language and history. And as one Palestinian woman said recently: "They could give me a whole city and I would choose instead the rubble of my home". Home is the land, the light, the olive trees, the soil. It is their house, and it is more than their house.

For many here on Hornby and Denman, home is sunset at Phipps Point, sunrise at Morning Beach, coffee at Abraxas, walking Helliwell. Home is the Recycling Depot, a hot lunch at Joe King Ball Park, Readers & Writers Festival, Herring Fest. Home is swimming at Chickadee Lake or having a surf off Little Trib. Home is getting the wood in and poring over seed catalogues for the next spring. It is gathering seaweed, harvesting blackberries, opening the library, and cleaning the Hall. Home is the whole island they live in and on. Home, be it a dwelling, a landscape, or a sense of community, is where we find sanctuary. May we all find and cherish our home.

And at the same time, let's be mindful of the reality that people do need dwellings! **Next week:** More on Housing. 🍷

The Plan To Ethnically Cleanse Gaza Didn't Start With Trump

By Caitlin Johnstone

February 10th., 2025

I still can't get over how absurd it is how everyone's acting like the plan to ethnically cleanse Gaza is some new idea that Donald Trump just came up with. "Wait, so you're saying we make the Palestinians go away and replace them with Jews?? What bold, innovative thinking! By golly, that's just crazy enough to work!"

This notion that removing all Palestinians from Gaza is a fresh new idea that was conceived of by Trump is one of the most ridiculous narratives we're seeing pushed by the mainstream political/media class today. Israeli think tanks and intelligence services were pushing the plan to move Gaza's inhabitants to Egypt within days of the October 7 attack. The Biden administration tried unsuccessfully to get Cairo to facilitate this agenda.

Kicking the Palestinians out of Gaza to neighboring Arab states has always been the plan; it didn't just emerge out of nowhere when Trump became president. And yet you'll see everyone on both sides of the mainstream partisan divide furiously pushing this narrative that this is all Trump's idea, whether they support or oppose the ethnic cleansing agenda. If they support it they talk it up as some brilliant outside-the-box innovation nobody's ever thought of before, and if they oppose it they completely erase from history the fact that it was being advanced under the Biden administration in the early days of the onslaught.

I just saw Alan Dershowitz babbling about how we should all "thank Donald Trump for

continued on P.10..

...continued from P.9 coming up with the first new idea in many, many years about how to solve this problem.”

But it isn't a new idea, and Trump didn't come up with it. Driving Palestinians out of their historic homeland has been the Zionist vision for the region since before Israel was even established as a state, and all of its actions from 1948 on have born that out. This has always been about ending the existence of Palestinians in Palestine.

And that's all it has ever been about. Not October 7. Not hostages. Not fighting terrorism. Not self-defense. This is about driving Palestinians out of their homeland so that their territory can eventually be fully and officially absorbed by Israel.

Israeli sources are telling Haaretz that Benjamin Netanyahu is planning to sabotage the ceasefire in Gaza to keep it from progressing to its second phase after the 42 days of its first phase are up. It's entirely possible we'll see things slide right back into the same nightmare we were looking at during the Biden administration in a few weeks.

A member of the Zionist ultranationalist group Betar recorded himself handing pro-Palestinian academic Norman Finkelstein a pager the other day, a menacing reference to Israel's terrorist attack in Lebanon in which beepers loaded with explosives were detonated simultaneously around the nation.

Israel supporters can't get enough of this pager schtick. They think it's the most clever thing in the world. See the joke is that maybe the pager is explosive and you'll be murdered for disagreeing with their political beliefs. Very subtle stuff. Really makes you think.

Democrats are as happy as a pig in shit right now. Suddenly they get to pretend all the unfathomable evils their president inflicted upon our world never happened, just because there's a different president doing bad things who people are feeling big feels about.

They wanted to lose. They're overjoyed that they don't have to be the face on the US empire's depravity anymore, and that it's no longer their job to make excuses for it. They're getting everything they want out of the present arrangement, because liberals don't

actually care about fixing problems and making the world a better place, they only care about feeling good about themselves. Their politics is never actually about anything other than their feelings, and Biden was making their feelings feel bad. Trump lets them feel smug and vindicated and correct. He also lets them feel outraged and indignant, and they enjoy that too.

But it's all bullshit. No matter what Trump says or does or how he and his goons make people's feelings feel, it will still be a historical fact that Biden and his handlers spent 15 months facilitating a campaign of extermination and demolition in Gaza which could not have happened without US backing. It will still be a historical fact that Biden and his handlers pushed Ukraine into an unwinnable war that the US and its allies knowingly provoked in order to advance geostrategic grand chessboard agendas, sabotaging potential peace negotiations and threatening the world with nuclear annihilation along the way. It will still be a historical fact that Biden kept in place many of the ugly policies put in place during the first Trump administration and actively expanded and added to them.

It's important to point this out because Democrats are posturing as opponents of tyranny and abuse right now, and they aren't. They are allies of tyranny and abuse, who LARP as righteous defenders of truth and justice whenever the other tyrannical and abusive party happens to be in power. Their behavior during the Trump administration shows you how they wish to be perceived, but their behavior during the Biden administration showed you who they really are. 🍷



Letters To The Editor

Maxine's otherwise reasonable comments on local down home production and its values to the community, suddenly became an anti-government diatribe with exaggerations, and frankly untruths. To claim: The Canadian Government set out to destroy family farms because so many people living on them were able to provide for most of their needs by producing goods, services and trade that escaped in house taxes that the government wants us all tightly captured in! and: Denman used to be covered with little farms before 1945 that were intentionally destroyed by government regulation!are distortions.

When domestic food production goes public the government, rightly, gets involved to assure that buyers will be purchasing safe Botulism-free products.. i.e. regulations. Yes, sales of all products and labour (farm and other) are subject to taxes These, our means to build and maintain the roads, laws, and working systems we all use and need.

Denman and Hornby farms suffered after 1945 with the introduction of cold-storage and freezer-capable trucks. The orchard and farm produce that traditionally came in early and could be sold in urban settings, was quickly replaced by even earlier maturing, and cheaper large scale California shipped produce. (utilizing cheap foreign labourers)

Our small family mixed farm on the prairies, died because it was too small to compete. While I was starting my last rounds with our 12 foot discer the Big acres across the road would seed his whole field pulling 48 feet! One hour of his labour was worth four of mine ...soon Small machinery became a memory and the ol' farm, now a Mega company

Support our locals and our government.

Ken Fisher 

...continued from P.4

ed States Congress had assigned \$57 million in 1935 (nearly \$1 billion today) to build three air bases near the US/Canadian border in line with the Plan's recommendations. The air bases were supposed to be disguised as civilian airports, but it was accidentally revealed that they were actually military air bases. Take note.

Americans have a history of underestimating us Canadians. And never more so, than now. Canadians are suddenly booing the US anthem at sporting events and even boycotting American goods. We are feeling threatened and protective, two highly charged emotions leading to a decidedly unCanadian sentiment: Patriotism. My name is Alex, and I am a hyphenated Canadian. "I believe in peace keeping, not policing. Diversity not assimilation. And, the beaver is a truly noble animal!" 

The Denman Island Garden Society
will meet on February 19th from 1 to 3 pm
at the Gathering Place at the United Church.
Speaker **Emily Anderson** will talk about seed
starting. There will also be a seed exchange.
New members and drop-ins
are most welcome.



History

The "Laurentian Elites" have always been in control.
They set up Canada to enrich themselves.

The Western provinces are merely their
designated resource colonies.

They are desperately clinging to 150 years of
political and economic dominance.

The last ten years has seen their dying gasp.

Their oppressive parliamentary system
has been exposed and is thoroughly compromised.

They have methodically weakened
Canada beyond recognition.

Is there any crime they won't stoop to?

The inevitable crisis is here and an
implosion is looming.

Quebec hangs in for the bribes
but otherwise left long ago.

Will Alberta grow tired of Laurentian abuse?

History is being made before our very eyes.

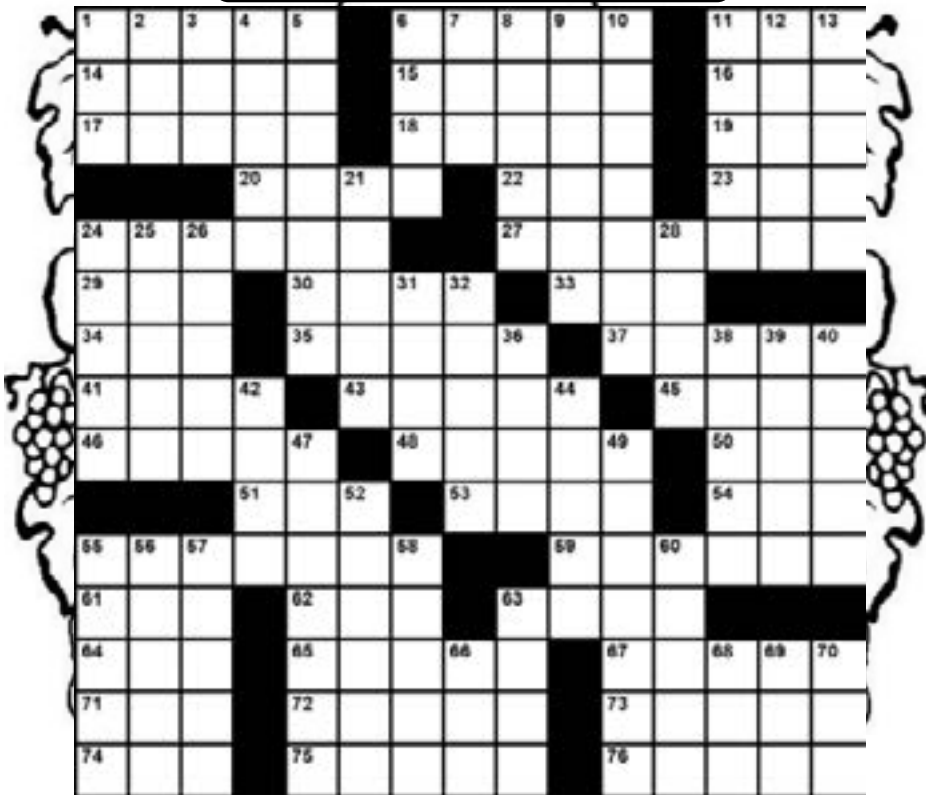
Will we shape it ourselves or will we
maintain polite blindness

as the most shameless government in Canadian history
clutches their pearls and goes for broke;
unconcerned as the country unravels around them.

Team Canada at it's finest.

Helen Grond

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. It can be poison
6. 1836 battle site
11. London hrs.
14. Earlier in time
15. Genius
16. Grandson, perhaps
17. Sinus cavities
18. Cockamamie
19. Veer to the side
20. Autocrat of yore
22. Badges
23. Barn sound
24. Cavort in the pool
27. Disappointment
29. -chi ch'uan
30. Escape hole
33. Ring around the collar
34. Common Market abbr.
35. America's cup contender
37. Apple skins
41. Cave home
43. Ring decisions
45. Easy run
46. Piece of mischief
48. Making do
50. Aquarius, e.g.
51. PC monitor part
53. A party to
54. 10th anniversary gift
55. Mild breezes
59. Overly ornate
61. Angry state
62. Book jacket item

63. Draw on glass
64. Actor O'Brien
65. Add on
67. Large lily
71. Air pump meas.
72. Light pancakes
73. Balderdash
74. At this time
75. Fermenting agent

• DOWN •

1. Bath, for one
2. Cineraria
3. Cambridge inst.
4. Big vessel
5. Roughly
6. Islamic bigwig
7. Computer network, abbr.
8. Be of profit
9. Founder of genetics
10. Ballroom dance
11. Contraption
12. Make cat-like sounds
13. Offspring of a male tiger and a female lion
21. In the future
24. Monumental stone
25. Song of triumph
26. Permissible
28. Count calories
31. A lot of land
32. Army wear
36. Ann, to Abigail
38. Keats's muse
39. Holmes' forte
40. Girl in a pool
42. Abundantly supplied
44. Nose noise
47. Chronic complainer
49. Italian dumplings

52. Toy with
55. Full of vim and vigor
56. Banish blunders
57. Dainty
58. Director Coppola
60. Confused mix
63. Beltway sign
66. Asst. prof.
68. Angeles preceder
69. Hundred bani
70. A vote

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM



“ I was arguing with my wife on Valentine's Day in a restaurant. A friend of mine came over, took the garlic bread and the coleslaw from our table and ran off. I wish he wouldn't take sides.”

• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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

Denman Island Handyman

*gardening *landscaping *general maintenance *small home projects
* interior/exterior painting
*chainsaw certified
Reliable, responsible, resourceful, reasonable rates with local references
Call Mark 250-715-6509
mrwossvegas@hotmail.com

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

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

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)

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.

• 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 •

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.

• 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 •

"Inspired Grandmothers" encourage participation in IWD 2025 education celebration Non Violent Communication Workshop. Back Hall 10-4
Sat March 8th and Sunday 9th Cost \$150 to sponsor, register or subsidy contact: dices.communityprograms@gmail.com

Catch HERTZ SO GOOD
Fridays 7:30pm on Tree Frog Radio 89.1 FM
Music Into the Air and Gone

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)

• 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 •

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

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

• 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)

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 13

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- 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 14

- Happy Valentine's Day!
- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Early Deadline for March Flagstone

SATURDAY 15

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

SUNDAY 16

- The Great Balance 2pm Denman Activity Centre

MONDAY 17

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

TUESDAY 18

- 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

WEDNESDAY 19

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- Vigorous Hatha Yoga 5-6:15pm

The Gathering Place

- DIGS Meeting 1-3pm The Gathering Place
- DAAC Open Mic 7:30pm Back Hall
- Hornby's First Edition Deadline 11:59:59pm

THURSDAY 20

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- 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 21

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

SATURDAY 22

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 9:30am-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9:30am-5pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- FREE STORE 9-12:30pm
- Home Energy Workshop 2pm Hornby Comm Hall
- GRIEF CIRCLE, DIUC (Sanctuary) 10:00-Noon
- 4 Headed Monster Art & Music 7pm Back Hall

SUNDAY 23

- The Great Balance 2pm Denman Activity Centre

MONDAY 24

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC
- WindAne Journey of Self 6:30-7:30pm BackHall

TUESDAY 25

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Chair Yoga 11am-12:15pm The Gathering Place
- Moderate Hatha Yoga 4:15-5:30pm
- Home Energy Workshop 6:30pm DI Comm Hall

The Gathering Place

WEDNESDAY 26

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- Vigorous Hatha Yoga 5-6:15pm

The Gathering Place

THURSDAY 27

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



Message to the flat Earthers- Our planet is egg shaped!