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CONTENTS

ISSUE NO. 1679 • APRIL 10TH, 2025



• **SPECIAL INTEREST** •

- 3 • Wildlife Wednesday, Apr.30th 2025: On V.I. Marmots
By Peter Karsten
- 3 • Shucking Oysters: Golfer-in-Chief
By Alex Allen

• **LITERARY** •

- 5 • The Lyrics Echoed in The Hollow Chambers
By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

• **EVENT** •

- 7 • David Rovics: Songs Of Decolonization & Resistance, From Palestine to Canada
By Sheila Nopper

• **OPINION** •

- 8 • This n' That
By Sally Campbell
- 10 • Truth Is AntiSemitism. Protest Is Terrorism. Dissent Is Russian Propaganda.
By Caitlin Johnstone

• 12 • **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** •

REGULAR FEATURES

- 3 • Tide Tables
- 16 • Gary's Toon
- 14 • Crossword/ Sudoku/ Grumpism
- 15 • Classified Ads
- 16 • Business/Services Directory



Cover image:
Clearing, Lindsay Dickson
Nature Reserve
by Mark Prior
printartphotography.ca

THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

- DENMAN: 850 • HORNBY: 520 •
- E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 105 •

Publisher/Editor: Mike Van Santvoord
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Friday, 10:00 am–6:00 pm
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SPECIAL INTEREST

Wildlife Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 On V.I. Marmots

By Peter Karsten

Dear Nature Enthusiasts thank you for your attendance of the previous Wildlife Wednesday presentations and your support of the Purple Martin Project (PMPP). We expect the Purple Martins to return to our colony at the Community Dock by the end of April.

Dr. McAdie had to cancel his talk originally scheduled for March 26th with short notice. I filled in and gave you a talk about the secrets of breeding Pekin Robins. Thank you for your understanding! We had planned to hear David Hancock's story creating artificial nests for bald eagles for April but we are postponing his talk to the fall when we plan to reconvene the Wildlife Wednesday speaker series. We are rescheduling the presentation by Dr. Malcolm McAdie, DVM, MSc. Wildlife Veterinarian to **April the 30th at 7:30 pm at the Community Back Hall**. Malcom has been involved in conserving many wild species including wolves, snakes, bald eagles and the critically endangered Vancouver Island marmot (*Marmota vancouverensis*). The title of his talk will be "Ecology and Conservation of the Vancouver Island Marmot". Malcolm works with the Marmot Recovery Foundation overseeing the captive breeding, rescue and release of the marmots in their natural range on Vancouver Island. In addition, he provides veterinary services to the North Island Wildlife Recovery Association to rehabilitate animals for release back to the wild. The V.I. marmots are endemic to Canada. It lives nowhere else in the world except in the Vancouver Island Mountain range. Fewer than 30 remained in the wild twenty years ago when conservationists banded together to give the marmots a helping hand by breeding them in human care (ex situ). Malcom will tell us how many there are in the wild today and what it takes to sustain a viable population. This is a most fascinating story that unfolded and unfolds right across Baines Sound in our very neighborhood. The Marmot Recovery Foundation was founded in 1999 it provides on-the-ground research, public awareness and funding for the breeding and release program. A worthy organization to support. We hope you can come and celebrate with us another wonderful event of species conservation.

Wildlife Wednesday is presented by the Purple Martin Preservation Project with funding support by Wildlife Preservation Canada. Entry is by donation. 🍷



TIDE TABLE		
Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove Source: tides.gc.ca		
2025-04-10 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
05:18	4.51	14.8
11:56	2.12	7.0
17:37	3.81	12.5
23:24	2.17	7.1
2025-04-11 (Fri)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
05:40	4.46	14.6
12:25	1.85	6.1
18:27	3.93	12.9
2025-04-12 (Sat)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
00:01	2.43	8.0
05:58	4.43	14.5
12:51	1.60	5.3
19:13	4.05	13.3
2025-04-13 (Sun)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
00:34	2.69	8.8
06:15	4.39	14.4
13:15	1.40	4.6
19:56	4.15	13.6
2025-04-14 (Mon)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
01:06	2.95	9.7
06:31	4.34	14.2
13:40	1.25	4.1
20:38	4.24	13.9
2025-04-15 (Tue)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
01:40	3.19	10.5
06:47	4.28	14.0
14:06	1.16	3.8
21:21	4.32	14.2
2025-04-16 (Wed)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
02:17	3.41	11.2
07:04	4.19	13.7
14:35	1.12	3.7
22:08	4.36	14.3
2025-04-17 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
03:01	3.59	11.8
07:23	4.08	13.4
15:09	1.14	3.7
23:02	4.38	14.4

SPECIAL INTEREST

Shucking Oysters: Golfer-in-Chief

By Alex Allen

“From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world... get ready for an incredible future because the golden age of America has only just begun. It will be like nothing that has ever been seen before.”

Such were the bookends of President Trump's 2025 inauguration speech. Now, months later, not only has he reneged on his gilded promises he has made America mean-spirited and ugly again.

After flip flopping on tariffs for months, Trump displayed his dazzling magic on "Liberation Day." With the sleight of his small hand \$5 trillion in market value disappeared in two days. And yet Trump *continued on P.4.*

assured Americans: “We have six or \$7 trillion coming in to our country, and we’ve never seen anything like it. The markets are going to boom, the stock is going to boom, the country is going to boom.” Is his wording a little odd? Not a booming economy but an economy that goes boom?

For the rest of us, in true Trump fashion he added: “The world wants to see, is there any way they can make a deal? They’ve taken advantage of us for many, many years. We’ve been at the wrong side of the ball. And I’ll tell you what, I think it’s going to be unbelievable.” So what does Trump do after he sets off one of the largest market crashes in American history? Leisurely boards Air Force One to play some winning golf and schmooze with the ultra-greedy and stupid.

The weekend of the tone deaf began with Lord Rump arriving for dinner at Trump National Doral golf course Thursday evening, where one can dine on sautéed Dover sole in soy-caper brown butter for \$76. Meanwhile back at Mar-a-Lago, hundreds of guests were gathered for the American Patriots Gala, a conservative fundraiser that featured Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, wearing her signature bullet proof vest and the President of Argentina, unaware that Trump was elsewhere.

On Friday, thousands of tony golf fans descended Doral for the fourth annual LIV Golf tournament. Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the governor of Saudi Arabia’s \$925 billion sovereign wealth fund and chairman of LIV Golf was there. Top sponsors included Aramco, the Saudi oil company; Riyadh Air, owned by the sovereign wealth fund; and TikTok, the Chinese-owned social media company. Business was good. Every room at the 643-room Trump Doral, including the \$13,000-a-night presidential suite was booked.

The president spent much of Friday at another course, the Trump International Golf Club, sending out social media messages during the day, including, “THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO GET RICH, RICHER THAN EVER BEFORE.” At Mar-a-Lago (a private club for the uber-wealthy with a \$1.5 million initiation fee), Trump held another in a series of \$1 million-a-head dinners. Since he’s been elected, Trump has hosted four blockbuster fundraisers. Another dinner, scheduled at the end of April, star-struck donors can “co-host” for \$2.5 million or become a “host” for \$5 million.



Like his TV show, *The Apprentice*, the evenings play out in similar ways. A group of people gather around a candlelit table where Trump listens to the beholden discuss their businesses, one by one. Hosted by MAGA Inc., one of Trump’s fundraising committees, groupies at some of his dinners have included casino owner Miriam Adelson and James Taiclet, chief executive of Lockheed Martin, the world’s largest military contractor. This past weekend, billionaires Ronald S. Lauder, the cosmetics heir, and Steve Wynn, the former casino executive, were among the privileged guests. MAGA Inc. is one of a network of Trumpeter groups, including Never Surrender and Building America’s Future, a nonprofit with ties to Elon Musk.


On Saturday, as the tournament continued at the 800-acre Doral resort, the Donald showed up at yet another course, the Trump National Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida, where he won his second round senior club championship advancing to the Sunday championship round. Asked Sunday evening aboard Air Force One how the tournament went, Trump replied, “Very good, because I won. It’s good to win. You heard I won, right? Did you hear I won? Just to back it up over there, I won.”

Trump likes golf, so much so that he owns 18 golf resorts. Since the end of March, his golf *continued on P.5...*

...continued from P.4 trips have cost taxpayers more than \$26 million – a single trip costs over \$3 million. In his first term? One report estimated that Trump spent 307 days of those first four years golfing, costing taxpayers more than \$151 million.

Golf is often seen as a game that teaches valuable life lessons, such as integrity, sportsmanship, and patience. In Rick Reilly's book, *Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump*, you'll learn the opposite. "Trump doesn't just cheat at golf. He cheats like a three-card Monte dealer. He throws it, boots it, and moves it. He lies about his lies. He fudges and fozzles and fluffs."

In an interview, Reilly said: "One time in LA, he was playing \$50 a hole with these three guys, he hits it in the pond. They see the splash. By the time they get there, it's in the middle of the fairway, and they're like, 'What the F, Donald?' And he goes, 'It must've been the tide.'"

As Reilly wrote, "Golf is like bicycle shorts. It reveals a lot about a man." 

The lyrics echoed in the hollow chambers.

This story was inspired by the original songs by Banjo Paterson (1895), Eric Bogle (1971), Shane MacGowan (1985)

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz
Mar.28th, 2025

LITERARY

The old man sat on his porch, the weathered planks groaning softly under the weight of his years. April, the month of fading autumn, painted the suburban street in hues of amber and gold. The Anzac Day parade was about to begin. He could hear the distant, muffled thump of the bass drum, the thin reedy notes of a lone flute testing the air. Around him, the street stirred with anticipation. Families emerged from their houses, waving small Australian flags, their faces bright with patriotic fervour. He watched them, a ghost in his living room, his gaze as brittle as the autumn leaves skittering across his lawn.

He remembered a different April, a lifetime and a world away. An April that smelled of eucalyptus and damp earth, before the salt-laced tang of the Aegean Sea filled his nostrils. Back then, April meant the first warmth kissing the Murray River, the air alive with the buzz of insects, and the boundless horizon beckoning him onwards. He was young then, a man made of sinew and dreams, his life a tapestry woven from open roads and starlit skies.

The lyrics echoed in the hollow chambers of his memory, a song from a lifetime ago. He'd tramped from the verdant basin of the Murray to the ochre heart of the outback, his 'Matilda' – a rolled swag – slung over his shoulder, the sun on his face and the wind at his back. He'd known hunger and thirst, but they were honest hardships, seasoned with the wild beauty of the land. He'd slept under a million stars, each one a diamond in the velvet cloak of night, feeling as limitless as the continent itself.

Then, the year the world tore itself apart, nineteen-fifteen. The call came, a resonant clang that shattered the quiet rhythm of his rambling life.

Work. He snorted, a dry rasping sound. What work did they mean? He'd known work, the honest toil of the land, the sweat and grit that built a man. But this... this was something else entirely. They gave him a stiff and ill-fitting uniform, a tin hat that felt absurdly heavy on his head, and a cold and alien rifle in his hands. They stripped away the freedom and wildness, replaced it with regimented lines, and barked orders.

He remembered the quay, a chaotic swirl of faces – tear-streaked, proud, bewildered. The air thrummed with a strange, febrile energy, a mixture of fear and excitement. And the band, perched on the troopship's deck, played that jaunty, deceptively cheerful tune.

Waltzing Matilda. A song of freedom, of wandering, now a soundtrack to their forced exodus. How ironic. He could still hear the melody twisting in the wind as the land receded, and the grey horizon swallowed them whole. Gallipoli. The name itself tasted like ash in his mouth. He hadn't known hell until he set foot on that beach, the sand already stained a sickening crimson. The air crackled with the relentless whine of bullets, the earth shuddered under the incessant artillery barrage. Suvla Bay. He closed his eyes, and the image seared onto the backs of his eyelids, as vivid as if it were yesterday. Butchered. The word was not hyperbole. It was the *continued on P.6.*

...continued from P.5

cold, brutal truth. The Turks were waiting for them, dug in, prepared. The Australians were lambs led to the slaughter, wave after wave thrown against an unyielding wall of fire. He saw faces flash before his mind's eye – young, eager faces, twisted in agony, frozen in death. He smelled the acrid stench of gunpowder, the metallic tang of blood, the cloying sweetness of decay.

Five minutes. That was all it took to shatter dreams, to extinguish lives. He remembered diving for cover, the earth erupting around him, the screams of men swallowed by the monstrous roar of artillery. He survived those first horrific minutes, only to be plunged into a nightmare that stretched into weeks, into an eternity. over again...

The band, that phantom band, is still playing in his memory. Waltzing Matilda, a macabre dirge for the fallen. They buried their dead in shallow graves, the sand still stained and saturated, only to return to the same carnage, the same relentless slaughter. Life became a cycle of terror, punctuated by brief, hollow respites.

Seven weeks. He'd existed, not lived. He'd become an animal, driven by instinct, by the primal urge to survive. He'd seen things no man should ever see, done things no man should ever have to do. The bodies piled up, grotesque monuments to the futility of it all. The living walked among the dead, indistinguishable in their shared misery, their shared trauma. The shell. He didn't even remember the impact, just the blinding flash, the deafening roar, and then... nothingness. He woke in a dim, sterile tent, pain throbbing through his body, a nameless dread settling in his soul. He looked down, and saw the space where his legs used to be, the bandages stained a horrifying red. No more waltzing Matilda. The song mocked him now, a cruel reminder of everything he had lost. His freedom, his youth, his legs, his innocence. He had seen the worst of humanity, which had taken root in his soul, poisoning everything.

...

Heroes? He scoffed again, the sound bitter. They were broken, discarded remnants of a war that no one understood. They were shipped back, not in triumph, but in shame, in silence. He had been grateful for the emptiness, for the absence of pitying eyes. He didn't want their pity. He wanted oblivion.

The band played. That damned song, a relentless, haunting refrain. But there were no cheers, no parades, no celebrations for them. Only blank stares, averted gazes, a collective turning away from the inconvenient truth of war, the messy, broken aftermath.

Now, every April, the parade marched. He watched from his porch, a silent sentinel, as the younger generations, oblivious and bright-eyed, waved their flags and cheered. He saw his comrades, the few remaining, their steps faltering, their backs bowed, marching in a phantom parade, a ritual of remembrance that felt increasingly hollow.

Glory. What glory was there in mud and blood, in screams and death? What glory was there in losing everything, in being broken and forgotten? The young people didn't understand.

And he asked himself the same question, every year, as the parade passed, as the band played that cursed tune. What were they marching for? For a memory that was fading, for a sacrifice that felt increasingly meaningless, for a war that had stolen everything and given nothing in return.

The band played Waltzing Matilda. The music swelled, momentarily drowning out the chirping of birds, the gentle rustle of autumn leaves. But even as the music filled the air, it felt thin, brittle, like a ghost of a song. He watched the parade, bright flags, and cheerful faces, and felt a chilling emptiness.

The horror wasn't the memory of the battlefield, not anymore. The horror was the slow, inexorable fading, the forgetting. The horror was the realization that someday, the music would stop, the parades would cease, and there would be no one left to remember the lambs of Suvla Bay, butchered and forgotten. And only the silence would remain, a vast, echoing silence, broken only by the lonely whisper of the wind, carrying the ghost of a song, a song of a Matilda that no one would waltz with anymore.



**DAVID ROVICS: Songs of
Decolonization & Resistance
from Palestine to Canada
A Benefit Concert Saturday
April 26 Back Hall 7pm**

The war between the haves and have-nots continues to rage, as it has for the past several thousand years, as it will until there's sanity in the world, or there's no world left.

David Rovics, Return

By Sheila Nopper

EVENT

Contemporary troubadour, David Rovics, is a prolific, topical singer/songwriter with an astute analytical mind and compassionate spirit. One recurring theme throughout his extensive repertoire of inspiring stories about historical and current events is how people have built community through solidarity and courageous resistance to the widespread practices of state terrorism around the globe.

David is an engaging storyteller and political satirist in song and in person. On more than one occasion, his stories, combined with his passionate guitar style, have resonated so deep within me that I've teared up. Yet, I can assure you, I was not left wallowing in despair. To the contrary, his songs are an anarchic antidote to despair because they help to keep the inspiration flowing to resist all forms of domination. In his 2001 tune, 'Behind the Barricades,' he sings: *As the movement grows there will be hills and bends—But at the center of the struggle are your lovers and your friends—The more we hold each other up the less we can be swayed—Here's to love and solidarity and a kiss behind the barricades.*

Since October 2023, David has produced numerous compelling songs "to bear witness to the genocide of Palestinians," such as the poignant and deeply ironic, 'Just Like the Nazis Did': *After so many decades of patronage by the world's greatest empire—After so many potential agreements, were rejected by opening fire—After crushing so many uprisings, now they're making their ultimate bid—Pursuing their Final Solution, Just Like the Nazis Did.* Another recent tune, 'Anti-Semite,' challenges the all-too-frequent pejorative responses—and currently punitive assaults being implemented under the Trump regime—to those who advocate for Palestinian rights in the face of the Israeli government's aggression: *If you are a fan of democracy, if you have a problem with state theocracy—You don't like invading armies bent on thievery, if you think it's wrong to steal someone's country, there's only one explanation—Though it may be getting trite—You must be an anti-semite.* David, who is a secular Jew, refuses to accept the idea that criticism of the Israeli state's aggression is anti-semitic.

There are some parallels in those lyrics to Trump's recently implemented tariff war—and his threat to make Canada the 51st American state—which have caused many folks north of the 49th parallel to defend *this* country's sovereignty. Yet, if we shift the lens slightly, it is humbling to remember and acknowledge how this nation state—

Oh Canada, our home ON Native land—was also established through the genocidal colonization of hundreds of Indigenous peoples.

Gleaned from his impressive archive of musical compositions—accessible for free at www.davidrovics.com and most platforms—it's evident that David has been periodically documenting the plight of Palestinians, as well as similar struggles of colonized people on several continents—including Indigenous Land Defenders in North America—from at least the turn of the century. For example, in 'Jenin' (2002) he imagines what tragic circumstances might motivate someone to become a suicide bomber while 'They're Building a Wall' (2004) lyrically deconstructs the Israeli government's



David Rovics

continued on P.8...


...continued from P.7 “circuitous monstrosity of apartheid that snakes throughout the West Bank” and offers a glimpse of how it could all be so different.

With regard to Indigenous solidarity, David has participated in (and written songs about) both the 2001 Dineh/Navajo action at ‘Big Mountain’ (aka Black Mesa) to block the proposed expansion of a coal mine on their traditional territories and, similarly, has stood with the Sioux at ‘Standing Rock’ in 2017 who were defending their source of drinking water from the construction of an oil pipeline. Several years later, he composed ‘When This Fertile Valley Was Stolen’ to acknowledge how the Willamette River Valley of Western Oregon, where Portland is situated and where David resides, was stolen from the Clackamas, Cowlitz and other Indigenous peoples.

Then, in 2020 he powerfully recalls in ‘Wet’su’wet’en’: *This morning I heard the newscaster say, there are no trains running across Canada today.* This song references the stunningly effective ‘Shut Down Canada’ direct actions of solidarity with the Wet’su’wet’en land defenders in so-called British Columbia in their rejection of pipelines crossing their sovereign traditional territory. As David’s first stanza describes the situation: *Way up north, on unceded land, lives a people called the Wet’su’wet’en Band—They’ve been there forever, no plans to go elsewhere—After years in the courts, the courts said the land was theirs—But when billions of dollars of toxic gas, has to get to the coast with a pipeline to pass, through Wet’su’wet’en land, then the wheels have been greased—Court rulings don’t matter, just send in armed police.*

Closer to our home in the Comox Valley, one of his many labour-oriented tunes, ‘Song for Ginger Goodwin,’ tells the story of the miner and socialist labour organizer active in Cumberland and the BC interior during the early 1900s who also resisted conscription and refused to fight in World War One. For these subversively principled actions, Ginger Goodwin was eventually murdered—shot in the back—by a bounty hunter.

David Rovics’ concert here is part of his current *Make the Planet Earth Great Again* world tour. It is presented by Denman4Palestine to make the connection between the people of Palestine and the anti-colonial struggles of Indigenous peoples in our own backyard. To demonstrate that affinity, it is a fundraiser for the Sla-Dai-Aich Rest & Recovery Network. The latter community group supports Indigenous land and water defenders by providing them with healing retreats on the rock.

Beverages, and sweet and savory snacks for people of all dietary persuasions, will be available for purchase at the event **Saturday, April 26, Doors 7 pm, \$10 - \$30 sliding scale.** 

This n' That

By Sally Campbell

A woman at a music event last fall asked me: “Do you write about anything other than *that*?” Surprisingly, I had the presence of mind to answer: “When you say ‘that’, what do you mean?” Somewhat taken aback, she was unable to give me an answer. Her question has occupied my mind from time to time ever since. From asking myself: what exactly *do* I write about? to wondering if it all sounds like exactly the same refrain, week after week, to consolidating my sense of purpose, to reassuring myself that it truly is ok if people are uncomfortable or disturbed by what I write. I remember that my intention has been to explore difficult questions, to speak about what is perhaps not being spoken about, to rattle us out of our comfortable, privileged perspective that really doesn’t want to be bothered with the problems of the world - the violence, the inequities, the racism - and our complicity in those problems. Another approach could have been to say: “Hmmm. What would you prefer I write about?” And I suspect I know the answer: good things happening in our communities, local news, gardening, dance classes. Thankfully there are plenty of people already doing that very writing for both Denman & Hornby, and doing it well! We need local news, and especially in such disturbing times, we need good news.

So, this is what I write about. Is this “that”?

1. Israel-Palestine, because Israel’s settler-colonial apartheid project has now led to an ongoing genocide in which Canada is complicit by reason of our media coverage, our arms sales and trade with Israel, our weapons components sent to the US for eventual use in Israel against Palestinians, and our govern-

continued on P.9...

...continued from P.8

ment's refusal to condemn, isolate and boycott Israel.

2. Militarism in Canada and elsewhere, because we are seeing a surge in warfare and war- planning, led by the US. NATO is an aggressive US-led arms buying and selling, war-provoking and war-making entity. We need to reexamine our relationship to it.

3. Nuclear Weapons & the *Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW), (yet to be signed by Canada) because a mere accident could destroy life on Earth as we know it. Because we have created a monster, tested it in ways that have caused massive health problems and ecological damage, then spent decades trying to contain its proliferation, only now to see governments reviving funding for “upgrades”, countries developing “tactical” nuclear weapons, and leaders recklessly voicing threats of their use once again.

4. BRICS + and other Global South partnerships, because we need (especially now) to broaden our trade, foster good relationships with other countries and reduce our US dependence.

5. Canadian tax laws allowing Canadians to get a tax write-off for donations subsidizing illegal Israeli settlements and the Israeli military, including benefits for young Canadian “lone soldiers” signing up to serve in the Israeli army. It is illegal in Canada to establish charities serving a foreign military.

6. Recipes from my kitchen because we need to feed our whole beings in healthy and satisfying ways, because cooking is fun and creative, and baking with little kids is the best.

7. Resources to learn from, such as: Canadians for Justice & Peace in the Middle East, World BEYOND War, Mondoweiss, Jonathan Cook, The Grayzone, Helena Cobban & Just World Ed, Jewish Voice for Peace (US) and Independent Jewish Voices (Canada), Palestine Museum (films), Richard Wagamese, Eyewitness Palestine, Canadian Foreign Policy Institute & Yves Engler, Just Peace Advocates, Peter Beinart, and many more.

8. The UN, its agencies and its Charter, because as flawed as it is, it's all that we have on a worldwide scale. It came into being post WW2 to prevent another world disaster, but thanks to structural flaws such as the “Big 5” veto, it lacks the teeth to give effect to its resolutions. The ICJ - the judicial organ of the UN - has ruled on Israel's occupation (illegal) and its War on Gaza (Preliminary Measures Orders pending upcoming trial on genocide).

The ICC, complementary to the UN but independent, has issued arrest warrants for Israelis Netanyahu & Gallant, and Hamas leader Deif. There is a warrant out for Putin. And for Bush, Biden, Trump? Alas, it would seem the Courts do respond to pressures/ threats by the world's hegemon. The ICC has steered clear of these particular war-makers.

9. After 35 years' work in the field of conflict resolution, I like to share some of my learnings about conflict, about ways that've had practical value for me and for my clients over the years. Studying conflict and mediative approaches rescued me from 12 years' grind of a law practice, which, rooted in an adversarial system of justice, is necessarily stressful. Integrative concepts like forgiveness and apology, circle peacemaking, and collaborative problem-solving are not mainstream in our justice system.

10. Indigenous teaching and learning. We are fortunate to be in the beginning of an ongoing reconciliation process, and together, finding ways to repair wrongs, restore damage and build respectful relationships with our indigenous peoples. Our world is in a turbulent transition time of decolonization, with unprecedented disruption and chaos marking the end of a global empire. We need to embrace indigenous recognition of interdependence of all beings, including respect and caring for

continued on P.10...



Sally Campbell

...continued from P.9 Planet Earth before our self-created climate crisis wreaks more havoc on the only home we have.

So that's that, some of it anyway. There may be more forthcoming, but for now, I'll be taking a timeout from my weekly offerings to organize and self-publish a small collection of "This 'n That" for the benefit of my grandchildren. If you have a favourite article, recipe or a piece that made a difference for you, please let me know (and perhaps say why), to help me decide what to include (sally@sallycampbellmediator.ca). Big gratitude to *The Islands Grapevine* for their ongoing community-building work of publishing both local and global content consistently all these years! 🍷

**2025
Denman Island Recreation Grants**



Applications are now available for the CVRD Recreational Grants for Denman Island non-profit Groups which provide sports and fitness related activities. Applications may be picked up at Abraxas Books (under "R" for Recreation) or online at: www.denmanresidents.com Link to "Committees and Services."

All completed applications can be returned to Abraxas Books (under "R" for Recreation) or via email to gstholti@gmail.com Please note Abraxas Books closes at 4pm.

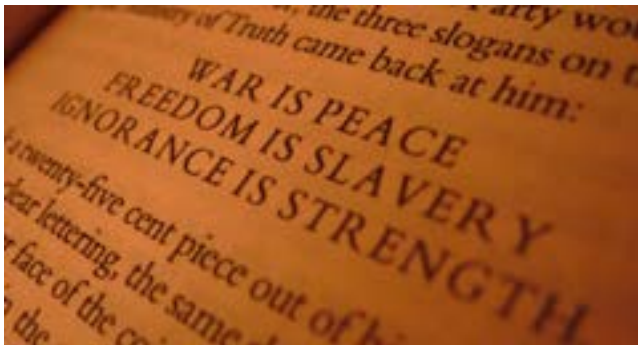
Deadline for submissions is May 28, 2025, at 4pm.
Funds available \$21,000

Committee members: Georgette Hollingsworth, Jennifer Villard, James Bartram

Truth Is Antisemitism.
Protest Is Terrorism.
Dissent Is Russian Propaganda.

By *Cailin Johnstone*
Apr.5th, 2025

OPINION



- Truth is antisemitism.***
- Protest is terrorism.***
- Dissent is Russian propaganda.***
- Critical thinking is misinformation.***
- War is peace.***
- Freedom is slavery.***
- Ignorance is strength.***

The Gaza holocaust is happening right in front of us. It's like if everyone in Nazi Germany had screens in their homes broadcasting exactly what was happening inside the extermination camps the entire time. Nobody can

say they didn't know. That claim does not exist for us.



Iran poses no threat to you or your country.
The Houthis pose no threat to you or your country.
 Hamas poses no threat to you or your country.
 Hezbollah poses no threat to

continued on P.11...

...continued from P.10 you or your country.
They only pose a threat to a genocidal apartheid state which does not deserve to exist.

The Daily Mail reports that Trump is preparing to bomb Iran with Israel. I don't know how accurate this report is, but I do know that lately such forecasts about insane US warmongering in the middle east have had an annoying habit of proving true.

For those who aren't aware, a full-scale direct war between the US and Iran would make all the atrocities we've been seeing in the middle east these last couple of years look like an episode of Peppa Pig. The whole world would feel its effects. The mind cannot imagine the horror.

Hamas is reportedly offering to release all Israeli hostages in exchange for a permanent ceasefire, and Israel is rejecting it. Israel has been rejecting this offer since Hamas first made it in October 2023.

Criticize Israel's genocide in Gaza and you'll get objections saying "All Hamas needs to do is free the hostages and this is over!" Meanwhile, in real life, Israel has been explicitly rejecting that exact transaction this entire time.

Zionism is a political ideology, not a religion. Nowhere in the Bible does it say "Thou shalt drop a new apartheid state on top of a pre-existing civilization thousands of years in the future despite the perpetual war, genocide and abuse its creation will necessarily entail."

Trump supporters are like, "No no you don't understand bro, the president isn't attacking free speech, he's just rounding people up and silencing them for political speech he doesn't like. They're saying the wrong words, bro. The government can't just let us hear the wrong kinds of words."

One of the dumbest things the empire is asking us to believe right now is that bombing Yemen again will lead to peace this time.

"Peace through strength" is just empire-speak for warmongering. Literally translated it means "Warmongering—but the good kind!" Anyone who uses this slogan is either an empire manager, a propagandist, a bootlicker, or a moron. There are no exceptions.

Notice how Democrats have been just as compliant with Trump's warmongering in the middle east as they were with Biden's. All the most evil behaviors of the US empire are supported by both parties. When it comes to mass murder and tyranny they're in enthusiastic agreement.



continued on P.13...

Letters To Hold on to what is true The Editor

The tariff spat is the crisis that the liberals have clung to because they have nothing else to offer. We are weak and vulnerable but we don't have to be. We can reclaim our country, our lives and our future. There is a better way and we have a unique opportunity to do it now.

We are experiencing shortages and yet, we live in the land of plenty. We should be the most successful country in the world and have the highest standard of living and environmental protections. We already operate our industries to world-class standards. We should be looking after all our citizens and we definitely should be able to provide good futures for our children. Why are we being impoverished by politicians?

Mark Carney approaches everything from a high moral stance. Sure he's got a PhD from Oxford but his dissertation has been widely criticized for being heavily plagiarized! Why has his role in Britain resulted in complete economic disaster? If you want to know what motivates him, read his 2021 book "Values". He claims that his main influences are Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, the infamous communists whose ideology saw untold millions murdered. He states we must decarbonize rapidly or else! That would result in a near total loss of the standard of living we've spent a century building. He even wants to regulate the right to have kids. Carney has 4 children and isn't about to lower his standard of living.

Mark Carney is one of the most powerful and wealthy of all the globalists. He refuses to allow Canada to devalue our resources. His company Brookfield Asset Management, meanwhile is buying up lucrative pipelines. Brookfield companies are all registered in Bermuda to take advantage of its tax haven status. As one of Canada's largest corporations, Brookfield has saved \$5.3 billion in Canadian taxes. Carney is unapologetic about this and churlish with reporters when pressed about it. Are you getting who Carney is yet?

Carney was deposed last year by the US congress in a fraud and racketeering investigation into coercive practices by GFANZ (Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net-Zero) which Carney co-chaired until recently. This investigation is predicted to lead to a major fraud case against GFANZ. The trillion dollar, green washing mega-business is collapsing and its principal architect is Mark Carney.

Carney wants to distance us from the US. "Our historic relationship is over" he pronounces. Carney granted himself the authority to decide Canada's future for decades to come. He wants to move us towards China and Europe. Of course he does. Europe has already been devastated by Carney's net-zero policies while China is a brutal dictatorship that murders people they don't like and is behind our fentanyl crisis. Are these the close relationships we want to expand?

Carney has close ties to the Chinese Communist Party and shortly after being formally named financial advisor to the liberal party last fall, Carney jetted off to China to report to the dictatorship. While there on the Canadian dime, he managed to secure a 250 million dollar loan from a CCP state bank for his own company, Brookfield. No wonder he doesn't want us to know his business.

Carney exhibited a terrible lapse of judgment when he continued to endorse MP, Paul Chiang, after it was disclosed that Chiang had publicly encouraged the abduction and delivery of his conservative rival to the Chinese Consulate in Toronto for a \$180,000 bounty. The bounty was placed on Joe Tay's head by the CCP for being too pro-democracy. Carney unabashedly defended Paul Chiang even up to the involvement of the RCMP. Is the Peoples Republic of Canada where Carney wants to take us?

Pierre Pollièvre has been a hands on politician for over 20 years. He has worked his way

continued on P.13...

...continued from P.12

up through the ranks. He has always fought for a strong and independent Canada that is not beholden to any country. He is a centrist with moderate views and is the only Canadian leader who can claim that position. He appeals to people with common sense who are capable of thinking for themselves. He doesn't lie. His campaign is full of positive, sound ideas for the change Canada so desperately needs.

His rallies draw the biggest crowds in Canadian political history. Most of all, he doesn't push fear, 24/7 but instead offers hope. He actually wants Canada to succeed! I have voted throughout the years for every imaginable party and leader but I've never been excited by any of them. I finally feel optimistic for the first time. Forget the media and the polls. Two billion dollars has bought the liberals all the fear money can buy. Hope is free and we could choose to give that to our children instead.

Helen Grond 

p.s. I don't mind being published anonymously.

...continued from P.11

Capitol Hill swamp monsters like Tom Cotton, Jim Banks and Josh Hawley have been aggressively hammering the lie that antiwar activist group Code Pink is funded and directed by China. Every time they are confronted by Code Pink activists you'll hear these empire managers regurgitating this slander, which they are able to do because in 2023 the New York Times wrote a disgusting, deceitful smear piece falsely insinuating that Code Pink is paid by China. And what's so freakish is that if you actually read that New York Times piece, one thing you will **not** find anywhere in its contents is a claim that anyone in Code Pink are paid by China or working for the Chinese government. The New York Times never makes this claim because it's a lie and they'd get sued if they printed it, so what they do instead is loosely **imply** connections to China by drawing a lot of conspiratorial red yarn between Beijing and an American millionaire named Neville Roy Singham, who is associated with Code Pink and happens to support communism. There's absolutely zero solid substance in the New York Times piece that these imperial war sluts keep citing. None. But because the New York Times published that smear, now those war sluts can shriek about China whenever they're approached by Code Pink activists challenging them on their warmongering in order to delegitimize their urgent questions. Such a disgusting, evil thing the New York Times did in defense of the imperial war machine. Instead of doing journalism, they handed the empire a propaganda gift that keeps on giving. No matter how much you despise the empire's propaganda mouthpieces, it isn't enough.




HOME

- Backup Generator Systems
- Custom Audio/Video
- Drywall/Taping Services
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AUTO/MARINE

- Text: 403-872-4931
- email: junglejay75@gmail.com
- Custom Lighting/Audio/Video
- Custom Panels
- Fibreglass Fabrication
- 12 volt/110 volt inverters

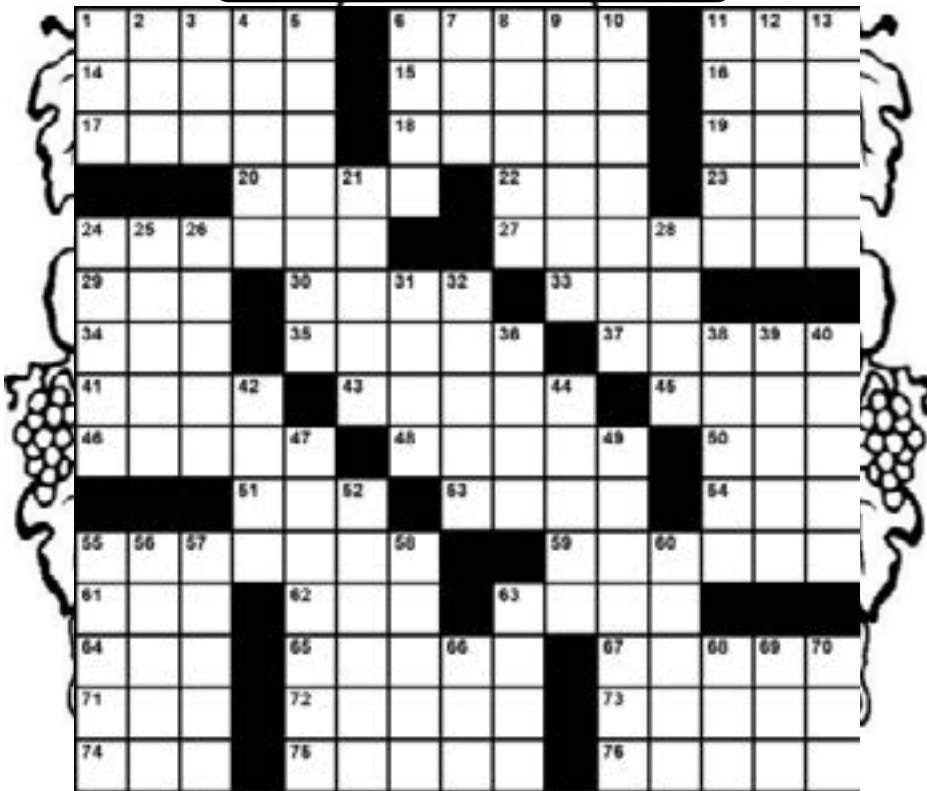
The Denman Island Garden Society
 will meet on Wednesday April 16th at 1 pm
 at the Gathering Place at the United Church.
 Kathryn West will present a talk on Tomatoes: A to Z.
 Kathryn has grown tomatoes commercially and
 has a lot of knowledge.
 We will have a plant exchange outside before the
 meeting, starting at 12:30 pm, so please bring any
 plants you wish to share or pass on to others.
 New members and drop-ins are welcome.



**Deadline for May's
 Flagstone
 is Friday
 April 18th**

**THE
 FIRST EDITION**
 Hornby Island's Community Paper
 Monthly Deadline: 11:59 pm the 19th. Email: hornbyfirst@gmail.com

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Cop ID
6. Weighed
11. Blackball
14. Clío or Edgar
15. Salmonella cousin
16. Carrier of genetic info
17. Troubleshoot
18. Defense
19. --- never work!
20. Funeral stand
22. Approx.
23. Period of time
24. Refrains
27. To date
29. Aves, once
30. Clarified butter
33. Dada leader
34. Boxer, e.g.
35. Become aware of
37. Prickly pods
41. Propeller craft
43. Fixed routines
45. Count calories
46. Plant problem
48. Asian primate
50. Conniving
51. Claus aide
53. Fiery heap
54. Don't dawdle
55. Burma today
59. Rules of conduct
61. Conger
62. Exist
63. Biblical preposition
64. Aardvark fodder

65. Baseball teams
67. Cockamamie
71. Last degree
72. Agassi of tennis
73. Book of fiction
74. Ultimate principle of the universe
75. Examined a joint
76. Athenian, e.g.

• DOWN •

1. Horrendous
2. Blow away
3. Apply gently
4. Beetles-to-be
5. Lace and such
6. Briny drop
7. Air hero
8. Many of synonyms
9. Inventor Gray
10. Cause trouble
11. Terse
12. Sinus cavities
13. Airport need
21. An anesthetic
24. Legendary western city
25. Exiled Roman poet
26. High wall of water
28. Tater
31. Certain organic compound
32. Bar, in law
36. Inducing gooseflesh
38. Hindu sage
39. Holy grail, e.g.
40. Eye sores
42. Auspice
44. Chased woman
47. Fact book
49. Scene
52. Cooked cereal
55. Had in mind
56. Gossipy one

57. Granting that, for short
58. Pulls apart
60. Cover with laurels
63. Exploited
66. Bard's before
68. 5th or Park
69. Born as
70. Benevolent guy

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“What do you call an Easter Bunny with fleas?
Bugs Bunny”



• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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

• SERVICES •

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

Exterior cleaning service. Offering cleaning solutions for your windows, gutters, roofs, decks, driveways, chimneys, siding, awnings, etc. Reasonable rates with professional results.

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

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

• FOR SALE •

Denman Island local cedar kindling sales. Wildcrafted. Artisanal! Damn Cheap! Your fire will thank you! By burning!!
DISCLAIMER: "Denman Island natural

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

cedar kindling" is not intended to diagnose or treat any medical condition. For external use only.
250-897-8184

MATHER FARM - Hay for Sale
\$8/bale or \$7/bale for 50 bales plus
250-335-0243

+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

• EMPLOYMENT SOUGHT •

Bilingual administrative assistant seeking work
Over fifteen years experience, ten of which in fast paced industries in Europe and Canada. Skill sets include scheduling meetings and organizing events/travels, promoting events, content translation (english/french), property management and basic administrative tasks such as data entry. Other services also available. Charging hourly or per project. Resume and references available upon request.
Claire Debleu, Denman resident
denmanpersonalassistant@gmail.com
236 380 0726

• 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 •

The Denman ART Studio Tour 2025 edition is taking place on August 16-17. Deadline for registration is April 30. If you are interested, please email:
denmanartstudiotour@gmail.com.

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

NEED HELP? Alcoholics Anonymous
250-338-8042

NOTICE OF DIRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A public meeting to appoint the 2025 Recreational Grant Committee will be held on Monday April 14, 2025 at 7:30 PM in the Back Hall of the Denman Island Community Centre. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Denman Island Residents Association.

The DIRA Board hopes you are able to attend and looks forward to reporting on the activities of our Committees in 2024 and their plans for the future.

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!



DENMAN SENIORS & MUSEUM SOCIETY,
BLACKBERRY LANE CHILDREN'S CENTRE
& THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND DENMAN'S ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT



DENMAN COMMUNITY HALL
& DENMAN SENIOR'S HALL

FACE PAINTING BOOTH!

WITH HOTDOGS AND LEMONADE @ 12 NOON