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denmanislandpotterystudiotour.com

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CONTENTS

ISSUE NO. 1683 • MAY 8TH, 2025

• COMMUNITY NEWS •

- 2 • 2025 Children's Art Show
By Judith Scruton

- 3 • Claire Kennedy's Inaugural Pottery Tour
By Beks Em

• LITERARY •

- 5 • The small boys continued to climb them
By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

- 7 • 3 13 25 Chad, Molly and Tom
By Alan Black

• OPINION •

- 4 • Shucking Oysters: That's Your Opinion
By Alex Allen

- 11 • Waking Up From The Nightmare Of Western Civilization
By Caitlin Johnstone

• 8 • • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

— REGULAR FEATURES —

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



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

2025 Children's Art Show

By Judith Scruton

The Summer Gallery is planning a Children's Art Show from May 23rd to May 26th. The Principal and Staff of Denman Island School are making this possible by collecting work to be shown

at the Gallery. Thank you.

In 2023 we were able to show work from every student in the school and it would be wonderful if we are able to do this in 2025.

This year I would also like to include students who are home-schooled and past students of Denman school. Please contact Judith Scruton at 250 335 2069 if you have any work you wish to include.

The Art work will be curated on Thursday and students and staff will be able to bring their students to see their work displayed on Friday between 10 am and 3pm, along with any members of the public who would like to join us. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday the show will be open from 11am to 4pm and we look forward to seeing children and parents, and the community coming to enjoy the wonderful work our children create.

Cake and beverages will be available on Saturday and Sunday. Please come and join us. 🍷



TheatreWorks presentation
of Generation of Women
(scheduled for May 10th)
has been postponed
due to emergency health
issues.

Much apologies.

Contact theatreworks@shaw.ca
for info

Denman Hardware's

Spring Fling/Mother's Day Sale

Saturday May 10 10-3

Gardening gurus Des and Sandy Kennedy
Sharing their wisdom and
answering questions 11-12



Salsa Dancing 12-?



Hanging baskets/bedding plants

Sales on regular items

Raffle for a barbecue

Hot dogs and popcorn

Face painting for kids of all ages.



Claire Kennedy's inaugural Pottery Tour

By Beks Em

with the artists on the island and see their creations.

Some potters on the tour make their work available at other times of the year via markets or places like the Denman Island Craft Shop. There are others that use the Tour as a once-a-year event to showcase their art.

This year, Claire Kennedy will be making her debut as a ceramic artist during the Victoria Day Long Weekend. Before now you had to be gifted one of her funky pieces directly.

As a part-time landscape designer, part-time potter it's no surprise she is inspired by nature. She was first introduced to hand-building ten years ago and enjoys the perfect imperfections this method provides.

Her process involves rolling out the clay, forming it into asymmetrical shapes, and etching designs and patterns into the sides. Her vases and cups often appear oblong or rolled with an overlapping seam, highlighting the natural process of creation.

"I've been really enjoying making orb forms and putting them together on the table instead of a tall vase," she says.

A fan of matte glazes and neutral tones like black, grays and whites, Claire's work is highlighted with the occasional splash of turquoise and chartreuse.



The orb vases display small flowers beautifully.



Claire Kennedy with her dog, Hester.

With a tiny personal

studio, Claire has opted to display her work alongside friend and fellow potter on the Tour, Jeanie Rogers of Gilded Petunia Pottery. Visit Stop #2 to see her quirky and contemporary work.

The Pottery Studio Tour runs 10am-5pm Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18. Maps and more information are available at: denmanislandpotterystudiotour.com.

TIDE TABLE

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

2025-05-08 (Thu)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:49	4.50	14.8
11:00	1.82	6.0
17:13	3.61	11.9
22:07	2.70	8.8

2025-05-09 (Fri)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:14	4.42	14.5
11:29	1.53	5.0
18:08	3.84	12.6
22:56	2.95	9.7

2025-05-10 (Sat)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:35	4.34	14.2
11:56	1.29	4.2
18:54	4.05	13.3
23:40	3.17	10.4

2025-05-11 (Sun)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:53	4.28	14.0
12:20	1.11	3.6
19:34	4.22	13.9

2025-05-12 (Mon)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:20	3.36	11.0
05:10	4.22	13.9
12:45	0.97	3.2
20:11	4.37	14.3

2025-05-13 (Tue)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:00	3.51	11.5
05:29	4.17	13.7
13:11	0.88	2.9
20:47	4.48	14.7

2025-05-14 (Wed)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:41	3.62	11.9
05:49	4.11	13.5
13:40	0.83	2.7
21:26	4.56	15.0

2025-05-15 (Thu)

Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:27	3.71	12.2
06:12	4.04	13.3
14:12	0.83	2.7
22:08	4.60	15.1



Shucking Oysters: “That's Your Opinion” *Everybody has opinions. I have them, you have them. And we are all told from the moment we open our eyes, that everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. Well, that's horsepuckey, of course. We are not entitled to our opinions; we are entitled to our informed opinions. Without research, without background, without understanding, it's nothing. It's just babble-babble. It's like a fart in a wind tunnel, folks.” - Harlan Ellison*

By Alex Allen

As always, when there are big issues with hints of controversy, we all have an opinion. And more often than not, strong ones. But are my opinions better or more right than yours? Are they well-reasoned? Have I got all the facts? How many times have we heard: “that’s not a fact; that’s just your opinion”?

We humans are irrational creatures who mistakenly believe we use logic and reason to arrive at our decisions. The reality is that we routinely make irrational decisions and then try to rationalize them. The way human minds are wired, if we take a strong position on an issue, we are unlikely to change our minds even when facts emerge that challenge our initial belief. As Scott Adams put it: “The most important thing you will understand about the human experience: being absolutely right and being spectacularly wrong feel exactly the same.” Everything is a slippery slope until it isn’t.

A reasonable thinker doesn’t make empty claims and try to pass them off as right, which is what some do when they say someone’s argument is just an opinion. We already know that without even knowing what you are talking about. What we want to know is: “Is your opinion backed by convincing reasons?” It’s not particularly valuable if all you can tell us is that it’s wrong or biased. If you can’t tell us why it’s wrong, you’re wasting our time. You might as well criticize somebody for “having an idea.” Stating opinions or having ideas are not faults in of themselves.

We all inhabit a reality of our own making. In each of our artificial bubbles, “we know our version of things is both proper and right, while all people who disagree with us are obviously wretched, ignorant and weak.” Quite naturally, we think of those who agree with us as objective and those who disagree as biased. Unfortunately, intellectual humility is a rare quality in human life.

In his book, *The Second Mountain*, David Brooks touches on tribalism, calling it “the dark twin of community.” While community is connection based on mutual affection, tribalism is connection based on mutual dislike. It’s natural to take sides – we’re tribal by nature. Brooks further notes: “Tribalism is community for lonely narcissists.”

The world has become a very divided place. Especially on social media, you find people with very strong opinions and you just know that there’s no room for discussion. If you disagree, insults start to fly, and usually, anyone with an opposing view is personally shamed. That’s what happens when people truly believe that their opinion is superior to one and all and cannot possibly entertain that there may actually be a different point of view.

And then we have assumptions. Assumptions are like lies. Once they have been uttered it’s hard to take them back. Our assumptions become so ingrained in us that we don’t even question them. Whether they are true or not, we accept and believe these things to be true. The problem is that most of the time, our assumptions – the narratives we tell ourselves – are simply inaccurate.



And lies. As a species, we are also wired for both credulity and for telling lies. Justin Gregg, in his book, *If Ni-*
continued on P.5...

...continued from P.4

etzsche *Were a Narwhal*, wrote that “it is that combination of traits – this bizarre mismatch between the human ability to lie and spot lies – that makes us a danger to ourselves.” Apparently, humans tell, on average, between one and two verbal lies a day. As we get older, we tell fewer lies, which has less to do with our “maturing sense of morality” and more to do with the fact “that it makes it harder to pull off the mental gymnastics needed to keep track of the nonsense we’re spouting.”

Lying is common because lying works. Telling lies is a super-effective way to get ahead in the world. An even better way to get ahead is to take it to the next level: bullshitting. The bullshitter has an extra advantage, in that they don’t waste time worrying about the truth; they just focus all their energy on being believed instead of being accurate.

Why is it so difficult for us to find common ground? The answer is as complex as the problem. The appeal of simplicity in a “right vs. wrong” / “us vs. them” world is undeniable. It is simple to explain and asks that we only understand one side – your side, the right one.

How can we find ways to allow for personal expression and opinion, to be inclusive of everyone’s beliefs, while being civil and respectful? The world’s challenges are far too complex for a one-size-fits-all solution. But, we cannot allow our fears, bias, and the agenda of a few powerful individuals to drive us away from solving the common challenges we face. At least that’s my opinion, anyway. 

The small boys continued to climb them.

Inspired by Charles Dickens. Dedicated to Carol Chambers, rest in peace, love.

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

Apr.19th , 2025

LITERARY

The air in London, still carrying the faint scent of char years after the great conflagration, had a new texture: a persistent, grimy dusting of soot. With the city’s hasty, yet supposedly improved, rebuilding came stricter codes. Once capacious enough for a stout yeoman with a brush the size of a small tree, chimneys were now designed with a peculiar, almost spiteful narrowness. The official line was efficiency, conserving heat, and preventing rogue sparks. Unofficially, it was an absurdity. No adult-sized sweeping tool could navigate the twists and turns of these chimneys.

As I observed from the relative comfort of my window (a small inheritance allowing me detachment where others had only dust), this led to a remarkable, if somewhat bleak, innovation. Rather than inventing a longer, more flexible brush – a concept that seemed beyond the collective genius of London’s master builders and engineers – they found a smaller brush-wielder. Children.

The first time I saw one emerge from a chimney pot, silhouetted against the pale sky like some grimy jack-in-the-box, I confess a startled laugh escaped me. It was the sheer *absurdity* of it. A tiny human, caked head to toe in black, appeared where smoke ought to be. My neighbour, Mr. Hemlock, who dealt in slightly used gentlemen’s hats, merely tutted. “Ah, Young Jem. Sharp lad. Needs a good hosing down.”

Mr. Hemlock, a man who dealt in slightly used gentlemen’s hats, employed several such lads. They were, he explained with a shrug, indentured. Bound over from the workhouse or left on doorsteps. “Cheaper than rope and brush,” he’d say, wiping his hands on a rag that was permanently the colour of coal. “And they fit.” The logic, delivered with the self-satisfaction of a man who had truly mastered the art of cost-cutting, was difficult to argue against, primarily because its callousness rendered one momentarily speechless.

My observer status afforded me a view of the daily rhythm. Dawn broke, not with birdsong, but with the chattering coughs of small boys huddled in doorways, their faces indistinguishable masks of soot. Their masters, burly men whose hands and clothes bore the permanent stain of their trade, would roust them with a cuff or a shout. Little figures, some no bigger than a sack of potatoes, would be led off through the still-waking streets, carrying their tools: a short, stiff brush and a metal scraper. And the sack, always the sack, for the soot they collected, and often, for sleeping under at night.

continued on P.6..

...continued from P.5

The process itself was a marvel of misplaced ingenuity. The boy would be sent up the narrow flue. Scrabbling, scraping, coughing. The master would stand below, shouting instructions – and sometimes, less pleasant things. There was one particularly notorious master, a Mr. Groggins, known for his impatience. Through a client's window, I once saw him holding a flaming piece of kindling just inside the fireplace opening, directly beneath the struggling boy. The resulting scramble and panicked scraping from above was, I suppose, effective. It certainly gave rise to the common phrase, "lighting a fire under him," a saying now so commonplace that one forgets its literal, rather horrific, origin. Mr. Groggins wasn't unique; it was a recognized, if unofficial, technique. A peculiar sort of motivation, certainly.

The sheer dirt was overwhelming. These boys were never clean. Water was a luxury, and soap was almost unheard of. They slept in cellars, in stables, wherever their master could find a corner, often curled up in the sacks they used for soot. The air they breathed continually was thick with it. It coated their lungs and eyes and settled deep into their skin. I'd often see them scratching, a ceaseless, futile effort against the ingrained grime and the fleas that were their constant companions.

Their health was a matter of grim statistics, though no one kept them officially. A persistent cough was as common as their black faces. Twisted limbs, I was told, resulted from climbing in unnatural positions. And then there were the more insidious ailments. The 'soot wart,' an unpleasant growth that masters sometimes cut off with a knife, and the truly dreadful affliction that targeted the scrotum, a slow, painful death known simply as the 'sweep's cancer.' It was a price paid for fitting into narrow spaces.

Despite the undeniable hardship, moments of absurd normalcy would sometimes intrude. I once saw a group of sweeps, no older than seven or eight, engaged in a vigorous game of marbles in a cobbled alley. Their faces were black, their clothes rags, but the fierce concentration on their faces as they crouched and aimed was pure, timeless boyhood. Another time, one of Mr. Hemlock's lads, a particularly small and nimble one named Thomas, managed to get irrevocably stuck near the top of a particularly convoluted chimney. Mr. Hemlock, red-faced and bellowing, threatened him from below, then tried the "fire" method to no avail. Finally, after much commotion, including a crowd gathering and a neighbour threatening to call the constable (who would likely do nothing), they had to dismantle the chimney from the roof to extract him partially. Thomas emerged, sobbing and covered in even more soot, only to be cuffed for causing trouble and sent up the *next* chimney. The sheer inefficiency of it all, the human cost compared to the simple mechanical solution that eluded them, was a dark comedy.

The masters, in their defence of the practice (when anyone bothered to question it), offered a variety of justifications that ranged from the pragmatic to the utterly nonsensical. "Builds character!" one told me, gesturing at a scrawny boy who looked about to collapse. "Harden 'em up for the world." Another claimed the soot was *good* for the skin, preventing scurvy, perhaps? The most common, however, was, "It's how it's done." Tradition, it appeared, trumped logic and basic human decency, making their justifications more absurd than convincing. Years passed. The narrow chimneys remained. The small boys continued to climb them. Generations of chimneys were cleaned, not by tools designed for the purpose, but by the painful, dangerous labour of children. Society, for the most part, accepted it as a necessary evil, a messy but functional part of urban life. Ladies complained about the soot deposited in their grates, but rarely about the means of its removal. Gentlemen smoked their pipes by firesides cleared by tiny hands and discussed politics or trade without a second thought.

From my window, I saw the procession: the masters, the small, black figures trailing behind them. I saw them disappear into houses and emerge hours later, sometimes limping, coughing, and constantly dirty. They were the invisible, essential gears in the city's machinery, turning in the dark, narrow places that no one else could reach or perhaps cared to.

It was a world of stark contrasts: the grand houses of the wealthy, the new, refined architecture, and the brutal, primitive method used to maintain them. A society capable of complex trade networks and philosophical debate, yet unable or unwilling to invent a proper brush. The enduring image, for me, was not of the boys themselves, caught in their nightmare, but of the complacent adults, the Mr. Hemlocks and Mr. Grogginses, and the wider public who looked away, comfortable in their homes, warmed by fires whose flues were cleaned by the smallest, cheapest, and most expendable members of their world. There was an undeniable, albeit grim, absurdity to it all – a testament to humanity's capacity for elaborate self-deception when profit and convenience were at stake. And the soot, it just kept falling. 

3 13 25 Chad, Molly and Tom

By Alan Black

Molly looked to her side and began her sibilant whisper, talking to someone Tom could not see. Her eyes were heavily lidded and her pupils were pinned; Tom knew Molly had recently taken heroin.

"I'm hungry buddy, make me something to eat!"

"That's not something I do Molly."

"Yeah? What is it you do?"

"Not that Molly."

"Your bloody useless buddy, ha, ha," she snorted out a laugh and then fell asleep on the battered old leather office chair. She had a loud garbled snore, her breathing corrupted by her incessant chain smoking. The corners of her small tight mouth quivered with each snore and were covered in a film of white paste. Her pallor had a purple-green tinge, which was concerning.

Chad Eastwick entered the common room. He had only two buttons done on his long purple and gold striped shirt and one could see the olive skin ripples of his lean muscular torso. Around his neck were a number of necklaces and a chain held together by a combination lock.

"Hey Tom, can I borrow your bolt cutters? I gotta cut this chain off of my neck cause I forgot the combo to this lock and don't tell me you don't got bolt cutters cause I seen that big bald weirdo maintenance guy you got cutting all of the locks that were attached to the fire escape stairs."

"I think you were seen putting those locks on the fire escape stairs Chad."

"Yeah? Who seen me?"

"The surveillance cameras recorded you and I think the boss is going to have a talk with you."

"There is somebody in this neighbourhood who is going around dressed like me trying to get me in trouble."

"Really Chad?" Tom rolled his eyes.

"It's a thing Tom."

"Okay..." With a shrug Chad indicated Molly asleep in the office chair.

"Molly on the nod again?" Tom tightened his lips and gave a light shake of his head to indicate his despair.

"If she overdoses it's on you Tom."

"Yeah, I don't know about that, Chad..."

"Where's those bolt cutters Tom?"

"Billy, the maintenance guy, takes them with him to his other job sites." Tom lied.

"You know I can tell you are full of crap Tom."

"Really Chad?"

"Because your eyes are brown, har, har, har."

"You are hilarious Chad."

"Watch this Tom." Chad fiddled with the combination lock on his neck without even looking at it. The lock swiftly opened and in a characteristic jerky motion Chad pulled the chain from around his neck.

"So you did know the combo Chad?"

"I just remembered it. Hey did I ever tell you about the time I sniffed glue and popped acid at the same time? It was like an apocalypse in my head. Everything went red, yellow and green and then I blacked out for a minute."

"No, I would have remembered that story and it does sound a wee bit reckless and wild."

Suddenly Molly sat up in the chair. "I'm hungry and I needs a smoke."

"Come on up to my place Molly, I got all the fixings to make us both baloney sandwiches with some of that fancy Dijon mustard I got at the food bank and I got an unopened pack of rez smokes up there."

"You are the best Chad," Molly grinned and seemed to float out of the chair.

As the two of them left the office Tom looked at the clock on the wall; it said twelve noon.

"It's time for a Filet-O-Fish," Tom patted his belly and pulled out his keys to lock up. 

Letters To To the Editor, The Island Grapevine **The Editor**

Dear Sir

Re: Capping Short-Term Rentals on Hornby Island

As stated by the late Pat Carney, politician, social commentator and long-time resident of Saturna, one working definition of a Gulf Island is 'a controversy entirely surrounded by water'. For Hornby Island the perennial issue of short-term rental housing is heading for something of a showdown at the upcoming Islands Trust meeting on May 16, 2025. While HISTRA (a formal grouping of short-term rental property owners) considers the regulation of rentals reasonable and good for Hornby (Islands Grapevine No 1682, May 1, 2025, page 6), the focus of their concern has turned to a proposal from the two Hornby Island Trustees to limit the number of permitted rental units. Unsurprisingly, (this is a Gulf Island) there is an alternative point of view alive on Hornby that strongly endorses the concept of reducing and capping the number of short-term rentals.

Both sides in this conversation use arguments to support their opinions based largely on economic and environmental impacts (both positive and negative). Both have clear personal concerns. Property owners are vested economically in various ways. Residents describe their personal space as invaded and/or degraded by the presence of short-term rental properties. This can, and sometimes does, pit neighbor against neighbor.

Trustee Alex Allen has described short-term rentals as the elephant in the room, the 800lb gorilla on Hornby Island (First Edition, May 2025, page 29), and has outlined his perspective on the positions adopted by the main parties involved. He also tackles the question of capping how many short term vacation rentals should be allowed on Hornby by looking at the situation on Orcas and Lopez in the San Juan Islands, Pender and Gabriola in the BC Gulf Islands, and, by way of interest, in the city of Nelson, each of which attracts a number of tourists each year. This approach links rental cap imposed in each of these jurisdictions with the land area involved and apparently is the basis for the Trustees suggestion that rentals be capped at 67 on Hornby.

From a social practitioner perspective, the Trustees have applied an environmental approach, of relative intensity of rental units within the landscape, which is relevant to such considerations as fresh water availability and use and management of waste water. On the other hand, the short-term rental is, behind the economic and environmental arguments put forward by proponents and opponents, very much a social issue. As such, social indicators should provide a greater insight to the reasons for the controversy, its persistence and perhaps offer a solution.

One social indicator (there are others but this one is easy to assemble with publicly available data and similarly easy to understand) is the relationship between the number of short-term rental units and the size of the permanent resident population. This can be expressed as a ratio, 1:X, where X is the number of permanent residents present for each short-term rental unit. The result is a number that can be related to the experience of the resident population. The higher the ration number defined by X the presence of rental units become progressively more diffuse and diluted with respect to the permanent resident population. Conversely, the smaller the ration number defined by X, the more concentrated and proximate to the permanent resident population.

Applying this formula to the examples quoted by Alex Allen (and using population census data from Wikipedia) yields the following relationships. Orcas Island – permanent population 5387, rental cap 211, ratio 1 rental unit :25 permanent residents. Lopez Island – population 3156, rental cap 135, ratio 1:23. Pender Island (North and South), population 2250, rental cap 10, ratio 1:225. Gabriola Island – population 4500, rental cap 10, ratio 1:450. City of Nelson – population 11,198, rental cap 110, ration 1:102.

Applying the same approach to Hornby Island's permanent population of 1225 (2021 census) is made complicated by the lack of agreement as to how many short-term rental properties are presently active on the Island. However, using the numbers most commonly quoted yields the following pattens. 165 rentals – ratio 1:7; 135 rentals (the number quoted by HISTRA) – ratio 1:9; 67 rentals (number proposed by the Trustees) – ratio 1:18. The data are revealing. The low ratios of 1:7 and 1:9 under the current situation (regardless of absolute numbers) show that permanent residents are highly exposed to the presence of short-term rental

continued on P.11...

...continued from P.10

properties. Residents perceptions (both positive and negative) are backed by physical proximity and probable frequency of interaction. There is reasonable suspicion that the ratio would be smaller (lower number), indicative of even closer and greater frequency of interaction, if the calculation were based on the number of permanent households, which is normally lower than the total number of residents in a population. The proposal of capping rentals at 67 and shifting the ratio up to 1:18 reduces this exposure and potentially at least some of the associated social tension.

For the sake of argument (we are on a Gulf Island and this is a cultural norm) it is informative to see how the Hornby picture would change if we use the rental cap ratios applied at other locations. For example, what if the situation on Orcas and Lopez were applied to Hornby? - a not unreasonable idea given that, just like Hornby, Lopez is a tourist destination community with a tourism-based economy dependent on a seasonally fluctuating population of visitors. If Hornby were a San Juan Island, the rental cap would be 50 for a ratio of 1:24.5. Moving along, apply the Pender and Gabriola numbers and you get rental caps on Hornby of 6 and 3 respectively. Apply the Nelson ratio and a Hornby rental cap would be set at 12.

Food for thought and input to the conversation ahead over the 'right' numbers for Hornby Island.

Yours truly,

Ian Thomson

Hornby Island



About Gronk

I am indebted to Dennis Forsyth for the following:

This swan was born on the marsh at Bob and Velda Parsons farm between 1998 and 2000. Making it at least 25 years old which is getting up there for a swan. In '97 I was part of a team who were censusing Canada Geese and Swans as we tried to assess how successful population recovery programs on Vancouver Island had been. In that winter a Mute Swan suddenly appeared on Windy Marsh. Obviously an escape from somewhere as they are not native here. This swan moved in with a half-dozen Trumpeters who hung out there. In the spring it bonded with one of the Trumpeters and when the Trumpeters left for their northern breeding ground it and its new mate stayed here. Mutes don't migrate. The Mute turned out to be a female and nested on the marsh. To our consternation she and her mate produced two babies. We assumed that they would be sterile as hybrids and that seems to have been the case. In the next two years they produced five more young. Some of them fell victim to predation and some of them left here and moved to Deep Bay. The Mute female was killed by something on the marsh in late 2000 and her Trumpeter mate resumed migrating with the next batch of Trumpeters. The one remaining hybrid has been here ever since. For most of the year it keeps company with the ducks and geese on Morrison south of the road, when there are Trumpeters around it will join them temporarily. Of course we don't know this

swan's gender. Its voice is somewhere between the minimal hissing sounds of a Mute and the clarion song of a Trumpeter. A raspy, hoarse sort of honk. This led Velda Parsons to name it Gronk. A strange story and since Gronk seems perfectly healthy right now, one that may continue for another few years.

Mark Prior



Left, Trumpeter style; Right, Mute style: **Dennis Forsyth**

...Letters continued on P.10

Dear Trustees,

The map (Schedule D2) on page 5 of Draft Bylaw No. 176 is based on a 24 year old Report. This report has been replaced by a new Report, commissioned and issued by the Islands Trust Council in 2021, which provides much more accurate mapping of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas on Hornby Island.

Review of the new Report shows that the Draft Bylaw is based on obsolete information. Unless the approval process is immediately paused and Draft Bylaw No. 176 is revised to reflect the actual state of Hornby Island groundwater, the Local Trust Committee will be unable to make informed decisions on the many important land, property, vacation rental, and secondary suite uses that are governed by Schedule D2.

Put simply, you cannot make the right decisions if you have the wrong information.

In particular, the new maps issued by the Islands Trust Council indicate that "Aquifer 1A", as shown on the current Schedule D2, does not exist. The new maps are also much more precise and can be used to map Environmentally Sensitive Areas on a property-by-property basis. The map excerpts below illustrate this new accuracy, especially with regard to the Whaling Station Bay Peninsula (where Aquifer 1A is purported to be located).

It is my understanding that Islands Trust Council paid over \$100,000 for this Ground Water Mapping Report. The Hornby Island Local Trust Committee should be provided with up-to-date and accurate Ground Water mapping information before any further decisions are made.

Sincerely,

John Grayson, Hornby Island

Affiliations:

Winemaker/owner

Hornby Island Estate Winery & Farm

hornbywine.com

Treasurer

New Wave Wine Society - a province

wide organization

newwavewine.ca

Director

Hornby Island Farmlands Trust Society

hifarmlandtrust.org

Co-Chair

Hornby Island Economic Enhancement

Corporation

hiceec.org

Committee Member & Internet Lead

Hornby / Denman Islands Internet

Committee

hornbydenmaninternet.com



FireSmart™ Your Home

FireSmart™ Program Helps Protect Your Home

The Comox Valley Regional FireSmart Resilience Committee is encouraging all residents to FireSmart their properties. Forest fires are a natural part of our ecosystem. You can reduce the risk of losing buildings and properties in a wildfire event by using simple FireSmart Tips.

 **FireSmart Tip For Your Home:** Grasses shorter than 10 centimetres in height are less likely to burn intensely.

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For more information, call: 250-334-6000 or visit:
comoxvalleyrd.ca/firesmart

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FIRST NATION | TOWN OF COMOX
VILLAGE OF CLIMBERLAND

 **BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart™**

 **Comox Valley REGIONAL DISTRICT**

It's Always About The System

By Caitlin Johnstone

May 5th, 2025

We don't need horror movies. We're creating our own horrors in places like Gaza.

We don't need dystopian fiction. We're living in dystopia right here in our own society.

We don't need fantasy stories

about scary monsters. The scary monsters run our government.

Westerners will create a waking nightmare, psychologically compartmentalize away from its existence, and then go watch a movie about a fictional waking nightmare to give themselves a thrill.

We'll sit on the edge of our seats watching made-up tales about psychopathic killers while psychopathic killers rule the world.

We'll turn our backs on horrific acts of human butchery and

then go watch fictional acts of human butchery, getting ourselves

through any discomfort we might experience by reminding ourselves that what we are watching isn't happening in real life.

Someone in my Substack comments just asked me if I'd considered the possibility that the world might be better off without humanity, because of all the horrible things that are happening while the vast majority of us do nothing to stop it.

There are certainly many ugly things about human behavior, and there are forces within us which absolutely do not deserve to exist. Our self-centeredness. Our competitiveness. Our hatred and prejudice. Our seemingly limitless tolerance for unfathomable abuses so long as they are being inflicted on people in other countries whose anguished faces we don't have to look at. The delusions and trauma-based conditioning patterns we've been passing on from generation to generation since the dawn of civilization. The world would be better off without these things.

But over the years I have also become acquainted with dynamics inside the human organism which could make this world into a paradise, if we can only get out from underneath our delusion-based conditioning enough to realize them. Within every human being sleeps the potential for selfless action and vast compassion. We all have within us the ability to heal. We all have within us the ability to shed egoic consciousness like a reptile sheds old scales.

Maybe it's silly, but I like to think of this potentiality as a kind of Chekhov's gun for our species, sitting there onstage waiting to go off as humanity's story unfolds. I know for a fact that humans have the potential to awaken from the trance of the ego in profoundly transformative ways, and I choose to believe that the playwright put that potential there for a reason.

Every species eventually hits a point where it must adapt to changing conditions which threaten its existence or go extinct. It just happens that in humanity's case, the changing conditions which threaten our existence are the creations of our own minds. Ecocide. Nuclear brinkmanship. Weaponized AI. Biological warfare. The further our egos carry us down the path of competition and domination, the more likely it is that we open up some existential peril down the road for ourselves that there is no coming back from.

We'll either make the necessary adaptations and find a way to collectively unlock our dormant potential for selfless functioning on this planet, or we will go the way of the dinosaur. I keep at this because I have seen far too many strange and miraculous things in my life to believe such an awakening is impossible.

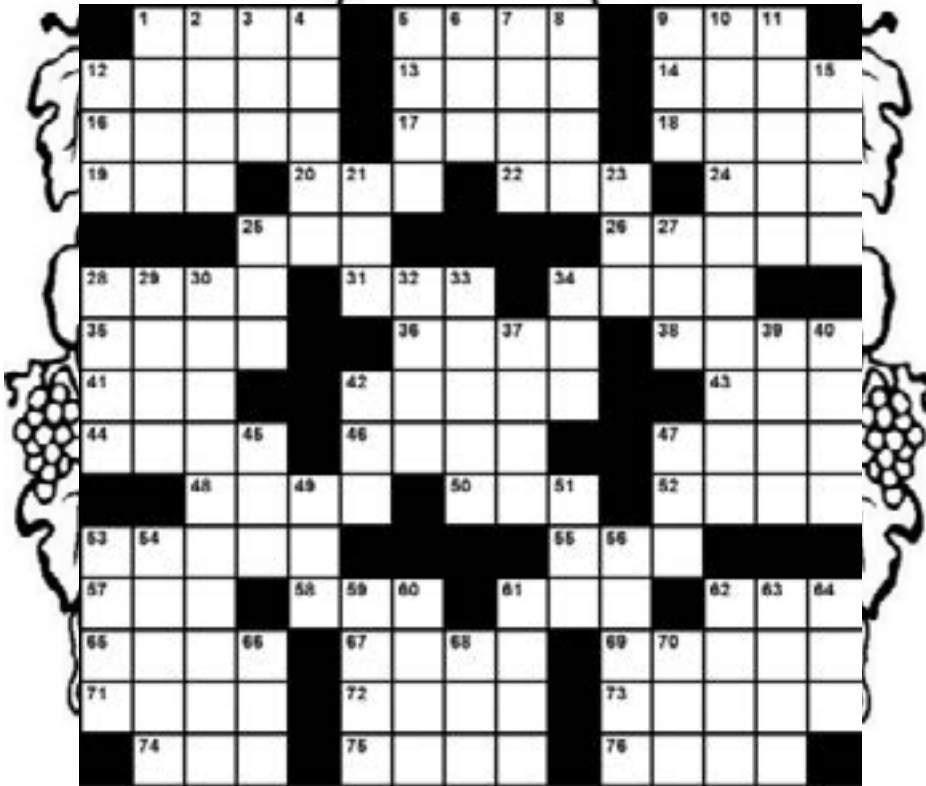
And the good news is we have truth on our side. The human ego is an illusion; the self does not exist. Enlightenment is already here, closer to us than our own breath, just being overlooked amid the flailings of the deluded mind. The propaganda is deceitful, and the truth is getting more and more exposure. Humans are getting better and better at sharing ideas and information about what's really happening in our world.

We just need to open our eyes. We just need to let truth get a word in edgewise. That's all that needs to happen.

We need to stop fixating on all these made up stories in our heads and on our screens, and look deeply at what's really going on.



• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Eyelid malady
5. Calla lily, e.g.
9. Adorer's writup
12. Weighed
13. Classic Chevy model
14. Caesar's cohort
16. Liquid excretory
17. Cote residents
18. Cobbler's tools
19. Dog bite
20. Cut the blades
22. Balaam's ride
24. Baby's break
25. Blackball
26. Hops heaters
28. Be a blacksmith
31. Automation, abbr.
34. Be next to
35. Alan, Larry or Stephen
36. Shensi province capital
38. Kind of bag
41. Angry state
42. Choose a candidate
43. Period of time
44. Coarse flour
46. Pout, in Paris
47. Lament loudly
48. Artist's mecca
50. Anti anti
52. Moslem prayer leader
53. Board room artwork

55. Exhaust, as strength
57. A good deal
58. Cape in New Jersey
61. Craft of sci-fi
62. Ar chaser
65. Not fer
67. Decreasingly
69. Country contest
71. Foolish
72. Bugbear
73. Frat party outfits
74. Common Market abbr.
75. Sponsorship, var.
76. Excuse me

• DOWN •

1. Asian garment
2. Fumble
3. Far Eastern money
4. Plant problem
5. From the top
6. Big argument
7. Iris's place
8. Big glob
9. Andean tuber
10. Away from the current source
11. Acclaim
12. Brewery vat
15. Egyptian serpents
21. Circle, in a way
23. Cry out loud
25. Command to Fido
27. Summer mo.
28. Glance through
29. Charter a bus
30. Singly
32. Peace Prize city
33. Keep busy
34. Aardvark fodder
37. Maple genus
39. A Met score
40. Fragrant ointment
42. Font widths
45. Baby's seat
47. Assumed mane
49. A little resistance
51. Disconnected
53. Flowers, for

- short
54. Dishonest person
56. Big vessel
59. Balm ingredient
60. Safecracker
61. Applications
62. Apply rickrack
63. Bed of coal
64. Brillo rival
66. ABC rival
68. Hindu Mr.
70. Admirer's sound

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“What did the Mum-my spider say to the baby spider? You spend too much time on the web.”



Happy Mother's Day.
Thank you Mums.

• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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

• **SERVICES** •

Need help with Spring sprucing up? Cleaner, gardener, organizer available on Denman and Hornby islands. Local references. Call/text for rates and available days/hours. 250-702-8443.

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

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

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

• **FOR SALE** •

MATHER FARM HAY- 2024 Hay \$7/ bale, Mulch Hay - \$5/bale. Taking orders for 2025 Hay - \$8/bale - 250-335-0243

• **CLASSIFIED ADS** •

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

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

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** •

Hornby Island Winery requires a sales person from Denman to sell wine at the Comox Valley Farmers' Market every Saturday from June to Sept. For a detailed job description email: johngraysonbc@gmail.com

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** •

HIRRA hybrid AGM: Wed., May 14, 7:30pm. At the Hall and by Zoom. Year-end financial report, twelve Committee annual reports, elections. Volunteers needed! E-mail: office@hirra.ca. New members welcome.

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

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 •

• 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)

• 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 8

- 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

FRIDAY 9

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

SATURDAY 10

- 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
- A Generation of Women *CANCELLED*
- HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY HORNBY CO-OP!
Join the celebration 11am-1pm @ the Ringside

SUNDAY 11

• HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY •

MONDAY 12

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

TUESDAY 13

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

WEDNESDAY 14

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm

THURSDAY 15

- 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

FRIDAY 16

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

SATURDAY 17

- 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
- Denman Island Pottery Studio Tour 10am-5pm

SUNDAY 18

- Denman Island Pottery Studio Tour 10am-5pm

MONDAY 19

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Hornby's First Edition Deadline 11:59:59pm

TUESDAY 20

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- D.I.L.T.C. meeting 10am DAC

WEDNESDAY 21

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- DIGS Meeting D.I. United Church 1pm
- DAAC Open Mic 7pm Back Hall

THURSDAY 22

- 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



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