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2550 Lake Road
Denman Island, BC
V0R 1T0

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com
www.theislandsgrapevine.com



Publisher/Editor
Mike Van Santvoord



Associate Editor
Keith Porteous

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

The Art of Hester Lessard at the Summer Art Gallery: Exploring the Paradox of Memory

by the Art Gallery Committee

Summer Art Gallery hosts a solo exhibit by Denman resident Hester Lessard. This will be the first Denman show for Lessard, who has exhibited at numerous galleries in Vancouver and on Vancouver Island.

The show is entitled *Traces*. "My aim in this series is to capture the paradox of memories, the way they are both fleeting and indelible. Memories shift, evolve, and disappear, all the while deeply marking us," says Lessard. The exhibit will also include a sampling of slightly older works.

Exploring dualism

Lessard didn't set out to create paintings about memory. Rather, the

theme emerged from her artistic preoccupations.

"I have always, in my painting, dealt with dualisms that have a contradictory element."

The *Traces* series explores the tension between permanence and erosion. Initially, these themes were aesthetic categories that manifest on the canvas as dynamic contrasts. Hard-edged lines co-exist beside soft, blurry borders that fade and dissolve. Solid geometric shapes are juxtaposed with atmospheric clouds of colour. Grid-like etchings appear and disappear.

As Lessard worked, she found herself contemplating the ways permanence and erosion characterize human memory. "I kept thinking about how memory has a powerful shape but also dissolves, shifts,

continued on P.4.



Shucking Oysters: Don't Get Me started

By Alex Allen

Experts are always reminding us that perspective is everything. Take what you are afraid of and break it apart. Look at it from a new angle, and it loses its power over you. Call me cynical, but really? Mark Twain said it best that we don't know "whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on, or by imbeciles who really mean it." There are so many disparities. Us and them. Ecar drivers and gas car drivers. Homeowners and the homeless. Half full and half empty.

We all know who the wealthiest are and it does not bode well. For one, the tech companies are destroying something precious which is the possibility of contemplation. They have created a world where we are constantly watched and always distracted. Their most precious asset is our most precious asset, our attention and they are abusing it.

Franklin Foer wrote that the lineage of tech companies, like Facebook and Google goes back to the era of communes. In his words, "that experiment ended in shambles – the communities dissolved into cults of personality, small villages riven by rivalries." All the hippy visions of democracy and oneness culminated in authoritarianism and crushing disappointment.

We homo sapiens have definitely lost our way. The obscene wealth of some individuals is not just inhumane, it is inhuman. As someone said, a watch tells the time, a \$250,000 Rolex tells people you've got issues. Most of us know, that many traits characteristic of psychopaths are celebrated in business: ruthlessness, a convenient absence of social conscience, and laser-focused on success. It's not that people without a soul become rich, it's that being rich tends to corrode whatever soul you have got left.

And speaking of us and them. We seem to be still trapped in this distorted view of human nature and the natural world, two faces of an enemy to be feared and conquered, rather than an ally to be honoured and nourished. This is the deepest species-level psychopathology imaginable. How did we go from flowing with the natural world to living in a zoo of our own making?

We contaminate streams, rivers, lakes, aquifers with industrial waste, pesticide runoff, and fracking chemicals, and then we are sold "pure spring water" (often just tap water) in plastic bottles that breakdown into micro-plastics that find their way to oceans, whales' stomachs, and our own bloodstreams.

Paul Huebener bluntly wrote in *Nature's Broken Clocks*, "from the sudden acceleration of the warming of the seas, to shocking storms and unprecedented fires, to the distress cries of birds that no longer know when to migrate, the environment can no longer be seen as a stable backdrop to human affairs." And ironically, the few events that still seem to happen with predictable regularity is that every few years a group of scientists warns us that we have only a few years left to take action.

Many say that we are living in the anthropocene era; that human nature is the cause of climate crisis. Far from it. We are living in the "capitalocene." The real issue is the "voracious ecological appetite and willful irresponsibility of capitalism." Capitalism not only alienates and commodifies nature

TIDE TABLE

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

2025-06-05 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:02	4.542	14.9
09:45	1.780	5.8
16:27	3.418	11.2
20:16	3.039	10.0
2025-06-06 (Fri)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:32	4.422	14.5
10:20	1.479	4.9
17:35	3.738	12.3
21:25	3.354	11.0
2025-06-07 (Sat)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:58	4.314	14.2
10:51	1.238	4.1
18:24	4.023	13.2
22:30	3.565	11.7
2025-06-08 (Sun)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:21	4.227	13.9
11:20	1.048	3.4
19:02	4.251	13.9
23:27	3.691	12.1
2025-06-09 (Mon)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:44	4.168	13.7
11:48	0.898	2.9
19:36	4.425	14.5
2025-06-10 (Tue)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:17	3.756	12.3
04:11	4.132	13.6
12:17	0.777	2.5
20:08	4.555	14.9
2025-06-11 (Wed)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:00	3.785	12.4
04:41	4.110	13.5
12:49	0.683	2.2
20:41	4.648	15.2
2025-06-12 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:42	3.791	12.4
05:16	4.087	13.4
13:22	0.626	2.1
21:16	4.709	15.4

continued on P.5...

...continued from P.2

erodes, and changes. How, despite its evanescent qualities, it shapes us and is central to the narratives we tell ourselves about who we are.”

Viewers might not see the theme of memory in the paintings, and that’s fine, says Lessard. “When people see abstract work, they often seek a lens through which they can look at the work and understand it. These paintings explore a fundamental dualism which can be read in multiple ways. For me, it is about memory.”

From Protest to Painting

Lessard’s personal history is a study in contrast and change within her artistic practice, career, and her choice of home. She grew up with artistic parents in New York City and attended Columbia University until, in 1968, politics intruded. Lessard was arrested while participating in massive campus protests against the US government’s complicity in the Vietnam war. Staying in the USA began to feel untenable.

“I was attending classes while under indictment by the university. I couldn’t keep doing that,” she says. Lessard, just nineteen years old, moved to Toronto, and soon after that, to rural Nova Scotia, where she lived a classic back-to-the-land lifestyle that included building herself an octagonal cabin. In the meantime, she painted and exhibited, working within the traditional realm of landscape and figurative art.

From Painting to Law, and Back Again

In her early 30s, Lessard had a personal moment of reckoning. Her relationship ended and she took stock of her past, present, and future. “I was so young, barely an adult, when I left the United States. I was all alone, with no support system. It was a large rupture. I’d always had an artistic side, but I used to have an academic side as well.” What would I have done with my life, she asked herself, if I hadn’t left for Canada?

As a result of her soul searching, Lessard enrolled in law school at Dalhousie University in Halifax. After graduating she embarked on a fulfilling and demanding 27-year academic legal career specializing in constitutional law, often with a feminist angle. This brought her to the West Coast where she taught law at the University of Victoria.

As retirement beckoned, Lessard felt the pull of the rural life she’d left decades ago, and, after checking out various island locations, chose Denman Island. Since 2021, she has been splitting her time between Denman and Victoria.

Art also called to Lessard. She picked up her brushes and returned to her old subject matter: landscapes. But while she loved painting again after such a long hiatus, something didn’t feel right. “I was no longer the same person. While I feel compelled to connect to the BC landscape through painting, direct visual representation is no longer the best path for me. To be honest, I was boring myself. I wanted to get beneath surface images, so I started to try abstract approaches.”

A focus on light

Lessard’s metamorphosis into an abstract painter reached a certain completion when she discovered the use of cold wax medium, a soft, malleable, matte-finish substance that combines with oil paint.

“Wax medium’s main attraction for me is how it gets rid of the brush. There are abstract painters who are all about the brush stroke, but I wanted to get away from the tight control the brush facilitates,” says Lessard. She applies the medium with a variety of instruments—squeegees, crumpled wax paper, a credit card, brayers. “You can dab it, you can make texture, and you can create three or four layers and scratch down through the layers.” Lessard’s abstract painting shares certain qualities with her earlier figurative work. “The central link is the focus on light. My period as a figurative painter was very much preoccupied with the quality of the light, and that’s still central to my art. And that kind of goes against the grain of the abstract tradition. Much abstract art tends to operate in a shallow plane and to avoid creating the illusion of depth. But once you start playing with light, that changes.”

See Hester Lessard’s exhibit, *Traces*, at the Denman Island Summer Art Gallery, Denman Island Arts Centre, 1016 Northwest Road, Denman Island. Opening reception: Thursday, June 12, 2025, 7:00 pm. Gallery hours: Mon – Sat 11:00 am – 4:00 pm / Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Show runs till June 24.



...continued from P.3 into products, it transforms humans into consumers, and also alienates and commodifies us. The economy does not create value for the real world: it destroys the real world. Is industrial civilization the thing that has to be saved? Or is it the destruction that has to be stopped? Think long and hard on that.

I used to think naively that personal change equalled social change. Eat less. Drive less. Take shorter showers. Live more simply. Sadly, it in no way stops this culture from killing the planet. Writer and ecophilosopher Derrick Jensen wrote that simple living as a political act is fundamentally as narcissistic as “orgasms for peace, in that it substitutes private, personal actions that accomplish very little in the real world and a whole lot of wishing.”

We individuals are not the problem. The industrial economy is what needs to stop. Global warming and global poisoning will continue, no matter how many Ecars or Ebikes there are on the road. Jensen added that “unless you are ideologically blinkered, irredeemably selfish, or just plain stupid, it’s pretty easy to recognize that every action involving the industrial economy is destructive.”

What are the solutions, short of taking down every pipeline, dam, fish farm, tanker, port authority, forestry company, mining company, LNG plant, oil rig, factory farm, monoculture farm, shipping company, myopic government and all the other entities that exist by putting greed and profit over anything or anyone that gets in their way? I don’t know.

And here we are spending billions on artificial life and artificial intelligence while we destroy real natural life. If we define insanity as being out of touch with reality, our capitalistic world is by definition, insane. Where are we going? In his book *An Optimist’s Tour of the Future*, Mark Stevenson warned us that asking what’s next is “like asking a fly to consider the aesthetic quality of a windshield.”



We look to Mars, to Europa, seeking echoes of past or present life

Dedicated to myself. And my 40 years of reading Scientific American.

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

May 18th, 2025

The teeming surface of Earth is a vibrant tapestry of motion and noise. Eight billion lives intertwined, building, consuming, dreaming, dying. Each breath, each footprint, each digital pulse is a fleeting ripple in the planet’s vast, indifferent ocean. Our cities, soaring mon-

uments to our transient ascendancy, clawed at the sky. Our waste, a growing testament to our brief, voracious presence, spread across continents and into the deepest trenches. In the face of such vastness and indifference, we are a small part of the Earth’s history, our impact fleeting and transient.

But eternity laughs at such notions.

Observe the slow, inexorable work of time. A few centuries hence, the mighty structures that pierce the clouds will begin their cascade into dust. Steel frames will rust and buckle, concrete crumble, and glass shatter into glittering sand. The intricate networks of roads and pipes will fragment, overgrown by relentless vegetation, reabsorbed by the soil. Even the most durable artifacts of our age – the plastics that choke the seas, the stubborn Styrofoam, the faint residue of nuclear endeavours – will, over millennia, be ground down, scattered, diluted, their distinct signatures lost in the greater geological flux. The power of time to erase our mark on the planet is a testament to the Earth’s resilience and should inspire a deep respect.

This dizzying perspective raises a question that chills the bones when truly considered: How can we be so sure we are the first? The Silurian Hypothesis, a thought experiment in astrobiology, offers not an answer but a terrifying possibility. What if complex life has thrashed and evolved upon this world for hundreds of millions of years, and others rose before us? Civilizations perhaps as grand or grander, leaving no trace substantial enough for our fleeting gaze to capture.

Our methods of probing the deep past are pathetically limited. We seek stone ruins, durable

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...continued from P.5 artifacts, and fossilized remains. But the planet itself is a sculptor of erasure. Plate tectonics grind continents together, lift mountains from sea beds, and subduct ancient crust into the molten heart. Erosion ceaselessly wears away what is exposed. The oldest exposed land is a geological blink of an eye compared to the age of multicellular life.

Fossilization, our precious window into ancient biology, is a rare miracle. The vast majority of organisms vanish without a trace. The brief hundred thousand years of modern human existence, dwarfed by the 180 million years the dinosaurs ruled, make our potential footprint in the fossil record vanishingly small. A billion T. Rexes lived and died, yet only a few thousand near-complete skeletons remain. What hope have we of finding the delicate bones of a species that existed for a cosmic instant?

Even on the surface, our presence is confined. Less than one percent of the Earth's landmass is urbanized. Our cities, marvels to us, are less than a rash on the planet's hide. Given time, they would fade, just as Nineveh became a mound and the grandeur of Rome dwindled to ruins picked over by later builders.

To find evidence of a truly ancient, vanished intelligence, one must look not for intact cities but for indirect whispers etched into the planet itself. Geologists pore over core samples, reading the layered history of sediments, ice, and rock. They seek anomalies—sudden, global shifts in chemical composition, isotopic ratios, and mineral patterns that hint at vast, non-natural processes.

Consider the isotopes of carbon. Life on Earth has a preferred ratio of Carbon-12 to Carbon-13. Burning vast quantities of fossil fuels, derived from ancient organic matter, tilts this balance globally, leaving a distinct 'Suess effect'. This effect, named after the scientist who first identified it, is a detectable shift in the ratio of these carbon isotopes in modern sediments. It is a potential fingerprint of a global civilization not necessarily of stone and steel, but of energy harvested and elements manipulated on a planetary scale.

And then there is the layer, a specific geological stratum that holds clues to a potential ancient civilization. Approximately fifty-six million years ago, the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum occurred. It was a period of rapid, dramatic global warming, a spike of six degrees Celsius over a geological eyeblink of two hundred thousand years. The cause is debated—massive volcanic outpourings are a standard theory. However, embedded within the sedimentary layers corresponding to this era, core samples reveal anomalies that trouble the ordered narrative of natural processes.

High concentrations of exotic, stable isotopes of elements are rarely found together in such quantities. Not the scattered, random distribution of volcanic ejecta, but patterns suggesting concentrated origins and unnatural enrichment. Subtle, almost imperceptible shifts in the ratios of oxygen and carbon isotopes occur, too rapid and too pronounced to be solely attributed to standard carbon cycle feedback loops or simple methane release.

There are minute traces of complex molecular chains, stable against the immense pressure and burial temperature over eons, unlike any naturally occurring hydrocarbons.

The observer, sifting through the silent, petrified history, feels a prickle of something akin to fear. It's not the fear of a known monster,

but the dread evoked by an utterly unknown entity, a shadow cast across deep time. What power could manipulate elements on such a scale? What kind of energy source would leave this precise, alien chemical signature? Not the clumsy, transient marks of our petrochemical age, but something more profound, more



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integrated with the planet's fundamental processes.

These anomalies whisper of a presence. It is not necessarily biological in a form we would recognize, perhaps silicon-based, perhaps energy-based, or maybe something entirely beyond our current framework of understanding. An intelligence that didn't build ephemeral cities on the surface but perhaps delved into the planet's crust, harnessing geothermal energy, extracting resources on a scale that left a detectable isotopic scar across millions of years of sedimentation.

The horror deepens with the abruptness of its end. The anomalous signatures peak, then vanish, not gradually but as if a switch was thrown. The PETM itself, while a long event by human standards, is fleeting geologically. Did they self-destruct? Did they consume the planet's resources too rapidly? Did they achieve some form of transcendence or escape, leaving their waste products as the only memorial?

The unsettling truth encoded in the rock is this: something was here that used the planet in ways we are only now beginning to comprehend, altered its fundamental geochemistry, and vanished.

We walk upon a world that remembers—not in conscious thought but in its strata's cold, indifferent record. The planet carries the scars of that ancient existence, that terrifying flourish of unknown intelligence that rose and fell in the gulf of time before the dinosaurs, before our fragile species even conceived of tool use.

The horror is not just the possibility of a prior civilization but the nature of what we might eventually deduce from these faint, geological echoes: the scale of their power, and the cause of their disappearance, which might be less an extinction event and more an eradication.

And the most profound dread comes from the realization that the planet, perhaps, retains more than just chemical signatures. Those sudden, inexplicable bursts of tectonic activity in remote areas? The strange resonances picked up by deep-earth listening stations? The subtle, non-seismic vibrations that emanate from the planet's core?

Perhaps the planet remembers. Maybe it holds the trace of their industry and the echo of their final moments. Or worse, perhaps it has something of them.

We scan the stars for signs of life, calculating the Drake Equation, dreaming of distant civilizations. We look to Mars, to Europa, seeking echoes of past or present life. But the profound mystery, the potential terror, lies not in the void, but beneath our feet. The silent, layered history of Earth whispers of a past we were never meant to discover, a horror etched in stone and isotope, waiting for the right eyes to read it and understand the terrifying possibility that our planet is not merely a cradle of life, but a graveyard bearing the indelible, horrifying marks of what came before, and the chilling implications of what might have led to its end. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the ground we walk upon – they remember. And their memory is not one of quiet history, but of something vast, alien, and deeply unsettling.



SPECIAL INTEREST

Helliwell burning benefits butterflies?

By Chris N. Junck

The Taylor's Checkerspot Recovery Project

It's good to pause occasionally when pulling weeds. Stretch those tired muscles before they cramp up. Enjoy the sunshine. Find some endangered caterpillars.

That's what happened in mid-March when Kihan Yoon-Henderson took a break while removing English holly and thistles from Helliwell Provincial Park's coastal bluff habitat. She found more than 60 Taylor's checkerspot butterfly larvae. It's the second consecutive year that the TCB Recovery Project Team can confirm that the endangered Taylor's checkerspots successfully overwintered in the park. The caterpillars were the offspring of butterfly larvae raised at the Greater Vancouver Zoo by Wildlife Preservation Canada staff and released in Helliwell in previous years. "This is great news and an encouraging sign that Taylor's checkerspot butterflies are re-establishing a population in the park," said Chris Junck, TCB Recovery Project Team Public Outreach Coordinator. The invasive plant removal work by Kihan and Hornby Island volunteers follows native plant seeding of sites where piles of tree material were burned during an ongoing multi-year forest fire fuel reduction project. Restoring burn sites and Garry oak habitat on the bluff is intended to benefit butterflies and other pollinators. Hopefully, current butterfly counts will verify that the habitat restoration work is paying off.

continued on P.8...

...continued from P.7 Trampling is a key threat to Taylor's checkerspot survival. Helliwell Provincial Park visitors can help reduce this risk. Follow Park rules: leave bikes in the parking lot, stay on marked trails and keep dogs leashed.

The project team would like to thank the Cowichan Tribes, Halalt, Homalco, K'ómoks, Lake Cowichan, Lyackson, Penelakut, Qualicum, Snaw'Naw'As, Stz'uminus, Tla'amin, We Wai Kai, and We Wai Kum First Nations for allowing us to restore ecosystems in their traditional territories. Several local volunteers from Conservancy Hornby Island, the Hornby Island Natural History Centre, the Hornby Island Provincial Parks Committee, and others also contributed to the success of this project.

The recovery project has benefited from funding and in-kind contributions from the BC Parks Licence Plate Program, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Fund, and the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks (Ecosystems Branch), Canada Pollinator Partnership and others.

The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project Team includes biological consultants and representatives from the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks, BC Parks, Denman Conservancy Association, Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, Greater Vancouver Zoo, Mosaic Forest Management, Wildlife Preservation Canada, and others.

Learn more about the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly:

<https://goert.ca/activities/taylors-checkerspot/>

and

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk/implementation/conservation-projects-partnerships/taylors-checkerspot>



Native plant seeds are scattered on sites where piles of tree material were burned during the forest fire fuel reduction project.

Photo by Kihan Yoon-Henderson.



Thistles, English holly and other invasive plants were removed to help restore the habitat.

Photos by Kihan Yoon-Henderson.



continued on P.9...

...continued from P.8

Background Information

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha taylori*)

- Also known as Edith's checkerspot.
- Historical range was Hornby Island, southeastern Vancouver Island, Puget Trough and to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. In B.C., they were once abundant at 10 sites in the Greater Victoria Area, one site each near Mill Bay and Comox, and sites on Hornby Island (including Helliwell Provincial Park).
- They were thought to have been extirpated (became locally extinct) from Canada by 2000 when no Taylor's checkerspots could be found in their last known sites on Hornby Island despite intensive searches. However, new populations were discovered on Denman Island in 2005 and near Campbell River in 2018.
- It is federally listed as Endangered (COSEWIC, SARA Schedule 1), and is on the BC Red list of at-risk species.
- Taylor's checkerspot butterflies need open sunny meadows where they can find suitable host plants (food for larvae and nectar producing flowers for adults), such as native woolly sunflower, common camas, small-flowered blue-eyed Mary, wild strawberry, sea blush, and yarrow, as well as non-native species such as ribwort plantain and common plantain.
- Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation are major factors in the species' decline. For example, the meadows along the coastal bluffs in Helliwell Provincial Park became less suitable for butterflies due to invasions of non-native plants and encroaching forests.
- Habitat enhancement work (weeding, selective limbing +/- removal of conifers, re-planting and seeding with native species) has been ongoing in Helliwell Provincial Park for several years.

The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project

The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project is led by Jennifer Heron of the B.C. Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship and is guided by the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team's Invertebrates at Risk Recovery Implementation Group. It is a collaborative effort to restore Taylor's checkerspot populations in British Columbia through habitat enhancement, captive butterfly rearing and release, monitoring, public outreach, and other activities.

Team Members

Jennifer Heron (Chair), B.C. Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, Vancouver, B.C.

Erika Bland and Andrew Fyson, Denman Island Conservancy Association, Denman Island, B.C.

Deborah Bishop, Denman Island, B.C.

Menita Prasad, Greater Vancouver Zoo, Aldergrove, B.C.

Eric Gross, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Delta, B.C.

Crispin Guppy, Entomologist, Vanderhoof, B.C.

David Vey and Rachel Shanner, Mosaic Forest Management, Nanaimo, B.C.

Chris Junck, Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team and B.C. Conservation Foundation, Victoria, B.C.

Suzie Lavallee, University of British Columbia Faculty of Forestry, Vancouver, B.C.

Patrick Lilley, Private Consultant, North Vancouver, B.C.

Iain Reid, BC Parks, Black Creek, B.C.

Kristen Miskelly, Satinflower Nurseries, Victoria, B.C.

Derek Moore, Area Supervisor Von Donop Area, BC Parks, Black Creek, B.C.

Nick Page, Raincoast Applied Ecology, Vancouver, B.C.

Hazel Wheeler, Andrea Gielens and Jay Athwal, Wildlife Preservation Canada, Guelph, ON.

Bonnie Zand, Independent Consultant, Fanny Bay, B.C.

Supporters

B.C. Conservation Foundation

B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

B.C. Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship

BC Parks

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Conservancy Hornby Island

Denman Conservancy Association
Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Fund
Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team
Greater Vancouver Zoo
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
Hornby Island Community School
Hornby Island Co-op
Hornby Island Natural History Centre
Hornby Island Provincial Parks Committee
Mosaic Forest Management
Sea Breeze Lodge
University of British Columbia
Wildlife Preservation Canada

For more information about the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project, visit: www.goert.ca/activities/taylors-checkerspot/
Or contact:

Project Lead/GOERT Invertebrates at Risk RIG Chair

Jennifer Heron
Provincial Invertebrate Conservation Specialist
B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Office: 778-572-2273
Jennifer.Heron@gov.bc.ca

Public Outreach Coordinator

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project Team
Chris Junck
chrisjunck@gmail.com
* More photos available by request

BC Parks

Iain Reid
Conservation Specialist
BC Parks
Office: 250-218-6824
Iain.Reid@gov.bc.ca



More than 60 Taylor's checkerspot butterfly larvae were counted in Helliwell Provincial Park this spring. It's a sign that the endangered butterflies successfully overwintered and are re-establishing a population in the park. *Photo by Kihan Yoon-Henderson.*



Taylor's checkerspot butterfly counts in Helliwell are continuing in June. *Photo by Jennifer Heron.*



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ditching and drainage, custom
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Doug Schmidt 250 222 8076

Israel's Backers Are Now Advocating The Assassination Of Greta Thunberg

By Caitlin Johnstone

June 1st, 2025

US Senator Lindsay Graham has just tweeted an article titled “Greta Thunberg sets sail with Gaza flotilla that aims to break Israeli naval blockade,” adding the comment, “Hope Greta and her friends can swim!” Australian Zionist think tanker Arsen Ostrovsky somehow outdid Graham, tweeting “Oh look, the little jihadi Greta Thunberg is trying to get into Gaza, to show solidarity with Hamas. It would be so sad if something were to happen to her flotilla...”

There’s not a lot that can shock me about Israel and its supporters these days. But if you’d traveled back in time a few years ago it would be hard to explain to someone how we got to a timeline that includes Israel supporters openly advocating the assassination of Greta Thunberg.

The reason Gaza ceasefire negotiations have kept falling through under both the Biden and Trump administrations is that Israel, with the backing of the US government, keeps insisting on the right to resume its genocidal slaughter after a temporary intermission.

A big part of the problem is that this is a genocide, not a war, but all the framing is around negotiating a “cease-fire” to end the “war” even as Israel keeps rejecting any ceasefire agreement which would require them to end the genocide.

Hamas insists on an end to the genocide, and Israel goes

“No can do, but tell ya what: we can pause the war for a few weeks!” And then the mass media go “HAMAS REJECTS CEASEFIRE” while liberals go “Oh it’s so sad that they can’t negotiate an end to this terrible war!”

But it’s not a war, it’s a genocide. You can negotiate an end to a war, but you can’t negotiate an end to a genocide. Israel has openly declared that the killing will continue until there are no more Palestinians left in Gaza—either by death or by ethnic cleansing. Israel wants to eliminate all Palestinians from Gaza more than it wants the remaining hostages. It wants to eliminate all Palestinians from Gaza more than it wants peace. Hamas has nothing to offer Israel that it wants more than it wants to purge Palestinians from a Palestinian territory.

If this were being treated as a genocide, all law-abiding states would interfere to force Israel to stop. But because it’s being falsely treated as a “war” they just stand passively by and periodically cluck about ceasefire negotiations, thereby allowing Israel to continue its genocide.



Greta Thunberg

The big controversy this weekend was the emergence of a sex tape featuring journalist Glenn Greenwald, which he says was released “without my knowledge or consent” and that the motive was a “maliciously political one.” After Greenwald’s public statement on the matter, Twitter was flooded with commentators and members of the public from all across the political spectrum expressing their support for him, apparently nullifying whatever effect the release of the sex tape was supposed to have.

I’m going to call this a solid win for humanity.

The US is removing Syria from its longtime designation as a state sponsor of terrorism now that it has a puppet regime in Damascus, with US envoy Thomas Barrack proclaiming that “Thank God, the issue of state sponsor of terrorism is gone with the Assad regime being finished.”

This is the US admitting that the “terrorist” designation just means “not aligned with US interests.” Syria’s new president was an actual ISIS and Al Qaeda official—literally the leader of Al Qaeda in Syria. But because he’s US-aligned, “terrorism” is no longer a concern.

Our rulers did not expect this. They did not expect the public to sustain ferocious opposition to the Gaza holocaust for 20 months. In October 2023 they would’ve been assuring each other that all the protesting and outrage would die off soon, because that’s what normally happens.

continued on P.12...

...continued from P.11

And it just didn't. People refused to let this thing fade into the background. The mass

media were forced to keep reporting on it—albeit with extreme bias—because if they didn't report on it at all they'd lose their last shred of credibility in the eyes of the public, and people would keep sharing the information on their own anyway.

Remember how excited the Israel apologists got when those two embassy staff members were killed? They were like “Welp, that's it for the pro-Palestine movement! Saying Free Palestine is not allowed anymore everybody! Ahh, thank goodness, I was worried people would never let this thing go.”

And it just didn't pan out that way. Nobody bought it. The embassy staff killings were shuffled off in the daily news churn and forgotten, while Gaza remained.

And I just think it's worth flagging what a miracle that is. How completely unexpected and unanticipated this would have been for our ruling institutions. They really thought we were all sufficiently ground down and subdued by life under the empire to just let them do what they want to Gaza without any resistance. And they were wrong. There's some life left in us yet. It is not a foregone conclusion that we will just passively watch our rulers carry us off over the ledge of dystopia, ecological disaster and nuclear armageddon. Revolution is not an impossible pipe dream. There is still a spark of hope. 🍷

tall cold can

Tall
cold
can
of green
beer
guiding me
as I walk
though night
traffic
with the disregarded
discarded exposing
hairy plumber gash
while being rendered
narcoleptic by
the opiate dream state
sparking memories
engine like a dirty
coal furnace
as I stumble
further into the
cosmopolitan
I gaze through
lit pub windows at the besotted
valentine's couples
drinking martinis with
thick green olives
while munching wild
purple flowers in
their garden salads
staring blankly at each
other with puppy dog
eyes while I give the
finger to the all terrain
vehicle with the
blinding light emitting
diodes before I realize
it's a cop car which
causes me to swish
with my tall beer can
into a public corner
washroom which is
surprisingly shiny
clean and useful.

Alan Black



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Letters To Gaza Genocide. The Editor

Last night (May 30th) a film was shown in the Denman Community Hall that laid bare the genocide in Gaza and The West Bank. Let me give you some statistics from the first year of this on-going genocide:

"The projected death toll is between 155,406 and 777,030

This means that between 6.7% and 33.66% of Gaza's population has been or will be wiped out."

"75000 + tons of bombs dropped on Gaza, collectively 4.6 times the explosive force of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb".

"1.9 million civilians (90% of Gaza's population) displaced at least once."

"986 healthcare workers killed. Only 13-17 out of 36 hospitals partially functioning."

"174 journalists killed."

"All universities in Gaza destroyed. 93% of schools destroyed/damaged."

"96% of the population faces acute food insecurity."

"22% of the population (approx. 495,000 people) at risk of famine."

These are just a few of the appalling statistics available for review. The question is, what can we, as Denman and Hornby Islanders do to stand up against the perpetrators of this genocide and their financial supporters?

On June 14th there will be a National Day of Action regarding ScotiaBank's funding of this genocide and their making a profit on their investment in arms producers who benefit enormously from creating and continuing wars. In downtown Courtenay there will be a street party from 2pm to 5 pm on June 14th during which a mural will be painted condemning Scotia Bank's investment strategy. Bring your paintbrushes and let's actively stand up for the people of Gaza and The West Bank. We can bring this war to an end by shaming institutions into ending their investments in Israel and weapons producers around the world.

A second way that we can help to end this genocide is by avoiding buying any Israeli products. This involves reading labels carefully before making a purchase.

The world is at a crossroads and we need to stand up for the Palestinians and Canada in every way that we, as individuals, can. I welcome our community's response to the issues raised in this article. I can be reached at: perilou@mac.com or by phone at: 250 703 3192.

Perri Gorrara *with quotes from LETS TALK PALESTINE*



• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Fuji flow
5. Arctic native
9. Curative water
12. Hearing related
13. Citrus hybrid
14. Aquatic plant
16. Hurlled
17. Drinking binge
18. Binary
19. Belly, for short
20. A Canadian export
22. Armed conflict
24. Acct., often
25. Actor Marvin
26. Startled cry
28. Over satisfy
31. Caught ya!
34. At this time
35. Aspiration
36. Apply rickrack
38. Picket line crosser
42. Be unoriginal
43. Ankle bone
44. Bauxite bonanza
45. Perform again
47. Be up and about
48. Greek mythology goddess of the earth
49. Baby food
51. Clear tables
53. Final, for one
54. Civilian dress
57. Adult elver
59. NAFTA member
60. Be contrite
63. Candle makeup

64. Govt. cops

67. Gap filler
69. Desert lily
71. Steel support
73. Bristlelike organ
74. Alternative word
75. Abate
76. Between pi and sigma
77. Nordic rugs
78. Archaic cry

• DOWN •

1. Comic strip moppet
2. Calla lily, e.g.
3. Boxlike vehicle
4. Bane of pool owners
5. Mandolin's cousin
6. Antiquity
7. Break ground
8. Kind of bread
9. Glum
10. Use tweezers
11. Be wide open
12. Back at sea
15. Alackaday
21. Actress Salonga
23. Bread or booze
25. Cleansing agent
27. Possessive pronoun
28. Burn the outside
29. Canter leisurely
30. Opinion page, briefly
32. Furnace output
33. Extempore
34. Affirmative reply
37. Indian sage
39. Persuade
40. A Met score
41. Radiate
43. Cookbook meas.
46. Decide for
48. Colloid
50. Affected manner
52. Adriatic, e.g.
54. Rumble

55. Cineplex staffer

56. Kind of healer
58. Drive out
61. Exploiter
62. Hard to handle
63. Adversities
64. Chalky cheese
65. One bit per second
66. Bratty kid
68. Chinese chairman
70. BSA relative
72. Command to Fido

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“Imagine not knowing the difference between donuts and doughnuts. Ugh!”



• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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

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• **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.

Heavy Machine Operators Wanted
Operating Excavators, Dozers, Rock Truck, Skid Steer
7000 The Point Road, Denman Island
\$40/hour contract position
Send your resume to:
alvintsoi@hjtholding.com
H.J.T. Agricultural Development Co. Ltd.

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.

• **LOST & FOUND** •

Found: on side of the road, black pvc pipe with air filter, near Macfarlane and Lacon. 250-897-8184

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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!



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FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 5

• 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 6

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

SATURDAY 7

• 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
• Newcomer's Event Covered Rec Space 3-6pm

SUNDAY 8

MONDAY 9

TUESDAY 10

WEDNESDAY 11

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

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

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

THURSDAY 12

• 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
• DCHS AGM Back Hall 7-9pm
• Summer Art Gallery Opening-Hester Lessard 7pm D.I. Art Gallery



FRIDAY 13

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

SATURDAY 14

SUNDAY 15

MONDAY 16

TUESDAY 17

WEDNESDAY 18

• 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

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

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

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
• FREE STORE 9-12:30pm
• DAAC Open Mic Back Hall 7:30pm
• DIGS meeting 1-3pm The Gathering Place

THURSDAY 19

• 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



THE ISLANDS
Grapevine
 EST. 1991
 HORNBY ISLAND & DENMAN ISLAND
 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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Join the Hornby Island Co-op Team This Summer!

We're preparing for a busy season and looking for **Seasonal Store Clerks** to join us for **June, July, and August**, in cashier and stock roles. If you're a dependable team player who enjoys helping customers and thrives in a busy, collaborative environment—we'd love to hear from you!

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