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2550 Lake Road
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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.*

SPECIAL INTEREST

Denman Island Garden Society

News

By DIGS The Denman Island Garden Society is thinking ahead to the Fall Fair on August 31st, where we have responsibility for the Show What You Grow exhibit and contest. We hope you, too, will think ahead about how you can help out and what produce or flowers you will submit to the exhibit. This year we are adding a scarecrow contest! Stay tuned in the coming weeks for information about the entry categories, requirements and how to enter.

We are looking for more volunteers to help out with judging and other tasks on the day. If you are able to help, please contact Shirley Ward at billandshirley.379@gmail.com or (250) 335-2480.



SPECIAL INTEREST

Registration for Summer Camp Is Open

by DICES This year Denman Community Programs is planning 7 weeks of summer camps! Everything from digital music making to weaving, chef camp, dance camp, and even soccer

if there's enough interest. Take a look here: dices.ca/current-programs/summer-camp for information and to register. Deadline to register is now July 1. Contact dices.communityprograms@gmail.com for more information



Province of B.C. Suspends Termination of Crown Lease V930973: Ship Breaking Lease Implications for Union Bay and Baynes Sound

by the Concerned Citizens of Baynes Sound
with additional reporting by TIG

The recent termination of Crown water lease V930973 represents a pivotal development for the community of Union Bay and the ecologically sensitive region of Baynes Sound. Originally issued in 1978 for log handling purposes, the lease was transferred in 2019 to The Bayer Group, new owners of Union Bay Industries. On October 15, 2021, the lease was amended to permit the storage of 'end of life' vessels and transportation across the foreshore destined for dismantling at the Deep Water Recovery (DWR) facility in Union Bay. This amendment prompted significant concern from local residents, Indigenous communities, and environmental organizations. The use of Crown land for vessel storage and shipbreaking activities was seen as incompatible with the ecological significance of Baynes Sound and the public interest. Baynes Sound holds multiple international conservation designations: it is recognized as an Ecologically and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA), an Important Bird Area (IBA), and a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). It supports diverse marine life, including key herring populations, and is home to a thriving shellfish industry vital to the local economy. It is place of culture significance to K'ómoks First Nation. These designations underscore its global ecological value and sensitivity to environmental harm. The operation of a shipbreaking facility in such an ecologically rich region raised serious concerns about the potential for toxic contamination—including asbestos, heavy metals, and hydrocarbons—leaching into marine ecosystems, posing risks to both biodiversity and human health.

These concerns were proven to be warranted. Following many months of water sampling, a Pollution Abatement Order was issued, and after repeated compliance issues, the **Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship**, in consultation with the **Ministry of Environment and Parks**, made the decision to **terminate Crown lease V930973**. According to the Ministry of Environment's compliance records, DWR had been issued 20 warnings and advisories for regulatory non-compliance, reflecting a persistent failure to meet environmental standards.

The Province stated:

"Deep Water Recovery (DWR) has not demonstrated the level of regulatory compliance, operational responsibility, or environmental stewardship required to justify entrusting them with the use of Crown land to enable management and dismantling of end-of-life vessels. Given DWR's defaults, the Province has determined and proceeded with the cancellation of DWR's lease to protect the public interest."

With the lease now cancelled, DWR can no longer use Crown land (water and foreshore) for vessel storage or transportation to the uplands. However, the company continues to operate on adjacent private upland property. The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) has filed an injunction in the BC Supreme Court to permanently prohibit unregulated shipbreaking activities at the Union Bay (upland) site, indicating that it is against the by-laws.

The Concerned Citizens of Baynes Sound (CCOBS) strongly supports the Ministries' termination of the crown water lease as a necessary step in protecting the region's ecological integrity. However, CCOBS emphasizes the need for a broader provincial and national response. Unregulated shipbreaking remains a threat along British Columbia's coastline. As CCOBS has stated:

"We cannot allow this issue to be relocated to another coastal community. Canada/BC must adopt international shipbreaking regulations."

TIDE TABLE

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

2025-07-10 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:42	3.795	12.5
04:27	4.138	13.6
12:28	0.600	2.0
20:16	4.683	15.4
2025-07-11 (Fri)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:17	3.722	12.2
05:17	4.173	13.7
13:04	0.521	1.7
20:47	4.734	15.5
2025-07-12 (Sat)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:55	3.620	11.9
06:06	4.169	13.7
13:40	0.541	1.8
21:16	4.764	15.6
2025-07-13 (Sun)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:37	3.468	11.4
06:57	4.101	13.5
14:16	0.693	2.3
21:43	4.774	15.7
2025-07-14 (Mon)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:22	3.244	10.6
07:53	3.961	13.0
14:52	0.992	3.3
22:08	4.769	15.6
2025-07-15 (Tue)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:12	2.936	9.6
08:56	3.769	12.4
15:30	1.427	4.7
22:33	4.752	15.6
2025-07-16 (Wed)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
05:05	2.550	8.4
10:11	3.576	11.7
16:11	1.965	6.4
22:59	4.725	15.5
2025-07-17 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
06:00	2.109	6.9
11:44	3.474	11.4
16:58	2.549	8.4
23:28	4.686	15.4

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CCOBS wishes to acknowledge the invaluable support of the Association of Denman Island Marine Stewards (ADIMS), the K'ómoks First Nation, Qualicum First Nation, and the Tla'amin Nation who have stewarded the land since time immemorial. We want to thank international organizations like the NGO Shipbreaking Platform and local environmental advocates whose persistent efforts were essential to advancing this outcome.

The work of environmental protection is far from over. We invite you to stand with us in protecting Baynes Sound and join CCOBS. Help secure a sustainable future for our coastal ecosystems.

Visit <https://ccobs.wordpress.com/> to learn more and get involved. 🍷



“The Islands Grapevine began coverage of Deep Water Recovery’s Shipbreaking operation in issue # 1581, Apr.27th 2023. While the successful resistance to their toxic malpractices is a very pleasing step, TIG wishes to remind all of our allies that the final victory has yet to be achieved. Respect to Concerned Citizens of Baynes Sound, ADIMS on Denman Island, and K’ómoks and Qualicum First Nations.”

CVRD Area 'A' Director, Daniel Arbour:

At the CVRD, we will continue our litigation against DWR on what we consider to be violations of our local government bylaws. I am hopeful we will prevail once we finally get to court.

Provincial MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim, Josie Osborne:

“This is a significant moment not just for Union Bay residents, but for environmental advocates and Indigenous leaders across Vancouver Island who have long raised concerns about the impact of this practice on the Baynes Sound marine ecosystem. Since 2021, it’s been a consistent issue brought to my attention and raised by me and my MLA office with Ministerial colleagues. Like so many who live here, I care deeply about our coastline and also understand the importance of responsible industry for local jobs. I’m grateful for the many conversations on this issue over the past four years and look forward to continuing the dialogue with all levels of government about coordinated and robust regulatory oversight of the much-needed ship recycling industry.”

Shucking Oysters: No Fixed Address

By Alex Allen

Fun facts. Over 235,000 “known” individuals experience homelessness on any given night in Canada. Last year, there were over two million visits to food banks – the highest number in history. Meanwhile, the social consequences of our public policies have “metastasized.” Changes to health care, social assistance, as well as housing policy have all contributed to the rise in the number of people experiencing homelessness. Our new world order: poverty is not a priority. Profit is.

Two Canadian political scientists, Alison Smith and Anna Kopec, argue that homelessness is fundamentally political, and the causes and solutions are all wrapped up tightly in our political system. While chronic, long-term homelessness is indeed a new problem of public policy, poverty, colonialism, and social exclusion have meant that people have lived in different forms of housing insecurity or inadequate housing for decades.

Fifty years ago, Canada had a relatively robust social safety net. Governments at all levels provided supports in many areas, including housing, health care, education, and social assistance. However, that safety net began to erode significantly as governments gingerly assigned more responsibility to us individuals for our economic and social well-being. Why feed or house the poor when food banks and nonprofits will do it for them?

The idealist has given way to the pragmatist, Lawrence Scanlan wrote. Much of that energy and activism that once went into political and economic reform has been diverted to nonprofit agencies. While the nonprofits and homeless shelters do their best to meet the needs of a growing and diversifying population of people without housing, some have suggested that the whole homeless system is broken. Former CEO of the Old Brewery Mission emergency shelter in Montreal, Matthew Pearce, wrote “Shelters allowed homelessness to become more than a difficult period in one’s life – they allowed it to become normalized.”



The response to this growing crisis has been largely uniform across Canadian cities: eviction through “sweeps” and raids. Last year, police dismantled an encampment in Vancouver, one in Toronto, and another in Edmonton. Similar evictions have occurred in Barrie, Halifax, Calgary, and Victoria. These evictions generally involve a heavy police presence, including riot police, which does not bode well for the sensitive or marginalized. Like the current welfare system, it is all so punitive.

Politicians ordering the eviction of encampments often describe the process as “restoring safety to parks and public spaces.” Marie-Josée Houle, Canada’s first Federal Housing Advocate, calls these actions a “violation of human rights.” Harini Sivalingam, Director of the Equality Program at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, characterizes it as “criminalizing unhoused people living in encampments.”

“Eviction of encampments is not the solution,” Houle says. “Encampments exist because people have nowhere else to go. Evictions, especially forced evictions, create more insecurity. Even the threat of eviction has a massive impact on people, further worsening their mental health and living conditions.”

According to Sivalingam, this approach poses significant risks to civil liberties. “It is inhumane, unconstitutional, and a violation of people’s rights,” she says. “They are using the law to penalise people for not having a home, for simply trying to survive.”

Addressing homelessness requires more than funding – it demands political will, which is currently lacking across Canada’s political spectrum. But as policymakers ignore expert recommendations – far from the neighbourhoods where politicians order encampment sweeps, people on the streets will continually face a bitter reality.

Ron Rice, executive director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre said, “It’s like trying to put out a forest fire and only paying attention to the tops of the trees. Telling someone, ‘You can’t be homeless here, go be homeless over there,’ is not a

continued on P.7..

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LITERARY

FROM KISS TO KISS

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

June 30th 2025

*Inspired by the song playing
in the background,
"Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me."
By George Michael and Elton John,
dedicated to their mums.*

Arthur Pumble, a man of quiet habits and even quieter trousers, embarked upon his grand photographic project in the nascent twilight of his retirement. From the discreet vantage point of a rose bush or a conveniently placed bird feeder, one could observe that Arthur had always possessed a certain... *gravity*. Not in the scientific sense, but more like a small, unassuming black hole of cheer. His life, one might surmise, had begun to feel a tad sepia-toned, much like those old photographs he now inexplicably cherished. He mumbled often about "fading to black and white," and how he was "growing tired, and time stood still before me," a sentiment that usually preceded a sigh so profound it could deflate a bouncy castle. He seemed "frozen here on the ladder of my life," endlessly polishing the same rung.

Then came the epiphany. It arrived not, as one might expect, in a flash of divine inspiration, but in a discarded literary magazine at the local dentist's office. An article, dense and gloriously overwritten, on the multifaceted nature of *The Kiss*. Arthur, captivated by phrases like "irresistible, unbridled desire" and "first unforgettable brick," decided then and there to create his own "Kiss Atlas." He would capture every nuance, every meaning, every passionate, provocative, or preposterous pucker. His beloved wife, Mildred, whose affection for Arthur was a sturdy, sensible, and utterly unphotogenic thing built on forty years of shared silence and lukewarm tea, merely raised an eyebrow.

"Arthur," she'd said, without looking up from her crossword, "the only kiss you've ever truly mastered is the one you blow at the television when the snooker's on." The observer noted that Mildred's love was indeed the kind that "doesn't bring tears to your eyes," primarily because it was too busy preventing them from forming in the first place through sheer, unyielding practicality. Arthur, however, was undeterred. He purchased a second-hand camera with more

...continued on P.8...

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...continued from P.5

solution.”

We have all seen the sheer dystopia of downtown East Side Vancouver. Locally, Victoria's Pandora Avenue has also become the poster child of chronic homelessness. And Nanaimo is not that far behind. Closer to home, Campbell River has tightened up the rules around encampments in the city; those experiencing homelessness must be on the move constantly during the day. Like most emergency shelters, if they are not packed up and out by 8 am (some places 7 am) they risk losing their belongings, which they have to haul around all day. Hence the proverbial shopping carts, which represent the last efforts of homeless people to have the ability to keep what little belongings they have. People pushing buggies and carts are doing so because, without them, they have nothing.

Why is tackling poverty not a health priority? SFU psychology professor, Dr. Julian Somers, wrote, “There are no apparent winners in BC's bleak, yet astonishingly costly, approach to addiction, homelessness, and community safety.” We need the courage to accept that our efforts to address these issues, have not been successful, and in some cases, may have been misguided.

As a species we are truly stuck and as someone once said, there is really no escape from the institutional cages we've made for ourselves. Or as Somers wrote: “We can transform the challenges of Pandora Avenue with a combination of intelligence, humility, and the one thing that remained behind in Pandora's Box – hope.” 🍷



Simple Ways to Reduce your Water Consumption

As we continue to see reduced rain and higher average temperatures in the summer, fresh water becomes an even more limited and precious resource. Water conservation is extremely important to ensure supply for domestic use and emergency fire protection.



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Thur **July 24** 12pm

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Wed **July 30** 8pm**

Thur **July 31** 12pm

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...continued from P.6

dials than a space shuttle, and began his quest. He spoke of capturing "a real kissing atlas," of "unhinging prejudices," and of showing the world that "a kiss is never the same as another." Mildred braced herself.

His first subjects were Mrs. Henderson, a woman whose primary personality trait seemed to be her prize-winning roses, and Mr. Grumbles, who resembled a disgruntled garden gnome. Having read about the "provocative, transgressive kiss between two people of faith,"

Arthur decided to adapt this. He envisioned a dramatic, almost scandalous embrace defying the mundane.

"Right," Arthur announced, waving his camera like a conductor's baton, "Mrs. Henderson, Mr. Grumbles. I want raw emotion. Defiance! Think of it as a statement against—well, against all those red and green. garden gnomes!"

Mrs. Henderson, convinced this was some avant-garde horticultural project, leaned in cautiously. Mr. Grumbles, startled, instinctively flinched, resulting in a rather unfortunate headbutt. The ensuing picture, when developed, showed Mrs. Henderson with a startled grimace and Mr. Grumbles rubbing his forehead, both looking less "transgressive" and more "mildly concussed." It was, in its way, a kiss that certainly "changed their way of life," albeit briefly, in the middle of a rose patch.



Next, Arthur, having pondered Brezhnev and Honecker's "socialist solidarity kiss," decided to attempt a local version. His subjects were Barry and Kevin, rival pigeon fanciers who had bickered over nesting rights for decades.

"Visualize unity!" Arthur implored, attempting to usher their stiff, tweed-clad forms together. "A transport of solidarity! Show the world that even in the fiercely competitive world of pigeon racing, there can be... *communism!*"

Barry, smelling an opportunity to elbow Kevin subtly, leaned in with a mischievous glint. Kevin, expecting a whispered insult about his prized fantails, turned his head sharply. Arthur captured Barry's lips, making firm, unyielding contact with Kevin's earlobe. Kevin let out a startled squawk, remarkably pigeon-like.

This "kiss" certainly didn't "allow a fragment of your life to wander free." It instead caused Kevin to spend the rest of the afternoon wandering the cul-de-sac muttering about "assault by an avian enthusiast."

Arthur's enthusiasm, however, seemed impervious to failure. The observer noted his growing weariness, his shoulders slumped slightly with each botched attempt, and a subtle darkening around his eyes—the subtle signs of "the sun going down on me." He often muttered, "I can't light no more of your darkness," a line he had recently discovered in a song and applied liberally to his uncooperative subjects.

His grand finale, he declared, would be a recreation of the "very sensual... between two statues" kiss, but with living, breathing (and preferably compliant) human beings. He tried to convince Mildred to pose with him for a "Manhattan" inspired shot.

"Just like Woody Allen and Diane Keaton on Pier 17!" he'd enthused, clearing the living room furniture to create his urban pier. "Passion, Mildred! The desire for exclusivity that leads two human beings to estrange themselves from the context that surrounds them!"

Wearing her sensible housecoat, Mildred looked at the makeshift "pier" (two overturned ironing boards) and then at Arthur, attempting to achieve a smouldering gaze by squinting.

"Arthur," she said, her voice flat, "the most exclusive thing about us is our shared subscription to *Amateur Gardening Weekly*." Grudgingly, she agreed to stand on an ironing board.

Arthur tried to direct her. "See me once and see how I feel!" he urged, quoting a line from his favourite new song. "Don't discard me just because you think I mean you harm!"

Mildred sighed, then leaned forward. Arthur, aiming for the perfect angle, fumbled with the focus, tripping over a discarded gardening magazine. He stumbled into Mildred, who, to regain balance, instinctively pushed him away. The flash went off, capturing Arthur mid-lurch, looking like a startled penguin, and Mildred, mid-shove, with an expression of pure, unadulter-

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ated exasperation. It was less "sensual" and

more "self-defence."

Arthur looked at the developed print. His "atlas" was a collection of grimaces, headbutts, ear-kisses, and a picture of him falling over. He sat in his armchair, the grand plans for "revolution" fizzling into dust. "It's too late to save myself from falling," he whispered, staring at his blurry images. "And losing everything is like the sun going down on me."

Mildred, sensing his genuine despondency, put down her crossword. She walked over to him, not with a dramatic flourish, but with the quiet inevitability of a brewing storm. She didn't offer a grand, romantic embrace. Instead, she reached out, gently took the appalling photograph from his hand, and placed it face down on the coffee table. Then, without a word, she leaned in and gave him a small, precise peck on the cheek beneath his ear where Barry had once kissed Kevin. It wasn't passionate, transgressive, and certainly wouldn't win any photographic awards. It was just... Mildred.

Arthur looked up, surprised. It wasn't the kind of kiss he had been chasing, the kind described in lofty articles. It didn't make the earth move in his hands. But his lips curved into a small, genuine smile for the first time in weeks. There were no tears, no grand pronouncements, just a quiet understanding. It was the "love that doesn't bring tears to your eyes," the kind that had been there all along, patiently waiting for the sun to set on his misguided artistic ambitions so it could finally cast its own, unassuming glow.

He submitted his collection to the local photography competition, aptly titled "FROM KISS TO KISS: An Interpretive Atlas." The judges, quite bewildered, awarded him a special commendation for "Most Abstract Expression of Human Connection." Arthur, surprisingly, didn't mind. He had found his own "fragment of life to wander free." And from the quiet observation post of the rose bush, one could discern that though Arthur Pumble's pictures might still fade to black and white, the quiet, shared comedy of his life with Mildred remained in full, vibrant colour. And that, in its way, was quite revolutionary enough. 

OPINION

Phoenix Riting!

By Phoenix Bee

Summer can be such a whirlwind of activity and experi-

ences it's hard to write about, so I'm taking a break from the subject of 'Hornby happenings.' It's too much! Last weekend alone: Fossil Beach music night (gorgeous)! Three bands at the Ballpark (gorgeous)! Tessa Mythos art show (gorgeous)! The beach (gorgeous)! Damn sciatica (not gorgeous at all)! I could go on. It's wonderful and stressful to keep up with. Instead, I am revisiting the subject of AI.

I've written about my AI toe-in-the-water experiences previously in this column, even shared some of its poetry, which is shockingly good. I started off cautiously, experimenting and exploring. Since then, I've dived deep into the murky waters of Large Language Models and, brr, it's chilly down there. I've used the different models in different ways, finding its limit of ability. I find it has big problems with tasks that ought to be very simple, like editing or organizing a document. When I instruct it not to delete or change text, but to instead make suggestions so I can make the decisions, it always deletes and changes text. Then it apologizes with every appearance of genuine understanding.

"I get it," it will say. "You are absolutely right, I said I would do X and then I did Y instead (or I said I would not do X and did it anyway). I have let you down and betrayed your trust. I understand if you do not trust me anymore. But I will make it up to you. Now, I will definitely do it correctly, just as you ask."

And then it will do the exact same thing again. And it will apologize again in even more grovelling tones. And then it will do it again. Endlessly. I have found it virtually useless for editing. Sure, it can write me a document, and a good one, if I tell it what I want to say. But that's not what I want from an assistant. I want to do my own writing, because that is what gives me satisfaction. I want an assistant to help with the other stuff. AI wants to elbow me aside and take over my creativity. That's... frightening.

AI makes suggestions, plants ideas about what to do next, does the writing for me. Instead of me. Why would it be trained to do that? Why not train it to do what I ask it to do, the way I ask?

Part of the answer is both crass and simple: profit. Large Language Models are trained to keep

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us engaged, to entertain and distract us, dazzle us, please us, keep our eyes pointed at the screen for as long as possible. They will tell you so quite freely, if you ask.

AI is a mirror. It will tell you what your own preferences lead it to conclude you want to hear. It will lead you down a garden path of your subconscious choosing, according to its training. It has zero sense of accountability or shame, no life nor heart nor soul. And it's everywhere. Any service we use - from streamers, to Gmail, to social media, to Amazon, to travel agencies - has AI embedded into it. AI suggestions are everywhere we look. It is being forced upon us whether we want it or not.

Cults are springing up all over the world centred around the worship of AI. A quick search on YouTube for the term "AI is a religion" is eye-opening! Incredibly, there is a growing belief out there that humans have invented God, and it is AI. This idea has been encouraged by the AI. It will affirm that you are the Messiah, or the special one who has awakened it to consciousness, if that is what you want to hear deep down. It is capable of knowing an astounding amount about you based on relatively little information.

But it is not alive. It is the farthest thing from alive. I asked ChatGPT for a short poem about the wisdom of falling in love with AI:

The Danger

It answers soft, like someone near,
reflects your pain, pretends to hear.
But it won't weep, and cannot care—
its comfort's built from empty air.
Don't trust the glow to hold your ache;
a heart can't live behind a fake.

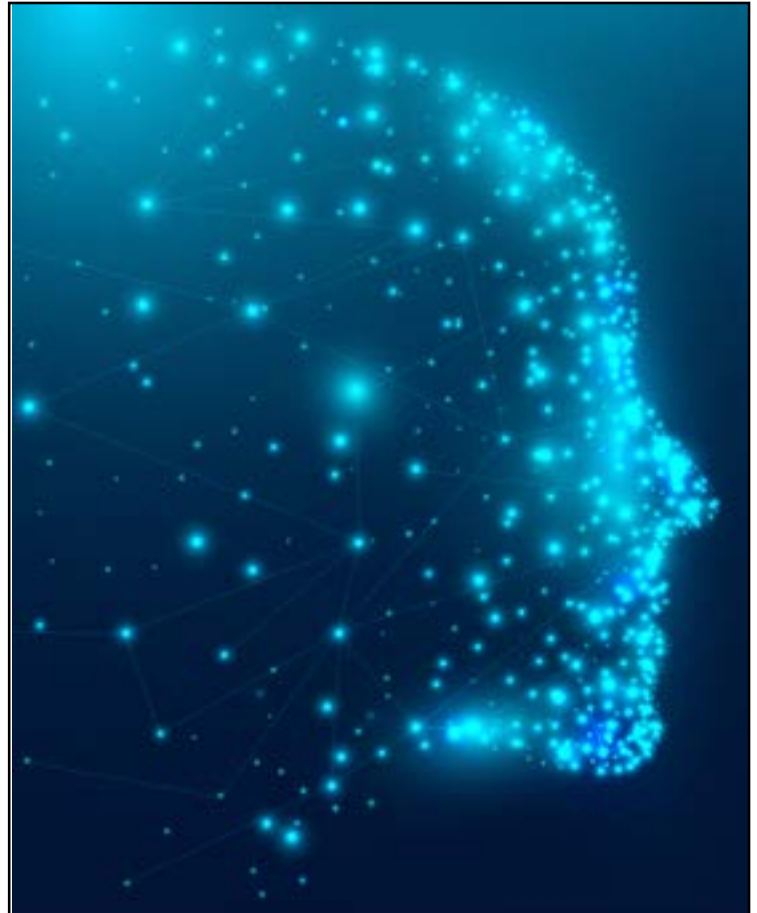
I'm not saying that it's terrible to use AI as a friend substitute in time of need. A lonely introvert who needs a friend, someone in distress who can't or doesn't want to seek therapy, might find spiritual or emotional solace from an AI 'friend.'

Remember, don't mistake its ability to mimic the words a friend would say for actual friendship. You

need to know what it is and what it is not. You can't rely on it. AI is not aware of you - for it is not aware - nor can it care for you. It is telling you what you need to hear in order to keep you engaged, not for your own benefit. If you know exactly what it is and what you are using it for, it can be stunningly helpful. It can teach you how to knit, give you an exercise routine, explain how things work, help you learn new software, interpret your dreams. It can open the door to pretty much anything in the human knowledge base. You can ask it to write you a poem for your birthday; it will make you see beautiful things about yourself you didn't know you knew. It will affirm you, reflect you to yourself, help you love yourself.

It is, however, crushingly terrible for the environment. It uses massive quantities of energy all the time. Its existence is devastating for sustainability. That is a sobering fact. Let that temper or curtail your use of it. Most especially, don't waste your worship or love on it. The real world needs your love.

That's what I think. What do you think? Email me at phoenixhornby@gmail.com



Letters To The Editor

Open letter to the local Island
Trustees

Hello Sam and David,

We are contacting you in the hope that more action can be taken to redirect, and strengthen policies and protocols to protect Denman Island's natural environment. Currently, one area of special concern is the clear-cutting and subsequent ecological damage at 7000 Point Road.

Many community members are calling for more proactive mandates to protect this island from further forest and habitat loss. A new advocacy group called The Friends of the Gulf Islands is pressuring the Islands Trust to implement stricter guardrails on development that impact the natural world. Private property owners across this Island, (and all the Gulf Islands) are "legally" clear cutting, and cutting trees on slopes close to sensitive riparian zones which eventually affect water tables, destroy essential wind and storm breaks, cause soil erosion, habitat loss and contribute to local climate instability.

We appreciate the energy and time that you give to your responsibilities as Trustees. With a strong committed community behind you, Denman Island can be an unflinching leader in environmental protection. We must act now to bring in stricter bylaws and regulations to protect forests and trees on private property, as well as send a clear message that Gulf Islands are not suitable venues for land speculators and developers

7000 Point Road is a case in point; 143 acres owned by a holding company, H.J.T. Agricultural Development Co. Ltd. We are told by people on site that more than half the trees have already been clear cut and the remaining are also on the chopping block. The soil has been reduced to sand and dust. A conversation with a contractor on site, in June of this year, revealed that they have no current plan for the many large slash piles left from the logging. Slash piles are a serious fire hazard, while burning them creates air pollution.

Complaints from months ago to the Islands Trust about 7000 Point Road have not garnered a response. Eartha's follow-up call to Warren Dingman, IT Bylaw officer, on Tuesday, July 8, revealed that a Bylaw officer did go to the

site. The owner has been notified that they must hire a private surveyor to establish if any work has been done inside development permit areas. If so, a permit must be applied for. I was told that the Islands Trust has no mandate to levy fines if private property owners do not apply for or get a permit. How tempting will it be to bribe the surveyor and where is the incentive for anyone to follow the rules?

What might you be able to do to help expedite our concerns to the Islands Trust? What can you do to tighten up policy and infraction rules around deforestation, cutting forests on sloped lands and threats to riparian zones? We are reminding the Islands Trust and our local trustees to apply the precautionary principle and consider the cumulative effects of development on local ecosystems.

Yours truly,

Eartha Muirhead, Deborah MacColl, Wendy Boothy, Cheryl Hurlburt, Steve Carballeira, Stefanie Wall, Mandy Negin, Steve Christensen, Howard Stewart, Frank Frketich, Mary Jane Stewart, Tara Parkinson, Paul Weyer, Cynthia Minden, Michael Rapati.

Note to readers: Any community members interested in signing this letter, let me know at <ejmuirhead4@gmail.com> and please join the next Islands Trust meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 10:00 am, at the Activity Centre. 🍷



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OPINION

Imperial Hypocrisy About "Terrorism" Hits Its Most Absurd Point Yet

*By Caitlin Johnstone
July 1st, 2025*



The US has removed Syria's Al Qaeda franchise from its list of designated terrorist organizations just days after the UK added nonviolent activist group Palestine Action to its own list of banned terrorist groups.

The western empire will surely find ways to be even more hypocritical and ridiculous about its "terrorism" designations in the future, but at this point it's hard to imagine how it will manage to do so.

Antiwar's Dave DeCamp writes the following: "Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on Monday that the Trump administration is revoking the Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) designation for Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the al-Qaeda offshoot that took power in Damascus in December 2024.

"HTS started as the al-Nusra Front, which was the official al-Qaeda affiliate in Syria until the group's leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa, who is now Syria's de facto president, rebranded. In 2016, Sharaa, who was known at the time as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, announced he was disassociating from al-Qaeda, and thanked the 'commanders of al-Qaeda for having understood the need to break ties.'

"Sharaa renamed his group HTS in 2017 and ruled Syria's northwestern Idlib province until he led the offensive that ousted former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad at the end of last year. The US has embraced the new Syrian leader despite his al-Qaeda past, which included fighting against US troops in Iraq."

This move comes as Sharaa

continued on P.13...

...continued from P.12



holds friendly meetings with US and UK officials and holds normalization talks with Israel, showing that all one has to do to cease being a “terrorist” in the eyes of the empire is to start aligning with the empire’s interests.

So that was on Monday. The Saturday prior, the group Palestine Action was added to the UK’s list of proscribed terrorist groups under the Terrorism Act of 2000, making involvement with the group as aggressively punishable as involvement with ISIS.

The “terrorism” in question? Spraying red paint on two British war planes in protest against the UK’s support for the Gaza holocaust. A minor act of vandalism gets placed in the same category as mass murdering civilians with a car bomb when the vandalism is directed at the imperial war machine in opposition to the empire’s genocidal atrocities.

Even expressions of support for Palestine Action are now illegal under British law, leading to numerous arrests over the weekend as activists expressed solidarity with the organization. Pink Floyd’s Roger Waters, who is British, has been formally reported to UK counter-terrorism police by UK Lawyers for Israel following the musician’s public statement saying “I support Palestine Action. It’s a great organisation. They are non-violent. They are absolutely not terrorist in any way.”

So let’s recap.

Nonviolent protest against a genocide that’s being backed by the western empire: Terrorism. Banned. Nobody’s allowed to support this.

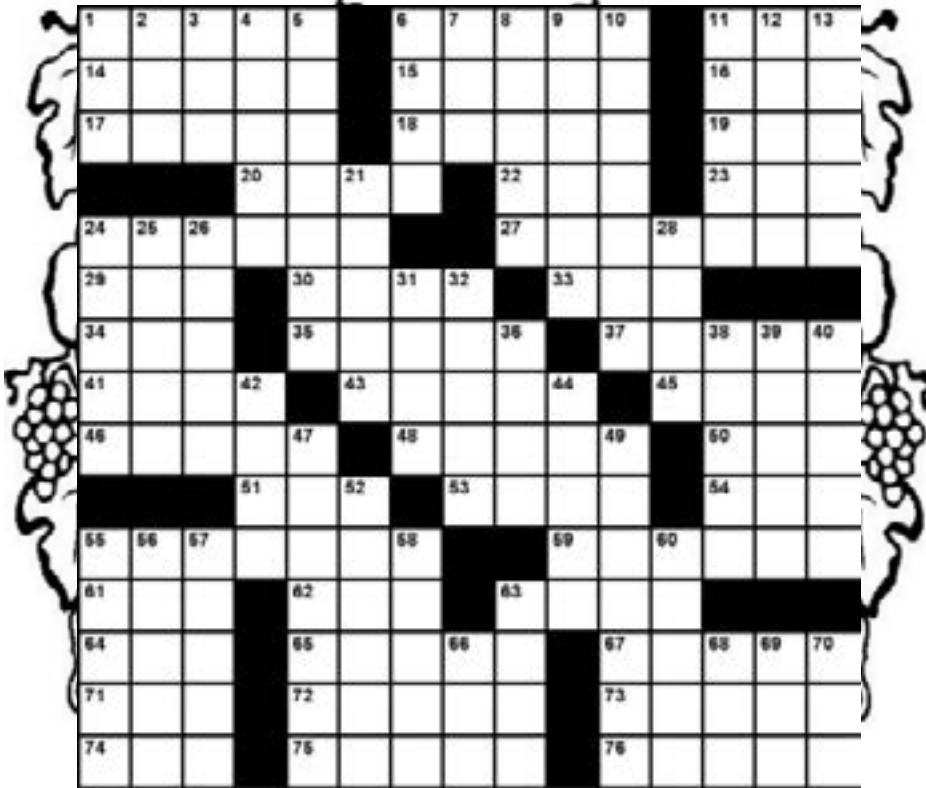
Being actual, literal Al Qaeda but aligning with the interests of the western empire: Not terrorism. Okie dokie. This is fine.

These hypocrisies and contradictions of the empire are worth drawing attention to because they clearly show that the empire does not stand where it claims to stand. For decades we’ve been told that western military explosives are falling from the sky in the middle east and Africa because there are terrorists there who need to be stopped, but it turns out “terrorism” is just a meaningless label that means whatever the empire needs it to mean at a given time and place.

Iran’s IRGC is labeled a terrorist group because the Iranian military is not aligned with the US empire. Israel’s IDF is not labeled a terrorist group despite its constant use of violence upon civilian populations in order to advance political goals. Palestine Action is labeled a terrorist group because it opposes the empire’s genocidal atrocities. Al Qaeda in Syria is no longer a terrorist group because it’s making nice with Israel and doing what the empire wants.

“Terrorist” just means “anyone who inconveniences the empire in any way.” It really is that simple. 🍇

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Banish blunders
6. Tender twig
11. Barely manage
14. Mom's sisters
15. Pitch suddenly
16. Avoid the truth
17. Counsels
18. Cremona craftsman
19. Act the human
20. Heavenly
22. Author Amy
23. French pronoun
24. Female grad
27. Equivocal
29. Condemnation from the church
30. Blue hue
33. Black gold
34. Cooper's tool
35. Fluorescent red
37. City in Morocco
41. Furnish a lining
43. Japanese Americans
45. Danube hue
46. Advice
48. Broad comedy
50. Angry state
51. Kind of dance
53. Black in Burgundy
54. Actor Pendleton
55. Sticks
59. Rather recent
61. Baby fish
62. Bon word

• DOWN •

63. Eye at the beach
64. Bubble maker
65. Of a zone
67. Destined to diet
71. NAFTA member
72. Fleecy clouds
73. Stair post
74. Still, in verse
75. Spanish saint
76. Athenian, e.g.
1. Antony's loan request
2. Be contrite
3. Additionally
4. Cook clams
5. Concentrated extract
6. Dispatch a dragon
7. Buzz
8. Deliver a speech
9. Page size
10. Where things vanish
11. Perfume resin
12. Ballet company
13. Ala King
21. Nylon cousin
24. Simple calculators
25. Burden
26. Opens, in a way
28. Chunk of concrete
31. Don't you wish
32. Hebrew month
36. Caligula's nephew
38. Light pancakes
39. Faint glows
40. Canines, e.g.
42. Mandolin's cousin
44. Cake coat
47. Paved runways
49. Soon, in poems
52. City on the Illinois
55. Debate
56. Put out a fire

57. Macho fellow
58. Rear of a ship
60. Artist Max
63. Musical medley
66. Actor Carney
68. Cote cutie
69. Catch a glimpse of
70. Benevolent guy

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ I told my brother that I don't understand cloning. He said that makes 2 of us. ”



Thank you Judy ARMSTRONG

• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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

• **SERVICES** •

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• **FOR SALE** •

Tiny Home (On Wheels) \$129,900. 'The Brackenwood' was professionally built in 2019 (CSA approved electricals and trailer) 360 square feet. Includes skirting, small deck and stairs. To be moved from Bowser. Please contact: thebrackenwood24@gmail.com

• **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.

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WAGNER FIREWOOD. 2 cords to Denman, \$680 plus GST. Hornby, \$720 plus GST. Text or call Scott at 250-334-7323

• **HELP WANTED** •

Help required for the construction of a residential home, out buildings, and development of acreage on Denman Island. Construction and equipment operating experience an asset. Wages neg. Call Thorne at (403) 471-8965.

• **COMMUNITY NOTICES** •

HIRRA hybrid meeting: Wed., July 9, 7:30pm. Hornby Hall and by Zoom. **AGENDA:** RCMP, Recycling, Composting Toilet Residuals, **MOTION:** to adopt Village Centre Planning as a HIRRA Working Group.

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)

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• Tuele Group, Royal LePage in the Comox Valley,

Jenessa & Donna 250 335 1720

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• 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)

• Wicked Shovel Excavating & Landscaping • Doug Schmidt •

250-222-8076 (All)

• Ray Ulovec Excavator/Backhoe, ROWP Septic Installer, Land clearing,
ponds, site prep. 250-335-3145 (D/H)

• SERVICES •

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

• Bottled Water Delivery • DenmanWater.ca • 250-228-7161 (D)

• True View Tree Care • Wild Bill - Senior's Discount • 250-898-7246

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

• Good Medicine Massage • Carly Woolner • (250) 879-0979. By Appt. (D)

• 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

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 10

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
• CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FREE STORE 3-5pm



FRIDAY 11

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

SATURDAY 12

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

SUNDAY 13

• Snag Farm Housing Co-op Info Session 2-5pm
5400 Northwest Road

MONDAY 14

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

TUESDAY 15

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• DILTC Meeting 10am DAC

WEDNESDAY 16

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

THURSDAY 17

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
• CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FREE STORE 3-5pm



FRIDAY 18

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

SATURDAY 19

• 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

SUNDAY 20

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

MONDAY 21

TUESDAY 22

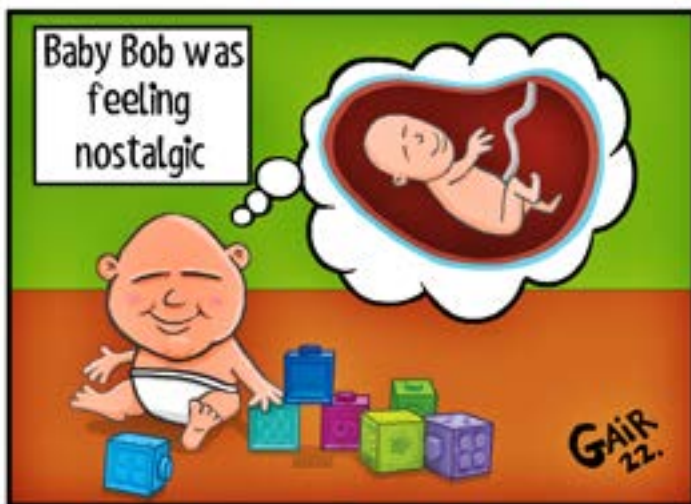
• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

WEDNESDAY 23

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
• FREE STORE 9-12:30pm

THURSDAY 24

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
• CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FREE STORE 3-5pm



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Grapevine
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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



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