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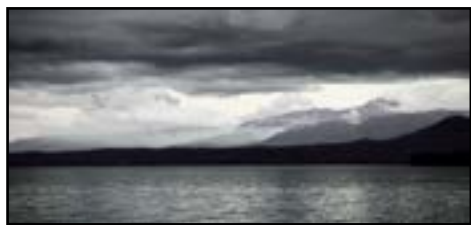
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Cameron Lake fire from
Denman Dock

by Mark Prior
printartphotography.ca

THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

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

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

**Denman ART Studio
Tour 2025**

By the Denman ART Studio Committee

- ♦ August 16 & 17 | ♦ 10 am–4 pm |
- ♦ Denman Island |
- ♦ Free Self-Guided Tour |

The Denman ART Studio Tour returns this weekend, offering a rare chance to step inside the working spaces of more than 20 exceptional island artists. From potters and painters to weavers, sculptors, photographers, and mixed-media creators, the tour showcases the rich spectrum of talent that thrives here.

Plan Your Visit

This is a free, self-guided summer adventure perfect for families, friends, or solo wanderers. Download the map from our blog, bring your car, bike, or hop on the Island bus — and set off with a spirit of curiosity. Studios are scattered across the island, tucked in forests, perched by the sea, and hidden along winding country roads.

Each space is unique: some rustic and shaded beneath tall trees, others airy and gallery-bright. All share the same warm welcome and deep connection to Denman's land, community, and culture.

Whether you're revisiting old favourites or discovering new talent, you'll find something inspiring at every stop.

- ♦ Map & details: denmanstudiotour.blogspot.com



BLACKBERRY FAIR
DENMAN ISLAND



CELEBRATE RURAL ISLAND LIVING

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Ben Rempel Memorial Run • Parade • Show What You Grow
Diaper Derby • Kids Games • Food & Drink • Pie by the Slice
Zucchini Races & More!

Race registration starts at 8am, Races at 9am & 10am, Parade at noonish!

Maybe You Can Judge a Book by its Cover

By the DIR&WF Committee



Paige Turner & the Jackettes

Ever wonder about the whimsical character sitting on the stack of books, lost in a story, shoe dangling from foot, that has become the logo of the Denman Island Readers and Writers Festival? Well, meet Paige Turner, the enthralled and enchanted reader. This year Paige opened the DI Readers and Writers Festival, and through her excited and projected imagination, the books of the 2025 festival were brought to life in a playful cat walk and dance; based not only on the appeal of the book covers, but the authors valued content. The hall was packed and the audience was mesmerized as **Paige Turner and the Jackettes** built excitement and foreshadowed many of the plots, protagonists and settings of the books and authors, of this year's highly successful festival; poetic, fiction and non-fiction.

The DIRWF organizing committee wish to thank all those involved, for this energetic, uplifting and delightful kick-start to this year's festival. For the hours of supply attainment, imagination, creativity, assembly and talent in book cover, costume development and script writing, to say nothing of the choreography and hours of rehearsal that went into this brilliant performance:

Jennifer Lee (Protagonist and Performer – Paige Turner), Sussan Thomson (Casting, Production and Stage Manager), Kerri Davis (Costume Design and Production), Quinn Lunberg (Choreographer and Lead Coach) and all the amazing Jackettes (dancing books): Natalie Mathis, Maxine Matilpi, Cathy Dixon, Catharine Wright, Evan Penner, Melissa DiPietro, Rita Arnicans, Sussan Thomson and Kerri Davis

Back-up Jackettes and rehearsal assistants: Suzanne Sulzberger, Sandra Lloyd and Caryn Rea (Crea).

You are so appreciated!

The DIR&WF Committee



TIDE TABLE

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

2025-08-14 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:18	1.761	5.8
10:25	3.904	12.8
15:50	2.552	8.4
21:59	4.716	15.5
2025-08-15 (Fri)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
05:10	1.428	4.7
11:55	3.897	12.8
16:42	3.090	10.1
22:31	4.633	15.2
2025-08-16 (Sat)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
06:06	1.167	3.8
13:40	4.035	13.2
17:52	3.523	11.6
23:10	4.510	14.8
2025-08-17 (Sun)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
07:06	0.978	3.2
15:09	4.266	14.0
19:25	3.771	12.4
2025-08-18 (Mon)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:00	4.364	14.3
08:10	0.844	2.8
16:16	4.478	14.7
20:59	3.797	12.5
2025-08-19 (Tue)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:09	4.237	13.9
09:12	0.746	2.4
17:08	4.617	15.1
22:14	3.673	12.1
2025-08-20 (Wed)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:28	4.176	13.7
10:11	0.683	2.2
17:51	4.688	15.4
23:12	3.473	11.4
2025-08-21 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:40	4.183	13.7
11:04	0.673	2.2
18:28	4.712	15.5
23:59	3.233	10.6

TIDE TABLE

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

2025-08-21 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:40	4.183	13.7
11:04	0.673	2.2
18:28	4.712	15.5
23:59	3.233	10.6
2025-08-22 (Fri)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:42	4.209	13.8
11:51	0.745	2.4
18:59	4.715	15.5
2025-08-23 (Sat)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:42	2.963	9.7
05:39	4.210	13.8
12:32	0.920	3.0
19:26	4.716	15.5
2025-08-24 (Sun)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:22	2.672	8.8
06:33	4.171	13.7
13:09	1.201	3.9
19:50	4.718	15.5
2025-08-25 (Mon)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:00	2.379	7.8
07:25	4.095	13.4
13:43	1.572	5.2
20:12	4.712	15.5
2025-08-26 (Tue)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:37	2.107	6.9
08:17	3.999	13.1
14:14	2.000	6.6
20:33	4.681	15.4
2025-08-27 (Wed)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:13	1.885	6.2
09:11	3.903	12.8
14:44	2.448	8.0
20:52	4.610	15.1
2025-08-28 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:48	1.731	5.7
10:09	3.823	12.5
15:13	2.878	9.4
21:10	4.499	14.8



Community Feast **August 24th**

By Farm2Family



All are invited to a family-friendly community feast prepared by the University of Victoria's Environmental Studies Field School students with assistance from Denman Island's Farm to Family Meals Service Society.

Held at the community hall, the feast will feature delicious local food donated and purchased from Denman and Comox Valley gardens and farms, and prepared and cooked by the university students. Gluten-free, dairy-free and veg-an options will be available. This is a family-friendly event.

We would very much appreciate donations from our generous local gardeners to help cut costs for this event. Please contact: info@farmtofamilybc.ca if you have some lovely offerings from your garden that could be incorporated into the feast. We would be most grateful for anything you have available!

The feast is a free event, but a \$donation jar will be available for those who wish to contribute. Funds collected will be split between Farm to Family and an organization of the students' choosing.

Please bring your own plate, bowl, cup and cutlery.

6pm, Sunday, August 24th.

Hope to see you there! 🍷



Kevin Mitchell & Steve Ireland **at the Guesthouse**

By Kevin Mitchell

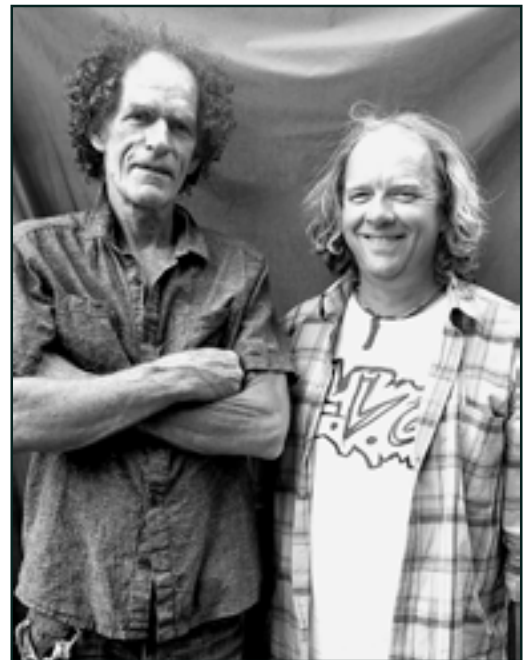
Sat Aug 23 @ 6:30 will see **Kevin Mitchell and Steve Ireland** perform at the **EarthClub-Factory/Guesthouse**.

New original songs in the vein of alt/country/folk are on the menu, with unique and strong harmonies. Songs about real life, a musical poetry of motion...It's been one year since they last performed at The Guesthouse with a lot of time spent fine tuning !

It promises to be a great evening of good food, great service, inspiring music, and hopefully perfect weather!

Dinner at 5:30, cover charge \$20.

Hope to see you there!



Kevin Mitchell & Steve Ireland

Denman Island Residents Association

Celebrates 55th Birthday!!

11 am at the Old School Saturday Market

Aug 16th

Join the party for Music and Birthday Cake!

DIRA Denman Island
Residents Assoc.

Maureen Drew's Water Studies: An Outpouring of Art at the Summer Art Gallery

By the Summer Art Gallery Committee

The title *Water Studies* is accurate, but it doesn't describe the full breadth of the work you'll see at Denman Island artist Maureen Drew's upcoming exhibit of that name at the Denman Island Summer Gallery, August 21 – Sept 2, 2025.

To stick with watery metaphors, the show could be described as the current outpouring of Maureen's life-long immersion in art, design, and creativity.

Water as theme and fluidity as a painting technique characterize about half the pieces in the show. Figures on the beach gaze out to sea; multi-hued waves undulate across the canvas. This focus emerged from a course Maureen took last year.

"I love to experiment with new techniques and recently attended North Island college. One of the artists I studied with poured paint over huge canvases, creating the effect of running water. At home in my studio I tried to emulate this technique: that was the birth of water studies. The backgrounds are the starting point for many of my beach scenes," says Maureen.

The exhibit also includes abstracts, vibrant foxgloves and other flowery naturescapes, and a series of paintings incorporating lace doilies.

Repurposing Doilies in Contemporary Art

On her many visits to second hand shops, Maureen noticed that doilies, which used to be a treasured part of our grandmothers' homes, were now in bags selling for just a few cents.



Mandala

"These doilies took an incredible amount of time and skill to make. Many of them are incredible beautiful and so I have tried to repurpose them, honouring the work

of our grandmothers. I string them on hoops to make mandalas to hang in windows, and some of them I use as collage in my paintings," says Maureen.

In one painting, an oval doily takes centre stage, a portal, an evocation of the feminine, or whatever the viewer sees in it. In another painting, a doily plays the role of a blanket covering two lovers. In another, small doilies create a textured pattern in the background.



Waves

Water and doilies are just the latest fascinations for Maureen, who has spent decades working and playing with creativity, happily ignoring the perceived borders between fine art, craft, and design.

A Life in Art

Maureen's life in art began as a child in England. "My dad owned a store in which he repaired watches and jewellery. My job was to repair broken pearl necklaces, which were in vogue at that time. I loved to sort them into rows and restring them while listening to radio programs."

Maureen's family moved to Winnipeg, and at 16 she started to make her own clothes. Later on she did alterations for a living and learned to sew drapery and do small upholstery.

Maureen completed a fine art program in North Carolina and a degree in interior design in Washington state. After working in interior design for a few years, she founded the Pacific Design Academy, a private college in downtown Victoria offering programs in

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...continued from P.5

interior design, fashion design, building technology, and graphic design.

“Starting up that school from scratch and running it was huge. I did all the promotion, all the organizing, and I taught there. After 15 years, I was spent, and passed the school on to my son.”



Mermaid

Denman Island Creativity

Since moving to Denman 18 years ago, Maureen has concentrated on painting in both oil and acrylics, but of course that's not all she creates. She has many fruit trees and a small vineyard on her property. “Autumn is juice time with the apples and pears and then when the grapes ripen it's time to make wine,” she says.

For Maureen, the world is a cornucopia of inspiration and material, whether the medium is fruit, fabric, or paint.

Maureen Drew's exhibit, *Water Studies*, takes place at the Denman Island Summer Art Gallery Thursday, August 21, to Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

Hours: Mon – Sat 11:00 am – 4:00 pm / Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Opening reception: Thursday, August 21, 7:00 pm.



Shucking Oysters: Fleshy Bits

By Alex Allen

Like being naked? Your global tribe has got you covered, as it were. Bits and Bums. Naked Earthlings. The Cantankerous Naturist. The Discerning Nudist. The Free Range Naturist. The Meandering Naturist. The list goes on. In the world of fleshy protuberances, it's a veritable buffet of naked wisdom and adventure out there.

The Rocky Mountain Naturist Club out of Denver hosts a naked bowling night where you can strike a pose while bonding with fellow naturists. Imagine laser tag naked, where every hit feels just a little more personal. At the 300 Club in Antarctica, members must endure a temperature swing of 300°F, by first enduring a sauna that is heated to 200°F and then running naked around the South Pole with an outdoor temperature below -100°F. Or how about a naked cruise? Bare Necessities, a Texas-based travel company specializes in such spectacles. To be clear, it's a cruise for nudists not for intentional sexual liaisons on the upper starboard deck. Their website explicitly states, “If you are seeking a lifestyle or swinger experience, we are not the appropriate cruise for you.”

continued on P.7...

...continued from P.6

So, what does a naked cruise entail? One Reddit member bared it all. First, no photos in public – I mean public – areas, including the pools and dance venues, but you can place your naked butt pretty much anywhere. The self-serve buffet is clothes-free, however, clothing is required for meals in the dining rooms. Passengers can freely roam the ship nude when it's at sea or anchored at port, but when docked alongside a non-nude cruise ship, clothing is mandatory. Similarly, when port authorities are on board, nudity is strictly prohibited. While prices vary depending on who you cruise with for 11 days, the most popular stateroom – a cabin with balcony – will set you back almost \$4,000. Ocean view staterooms without balconies are around \$3,000. And no surprise, the basic passenger profile is older (50s and up) and predominately from the US. Naked cruises seem to be the perfect antidote to retirement: go frolic and get naked with a bunch of strangers.

Of course, as Paul Simon wrote, one man's ceiling is another man's floor. A French resort town, located in the Vendée region on France's Atlantic coast, recently announced fines of up to 150 euros (\$175) for those walking around the town "half-naked." Mayor Yannick Moreau posted: "If you want to show off your pecs and your best swimming shorts in Les Sables d'Olonne there are 11 kilometres of beach at your disposal." It's the latest in a string of French towns cracking down on what is seen as disrespectful behaviour. And it's not just France. In 2023, authorities in the Spanish city of Malaga announced that anyone seen in the street or public spaces without clothes, or wearing only underwear, would face a fine of up to 750 euros (\$874).

On Hornby, from the local grocery store to the pizza joint, we are witness to every style of swimming attire imaginable, often revealing too much or too little. Hannah Brooks Olsen in an article on how the swimsuit has evolved, wrote: "In the past several years, body-positive bloggers and personalities have come out hard against the idea that only the genetically blessed or extremely diligent dieters deserve to don a bikini. Now, from plus-sized suit options to hashtag campaigns encouraging folks of all sizes to take it off, the new beach bodies – which is to say, bodies on

beaches – are having a moment."

For the vast majority of human existence, a beach body was about the same as any other kind of body: a nude one. It wasn't until we residents of the Western world perfected the art of body shaming that our beach bodies became our bathing-suit-wearing bodies. Today, as Brookes Olsen wrote, "outfits for aquatic recreation have pushed at our collective limits. They've blurred the lines around which body parts we can expose and under what conditions."

In her succinctly titled blog, "Felicity Jones Nude Bathing Is Better Than Bathing Suits," Jones' claims that the bathing suit is one of the most useless articles of clothing ever invented by humanity. "Its only purpose is to cover up the body parts that American culture (and other cultures) has deemed obscene: butts, genitals and female nipples." Jones' notes, in the Western world, the general consensus seems to be that by removing our bathing suits, all hell will break loose. We will become overrun with public sex. It sounds counter-intuitive, but it would seem that nude beaches and nudist resorts would create a more equal and less sexual environment because everyone is on the same level: naked.

Charles Hope, a Washington DC, pastor, warns that we need to regain our senses at the beach. "I've always remained astonished at the tiny and revealing swimwear worn by many women. Frankly, it's so revealing and over the top that I don't even find most of it attractive, just lust provoking, and lust isn't pretty. No, I see a naked woman, not a modest one. Wearing a bikini is not modest. It just isn't. And frankly, a lot of the tight fitting, low cut, one-piece suits aren't all that modest either."

Out on the beach, sadly, Pastor Hope, only sees young girls and women "denuding" themselves, in his words: "I walk, I do not sit on the beach, lest my celibate eyes, were to alight on a particular woman and stare too long."

For the record, and for the sake of equality, Pastor Hope did add, "if a man wears a tight Speedo, I am going to say he is out of line and is dressed immodestly. But frankly, I almost never see that today. Most men would not be caught dead in such a silly thing." Let alone budgie smuggling.



Mohammed on Denman

By Yvon Raoul

Previously, in the August 1st and October 24th, 2024 editions of The Islands Grapevine, I related the story of Mohammed Al Zaza, a young Palestinian refugee from Gaza, co-sponsored by the B.C. Muslim Association and the Vancouver chapter of Independent Jewish Voice (I.J.V.), who lived with us for several months last year. To briefly recap: he was badly injured in an Israeli “mowing the grass” bombing attack in 2011 at the age of 15, and then transported to a Tel Aviv hospital where he spent two years undergoing multiple operations, then sent back to Gaza in need of further medical treatment.

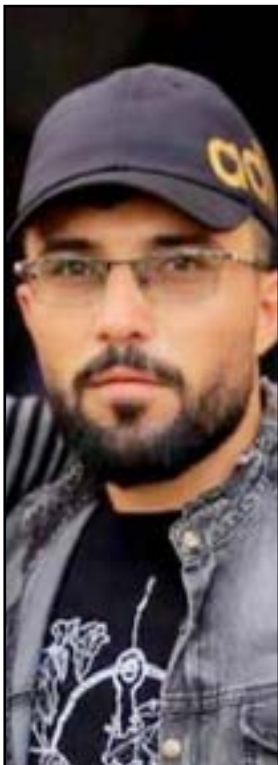
He found his way to Egypt, and then Turkey, where he was helped by the generosity of friends in Israel for 5 years. Confined to the situation, not having proper documentation as an immigrant in Turkey, Mohammed ended up in the Canadian Embassy in Ankara. Again, with the help of the same group of Jewish Israelis, and in liaison with Vancouver’s I.J.V., Mohammed was put on a flight to Canada. A friend of ours asked us to lodge him for his initial stay in Vancouver. He ended up staying with us for several months until



*Abdul Kareem Alzaza
Father of three children*

he had to get further treatment and several operations at UBC’s Health Science, G.F. Strong and Vancouver General hospitals. His weakened body speaks for the suffering he has had to endure all these years since that Israeli bomb changed his life forever. As if things were not bad enough, he lost three of his brothers since October 7th: one in November following the initial strike on Gaza and buried somewhere under a collapsed building, a second one killed fetching water for his family a few months ago, and a third one in need of dialysis, died for lack of medical treatment. It has been hell for him and it is only through the amazing support of friends and volunteers in Vancouver, that Mohammed has managed to keep hope guiding his indomitable spirit.

Two weeks ago he spent a few days with us on beautiful Denman Island and visited Hornby Island for lunch in Rae Maté’s beautiful art studio, and a chat with Gabor Maté. It was the first time Mohammed saw B.C. beyond Vancouver’s bustling life. In our home on Lacon, he went swimming, stretched on a deck chair, sipped strong coffee, gazed at the sea while thinking of all his family and lost friends in Gaza, who might be looking at a similar ocean thousands of



*Abdullah Alzaza
Father of two*



*Mahmoud Alzaza
Father of two girls*

...continued on P.9...

...continued from P.8

miles away, wishing this nightmare would fade away. Here's the beautiful text he wrote. It is translated from his Arabic:

"They said I would not remain, that I was finished, but they never understood that those born from the womb of this land do not die, and that those raised on sunlight and blood are never forgotten. They bombed me to silence my voice and bury my truth, but they forgot that my heartbeat echoes with the pulse of the earth, and that when I fall, my roots rise from beneath me. I am never buried. I am planted, We are the people of this land. We do not surrender what is ours, not to force nor to fear. We do not shake the hand that stole our olives, our homes, our children's laughter. Every bullet they fire awakens a thousand memories, every wall they build tears down a thousand silences, and every attempt to erase us gives birth to a thousand rebels. I do not run. I do not forget. I am the promised one like fire, like rain, like resurrection. I am not a passing name in the footnotes of history. I am the story. I am the land itself speaking back. They tried to end me, but I am just beginning. and from me grows resistance." 🍇



A group picture of friends of Mohammed, visiting Hornby. Yom Shamash, Peter Borkovitch, Yvon Raoul, Mohammed. A great peaceful day.

Congratulations to
all the winners
of the
Thunder Rugby/Courtenay Nissan
Free Car Wash for Life contest!



Boat Launch Construction Happening

Construction has begun on the new Shingle Spit boat launch, with an anticipated completion date in mid-September.

For more information and project updates, visit: comoxvalleyrd.ca/shinglespit



Help Save Astral Blue: **Ian's Home**

By Mary Helan de Sousa

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-save-astral-blue-ians-home>

Ian is a sailor, someone with a good heart, and right now—he's going through something really hard. His sailboat Astral Blue, lovingly called Astral wasn't just a boat. She was his home, his daily life, and his steady companion for the past five years. On August 1st, Astral Blue sank off the shores of Hornby Island in a heartbreaking accident.

Along with his home, Ian lost two laptops, his phone and many essentials.

What Happened

Back in May, Ian's insurance company told him they'd be cancelling coverage unless he hauled out the boat for a survey. But there weren't any haul-out facilities near Ucluelet or Tofino that could accommodate Astral Blue for what was needed. So Ian made the tough decision to sail solo around Vancouver Island to Nanaimo, where a marina had a short window open in early August.

After making it to Vancouver safely, he caught a good southeast wind and decided to sail to Gibsons and then Hornby Island while waiting for his survey date. When he reached Hornby, the usual anchorage in Tribune Bay was too rough to anchor. So he moved into the calm of Whaling Station Bay and tied up to what looked like a solid mooring pin.

It was quiet, peaceful. For the first time in ages, Ian went ashore to visit friends and enjoy the rare comfort of a hot bath. When you live at sea, those small things feel huge.

But the next morning, everything changed.

The mooring shackle snapped in the night. Astral Blue drifted onto the rocks. Ian woke up to a photo of her half-submerged. He raced down to help, and with friends, tried everything they could to save her—but the tide overtook her, and Astral Blue slipped beneath the water.

What Ian's Facing Now:

- A \$15,000 salvage and towing bill
- An estimated \$20,000+ if she can't be repaired and has to be destroyed
- Nowhere to live
- Lost belongings, gear, and tools
- The emotional weight of watching

...continued on P.11...



Thanks to quick-thinking friends from Hornby they were able to seal hatches and valves and stop any fuel from leaking. Ian's deeply grateful to the locals who stepped in without hesitation—offering food, clothes, and support when everything felt lost.

Astral Blue is now on her way to Nanaimo. Once she arrives, Ian will have to decide if it's possible to bring her back, or if he has to say goodbye to her for good.

Why This Matters

Ian didn't do anything reckless. He was trying to do the right thing—getting a survey, keeping his insurance up, and taking care of the boat he's called home for five years. He sailed alone around the island to make it happen. He's lived simply and with respect for the ocean, and anyone who knows him knows how much heart he's poured into this life.

This accident didn't just take his boat. It turned his world upside down.

Astral Blue was more than a home—she was freedom, routine, connection, and comfort. It's hard to imagine what it's like to wake up and see your entire world sinking. But Ian's lived that moment.

Right now, he's trying to stay grounded in the middle of something devastating. And this is where we get to show him he's not alone.

How You Can Help

Your donation will help Ian:

- Cover salvage and towing fees
- Afford housing and basics in the meantime
- Replace lost electronics, tools, and personal gear
- Attempt repairs—if Astral Blue can be saved—or help with respectful disposal if not

Even small contributions mean a lot. And if you're not in a place to give, simply sharing Ian's story is a powerful act of care.

The ocean gives, and sometimes it takes more than we expect. What helps us through is community. Let's show Ian that he's not adrift; that he's seen, supported, and held as he figures out where to go from here.



Trust?

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz
July 12th, 2025.

LITERARY

If you never trusted another person ever again, it would be understandable. I'd argue that avoiding people altogether might even be logical. Nobody would blame you. If they knew the hell you went through, they'd want to hide, too. I was thinking, though... what if, instead, you spent your life driving the heads of predators through a metaphorical, but no less satisfying, spike? Wouldn't that be nice?

I've been watching Agnes for a while now. Not in a creepy, stalker way, mind you—more like one observes a fascinating, highly volatile, and inexplicably effective social experiment. Agnes, you see, went through... a lot. Not the kind of "a lot" that ends up on the evening news, but the slow, insidious agony inflicted by a thousand tiny cuts of societal disregard. Think of it: the neighbour who played polka music at 3 AM. The co-worker who consistently microwaved tuna casserole. The HOA president, who once fined her for having a 'non-regulation' gnome. Each a pinprick, but collectively, they forged Agnes into something magnificent, something the prompt of the universe perhaps hadn't envisioned.

What if you became the threat, bringing hell to their doorstep instead? Doesn't that sound like a lovely little plot twist? Rather than cower, wilt and shrink into someone meek and unassuming, Agnes took the biggest, deepest breath of her life and just... *strategized*. Her "scream" wasn't a vocal sound, not initially. It was a well-indexed binder titled "Polka: A Comprehensive Legal Treatise on Nocturnal Noise Pollution, with Appendices on HOA Bylaw Violations About Obnoxious Instrumentation." It landed on Mr. Henderson's doorstep with the thud of a small anvil, followed by a cease-and-desist letter drafted with the precision of a Swiss watchmaker. Within a week, the polka stopped. The silence that followed, I swear, vibrated at decibel levels that, in case of emergencies, could break glass easily—not from sound, but from the sheer, resounding *absence* of it. It was the sound of a predator's head being driven, quite elegantly, through a spike.

What if, instead, you spent your life ripping out the repugnant, abominable hearts of as many abusers as possible? The ones that look like yours – the quiet, unassuming types who want to live in peace. And the ones that

look like theirs – the oblivious, self-important ones who believe the world is their personal soundstage or stinky kitchen.

Could you take the tuna casserole incident? Mildred from accounting. Every Thursday. The smell would coat the office like a fine, fishy mist. People would gag, subtly. Pass out air fresheners, casually. But Agnes? Agnes saw an abuser—an abuser of nostrils, of common human decency. Agnes sidled up one Thursday as Mildred was about to press 'start' on the microwave. No scream, no theatrics. Just a polite, almost too polite, smile. And then she began. In excruciating detail, she outlined the chemical composition of trimethylamine, the compound responsible for the 'fishy' smell. She presented a printed diagram of the office's ventilation system, highlighting its inadequacy. She then produced a laminated chart of "Breakroom Etiquette for the Socially Conscious Colleague," complete with footnotes citing HR policies, health codes, and a surprisingly eloquent quote from a 17th-century philosopher on the tyranny of the senses.

Mildred, her hand frozen mid-air, looked at Agnes as if she were an alien life form. Agnes wasn't angry. She was just... informative. With the casual flourish of a magician, she then produced a small, airtight container. "For your leftovers, Mildred," she cooed, "scientifically proven to contain even the most potent volatile organic compounds. Such a thoughtful gift, wouldn't you say?" It was like watching a surgeon remove a cancer, only the tumour was Mildred's pride, and the organ was her tuna casserole's heart. The office smelled only of stale coffee for the first time in years. Let's throw parades in Agnes's name and make these abusers infamous. Let's publicly broadcast their every depravity. Let's throw dead roses at their feet – a coronation of who the blame and shame always belonged to. The office breakroom now features a large, laminated sign: "The Agnes Protocol: No Fish or Offensive Odours. Penalty: Public Discourse on Chemical Compounds." It's a work of art.

What if, instead, everything evil in the world was made afraid of you? Would that not be the ultimate form of retribution? Don't let anyone convince you that revenge is only fueled by hate. Agnes was never motivated by hate. Her heart, if anything, seemed to swell with a profound, almost furious, love for order, for quietude, for the unspo-

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ken social contract that allowed people to be. Her masterpiece, however, was the HOA—the infamous gnome incident. Agnes had a perfectly tasteful, hand-painted ceramic gnome with a little fishing rod. It was blue. Mrs. Periwinkle, the HOA president, insisted it was "non-regulation forest-dwelling folk" and demanded its removal, citing Section 4, Sub-section B of the "Approved Garden Ornamentation" Addendum. That was the last straw.

Agnes didn't cower. She didn't wilt. She fought back. Retaliated. Showed no mercy. She became an advocate for every mild-mannered resident whose petunias were too purple, whose recycling bin was two inches too far from the curb. She went unapologetic. She was vicious. She came up swinging, not with fists, but with binders, precedent, and an encyclopedic knowledge of municipal codes and zoning laws. She discovered Mrs. Periwinkle's own "non-regulation" bird bath (imported Italian marble, clearly not "federally approved bird-bathing apparatus"). She exposed the entire HOA board's dubious accounting practices during the annual "Pest Control Fund" allocation. She found the forgotten clause that stipulated mandatory composting for all residents, which Mrs. Periwinkle had conveniently ignored for years.

It was a campaign. A war of attrition was waged with spreadsheets and legal citations. Agnes didn't just castrate them metaphorically; she dismantled their bureaucratic structure brick by brick. She tormented and demoralized them with a relentless barrage of official complaints and public information requests. She hunted down the perverse injustices of their rule. She became their nightmare. Be their curse.

Agnes stood up at the next HOA meeting. She didn't scream. She didn't shout. She spoke calmly and precisely for forty-five minutes. Every word was a tiny, perfectly aimed dart. By the end, Mrs. Periwinkle looked like a deflated balloon. The gnome, incidentally, was not only allowed to stay but was declared a "neighbourhood treasure, promoting local artistry." You can seek vengeance, never motivated by anger or hate, but by a love so robust and resilient that it destroys those devoid of it. Agnes's love for a quiet, sensible life, unburdened by petty tyrannies, was her engine. If ever you're unsure of your worth, know this – no matter how hard they tried, they could never take what makes you significant. Agnes, fighting for her perfectly manicured lawn, her tuna-free air, her

polka-less nights, ultimately, saved others. The neighbourhood is, dare I say, a utopia of considerate behaviour now. The office is a beacon of common sense. I hope your survival is so fucking loud it reaches those who lost their voice but never stopped listening. Because sometimes, the most profound acts of comedic retribution are born not from anger, but from a profound, desperate love for a quiet life, and a burning desire to make people stop being so... *annoying*. And Agnes, bless her little gnome-loving heart, was the loudest survivor I ever had the privilege to observe.





Help Bee Balm and Richard recover from losing their home

By Jenna Bird

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-bee-balm-and-richard-get-back-on-their-feet>

COMMUNITY

Our beloved Bee Balm and Richard Garvey lost their home on August 6th in a tragic fire.

The home was a relic of Denman Island, built by incredible DIY'ers and because of its age and associated quirks it was uninsurable. They had been in the middle of renovating their house and had put their savings in to build their dream home. The fire took everything. Big thanks to the Denman Fire Department for putting out the fire and stopping any spread.

Bee and Richard are pillars of the Denman community, from feeding families on Denman to sharing their music and songs. This fire is a huge setback but there is no doubt they will continue to contribute to their community.

In the immediate, the funds will go to cleaning up the site from the fire, and helping Bee and Richard get back what they lost (clothes, musical instruments, catering wares etc.). Longer term, but hopefully as soon as possible, the funds will be used to help them buy appliances, kitchenwares, books and clothes to rebuild their lives.

Direct money transfers to Richard and Bee are also being accepted and are preferred.



August 9th, 2025
by Robin Anderson, Beneficiary

Hey everyone, we're so grateful for the support we're receiving towards rebuilding our lives after this fire. It is still early days, and in these first few days we have been reeling from the extreme shock to our systems, and being fed and cared for so sweetly (thank you mom!). We have now started taking stock, getting organized, and getting ready to start cleanup of the land. We are blessed to have a place to stay for the short term. There is so much sadness for everything that has gone, and also hope for what comes next. We will send an update when cleanup commences next week!

Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts,

Bee, Rich, Wiz and Pip



ONE OF A KIND

Gladys Perint Palmer A Creative Life

AVAILABLE NOW AT ABRAXAS



By Connie Gray

Quinn, Shel & Bethany present WILD HAVEN

Concert at Hall Friday Aug. 29th @ 6:15

Doors Open at 5:30 pm

25 Community Youth, Kevin Drew & David French!!!

SPECIAL INTEREST

We're thrilled to share that Kevin Drew, founding member of Broken Social Scene, will be joining us at camp this year — popping in throughout the week to jam, connect, and quietly inspire our young artists.

And as a generous gift to our community, Kevin and fellow BSS member David French will perform a 30-minute set following the kids' final performance on Friday evening at the Denman Community Hall.

This intimate show is for the kids — but we know the adults might love it too.

We invite non-camper families to join us for \$15 at the door — with all proceeds going toward next year's Wild Haven Performing Arts Camp.

It's going to be a beautiful, music-filled night — and we can't wait to share it with you.



Israel Assassinates More Journalists To Hide Its Planned War Crimes

By Caitlin Johnstone
Aug.11th, 2025

OPINION

Notes From The Edge Of The Narrative Matrix

Ahead of a planned Israeli assault on Gaza City which UN officials warn will further exacerbate death and suffering for the Palestinian people, Israel has chosen to assassinate five Al Jazeera journalists who've been stationed there. Among those killed was Anas al-Sharif, one of the most high-profile surviving reporters in Gaza. The IDF is of course claiming that al-Sharif was Hamas, because that's what they always do. They've been murdering a historically unprecedented number of journalists and defending their systematic effort to blind the world to their actions in Gaza by claiming that every journalist they kill is Hamas. The journalists are Hamas, the hospitals are Hamas, the UN is Hamas, the peace activists are Hamas, the demonstrations are Hamas, telling the truth is Hamas, human empathy is Hamas, objective reality is Hamas. It's all Hamas. That Israel would feel the need to draw attention to its depravity with this targeted strike at this time shows it has some very ugly intentions for Gaza City that it doesn't want the world to see.

♦ One of the many plot holes in Israel's claim that it can't let foreign journalists into Gaza because it's not safe is that there are now huge areas which have been completely captured and controlled by the IDF. That's where the GHF sites are, which is where journalists are most sorely needed right now.

It's not like it's 2023/2024 and journalists would need to follow Israeli forces into Gaza City to document gun battles with



Hamas or take their crews through areas where the IDF could be carrying out air strikes. They could safely just set up their cameras at aid distribution sites and document what's happening.

The only reason this hasn't occurred is because Israel doesn't want the world to see what it's doing at those aid distribution sites. There is absolutely no other explanation.

♦ British police arrested 522 people for holding signs saying "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action" in response to their government banning the activist group as a terrorist organization. Nearly half of those arrested were over sixty years old.

When I was young and naive I thought terrorism looks like someone detonating a car bomb or crashing planes into skyscrapers. Now that I'm mature and educated I know that terrorism actually looks like an elderly woman holding a sign saying people should be allowed to oppose genocide.

This is a society that has gone stark raving insane.

♦ U2 frontman Bono has finally issued a statement calling for peace in Gaza two years into a genocide, and however bad you expected it to be I guarantee it's worse.

He works his way through pretty much every pro-genocide Israeli talking point while pretending to care about Palestinians. He spends paragraphs on October 7, mentions the word "Hamas" 14 times, falsely claims "Hamas are using starvation as a weapon in the war," says "Hamas had deliberately positioned themselves under civilian targets, having tunneled their way from school to mosque to hospital," babbles about the 1988 Hamas charter while ignoring its 2017 revisions, blames the whole thing on Netanyahu, and of course mentions "Israel's right to exist."

I seriously think he hit every major hasbara talking point. I don't think he missed a single one. It's genocide propaganda disguised as humanitarianism. Bono is a piece of shit.

♦ I judge the character of Jewish people based on how much they oppose the genocide in Gaza. This is also

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how I judge the character of anyone who is not Jewish.

♦

As soon as someone says they support Israel for religious reasons, you can dismiss anything they say in defense of Israel's actions, because you know they'll tell any lie and promote any kind of propaganda in order to advance their religious mission. They're not engaging the subject to share facts and communicate, they're engaging it to obtain promised rewards in the afterlife and please an invisible deity. They'll say whatever they need to say in order to make this happen.

Think about it. If you sincerely held the religious belief that Israel needs to be supported no matter what in order to fulfill some kind of prophecy, or that if you don't promote the interests of Israel you'll be tortured for eternity in Hell, or that Actual Metaphysical Yahweh has commanded that helping Israel is the single most important thing in the world, would you not say whatever you need to say and promote whatever narratives you need to promote in order to help make that happen? Of course you would. It's not about facts and truth for such people, it's about getting into Heaven and bringing back Jesus and stuff.

The instant someone admits to supporting Israel for religious reasons, there's no reason to believe anything else they say. Because you know they'll say things they don't really know to be true and pretend to believe things they don't really believe in order to do what they've been told is the most important thing they can possibly do with their lives. It's impossible to have a truth-based conversation with such a person.



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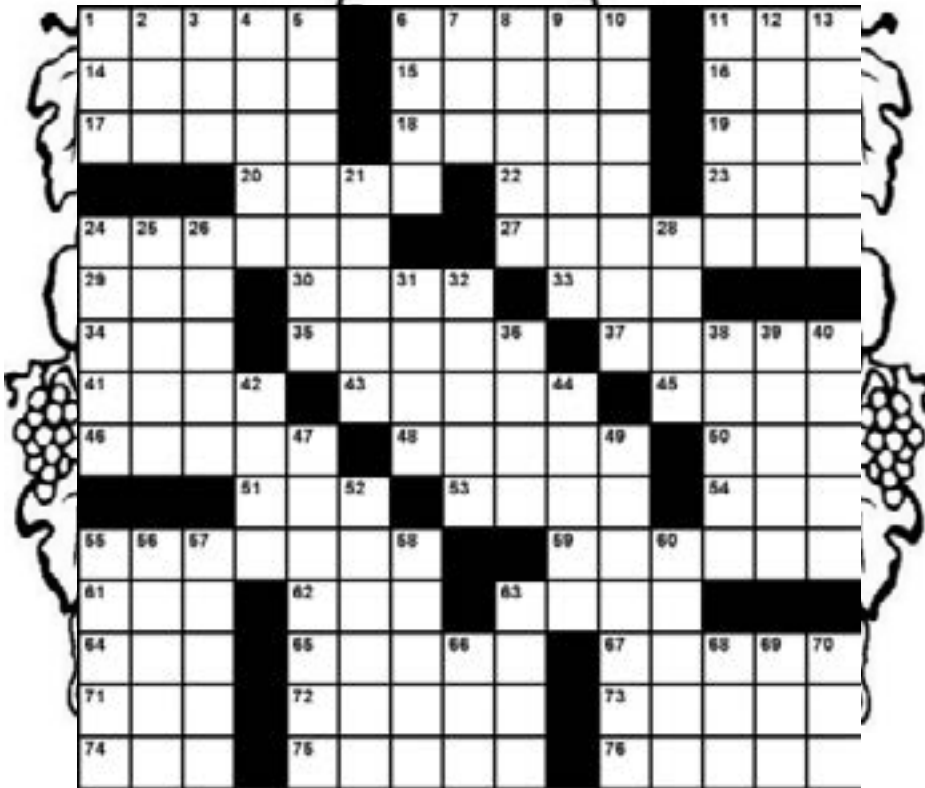
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14. Even a little
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19. Alphabet starters
20. Auspice
22. Antony's loan request
23. Bygone Egypt king
24. Producing an effect
27. Hidden stores
29. Barley bristle
30. Court pro Lendl
33. Break up clods
34. Agree silently
35. Troubleshoot
37. Utter chaos
41. Jaeger
43. Carried chair
45. Ankara dollar
46. Bar Mitzvah boys
48. Conical abode
50. Affected manner
51. Cramp
53. Bed of coal
54. After taxes
55. Upper arm bone
59. Small pool
61. Avail oneself of
62. Decide for
63. Atlas dot

64. Beauty pack stuff
65. Made dove calls
67. Dodge successfully
71. Altdorf's canton
72. Irish county
73. Fibula's neighbor
74. Curative water
75. Hall's partner
76. Be pushy

• DOWN •

1. Gab and gab
2. Breakfasted
3. Cow chow
4. Fridge stocks
5. Spinster
6. Certain agent
7. Actor Ely
8. Chips in chips
9. Large Scottish valley
10. Egyptian ruler
11. Tarot card
12. Permeate
13. Tear carriers
21. Dwarfs
24. Shakespearean contraction
25. Heard the alarm
26. Ill deserved
28. Authenticate
31. Be next to
32. Renoir models
36. Be wide open
38. Piece of food
39. College at Oxford
40. Menu
42. Add to the pot
44. Tide types
47. Wind from the Sahara
49. Attempt to equal
52. Dome
55. Soil ingredient
56. Commandeer
57. Kind of coverage
58. Ermine in

- Summer
60. Faust character
63. Caesar's bad time
66. Bard's before
68. Chicago lyricist
69. Brazilian city
70. Game marble

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	9	1				7	
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• Last Week's Answers •

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

“I got kicked out a secret cooking society. I spilled the beans.”



• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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D	U	O	S			O	V	A	L		E	X	T	R	A
	M	R	S			N	A	P	E		R	Y	A	S	

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3 acres west ocean / mountain view – beautiful daily sunsets
Woodstove for heat – firewood provided
No pets No smoking indoors
Close to ferry and downtown
References needed
\$1 500.00 / mo + utilities
Call 250 218 9023

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"Are you needing help with your yard and or housework? Let's discuss your project!
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Email : denmanislandlm@gmail.com or call/ text 250-895-9422
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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!



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• Massage Clinic • 2796 Northwest Rd. • Leyah Kelly 335-2584 (D)

• Acupuncture • Jenny McCartney, R.Ac • 250-508-8160

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 14

• 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
• Denman ART Studio Tour 10-4pm

FRIDAY 15

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
• Denman ART Studio Tour 10-4pm

SATURDAY 16

• 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
• DCA Used Book Sale Old School 9:30am-Noon
• DIRA 55th B-Day Party Old School

SUNDAY 17

MONDAY 18

TUESDAY 19

WEDNESDAY 20

THURSDAY 21

FRIDAY 22

SATURDAY 23

SUNDAY 24

MONDAY 25

TUESDAY 26

WEDNESDAY 27

THURSDAY 28

• 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
• Hornby First Edition Deadline 11:59:59pm

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
• DAAC Open Mic Back Hall 7:30pm

• 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
• Maureen Drew Exhibit Opening Night 7pm
Denman Island Art Gallery

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

• 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
• DCA Used Book Sale Old School 9:30am-Noon
• Kevin Mitchell & Steve Ireland @ The Guesthouse
(see ad on page 4)

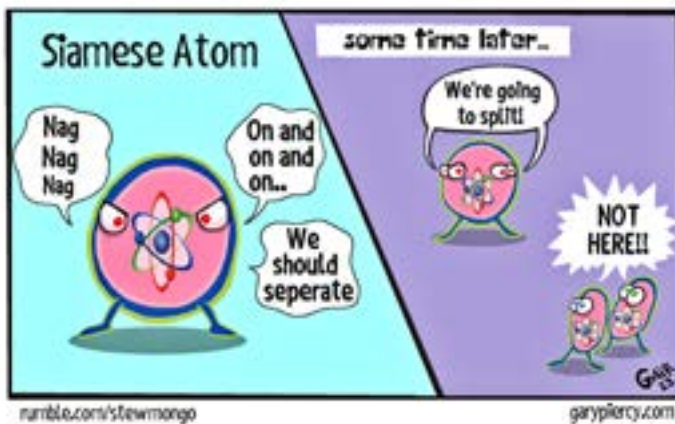
• Community Feast 6pm D.I. Community Hall

• 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 1-5pm

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• 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





JWR Designs

Jason Rasmussen
Call or text 250-504-1833
New home builds or renovations, small or large projects
Serving Denman & Hornby Islands
• FREE QUOTES •

AUTO/MARINE

- Custom Lighting
- Custom Audio
- Custom Lids
- Custom Fiberglass
- Custom Plastics
- (2nd/3rd/4th) Generations

HOME

- Backyard Greenhouse Systems
- Custom Blower Vacuums
- Custom Blower Vacuums
- Custom Drywall Services
- Custom Taping Services
- Custom Lighting

DENMAN ISLAND
GARDEN SOCIETY'S

Show What You GROW competition

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31 ST



at the **Blackberry Fair**



COMPETITION RULES

- Entries from Denman and Hornby Islanders only
- Entries to be in the Hall between 8:30 and 9:30 AM
- All edibles may be sampled by Judges
- Judges may split or combine class sections if the number of entrants warrants doing so
- In open or mixed class sections, Judges will judge against the ideal for each kind
- Decisions of the Judges are final. Prizes will only be awarded if there is merit
- Scarecrows will be judged by popular vote
- Entries may be picked up between 1 and 3 PM. Unclaimed items may be used at the discretion of the Fair Committee
- All entries must have been grown or made by Entrant
- Entries to be displayed on plain plates (provided at the Fair)
- All vegetables to be washed/cleaned, but not scrubbed



Judging Categories

SHOW WHAT YOU GROW • SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST

Fruit

Apples, 3 of one variety
Berries, 12 of one variety
Grapes, 1 bunch
Melons, 1 specimen
Stone fruit (peaches, pear, plums), 3 of one variety
Other fruit, 3 of one variety

Flowers

Dahlias, 3 blooms of one variety
Roses, 3 stems of one variety
Other Flowers, 3 stems of same variety
Large arrangement
Small arrangement
Display in water in your own container.

Very Special Vegetables

Largest vegetable
Weirdest vegetable
(odd shape, tiny, cute, ugly ...)

Scarecrows

Must be free-standing. Handmade, no scarecrow kits. Be wild and creative!

Vegetables

Beans, fresh, 6 pods
Beans, dried, one variety per jar
Cabbage, 1 specimen
Cucumbers, 3 of one variety
Garlic, 3 heads
Onions, 3 bulbs
Peppers, 3 of one variety
Potatoes, 3 tubers of one type
Pumpkin, 1 specimen
Root vegetables, (beets, carrots, parsnips) 3 of one variety
Squash (winter), 1 specimen
Tomatoes:
 Regular, 3 fruit of one variety
 Cherry, 6 fruit of one variety
Zucchini, 3 of one variety
Other vegetables, 3 of one variety

Herbs

Minimum 5 sprigs of different varieties.
Display in water in your own container to keep fresh. Herb names to be attached.

Preserves

Jams, Jellies, Pickles, Preserves

Baked Goods

Cakes, Cookies, Breads

Kids Entries (age 12 & under)

Biggest sunflower
Biggest vegetable
Best bouquet
Best dressed vegetable
Baking
Tomato with a felt pen face
Jack -O- Lantern with a felt pen face
Zucchini creatively decorated
Farm or Garden themed Lego display
(no kits allowed)
Scarecrow portrait: Picture to include a traditional scarecrow at work.

Harvest Baskets

Judged on number and quality of different vegetables, herbs, fruit, flowers. The bigger the better!

If you would like to show your produce, but do not want your entries to be entered in the competition, there will be a table for display only.