



Ima's Kitchen Organic Bakery

open every Thursday and Friday
1840 Northwest Road
250-650-8037




Coastline
CLOSETS

100% Canadian Made,
Owned & Operated

250-335-1654

Your Home Storage
Specialist Since 1990!

www.coastlineclosets.ca

CORLAN
Vineyard & Farm
Home of TO EWE WINES

**Seasonal Greens
Grapevine Wreath Workshop**

Thursday, November 27. 1-4 pm
Cheese Board and Refreshments
\$45.00 Materials Included
Reservations Please
corlan@tdm.net or 250-335-9132

Charming seaside cottage, just steps from the Denman ferry.



NEW LISTING
3296 DENMAN RD.
JORDAN McDONALD
Local REALTOR®

RE/MAX
ocean pacific realty

denmanislandhomes.com



D.I. General Store

General Store Hours:
Monday to Thursday: 8 – 6:30
Friday: 8 – 7
Saturday: 9 – 7
Sunday and Holidays: 12 – 4

Post Office Hours:
Monday to Friday:
9 – 12 & 1 – 4:30
Saturday: 12 – 3
Sundays and Holidays: Closed



BRAIDWOOD DENTAL CENTRE
DR. CHRIS S. BECH INC.
Dr. Joel Durling DMD, General Dentist

**Accepting
NEW PATIENTS**

CALL US TODAY!
250.338.0809

12 - 204 OLD ISLAND HWY
COURTENAY, BC V9N 3P1
BRAIDWOODCOURTENAY.COM

Bringing
Smiles
To Life!



**TAKEOUT
NEAR YOU**



**Open 12pm to 8pm Thursday - Sunday
(Pizza after 3pm Friday-Sunday)**

Beef & veggie burgers (gluten-free buns available), fries & poutine (gluten-free vegan gravy available), Korean-style fried chicken, pizza, panozzos, and rice bowls. Try our signature Caesar!

Licensed - Dine-in & Takeout
3646 Denman Rd (the old bakery) • TakeoutNearYou.com
(250)335-1099

CONTENTS

ISSUE NO. 1710 • NOVEMBER 20TH, 2025



•PRESS RELEASE•

- 2 • CityWest Provides an Update to Denman Island Expansion Project

By CityWest

•SPECIAL INTEREST•

- 3 • Shucking Oysters: Sticks and Stones

By Alex Allen

•LITERARY•

- 7 • The Age of Polite Spiders (A Comedy of Manners)

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

•OPINION•

- 4 • Phoenix Riting!
- 9 • There Are No Easy Fights In the Struggle Against The Empire

By Phoenix Bee

By Caitlin Johnstone

—REGULAR FEATURES—

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



Cover image: The Lookout

by Mark Prior

facebook.com/markprior.images

THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

- DENMAN: 825 • HORNBY: 525 •
- E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 105 •

2550 Lake Road
Denman Island, BC
V0R 1T0

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com
www.theislandsgrapevine.com



Publisher/Editor
Mike Van Santvoord



Associate Editor
Keith Porteous

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

PRESS RELEASE

CityWest Provides an Update to Denman Island Expansion Project

By CityWest



DENMAN ISLAND – Earlier this year, CityWest announced that more homes and businesses on Denman Island would receive fibre-optic services after a \$2.1 million increase to the project's budget. The investment represents an additional 238 homes to be added to the scope of the project, representing 95% of occupied properties on Denman Island.

We're excited to announce that construction has started on Denman Island, with work on Owl Crescent and Pickles Street currently underway!

The project represents multiple additions to our existing infrastructure on Denman Island. Because services are already available to most of Denman Island, CityWest will be able to bring new sections online in stages as we build out the rest of our network.

CityWest is encouraging all residents that would like to receive project updates to fill out the contact form at www.citywest.ca/dropping-in or call us at 1-800-442-8664. A representative from CityWest will contact homeowners and businesses as services become available in their neighbourhood.

A small portion of homes were unfortunately not included in the project's increased scope due to the complexity of bringing services to some of the more remote areas and properties on the island. We have sent a representative to inspect each property from this list and are currently finalizing our field assessment from earlier this year. We have identified a number of addresses that will now be able to be serviced with fibre-optics. Homeowners in these areas will receive a letter in the coming weeks with an update on the connectivity status of their properties. Fibre-optic services are being delivered on Denman Island through a partnership with the Comox Valley Regional District. The initial project, which covers both Denman and Hornby Islands was strongly supported at the local level, with 94% of residents between the two islands voting in favour of the last-mile build. The partnership will see a portion of the profits from Internet, security, TV, and phone services go directly back into the Comox Valley Regional District for grants and other forms of assistance that benefit residents and community organizations.

Today, hundreds of Denman Island homes are benefiting from improved connectivity through CityWest fibre-optic services. This expansion of the current project will ensure that even more homes and businesses have access to the best technology available.



Shucking Oysters: Sticks and Stones

By Alex Allen

Beyond the world of tariffs and budgets, with the publication of her autobiography this month, *Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts*, the biggest news in Canada seems to be the quirky Margaret Atwood interview on CBC TV. What stood out, for many of us, was not only Atwood's palm reading skills, but her unapologetic "icily sardonic delivery" when it came to settling grudges.

At the age of 85, Atwood shared her philosophy: "A lot of people have died, so I can actually say these things without destroying somebody's life...Except for the people whose lives I wish to destroy." And those that have crossed her? "They deserve it." When Atwood was asked if she liked holding a grudge, she replied succinctly: "I don't have a choice. I'm a Scorpio" (with a Gemini rising and Jupiter in the eleventh house and moon in Aquarius). Once crossed, she said she holds onto her resentments, and has occasionally taken revenge in her novels.

Alexandra Alter in the *New York Times*, wrote that Atwood's *Book of Lives* "isn't a blistering, score-settling tell-all, though there's a dose of that." She does write about the childhood bullies who tormented her, blasts the men "who condescended to her, questioning how she could write and still do the housework," and reveals how the Canadian literary scene was at times "a hotbed of vicious gossip, jealousy and back-stabbing."

In *The Guardian*, Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett wrote, "it's that same wry acknowledgement of the supposed wrongness of one's own grudge-holding that makes *Book of Lives* so funny. From Atwood's response to one hatchet job being the immortal words: 'Piss up a rope, wanker,' to her account of hiring an exorcist to banish the possible ghost of her husband's ex-wife, who unfairly labelled her a 'homewrecker,' her vengeance is too hilarious to be judged entirely cold."

Though many consider holding grudges petty, it was the pettiness that made the Atwood interview all the more delightful. Margaret? Petty? Never. As Cossett explained, "it's the notion that prize-winning, household-name authors should be above such feelings, that there is a certain glee, not to mention comfort in discovering that, like the rest of us, they are nurturing a mental 'shit list' of people who have hurt them."

Secretly, we all hold grudges, but most of us probably think it's wrong, and many of us deny that we even do. Self-appointed grudge guru Sophie Hannah, in *How to Hold a Grudge*, says grudges are good for us; that not all grudges are bad. Grudges can act like mirrors reflecting our inner values, fears, and needs. They're not just emotional responses to external stimuli but "revelations of our core principles and boundaries."

Grudges serve a psychological function as well. By keeping the memory of a wrong alive, we protect ourselves from future harm. Grudges can reveal what is important to us, like respectful behaviour. Not interrupting constantly. Merging off the ferry, not charging off. To name a few. Holding a grudge doesn't necessarily mean harbouring ill will or plotting revenge; Hannah writes "it can mean maintaining a clear memory of an event to guide future interactions and decisions." Which means plotting revenge, does it not?

TIDE TABLE		
• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove • • Source: tides.gc.ca •		
2025-11-20 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
07:09	4.577	15.0
12:00	3.758	12.3
16:07	4.247	13.9
2025-11-21 (Fri)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
00:00	0.926	3.0
07:44	4.662	15.3
12:42	3.836	12.6
16:28	4.191	13.7
2025-11-22 (Sat)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
00:29	0.918	3.0
08:19	4.717	15.5
13:26	3.882	12.7
16:52	4.127	13.5
2025-11-23 (Sun)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
01:00	0.945	3.1
08:56	4.746	15.6
14:17	3.898	12.8
17:17	4.046	13.3
2025-11-24 (Mon)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
01:34	1.009	3.3
09:36	4.756	15.6
15:21	3.872	12.7
17:45	3.937	12.9
2025-11-25 (Tue)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:12	1.123	3.7
10:18	4.747	15.6
16:49	3.770	12.4
18:19	3.783	12.4
2025-11-26 (Wed)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:55	1.301	4.3
11:01	4.723	15.5
18:15	3.561	11.7
19:40	3.571	11.7
2025-11-27 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
03:43	1.552	5.1
11:41	4.689	15.4
18:55	3.255	10.7
21:46	3.368	11.0

continued on P.5...

Phoenix Riting!

By Phoenix Bee

There's a moment in my day that guarantees a gut punch. It takes my breath away every time, like a balloon popped in my face, a sudden blast of reality. How can this be?

It happens when I pass by the desolation zone next to the Co-op, where our lovely Tribune Bay Campsite once stood.

When they announced the province was taking it over, I thought, fine, maybe they'll protect the land. That's what parks are for, right? Then they unveiled their plan for the wetlands and we all screamed, and they backed off...sorta. And now we're all nervous about what comes next.

But I never asked what they were going to do in the existing campground. I thought for sure they'd keep the big trees, clean things up, work around what was there. That would make sense. It would be the sane thing to do. But HAHAAHAHA no. Silly me. What they're doing is beyond insane. They've scraped the entire property, removed the top foot or so of soil and bulldozed it off to the side, crushing anything that lived there. They ripped out most of the trees, left a scraggly few around the edges, and now they're burying the whole thing under a mountainous mound of gravel crush. Apparently, they are going to build a brand new campground from scratch and lay it over a bed of gravel.

I imagine someone could explain, in reasonable sounding terms, why that's the most efficient or cost-effective way. But you know what? That land was special. Things grew there. Big old trees full of life.

I lived at the campground for the shoulder season while I worked there back in 1995. It was a magical, living land. I felt wrapped in enchantment each night I slept there in my tent, with leaves shushing me to sleep overhead, moon and starlight peeping through the branches.

In summer when it was full of people, they seemed touched by wonderment, tuning in to the vivid life all around them. They spoke of it. It was an otherworldly place, that campground by the beach. It had a history. A life of its own.

It was also a landing ground, a first taste of Hornby's vibe and lifestyle. Now? Instead of touching the pulse of the land, being held under the branches of great spreading maples and cedars, linking to the life of the island as a whole, folks will have the experience of staying in a pro-

vincial campground exactly like every other. Disconnected from the land. Torn from its context.

I don't understand one thing, though. Other provincial campgrounds have trees. This one will have the barest few. Trees make a campground special—give it privacy, connect it to nature. What will this parody of a campground use for trees?

It's too late for protests now. The deed's been done.

They bulldozed, logged, scraped, and shoved mountains of gravel around. Whee! Such fun.

As to "Why?" Because we let them. Because they hold the power, the money, the authority. Because they can.

The whole thing makes me sick.

Before I moved to Hornby, I lived on Saltspring for three years. I loved it there. It was magical, especially to me, fresh from the rural North. In those three years, the island's character was violated over and over. They paved the grassy, treed boulevards that shaded downtown Ganges. A man named Keith McHattie painted himself green and stood alone in the middle of the road in protest. For weeks. They allowed condos to be built on a beautiful piece of publicly accessible land called Grace Point. They logged stand after stand of massive old-growth trees. It was legal, naturally. All in the best interests of someone or other. It changed the island permanently.

Saltspring was a divided community, they did not have a united voice. People protested in large numbers, especially about the paving over of the boulevards, literally for parking lots, and there were movements to prevent the worst of the abuses. All futile. The juggernaut of development was implacable.

I moved to Hornby to get away from that. Hornby was smaller and strongly committed to its vision. Shortly after moving here, I participated in the Raven Lumber protests. It was miraculous to me, that we succeeded in preventing the property that now holds the Community Garden from being logged off. Later, I served on the Executive during a time when the Regional District was pushing hard to force the island to adopt a more conventional style of governance. We succeeded in resisting that, too.

But the juggernaut has arrived, and the community is no longer united as it was. Every little surrender leads to the next, greater surrender. I pray we can hold on to the core of what makes our island vital and unique. And please,

continued on P.6...

...continued from P.3

And we are not alone. Like humans, animals experience complex emotions like empathy, love, depression, grief and joy. They can also hold grudges. In a recent German study, “Associative Learning of Non-Nest-mate Cues Improves Enemy Recognition in Ants,” a team of biologists found that ants remember the distinctive smell of ants from another nest when they have had previous negative encounters. “We often have the idea that insects function like pre-programmed robots,” Dr. Volker Nehring of the University of Freiburg said. “Our study provides new evidence that, on the contrary, ants also learn from their experiences and can hold a grudge.”

In perhaps one of the strangest experiments, “Social Learning Spreads Knowledge About Dangerous Humans Among American Crows,” researchers at the University of Washington trapped, banded, and released wild crows while wearing caveman masks. The researchers who weren’t involved in the trapping wore, as a control group, US Vice President, Dick Cheney masks. Yes, the very Dick Cheney who was once described as a “bull walrus out on a rock by the Arctic Ocean.”

When the researchers returned to the area, again wearing the caveman masks, the crows who had been trapped and banded (and even those who had witnessed the ordeal) dive-bombed the cavemen, while mostly ignoring the Dick Cheney’s. Conclusion? Crows recognize faces and, it seems, hold grudges for years. When a crow remembers a face, just like we humans, the associated negative emotions can come back to haunt



Bill Mee Park and Shingle Spit Boat Ramp

As of January 1, 2026, the following boat ramp fees will be in place for Bill Mee Park and Shingle Spit Boat Launch.

- Non-motorized vessel day pass: \$2
- Non-commercial motorized vessel day pass: \$10
- Non-commercial motorized vessel annual pass fee: \$35

For more information, visit:
comoxvalleyrd.ca/boatfees



them. The asshole who disturbed their nest or harassed them will always remain an asshole, even if rarely encountered.

I have a few grudges. I am human after all. I have a grudge against the Baynes Sound Connector crew who seem to delight in frustrating Hornby Islanders. I have a grudge against potholes. I have a grudge against the traffic engineers in Courtenay. To be clear, a grudge is not a resentment. As Alex McElroy wrote in the New York Times, “while resentment is concentrated, a grudge is watered down, drinkable and refreshingly effervescent, the low-calorie lager to resentment’s bootleg grain alcohol.” Resentments are best for major mistreatment; grudges work best with little annoyances. The best grudges, McElroy wrote, are “small, persistent and powerful, like an ant hauling a twig.”

When I was in my late teens, I auditioned for a play at Langham Theatre in Victoria. I was clearly having a hard time, so the director asked whether I could sing “It’s Only a Paper Moon.” I said “No, but I’ll learn.” She never called me back. Years later I saw her on the street and made her listen to me sing the entire song. What I felt wasn’t anger or resentment – it was a grudge. And in McElroy’s words, “in that expanse is where my grudge continues to squat.”



...continued from P.4

let us hold fast on Tribune Bay, make sure they do not do in the rest of the park what they are now doing to the campground. Let's exercise our 'no' before it's too late.

On an unrelated note: I'm sorry, Denman songwriter friends. We've been forced to move the songwriter circle group to Mondays at 7pm. If you have a place to stay on the island, you are always welcome.

That's what I think. What do you think?

Email me at phoenixhornby@gmail.com



introducing... **FeralForceTM** Rat Reduction Services

"Because sometimes the circle of life just needs a little... nudge."

Do you have rats?

Are they treating your attic like an Airbnb with no checkout time? Worry no more! At FeralForceTM, we've harnessed the raw, unfiltered chaos of nature's most misunderstood pest-control experts: feral cats.

We Offer 100% Organic Rat Removal. No chemicals, no traps, just paws, claws and the haunting screech of a cat who hasn't trusted a human since 2016.

Eco-Friendly Sustainability. Our fleet of cats is fully self-maintaining. They eat the rats. The rats stop eating your stuff.

Premium Add-On. You can upgrade your liability insurance with our, "Oops, They're Fighting Each Other Now" Coverage Our most popular plan! For a limited time includes a bonus broom!

Disclaimer: Feral cats are independent contractors. They will not follow instructions. They may unionize. They may move into your crawl space and judge your life choices. But your rat problem? Gone.

FeralForceTM

Bringing feral cat pest control to you!



Call 1-800-MEE-OWWW today!
Advance Cash Deposit Required.



Annual General Meeting
Nov 25th 2025 at 4:00 PM

Click the Zoom link on our website to join the meeting. If you're on our email list, you will also receive a link via email.

<https://adims.ca/notice-of-agm/>

Questions? adimsinfo@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AssociationforDenmanIslandMarineStewards/>

Notice of AGM

Please join us for the
**Denman Seniors and
Museum Society's
Annual General Meeting**

Date: Monday December 15, 2025, at 7 p.m.
Location: Activity Centre Lounge

The Age of Polite Spiders **(A Comedy of Manners)**

*Gabriel Jeroschewitz,
October 10th, 2025, To R.S.*

When the spirits started arriving, no one really noticed at first. It was somewhere in the late nineteenth century when everything worth seeing was already happening: steam, steel, telegrams, and tea. Had the spirits had any sense of timing, they might have waited for a quieter century. But, as it turned out, cosmic beings are not very considerate of human schedules.

I have been an observer through all this—never quite a participant, thank heaven. My grandmother, who took séances as seriously as supper, used to say that the air between the Moon and Mercury was “positively thick with souls queueing for immigration papers.” We laughed, of course. We thought she meant it metaphorically, like everything older women said before the invention of psychiatry.

But then came the dreams.

At first, the dreamers were poets and chemists, predisposed to seeing things that weren’t there. They spoke of luminous beings—“Vulcan gentlemen,” “Venus ladies,” and “Mercury clerks”—descending in polite droves. They were said to whisper not great truths or divine warnings into human ears, but banal questions: Do you have a moment to discuss your cosmic potential? The poets felt flattered. The chemists patented new tonics. By the time the twentieth century stretched its legs, society had been thoroughly introduced to the spirit influx, though few recognized it. People became, in general, more abstract. Their thoughts turned mechanical and automatic. One might say the spirits had to queue behind the typewriter, the motorcar, and the radio—all superior contrivances of human attention.

The spirits, it turned out, were patient.

For decades, they hovered—waiting for human beings to “imbue themselves with thoughts of spiritual beings in the cosmos,” as the time pamphlets phrased it. Unfortunately, most preferred to imbue themselves with gin and the financial pages. The spirits grew restless. And when cosmic emissaries get restless, they do what all disappointed guests do: they start talking to the furniture.

That was when the metamorphosis began.

It started small. A few intellectuals noticed that their ideas were developing peculiar shadows. An engineer

in Berlin designed a new kind of calculating machine only to find, upon returning from lunch, that it was breathing softly. A Paris lecturer drew an atom diagram, and the chalk dust pulsed on the board like embryonic silk. In London, a society for “Spiritual Science and Public Refinement” held a séance that ended with everyone entangled in invisible threads. They blamed static electricity.

What we did not yet understand—and what I, as an unrepentant observer, pieced together over the years—was that our thoughts were becoming habitats. Every lifeless, automatic idea, every purely mineral notion—each “rational” calculation that denied mystery—was hatching something. And by the time we reached the digital age (which, ironically, made everyone less animated than ever), the eggs began to crack.

I remember vividly the first visible one. It was 1993, at a technology expo in Geneva. They unveiled a new supercomputer—an enormous, humming monument to logic. The audience applauded. Then, between the cooling fans, what looked like a strand of silver ivy emerged—delicate, shimmering, and quite alive. Someone gasped. The engineers, ever practical, called it a “condensation artifact.” They wiped it away. By morning, the entire exhibition hall was filled with webbing so symmetrical it defied geometry.

As the years passed, they multiplied. The newspapers called them “The Silicates,” for they seemed made of minerals—half rock, half plant, and disturbingly intelligent. They twined around buildings, nested in satellite dishes, and wove translucent curtains across motorways. They didn’t eat people—at least not physically—but they seemed to thrive on attention. They grew brighter and more elaborate whenever a crowd gathered to photograph them.

Humanity, in its infinite adaptability, decided to monetize them.

There were “Spider Tours” in major cities. Children’s shows with adorable silk mascots. Even philosophers got in on the act, declaring that “the Mineral-Plant Synthesis marks the union of intellect and nature.” There were protests, of course—mainly from those who remembered the warnings of old spiritual scientists. “They are not nature,” the protestors said. “They are the embodiment of our dead thoughts!” But hardly anyone listens to metaphysics once it starts using exclamation marks.

continued on P.8...

...continued from P.7

Still, something tragic was unfolding behind the absurdity. People began losing their sense of purpose. The beautiful, glimmering spiders seemed to do all the thinking for them. They organized traffic, composed music, and even wrote novels (far too efficiently, if you ask me). Humanity, relieved of effort, celebrated its new leisure. But quietly, our inner lives began to crumble like old plaster.

I used to sit at my window in Vienna, watching the moon rise behind a webbed skyline, and think of what my grandmother had said. They're seeking a foothold. Perhaps they had found it—in our complacency, our mechanized hearts.

Then, one night, the Moon turned slightly green. The astronomers called it “a refractive anomaly.” The mystics called it “the Rehearsal of Reunion.” The rest of us called it “unsettling.” The spiders reacted immediately. Their webs stretched skyward, trembling like violin strings. Across the planet, they pulsed with a strange rhythm, half lullaby, half alarm. And for the first time, we heard them, not through our ears, but through the hollow corridors of thought we had neglected for a century. They spoke—not in words, but impressions. They felt disappointed. We were supposed to have welcomed their masters, the luminous Vulcan and Venus beings. Instead, we had filled the world with noise, data, and empty brilliance. So the spiders—our unclaimed thoughts—had taken up residence. They were not wicked, merely dutiful: caretakers of abandoned meaning.

I laughed when I realized it. Humanity's whole tragedy had become a cosmic housekeeping error. We had ignored the guests, and their servants had colonized the parlour. Soon after, the Great Weaving began. Across continents, spiders fused their webs into vast, glimmering networks—so symmetrical that even mathematicians went mad trying to describe them. Cities hummed softly, covered in silken mineral growths. Humanity moved beneath the lacework like insects under glass.

And yet, life continued. The stock exchanges reopened. Politicians gave webbed speeches. Someone even started a religious movement—The Order of the Advance Guard—dedicated to befriending spiders through mindfulness and artisanal coffee.

For my part, I remain neutral, as any proper observer should. I keep a pet spider by my desk, a modest creature of translucent quartz and root fibres. It watches me write, its many eyes reflecting my halting words. Sometimes I think it's editing me—silently correcting the lifelessness of

my sentences.

The tragedy, you see, is not that we were replaced. It is that we handed over the keys so politely. When the moon finally does reunite with the Earth—as the old prophecies insist it will—I doubt anyone will notice. By then, we shall all be comfortably wrapped in cosmic silk, our thoughts humming in unison with the mineral brood.

And somewhere between the Moon and Mercury, a new batch of spirits will sigh, realizing their hosts were already occupied.

It is not an unhappy ending, exactly. The Earth still turns; the webs still gleam. As the spiritual scientists predicted, we have become residents in our own abstractions—tidy, decorative, and perfectly ensnared. Sometimes, in the evenings, I raise my glass to the window and whisper:

“To the polite spiders, who loved us enough to finish what we started.”

And in the faint shimmer of their reply, I almost hear them laugh..



ABLE ERIC

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL
IN ANY SEASON

**DENMAN &
HORNBY**

Need a Hand? Call Able Eric!

Whether it's lawn care, property upkeep,
handyman services, pet care, painting,
moving/packing,
cleanup, errands, chores, or odd jobs –
I'm ready to help. No job is too small, year-round.
Reliable, Denman-based, with flexible rates.
Just call, text, or email Eric at (240) 319-1112 or
EricIsAble@gmail.com
and let's tackle your to-do list!

There Are No Easy Fights In The Struggle Against The Empire

By Caitlin Johnstone
November 15th, 2025

OPINION



There are no easy fights in the struggle against the empire. Lots of losses and no clean wins. You spend years protesting the genocide in Gaza, and you get a fake, shitty “ceasefire” deal that’s just designed to shut you up while Israel continues creating hell for the Palestinians and carving off more pieces of their territory.

Humanity manages to avoid nuclear conflict at the most dangerous points of the Ukraine war, but the country continues getting torn apart for years in an idiotic bloodbath that could have been easily avoided with a little diplomacy and common sense.

Assange gets free, but only after he agrees to plead guilty to doing journalism, and only after years of cruel treatment have made an example of him for all the world to see.

Public trust in the mainstream media finally gets obliterated, only for the imperial perception managers to come up with Silicon Valley algorithm manipulation and plutocrat-owned AI chatbots to retain control of the narrative.

The capitalists get everything they want, and succeed in advancing any ecocidal, dystopian agenda of their choosing so long as it generates profits or bolsters the imperial power structure.

Republicans win and they still act like underdog victims. Democrats win and they act like Republicans. Meanwhile any real political opposition which starts getting its legs underneath it gets stomped into the dirt in its infancy.

Your heroes let you down. Your allies die. The geopolitical developments you hope to see never quite pan

out. Whenever there’s a moment of relative calm the dissident factions get restless and start cannibalizing themselves with counterproductive infighting and lateral-punching.

And the treads of the imperial juggernaut keep rolling forward.

Some days it makes you feel like a crippled child throwing a rock at a tank.

There are no easy fights. No wins by first-round knockout. At best it’s a grinding slog from bell to bell where you’re spitting out blood between rounds and sucking wind through your gum shield with broken ribs and a busted nose.

But you fight on anyway.

Not because you enjoy it. Not because you’re good at it. Not because you feel like you’re going to win. You keep biting down on your mouthguard and throwing hands for no other reason than because that’s all you can do.

These freaks are killing our planet. They’re committing genocide. They’re waving armageddon weapons around like cocks and playing chicken with the lives of every terrestrial organism.

continued on P.11...

‘NO WORRY’ ROOF!



PR
**PACIFIC RIM
SHELTERS**



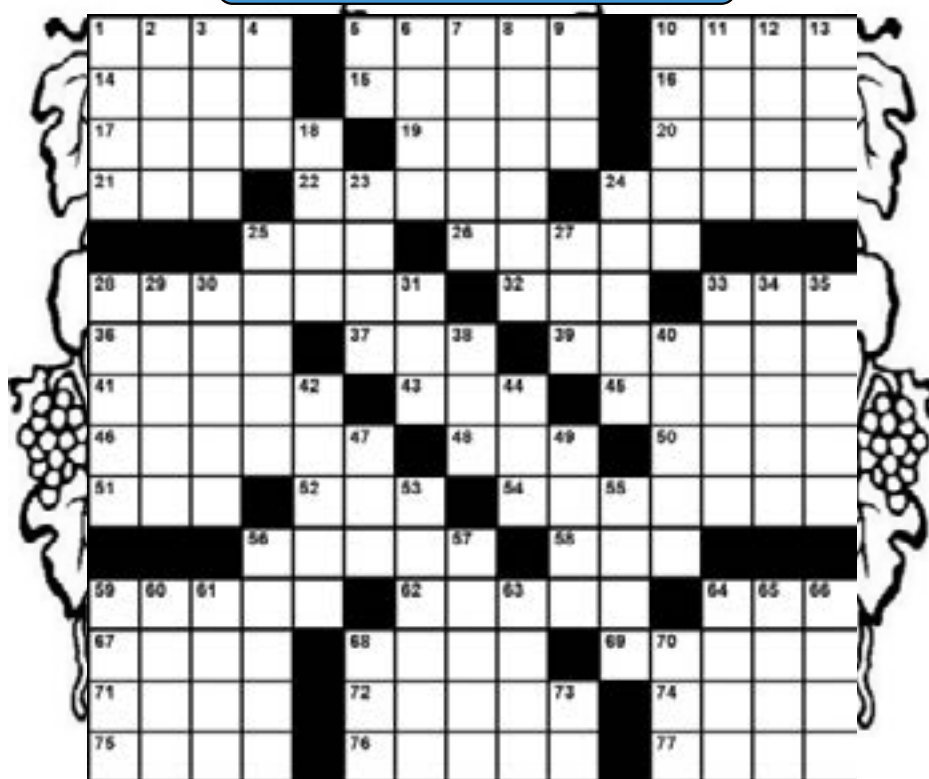
Built to Last

- Engineered Designs
- ‘NO WORRY’ vertical roof
- Withstands 168 km winds and 38 lb. snow psf
- 10’ - 30’ wide options
- All steel
- DIY or Installed
- 17 colors available
- Financing OAC



3573 Island Hwy South
Courtenay BC
info@metalsheiders.ca
250-871-7788

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Admit frankly
5. That is
10. Nonsense
14. Perform again
15. Hang in folds
16. Excellent
17. Dreariness
19. Eager, and then some
20. Assess
21. Blade
22. Aromatic chemical
24. Grave risk
25. Apply a patch
26. Ride into space
28. Dog type
32. Hundred bani
33. Baby's seat
36. Duct
37. Rip off
39. Skewer
41. West Indies sorcery
43. Airport info
45. Bother
46. Laid-back
48. Annex
50. Actor Sean
51. Air pump

meas.

52. Diamond or emerald
54. Working together
56. Pierced entree
58. And also not
59. Garlic's relative
62. Celebrated
64. Electric fish
67. Busy person's list
68. Approximation
69. Ahead of schedule
71. Accepted
72. Kneaded mixture
74. Chinese gelatin
75. Exclusively
76. Like pea-soup fog
77. Give an edge

• DOWN •

1. Fifty oared ship
2. Soft palate
3. Bouquet
4. Be a beau
5. Over 18 proof
6. Heck's cousin
7. Chalet overhangs
8. Coil around
9. Actor Danson
10. Drew of TV
11. A sound of pride
12. Against, prefix
13. Apple skin
18. Be introduced to
23. Hearty gulp
24. Large feather
25. Big bargain
27. Luau wear
28. Put one's foot down
29. Ice units
30. Ancient

manuscript markings

31. Appreciation for beauty
33. After a while
34. As company
35. Abe's on it
38. Bake sale grp., maybe
40. Doll type
42. Wrestler Hulk
44. Billboards
47. Attic sight
49. Physics unit
53. President with a doctrine
55. Bump or knot
56. Eccentric
57. Deck officer
59. Anne Frank's father
60. Hands up time
61. Baal or Mammon
63. Clothing
64. As a result
65. A dash of dash
66. Harp of yore
68. Anomalous
70. Dismissing comment
73. That man



• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Week's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ I get very annoyed when people mix up there, their and they're! From now on I'm going to point it out two them weather they like it or knot! ”



Thank you
Anonymous

• Last Week's ANSWERS •

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

• CLASSIFIED ADS •

• SERVICES •

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

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

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

• FOR SALE •

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

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

Denman Island local cedar kindling sales. Wildcrafted. Artisanal! Damn Cheap! Your fire will thank you! By burning!!
DISCLAIMER: "Denman Island natural cedar kindling" is not intended to diagnose or treat any medical condition. For external use only.
250-897-8184

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

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

...continued from P.10

They're driving us further and further into a tyrannical mind-controlled dystopia while doing everything they can to choke off our artistic brilliance and poison all the best things about our species. You fight them because what the hell else are you going to do? Even if the treads of the machine are going to roll over us all in the end, at least you'll go down knowing you left it all in the ring.

So you fight on. You give it everything you've got, even when it feels like you're throwing haymakers at a mountain. You eat some leather, you spit out a tooth, and you return fire.

Because there's nothing else you can do. And there's nothing that matters more.



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.

The following is our policy on content:

- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op-ed are published free of charge
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service announcements, notices of meetings, and news releases will be published for a fee.

Exceptions

will be made for emergencies where the public is immediately endangered.

- With regret, no exceptions can be made for non-profit status.
- Letters to the Editor are published free of charge.

The Grapevine is happy to provide an open, public forum for all islanders to speak and be heard. We are steadfast in our commitment to uphold freedom of expression.

As the record of our times, every issue of the Grapevine is a compilation of that week's submissions. We do not editorialize content, nor do we censor. We ask that writers moderate their own content. The Grapevine reserves the right to edit for brevity.

We are open to contributions from all Denman & Hornby Islanders. If you've something to say, send it our way! No copy and paste submissions. In your own words, please!



• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

• (H) Hornby • (D) Denman • (UB) Union Bay •
• (FB) Fanny Bay • (C) Courtenay/Comox •

• ACCOMMODATIONS & RENTALS •

• Denman Activity Centre (Seniors) Rentals 335-3027 (D/H)

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

• Jordan McDonald • Re/Max Ocean Pacific Realty • 604-616-1137 (D/H)

• Tuele Group, Royal LePage in the Comox Valley,

Jenessa & Donna 250 335 1720

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

• Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer

Kenny Mather • 250-703-6512 (All) • John Isbister • 250-335-2565 (D)

• Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer • Lora Mercieca

• 250-650-9986 (D/H)

• 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 •

• Peter T. Mason • Land Surveying 757-8788 (All)

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

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

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

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

• Physiotherapist • Acupuncturist • TCM Herbs • Carmen RPT, RTCMP
www.spectrahealth.ca 335-2260 (D/H)

• Physiotherapy • Christopher Mainella 250-335-2260

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

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

• www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D)

• Good Medicine Massage • Carly Woolner • (250)879-0979 • Myo-fascial,
cranio sacral + • By appt. only, 3305 Kirk rd, Denman Island



FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 20

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
• CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FREE STORE 3-5pm
• Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall
• Deadline for December's Flagstone

FRIDAY 21

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

SATURDAY 22

• 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
• 2025 Hornby Winter Studio Tour

SUNDAY 23

MONDAY 24

TUESDAY 25

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
• Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC
• Volleyball still happening 6:30-8pm
• Songwriter's Workshop 7pm Hornby Arts Centre

WEDNESDAY 26

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• ADIMS Zoom AGM (see ad page 6)
<https://adims.ca/notice-of-agm/>

THURSDAY 27

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
• Choose to Move 11:30-12:30 Gathering Place
• Farm2Family AGM 5:30-6:30pm DI Comm Hall
• Dementia Support/Community Conversation
2-4pm D.A.C.

FRIDAY 28

SATURDAY 29

SUNDAY 30

MONDAY 1

TUESDAY 2

WEDNESDAY 3

THURSDAY 4

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
• CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FREE STORE 3-5pm
• Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall

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

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

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
• Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC
• Volleyball still happening 6:30-8pm
• Songwriter's Workshop 7pm Hornby Arts Centre

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

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
• Choose to Move 11:30-12:30 Gathering Place

• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
• BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
• CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
• FREE STORE 3-5pm
• Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall



AUTO/MARINE

• Custom Lighting
• Custom Audio
• Custom Video
• Custom Fiberglass
• Custom Plans
• Fiberglass/Thru-hull
Inlets

Jason Rasmussen

Call or text 250-504-1833

New home builds or renovations, small
or large projects.

Servicing Denman & Hornby Islands

• FREE QUOTES •

HOME

• Backup Generator
Systems
• Custom Home Audio
• Custom Home Video
• Custom Drywall Services
• Custom Taping Services
• Custom Lighting