



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
ADVERTISERS

2026/27
**HORNBY & DENMAN
VISITORS' GUIDE**

*Be part of the guide that
visitors and locals rely on.*

Deadline February 19, 2026
FMI: Karen@hiceec.org




Coastline 100% Canadian Made,
Owned & Operated

CLOSETS **250-335-1654**

Your Neat Storage Specialist Since 1991! www.coastlineclosets.ca



CORLAN
Vineyard & Farm
Home of TO EWE WINES

*Join our mailing list at
corlan@telus.net
to get a notice for when we
have a lunch planned.
We look forward to serving you
great food as the
vineyard/winery work permits.
Tasting room is open 11 - 5
Tuesday - Sunday*

Jordan McDonald
Local REALTOR®
Personal Real Estate Corporation



Considering a move this year?
Let's explore your options together.

RE/MAX 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. BECK INC.
Dr. Joel Durling DMD, General Dentist

**Accepting
NEW PATIENTS**

CALL US TODAY!
250.703.9927

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

Bringing Smiles To Life!



**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. 1720 • FEBRUARY 5TH, 2026

• PRESS RELEASE •

- 3 • CityWest Provides Update to Denman Island Expansion Project

By CityWest

• COMMUNITY NEWS •

- 16 • Hornby Radio Needs Your Help!

By CHFR

• SPECIAL INTEREST •

- 12 • Woowoo Healing: The NO Foods

By Jean Gordy

- 14 • A Pleasant Fiction: The Pseudopod Goes to Davos

By Cylon2036 (we/us)

• LITERARY •

- 4 • Monster Hunters ch.6

By Quinn Ireland

- 8 • THE OCEAN TINKERS

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

- 11 • An Interspecies Conversation

By Gary Manzer

• OPINION •

- 10 • Shucking Oysters: Pitbull or Golden Retriever

By Alex Allen

- 14 • Our Rulers Are Psychopaths And They're Making Everthing Awful

By Caitlin Johnstone

- 15 • **LETTERS**

— REGULAR FEATURES —

- 3 • Tide Tables
- 20 • Gary's Toon
- 18 • Crossword/ Sudoku/ Grumpism
- 19 • Classified Ads
- 20 • Business/Services Directory



**Cover image:
Fog on the Water**

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



**Publisher/Editor
Mike Van Santvoord**



**Associate Editor
Keith Porteous**

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



*2026 Denman Island
Phone Directory:
Residents & Advertisers:
please submit changes
and new listings to
denmanislanddirectory@gmail.com or
250-335-1483 by Monday, March 16.
New advertisers welcome:
please enquire!
Proceeds benefit Arts Denman*

**HORNBY AND DENMAN ISLANDS ARTISTS:
CALL FOR ART**

We are seeking artwork across all disciplines that reflects the beauty, importance, and fragility of marine life with a particular focus on herring and their ecological connections.

Proceeds: 50% ARTIST / 50% CONSERVANCY
for more information contact melissa@hornbyarts.com

ART INTAKE WED. MARCH 4, AM - OPENING THURS. MARCH 5

**HERRING
FEST 26
CIRCLES OF LIFE**

©2025 - contact to the island herring fest

hornbyarts

PRESS RELEASE

CityWest Provides an Update to Denman Island Expansion Project



DENMAN ISLAND – Last 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.

Construction began last fall, starting on Pickles Road and Owl Crescent. Unfortunately, the provincial strike delayed our permitting process, which in turn slowed progress on the build. Our team is now back on the island, working in the Danes Road area while we continue securing the remaining permits needed for other sections of the island.

Our goal is to have the entire scope of this project completed this spring. 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 in line with our spring completion target.

CityWest is encouraging all residents who 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. Fortunately, we were able to find solutions to service 13 of these 47 homes. These homeowners will be contacted soon with an update on their connectivity options. We are continuing to explore solutions for the remaining homes that were not included in the project’s expanded scope.

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 better connectivity through CityWest fibre-optic services. With this expansion, more people across the community will gain access to reliable, modern technology that supports daily life, work, and local growth.



TIDE TABLE		
• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove • • Source: tides.gc.ca •		
2026-02-05 (Thu)		
Time PDT (m)		(ft)
04:08	4.615	15.1
08:34	3.967	13.0
13:01	4.581	15.0
21:04	0.547	1.8
2026-02-06 (Fri)		
Time PST (m)		(ft)
04:53	4.800	15.7
09:42	3.879	12.7
14:09	4.580	15.0
21:57	0.394	1.3
2026-00-07 (Sat)		
Time PST (m)		(ft)
05:34	4.908	16.1
10:38	3.709	12.2
15:13	4.591	15.1
22:46	0.347	1.1
2026-02-08 (Sun)		
Time PST (m)		(ft)
06:10	4.967	16.3
11:29	3.481	11.4
16:14	4.575	15.0
23:31	0.427	1.4
2026-02-09 (Mon)		
Time PST (m)		(ft)
06:44	4.999	16.4
12:17	3.210	10.5
17:11	4.504	14.8
2026-02-10 (Tue)		
Time PST (m)		(ft)
00:13	0.646	2.1
07:14	5.017	16.5
13:03	2.908	9.5
18:08	4.373	14.3
2026-02-11 (Wed)		
Time PST (m)		(ft)
00:52	0.998	3.3
07:42	5.021	16.5
13:50	2.595	8.5
19:05	4.199	13.8
2026-02-12 (Thu)		
Time PST (m)		(ft)
01:28	1.460	4.8
08:08	4.998	16.4
14:35	2.299	7.5
20:05	4.009	13.2

Say hey! The Islands Grapevine is also online!



- Maybe you're away off-island and want to know what's happening.
- Maybe the postie missed your mailbox.
- Or maybe you burned your Grapevine in haste and now need to find the recycling depot hours.

The Islands Grapevine has got you covered!

- Downloadable .pdf's of every issue.
- Share Grapevine articles with far-flung friends.
- Comprehensive searchable archives.

<https://theislandsgrapevine.com>

Monster Hunters ch.6

By Quinn Ireland

The training room was full of all sorts of new, elite equipment. There were weights and bench presses along with countless treadmills leaning up against one side of the room. "C'mon over class!" shouted a teacher from the opposite side of the room from Ben. "Now... welcome everyone!" he said. A few people mumbled some sort of greeting but it remained relatively quiet. This teacher looked very fit. This was not surprising to Ben, being that he was a workout teacher. He had short, black hair with short sideburns. He was wearing a workout tank-top and shorts with running shoes. "Please get into your groups from last Friday," he said. Someone then raised their hand. It was Kepler. "Umm... Mr. Lea?" she asked, "You forgot about Ben." "Ohh... I'm sorry Ben, Please partner up with another group of two." Mr. Lea instructed. Ben chose Johnny and Kepler. Ben followed them to the corner with the weights. Johnny picked up a weight, he held it out in front of him with a straight arm. "What's this class for?" asked Ben. "Monster Hunters need strength," explained Kepler, "Without it, we couldn't really fight monsters when we're older." Johnny still kept the weight in front of him. Ben found himself looking at Johnny's arm. He had huge biceps and muscles. Kepler had the same. "How often do you work out in here?" asked Ben. "Every day... we have these same classes every day," answered Kepler. "Defense, protection against evil, then dangerous forests, then workout hour, then..." she stopped. "You haven't gone to magic plants or S.P.P yet." "What's S.P.P?" asked Ben. "Special Power Practice," answered Johnny. Ben didn't wanted to ask if he had a special power but Kepler cut him off: "With these five classes, you will be able to become a fully certified Monster Hunter!" Maybe Ben did belong here. All he needed was support, a lot of it. Just then, Johnny put his arm down. "Yesssss! Two minutes." he said happily. Kepler now tried to lift one on her own. "Try to beat me!" said Johnny. "You're record's going to get destroyed!" replied Kepler. She held it out in front of her for exactly the same time as Johnny. "A tie!" said Johnny. They slapped their hands together in a high-five. "Give it a go Ben," said Kepler



handing him a twenty pound weight. Ben took it reluctantly. He knew that he had to take part in the class. Ben was surprised that he ended up holding it out for a full minute. "Woah, Nobody does a minute on their first try," exclaimed Johnny. "Try this one." Johnny handed him a small tiny weight. "Are you kidding?" said Ben, "I could hold this one for an hour!" As soon as Ben took the weight from Johnny's hand, he dropped it. Johnny laughed, "That, is a heavy-small weight, a seventy- pounder too." "But how can it be that heavy if it's so small?" asked Ben. "Magic!" was all Johnny answered. Ben thought about this for a moment, then it came to him. Ever since he had entered this world, it had all been shock. He never really thought that this whole world was magic. He could be here. He had friends. He had support. He had education. But there was one thing that he didn't have. "Will I get to see my parents at all during the school year?" "Of course, there's a long one month break halfway into the school year," replied Kepler. The loud bell chimed across the school grounds. Johnny grabbed Ben's arm and pulled him out of the classroom. "Magic plants starts now," he said. The three of them walked down a stone path. Ben now got a good look at the school. It looked like an ancient castle. There were stone holes in the walls and flags at the top of the building bearing the letters M.H on it. "Here's where you're going to stay," said Kepler. Ben found himself looking at a gigantic network of treehouses, The huge trees were overlooking a swamp. Ben usually hated swamps, but this one looked magical. Twisted vines and some sort of strange plant lined trees, the water looked clean and pure. There was also what looked like the edge of a huge dark forest. "Do we live in these houses alone?" asked Ben. "No, we asked Headmaster Bwicket, and you are staying with us!" said Kepler happily. Ben felt relieved. He was never a fan of being alone. By the way," Kepler spoke, "We call them tree homes. They are all designed the same, cozy and homey." Ben took one last look at the tree-homes, his home on the school grounds as they disappeared behind the giant trees of the forest. Soon, they came to the entrance to the forest. Ben realized that he was looking at two trees that were perfectly the same height, and

continued on P.6...



**Denman Island Local Trust Committee
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Proposed Bylaw Nos. 255, 254 and 250
DE-RZ-2024.1 Triple Rock Land Cooperative**

The Denman Island Local Trust Committee invites the public to attend a Public Hearing beginning at **10:00 am, Tuesday, February 17, 2026, via electronic meeting**, to hear your views regarding **Proposed Bylaw Nos. 255, 254 and 250**.

- **10:00 AM – Community Information Meeting** will be held before the Public Hearing for you to learn more about the bylaws and to ask questions
- **10:15 AM – Public Hearing**

What are Bylaw Nos. 255, 254 and 250 about?

Bylaw No. 255 proposes to amend the Official Community Plan (OCP) by withdrawing residential units from the density bank to enable an increase in residential units on the subject property by four.

Bylaw No. 250 proposes to amend the Land Use Bylaw (LUB) by introducing new zoning regulations applicable to the R4 zone. The proposed amendments include:

1. Increasing the number of residential units on the subject property by four.
2. Permitting secondary suites in all residential units.
3. Increasing the maximum gross floor area for single-family dwellings from 139.4 m² to 186 m² to accommodate secondary suites.
4. Increasing the maximum floor area for outbuildings from 1275 m² to 2174 m² to meet ongoing needs and support the additional secondary suites.

Bylaw No. 254 proposes to enter the Local Trust Community into a new housing agreement with the owner of the subject land. The agreement will regulate the occupancy and affordability of 19 housing units, including associated secondary suites, and will establish monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure compliance.

These bylaw amendments will apply to 5201 Denman Road, Denman Island, legally described as: Lot A, Section 17, Denman Island, Nanaimo District, Plan VIP87456 (PID 028-101-677)



How Do I Get More Information?

Copies of the proposed bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information is available **online** from February 6, 2026 to February 17, 2026 here:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/denman/projects/> and at the Islands Trust Northern Office, 700 North Road, Gabriola, BC V0R 1X3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday – Thursday excluding statutory holidays.

Enquiries?

Contact the Islands Trust Northern Office, by email: northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca, or phone: 250-247-2063.

Written submissions?

Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., February 16, 2026 to: Islands Trust, 700 North Road, Gabriola

Island, BC, V0R 1X3 or email: northphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca

Written submissions made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

NO WRITTEN OR ORAL REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE DENMAN ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE, OR ITS MEMBERS, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Nadine Mourao, Deputy Secretary

...continued from P.4

width. They were rough and sappy, with lots of holes for the homes of Owls. Roots curved in and out of the thick, dark soil. Some long, and some short. They all looked like the veins on a Giant's arm. "The Twin Trees," said Johnny smiling, "Follow me." Johnny stepped through the trees. Kepler followed with Ben taking up the rear. They were plunged into darkness. The only light that Ben could see was coming from lanterns on the wall. Ben found himself walking down a steep stone staircase with old ancient carvings of demons and monster hunters in battle. After three minutes of descending, the trio entered a lush green cave with soft light glowing around the cavernous walls. The cave was lined with mushrooms and vines with all of the rocks completely covered in moss. To one side of the cave, there was a large natural hole in the wall, a waterfall fell through it leading to a lake that bathed the cave with a misty green light. The water looked like the cleanest, purest water that Ben had ever seen. It had a greenish-blue tint to it that made it look like a liquid jewel. Kepler walked over to a corner of the cave. A wood shelf stood by the wall. Each of the twelve shelves had bright red suits all neatly folded. "Cold-proof suits," said Johnny noticing Ben's confusion, "They can keep you warm in any form of coldness. "Put it on," said Kepler. "But... where do I change?" Ben wondered out loud. "Just put it on over your clothes." replied Johnny. Ben slipped on the suit, He then followed Johnny and Kepler to the edge of the lake. They waded out into the deep. Ben expected there to be some sort of cold to his skin, but felt no different then just moments before. Ben was an average swimmer, so it wasn't long before he had rolled into a smooth backstroke. The ceiling was covered with the same ancient stone carvings as the staircase along with the greenery and moss. They swam for a long eight minutes before Ben noticed something floating in the water. It was too late. Ben swam right into a something hard and wood. "Ow!" said Ben, "What is that?" Johnny and Kepler looked at each other with a worried expression. Ben watched as a wood box floated back into the darkness. "It's my fault," said Johnny to Kepler, "I forgot the water proof headlamps, good thing he only touched the wood." To Ben, this all didn't make sense. "What are you talking about?" asked Ben. Kepler paused before saying, "We'll tell you once we get to the Demons exit." Ben noticed more lanterns up ahead that were casting a eerie glow around a steep stair- case that was leading up to above ground. Mo-

ments later, they were clambering up onto a stone ledge. Water dripped from Ben's baggy suit. As the droplets hit the water, bubbles plunged into the murky lake. they then came to the surface, stayed there for a moment, before popping and creating small circular ripples. "Wow, all this work just to get to one class!" said Ben breathing heavily. "The classroom is located in the forest, this is the only way to get to the whispering forest." replied Johnny. Ben started to take off his cold-proof suit. "Don't!" exclaimed Johnny, "Those are our uniforms for magic plants!" He pointed at Ben's chest. There was a gold name tag that read: VINKEN-HUT in bold letters. "We have to wear these crazy outfits all class?" "Relax," chuckled Kepler, "It's only one of six classes where you don't wear your normal uniforms." "Will you tell me about that creepy wood box now?" asked Ben as they started up the stairs. "First you have to learn the names of everything in this cave." said Kepler. Ben nodded. Kepler continued, "Those two trees are the Twin Trees, the first stairway underground is called the Ancient Pass, the lake is known as the Lake Of Souls, the waterfall that leads to the lake is called Devils Mouth, and finally the stairway that we're on right now is the Demons Exit" "Why do I need to know all this?" Ben wondered aloud. "This cave is a huge part of our history," was all that she replied with. So-far to Ben, the Monster Hunter world was exactly like some sort of fantasy story that he would read. It felt like a dream, although it wasn't. His best friend was here. "Now," said Johnny, "Eighteen years ago after Tyborwink claimed the horror forest, he cursed the headmaster at the time, Headmaster Mogel." Johnnys voice echoed through the thick stone walls. Ben pondered this before answering; "Why didn't the teachers stop him?" "They did everything they could, but they couldn't fight with their eyes closed. Tyborwink ended up getting away and came down to this very cave and floated Headmaster Mogel's body in the Lake Of Souls." So... that wood box was a cursed dead person's body?" asked Ben in shock. Johnny and Kepler slowly nodded their heads. "His body floats up and down the lake very slowly, ALWAYS," said Johnny adding emphases on the last word. "That was lucky, only your head touched it," added Kepler, "Or you would have been cursed." "That's why I was mad that I forgot the headlamps," said Johnny, "We couldn't see without them." This was all starting to lead to one thing in Ben's mind, this Tyborwink guy didn't sound very nice.





**Denman Island Local Trust Committee
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Proposed Bylaw Nos. 256 and 257
PL-RZ-2024-0055 Denman Conservancy Association**

The Denman Island Local Trust Committee invites the public to attend a Public Hearing beginning at **10:00 am, Tuesday, February 17, 2026, via electronic meeting**, to hear your views regarding **Proposed Bylaw Nos. 256 and 257**.

- **10:00 AM – Community Information Meeting** will be held before the Public Hearing for you to learn more about the bylaws and to ask questions
- **10:15 AM – Public Hearing**

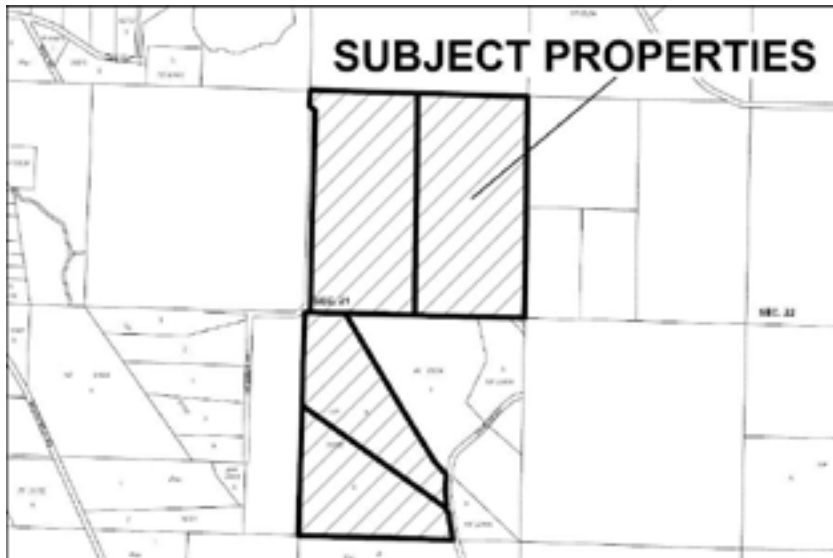
What are Bylaw Nos. 256 and 257 about?

Bylaw No. 256 proposes to amend the Official Community Plan (OCP) to re-designate four parcels from “Sustainable Resource” to “Conservation/Recreation”. The amendment also adds four residential units to the Density Bank.

Bylaw No. 257 proposes to rezone three parcels and the Forestry portion of a fourth parcel (PID: 006-639-771) from Forestry (F) to Conservation (CN) to reflect their use as protected natural areas.

These bylaw amendments will apply to:

- THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTH EAST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, DENMAN ISLAND, NANAIMO DISTRICT (PID: 006-639-771);
- THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTH EAST 1/4 OF SECTION 21, DENMAN ISLAND, NANAIMO DISTRICT EXCEPT THAT PART IN PLAN VIP78186 (PID: 006-657-656);
- LOT A SECTION 21 DENMAN ISLAND NANAIMO DISTRICT PLAN VIP60286 (PID: 023-005-424); and
- LOT B SECTION 21 DENMAN ISLAND NANAIMO DISTRICT PLAN VIP60286 (PID: 023-005-432)



How Do I Get More Information?

Copies of the proposed bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information is available **online** from February 6, 2026 to February 17, 2026 here:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/denman/projects/> and at the Islands Trust Northern Office, 700 North Road, Gabriola, BC V0R 1X3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday – Thursday excluding statutory holidays.

Enquiries?

Contact the Islands Trust Northern Office, by **email**:

northinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca, or **phone**: 250-247-2063.

Written submissions?

Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., February 16, 2026 to: Islands Trust, 700 North Road, Gabriola Island, BC, V0R 1X3 or **email**: northphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca

Written submissions made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

NO WRITTEN OR ORAL REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE DENMAN ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE, OR ITS MEMBERS, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Nadine Mourao, Deputy Secretary

THE OCEAN TINKERS

Gabriel Jeroschewitz, December 10th, 2025. Abridged

I Stopped Taking Notes

There was a morning, or perhaps it was an evening wearing a morning's torn coat, when the dust clouds began to rise out of the wet ocean. Not the ordinary salt mist that clings to fishermen's eyelashes, but colossal, bruised clouds — the colour of old bronze — swelling upwards like the breath of some drowned god deciding to cough.

It was at that moment that the otroverts arrived.

They didn't march, or swim, or fly. They appeared, like thoughts that had been pacing the edges of existence and decided to step bodily onto the stage. The first I saw was Dr. Rami Kaminski himself, wearing a scarf the way most people wear an argument — wrapped tight, with only the loose ends showing. His eyes didn't dart like an introvert's, nor beam like an extrovert's. They sat there, calmly holding their own council. Even as the nude choirs began singing ancestral voices that no one understood — in a language made entirely from the sounds of rain striking old violin and cello strings — he tilted his head, listening without needing to belong to it.

The otroverts gathered in small constellations, never forming a crowd, but never truly alone. One of them, a woman named Yelena who wore the moon's reflection in her hair, stood beside me on the black sand.

"Do you understand their song?" I asked.

She didn't blink. "Understanding is a debt. I prefer credit."

There was laughter somewhere behind us, deep belly-laughter, but I couldn't tell if it belonged to one of the high IQ gods or to the devil himself. The gods stood in jagged rows, their foreheads wider than landscapes, muttering equations about peace in the universe. They spoke in voices like Russell Hoban scribbling his last manifesto — urgent, raw, half in jest — as if peace might be wrestled out of chaos by sheer willpower and mathematics.

One of them, I think his name was Thales, but he could have lied, screamed into the thickening dust,

"The neutrinos are bored! The variables are lonely! We must unhook the hinges of expectation!"

Nobody argued. The other people nodded, privately agreeing or disagreeing in places that could not be seen.

The devil, of course, was there too. He did not wade into the surf, though the huge waves rolled in like

scrolls of scripture being flung at human souls. He leaned forward from the horizon, ugly-faced and grinning with the patience of erosion. His claws held something invisible — perhaps the very idea of "belonging" — and he squeezed it to make the hold.

I watched as day turned into night without consulting the sun, and then moonlight morphed into starlight, and the starlight melted back into sunlight like a drunk clock forgetting which way its hands should go. The otroverts didn't flinch. They seemed accustomed to time doing tricks without asking permission.

One man, Jericho, was telling a story to a single starfish he found stranded in the wet grit. His voice was rich, warm, and hilarious, but it didn't translate into group amusement.

"I only talk to one listener at a time," he told me, "because audiences dilute the truth. And I can't stand diluted truth — it makes my tongue itch."

Meanwhile, the choirs of nude angels kept singing. Their harmonies curved through the air like architecture, building cathedrals no mortal could inhabit. You could hear fragments of history in their notes — collapses of empires, kisses stolen in alleyways, the sound of a library burning while moths burst from the pages. The otroverts didn't sing with them, but kept their own internal music running quietly, an independent radio nobody else could tune into.

It was strange to watch them. Unlike introverts, they didn't withdraw into solitude — and unlike extroverts, they didn't seek the friction of company. They stood, occasionally exchanging a single glance or a sharp joke, but mostly they fed themselves on their own thoughts. You could see it: their eyes glowing faintly as if their minds were a fireplace that didn't need wood, only sparks.

At one point, the gods began a heated debate about whether peace could exist without boredom. The otroverts listened, but their faces betrayed no allegiance to any side. And then, quite unexpectedly, one of the angels — naked as a truth you're not ready to hear — drifted down to stand beside Kaminski.

"You are not part of the choir," she said, not accusing, merely observing.

"I am not part of anything," he replied, and smiled as if to soften the edges of that fact.

The angel laughed, a sound like shattered crystal being swept into a velvet bag. "You are a ghost who refuses to haunt."

Kaminski shrugged. "Or a living man who refuses to herd."

continued on P.9...

...continued from P.7

Beyond them, the waves swelled higher, covering pieces of humanity I recognized — photographs, confessions, masks worn to work, names whispered to strangers. All washed over by salted enormity. And the otroverts... kept talking to themselves. Occasionally aloud, occasionally in whispers only they could hear.

The devil grew restless. His ugly face twisted with irritation, because he knew he could tempt crowds, rattle loners, but these people who defined themselves outside those categories — they were slipperier than smoke. He shouted into the dust clouds, “What are you?!”

Jericho shouted back: “A question with legs!”

Yelena added, “And no leash.”

The gods roared with laughter, the kind that shakes tectonic plates. The angels, unfazed, continued their indecipherable hymn. The otroverts returned to thinking, unbothered.

I kept watching. And soon I realized the comedy here was not in punchlines or pratfalls — it was in the sheer futility of all forces trying to recruit the otroverts. The gods wanted their intellect, the devil their obedience, and the angels their voices. The waves tried to swallow them, the dust clouds wished to hide them, and the starlight wanted to illuminate them. But the otroverts... *were*. They didn't resist, didn't fight; they just remained in that third space outside of alignment, drawing energy from unshared musings.

As the surreal atmosphere churned — night/day/stars/sun cycling like a drunk carousel — one of the gods approached me. His brow was a mile wide and furrowed with equations. “You are observing. Are you one of them?”

I hesitated. “I think I might be. I never cared for the crowd or the quiet — only for the conversation I have with

myself.”

He nodded, as if I'd handed him a rare leaf. “Then you will survive this.” From the edge of the shore, the devil scowled and tried to crush the invisible thing in his claws harder. The dust clouds kneaded the sky into shadows. The angels' song rose to impossible pitches. The gods resumed screaming for the universe's peace. But the otroverts... they smiled when the humour of existence struck them, which was often and without warning.

One by one, they wandered off — not together, not apart — into corridors of their own thought. Some stepped into the waves without sinking. Others walked into the dust clouds as though entering a warm bath. Yelena turned toward the horizon and let the changing lights paint her in sequences: moon, star, sun.

I stood alone, or perhaps in company of myself, on that dissolving shore. The comedy of it all tasted dark — a kind of cosmic joke I couldn't explain, as laughter heard through a wall. And as the ocean continued to cough up its bronze dust, I finally understood why the otroverts could stand in the middle of gods, devils, angels, and chaos without losing their balance:

They neither fought nor fled from it. They lived in the uninterrupted stream of their own thinking, a current that no wave, no choir, no dust cloud could interrupt.

And in that quiet independence, the universe could neither tempt.



Share Your Feedback

Get Involved in the CVRD Budget Process

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is gearing up for its annual budget process and we want to hear from you. Engagement and feedback is open until 4:30 pm on Monday, February 23.

Ways to Get Involved

- Share feedback at: engagecomoxvalley.ca/budget
- Request a presentation as a formal delegation
- Contact a member of the CVRD Board

For more information, visit: comoxvalleyrd.ca/budget



Shucking Oysters: Pitbull or Golden Retriever?

By Alex Allen

He destroyed a 20-point lead going into the last federal election. He was defeated in his own Ottawa riding and had to be safely shuttled to one of the safest ridings in Alberta. Three of his MPs ceremoniously defected across the floor or out the parliament door. Most Canadians don't like his personality. And yet, Pierre Poilievre just won his Conservative leadership review – with an overwhelming majority.

It's a clear mandate from the party membership, but Pierre's future with the rest of Canada remains murky. The absence of any heir apparent and a seemingly chill caucus obviously helped him secure the title. Unfortunately, as UBC Political Science professor, Stewart Prest, noted, "Poilievre is the most successful unsuccessful leader in Canadian politics." As someone said, if Poilievre doesn't show Canadians a more thoughtful, introspective side, he may end up being one of Canada's longest running opposition leaders who never becomes prime minister. He has more of a chance of becoming the Governor of Alberta.

"His support within the party remains quite strong, and he himself has revitalized the party around his brand of conservatism," said Amanda Galbraith, co-founder of the Toronto-based Oyster Group, a strategic communications and crisis management firm. Poilievre has doggedly kept the pressure on key issues – like axing the tax and rolling back immigration – which seems to have paid off for the Carney government. The strong endorsement of Pierre's leadership means a continuation of the status quo, Prest wrote: "a country that has come together on a question of existential importance, but an opposition leader who divides, repelling more than he attracts."

Poilievre doesn't do many media interviews and you can see why. Like Trump, he views mainstream media as the enemy. His interviews are selective and infrequent. We all remember the famous interview of him chomping distractedly on an apple while dissing the interviewer in Oliver, BC. Smug. Arrogant. Then the year-end interview with Rosemary Barton on CBC – which he has threatened to defund – clearly showed

that Pierre takes zero responsibility for losing the election or for members leaving the party. Every question Barton asked was straightforward. Reasonable, even. And every answer Poilievre gave, as someone wrote on Redditt "veered off like a shopping cart with one broken wheel, straight into another round of accusations about Mark Carney's government."

Pierre has many titles: "flaccid human being," "maple Trump," "chronic complainer," "incompetent conservative twit," "Dollar shop Donald," "twerp," "paperboy grifter." The list goes on. "He's a pathetically fragile and insecure man who thinks power will make him feel validated." "The man is an albatross." "Dude's got about as much self-reflection as a ball of mud." And for someone so young, he seems so old school (even without the glasses). I can see him as a child, like the ultra-conservative, Reagan-worshipping young Republican Alex Keaton in a suit and tie on the '80s TV show Family Ties.

At the leadership review Poilievre's speech was telling. He quoted the words of neo-liberal Ronald Reagan. In fact, Pierre's speech was a love letter to Reagan. In his first inaugural address as president, Reagan famously condensed the rising conservative sentiment with the memorable phrase: "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem." It's about getting rid of government as well for Poilievre. "The people need the government off their backs, out of their way. Business will get ahead by having the best product, not the best lobbyist. By pleasing customers, not pleasing politicians." With his forced frozen smile, he declared that if he were to start a new political party it would be called the "Mind Your Own Damn Business Party." Not just business, the federal government needs "to butt out of the affairs of Albertans and Quebecers and other Canadians" as well.

On the world front, "Canada must make new friends, honour our alliances, and do our part on resources, trade, diplomacy, foreign aid, and everything else, though it's clear we must prioritize our own national interest above all else." This is rich, given what he said after Carney's now-famous Davos speech: "So far, Mr. Carney has been lucky that he's been judged by his rhetoric and his stated intentions, by the number of his trips and meetings overseas.

...continued on P.12...

An Interspecies Conversation

By Gary Manzer

Helliwell Park, lowtide, no wind, and a warm winter sun. Just a few feet from the high water mark, Edwin, a huge brown headed eagle with great yellow talons clutches to the head a dead seal. Edwin is magnificent. With masterful confidence he rips strips of flesh and makes a show of swallowing an eyeball whole. Other eyes are watching Edwin. Most belong to an unkindness of ravens led by Ravi, a wise old fowl of almost fifty summers. The unkindness is comprised of old Ravi and his proteges ... they hover, flap and fidget nearby on the slippery tidal rocks within a 30 foot radius of Edwin. Also watching is an old man and his old dog. They are in a partial blind on a low bank about 50 feet away. After 20 minutes of non-threatening behaviour the avian actors allow them to remain as spectators with balcony seats in an outdoor amphitheatre.

Another 10 minutes pass ... then Ravi lands centre stage beside the seal just outside Edwin's reach and the lesson begins. Ravi struts back and forth in front of Edwin as if on a nonchalant Sunday stroll. Ravi doesn't look at Edwin or the dead seal directly but continues to express respectful interest in Edwin's prize. Occasionally from a standing position Edwin takes a swipe at Ravi but Ravi instantly re-

sponds jumping back only those inches necessary and continues non-aggressive, respectful posturing. As Ravi loiters he takes only fleeting glances at the seal. Ravi continues this dance for about 15 minutes, never looking Edwin directly in the eye and soon Edwin stops swiping at Ravi.

Suddenly Edwin stands tall, turns seaward, and with one great flap hops to a rock 30 feet away where he remains looking out to sea. Edwin doesn't look directly at Ravi and his unkindness descend into the gore. For 15 minutes Edwin allows them access but remains aware of the proceedings with occasional glances from the corner of his eye. Then Edwin turns and with one great hop lands back on top of the seal as if to say... OK, you've had your feed, time's up! Instantly responsive, the unkindness leaps into the air and departs.

The old man leaves the scene with his dog overwhelmed with gratitude for the generosity of his avian relations for allowing their conversation to be witnessed.

Edwin is left to resume his business.



Send a Valentine, or several, to Prime Minister Mark Carney.

When: Saturday February 14, between 10:00 and 12:00 a.m.

Where: The Gathering Place at the Denman United Church.

The Denman Island Climate Action Network, DICAN, would like to flood his office with valentines all from Denman Islanders. You could tell him you liked his Davos speech, but his climate policies and actions are terrible!!!

We will provide everything you need, including cards, envelopes, pens, colouring materials, and ideas. **Bring your kids, let them send a special message to our PM.**

We look forward to seeing you February 14th. Happy Valentines Day.



...continued from P.10

Because nearly a year into his term, the rhetoric has changed, but reality has not. There is an illusion of purpose, but no results to back it up.”

Channelling the Department of War Pete Hegseth, “our forces will be guided by a warrior culture.” Channelling Homeland Security Kristi Noem: “We will deport criminals, end fraud, end abuse and handouts to phony refugees. We will no longer allow foreign conflicts to spill onto our streets.” Foreign conflicts on our streets? What’s he talking about? Domestic terrorists? He has said “everything is broken in this country right now,” suggesting it was better before. Trump offered a similar appeal in making America “great” again. As Noah Fry wrote: “Nostalgia, as a political tactic, often requires erasure.” Both Poilievre’s and Trump’s brand of nostalgia takes aim at marginalized groups, rearing its ugly head in anti-immigration policy.

Channelling the US administration, Poilievre will “protect the freedoms of law-abiding people with a new castle law” that allows one to shoot anybody who enters their property. “The Liberals want to protect turkeys from hunters. We want to protect Canadians from criminals.” On religious freedom. “We will stop the Liberals from censoring political-ly incorrect Bible verses. You will have the ability to worship God in your own way.” Channelling the Mayor of Minneapolis: “We never back down. We never run away.” He reminded delegates that “the best part of being Conservatives is that eventually everyone admits that we were right all along.” More like right-wing all along.

Pierre Poilievre shared his theme of the leadership convention: hope. “So hang on, have hope. Help is on the way.” As Michael Harris wrote in the Tyee, the only hope he’ll need is to “persuade Canadians that attack dogs can morph into statesmen.”



SPECIAL INTEREST

Woowoo Healing: The NO Foods

By Jean Gordy

Greetings Folks! Last week I listed what Medical Medium calls the NO Foods. This week I’m going to go into WHY you should stay away from these foods as they are very detrimental to your body. Unfortunately the information I want to share takes up more than 800 words so I’ll talk about a part of the list this week and the balance next week. This is important information to know, so I don’t want to short change you here.

Corn

Corn used to be one of the fundamental sources of nourishment on earth. Unfortunately, the technology of genetically modified organisms (GMO) has destroyed it as a viable food. Corn products and byproducts create substantial inflammation. It’s a food that can feed viruses, bacteria, mold, and fungus. Even if you see corn advertised as being non-GMO, the chances are high that it can still trigger any kind of health condition—and that it may still be GMO.

Soy

Soy has suffered a similar GMO fate as corn. Soy used to be a healthy food. However, you can now assume that any soy product you encounter could have some GMO contamination or contain added MSG. Be cautious when eating soybeans, edamame, miso, soymilk, soy nuts, soy sauce, textured vegetable protein (TVP), soy protein powder, artificial meat products made from soy, and much more. Try to stay away from soy the best you can. If you really enjoy soy and feel deprived without it, stick to the safest options: plain, organic tofu or tempeh, or the highest-quality nama shoyu.

Canola Oil

Canola oil is mostly GMO at this point in time. And regardless, canola oil creates a great deal of inflammation. It’s especially damaging to your digestive system, potentially scarring the linings of both your small and large intestines, and is a major cause of irritable bowel syndrome. Canola oil can feed viruses, bacteria, fungus, and mold. Beyond that, canola

continued on P.13...

...continued from P.12

oil has an effect similar to battery acid on the inside of your arteries, creating significant vascular damage.

Processed Beet Sugar

So far, GMO beets are mostly reserved for making processed beet sugar. You should therefore avoid products that contain processed beet sugar, which feeds cancers, viruses, and bacteria. This is different from grating fresh, organic beets over your salad, or juicing fresh beets. If you stick to organic, most whole beets that you buy in the produce section at your local natural market or at the farmers' market are safe to consume.

Eggs

The average person eats over 350 eggs a year. That includes whole eggs and also all the foods with hidden egg ingredients. If you're struggling with any illness, such as Lyme disease, lupus, chronic fatigue syndrome, migraines, or fibromyalgia, avoiding eggs can give your body the support it needs to get better. The biggest issue with eggs is that they're a prime food for cancer and other cysts, fibroids, tumors, and nodules. Women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), breast cancer, or other cysts and tumors should avoid eggs altogether. Also, if you're trying to prevent cancer, fight an existing cancer, or avoid a cancer relapse, steer clear.

Dairy

Milk, cheese, butter, cream, yogurt, and other such products contain a substantial amount of fat, which is a strain for your digestive system—and especially your liver—to process. Dairy contains lactose, and the combination of fat and sugar has negative effects on health, especially if you're diabetic. Further, dairy fat in your bloodstream helps to breed viruses and bacteria. Dairy is also mucus producing, and a major cause of inflammation and allergies. Those are the issues that have always held true for dairy, even when it's organic and free-range. And now, conventional, mainstream practice has made a problematic food into a toxic one by creating farm industry pressure to give hormones,

antibiotics, GMO corn and soy, and gluten to cows, goats, and sheep. If you want a smooth healing process, it's best not to eat dairy at all.

Pork

Avoid all forms of pork, including ham, bacon, processed pork products, lard, and so on. It's difficult to heal any chronic illness while consuming any kind of pig product, due to these foods' high fat content.

Farmed Fish

Farmed fish are often raised in small, enclosed spaces. This breeds algae, parasites, and other diseases—so the breeders often give the fish antibiotics and treat the water with toxic chemicals. This makes consuming farmed fish risky. The safest fish you can eat are wild ones, such as salmon, halibut, and haddock. No matter what type you select, beware of mercury—especially with larger fish such as swordfish and tuna.



Gluten

Gluten is a protein found in many grains. The forms of gluten to which people are especially sensitive are in wheat, barley, rye, and spelt (a type of wheat). (When it comes to oats, be aware that growing and processing sometimes cross-contaminates them with grains that contain gluten. Oats can be a very good food for people who are less sensitive, though. Look for those that are labeled gluten-free.) Grains that contain gluten also contain multiple allergens and proteins that can trigger any condition. They create disruption and inflammation, especially in your intestinal tract and bowels. They also confuse your immune system—which is your primary defense against disease—and often trigger celiac disease, Crohn's, and colitis. Eating these grains makes it very difficult for your body to heal. If you'd like to recover from your illness as quickly as possible, minimize grains of any kind.

That's it for this week folks. I'll include the rest of the list next week. If you want to drop me a line you can reach me at jeansdreams@yahoo.com.



A Pleasant Fiction: The Pseudopod Goes To Davos

By Cylon2036 we/us
(Pseudopod Certified)

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Prime Minister Mark Carney leaned into the microphone with the gentle cadence of a man reading a bedtime story to capitalism itself. He spoke of the *rules-based international order* the way adults speak of Santa Claus as benevolent, universally respected, and mysteriously efficient at distributing gifts to those who already have chimneys. The markets nodded, reassured that somewhere, somehow, a kindly institutional figure was keeping score, checking the naughty list, and rewarding good behaviour, defined of course as market liquidity.

Then came the pause. Carney cleared his throat and admitted, softly and responsibly, that "Santa Claus does not in fact exist." The room gasped, but it was quickly

followed by a PowerPoint slide presentation explaining how this was "priced in." As for the Easter Bunny, "the evidence remains inconclusive", he stated. "There are eggs, certainly, but no clear mechanism of delivery." The audience relaxed because uncertainty after all, is just risk management. What truly mattered was that belief itself remained a valuable asset, however fragile, tradable, and best maintained by never asking who's really hiding the chocolate.



Our Rulers Are Psychopaths And They're Making Everything Awful

Caitlin Johnston
February 1st, 2026



I don't know what to say today. We are ruled by abusive monsters.

The US is preparing for war with Iran.

They're going in for the kill shot on Cuba.

The latest batch of Epstein emails looks horrifying.

The US is full of protests because ICE keeps killing people.

Israel is still massacring civilians in Gaza as Australia prepares to host its president for an extended visit.

Reuters has confirmed that Biden officials actively obstructed the circulation of internal USAID reports that Gaza was being turned into a nightmarish hellscape in early 2024.

There's so much cruelty. So much abuse.

You'd think all this evidence that we are ruled by deranged psychopaths would unite us against them, but it doesn't. The population is more angrily, bitterly divided against itself than ever.

Political discourse has gotten as intensely vitriolic as I've ever seen it as Trump supporters take their stand behind the current abuser-in-chief and defend the status quo warmongering and tyranny with all their might. Discussing politics on social media feels like stepping into an emotional blast furnace these days.

They've done such a good job dividing us and conquering us. It's really incredible how good at it they are. It would be awe-inspiring if it wasn't so evil and destructive.

I haven't felt like I'm in the zeitgeist recently. Usually I feel like I'm surfing the crest of dissident political consciousness and can provide insight and information into what's coming up for us as a collective, but everything's been so chaotic and frenzied lately it's like trying to ride a bucking bull. I don't know if that makes any sense to anyone but me, but that's what it feels like.

I don't really have anything to add to that right now. I try to write something every day, but today all I've got is a feeble "There's so much cruelty, and it hurts."

It fucking hurts, man.



Letters to the Editor

Upon receipt of submissions from Stephen Malthouse, The Islands Grapevine denied their publication, (but offered to publish revised versions), because their content included counter-factual claims, and derision of a Denman "decolonization" community group, These elements violated TIG's editorial policy. Here's Malthouse's reply to us, followed by our response.

Hello Keith, Thank you for your reply. It is really not worth debating these topics with you, but I do have a few comments. Firstly, I am aware of DRIPA, UNDRIP, court decisions in BC and section 235 of the Constitution Act, so you are presumptuous to be lecturing me.

Secondly, there was no intent to insult any group on the island, but people must be responsible for what they insert into the paper. If it is woke nonsense about us learning to accept our place as guilty colonizers, then there is reason to challenge it. Usually those that want to eat the rich, don't own anything themselves. It is easy for them to think reconciliation is simply giving everything back. If their feelings are hurt because someone contradicts them, that cannot be avoided.

Thirdly, the editor(s) of the Grapevine seems to have lost their enthusiasm for publishing dissenting views, but have no shortage of justification for this change. I suspect this lack of editorial gumption is why we have a 2-page children's' story every week and long articles about nothing in particular to fill up the space.

The people that were previously offended because the Grapevine censorship was not to their liking are now publishing the Barnacle, while the rest of us have had our submissions repeatedly rejected and are reluctant to engage with you. One by one, I have seen writers excluded, and now we are left with little of substance and local relevance. Of course, there are still the weekly stoner cartoons, which may be of interest to somebody, somewhere.

The Grapevine, which I once looked forward to read-

ing, now seems to have been politically correct-ed to death. Or is it just your tastes and opinions that are driving the editorial policy now? It is unfortunate that the paper, which served the island so well previously, is now almost moribund. It has lost its place as the town-hall of the islands, where opinions could once be shared without fear of ruffling someone's feathers and causing them to faint.

Stephen Malthouse, MD

Stephen, We can agree that there's no point in debating this. Mike and I predicted several elements of your reply, including your insult to his intelligence, echoing your sycophantic acolytes, when we enforce an editorial policy that existed prior to me joining the paper as an editor. The current and corrupt advertising boycott by tax funded agencies is mostly caused by TIG carrying water for you and your aforementioned devotees..

Publisher Mike is also TIG's editor, whatever you predictably think, and he makes all final editorial decisions. Thankfully, after navigating waters that nearly destroyed its economic viability, TIG is healthier and growing. Unlike the College of Physicians successfully undermining your practice, the censorious virtue-signalers have failed to put TIG out of business, and we will continue to proudly stand behind our editorial decisions.

No writer has been excluded, ever. Not one. There are 4 contributors who have refused any editorial feedback from the publisher and editor, and they have withdrawn on their own account. The paper is better off for it, while TIG continues to flourish. As a man whose views were too radioactive for even the B.C. Conservatives to stomach, you have only confirmed what we guessed your response might be. Bravo!

TIG continues to take heat for publishing dissenting views, particularly our weekly column by Caitlin Johnstone, but also a few others. In your case, and the case of your sycophantic acolytes, you all have the opportunity to be heard in our weekly paper, as long as you have a willingness to respect TIG's boundaries and feedback, set by Mike, and

continued on P.16...

...continued from P.15

printed in the paper each week. You could also do your own mailings.

And guilty as charged, for continuing to publish "stoner cartoons", dad jokes, a crossword, and the tide table. Who ever heard of a newspaper that does? You deny your "intent" was to insult, then proceed to confirm your insulting views, a predictably teaching moment for irony, claiming "people need to be responsible for what they put in the paper." On this we agree, and it includes you, with your reactionary nonsense.

The Islands Grapevine is also Mike's livelihood, and most islanders are grateful for it, while we have expanded our circulation, advertising base, and web presence, despite the efforts of those whose behaviour you mirror, but reflected in some kind of Jungian funhouse, and where all conflict is about control. The Barnacle

is free to lose thousands of dollars in a vanity press, as you are free to do as well. We refuse.

As you know, the Covidiot's are those who have sought to silence dissent, while TIG has not changed its editorial policy or its taste. Our criteria for what to publish is unrelated to whom we agree with, and we have more than enough content submitted each week to "fill space.". If the "town hall" seems less diverse, it is because of the chilling effect created by both you and the Covidiot's, who choose to withdraw. So be it.

Please pass on our gratitude to Thomas and Peri, and Max and Helen, and the rest of your culturally amusing all-star team. We have a paper to run, and no good deed goes unpunished!


Keith Porteous, Associate Editor 

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hornby Radio Needs Your Help!

Help Keep CHFR 96.5 FM On Air!

Your community radio station needs your support to stay on their. CHFR 96.5 FM urgently requires upgraded radio equipment to maintain our broadcasting license. We are seeking financial help to upgrade our Emergency Alert System and to add essential backup equipment for our existing programming. Without a functioning emergency alert system, we would be unable to meet our obligations to the CRTC, putting our ability to broadcast at serious risk. Our fundraising goal is \$6,000. Thank you for supporting community radio and helping keep CHFR 96.5 FM alive, local, and on the air for everyone.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/hornby-radio-needs-your-help> 



The Grapevine Print Shop

Printers of  and  Denman's Village Voice

On Island printing service
Colour or B&W
Competitive pricing

Inquiries: 250-335-9143 or theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com





250 335 9143

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

ADVERTISING SERVICES & PRICING

Prices effective as of Sept.5th, 2024
All prices include GST

CLASSIFIED ADS

30 words or less.

- 1 week • \$10.35
- 2 weeks • \$18.96 (\$9.48/wk)
- 3 weeks • \$25.89 (\$8.63/wk)
- 4 weeks • \$34.52 (\$8.63/wk)
- 5 weeks • \$40.95 (\$8.19/wk)
- 6 weeks • \$49.14 (\$8.19/wk)
- 7 weeks • \$56.74 (\$8.11/wk)
- 8 weeks • \$62.16 (\$7.77/wk)

\$5.18/week for each additional 30 words

BUSINESS DIRECTORY LISTINGS

- 6 weeks • \$34.40(\$5.73/wk)
- 12 weeks • \$62.12 (\$5.18/wk)
- 25 weeks • \$101.88 (\$4.48/wk)
- 50 weeks • \$181.13 (\$3.62/wk)

INSERTS/HANDBILLS

\$77.62/Island

Please contact us to find out how many you should print.

- or -

we can print it:

\$9.82/100 (letter-sized - one-side)

\$15.59/100 (letter-sized - two-side)

BOX/DISPLAY ADS

Front Page • \$25.87/1x1

Inside Page • \$22.42/1x1

Please ask about our discounts for ordering and prepaying for multiple ad placements. Refer to examples below for actual ad sizes. We cover everything from a small 1x1 to full page.

1x1(1.2"x2.4")

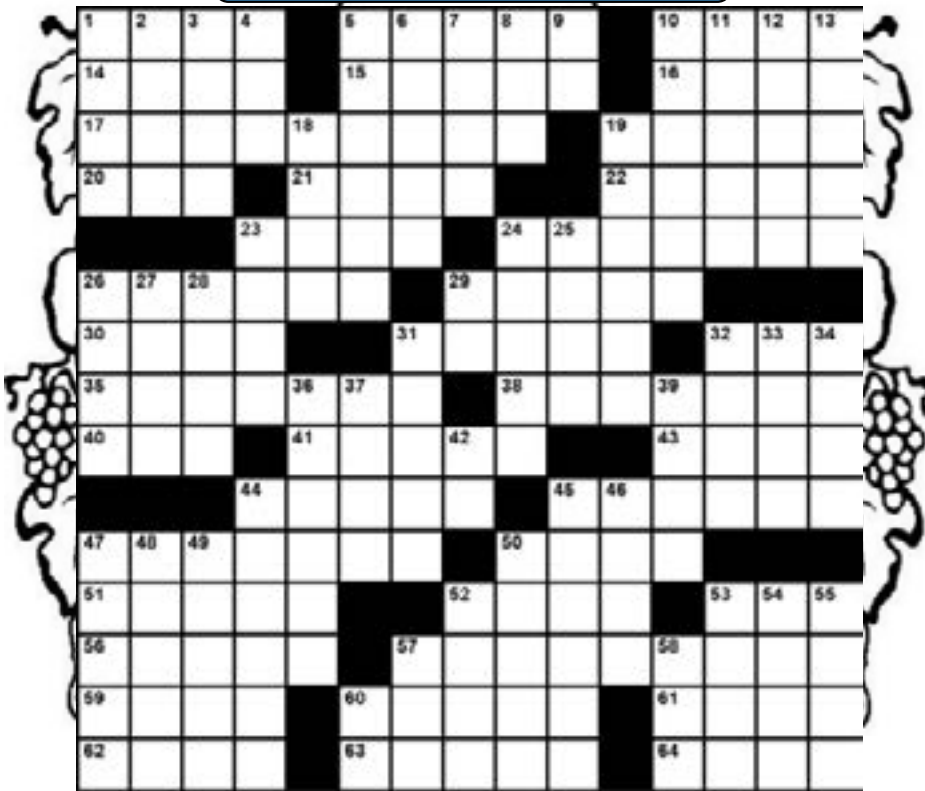
2x2

1x2

2x1

3x1

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

- 1. Podrida pot
- 5. Of sound
- 10. Kitchen boss
- 14. Almost proximate
- 15. Inconsequential matters
- 16. Abbe or Lois
- 17. Orchestral compositions
- 19. Big band tote
- 20. Author's last word
- 21. Beetles, e.g.
- 22. Leaves out
- 23. A Met score
- 24. Manager
- 26. Mast support
- 29. Odes and such
- 30. Had reclined
- 31. Like some basins
- 32. Casino action
- 35. Rattle
- 38. Pizza spice
- 40. Batter ingredient

- 41. Fish baits
- 43. Be down with
- 44. Fir resin
- 45. Crusty bottomed onion rolls
- 47. Cooking term
- 50. A social grace
- 51. Strange
- 52. Construction toy
- 53. Amusing person
- 56. Asphyxia
- 57. One is part of nothing
- 59. Atoll barrier
- 60. "Tarus Bulba" author
- 61. Affirm positively
- 62. Formerly, once
- 63. Runner Jesse
- 64. Car dealer's model

• DOWN •

- 1. A single time
- 2. Actor Ames
- 3. Come down to earth
- 4. Band of sparks
- 5. Hardly intrepid
- 6. Extreme prefix
- 7. Some combos
- 8. Stipulations
- 9. -- course!
- 10. Butterfingered
- 11. Convent wear
- 12. Akin on mom's side
- 13. Shield band
- 18. Beige
- 19. Rumble
- 23. Excellent
- 24. Bustles
- 25. Aft
- 26. Pivot about
- 27. Drape
- 28. Band
- 29. Letter

- before rho
- 31. Brief
- 32. False god
- 33. Covetousness
- 34. Boot parts
- 36. Kigali's country
- 37. A bit of shock
- 39. Ganges stile
- 42. Univ. degree
- 44. Grief stricken
- 45. Bread rings
- 46. Computer pix
- 47. Cognizant
- 48. Shunned one
- 49. Consumes supper
- 50. Dovetail wedge
- 52. Opera box
- 53. Take a mate a la Patruchio
- 54. Agenda component
- 55. Neophyte
- 57. Chic
- 58. Itsy bit
- 60. Move



• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Issue's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ My business selling palm trees wasn't a success. People thought I was offering them a shady deal. ”



Thank you, Helen and Ron WILSON.

• Last Issues's ANSWERS •

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

• **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

CARPENTRY: Alain \$50/hr
250-792-0605

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.

• **CLASSIFIED ADS** •

• **COMMUNITY NOTICES** •

HIRRA hybrid meeting: Wed., Feb 11, 7:30pm. At the Hall and by Zoom. **AGENDA:** Recycling and Hall updates **MOTION** to support Hornby Arts ongoing tax funding. View at: hirra.ca.

NEED HELP? Alcoholics Anonymous 250-338-8042

COMOX VALLEY TRANSITION SOCIETY EMERGENCY CRISIS LINE: 250-338-1227 or Text: 250-218-4034 For more info visit <https://cvts.ca>

• **FOR SALE** •

Llama and Alpaca Socks, mitts, and toques. Naturally warm and wonderful. 100% Alpaca yarn for knitting. Fleeces for spinning and artwork too. Rose on Denman 250-335-1117

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

JWR Designs

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

AUTO/MARINE

- Custom Lighting
- Custom Audio
- Custom Video
- Custom Fiberglass
- Custom Panels
- 1/2 cord / 110 volt Inverters

HOME

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



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 •

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

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

• 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)
- DB Excavations • 250-465-1889 • dbexcavations@gmail.com (D)
- Beech & Cedar Homes - construction, renovation & carpentry (D&H)
• 250-410-5154

• 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
- Beech & Cedar Homes • lawn, landscaping, gutter cleaning & property
maintenance (D&H) • 250-410-5154

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

- Spectra Health • Physiotherapy & Therapy • Acupuncture & Traditional
Chinese Medicine, Osteopathy. (D/H) www.spectrahealth.net
or • 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 5

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

FRIDAY 6

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

SATURDAY 7

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

SUNDAY 8

MONDAY 9

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Volleyball 6:30-8pm School Gym
- Songwriter's Workshop 7pm Hornby Arts Centre

TUESDAY 10

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

WEDNESDAY 11

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

THURSDAY 12

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

FRIDAY 13

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

SATURDAY 14

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

SUNDAY 15

MONDAY 16

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Volleyball 6:30-8pm School Gym
- Songwriter's Workshop 7pm Hornby Arts Centre

TUESDAY 17

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

WEDNESDAY 18

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- Choose to Move 11:30-12:30 Gathering Place
- DIGS Meeting 1-3pm The Gathering Place
- DAAC Open Mic 7:30pm Back Hall

THURSDAY 19

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall
- Hornby First Edition Deadline 11:59:59pm





Call for Submissions – Denman Island Summer Art Gallery

Calling all Denman Island Artists!

Once more the Summer Gallery Committee is looking for Artists to fill the gallery with amazing work for our visitors and local community to enjoy. This year we have already been approached by some local artists and its time for everyone to put forth a formal proposal.

The Gallery season will run from early June to September and during this time we look for shows by single artists or groups of two or more to fill the Gallery with a variety of media: paintings, pottery, photographs, sculpture, glass work and any other forms of art to provide an exciting mix of work.

We have many new artists on the island and we would be interested in helping them become more well known. To this end we provide lots of publicity, an opening night that allows artists to speak about their work and a curator to assist them in setting up a show. All you need to do is grab a proposal package from Abraxas in the Arts Denman Box or from our website. You can submit your proposal in the Abraxas Free Post under “A” in the Art Gallery Proposal Folder marked attention: Summer Art Gallery or send your completed proposal to us at scotbullick@gmail.com

If anyone needs further information, please don't hesitate to call Bonnie Snair (403-506-4459) or email Scot Bulick at scotbullick@gmail.com. The closing date for proposals will be March 29, 2026 and the committee will meet early April to review the proposals. We look forward to hearing from you.

We respectfully acknowledge that the land we gather on is on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K'omoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

The Denman Summer Art Gallery welcomes everyone—regardless of age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, or economic background. We celebrate diverse voices, stories, and artistic expressions. Our space is safe, respectful, and open to all who share a love of art.

How to Prepare a Proposal – Please provide the following:

- A written proposal for the show and indicate: Your name, address, phone and email. If it is a group proposal, please provide the information for all artists and indicate a main contact.
- Type of work
- Title of your exhibit – The title that appears in the proposal will be final. No changes to the title will be possible after the committee has met and set the schedule.
- Scale (sizes) of the work
- Approximate number of pieces that will be available
- Biography; maximum one page resume or brief history per artist with emphasis upon artistic endeavors
- Artist statement; max one page statement per artist about the exhibit. The Bio and Artist Statement will be on display during the exhibit
- **You must indicate if there is a time you are not available.**
- Photographs, prints, memory sticks or emails with jpeg images of some of the work to be exhibited. (The material will be returned to the artist)

How to Submit a Proposal

- Place in the Abraxas Free Post under “A” in the art gallery Proposal folder marked attention: Summer Art Gallery

OR

Email your completed proposal to: scotbullick@gmail.com

Deadline for Proposals

- **The deadline for receipt of completed proposals will be March 28, 2026.** As soon as the committee has decided on the season, all artists who submitted proposals will be notified and asked to come in and meet with the committee as well as bring 2/3 pieces of their work.

We respectfully acknowledge that the land we gather on is on the Unceded Traditional Territory of the K’omoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

The Denman Summer Art Gallery welcomes everyone—regardless of age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, or economic background. We celebrate diverse voices, stories, and artistic expressions. Our space is safe, respectful, and open to all who share a love of art.