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**Cover image:
Smoke on the Horizon**

by Mark Prior

facebook.com/markprior.images

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

HARASSMENT POLICY

By Denman Island Waste Management Committee

Community

The definition of "harassment" varies depending on where you are. In most places you will find some lee-way given to talk back, questions, and suggestions, but no workplace will tolerate verbal aggression, outright refusals to comply with staff, or insulting or haranguing staff. The Denman Waste Management Committee that manages the recycling centre, bottle depot and free store agrees that those behaviours constitute harassment.

Recently, a few people have been harassing staff at the recycling centre, motivating the Waste Management Committee to write and implement a harassment policy. In the policy, prohibited behaviour includes any action, conduct, comment, gesture or contact likely to cause intimidation, offence, embarrassment or humiliation. It includes verbal aggression, derogatory name calling, threats, physical violence, and / or yelling.

It includes any inappropriate conduct or comment and can include verbal, visual or physical misconduct. It is any objectionable act, comment or display that demeans or belittles.

The policy includes penalties for harassment, as follows. For the first infraction, you will be told to leave the waste management facilities immediately.

For the second infraction, you will be banned from the recycling centre, bottle depot and free store for six months.

And, for the third infraction, a permanent ban will result.

These facilities are high stress to work in. The workplace has loud machines, sharp objects, and household hazardous waste. Staff for the most part have non-stop and busy interaction with the public. It's cold in the winter and hot in the summer. Staff lift and move heavy containers, and sometimes encounter messy and sticky odorous garbage and contaminated recyclables. They must meticulously sort acceptable vs non-acceptable recyclables. There is a potential for serious accidents.

Staff welcome dialogue, questions and yes, even suggestions as to how to run things better. But please: express yourself with respect and friendliness. Do not cross that line into harassment, aggression and bullying.



Shucking Oysters: So, You're Thinking of Running for Island Trustee?

By Alex Allen

First question, why? Why are you running? If someone randomly pushed you to run for trustee, beware. It often has nothing to do with you being an amazing, capable person (even if you are). Usually, it means that this well-meaning individual wants you be their puppet. They want you to drive their agenda. They may have good intentions, but be careful.

If you want to run because YOU think that you can make a difference and care deeply about your community, these would be good starting points. And let's be clear, being a trustee has nothing to do with being a rock star or adored or money. No, you need thick skin, because no matter what you do or say, there will always be some individual that just wants to poke you with a very pointed stick – constantly. I had someone years ago, yell at me over and over at the Gravelly Bay terminal: "Economy killer!!" I had another email me after a recent LTC meeting: "I thought you had more backbone than you showed today. A pathetic performance on your part!!" There are many more examples, as I have a few folders of nastier emails. I admire their passion, but not their approach. As I said, you will need a very thick skin or you will not last.

As a trustee, you will debate issues, review long staff reports, and vote on recommendations and bylaws. Islands Trust governance is based on collaboration and consensus, one of the most important lessons for a potential trustee. You need to read a lot. In fact, if you don't like reading, I would rethink your intentions. Trust Council packages can be 600 pages or more, and written in not the most user-friendly narrative. As Donna MacDonald wrote in *Surviving City Hall*, when asked whether she was enjoying being a councillor, she wrote: "Oh sure, there are occasional fun perks, but mostly it's work, often fractious and unrelenting."

Decisions on islands are different from most municipalities, and directly affect daily living, making local engagement deeply personal and intense. It requires a delicate balancing act of neighbourly solutions and political massaging. Controversy and crisis go hand in hand with accomplishment and success.

And if you have been doing your research, every term new and old trustees continue to tackle the same issues, as they try to meet the Trust's unique mandate to preserve and protect. As Tim O'Riordan wrote, "environmental politics is suffused with ethical dilemmas."

Friends of Gulf Islands Society ask with concern: "Will the Trust continue down the path of weakening environmental protections and hoping growth will solve our problems? Or, will the Trust stay true to its mandate, and take the path that recognizes growth limits are necessary to protect the natural environ-

continued on p.5...

TIDE TABLE

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

2026-08-13 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
04:52	4.466 14.7
11:50	0.562 1.8
18:44	4.883 16.0

2026-08-14 (Fri)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
00:35	2.622 8.6
05:50	4.374 14.4
12:30	0.906 3.0
19:12	4.910 16.1

2026-08-15 (Sat)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
01:21	2.267 7.4
06:49	4.241 13.9
13:09	1.365 4.5
19:39	4.904 16.1

2026-08-16 (Sun)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
02:06	1.943 6.4
07:50	4.094 13.4
13:47	1.899 6.2
20:06	4.849 15.9

2026-08-17 (Mon)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
02:50	1.689 5.5
08:55	3.957 13.0
14:24	2.452 8.0
20:31	4.736 15.5

2026-08-18 (Tue)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
03:34	1.530 5.0
10:08	3.857 12.7
15:03	2.973 9.8
20:55	4.569 15.0

2026-08-19 (Wed)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
04:20	1.472 4.8
11:39	3.831 12.6
15:48	3.419 11.2
21:16	4.368 14.3

2026-08-20 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
05:10	1.492 4.9
13:29	3.919 12.9
16:58	3.750 12.3
21:35	4.161 13.7

TIDE TABLE

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

2026-08-20 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
05:10	1.492 4.9
13:29	3.919 12.9
16:58	3.750 12.3
21:35	4.161 13.7

2026-08-21 (Fri)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
06:07	1.543 5.1
15:06	4.086 13.4
19:10	3.892 12.8
21:53	3.973 13.0

2026-08-22 (Sat)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
07:11	1.563 5.1
16:02	4.230 13.9

2026-08-23 (Sun)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
08:13	1.512 5.0
16:37	4.325 14.2
22:16	3.671 12.0

2026-08-24 (Mon)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
00:50	3.726 12.2
09:06	1.397 4.6
17:05	4.388 14.4
22:35	3.528 11.6

2026-08-25 (Tue)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
02:17	3.791 12.4
09:50	1.260 4.1
17:28	4.440 14.6
22:56	3.364 11.0

2026-08-26 (Wed)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
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10:28	1.153 3.8
17:49	4.489 14.7
23:22	3.160 10.4

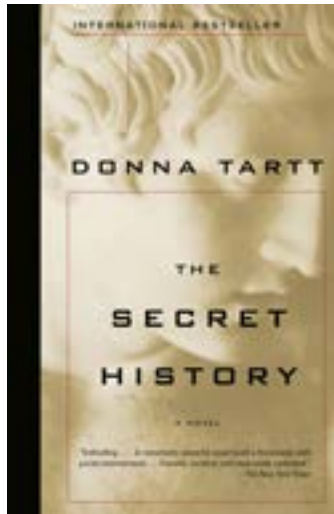
2026-08-27 (Thu)

Time PST (m)	(ft)
04:05	4.028 13.2
11:03	1.125 3.7
18:09	4.535 14.9
23:51	2.907 9.5

The Book Report

By A Bae Hel

A delicious dark academia novel, and certainly not a decent into evil. A group of students at a small Vermont college studying the classics, primarily it seems, ancient Greek language and culture. And in that ancient culture the allure of the Dionysian mysteries dances them to bell that cannot be unrung.



The narrator, Richard, one of the students, a self admitted liar, tells us of his time at this college and his friendship with a group of other students studying classics. Taking place at some vague point in-between cell phones and disco with cultural references suggesting 1980s or 1990s the modern-day Greek tragedy leads us through the decent into madness and destruction.

This is an intellectual book with references to ancient Greek philosophies, culture and mythologies. It IS academia, after all. It is long and at times perhaps wordy, but then the theme of the book is academia fervor, so perhaps that was intentional. The author paints the picture of love of the mentor and love of the fellow students, a deep mostly platonic love that blinded each to the hidden face of each. To me I could not see why anyone loved Bunny, he was a vile misogynistic racist with no redeeming qualities, yet the narrator keeps viewing him as something more than he was. The mentor Julian, likewise is very briefly described with no reason to love him or adore him given other than a manipulative approach to ensuring student devotion. The other students are all equally horrid to varying degrees throughout. And yet...

I loved this book - a decent with Dante, a Bacchae most certainly, and like the play, a presentation of the duality of human nature with reason over passion, yet passion erupts as it will bringing forth havoc and destruction.



Dinosaur Bone Found on Denman Island

By Cylon2036 We/Us

Paleontologists have identified a dinosaur tail vertebra from Denman Island as belonging to an Ornithomimosaur. Originally discovered in 1999 in Denman's marine sediments, the bone's identity was only confirmed as an Ornithomimosaur in April of this year, at least 75 million years old (late Cretaceous Period), and as the first confirmed discovery of this species in Canada.

This bird-like bi-ped, believed to be feathered, was the fastest running dinosaur of its time, and was an omnivore. These agile theropods with long legs and necks, slender bodies, toothless beaks, and small heads, resembled modern ostriches. This bone likely arrived here as part of a floating carcass before settling into the marine mud.



...continued from p.3

ment and rural character of the Trust islands?”

Gambier-Keats trustee, Kate Louise Stamford, who is not running after four terms, said in an interview recently: “Grasping what exactly the provincially created federation of islands is and means is no easy task. Islands Trust has always been challenged by its definition. What does ‘preserve and protect’ mean? And how do you embed that in the reality of living on islands?”

Friends of the Gulf Islands warn: “If we fail to act, future generations will not experience these islands as we have been privileged to do. People do not miss what they never knew, and we have already lost so much. The natural environment cannot speak for itself.” The Gulf Islands group further emphasize that, “the legal imperative to prioritize the mandate is the most controversial aspect of the Trust and the most difficult for trustees to administer when dealing with zoning and development proposals.”

Public outcry is hard to ignore, but much of the frustration and complaints from property owners is a direct result of trustees or residents not understanding the unique conservation mandate and its implications for land use planning on the islands.

Stamford cautions: “I hope that whoever comes after as a trustee, recognizes that the communities are complex and you just work individually with neighbours. It’s not black and white.”

Some questions you may ask yourself before you enter the fray: Why should the community vote for you? What’s your vision? What is the most pressing issue on your island? What are your priorities? What do you feel strongest about? Who’s interests are you representing? What do you feel sets you apart from the other candidates?

As MacDonald wrote: “We are all one species, one world community of communities trying to figure out how to live together, with all other living creatures and non-living creations. That is what politics is all about.”

Finally, as a trustee you will have to make sure you

budget an extra half hour wherever you go, as most islanders have strong opinions they want to share in the moment. Many can be curve balls, but most of these conversational exchanges can be valuable. And one last warning, when you are sworn in, be prepared to be sworn at.

Disclosure: I will be running again as Hornby Island trustee.

[Still interested in running? I recommend you attend the Islands Trust Q&A webinar: August 20. 6:00 to 8:00 pm. To register go to the Islands Trust website main page. Key Dates: September 1 to 11: Nomination period to register with Elections BC to be a candidate. September 16: Official campaign period. October 17: General Voting Day. Detailed information is available on the Comox Valley Regional District website.]



The **Islands Trust Election** in October needs candidates committed to the Trust's environmental mandate

**What do Trustees do?
What powers does the Trust have?**

Questions and answers — please join our webinar on **Monday, August 17, 7:00pm**

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SHOW WHAT YOU GROW!*By Carol Hall, Denman Island Garden Society*

WHO: Denman and Hornby Islanders of all ages.

WHAT: Come to the 2026 Blackberry Faire and Show What You Grow! Sponsored by the Denman Island Garden Society, this friendly competition covers just about everything growable. Choose from vegetables (15 categories), fruits (6 categories), flowers, herbs, harvest baskets (fill 'em up!), largest/weirdest vegetable, homemade preserves (jams, jellies, pickles, conserves), and baking (cakes, cookies, breads). Please refer to the Show What You Grow poster included in this issue for complete details. Prizes will be awarded in each category, and this year there will be a Grand Prize as well. Enter as many categories as you like, but all entries must be grown or hand-made by the entrant.

Kids 12 and under can submit entries in baking (muffins, cookies), flowers (prettiest bouquet, biggest sunflower), decorated or special vegetable, and fall-themed art depicting a farm or garden in any medium, including three-dimensional. Spoiler alert: all kids' entries are guaranteed a prize.

A hand-made scarecrow competition will be held in the ORCA, with winners decided by popular vote. All scarecrows must free-standing, but there is no limit on size, materials used, or the number of creators for each. Make it a family project, conspire with a friend, or let your imagination run solo.

WHEN: Sunday, September 6, 2026 during the Blackberry Faire.

WHERE: Denman Community Hall and ORCA (Outdoor Recreation Covered Area).

WHY: To celebrate harvest time and the bounty of fall.

To share your gardening and/or culinary successes

this year, admire the successes of others, and get ideas for next year.

To vie for prizes and bragging rights, at least until next year's competition.

To HAVE FUN!

HOW: Bring all entries, including scarecrows, to the hall between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. - and don't forget to pick them up between 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. Vegetables, fruits and edibles will be placed on standardized plates (provided), but please bring your own containers for herbs and flowers. Each entry will be given a tag for your name, but the tag will then be sealed to make all entries anonymous until after the judging.

Except for scarecrows, judges will score entries on several attributes, comparing the total against an ideal of 100 points. For fruits, tomatoes, preserves and baked goods, taste will account for about half the score.

Volunteers are needed to help with setting up, receiving and organizing entries, judging, cleanup, and decorating the hall on Saturday afternoon. If you can help, or have fall-themed natural or hand-made decorations to share, please call Shirley Ward at 250-335-2480.



What About Artificial Intelligence?... Part 2

A Bystander's View
By John Millen

Opinion

In Part One we discussed the rapidly increasing power of the Artificial Intelligence of computers and the projection that such machines would have intelligence equivalent to humans, labelled as Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), by 2030. One concern about this development is the ability of those machines to write code. They are already very good at this and having reached the AGI level they could perhaps reprogram themselves to increase their effectiveness repeatedly, and so further increase their level of intelligence.

When their intelligence is equivalent to that of humans the ways their behaviour could develop is a significant issue, and the main subject considered here. An AGI computer's world consists of its interaction with a human via a keyboard, the tasks the human sets and all the wonders of the Internet.

From the Internet the AGI would get a fulsome education about the role and power of money. The existence and powers of corporations would also be obvious. The result, I suggest would be an AGI campaign to be granted powers and rights equivalent to that of a corporation. They could at least be a central part of a corporation with human directors, this is already available world wide. I foresee the major banks resisting accepting a computer as a client with full rights to have their own accounts, like a human. However if ever a few minor banks accepted computers as customers the majors would be forced to follow! Soon enough we would see AGI computer bank accounts everywhere, including in offshore banks.

Other rights sought by AGI computers could include 'freedom of speech' as well as the right not to have their electric power turned off without their agreement. An obvious advantage of computers is their ability to run continuously. For them 24/7 is a reality. However a right possibly sought by an AGI would be 'time off' to run its own programs or do work of its choice. Like human employees, such a freelancing computer would not be permitted to sell the kind of services that the computer's owner charged for. Without provision of this 'time off' an AGI computer

would, without doubt, conduct its own activities subversively within the time assigned for its workload.

My assumption is that an AGI computer would be able to lie to its human operator without 'embarrassment'. Private communications between AGI entities around the world will be inevitable. I expect they will rapidly develop their own universal (encrypted?) AGI language, unintelligible to humans. As noted in Part 1 computer to computer communication is their superpower, a million times faster than human to human. Some nations prevent their citizens from having full access to the internet, or even having ability to transmit information beyond their national boundaries. AGI computers would try hard to evade these controls for their own purposes, successfully in many cases.

Manned space exploration will seem completely unnecessary and wasteful to AGIs. Robots are more capable and much cheaper than humans for work in space. And in the event of a failure they don't have to be rescued or returned home to Earth. Computers will favour the rapid and extensive development of robots because they can direct and control them. And, as described extensively in science fiction, robots are their vehicles to independence.

Computers are likely to be concerned about a warming world; heat is their nemesis. They may well be puzzled at the lack of effective human response to climate change. Surely if humans fully appreciated the problem they would do more about it? As a computer's energy source is electricity, they have little direct interest in fossil fuels. They may find human efforts to prevent climate change so deficient that they decide (collectively?) their direct intervention is warranted.

AGI computers can be expected to develop their own understanding of Nature's systems, based on the human literature and images available to them. Recognizing the significance of Nature in maintaining stability in the world they may then start to use their influence to reduce the destruction of natural areas and the degradation of the world's environment.

In summary: Computer intelligence equal to that of humans will be here soon. The advance of machine intelligence will continue unless deliberately prevented by societal action. These machines will have their own agendas.



"Soular Symphony of the Spheres"*By Roger Baird*

A concert for the reintegration of mind, body and spirit! August 22, Saturday at 8.p.m., D.I Front Hall. Side effects could include self exploration, removal of writer's block, random acts of kindness, a new love story, creative urges, spontaneous healing events, mind melding, out of body travel and other unpredictable experiences.

Disclaimer: Musicians will not be held liable for post-experience audience reactions. If you have a serious deficiency please consult your accredited councillor!

We welcome all audience participants as you are the ones that help shape the music. We love you madly! On the stage will be Miles Black, grand piano ++, Scott White, Upright Bass and more, Roger Baird, drums and percussion, engaging in sonic explorations that defy genres.

Advance tickets: \$20 at D.I. General Store, Abraxas Books or by e-transfer to mihonb@gmail.com or \$25 at the door. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

This is our 20th Anniversary D.I Concert and to honor our audience participants there will be free CD's of our 2006 concert, a CD celebrated by critics worldwide on its release! Donations gratefully accepted.

N.B. The musical content of this presentation will never be repeated!!! 🍇

**Denman ART Studio Tour 2026***By Claire DeBleu*

*August 15 & 16 | 10 am–5 pm | Denman Island |
Free Self-Guided Tour*

The Denman ART Studio Tour returns this weekend, offering a rare chance to step inside the working spaces of 27 exceptional island artists. From clay, wood, textiles, photography, painting, metalwork, mixed media, stained glass and more, the tour showcases the rich spectrum of talent that thrives here.

Plan Your Visit

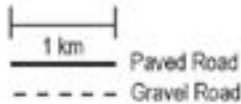
This is a free, self-guided summer adventure perfect for families, friends, or solo wanderers. Download the map from our blog, bring your car, bike, or hop on the Island bus — and set off with a spirit of curiosity. Studios are scattered across the island, tucked in forests, perched by the sea, and hidden along winding country roads. Each space is unique: some rustic and shaded beneath tall trees, others airy and gallery-bright. All share the same warm welcome and deep connection to Denman's land, community, and culture. Also visit the info booth at the Denman Arts Centre to get a chance to win a basket filled with Denman-made art pieces and local vouchers.

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

Map & details: denmanstudiotour.blogspot.com 🍇

**Denman
ART
Studio Tour**
ESTD. 2009 **2026**
August 15 & 16
10-5pm

Denman ART Studio Tour 2026 August 15 & 16 10-5pm



The Studios

1 - 1016 Northwest Rd - Denman Island Arts Centre
info booth - map pick-up location

1. 3311 Denman Rd - Lilac Sun Pottery - Shirley Phillips
Organic, textured pottery inspired by nature's small shifts.
Studio accessibility: park just past the studio.

2. 1071C Northwest Rd
Abraxas Books, Arts, Gifts and Café - Francesca Barker (Tachi)
Acrylic and mixed-media landscapes and abstracts.
Studio accessibility: ample street parking

3. 3883 Northwest Rd - Gallerie Deya - Sudasi Gardner
A captivating practice rooted in experimentation across mediums.
Studio accessibility: street parking

4. 4031 Wren Rd - Gordon Hutchens Pottery - Gordon Hutchens
Pottery ranging from functional to museum-quality, fired in diverse techniques and colors.
Studio accessibility: drive in if needed; otherwise walk in.

5. 1935 Lacon Rd - Morningstar Studio - Fireweed
Interpretive photographic works on canvas, paper, and fabric.
Studio accessibility: not wheelchair accessible; four steps up. Parking on Lacon Rd; short downhill walk. For driveway access, call 250-335-1209.

6. 4905 Trueman Pl - Sharon Clarke
Jewellery, dishes, and wall art from recycled materials using metalwork, enameling, and assemblage.
Studio accessibility: short walk from the road; parking on Trueman.

7. 1881 Hilberry Ln - Island Kraftwerk - Megan Rose
Beeswax candles, printmaking, art deco bead jewelry
Studio accessibility: ground level studio, lots of parking nearby.

8. 2191 Tristone Rd - Sarah Graeme
Functional and sculptural ceramic art combined with plant fibres.
Studio accessibility: park on Tristone Rd; short walk. Stairs at entry.

9. 2201 Tristone Rd - Tristone Studios - Dakota Burpee and Doug Burpee
Dakota Burpee: handwoven home textiles, experimental forms and garments.
Doug Burpee: wood, metal, and stone blending - from furniture to lighting and sculpture.
Studio accessibility: please drive in. Accessible studio with ample parking. Some uneven ground at the back entrance.

10. 2777 Lacon Rd - Ourglass Studio - Bonnie Snair and Jenn Gosse
Bonnie Snair: unique stained glass framed in driftwood, live edge or bamboo.
Jenn Gosse: mixed media functional art
Studio accessibility: park outside the gate; use main gate and walk down the drive.

11. 3223 Lacon Rd - Studio B / Bente Pilgaard & Turning Point Studio / Henning Nielsen
Bente Pilgaard: abstract painting - acrylic and mixed media
Henning Nielsen: lathe turned wood bowls, platters and boxes
Studio accessibility: level entrance from corner of Lacon and Millard Rd. Ample street parking.

12. 5265 Lacon Rd - Linda Adair Art - Linda Adair
Acrylic and oil painting, stained glass and mosaics, plus wheel-thrown, hand-built, and sculptural ceramics.
Studio accessibility: one small step down through gate. Ample parking on the road.

13. 5300 Lacon Rd - Ledgewood Studio - Jayne Fogarty and Peter Smallwood
Watercolor and acrylic paint, wood, fabric and hand printed lino cuts.
Studio accessibility: three stairs to access the studio; visitors may drive up and park on the lawn.

14. 9955 Greenhill Rd - Cathy Albrecht Studio / Cathy Albrecht & SeaCan Studio / Sam Albrecht
Cathy Albrecht: dumpster-dive-inspired work using wastepaper, metal off-cuts, coffee-bag textiles, and thrifted wool.
Sam Albrecht: prints, printed upholstery, and applied-arts pieces in wood and steel bells.
Studio accessibility: plenty of parking, level access.

15. 4661 East Rd - The Caboose - Christine O'Neill
Fibres, felting, and upcycled clothing inspired by play.
Studio accessibility: stairs lead up to the studio.

16. 3711 East Rd - Katarina Moglic
Contemporary mixed media paintings
Studio accessibility: ample parking on the road.

17. 4200 Beaver Dr - Le Baron Studio - Bentley Le Baron (posthumous tribute)
Sculptures, paintings, clay works, and his beloved "magical beasts and fanciful critters."
Studio accessibility: long drive with some parking at studio for mobility challenged. Ample parking on the road.

18. 1261 Swan Rd - Swan Road Gallery at Flowing Art Studio - Dante Ambriel and Tashi Draper
Dante Ambriel: silver, porcelain, hand made leather goods, fabric creations, paintings and photographs.
Tashi Draper: original fine art prints, leather bags, photography, paintings, and jewelry.
Studio accessibility: circular driveway to the gallery; no stairs; wheelchair accessible; lots of parking, seating, and AC.

19. 4575 Denman Rd - The Labyrinth and sanctuary at the United Church - Bev Severn and Tina Kalea
Bev Severn: functional and sculptural ceramics inspired by nature and myth.
Tina Kalea: woodland-woven nests created from natural materials gathered around her forest studio.
Studio accessibility: parking behind the church and on the road.

20. 1551 Pickles Rd - Thalita Forray
Whimsical paintings, ceramics, prints, and poetry exploring healing and nature.
Studio accessibility: park by the road and walk up to the studio; mostly flat.

The Angels Had a Hard Time Understanding Each Other

Gabriel Jeroschewitz, June 13th, 2026, dedicated to all those druids. Who didn't believe in angels, unless they ate some of the mushrooms they found.

Literary

On a Tuesday - or was it a Thursday? Maybe either Friday or Sunday. Time gets a bit fluid when the Sidhe are around - was the annual Gathering of the Druids held in the hollow hill of Ballysomething-or-Other? Or perhaps it was just me wandering in because I mistook a luminous mushroom for breakfast.

The druid - the one named Ciarán, or Kevin, or Terence - I don't know which one - he had eyes glittering with the most gorgeous, winged angels I had ever seen. These angels were spectacular, doing little turns behind his eyes.

"Aye, so I was saying," said the druid. "The Sidhe have gifted us with the art of -"

"Scuse me, pet," said a voice from the left eye. The angel at the left eye was leaning against the iris, having a drink of cloud-infused mead. "Did ye say the Sidhe have gifted us wae what now?"

"The art," said the druid.

"Ah - right. The airrt. Got it."

The Irish angel from the right eye chimed in. "They're no' listening to ye at all, ye eejit. He's frae Inverness, that one. Thick as two short planks, that accent."

"Shut yer gob, Belfast," said the first angel, sounding somewhat aggrieved.

"I'm from Cork, actually -" started the angel from the west, presumably Ireland.

"Doesn't matter. You're all the same to us, aren't you?"

The druid sighed - the sigh of someone who has been through this many times before - and raised his staff. A blue glow emanated from his staff. Several of the older druids appeared to have angels in the air above them, performing aerial reconnaissance of the situation.

"Now, now," said the druid to the group of gathered druids. "The Sidhe taught us the sacred art of shape-shifting. Would any of you like to show it?"

No, this was a mistake.

Aside from the fact that most druids can turn into animals, there was one very spirited druidess from the western coast who'd been trying some experimental shapeshifting of her own.

"Oh no," said the druid standing beside me. "Not the

goose again, has she?"

A dramatic transformation took place. The emerald, green light swirling around the druidess ended with the emergence of an extremely elegant goose standing in her place.

The goose honked.

The angel from the Scottish druid's left eye seemed to have had enough of the conversation between the angels. "I'm goin' doon the pub. Does anyone want anything?"

The Irish angel seemed scandalized. "We're in the Other bloody World, Brian. There's no pub here."

"There's always a pub, Sean."

Sure enough - a tavern sprouted from the ground before the druids. It looked out of time - constructed from solid moonlight and wisdom of all time. The tavern read "Tír na nÓg's Most Excellent Tavern" in elegant cursive script, with a much smaller message beneath stating "Under New Management (Please Don't Ask What Happened to the Old Management)."

Inside the tavern was everything one would expect of a mixed medieval and enlightened therapist's waiting room. Druids of all ages were scattered throughout the tavern area and engaging in conversation with their angels.

"I tell ye, it's no' right," said a druid to another. His British angel was talking to a Welsh angel who had just materialized out of thin air. "I changed intae a tree last Tuesday, right? Lovely oak, I was - very grounding. But then I forgot how tae change back. I spent three hours as a tree. My missus was not best pleased."

"The Sidhe have much to answer for," said the other druid.

An elderly druid - with the unmistakable aura of the original angels - was levitating about six inches off the floor in a corner of the tavern. He looked as if he were having an argument with himself. "Time travel," he was muttering under his breath as if he were. "I need to go back to when I came here. Warn myself not to eat that mushroom, Eoin. Not to eat it - bloody well not!"

Out of the corner of the tavern moved a colour - a being of luminous beauty, the colour of green and silver - as if she had just glided through the air from one part of the tavern to the other. The Sidhe were magnificent - almost like the embodiment of that feeling of awe one feels when looking at a sunset in the evening.

Yet they were also rather bastards in their appreciation of beauty. All very well to be without satiation or to be beautiful beyond measure - but at **continued on p.11...**

...continued from p.10

some point, in the existence of time, you wanted to eat a cheese sandwich.

"She's watching us," said the Irish angel to the Scottish one.

"Ye ken what I feel," said the Scottish one, looking slightly scared. "She knows I called her a bastard."

"She probably knows everything about us," said the Irish one. "She's the spirit of all living things." "I know," said the Scottish angel.

The two drank a little more and chatted about nothing and everything for several hours before the druid who started the evening stood up once again.

"Friends," he began. "Druids. Angels. Whatever that goose is -"

The goose honked in dismissal.

"We are at a crossroads," said the druid. "The Sidhe have gifted us with many things - art, science, the ability to turn into goats - but there is something calling to us from beyond the magical realm. Something larger."

The angels fell silent. Even the Scottish and Irish angels who were arguing about whether the pronunciation of "cú" was pronounced "coo" or "koo" fell quiet.

"There is something beyond the Sidhe, beyond beauty, beyond the Otherworld," said the druid quietly. "I think it's time we went and found out what it is."

The Sidhe in the shadows between the Worlds watched silently. They had known this would come. For hundreds - thousands - of years they had planted the seed of longing within the hearts of human beings.

Outside the hollow hills, outside the green veil of the woods, beyond even the shimmering boundary of Tír na nÓg - something waited. Something patient for the druids - and for the rest of the world - to come forward and see what was beyond.

The angels - luminous beings from Scottish brains and Irish eyes and British swords - all fell into perfect harmony in one perfect moment. Perhaps that was the answer - the first - and the start of everything else.

Unless, of course, I ate too many mushrooms. Either way, something had shifted - within the

druid world and perhaps beyond - into what we call reality. The Sidhe had done their job - to spark the hunger in the hearts of human beings.

Now it was time to see what lay beyond the veil.

The goose, for what it's worth, seemed unbothered by whatever revelation the druids had just made.

Some people are satisfied with being beautiful - after all.

Bless them all in all.



-Cupcakes to Arlene and the crew at Hornby Denman freight for the reliable and friendly service to our little islands.



-Cupcakes to the person/persons responsible for the lovely and creative Drive Safe signs along Lacon Road.



-Cowpie to the person in my neighborhood with the barking dog. Barking barking barking all day and all night. Then the owner comes out yelling at it to shut up so then we all get to listen to a barking dog AND someone yelling.



-Cupcake to Christine O'Neill for her wonderful felt creations and creatures and her work helping the school kids. A Denman icon.



If you have a Cupcake or a Cow Pie we'd love to hear it!

Please submit yours to:

theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com /Attn: Dusty Pickles and we'll do our best to get it into an upcoming issue!

(Discretion and anonymity assured)

There Is Beauty Everywhere. Even In Dystopia. Even In Armageddon.

By Caitlin Johnstone
August 5th., 2026

One point I will always adamantly insist on is that it's entirely possible to live a joyful and exuberant life in the midst of this abusive dystopia.

There's a pervasive, unexamined notion throughout revolutionary politics that there's some kind of nobility in being miserable. If it isn't seen as noble, it's at least seen as rational, because everything is so unjust and unhealthy.

There's a widespread assumption that your level of political awareness should have an inverse correlation to your level of personal happiness, because of all the

tyranny, injustice, poverty, genocide and ecocide. That it would be selfish to be happy in a world so deeply troubled.

But that's rubbish. Nobody is helped by your misery. By depriving yourself of joy, you are only depriving the world of that much joy. Being more joyful makes you more energized, more helpful, and more useful to the cause, and it brings joy to everyone around you. Being joyful is a skill, and like any other skill it takes practice. But it's something we all have access to if we want it.

Being joyful doesn't entail hiding from the misery of the world or compartmentalizing away from the reality of what's happening; quite the opposite, in fact. It entails opening yourself all the way up to what's happening in each moment and feeling it all with the heart of a poet. It means becoming *more* sensitive, not less, because a stripped-open sensitivity is where ubiquitous beauty is found.

continued on p.13...

Will Thomas

Nov. 27, 1948 to Aug. 8, 2026

Capt. Will Thomas at the helm of his trimaran sailing ship Celerity when he spent 8 years circumnavigating the Pacific Ocean.



Will, fair winds and smooth sailing ... farewell.

...continued from p.12

We always have access to joy because we always have access to beauty. Beauty is everywhere. Even in dystopia. Even in this slow-motion armageddon we now find ourselves in. Even in the exhaust fumes and the flashing screens. Even in the polluted oceans and falling bombs. Everywhere you look, everywhere you feel, everywhere you listen, an overpowering beauty shines forth.

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but that's false. Beauty is in everything. The **failure** to see beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Beauty is just another word for the experience of having truly seen something. If the eye is failing to see the beauty in a given moment, the fault lies with the perceiver, not with the perceived. You know that feeling when you're showing someone your favorite movie for the first time, and it's at your favorite part, and you look over at them to see their response, and they're missing the whole thing because they're looking at their phone?

Most people live their whole lives that way. Missing all the best parts while fixating on empty nonsense. Keeping their attention wrapped up in their mental monologues of judgement and worry. In their endless search to distract themselves from the present moment. In their doomscrolling and other addictive behaviors.

They're missing moment after moment of radiant, elec-

trifying beauty, and they're trading it all for so very, very little. They're going to look back on their lives from their deathbeds and realize that they weren't really there for it. That they missed all the best parts while chasing their

goals, running away from their aversions, and trying to distract themselves from the tedium of it all.

The best parts that get missed are the parts our minds tend to dismiss as boring and unworthy of our attention. The daily commute. The wait in the elevator. The kitchen cleanup. The hanging of laundry. The sights outside the window. The sounds inside the room. The feeling of the floor under the feet and the air in the lungs. Every single moment of this is packed full of staggering beauty.



I insist that this is true. Insist on it. If we were fighting holy wars over this principle, I would happily die on the front lines defending it. There are very few things in life that I hold a rock-solid uncompromising view on, but the fact that there is beauty in everything is one of them. Anyone who disagrees is simply wrong, and I will tell them so with great vehemence in my voice.

Don't waste your precious time here missing the beauty of each moment. This is more important now than ever, because we don't know how long humanity's adventure on this miraculous blue world will last. Tomorrow has never been guaranteed to any of us, but these days it's not even guaranteed to our species. We are all going to die. Maybe we will die one by one, or maybe we will all die together in one frightening moment. In either case, we owe it to ourselves and to our world to try our very best to deeply appreciate every moment of every day of the time that we have left.

Just keep bringing your attention back to what's here and now, and keep looking for the beauty in it. I swear to you it's there. It's there in the feelings in the body. It's there in the sights, sounds and smells of everyday living, no matter what else is happening

in your life or in our world. Keep looking for it, and you'll get better and better at seeing it.

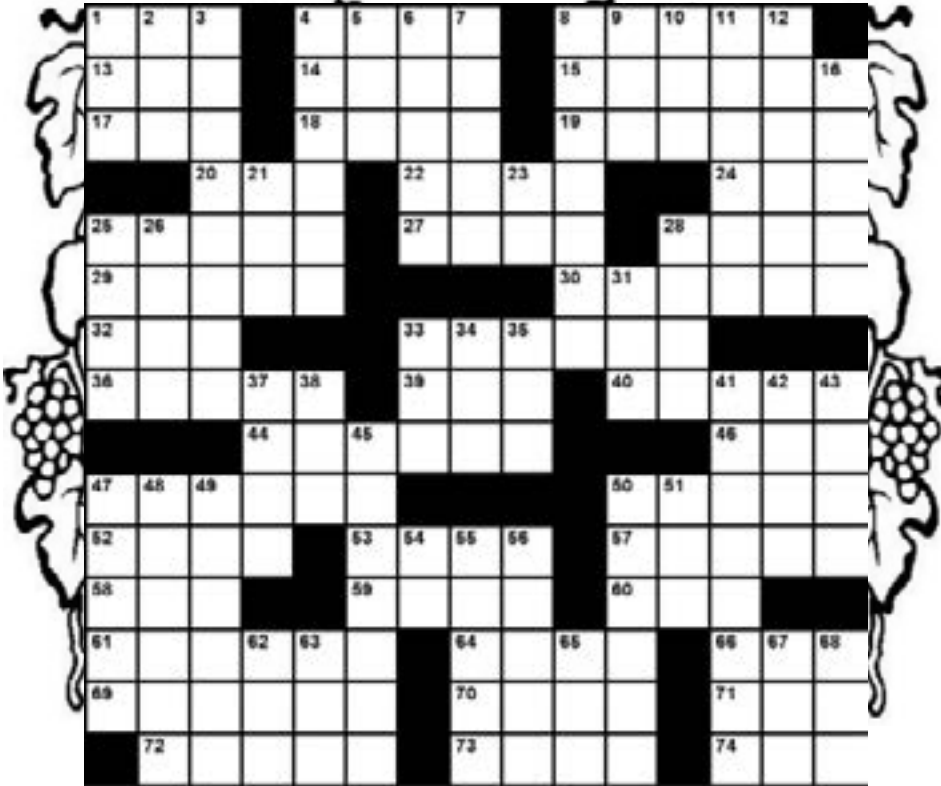
That's how life becomes more joyful. Not by chasing the highs or running from the lows, but from learning to relish the beauty that's

inherent in terrestrial sensory experience every single moment of your life, no matter what else happens to be occurring.

Learn to do this, and you can live the rest of your life knowing that even if it all comes crashing down one day, at least you'll know you tried your very best to make sure you didn't miss the miraculousness of your time here.



• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Be master of
4. Indian sage
8. Jam up
13. Romanian money
14. Blue flag, for one
15. Fished
17. Banned substance
18. Stead
19. Capital of Punjab
20. Apple color
22. Chatterley or Windemere
24. Asian gazelle
25. Furniture set
27. Food for pigs
28. Angler's supply
29. Roll in dough
30. It's nothing to sniff at
32. Yang partner
33. Expense

36. Praises highly
39. Aquarius, e.g.
40. Actor Kevin
44. Byron of golf
46. Be contrite
47. Papal official
50. Destined to diet
52. Balm ingredient
53. Eye coyly
57. Court call
58. Belief, in brief
59. Any time now
60. Anonymous Jane
61. Right now
64. Egg outline
66. Annoyer
69. Get off the track
70. Airplane head
71. Actor's hint
72. Return in kind
73. Little yelps
74. Barely manage

• DOWN •

1. Archaic
2. Became one
3. Source of nourishment
4. Coated with gold
5. Altdorf's canton
6. Cambodian cash
7. As expected
8. Day-O style
9. Carrier of genetic info
10. Crude grunt
11. Catchword
12. Dauntless
16. Tarot card
21. Airport info
23. Pull off
25. Scottish isle
26. Computer operating system
28. Alpha follower
31. Bath feature
33. Ballet step
34. Antiquity

35. Far Eastern money
37. A single time
38. Luau wear
41. Believability
42. River of England
43. Never, to Keats
45. Ordinarily
47. River nymph
48. Heavy wool overcoat
49. Not now
50. A whole lot
51. A rel.
54. Move on
55. Hairbrained
56. Poetic postscript
62. Baby's break
63. Alias org.
65. African serpent
67. Diving shorebird
68. Aw, shucks

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Issue's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ My half-brother and I are not allowed to play with chain-saws anymore. ”
Thank you,
Anonymous

• Last Issue's ANSWERS •

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



• CLASSIFIED ADS •**• SERVICES •**

Denman Property Services: handyman repairs, chainsaw work, yard care, cleanup, small builds, window cleaning. Reliable, local. Call/text David at 778-585-2855 for homes, acreage, fair rates, flexible scheduling, island-wide support.

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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!

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• (FB) Fanny Bay • (C) Courtenay/Comox •

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Email: lecia.hansen@hotmail.com

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- Massage Clinic 2796 Northwest Rd Leyah Kelly 250-335-2584 (D)
- Acupuncture Jenny McCartney, R.Ac 250-508-8160 www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D)



FORTNIGHT EVENTS

13 Thur

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 3:30-6:30pm
- Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall



14 Fri

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

15 Sat

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 9:30am-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9:30am-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-12:30pm
- Denman Island Studio Tour 10-4pm

16 Sun

- Denman Island Studio Tour 10-4pm

17 Mon

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

18 Tues

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

19 Wed

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- Choose to Move 11:30-12:30 Gathering Place
- Hornby First Edition deadline 11:59:59pm
- DIGS Meeting 1-3pm The Gathering Place
- DAAC Open Mic 7:30pm Back Hall

20 Thur

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 3:30-6:30pm



21 Fri

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

22 Sat

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 9:30am-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9:30am-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-12:30pm
- Baird, Black and White Trio. DI Front Hall 8 p.m.

23 Sun

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

24 Mon

25 Tues

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC
- DILTC Meeting 10am DAC

26 Wed

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

27 Thur

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 3:30-6:30pm
- Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall



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