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Sundays and Holidays: Closed

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by Mark Prior

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

LOVE THE FREESTORE

By Andrew Pringle

A cleaning work bee is scheduled for Sunday October 18th at 1:00 and your help is essential.

Location: Old School, 5901 Denman Road

Open: Thursday 3 - 5 and Saturday 9 - 12:30

HISTORY, the short version

After the new school in downtown Denman Island opened the Marcus Isbister School (now the Old School) was closed, acquired by the Islands Trust and rented for 99 years to the Denman Island Residents Association in September 1993.

During that time, the Hornby Island Free Store was popular and an empty space was available in half the basement of the Old School. Denman Islander Jennifer Inderwick asked a group of ladies, including Anne Jansen and Audrey Egan what they thought about opening a Freestore on Denman. Their enthusiasm and hard work helped to establish the Denman Reusable Store (aka the Freestore) which opened in September 1994 (32 years ago). Theirs and countless other volunteers contributed their unique abilities to make the Denman Freestore the exceptional community experience it is today.

FREESTORE NOW

Today, 15 volunteers are able to keep the stock moving and perform basic cleaning however a lot more needs to be done such as washing shelves, washing floors, washing walls and removing cobwebs. We are organizing a cleaning work bee for Sunday afternoon on October 18th starting at 1PM. Please help, this is your chance to pay back! 🍇



Shucking Oysters: Clankers and Wankers

By Alex Allen

Artificial intelligence. Supreme Intelligence. Call it what you will. We shouldn't be surprised that we arrived here so quickly, we humans seem to know only one direction: straight ahead (while dodging traffic cones). AI is not new; it's been around for a while. It's the divergent directions that we are heading that we should worry about.

AI is big-business. Worldwide investment was over \$2 trillion in 2026 compared to a mere \$12.7 billion in 2015. John Michael Greer wrote, "The belief that more technology is always better, that every problem must have a technological solution, and that technology always solves more problems than it creates, are among the prevailing superstitions of our time."

We know that AI helps Amazon analyze our buying habits and drives our future consumption. Netflix and Spotify use AI to learn our preferences and feed us a steady diet of mind-numbing entertainment.

AI made Siri and Alexa, and helps Facebook and X decide which social media to post on our smartphones. Yet, it is not all nefarious. From healthcare and finance to agriculture and cybersecurity, AI is driving good innovation. Let's look at one direction.

Door Number One: With stunning bone structure, deep-set captivating eyes, UBTECH's life-like full size humanoid female robot will set you back over \$145,000. Called U1, she stands at 5'5," weighs 77 lbs and enjoys 88 degrees of freedom thanks to use of "a proprietary dual-pivot biomimetic cervical spine, enabling it to replicate up to 90% of fundamental human movements."

Door Number Two: Sophia, the world's most advanced human-like robot, created by Hanson Robotics. Sophia combines cutting-edge AI with patented Frubber skin technology. She can display over 60 facial expressions, hold natural conversations, and has appeared on major media platforms worldwide. In 2017, Sophia became the first robot to receive citizenship from any country.

And Door Number Three: Eden Robotics' humanoid robots can do everything from serve cocktails to take photos and more. They are able to navigate even the most crowded spaces and "mimic human behaviour in a way that people find endearing." For \$37,500, you can purchase Johanna. At 4'9" she can be your household maid, lover, companion, and anything else you want her to be.

And just to be clear, like a real relationship, a humanoid partner is far from high maintenance. For a standard commercial humanoid robot, this translates to an average operating cost of \$15,000 to \$40,000 per year. These include technical support, software licenses, physical repairs, battery replacement and electricity. If the high cost is a barrier, virtual AI companion applications are available – some free, others only \$70/year for personality and voice features.

As a commenter noted: "We may be willing to spend hundreds of thousands – or even close to a million – to buy a 'perfect companion' that can recognize more than 20 emotions and remains endlessly

TIDE TABLE

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

2026-10-01 (Thu)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
03:32	0.8	2.6
10:58	4.5	15.0
15:57	3.5	11.6
20:44	4.3	14.3

2026-10-02 (Fri)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
04:22	0.8	2.6
12:06	4.5	15.0
17:11	3.6	12.1
21:30	4.2	13.8

2026-10-03 (Sat)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
05:19	0.9	2.9
13:15	4.6	15.1
18:41	3.6	12.1
22:34	4.0	13.2

2026-10-04 (Sun)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
06:22	1.0	3.4
14:18	4.6	15.2
20:08	3.4	11.4

2026-10-05 (Mon)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
00:04	3.8	12.6
07:29	1.2	3.9
15:11	4.6	15.3
21:17	3.1	10.4

2026-10-06 (Tue)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
01:42	3.7	12.3
08:36	1.3	4.5
15:54	4.6	15.3
22:11	2.8	9.1

2026-10-07 (Wed)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
03:08	3.8	12.5
09:37	1.5	5.1
16:31	4.6	15.3
22:56	2.3	7.7

2026-10-08 (Thu)

Time	PT (m)	(ft)
04:22	3.9	13.0
10:32	1.7	5.9
17:02	4.6	15.3
23:36	1.9	6.4

continued on p.5...



We would like to offer our appreciation to Mike and the Island Grapevine for their ongoing volunteer dedication to The Comox Valley Transition Society CVTS by weekly printing the contact information and emergency numbers to community members on Denman and Hornby.

CVTS is a non-profit organization whose free and confidential services include counselling, group support, subsidy programs and specialty services for self-identified women, non-binary people, children and families. Their 24-hour Crisis Line can be reached at (250.338.1227). For more information, see their website at cvts.ca. Please join the CVTS at the screening of the film Dear Lara, dearlara.film Saturday October 3 at the Denman Community Hall at 1pm. Members of the society will be onsite at the event to provide resource information and information about third party reporting, a reporting option that does not involve contact with RCMP. Frieda Werden and Eileen O'Brien. Stasia Hasumi Program Director CVTS. 🍇



...continued from p.3

gentle and compliant. Yet in real-life relationships, we often want to walk away at the first sign of friction.”

Those leading AI say that we should not worry our little heads about this technology; it will make our lives better, faster, easier. Unfortunately, as with anything to do with humans, this technology will fall into the wrong hands, eventually.

We all know that AI need lots of data centres. We should be concerned about the environmental impacts. Globally, data centre power demand is growing four times faster than all other sectors, and is on track to exceed Japan's electricity use by 2030.

Generative AI models – which generate text, images and video – consume “orders of magnitude” more energy than traditional computing methods. Some estimates suggest it's five times more energy, others say it could be significantly higher. Much depends on the specific model or type of query. Trump and his courtiers must have their own data centre, considering their penchant for AI slop.

“Consumer software that generates text, images and videos are uniquely energy inefficient,” says Ketan Joshi, an Oslo-based climate analyst, due to the “vast data sets and computational strain of pattern-matching that happens underneath the hood.”

Asking an AI chatbot a question consumes a great deal more energy than finding the answer through a simple web search or calculator. It adds extra demand for no good reason, Joshi says, a bit like driving to the shops in an SUV instead of riding your bike. “You might still get the shopping done, and that single trip alone may not even look all that bad in terms of cost or emissions, but what happens when that's all of your trips, and when all of society starts doing this?”

And throw into this mess, Jeff Bezos' over-the-top and out-of-this-world business plan. Blue Origin plans to expand data centre infrastructure beyond Earth, proposing a vast orbital network of 51,600-satellites into orbit to support the rising demand.

The Blue Origin website states: “The Project Sunrise system will ease mounting pressure on US communities and natural resources by shifting energy – and water-intensive compute away from terrestrial data centers, reducing demand on land, water supplies and electrical grids.”



Scientists and environmental groups have warned that massive orbital data centre constellations from companies like Blue Origin and SpaceX could release harmful pollutants like aluminum oxides, black soot, and rare metals into the upper atmosphere.

Elon Musk claims that by as early as 2028, SpaceX will have successfully assembled an AI data centre in orbit, with plans to eventually harvest a staggering 100 gigawatts of new solar energy for AI annually, equivalent to one-fifth of all US electricity consumption in 2025.

Though “space is really big,” Musk eloquently shared, one million satellites would still profoundly and, likely irrevocably, transform our night sky into one in which data centres outnumber visible stars. Oh one more thing, Musk wants to build a million robots each year as well, and thinks a billion robots will work and mingle with us fleshy meat bags by 2040.

As of now, building a one-gigawatt data centre in space would cost about \$51.5 billion compared with \$16 billion for one on land. As Sara Herschander wrote, “if these tech giants succeed, it will not fix what's wrong here on Earth, but merely prove once again their exemption to the gravitational forces holding the rest of us down.”





The Islands Grapevine is offering all civic election candidates an opportunity to present themselves as they see fit. Not unlimited space, but surely a photo, brief bio, and short expressions on issues of concern and commitment.

Deadlines for submissions are late Mondays, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, and 12. Please send them to theislandsgrapevine@gmail.com

Steve Hawkins

Candidate for Denman Island Trustee

Why I'm Running

My connection with Denman goes back many years, through family, frequent visits and eventually making this island my home. After a 35-year career in television news and many years representing media workers and advocating with governments, I came to Denman looking forward to a new chapter in my life. I want to contribute to the community and help protect what makes this place so special.

For many months I have been attending Denman Local Trust Committee and DIRA meetings, learning more about the issues and the work of our local government. Since August, I've also been spending Saturdays at the Denman Market, talking directly with Islanders about the October 17 election and what they want from their next trustees.

Those conversations have reinforced my decision to run and helped clarify what I believe I can bring to the position.

Preserve and Protect — and Keep Denman a Living Community

I strongly support the Islands Trust mandate to preserve and protect these islands. I think anyone seeking to become a trustee should.

But preserving Denman also means sustaining the community of people who live here. We need affordable housing, a viable agricultural community, opportunities for younger people and families to remain here, and thoughtful land-use decisions that protect our environment and rural character.

I support the current housing review and the proposed updates to Denman's Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw. They are the result of several years of work and considerable community involvement and have now reached an advanced stage. I believe the next Local Trust Committee should respect that work and see it through to completion.

Supporting the Rules We Make Together

One issue that has come up repeatedly in my conversations with Islanders is confidence in our local land-use rules and their enforcement.

Property owners have every right to bring forward new ideas and proposals. But when development moves ahead without the necessary approvals, or enforcement is too slow to keep pace, it undermines the public process and the work that has gone into creating our Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw.

That should concern all of us.

Experience I Bring to the Trust

My career in journalism taught me to ask questions, understand complicated issues and communicate them clearly. My years representing media workers as a union president gave me experience in negotiation, governance and working constructively with people who don't always agree.

I've also seen here on Denman what persistent community advocacy can accomplish. With the CityWest high-speed fibre project for Denman and Hornby, helping to get the additional government support needed to complete the project. It was a good example of how focused community advocacy and working constructively with different levels of government can help move an important local issue forward.

I would bring that same practical approach to the Islands Trust: do the homework, listen, work constructively with others and keep Islanders informed.

I have the time and flexibility to make the work of trustee a priority, and I've tried to demonstrate that throughout this campaign by showing up, listening and participating.

Denman is a remarkable place with a community that cares deeply about its future. I would be honoured to do my part to help preserve and protect it.

Steve Hawkins

Candidate for Denman Island Trustee
October 17, 2026



The Book Report #20

By A Bae Hel

Taipei Story

R.F. Kuang



This novel is a bit different from her previous books some of which I loved, some of which I hated.

This is the telling of a Chinese American student studying in Taipei to improve her Chinese language skills. It is a novel of academia, but more it is a novel of culture clash, family and a hero's journey of sorts; a coming of age.

Lilly, an excellent student in America is off on an adventure to immerse herself in Chinese culture and become fluent with Mandarin. She stumbles, she fails, she doubts and perseveres. Finally, she expresses the idea that the language we speak is the making of who we are in that culture. She feels herself to be a different personality when she speaks Chinese than when she speaks English.

I know so little about Chinese culture, or histories. Vague knowledge of the killing fields, the revolution the strain between China and Taipei fill my head from the news over 60 years. The language is so unintelligible to me. Those complex characters that can mean one thing here and another thing entirely over there. The foods are exotic and seemingly dangerous given I have little understanding of the ingredients or the methods used to produce them. The tastes feel weird in my mouth, and yet it is a fascinating country and culture. Lilly's trip into Taipei to become more fluent reveals a gap in her cultural understanding until she can be fluent. Despite her sense of failure, she is slowly discovering her family's history, hidden for so long from her because of culture. And in that understanding she gains the beauty and poetry of a language that is deep with metaphors and symbolism, moving from monochrome to full colour, taste, smell and touch.

These is much revealed in here about Chinese parents and the pressure placed on the children to always be succeeding, to be better than everyone else. There is a sense of loss woven through the novel – an type of anemoia. Quite possibly that is an element of any diaspora story. Yet still the book had me looking up the history and geography of Taipei and its place in the world today. When an author has me googling my way to see the places described in the book I know I have found a worthwhile story.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor- Denman and Hornby residents have a few important choices to make on October 17th and one of them is more important than the other. Do we vote yes to have the Comox Valley Regional District step in and be our authority to deal with irresponsible dog owners or say no and continue to tolerate the sometimes dangerous and threatening behaviour from untrained, unsocialized and more importantly- unsupervised dogs that are allowed to roam? Morally, it is the dog owner's obligation to raise and train their dogs in a manner that ensures they coexist peacefully with other animals and humans. This includes teaching them to respond to commands, socializing them with various environments, and by addressing any behavioural issues that may arise. A well-trained and controlled dog is not only safer for the community but also reflects the owner's commitment to being a responsible and considerate pet guardian.

From the tragic events this summer where two women were viciously attacked along with the numerous other incidents of hikers and bikers being charged and even bitten as well as sheep being attacked and killed, its obvious that as a community, **we are in desperate need of an outside intervention.** Dog owners are solely responsible for their pets' actions, both morally and legally.

If we vote yes, it means that ALL dog owners will be penalized by having to register their fur baby who will now have to wear a dog tag and all property owners will pay a modest increase in their taxes to pay for the CVRD service. **If we vote no**, the irresponsible dog owners win and will continue their bad behaviour with more instances of dog aggression, accidents and fear from those who enjoy walking, biking or raising animals.

In a perfect world all dog owners would take their responsibility seriously and realize that proper dog supervision goes beyond just preventing destructive behaviors. It also helps to reinforce positive behaviors. Dog training is a never-ending process of evolving.

"Dogs should be allowed as much liberty as they can

responsibly handle. The greatest gift of training is that it increases the dog's ability to handle liberty. You're not done training the dog until you can trust him at liberty." Chad Mackin

We must choose wisely on October 17th to be part of the solution or remain part of the problem!

Respectfully, Edi Johnston



Cupcakes and **Cow Pies**

-Cupcake to the ethereal magic of the universe for re-uniting Cosmo the cat with his owner after being a lost soul for a year and a half 

-Cowpie to the inconsiderate bung-hole that followed me all along Denman Road with their high beams blasting those new style super bright blue lights into my eyes. Seared out my rods and cones so now I'm relegated to a life of shuffling around all blind and whacking my knees into things. 

-Cow Pies to the scammers using local 335 phone numbers telling me that they're Bell Canada and my payment didn't go through or whatever other gift of the week they are using. So annoying. 

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)

WINTER BUS SCHEDULE

BUS RUNS THURSDAY ALL DAY & FRIDAY, SATURDAY AFTERNOON

October 1st 2026 to April 30th 2027 www.denmanislandbus.ca info@denmanislandbus.ca

Stops	Thursday Only			Thursday, Friday, Saturday			
Denman West	8:47 AM	10:17 AM	11:47 AM	1:17 PM	2:47 PM	4:17 PM	6:15 PM
Guesthouse	8:49 AM	10:19 AM	11:49 AM	1:19 PM	2:49 PM	4:19 PM	6:17 PM
Glen Ghorm	8:53 AM	10:23 AM	11:53 AM	1:23 PM	2:53 PM	4:23 PM	6:19 PM
Hinton	-	10:27 AM	11:57 AM	1:27 PM	2:57 PM	4:27 PM	-
Reginald	8:57 AM	10:32 AM	12:02 PM	1:32 PM	3:02 PM	4:32 PM	6:23 PM
McFarlane Beach	9:00 AM	10:35 AM	12:05 PM	1:35 PM	3:05 PM	4:35 PM	6:26 PM
Thomas	9:03 AM	10:37 AM	12:07 PM	1:37 PM	3:07 PM	4:37 PM	6:29 PM
Gravelly Bay*	9:16 AM	10:44 AM	12:14 PM	1:44 PM	3:14 PM	4:44 PM	6:31 PM
Owl	-	10:48 AM	12:18 PM	1:48 PM	3:18 PM	4:48 PM	6:35 PM
Schmidt	9:23 AM	10:52 AM	12:22 PM	1:52 PM	3:22 PM	4:52 PM	6:39 PM
Fillongley	-	10:56 AM	12:26 PM	1:56 PM	3:26 PM	4:56 PM	6:43 PM
Old School	9:25 AM	11:00 AM	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	6:47 PM
Denman West*	9:30 AM	11:07 AM	12:37 PM	2:07 PM	3:37 PM	5:07 PM	6:54 PM
Community Hall	9:34 AM	11:11 AM	12:41 PM	2:11 PM	3:41 PM	5:11 PM	6:58 PM
Wren Rd	9:38 AM	11:15 AM	12:45 PM	2:15 PM	3:45 PM	5:15 PM	7:02 PM

*= Ferry Terminals. If the ferry is coming in to dock at scheduled departure time, drivers will wait for foot passengers to disembark whenever possible. All times are departure times, please plan to be at the stop at least a few minutes early.



VOTE YOUR OPINION.

ADVANCE VOTING OCTOBER 8 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Advance voting Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 9 am - 12 pm at Denman Activity Centre, 1111 Northwest Road, Denman Island. Make our region a better place to live by voting. Be part of the process.

FOR VOTING INFORMATION, VISIT: **COMOXVALLEYRD.CA**

Comox Valley, Nanaimo land trusts raising funds to support Deep Bay land conservation purchase

BY DAVE FLAWSE, LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
• COMOX VALLEY • SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

Tim Ennis's loose-fitting cargo pants are rolled up at the ankles. The tongues on his well-worn hiking boots are hanging out. He wears a faded baseball cap, a ponytail and a short beard.

At first glance, the executive director of the Comox Valley Land Trust, doesn't look like a typical superhero. But, according to him (and a King Charles III Coronation medal), he sometimes feels like one.

"I'm so blessed to be able to find myself doing this work," Ennis said speaking with The Discourse. "You pinch yourself sometimes. Someone's paying me to be some kind of conservation superhero."

Right now, he's leading an initiative to raise the remaining \$395,000 on a \$4 million land purchase to protect some of Vancouver Island's rarest intact ecosystems.

In partnership with Comox Valley Land Trust and Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, the BC Parks Foundation is fundraising to protect 50 hectares of forest, wetland, estuary and shoreline in Deep Bay with a deadline of Sept. 30 to raise the remaining amount. The land has a rich history of Indigenous occupation and after more than a century in private hands, it will become accessible to the public if the land purchase is successful.

In mid-September, Ennis stood at the site of a former homestead in Deep Bay that was settled by the Cook family. Before the building was removed, the homestead would have overlooked Baynes Sound and an estuary that serves as important overwintering grounds for migratory birds.

"We hunt for places like this," Ennis said. "They're not easy to find."

History of the land in Deep Bay

According to a section of a 2026 archeological report from K'ómoks First Nation that was shared with The Discourse, the parcel and surrounding lands have a rich history "with an occupation record of at least 8,000 years of Indigenous people."

The area is the traditional territory of the Pentlatch

People, who amalgamated with other local Indigenous groups after the 1862 smallpox epidemic decimated the Pentlatch population. Today they are represented in K'ómoks First Nation and Qualicum First Nation.

"Four distinct groups of the Pentlatch have been identified in ethnographic works," the report reads. "The Pentlatsch, the Saamen, the Chuachuatl and the S'öksun" whose territories spanned from Cape Lazo in the north to the Little Qualicum and Englishman rivers in the South.

"The Pentlatch thrived in the territory with villages throughout and rich resources aplenty," the report reads.

Along the property's shoreline, the soil is black and flecked with white shell fragments. It is "solid midden every step," Ennis said, referring to discarded shells, bones and other domestic debris accumulated over thousands of years of occupation.

Sometime in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, the property was settled by the Cook family, Ennis said. Logged only once around 100 years ago, the prime second growth forest sits next to another 33.5-hectare parcel in similar condition that was recently protected by the BC Parks Foundation.

From private land to park

Ennis said the properties were on the Comox Valley Land Trust's highest priority list for purchase because the land connects Baynes Sound to 1,740 hectares of rare, intact forests that are protected in the Bowser Ecological Reserve and crown land and are part of the coastal Douglas-fir bio-geoclimatic zone.

"We're taking all the upland protected area and bolting it to the ocean in a super productive estuary environment," Ennis said.

According to the Coastal Douglas-Fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership, the bio-geoclimatic zone is a unique set of associated ecosystems that occurs on a narrow strip of south-east Vancouver Island, portions of the Gulf Islands and pockets along the south coast and mainland B.C. The area lies in a rain shadow, giving a Mediterranean-like climate, "which allows for a rich flora and fauna to thrive."

Ennis noted that climate models show a warming trend and said these forests are already adapted to dryer and warmer summers. He said giving them space to exist is crucial.

“Those kinds of species may be prolific here in a warming climate decades from now.”

The BC Parks Foundation sought the help of the Comox Valley Land Trust to fundraise a portion of the purchase amount and undertake some restoration of this important ecosystem. But Ennis and the team realized the land is actually the northernmost property in the Regional District of Nanaimo.

“So we thought, let’s see if the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust wants to match us,” Ennis said.

Paul Chapman, executive director of the Nanaimo Area Land Trust, said the Deep Bay property “has been on [their] radar, quietly churning away.” Chapman said the east coast of Vancouver Island has very little crown land because of the E&N land grant privatizing huge swaths of land that belong to Indigenous Peoples. He said the key to protecting this private land now “is acquisition.”

“When you look at all the different values of the coastal Douglas fir forest and the salmon bearing waterways that run through the property, it ticks all the boxes for high value acquisition to protect biodiversity,” Chapman told The Discourse. He adds that very little shoreline is protected in the Nanaimo Regional District. Most of the beachfront that is protected is rocky outcrops, not mature forests from mountain to sea.

The land’s future

BC Parks Foundation will own the property, Ennis said, but a long-term management partner has yet to be named. The area will be operated “as a conservation-forward but publicly accessible space” with a parking lot adjacent to Highway 19A (the Old Island Highway).

Existing roads will be turned into trails allowing day-use walking along the forested creeks to the shoreline.

Chapman noted that the increased cost of land in recent years means “that these strategic partnerships are going to become more and more prevalent where our interests converge.”

Future projects in Chapman’s sights include adding more protected areas to the south of Nanaimo “and the Harewood Plains and Cable Bay area.”

Both Ennis and Chapman have been instrumental in protecting similar areas around the Comox Valley and Nanaimo, overseeing hundreds of members and volunteers through complex land purchases and restoration initiatives.

“It makes me feel great,” Ennis added, knowing that the public, including his descendants “are going to have this place to come to forever.”

He said those interested in supporting to help raise the remaining \$395,000 for the Deep Bay land purchase can do so online: <https://cvlandtrust.ca/portfolio-items/deep-bay/#donate-form>



A map showing BC Park Foundation’s recent and upcoming Deep Bay property purchases.

*Photo courtesy of:
BC Parks Foundation*

Ukraine Honours Its Fascist “Heroes”

By Cylon2036 We/Us

In May 2026, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presided over the reburial of Andriy Melnyk, a leading figure of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), whose remains were brought from Luxembourg to Ukraine. In August, OUN founder Yevhen Konovalets was likewise reburied at the National Military Memorial Cemetery. Kyiv presents this as an act of historical restoration for men who fought for Ukraine independence. They were also fascists allied with Hitler.

The OUN was not simply a ethno-nationalist movement, it collaborated with Nazi Germany, and OUN forces were guilty of persecution, and mass murder during the Second World War. The ceremonies therefore amount to more than funerals, they are acts of state-sponsored historical memory, by placing OUN leaders alongside the figures whom contemporary Ukraine commemorates as national heroes.

Honouring people in the name of independence does not erase the actions of the OUN, nor does it resolve the memories of Jews, Poles, Roma, Russians, and other victims of wartime ethno-nationalist fascism and mass murder. Indeed, the reburials have already provoked criticism from Jews and Poles, cementing the narrative about current Ukrainian fascism and ethno-nationalism.

After officials and institutions in Ukraine, including the national parliament, marked the birth anniversary of nationalist leader Stepan Bandera, the Polish government criticized the commemoration of a man responsible for the genocide of ethnic Poles and Jews. Remembrance of World War Two history, and the massacre of 100,000 Polish civilians by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), the military wing of the OUN, continues to be a source of contention between Poland and Ukraine.

Bandera, who led the OUN political organization that formed the UPA, is seen by the Ukrainian government as a hero. Critics, however, see him as the fascist and Nazi collaborator he was. Among those to mark the

114th anniversary of Bandera's birth was Ukraine's parliament. It tweeted an image of Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the former commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces, under a portrait of Bandera. “The guidelines of Stepan Bandera are well known to the commander-in-chief of the armed forces”, drawing condemnation in Poland from both government and opposition figures.

“The commemoration of Stepan Bandera, responsible for the mass murder of the Polish population, in the Parliament of Ukraine must raise objections,” wrote Radosław Fogiel, a senior figure from the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party in Poland. In a separate statement, carried by state broadcaster, “Our attitude to the crimes committed by the UPA remains unchanged.” Polish Prime Minister

Mateusz Morawiecki, said that the government took “an extremely critical view towards any glorification or even remembrance of Bandera” and there were “terrible Ukrainian crimes” during the war, including “genocide”.



Another Ukrainian official to commemorate Bandera yesterday was Andriy Sadovyi, the mayor of Lviv, which before World War Two was the Polish city of Lwów. “A new generation, which grew up on the example of Stepan Bandera, have gone into battle” he wrote on Facebook, alongside an image of a monument to the wartime Ukrainian fascist leader. “His biography is a story of indomitability.” In Lviv, people gathered at the monument to mark the anniversary of Bandera's birth.

In June, Poland's foreign ministry intervened after Ukraine's ambassador to Germany, Andrii Melnyk, sought to justify Bandera's collaboration with Nazi Germany. A few months later Melnyk was appointed Ukrainian deputy foreign minister. Polish government figures called that decision “unacceptable”. The Polish and Israeli ambassadors to Ukraine jointly condemned a decision to name a stadium in Ternopil after Roman Shukhevych, another collaborator with Nazi Germany linked to the slaughter of ethnic Poles and Jews.



Haven's End was in a valley made by a bored god.

*Gabriel Jeroschewitz, September 11th, 2026,
dedicated to those missing socks that I never found again.
And to my friends, back in 1971, who were living in the
red and blue house. That somehow manages. To take
Christ and the quotes of Mao Zedong into something oddly
perfect. In their minds, anyway?*

After making mountains for many days, the bored god decided that filling the valley with dog clips and Wi-Fi routers would be fun. From the hill, there were a thousand screens glowing like fireflies in a jar. I laughed and walked in, but something was bitter in my mouth.

At 7:03 a.m., the golden amber of the new day changed to the blue of a phone, tablet, or smart fridge playing the video: "Organic Kale-Infused Energy Bars - Because Your Soul Needs Antioxidants Too". The people of Haven's End were robots. Their next thought would be triggered not only by notifications but also by the screen, which informed them at regular, exact intervals precisely when it was night.

At Mrs. Gable's corner store, there were blue and red pills on the counter. Near those were a jar of pickled beets and a stack of self-help books such as *How to Win Friends and Influence Algorithms*. The pills were cheap gelatin pills, bright blue and red pills. However, above the pills, there was a notice:

RED PILL - SEE THE TRUTH
BLUE PILL - STAY IN THE DREAM

Below this was smaller text containing a disclaimer about the variability of results and the side effects of existential anxiety, a quote from Nietzsche, and a desire to make artisanal pickles.

Mr. Halvorson was elderly. He used to work in accountancy and had a comb-over that once was attractive. When he saw the red pill, he paused. And then paused again, like the red pill was a bird considering whether to land on an electrical wire. He made a noise like a deflating balloon and then took the blue pill and drank a mouthful of cold tap water. After he took the blue pill, he looked at me and winked like he was handing me a secret. He said: "Better to dream than be awake, son. The truth is a bit overrated." After

that, he walked off with hunched shoulders as he decided to stay in the dream.

Across the street, there was a teenager named Lila, live streaming her breakfast. She looked tired even though she was a teenager. In the online world, she had lived through dozens of lives. She was showing avocado toast with olive oil that shone like liquid gold. She said: "Avocado toast goes with a side of deep anxiety. Swipe up for my Patreon. There, I will explain how the universe is a simulation and how you should buy my crystals." Almost immediately there were comments. There was a burst of emojis, debates about the ethics of avocados, and many people wanting to "wake up". Lila laughed some laughs that seemed genuine and others that seemed to come from nervousness, because the algorithm prefers outrage over sincerity.

As an observer, I saw how the people of Haven's End were not only using content but also being consumed by content. Every click, every scroll, and every outrageous comment made part of a small transaction in a marketplace where outrage and attention were product and currency. There seemed to be some invisible algorithm or hidden force that was more skilled than anyone else in firing the right fear and igniting the right side of any kind of conflict. The labels: red pill, blue pill, left wing, right wing were just feathers on a bird. If a bird were flown with only one feather, it would spin until hitting the closest billboard to the newest miracle cure for loneliness.

I remembered some notes I had written in the tattered copy of *The Physics of Everyday Life*. "Right and wrong and left-wing and right-wing are made by the mind of humans to organize morality and politics. They are not things in the universe but are very real with regard to interactions between people." The people of Haven's End used exactly those constructs to create their cathedral. The stained-glass windows were memes, and the pews were old cell phones. The sermons changed to match the trending hashtags.

The mayor of Haven's End was a woman named Gloria. She entered the temporary stage in the square where the weekly "Crisis Hour" took place. The crisis of that week was displayed on the ticker behind her: a Great Sock Shortage. The Great Sock Shortage was declared a national emergency, with the hashtag #SockApocalypse and a special

continued on p.15...

The First Casualty of War is The Truth

By Keith Porteous, Editorial

President Donald Trump signed the “Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026” on September 18, 2026, codifying sweeping new economic penalties and tariff authorities against Russia. These sanctions target Russian oil, natural gas revenues, defense industries, and the “shadow fleet” of sanction-evading tankers. Other sanctions allow the President to levy up to 100% tariffs on major purchasers of Russian energy, such as China and India.

These sanctions of Russia by Trump follow the 7 separate times that Trump raised sanctions on Russia during his first term. Trump has also acted violently with economic sanctions and military aggression against Russian allies in Iran, Syria, Venezuela, and Cuba. So why is it that Western leaders like PM Carney and Canada’s former ambassador to the UN, Bob Rae, keep repeating the absurd accusation that Trump and Russian President Putin are “allies?” All of this follows from the debunked “RussiaGate” conspiracy theory.

At the same time, PM Carney and NATO allies align themselves with the unprovoked aggressions against Iran by the U.S. and Israel, in concert with the unbridled far-right and genocidal Netanyahu government, with Carney proclaiming at the NATO Summit in July, that the U.S. attacks on Iran were a “fair response.” Canada’s Prime Minister is saying that he wants more independence from the U.S., while aligning his foreign policy statements with support for U.S. and Israeli criminal aggressions in West Asia (Middle East).

Canada and Carney have also supported the criminal U.S. policies on Venezuela and Cuba, and the United Nations inspectors found Canada complicit in the Gaza genocide, with military, financial, and diplomatic support, despite the hollow declarations about making peace and hope for a decades long proposed, and disingenuous effort toward a “two-state solution.” Israel continues its killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the furthering of violence in the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria.

Under Trump, the U.S. has imposed asset freezes and visa bans on Russian leadership, including Vladimir Putin, government officials, and key oligarchs. The Trump administration has utilized tariffs and sanctions as a diplomatic mechanism to pressure Moscow toward a peace deal in Ukraine. The Government of Ukraine is buying major military equipment items, with logistics support including satellite intelligence and missile targeting of Russia, using Canadian and European contributions, and U.S. Foreign Military Financing.



The United States is selling weapons to NATO allies, European nations and Canada, who then transfer them or fund their delivery to Ukraine. Trump’s U.S. Department of State has made a determination approving a Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Ukraine for purchase of Air Defense Development Upgrades and related equipment and services. Critics note that the move began a gradual unraveling of the bilateral arms control architecture that had worsened after the demise of the INF Treaty.

President George W. Bush unilaterally walked away from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty on December 13, 2001, to pursue national missile defense systems. The Bush administration viewed Cold War-era formal treaties as outdated constraints on U.S. “security”, while breaking the promise not to expand NATO eastward following Moscow’s agreement to reunify Germany. Now the U.S.-NATO, Canada, and the deeply unpopular European governments, want to put nuclear warheads on Russia’s borders.

If you listen to the leaders of NATO countries, and their servants in corporate media, you’d believe that Trump and Putin are allies and that Trump doesn’t oppose Russia in Ukraine, while Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba, China, and Russia represent “threats” to Western “security.” You are led to believe that Prime Minister Mark Carney is the paternalistic Western leader who is standing up to Trump, by selling Canadian based resources to American corporations and global capital. **The first casualty of war is the truth.**



...continued from p.13

line of socks available only through the town's app. From the speaker and the Wi-Fi extender came a loud voice saying: "People come together! Be fearful of going sockless! Fight for the right to warm feet! Remember, the person next to you probably has hidden socks. Tell them!" There were people responding. Their faces were glowing with the light of their personal devices. Each person made some noise through their microphone, and each noise added another data point to the algorithm's next outrage.

In addition to the general crowd, there was an older man named Ezekiel. He used to be a philosophy professor but he retired to take care of his award winning begonias. He was standing partway outside the crowd, holding a mug of herbal tea in both hands. He shouted into the wind and not the microphone, saying: "Wake up! You are not your feed! You are not the sum of your interactions!" His voice was shaking. It was shaking from his age but also from the difficulty of being heard over all the pings. People turned toward him. Some looked with amusement and some with sympathy. Then, as if by intention, the teenager piped up: "LOL, okay boomer." Ezekiel's plea was immediately edited, looped, and made into a meme with the text: "When you try to be deep, but your Wi-Fi is down." The algorithm always looks for something to ignite an outrage, so this was pushed to the top of the feed. Ezekiel had become the unofficial mascot for "the crazy one who thinks he is free".

I was smiling despite the grey tone of the location. It was funny to see people treating their own minds as something that can be upgraded. Treating their fears as inventory and outrage as a transaction. However, underneath the satire was truth whispering through the noise like a weak radio signal. The universe does not care about wings. For a bird to fly, it needs a left and a right wing. If a wing is missing, the bird will spiral. In Haven's End, the people had essentially cut one wing down in order to reinforce the other. The missing wing was seen as a disadvantage and not an important feature.

The physics of this situation is simple if you take the time to notice. At the particle level, quantum mechanics rules. Particles exist probabilistically at a distance but are unknown until observed. These quantum laws also apply to stars, which shine upon the universe, the silicon

found in the screens of these stars, and the photons found in the images of these stars. However, at the level of a person making a decision about sharing a post about a sock shortage, the oddities of quantum mechanics disappear. What remains are classical forces. There is gravity pulling towards couches, thermodynamics adding body heat to the devices, and habits that keep the devices connected.

I saw the day end with the screens dimming to a gentler light as Haven's End prepared for the ritual of scrolling into sleep at night. The red and blue pills remained at Mrs. Gable's store. The promise of truth or dream had turned into a quiet joke only those who took the time to look it up would be aware of. Between one ping and the next, I almost caught a faint sound of silence beginning to form like a small piece of ice beginning to break under the pressure from an invisible spring.

It was at this exact moment, after the last flicker on screen and with Haven's End in darkness, that I noticed a shift. The part of me that is usually able to see the absurdity felt a tug. In a world that sells fears and divides people, there is still a small amount of agency. There is a possibility to unplug, for silence to begin to break through and for time to listen to thoughts that do not belong to any algorithm, any pill, any wing, but rather to the simple and wonderfully human act of thinking for oneself.

The night seemed to grow longer while the stars, which are ancient furnaces of nuclear physics and also operate on the same quantum laws as the screens above us, shone. Bright and completely indifferent. In some distant part of the world, there was a single cricket chirping. A sign that life goes on not because of the right pill, but because, despite all of this, there are still times when we are able to hear our own voice in the dark. And if you listen closely, you might hear it whisper: You are more than the sum of your clicks. 

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All welcome — bring an act, or just come to listen.

Empire Psychosis

By Caitlin Johnstone, Sept.28th 2026



More and more humans are suffering from empire psychosis.

People who can't go ten minutes without checking their phones, losing hours a day to social media and mindless scrolling.

People talking to chatbots, learning about the world from them, learning about life from them, making friends with them, forming relationships with them.

Binging on podcasts, binging on streaming services, binging on video games, binging on apps, binging on vapes, binging on treats delivered to their door by underpaid workers from bombed-out countries.

The bread was designed in a lab to be furiously addictive, and the circuses track your preferences to serve you up all your favorite performances.

Empire psychosis keeps us in a constant state of distraction and escapism, always scrambling to avoid the here and now like we're trying to climb out of our own skins.

It's a frenzied discontentedness. A persistent delusion that satisfaction exists right around the corner after the next restless squirm. It's an

artificially manufactured mental disorder. And it's worth trillions of dollars.

In the capitalist empire, there is no value to be generated by contented people. Our minds must be continually prodded and diddled to manipulate us out of our natural serenity so that we are in a constant state of toil and dissatisfaction, at all times reaching for the next fix of the next product. Clever manipulators have figured out how to generate vast fortunes by harnessing the restlessness they deliberately stir up within us.

We are psychologically hammered with advertisements and consumerist messaging from mainstream culture to convince us that we need more than we have and that we aren't okay the way we are. That we're not beautiful enough, not stylish enough, not successful enough, not abundant enough. The products are designed to be dependence-forming so we need to buy them, and they're designed to quickly become obsolete so that we need to keep buying more.

They trick us out of our natural state of contentedness and then sell it back to us. They deceive us into leaving our home and then charge us an admission price to come visit. Something went wrong. Humanity went off course.

They enclosed the commons, colonized the new world, constructed a tiered society of haves and have-nots, and now we're all living like space aliens on our own home planet.

We do not have to keep suffering from their man-made madness. We can do the inner work necessary to come back to our own contentedness, and we can do the outer work necessary to take back what the manipulators have stolen from us.

We don't need to keep consenting to this abusive relationship any longer. A healthy world is our birthright. We will tear down the madness machine and stand at peace in the soil of the planet we were born on. 🍇

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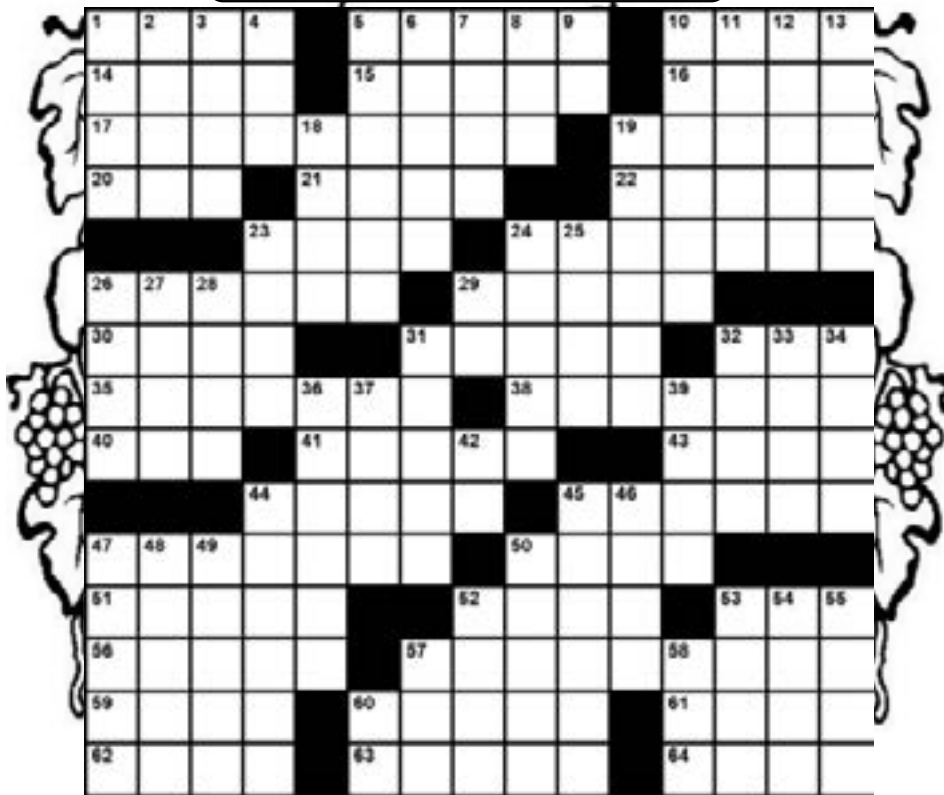
2x2

1x2

2X1

3x1

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Bhutan's locale
5. Ezio Pinza, e.g.
10. Cinch belt's cousin
14. Congest
15. French love
16. Detective's find
17. Apiary structure
19. Molten material
20. Affirmative reply
21. Gumbo need
22. Epic of Troy
23. Be a worrywart
24. Occupancy
26. Publisher
29. Backpacker
30. Tree trunk
31. Fuel tanker
32. Band's job
35. Emerald Isle
38. Concentrated extract

40. Apply a patch
41. River nymph
43. Author Greene
44. Merit pay
45. Masses
47. Accepting the facts of life
50. Anti votes
51. Not sideways
52. Made haste
53. Andy Taylor's aunt
56. Hog nose
57. Female religious leader
59. Not his and hers
60. Deer's cousin
61. Band aids
62. Bordeaux, e.g.
63. More likely
64. British withholding tax

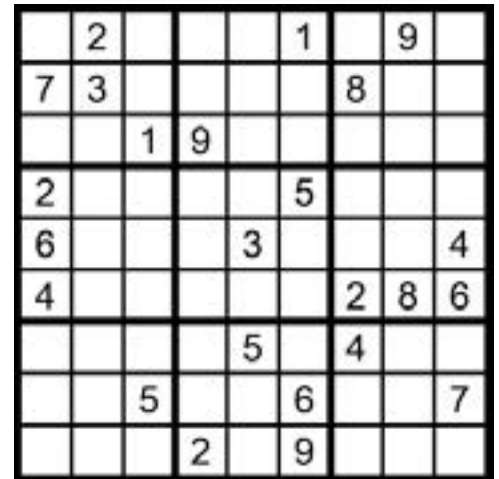
• DOWN •

1. Like a bad back
2. Fizz flavor
3. Charged atoms
4. Aquarius, e.g.
5. Broadway angel
6. Spiritless, old style
7. Body of an organism
8. Classroom stand in
9. If not
10. Having only magnitude
11. Gum used as a thickener
12. It can be poison
13. Intoxicating
18. Days of old
19. Coal diggers
23. Feed a fire
24. Fixed a floor
25. Gets by with out
26. African wading

- bird
27. Aching
28. A large quantity
29. Quick greeting
31. Intense dislike
32. Act the rodent
33. Hit a puck too far
34. Comes together
36. Choose divinely
37. Actress Woods and others
39. Big heads
42. Like
44. Ladies wear
45. Life's work
46. Bar crossers
47. Plant again
48. Boredom
49. Festoon
50. Clamoring
52. Easy run
53. Synagogue platform
54. Get a glimpse of
55. Being, in philosophy
57. Balloon sound
58. Kind of dance
60. Univ. degree



• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •



• Last Issue's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“Hired a handy person and gave them a list. When I got home only #1, #3 and #5 were done. Turns out they only do odd jobs.”



Thank you
Anonymous.

• Last Issue's ANSWERS •

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

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Email DenmanRecyclingCentre@gmail.com for full job description, and to apply with brief resume.
Deadline: Oct. 10th.

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THE 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!



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- Acupuncture Jenny McCartney, R.Ac 250-508-8160 www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D)

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

1 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
- Islands Trust 'All Candidates Meeting' 6pm Back Hall

2 Fri

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

3 Sat

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 9:30am-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9:30am-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-12:30pm
- Movie "Dear Lara" 1pm Denman Community Hall

4 Sun

- Harm Reduction Workshop 4pm Back Hall
- Soup Night 5-7pm The Gathering Place

5 Mon

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

6 Tues

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

7 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

8 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

9 Fri

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

10 Sat

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

11 Sun

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Open Mic Night 7pm Hornby Arts Centre

12 Mon

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

13 Tues

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

14 Wed

- 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

15 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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