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

My Interview With Josie Osborne, NDP MLA for Mid Island Pacific-Rim

By Keith Porteous

I had contacted MLA Josie Osborne's office requesting an interview, then attended her open house event at the Denman Activity Centre Lounge last week. I'm not a member of the B.C. NDP, but I am strongly opposed to the B.C. Conservatives, whom I view as dangerously far-right. When I spoke briefly to Josie following the open house, she recognized me from my interview request, and agreed to speak to me by phone. Here's the transcript of that call:

KP: You came to the Denman Island Activity Centre Lounge to have a conversation with residents, and the day before you were interviewed by CHFR community radio on Hornby Island. What did you hear from our Hornby and Denman Island residents as their top concerns and priorities?

Josie: First of all, I always appreciate the opportunity to be able to have these conversations with people on Hornby and Denman Islands, as I've always believed that the best way to represent people is spending time in the communities I serve to listen carefully and to build relationships. There are themes that have come up consistently over the 6 years that I've been the MLA, so it was no surprise to me when I was there for the election campaign that I heard a lot about affordable housing, about the impact of short-term rentals, about access to healthcare, about emergency responder services, protecting the natural environment that makes these islands very special, the governance structure of the islands, and why people care so deeply about these two islands. And that's why it's so important for me to hear from their perspective and what they are seeing and feeling, and what we can do better.

KP: The cost of living and the housing crisis are usually at the top of the list of local resident's concerns, along with climate change, and the protection of our marine environment. Please share how your NDP government is different from the Conservatives on these issues.

Josie: There are very clear differences, both in our priorities, and what we're prepared to do. On housing, the B.C. NDP believes that governments of all levels have important roles in



making homes more affordable. That means investing in non-market housing. For example, 42% of all non-market housing in the last 5 years in Canada has been done here in B.C.. It means supporting community housing organizations. It means protecting renters and taking action against speculation that for far too long was left unchecked and drove housing prices up.

The B.C. Conservatives, and their predecessors B.C. United and the B.C. Liberals before them have consistently voted against the actions that we're taking to curb speculation and support renters, and to better work with local governments to increase the supply of housing. And on Denman and Hornby we know that the conventional housing market doesn't necessarily deliver the homes that people need, so that's why partnerships with community organizations and non-profit housing providers are so important.

On the environmental side, I think the contrast is equally clear. Before entering politics I worked as a fisheries biologist on the West Coast, and protecting salmon, watersheds, and our marine environment is not a new interest for me, it's absolutely part of who I am. And our environmental commitments include \$30 Million annually for watershed protection, \$50 Million to help permanently protect rare old growth forests, working towards protecting 30% of B.C.'s land by 2030. and enacting the regulations and rules we've seen that help sustain and keep our environment in a condition to support us.

We're also investing in clean electricity, helping people transition to more affordable lower carbon technologies, while the Conservatives have opposed important clean energy and conservation policies, and they oppose our nature protection goals. I know that as a government that we have not solved every problem. Housing remains too expensive and climate change is an enormous challenge before us.

But the choice is really clear. We either keep building on solutions, or we actually will see the dismantling of tools that helped us make

the progress we've made so far. The B.C. Conservatives would no doubt take us backwards. I really believe we can protect the environment and we can create good jobs, and we can also make life more affordable and we don't have to choose just one thing.

Working as a fisheries biologist on the West Coast of Vancouver Island I saw first hand what kind of difference First Nations and people made in advocacy to the Federal government and ensuring that we were listening to the science, and local and indigenous knowledge about herring stocks and the way we need to ensure fisheries are sustainable. It's not just a decision we make across the coast, but we need to consider what local herring stocks are, and how we sustain them. Herring are a really important part of the marine food chain, they are food for salmon, they are food for whales. I really commend the advocacy we've seen from Gulf Islands communities for better herring management policy from the Federal government.

KP: I interviewed Federal NDP MP Gord Johns, and we spoke at length about unregulated ship-breaking and abandoned hulls on our coast, something that resonates deeply with local residents. Gord mentioned both you and CVRD Area A Director

Daniel Arbour as part of a working group on this issue. Can you give us your perspective and a progress report?

Josie: This is an issue that I really care about deeply, and I'm thrilled with the partnership that Gord Johns and I have developed, and Daniel Arbour has been a very clear and consistent advocate in shutting down the illegal operations at Union Bay and pushing forward the kind of protections that we need to see because this is a serious problem on the coast. We have 100s of vessels approaching the end of their useful life, but we don't have adequate facilities in B.C. to dismantle and recycle larger ships safely.

TIDE TABLE

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

2026-10-22 (Thu)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
03:23	3.5	11.5
09:22	2.1	6.9
16:15	4.4	14.6
22:52	2.3	7.6
2026-10-23 (Fri)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
04:28	3.7	12.4
10:14	2.2	7.4
16:38	4.4	14.6
23:21	1.9	6.3
2026-10-24 (Sat)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
05:27	4.0	13.3
11:02	2.4	8.1
17:00	4.4	14.7
23:52	1.4	4.8
2026-10-25 (Sun)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
06:23	4.3	14.2
11:48	2.7	8.9
17:24	4.5	14.8
2026-10-26 (Mon)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
00:27	1.0	3.5
07:17	4.5	14.9
12:34	3.0	9.8
17:51	4.5	14.9
2026-10-27 (Tue)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
01:04	0.7	2.4
08:11	4.7	15.6
13:22	3.2	10.7
18:21	4.5	14.9
2026-10-28 (Wed)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
01:44	0.4	1.6
09:05	4.8	16.0
14:11	3.4	11.4
18:56	4.5	14.8
2026-10-29 (Thu)		
Time	PT (m)	(ft)
02:27	0.3	1.3
09:58	4.9	16.2
15:07	3.6	11.9
19:37	4.4	14.5

continued on p.7...

Upcoming event: Guatemala: Land Defence, Coffee & Mayan Resistance

By the Denman Coffee Buyers Club

On Sunday November 1st at 3:30 pm in the Back Hall, the community will welcome Leocadio Juracán from the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA) of Guatemala. Learn about the struggle for land and a dignified life for rural communities. Leocadio is a Mayan farmer, leader and organizer, who is visiting Canada on a speaking tour to raise awareness of the criminalization of Mayan land defenders in Guatemala.



Leocadio with sign that reads, "I am another political prisoner."

During his tour across Turtle Island, Leocadio will update audiences about the ongoing realities of campesino and Indigenous communities in Guatemala, their fight against forced and illegal land dispossession and evictions, and the criminalization of

those defending their territories and rights. In August 2025, Leocadio was arrested and charged with "aggravated usurpation" for activities related to his accompaniment of a threatened Mayan community. He was imprisoned until Canadian organizations raised \$10,000 in bail money. In June 2026, a Guatemalan judge, citing a lack of evidence for the charges, removed all bail restrictions and gave the prosecution 30 days to provide new evidence. Since then, the prosecution has twice requested a delay in proceedings, such that the case is still not resolved. The CCDA is one of Guatemala's leading Indigenous campesino organizations defending the rights and interests of rural communities whose land rights are contested by the state, private landowners, and extractive companies. The organization was founded in 1982 at the height of Guatemala's internal armed conflict. Today, the CCDA represents hundreds of Indigenous campesino communities across twenty departments and fourteen Indigenous peoples of Guatemala. It promotes access to land, peaceful resistance to dispossession, and the holistic human

development of rural populations, with a strong emphasis on gender equality.

Denman Island Connection

- The CCDA has extensive ties to Canada through the **Café Justicia** (Justice Coffee) project, which exports the coffee its members produce to eight Canadian provinces, and then uses coffee sales profits to support community development and land tenure projects in Guatemala.
- Some of you met Leocadio's daughter, Neydi Yasmine Juracán Morales, the National Coordinator of CCDA, when she visited Denman in May 2024.
- Since that event, a 'Denman Island Café Justicia Buyers Club' has coordinated the distribution of this delicious "fair trade-plus" coffee to purchasers on Denman.

Attend this event and then enjoy Soup Night from 5-7 pm at the Gathering Place.



GUATEMALA: Land Defence, Coffee & Mayan Resistance



 **Sunday November 1 - 3:30 pm**
Back Hall - Denman Island

Come meet Leocadio Juracán from the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA). Hear updates on Indigenous and campesino communities in Guatemala struggling against forced displacement, illegal land dispossession, and the criminalization of those who defend their territorial and human rights.

Learn about Café Justicia - a fair trade-plus coffee that supports a dignified life in rural communities - and the Denman Island Buyers' Club.

Join the Denman Coffee Buyers Club

Free admission



The Book Report #23

By A Bae Hel

The Six: The Lives of the Mitford Sisters

Laura Thompson

Previously published as Take Six Girls

In general biographies are not my thing, but after reading (or rather listening to) this one I may change my perspective.

The Mitfords were a family of the aristocrat class born into the early 20th century. Six girls and one boy, they were a part of the bright young things on the 1920 -1930s society in Britain between the wars. The interwar years with the rise of fascism, communism and the Spanish civil war was a hotbed of evolving fanaticism for those recently through the horrors of WWI and for those coming of age with apparently very little insight.

The sisters included one novelist, two supporters of Nazism, one devout communist, one farmer and one Dutchess. The story of their bonds and their fallouts along with the political climate in Britain in the 1930s is a fascinating story. Published in 2026 it is written with an eye on current rises in fascism and is a captivating description from their letters and writings on how people can blind themselves to a charismatic leader despite the evidence before them. It is also a story of women and their lives bound to men to obtain relevance in the society of the day.

I was riveted to their story and ended up going down the rabbit holes of each of the sisters to discover some very long lives the last dying in 2014. In addition, most of the sisters became writers, which opens up a whole new direction of books I knew nothing about. A win all around.



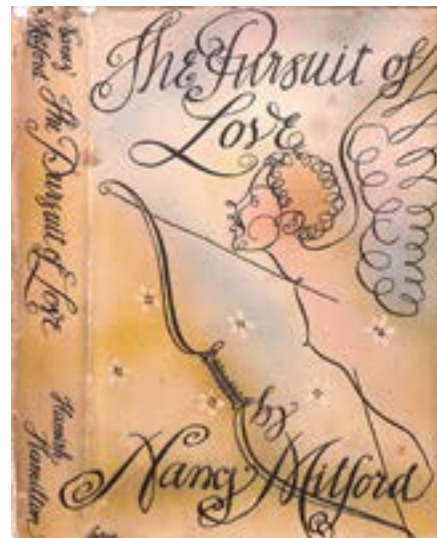
The Pursuit of Love

Nancy Mitford

After finishing the biography, I was compelled to see if Nancy Mitford was as good a writer as her press of the times said, and I am happy to say, she was. A prolific writer, her early works took the life of her family as the inspiration for her novels. This was the best seller incorporating love, family and the upper class, all wrapped up with a wit and satire of the times.

Despite the years, there remain parallels to the course of women in our current day. 1930s did not offer women much in the way of options, and there were few to remain respectable. Attachment to a man was paramount for the family girls in the story, however the seeking of love does not always run smooth, and unsuitable men were routinely the fault of the women attached. As still happens today, women are to blame; and Nancy Mitford blends her own family intrigues into her story.

An excellent addition to reading the biography, and a wonderful rendition of seeking love yesterday, today and tomorrow. The only objection I have is due to my own limitations with the French language. As French was an essential part of the upper class education, there is more French in the book than I can know from cereal box reading, however even with the missing bit the story retained its appeal.



If you ever wonder how Hitlerism and the obvious comparison today can come to arise, this book provides a good deal of insight.

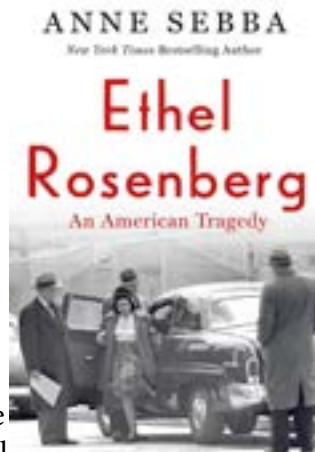
I will rave about this book to anyone.

Book Review: Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy

By Amanda Hale

Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy –
by Anne Sebba, pub. 2021, St. Martin's Press

From the front cover: "In June 1953, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, a couple with two young sons, were led separately from their prison cells on death row and electrocuted moments apart. Both had been convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union, despite the fact that the US government was aware that the evidence against Ethel was shaky at best and based on the perjury of her own brother."



After three years of imprisonment, two in solitary confinement, Ethel's execution was horrifyingly bungled. After three charges of electricity she was taken down from the chair, her heart still beating, then returned, strapped in, and given a further two jolts, taking a total of four and a half minutes to die.

Sebba gives a vivid account of Ethel's unwavering devotion to her husband and two sons, aged 7 and 10 at the time of execution, having already been deprived of their parents for 3 years. Ethel was a talented singer with operatic ambition but, as a 1950s housewife, she prioritized her family. Ironically, her own mother and brother betrayed her, the brother lying about Ethel to save himself. In an era of anti-communist phobia, accompanied by the antisemitic association of Jews with Communism, the States were united in fear, and the Rosenbergs became scapegoats. Despite enormous global protest on their behalf, the US government was relentless in its persecution of Ethel and Julius. Roy Cohn, a 23-year-old lawyer, was assistant prosecutor at the trial. He made his name with a vitriolic pursuit of the death sentence for Ethel, who in fact was innocent of direct involvement in her husband's politically naïve activities as a recruiter of spies for Soviet intelligence. Cohn eventually became mentor to the young Donald Trump, teaching him how to effectively evade the

rule of law. (See the movie – The Apprentice, 2024.) Toadyism and blackmail were Cohn's survival nets as a Jew and a closet homosexual during that dangerous era. He eventually died of AIDS.

Anne Sebba is a British biographer and former Reuters foreign correspondent. Her subjects include Wallis Simpson, the women of Paris under Nazi occupation, and the Women's Orchestra of Auschwitz – always focusing on injustice and the fate of women in extreme situations. Her sharp focus on Ethel Rosenberg widens into a history of Ethel's time which was one of Communism, cold war espionage, and McCarthyism. The phrase 'Iron Curtain' had been popularized by Churchill in a 1946 speech delivered in Fulton, Missouri, as it came clanging down with an enduring resonance of fear and hostility between nations. The post WW2 era was rife with fear – fear of spies and traitors, of homosexuality, of speaking out, stepping forward, of the press, of imprisonment, politics, pacifism.

Sebba's book shows the dehumanizing effect on a population held hostage by fear-mongering – bringing to mind examples throughout history as well as more recent phenomena such as pandemics, wars, tariffs, and other divisive and diverting factors. She shows how prejudice and irrational judgement are woven into the fabric of society by corrupt government, and how easily people slide blindly into their roles as victims. One day Ethel is caring for her sons, the next day she is arrested and separated from them for the rest of her life.

When the Rosenbergs were arrested, their sons were 7 and 3 years old. In 2016 those boys, as aging men, sought to clear their mother's name with a request to Obama to nullify the original jury verdict. They were refused.

On January 22nd 1953 Arthur Miller's play, "The Crucible," about the Salem witch trials, opened on Broadway, "written as a more general response to 'the Red Scare' that had paralyzed a whole generation and in a short time dried up the habits of trust and toleration." Miller's audiences, reports Sebba, made a direct parallel with the Rosenbergs' execution, observing a minute's silence on June 19th 1953, the day of their execution.

Apart from being a tragic tale of injustice and cruelly bungled punishment, the Rosenberg's story is emblematic of the vast nets of corruption that go unchallenged in this world. It is one thing to look back through history at such stories, but quite another to acknowledge them in "real time."



It creates environmental risks, particularly in sensitive marine ecosystems like Baynes Sound, but it also means we're missing a huge economic opportunity. So that's why Gord and I helped establish the Ship Recycling Leadership Group in Port Alberni last year. It brings together First Nations, local government, industry, labour, environmental organizations and other partners. The purpose of the group is to explore the potential to establish a world class ship recycling industry in the Alberni Valley with the highest environmental and labour standards, and we definitely have made progress.

This group has established two different work streams. One of them is looking at the regulatory requirements and the other is developing the business case. The Province has provided funding for the business case and is actively working with the Federal government around the regulatory framework that's required to ensure that we protect the environment. One of the principles we've agreed to, and it's important to emphasize, is that Indigenous leadership in decision making has to be central to this work. We need strong environmental safeguards.

We need community support and social licence, and we'll need investment from the government and the private sector. If this is done properly, it can create skilled jobs, it can support marine industries, and it can help recover valuable materials and prevent pollution. The bottom line is that we should be able to protect our coast and build a sustainable marine industry at the same time. Those are the foundational principles that all coastal economic development should follow.

KP: Hereditary Wet'suwet'en and Gitksan Chiefs have expressed that they oppose the Coastal GasLink Phase 2 expansions through their traditional territories. The government's report on the RCMP's surveillance and excessive force used on non-violent indigenous land and water defenders, has been delayed until after the election. What is your best guess for when we will see the full report?

Josie: First of all, this came up at the open house on Denman Island, and to me when an issue like this comes up it really is a sign about how much people care, not just about the world immediately around them on the island, but are thinking much more broadly about the Province and the directions that we're headed. And I do understand

These are serious allegations that involve indigenous land defenders and policing and fundamental rights. And they really do deserve a very thorough and transparent examination. That investigation is being conducted by the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP, and that's an independent Federal oversight body.

It's my understanding that the report is complete, but there've been delays associated with the Commission's leadership and the process that is required to finalize and release its findings. I cannot, obviously, speak on behalf of the Commission, so I don't have a confirmed publication date, and I can't speculate or give people an assurance that I can't substantiate, but I do think that the report should be released as soon as the process permits.

And the public deserves to see the findings and any recommendations that come from it need to be taken very seriously because accountability and transparency are essential to public confidence in policing and that's really important when we're talking about indigenous rights and people's freedoms to peacefully express their opposition to government or to industrial projects.

KP: To follow up, this also relates to the non-violent resistance to old growth logging at Fairy Creek and in the Walbran Valley and elsewhere. Can we count on the B.C. NDP to defend our right to free assembly and other Charter Rights on these issues, and an end to the RCMP and government committees' coordinated surveillance of grassroots movements that oppose old growth logging and resource mega-projects?

Josie: People can absolutely depend on the defense of the right to peace assembly, to freedom of expression, and the right to challenge government decisions. These are things that are fundamental to our democracy, and they are rights that have to apply even when people are protesting decisions that are made by the government of the day. I've been involved in environmental issues and conservation work for much of my life.

...continued from p.7

I have seen firsthand and I understand just how strongly people feel about protecting old growth forests, about protecting watersheds and indigenous territories, and I also recognize there are legitimate and serious concerns about the way that some protests have been policed, and particularly involving indigenous land defenders. Police have the responsibility to protect public safety, and to uphold the law. But those responsibilities always have to be exercised within the Charter, and they have to have the appropriate oversight and proportionality and accountability.

My view is that peaceful environmental advocacy is not a threat to democracy, it's actually a part of democracy. I don't think people should be subjected to inappropriate surveillance just because they oppose an industrial project or a government policy, and where we see credible allegations of unlawful surveillance or excessive force they have to be independently investigated and addressed.

It's really important to remember that indigenous rights involve more than the Charter. We have a Constitutional obligation to recognize and respect aboriginal and treaty rights, and I really want to see us move forward to an approach where we resolve difficult issues through genuine engagement and respect for indigenous decision making in our land use planning, rather than confrontation and Courts.

KP: There is a massive expansion of raw resource export mega-projects that create value added jobs elsewhere, but leaves B.C. with the environmental degradation as a subsidy to foreign owned corporations, and without the diversification of the economy that is desirable. How do we break this endless pattern?

Josie: This is one of the most important economic questions. For far too long we've relied on a model where we extract resources and we export them with relatively little processing, and then we buy back the finished products at a much higher price. It's just not right. It means that we're leaving those jobs and the skills and the economic value on the table, rather than benefiting from it.

management and I've seen how resource dependent communities can experience those environmental impacts without receiving a fair share of long term economic benefits, or without having a strong enough voice to prevent some of the environmental harm that we've seen. I really want B.C. to be a place where we don't just produce those raw materials. We take advantage of the strengths that we have and the natural resources that we have, but we need to make more of those finished products too.

That means supporting more value added wood manufacturing, supporting marine construction and repair, sustainable ship recycling that we've talked about, and food processing, clean tech and advanced manufacturing. Fundamental to this is building a stronger clean energy economy. Our electricity is something that gives us a tremendous economic advantage, a competitive advantage here in B.C., especially when there are businesses in countries around the world that are looking to reduce their emissions.

We have to make sure in this work that First Nations are genuine economic partners, and that they have all the opportunity that everyone else does in ownership and revenue sharing and in decision making. I think a lot about the importance of diversifying the economy. I don't think that means abandoning our natural resource industries, but I do think it means getting much more value from them, processing more here at home, making sure B.C. receives the lasting benefits.

KP: The Islands Trust mandate is to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment for the benefit of Trust Area residents **and all BC residents** (emphasis added.) Why does the Province of B.C. not provide direct funding to support Islands Trust, with its modest budget raised only from taxing Trust Area residents?

Josie: That's a fair question. The Province does provide some funding to the Islands Trust annual budget, some grants, but it is a relatively small portion of the overall budget. I think it's just under 2%. I mean honestly, that is a pittance. The vast majority, like you said, of the operating revenue, is almost \$12 Million a year in terms of local property taxes.

because of the costs of providing these services and responding to the increasingly complex planning and environmental issues that we have before us. Those costs continue to grow. That's why I think there's a very legitimate question here. Does the funding model adequately reflect the Provincial interest in protecting the Trust Area?

The Islands Trust has a unique mandate in British Columbia, and Canada, and as a Vancouver Island resident, as a former Minister of Municipal Affairs, I can absolutely and honestly say that far too few people in B.C. know about the Islands Trust Act and its mandate, established to preserve and protect the environment and amenities of the Trust Area, not just for island residents but for all of British Columbia, and that's the really important distinction. The benefits of protecting these incredible islands extend well beyond the people who live here year round, and I think we have to recognize the important work that the Trust undertakes on issues like freshwater sustainability, on land conservation, on reconciliation and land use planning.

The rest of B.C. can learn a lot from what the Islands Trust is doing. It's reasonable to ask the question, is the balance right between Provincial funding and local property taxation, and is it appropriate for an organization to accept the distinctive Provincial mandate? I really welcome this conversation with Islands Trust leadership and with my colleagues in government about what a more effective partnership might look like. I think that protecting the islands is a responsibility that we all share, and I will certainly continue to advocate, as I did back when I was Minister of Municipal Affairs, for a fresh look at this because I think it's the right thing to do.

KP: MP Gord Johns has been mounting a Fair Ferry Funding campaign, and he was recently here to rally support. The East Coast ferries receive vastly more Federal funding per passenger as compared to B.C.. As the newly appointed B.C. Minister of Finance, what are your thoughts, and do you think B.C. can leverage higher Federal funding levels for B.C. Ferries?

Josie: First I'll say just how strongly I support Gord's efforts on this. He has identified a genuine inequity in the way that transportation is funded across Canada,

and I know that people who live on Denman and Hornby Islands know that ferries are not just a luxury, they are part of an essential transportation network, part of a coastal highway just like regular asphalt highways and bridges.

B.C. doesn't receive anything close to the level of Federal operational support that's provided to some of the ferry services in Atlantic Canada. Gord's campaign estimates Federal funding at approximately \$291 per ferry passenger in Atlantic Canada compared to \$1.26 here in B.C.. That's a major disparity. I think the principle here, and it's very sound, is that people in coastal B.C. are Canadian taxpayers too and we deserve fair treatment.

I also see the issue through another lens and that is that ferry services involve enormous ongoing operating costs, and also major capital investments. We have an aging fleet here in B.C. and we have growing demand for the service so obviously these costs aren't going away. Fair Federal participation could help relieve pressure on fares, a huge issue, in this affordability crisis that we're experiencing, and really help us with strengthening the reliability that we need to see so that ferry dependent communities aren't carrying an unfair share of the burden.

Our Minister of Transportation and Transit, Mike Farnworth, has been working with and speaking to the Federal government about these issues. A lot of that conversation happened just before the election was called, and we'll see what happens with the Federal government's Fall economic statement. I think there's a very strong case here for Federal investment and I'll keep working with Gord and with other coastal representatives to advance it. This is where we should be working together as Provincial and Federal governments, regardless of our political differences, and to do something that's right for people.

KP: Do you think B.C. Ferries has improved as a result of its conversion from a Crown agency to an entirely publicly owned private corporation? And further, given the extensive government discussions relating to domestic shipbuilding, can we expect that ferries will ever be built in B.C. again?

Josie: That's a great question. I think it's very fair to question whether the current

continued on p.10...

...continued from p.9

governance model has delivered everything that British Columbians need. I'm sure your readers will recall that B.C. Ferries was changed from a Crown Corporation to an independently operated commercial company way back in 2003 under the former B.C. Liberal government. The argument at that time was that the change would support more stable investment and that it would remove some of the political uncertainty around long term decisions.

Here we are more than 20 years later, and people in ferry dependent communities are still dealing with unreliable sailings, and with affordability concerns. They're looking at the constraints of the fleet in terms of its capacity, and have a lot of serious questions about the future of the service. I'm not sure we should judge the model by its corporate structure. We need to judge it by whether it's delivering the reliable, affordable ferry transportation that people need. It's obvious that there's room for improvement.

As far as shipbuilding goes, we have to see more of that work happening here in B.C., and David Eby has been very clear about that too. I know that there's been a ton of frustration surrounding the decision to build the 4 new major ferries overseas and we've heard B.C. Ferries explain issues around shipyard capacity and technical requirements and price and delivery schedules, and those are very real considerations.

But the jobs and the industrial capacity that are needed here at home are also serious considerations. We do have talented trades people and shipyard and marine engineers. We have a strong maritime history, and David has made that commitment. To build ferries here in B.C. we need to build, and we will build, that industrial capacity to make us a competitive and reliable option here. It's an economic development opportunity and it's incredible jobs for people, and something that B.C. has to do.

KP: Can the future B.C. NDP expand its voter base with a return to a more openly democratic socialist platform, with a stronger green agenda, or are more centrist policies the Provincial NDP's preferred position, believing it's a strategic bulwark against the Conservatives?

Josie: I have always believed that the NDP is at its best when we are grounded in our values and that we're focused on making a real difference in people's lives. For me, and the reasons why I've chosen to run with the B.C. NDP, these values are straightforward. It's about fairness, equality of opportunity, strong public services, environmental stewardship, reconciliation, and ensuring that working people, average everyday people of this Province share in the prosperity of our Province. Those are our progressive values and I don't think we should ever shy away from them, and we should never apologize for them, but I'm also a practical person.

I believe strongly in the importance of being practical and getting things done, and I didn't enter politics because I wanted to spend a ton of my time debating ideological labels. For example, I came here because I really want to make positive changes for people in their lives, and to help protect the environment for future generations. Throughout my career, whether I was the Mayor of Tofino, or serving as a Provincial Minister, I have really found that the most enduring and lasting progress comes from bringing people together and building those partnerships and turning the values that we have and that we share into action.

We need to be ambitious, especially when it comes to the environment. Climate change and biodiversity loss are not abstract concerns, they affect our communities right now. At the same time, we need to bring workers and businesses and First Nations and resource communities along in the transition that we're experiencing as a society. I don't think that having a strong economy and having a fairer society are opposing objectives, and I'll always go to the mat to defend public healthcare, affordable housing, quality public education, and environmental protection, because these are planks that are fundamental to the kind of productive and healthy economy that we need to raise our families in.

I don't want to frame this or see this as a choice between being progressive and being electable. I am very alive to the democratic system that we have and the way that it operates, for good and for bad at times. I think our task will always be to be really ambitious in those values and be practical with solutions and then be held accountable for our results.

Here we are in an election

continued on p.15...

The Garden of the Vulture

Gabriel Jeroschewitz, September 30th, 2026

When the world finally concluded that the “end” was not an event but a sort of prolonged hangover, the sky became the color of battered lavender, and the atmosphere held the fragrance of charred sugar and ozone. Even the most hardened mortals would have questioned whether they were still living or only performing the act. I stood upon the balcony above the bare bones of The Sinners—a temple of rotting pews, abandoned factories, and flashing neon. The town’s outskirts were covered by a blackened forest known as the Schwarzwald—old oaks there chatted in tongues older than all of mankind had ever recorded. From above, I watched the end play out like a slow-motion ballet as I stood, a detached observer, pen suspended above a page already marked with ink that seemed to bleed on its own.

First, I did not see the mushroom cloud rising in the distance—a soft pastel cloud that resembled cotton candy more than an omen of the end—but rather the way the light shattered through it, forming prismatic shards that fell like confetti upon the remains of the fallen city. In the midst of that light I also saw the angels. Yes, I saw angels, but not the kind seen in Sunday school picture books. These angels were in fact pornographic. Made of molten moonlight, their bodies were shaped like flowing streams, wings like silk scarves laced with glitter, skin pulsing from within like circuitry along the path of their venous systems. Their eyes contained galaxies, and when they laughed—a noise like chimes played by a wind from heaven—light would trail from their eyes like tears, which would then evaporate on contact with stone.

The angels flew low over the blackened forest. In the midst of the forest, a pair of angels appeared, causing even the angels to pause in mid-flight.

There stood Mr. Death. He was made of midnight and obsidian. Silver horns, resembling a question mark, spiraled up from the tips of his head. Mr. Death wore a tuxedo made of night itself. Each seam in the garment beat with an assurance of inevitability. Next to Mr. Death stood Mrs. Death. Mrs. Death could stop a heart and start a riot at the same time. Her long eyelashes would brush the floor whenever she blinked. Each of her eyelashes was a black feather that appeared to drink in the darkness and then re-emit it as a soft purple glow. Mrs. Death’s fingernails were painted deep arterial red and arched, resembling claws capable of both ripping through silk and caressing skin. Mrs. Death wore six-inch stilettos made of shiny onyx. The heels of her stilettos tapped the forest floor in a pattern that seemed oddly like a heartbeat.

Out from the shadows came dwarves and elves. The dwarves had beards braided with small copper gears. The elves had hair braided like bark. All were drawn to the movement of Mr. and Mrs. Death. They moved in a macabre waltz that combined the elaborate footwork of a Viennese ball with the frenzied stomps of a pagan ceremony. The dwarves stomped, sending vibrations through the fungal systems along the forest floor, causing dormant fungi to glow phosphorescently in emerald and amethyst. The elves laughed like *continued on p.12...*



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...continued from p.11

the sound of air through silver bells.

Above the angel flight, the angels continued their flight. They ascended into the troposphere, then into the stratosphere, and eventually into space. In space, the angels did not disappear but instead became constellations. Each angel wing became a line of stars representing forgotten mathematical equations scattered throughout the universe. The quantum strings in the universe appeared to vibrate in tune with the angels as they ascended. For a brief moment, it seemed as if the cosmos itself warbled a serenade made of pure probability. The serenade was dedicated to the endless lives of vampires who had drunk the eternity of night and were now mirrored in the glittering surfaces of distant quasars.

Below the scorched earth, saints and sinners, people who had spent their lives compiling lists of each other's good and bad, found themselves mysteriously coming together. The nuclear autumn had removed the world of religious facades. All that remained was an urgent need to feel something real before the end. In the remains of an old opera house—now reduced to a bare steel-and-glass structure—a sinner in a leather jacket emblazoned with the logo of a dead corporation met a saint in a ragged cassock patched with pieces of a rebel flag. Neither spoke; instead, they reached out and touched. The touch caused a brief aurora that painted the remains of the opera house roof in ribbons of gold and green.

They started to dance. Not the movement of a liturgical ceremony, nor the movement of a mosh pit, but something in between. The dance seemed to be a confession set to music. Each spiral seemed to be a forgiveness, and each dip, a release from judgment. Others soon joined them. Ex-preachers shared a flask of moonshine with ex-bankers. Mercenaries taught children how to fold paper cranes from shredded propaganda. Nurses traded sutures for sarcastic remarks with anarchists who once dreamed of burning the very hospitals they now served.

There was still a sense of whimsy in the midst of the horror, lingering at the periphery of sight. A kid laughed from the remains of a playground. The

scent of singed wiring and roasted chestnuts mingled. A wolf's howl came from a distance, oddly like a minor-key version of a cradle song. Even the vultures, which had followed since the first sirens, seemed to adopt a more ceremonial demeanor. One particularly regal vulture, with its feathers the color of an oil slick, perched on a broken statue of Lady Justice. From the remains, the vulture plucked a shiny trinket. The trinket was a ruby-set locket. When opened, inside the pendant was a miniature portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Death. Mr. and Mrs. Death were caught mid-spin, and their grins were both wicked and soft.

At that moment I realized why the lyrics that had been playing through my head for weeks—"I'm picking up the shovel... I'm gonna build a garden and bury you in the ground... I'm the poison in the water, I'm the shadow in the show..."—did not seem threatening but instead seemed to be an invitation. This garden was not a grave but instead a greenhouse of possibilities. It was tended by hands that have both given and taken life. The poison was the memory of betrayal and transformed into fertilizer for unusual glowing plants. The shadow was not emptiness but the contrast against which the light became visible. These pornographic angels, the glittering Death couple, the dancing dwarves and elves, all existed within a world that had attempted to erase itself.

At the witching hour—although time had become a relative concept, now measured more in heartbeats than in seconds—I felt the need to write down the ridiculous beauty of this situation. My pen scratched on the paper, leaving behind symbols that did not resemble numbers or letters but instead resembled sigils that glowed when stared at too long. When I finally lifted my gaze, the sky had cleared enough for a single star to pierce through the cloud. That star shone in an understanding way, as if at some other place in some other version of this world a similar garden was being built, a similar vow was being made, and a similar vulture would emerge from the dirt, jewels formed from pain and ready to play its part in the next scene.

In the distance, the dwarves and elves broke into a jovial reel. Sparks were kicked from their feet and wafted into the air as glowing embers. Mr. Death tipped his hat to Mrs. Death, who responded by twitching her red nail. The resulting red flow spread through the air, causing

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 steady-fast 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!

...continued from p.12

the angels' wings to glow more brightly. Somewhere, a sinner and a saint shared a kiss that had the flavor of rebellion and forgiveness. Their lips touched amid the wreckage, and they made a vow that would outlast even the faintest echo of the nuclear wind.

In the end, amid the apocalypse, the fanciful prevailed. There was indeed horror—present within the cracked concrete, in the still streets, and in the constant presence of invisible particles—but it was covered in lace and glitter and absurdity. The observers (including myself) could only observe, document, and marvel at the transformation of fear into dance and destruction into a decadent and ever-flowering garden teeming with vultures adorned with jewelry made from pain and love, however unlikely, daring to blossom in the shadow of the mushroom cloud.



-Cupcakes to Leanna Pugsley and the Free Store team for all your hard work in making our Free Store a wonderful place! 

--To whomever dumped that filthy fetid urine soaked mattress on that pile of garbage across from the market, thanks a lot. What an unsightly mess! I'd give a cow pie if that place didn't already look like a cow pie.

-Cupcakes to Antoine Auger and crew for a great job with our problem trees. On time, fair price, and super nice guys. 

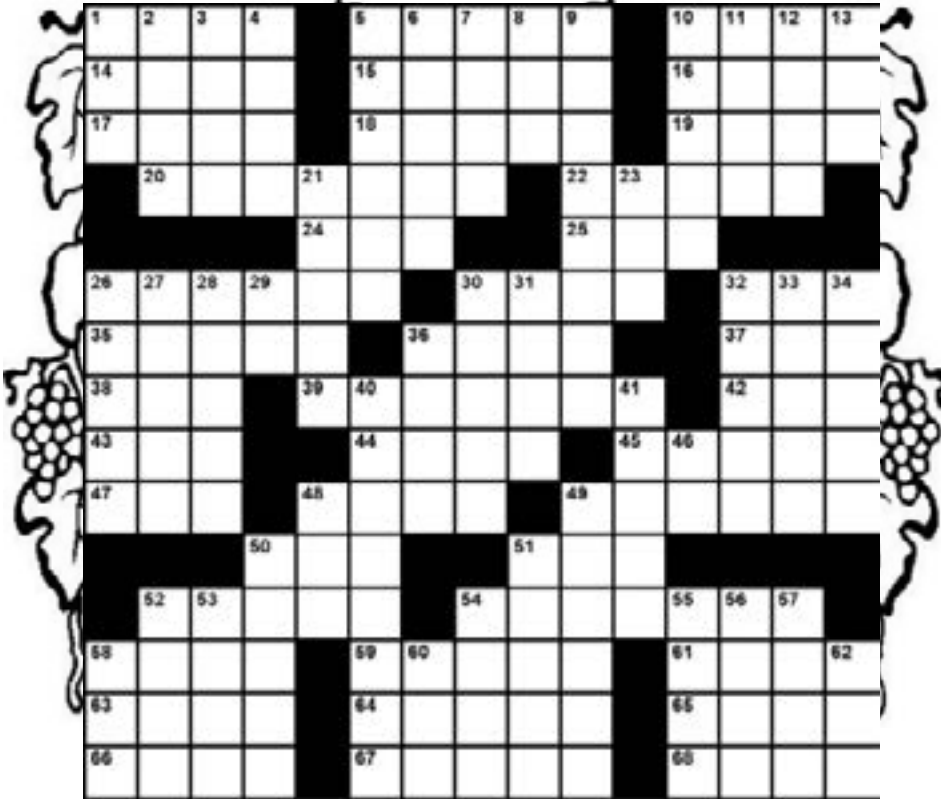
-Cow Pies to the people who parallel park in front of the store in the spaces next to the Post Office. It's crappy and inconsiderate. 

*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)*

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Batch
5. Au revoir
10. Floating ice sheet
14. Justice Black
15. Densest gas
16. Bit of humor
17. Bushy do
18. Correct, in a way
19. Ear related
20. Containing iron
22. Ala King
24. Bavarian peak
25. Apple color
26. Hair goo
30. Difficult matter
32. Break dance music
35. Perfume resin
36. Pet, for short
37. Historic time
38. Big whoop
39. Winter vehicle

42. An evergreen
43. Apply a patch
44. Galactic time period
45. Boost
47. Naval off
48. Preposition
49. Cold time
50. Kind of scout
51. Fri. follower
52. Habituate
54. Meantime
58. Battle memento
59. Indian monarch
61. Abbr. after a list
63. Frau's spouse
64. Kitchen tool
65. Complexion woe
66. Macdonald's partner
67. Winglike parts
68. Groovy, today

• DOWN •

1. Half a dance
2. Dennis the Menace's dog
3. Bugbear
4. Deserving
5. Depressed spot
6. Block, in a way
7. Caesar's bad time
8. 1 billion years
9. In Cousteau's realm
10. Norway bay
11. Currency of Lesotho
12. Depression migrant
13. Common Market abbr.
21. Diameter halves
23. Cry over a mouse
26. Nine-day-old veggies
27. Days of yore

28. Cat cries
29. Be
30. Group no-no
31. Calling company
32. Equip anew
33. Crop up
34. Kitchen device
36. Lamp unto my
40. Aussie city
41. Commonplace
46. Only
48. Belonging to us
49. Brimming
50. Groom a horse
51. Curl one's lip
52. Hit a puck too far
53. An ointment
54. Ancient empire
55. Bring in a crop
56. Craving
57. Supernatural power, in Polynesia
58. Common pronoun
60. Afflict
62. Allow to

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Issue's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ Australia's biggest export is Boomerangs. It's also their biggest import. ”



Thank you
Anonymous

• Last Issue's ANSWERS •

S	N	A	P		D	D	T		K	I	G	A	L	I
H	O	L	E		E	Y	E		A	N	A	D	E	M
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S	H	I	R	E	S				O	V	A			
P	O	M	O	N	A				N	A	Y			



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and this is the time to have that
conversation about accountability
and I want to keep building that
broad coalition of British Columbians
that we need, and we need under
the B.C. NDP to help keep moving
our Province forward. I don't think
that the NDP wins by trying to
become a slightly different version
of the Conservatives. We win by
demonstrating that progressive
governments can deliver better
lives for people and a healthier
environment.



• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

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Denman and Hornby Islands Animal Control

“Are you in favour of the Comox Valley Regional District Board adopting Bylaw No. 915 to amend the Denman and Hornby Islands Bylaw Enforcement Service to include the provision of animal control services?”

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Total number of votes cast:	853	348

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

22 Thur

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



23 Fri

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

24 Sat

• PROVINCIAL ELECTION DAY •

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

25 Sun

26 Mon

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

27 Tues

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC
- DICES AGM 4pm Denman Community School

28 Wed

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

29 Thur

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

30 Fri

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

31 Sat

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

1 Sun

- Guatemala: Land Defence, Coffee & Mayan Resistance 1-3:30pm Back Hall (See p.4)
- Soup Night 5-7pm The Gathering Place

2 Mon

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

3 Tues

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

4 Wed

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

5 Thur

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



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