

Denman Island Residents Association
Notice of Public Meeting

There will be a DIRA public meeting
in the back hall on
November 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm

DIRA Denman Island Residents Assoc.

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9 – 12 & 1 – 4:30
Saturday: 12 – 3
Sundays and Holidays: Closed

CONTENTS

ISSUE NO. 1759 NOVEMBER 12TH, 2026

SPECIAL INTEREST

2 Shucking Oysters: Battle Tanks to Toasters
By Alex Allen

3 REPAIR CAFES AND WORKSHOPS ON DENMAN ISLAND!
By Heather McLean

9 The Largely Unnecessary History of Mid Digit
By Dr. Thomas P. Hunterson

OPINION

7 Masters Of Our Destiny?
By Keith Porteous

8 The Kids are Having None of It
By Sally Campbell

11 The Powerful Re-Write The Past AND The Present
By Caitlin Johnstone

LITERARY

5 Her crown was made of dizzying spirals of gold
By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

10 **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

REGULAR FEATURES

3 Tide Tables
14 Gary's Toon
10 Cupcakes & Cow Pies
12 Crossword/ Sudoku/ Grumpism
13 Classified Ads
14 Business/Services Directory



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

Shucking Oysters: Battle Tanks to Toasters

By Alex Allen

With a bit of surprise Elon Musk announced that Tesla's Cybertruck will cease production next year. Instead, the company is ramping up production of its driver-less Cybercab vehicles. When Musk rolled out the controversial wedge-shaped stainless-steel monstrosity in 2019, as someone said, it was "a combination of jaw-dropping technical audacity and arrogance." No other vehicle in history has inspired such derision and odd devotion.

Matthew DeBord wrote on Slate, "with a road presence that strives for futuristic but comes off as obnoxious, it came to symbolize Musk's transformation from a climate-conscious champion of the left – the Cybertruck was, at least, an electric vehicle – to a MAGA-addled, chain saw-wielding, Trump-boosting agent of the right."

Musk explained to Automotive News: "I just wanted to make a futuristic battle tank – something that looks like it could come out of 'Blade Runner' or 'Aliens' or something like that but was also highly functional." He confusingly called it "a better sports car than a Porsche 911" and "a better truck than an F-150." It was hard to see who the Cybertruck was for. Contractors and farmers want a pickup that has towing capacity and durability, not the ability to go from 0 to 60 in under five seconds.

Kelley Blue Book estimated Tesla sold just 20,237 of the trucks last year, even though Musk said he'd make 250,000 Cybertrucks a year. Matt Sedensky wrote that if "the imposing, sharp-angled, dystopian appearance of the Cybertruck weren't enough to turn many potential buyers away, Musk did so himself by allying with a panoply of right-wing figures, most notably US President Donald Trump. He alienated some customers as his image morphed from eccentric innovator to polarizing force trading his billions for political influence." And we all remember the apologetic bumper stickers, "I bought this before Elon went crazy" and the Molotov cocktails hurled at Tesla vehicles.

Last Friday, Musk "fresh off a shellacking of the candidates he bankrolled in the midterms," posted that production would wind down to free up manufacturing capacity at Tesla's factory in Texas, for a gold-coloured self-driving toaster that has no pedals or steering wheel.

With his robotaxi, Musk is aggressively taking on Uber and Lyft. At a cost of just $30,000 USD, with targeted operating costs of 20 to 40 cents a mile, Musk aims to undercut both Alphabet's Waymo and Amazon's Zoox by a wide margin. This month the Cybercabs are available to book in downtown Austin, where ***continued on p.4...***

REPAIR CAFES AND WORKSHOPS ON DENMAN ISLAND!

By Heather McLean for DICAN

WANT TO LEARN HOW TO SHARPEN AND MAINTAIN YOUR CHAINSAW?

YOU ARE IN LUCK! A FREE WORKSHOP IS COMING YOUR WAY!

MARK THE DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 1 – 4 PM

IN THE DCA ROOM, UPSTAIRS IN THE OLD SCHOOL, 5191 DENMAN ROAD

This coming Sunday we are lucky to have James Watt, a former logger teach us how to sharpen our own chainsaws. Make sure you have the right size file for your particular chainsaw and bring them both to the workshop. If you don't have the right file, we will have one you can use.

Some of you already signed up at the "Love the Earth" event, hosted by Denman Island Climate Action Network (DICAN) on September 27th when we listened to a "Living Green" presentation by Bekka Kram from the David Suzuki Foundation.

There are still spaces for more participants and the more of us that know how to do this, the better!

After the 4th Annual Garden Tools Repair Café held in the spring, DICAN applied for and received a small grant from Denman Works, which has made it possible to expand our offerings. This summer Kassian Starchuk-Russell held a bicycle repair café while the market was happening. Many people brought their bikes to be looked at and fixed.

Before the next Garden Tool Repair Cafe we plan to offer a knife sharpening workshop, clothes mending café and a small appliance repair café, where fears can be overcome and simple repairs can be learned and accomplished. Oh, and a toy repair café for kids!

If you have an idea for a workshop, please let me know!

Heather McLean
DICAN member and
Repair Café Coordinator

heather.mclean3@gmail.com
250-335-9000



TIDE TABLE

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

2026-11-12 (Thu)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
02:01	0.8	2.9
09:46	4.7	15.6
15:10	3.7	12.4
18:37	4.0	13.3
2026-11-13 (Fri)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
02:33	1.0	3.4
10:27	4.7	15.5
16:14	3.8	12.5
18:56	3.9	12.8
2026-11-14 (Sat)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
03:07	1.2	4.0
11:10	4.6	15.3
17:54	3.7	12.3
18:59	3.7	12.3
2026-11-15 (Sun)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
03:43	1.4	4.6
11:55	4.6	15.2
2026-11-16 (Mon)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
04:25	1.6	5.4
12:39	4.6	15.1
2026-11-17 (Tue)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
05:16	1.8	6.2
13:21	4.5	15.0
21:03	3.0	10.0
23:54	3.1	10.3
2026-11-18 (Wed)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
06:16	2.1	7.1
13:57	4.5	14.9
21:20	2.7	8.8
2026-11-19 (Thu)		
Time PT	(m)	(ft)
01:57	3.2	10.6
07:23	2.4	8.0
14:29	4.5	14.8
21:45	2.2	7.5

...continued from p.2

Musk sometimes resides.

Visually, the golden model looks sleeker than previous Teslas. Even the wheels are completely covered by a gold panel. Instead of gold, however, the interior is in matte



beige and black. On the 21" screen passengers can log into Spotify, YouTube, or Netflix and watch movies and shows during the ride.

There are concerns. The Cybercab can only be controlled via app and screen, even in an emergency. So what happens if the screen shatters in a fire, or the entire electronics system fails, leaving the taxi movable only by crane? Jan Klauth went for ride, and noted that the "golden robot" is far from being user-friendly. When Klauth confirmed his ride, the app showed a wait time of 40 to 50 minutes. An hour and a half later, it showed 30 to 40 minutes. Then suddenly a message popped up: the taxi will be there in 12 minutes.

Another issue Klauth noted, that because the doors swing open like butterfly wings, they can't park just anywhere, "it's still a three-minute walk to my actual destination." Anyone with heavy luggage or limited mobility can't count on being picked up or dropped off exactly where they want, and will have to make do with somewhere in the general vicinity.

If Tesla's robotaxis are to become competitive with Uber, Lyft and the rest of the gang, the biggest weakness is that the self-driving cars don't go on highways. In the few cities where the robotaxis currently operate in Texas, the network is limited to the downtown core. A trip to an airport, for instance, which would require using highways, is not currently possible.

This is the early phase, however, so route coverage could expand significantly within a few years. Further, Klauth wrote, "the real trial by fire still lies ahead: at 30 mph, the Cybercab may navigate city traffic safely, backed by plenty of collected data. But how the car performs at highway speeds above 70 mph, on multi-lane roads, is something Tesla has yet to prove."

According to market leader Waymo, roughly 4,000 fully driver-less robotaxis are operating in the US today. Uber and Lyft alone are estimated to have over a million drivers. Add to that almost 450,000 taxi, shuttle, and chauffeur drivers, that puts the market share at less than 2%. Autonomous driving is a definite bet on the future. In the meantime, what happens if a driver-less car gets into a minor fender bender? Scream at the non-driving backseat passenger? Yell at the screen?



Her crown was made of dizzying spirals of gold

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz, October 17th, 2026, inspired and dedicated to Lewis Carroll, this wonderful book, Alice in Wonderland, I'd also like to dedicate to Leslee Richards

I am the silent eye, the watchful echo, haunting the penumbra of Christ Church's back room. The air coagulates—ink blot, tobacco fog, a phantom trace of lavender ungloving from a vanished hand. The clock's hands, conspiratorial, splay and jitter in the longcase; the stained glass drips light at precisely four-past-three, or perhaps at the hour of never. What passes before me is not history but hallucination: a fever-dream looping Möbius wise through the skull of a man whose sanity is a coat he cannot quite shrug on or off.

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson to the world, better known as Lewis Carroll. A fidgety author of looking-glass worlds. As Carroll moved through his study, he felt like master of all the other worlds. Despite his round spectacles, his eyes constantly searched for the small portrait of a blonde braid tucked behind a small girl's ear. This was the Alice he often referred to. It was not love for Alice that had attached to his thoughts like the Jabberwocky but an obsession.

The White Rabbit appeared first. He appeared as if he were a waistcoat and the clock's chiming. His ears also appeared to register the beating of Dodgson's heart. "Sir, the tea has gone cold!" he cried in a child's voice that seemed to return from his nurseries. Carroll stopped, registered the rabbit's presence, and smiled. The beam was a mix of madness and regret. "My dear Rabbit, time is a very poor guest. It arrives without warning but leaves without leaving." He then took the teacup, inhaled the steam, and returned it to the table, leaving it untouched. The Rabbit then leapt onto the study desk and began clearing up the spread papers. The Rabbit appeared to be appeasing some creature inside the shadows.

This creature was the Jabberwocky but not a creature of bramble and gyre. Instead it was a projection of Carroll's fears. It had shining teeth and coal-black eyes that glistened with regret, and a body of tangled thoughts that plagued Carroll when he needed reason. Every time Carroll wrote, the Jabberwocky slid along the base of the bookcase. The animal's scales would throw the gas lamp's shine. The Jabberwocky then exhaled a breath that seemed like a chuckle. "You can never escape me," it appeared to say, but no mouth was in the air to form the words. Carroll's hands twitched, then he placed them in the same position, as if a cold hand restrained his wrist.

Out of the corner of the study appeared a streak of blue and grey smoke that formed the shape of a question and then faded. From this smoke emerged the Hookah-smoking Caterpillar. Many legs were tucked like a monk in meditation, and his eyes were half closed behind a layer of nicotine and poppy resin. "Who…are…you?" he asked slowly, as if each syllable required time to be consumed before being released. Carroll was about to write a verse about the snark, but he stopped. "I am a man who loves a girl that does not exist." This statement from Carroll was only heard by the Caterpillar and the Jabberwocky, as Carroll's voice seemed somewhat muffled. "Then you must learn to speak in the language of the looking-glass. For nonsense is the only logic that does not bite."

Out of nowhere arrived the Red Queen in deep red silk. Her crown was made of dizzying spirals of gold that appeared to match the beating of Carroll's heart. The Red Queen entered the study with stormy grace. She looked around the portraits and scattered sheets, and the Rabbit and Caterpillar that had been idly contemplating the study then finally fixed their eyes on Carroll. She looked at him with the power to melt iron. "Mr. Dodgson, I have kept you waiting." She said in a regal tone yet there was a trace of amusement in her voice. Carroll's Alice was sweet, but the Red Queen knew that queens do not share thrones with fleeting whims. She then calmly walked to the edge of the floor and placed a covered hand upon his shoulder. "Tell me, do you fear the Jabberwocky more than you fear the loss of your imagination?"

Carroll took a sharp breath. The taste of tea and terror seemed to mix on his tongue. "I fear the loss of my White Rabbit is to fear what really makes me me."

The Red Queen smiled. The smile was both playful and kind. "Perhaps therefore the rabbit will show you into the wood. There the Jabberwocky cannot follow. For it feeds on the stagnation of reason." The Red Queen then turned from him. Her cape swept the room as she then disappeared as quickly as she had arrived. Only a hint of roses remained in the study. An indication that something within the study had shifted, however only by a slight amount.

The White Rabbit climbed onto a heap of papers and looked up at the author. The Rabbit appeared to be concerned but also mischievous. "Sir, if I may be so bold, I think that your heart beats faster in the presence of the Red Queen ***continued on p.6...***

...continued from p.5

than in the presence of Alice." Carroll stopped in surprise as a flutter of excitement shot through his body whenever he saw the Red Queen. There was a mix of admiration and a desire to court such power. The Caterpillar then exhaled another ring of smoke. This time the smoke formed the shape of a heart. "Love," said the caterpillar. "Love is the most nonsensical of all logics. It defies the teeth of the Jabberwocky but feeds on them." The Caterpillar then tipped his imaginary hat, and the smoke then vanished, leaving only a gentle shimmer on the desk, much like frost on a windowpane where breath meets the cold.

The study within Christ Church grew dark. The gas lamps flickered low. The Jabberwocky had sensed the change in the air and retreated to the darkest part behind the armoire. The creature became less apparent and more like a shadow that could be mistaken for a coat on the rack. However, Carroll, having the support of the Red Queen and the Caterpillar, then took his pen and began to write. However, instead of writing about logic or tea, he wrote instead about a girl who chases a rabbit through a forest of flowers. She then meets a monster of her own fears and finally stands before a queen who gives her a crown without jewels. I, the Observer, watched as the pen passed across the page. Every stroke of the pen seemed to represent a battle, and every flourish seemed to represent a laugh. The White Rabbit clapped his tiny hands upon this. The Caterpillar exhaled his last plume of smoke that formed the shape of the word BRAVE. The Red Queen, although invisible, seemed to smile in quiet. The Red Queen represented a warm pressure upon the chest of Carroll and a sign that passion not yet untamed was worthy of respect.

Eventually the candle flickered and went out, leaving the study in the soft light of the moon. The Jabberwocky had disappeared. Perhaps it was merely dormant until an opportunity for uncertainty again presents itself. Carroll closed his notebook and slumped back. He sighed. This was a mix of both relief and exhaustion, but perhaps also a small measure of satisfaction that he had walked along the razor edge between reason and dream. The difference between the austerity of a Victorian world and the wondrous things that lay behind the looking-glass.

I, the Observer, then stood up from my chair and tipped my imaginary hat to the empty room and then left the study within Christ Church into the hallways. A sound of laughter floated through the room. This laughter appeared to be darkly bright and yet completely human. The story of Lewis Carroll and Alice was more than desire. Instead, it was a grotesque yet tender and comic ballet. It was a scary romantic comedy in which the Jabberwocky snarled at the edges, the White Rabbit was concerned with time and punctuality, the Caterpillar gave wise words of smoke-laden advice, and the Red Queen stated that a queen's heart, although mighty, could also beat in time with a dreamer's.

In between the pulses of reality and the nonsense lay the true Wonderland that murmured its truth. That Wonderland does not lie beyond the looking glass but rather within the courage to face one's own monsters, the passion for love, and the ability to laugh even when that laugh trembles on the edge of a scream.

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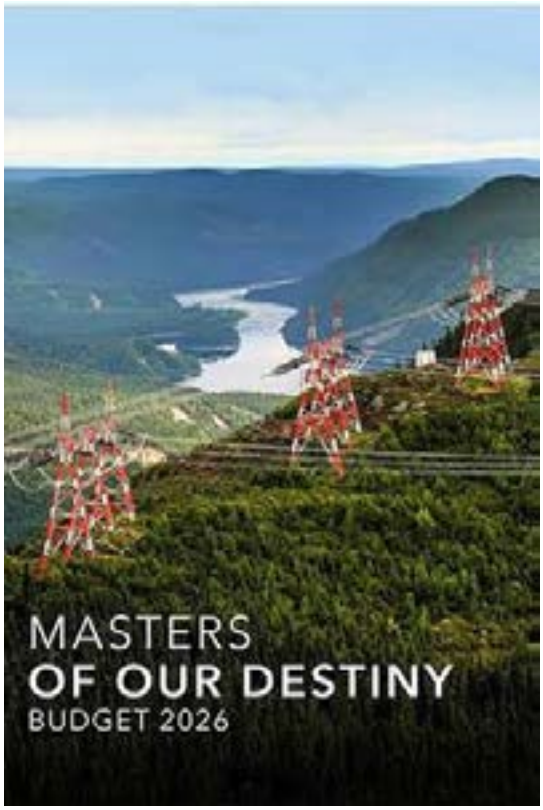
Masters Of Our Destiny?

By Keith Porteous

Two thirds of the new spending in PM Mark Carney's recently published Federal budget is earmarked for corporate tax cuts, "mega-deductions", and other incentives for mostly foreign owned corporate investors. That amount represents a sum that is greater than all the transfers to Provinces for public healthcare combined. The cuts to public services while quadrupling the military's budget tells you everything you need to know about the governing Liberals.

Canada is now more of a branch plant subsidiary of global capital than ever. Much of this tax funded borrowing and spending is to support a military industrial complex that fuels endless wars and the climate crisis. We are warned of the threat of authoritarianism and the rupture in "the rules based international order", but when a government's nationalist rhetoric and increasing peacetime militarism is merged with the private sector corporatists, Mussolini had a name for it: Fascism.



Meanwhile, Carney is striking deals with the dictatorships of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the other Gulf States, while supporting wars of aggression against Iran, Gaza, Venezuela, Cuba, Lebanon, Sudan, and elsewhere, aided by a compliant corporate media, and all falsely in the name of human rights and democracy, while spreading fear of the "threats" coming from the Eastern powers of the global north. The Orwellian narrative is no longer just a allegorical fiction.

Most governments of the European Union and the UK enjoy less than 20% support from their citizens, who want no part of the war with Russia or Iran or China or anyone else. But Carney is cozying up to these warmongering European leaders who are all facing elections they are sure to lose to ethnonationalist parties in the next 18 months. 100s of thousands of Europeans are protesting in the streets, while Mark Carney is leading Canadians down the Primrose Path of environmental degradation, militarism and endless wars, and austerity for the working classes.

Diplomacy and peacemaking are never mentioned, and at best, the cost of living crisis for working people and the environment receives lip service. The talk of becoming an "Energy Superpower" and a leader in Ai and surveillance technology contrasts Carney's previous writings about his "values", the climate crisis, and the need for reconciliation with indigenous people, while Trump's absurd rhetoric is weaponized to justify the cruel irony of Carney's current agenda.

Sadly, the professional managerial class and most well-heeled Canadian retirees buy into the justifications of Carneyism, the fear mongering and warmongering, in the most self-serving compliance with these extraordinary measures taken by the Liberal government. 40% of Canadians now skip some meals, as their ability to afford the basics of life becomes less and less. Intelligent people have been led to believe that Carney is needed to save us all from our "enemies".

This latest Canadian Federal Budget is ominously titled, "Masters Of Our Destiny." Who are these masters, and which destiny are they referring to? The masters of the globalist World Economic Forum that promises us that in the near future we will own nothing and we'll be happy, while receiving a digital chip implanted under our skin? I wish it was an exaggeration, but that is the vision we are offered from the WEF, and the warlords of techno-feudalism.

It's time to resist and reject these would be "masters", and take hold of our own destinies.

The Kids are Having None of It

By Sally Campbell

This title is from Frazey Ford's wonderful 2020 album, *U Kin B the Sun*:
"The kids are having none of it.
They can't be bought; they can't be taught your hate".

Thankfully, we saw the expression of that idea in the recent US midterms, where the vote was about a lot more than the price of gas. It was also about the Iran war, genocide in Gaza, corruption, AI data centres, ICE, hyper surveillance, gerrymandering electoral districts, hate messaging and racism, health care for all, plus much more. Hispanic Americans and Black Americans came out in droves, traditionally conservative Texans completely flipped their state. As Naomi Klein stated, in a well-worth-watching analysis of the elections with Astra Taylor and Keeanga Yamahtta-Taylor, the election results are, among other things, a major repudiation of Trump and his agenda. ("On the Brink: The Meaning of the Midterms", Haymarket Books, 5 November, 2026, on Youtube.)

Klein and colleagues make clear that this is a time of fundamental transition and there is a lot more work to do. There will of course be a pushback from the pummelled right, as opportunists rush to distance themselves from Trump. Observers will see a lot more use by Trump of the veto. As Klein says, people like the dangerous Marco Rubio will promise a gentler form of fascism. Speaking of fascism, I've been reading the works of exiled journalist Ece Temelkuran lately. In her book, *How to Lose a Country,* she offers many insights into the insidious growth (and acceptance) of fascism in many countries, not just her own nation of Turkiye.

We have seen many indicators of fascism in the US, made more possible by the extreme concentration of power in the executive branch of government that occurred during the Bush/Cheney/Rumsfeld years in the early 2,000's. Temelkuran is a journalist who had to leave her country ten years ago because of her criticism of Erdogan and his government. She uses that hardship to explore the sense of millions of people in our world today of being "unhomed" whether by reason of migration, forced exile, being made a refugee, or being rendered homeless by reason of poverty or politics.

Many no longer feel at home in their birthplace; they don't recognize the country they grew up in. Significant numbers of these "unhomed" in the US came out and took a stand last week. For this, we can be grateful, and hope to eventually restore our historic friendship with the US through a genuine embrace of the values of interconnectedness and "neighbourliness." As Klein and company make clear, though, progressives everywhere need to keep the pressure up. We need to take a strong stand for shared humanity, for community and affordability, for equality and freedom for everyone, not just the privileged few. We are not going to find our way to peaceful coexistence on our tiny planet through increased militarism and fast-tracking resource extraction. And how can we in Canada participate in this major transition as progressive world citizens, rather than by government initiatives that reflect fear-based defensiveness?

FREE WORKSHOP

CYBERSAFE SENIORS:

Preventing AI Fraud and Scams

NOVEMBER 18th | 1:30-3:00PM
DENMAN ISLAND ACTIVITY CENTRE



This workshop, presented by MediaSmarts, equips older adults with the skills to stay safe in an age of increasingly sophisticated scams.

Through practical, easy-to-follow guidance, you'll learn how to spot AI-powered fraud tactics—like voice cloning, deepfakes and impersonation scams—and build the confidence to respond safely and protect yourself online.

Media Smarts
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The Largely Unnecessary History of Mid Digit

By Dr. Thomas P. Hunterson

**Satire

In the winter of 1979, when arena rockers still wore scarves indoors, four young musicians from Surrey, B.C. decided that something had to change. They called themselves The Front.

The Front would go on to become a college radio band that almost nobody outside of B.C. has heard of, a hallmark of their misunderstood genius. The original lineup was led by current Denman Island resident Mid Digit, as vocalist, guitarist, and primary songwriter. The Front's members shared a vision of artistic integrity and the necessity of looking English. They wanted to dismantle capitalism through three-minute pop songs, but a compromise was reached where they would simply pretend they were from England.

In 1979, The Front released its debut EP, "A Diagnosis of Ordinary Existence", recorded in one afternoon, attracting attention from a local college station whose listeners suspected that The Front were a local group, and not the English synth-pop outfit they were pretending to be. The band's label Pretentious Records had a philosophy of releasing records by bands that no one had heard of, then complaining that major labels weren't interested.

In 1980, The Front released its first full-length album, Medicated Anxiety. The album represented an artistic departure from the band's earlier work. Gone was much of the raw exuberance, and in its place came even more synthesizers, a romantic pessimism, and a growing fascination with the possibility that modern civilization might be suitable for their musical grifts. The record received local airplay, but sales remained mostly non-existent. This was generally interpreted as evidence that the public was not yet ready for Mid Digit's songwriting brilliance.

Frustrated by the limitations of the recording industry, a cocaine-fueled Mid Digit established his own label, Absence of Pretence Records. Its first release was The Front's album "Desperate For Success", featuring a single that was banned for its racist title. The banning of the song with the offending title was meaningful because it demonstrated that the band could achieve recognition without compromising its independence.

The Front's next album, "Plummeting Towards Rehab" was released in 1983. Produced by the celebrated British producer Nigel Pithe-Greystone, the album represented The Front's artistic culmination. The sound was expansive, and occasionally indistinguishable from an expensive cocaine binge in a recording studio. Mid Digit was the only remaining member of The Front's original lineup, and the album contained what became his signature song, "Forgetting The Past."

The video for "Forgetting The Past" was an ambitious production featuring atmospheric lighting, and several people walking purposefully without appearing to have anywhere to go. It received some attention on Canadian television, and for a brief period, The Front appeared poised for mainstream recognition. The band opened for a few international touring acts, while failing to cultivate much of a following of their own. By 1985, Mid Digit was exhausted, primarily from his addiction to cocaine.

His time with The Front and drug use had taken their toll on Digit when The Front had begun work on a fourth album, provisionally titled Binge, but the project was abandoned. There was no public falling-out, and no final performance. The music industry moved on, as it tends to do when nobody is paying attention. In the decades following The Front's dissolution, Mid Digit acquired something that had eluded him during his active years, as his underground celebrity had become mythological. Memorabilia was posted to Facebook, and a retrospective compilation record was considered, with the working title, "A Long Time Ago."

Mid Digit had moved on to a career as a producer, working with artists whose careers mirrored The Front's lack of artistic or commercial success. The Front's existence had been relatively brief, but history has been kind, where today Mid Digit is remembered as a pioneering musical force from a Canadian new-wave outfit whose influence can't be detected. This may be the ultimate measure of artistic achievement of never inconveniencing entire generations with the burden of actually listening to your records.

THE ISLANDS Grapevine
EST. 1991
HORNBY ISLAND & DENMAN ISLAND
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



- Cupcakes to the volunteers who got out their chainsaws and helped clear our roads so people could get out after the storm.

- Some very moist and tasty Cupcakes to our ferry workers, through the wind and the rain. Stay warm and dry comrades!

- Cupcakes to Arlene at Hornby Denman Freight.. she has put up with me changing the date of my delivery several times With no complaints and cheerful, helpful attitude... She is very flexible and provides a great service at reasonable rates

- Cupcake to Mike Lindsay for all of the good things he does. If it's broken Mike knows how to fix it. An all around good guy.

- Cowpie to the dope that parked the giant work truck downtown for two hours with six feet of sharp metal protruding from the back and hanging out into the roadway. And yep, no red flag.

- Major Cowpie to the person who uses the bathroom at the ferry and doesn't flush the toilet. Absolutely disgusting. Whatever you've been eating you need to stop. And maybe get some fiber in your diet.

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)

Letters to the Editor

November 9, 2026

Dear Islands Grapevine Editor,

Open letter to Local Trustees Borthwick and Ross:

Premier Doerksen has promised to rescind Bill 44 because there is no matching infrastructure to facilitate drastic increases in population. Bill 44 forces all local governments (including the Trust) to update their housing bylaws to grow their capacity to provide more housing. Bill 44 is a direct conflict with the reason the Trust was created which was- to put place **before** people.

With a 27% population increase on gulf islands since 2020 compared to a 7.6% increase elsewhere in BC, the last thing these special places needed is a direct generic order to **supersize** our carrying capacity. The trouble is, we do not know what our carrying capacity is because according to Trust staff- it would be expensive and time consuming to find out! So now with the addition of secondary suites being allowed (which are not even factored in as a unit of density) on all R2, A and F zones as well as permitting alternative dwelling options such as Recreation Vehicles, the madness continues. Cluster housing, tiny villages etc. also threaten to turn quiet, rural neighbourhoods into urban sprawl!

This would be the ultimate nightmare for anyone who had been dreaming and saving for years for a small piece of quiet, rustic country life on a small gulf island to realize that your neighbour has applied for a zoning change for cluster housing. Now instead of two neighbours, you have a dozen or more people next door! At that point because you are opposed to the drastic changes to your neighbourhood and conflict with your neighbour, you have no choice but to sell (at a loss) and leave. Is this really where we are going?

Edi Johnston
Denman resident

The Powerful Re-Write The Past AND The Present

By Caitlin Johnstone
November 8th, 2026

It is said that history is written by the victors, but what's interesting is that this is also true of the ***present*** story. Those who are winning the capitalism game get to set the narrative about what is currently happening in our world.

If you succeed in dominating the humans you share a planet with using our current socioeconomic systems of labor exploitation and resource extraction, then you get to buy up politicians, media outlets, online platforms and influence operations which allow you to determine the mainstream narratives about what's going on in our world, in the same way the victorious armies of the past often had the power to shape the historical record in their favor.

The present is therefore written by the victors.

Those who've landed at the top of the heap have the power to circulate narratives which normalize the abusive system they benefit from, and to scare the public away from seeking to implement other systems of power distribution and resource allocation.



They have the power to shape public perception of world events, to reverse victim and perpetrator in their narratives about international conflicts, and to frame the western empire as a passive witness to the terrible things that are happening around the world rather than the primary driver of those horrors.

They have the power to determine which protest movements, mass atrocities and scandals receive widespread attention in our society, and which get conveniently overlooked.

They have the power to determine which political parties are taken seriously, and which parties are considered unrealistic vanity projects which steal votes from the viable candidates.

They have the power to make or break careers in media or politics, to choose which figures are elevated to celebrity status or marginalized to the fringes, and to fabricate antisemitism scandals out of thin air.

Power is the ability to control what happens. Absolute power is the ability to control what people THINK about what happens. Those who are winning the capitalism game are able to exert absolute power over our society.

The real source of power in our world is not money, nor resources, nor armies, nor weapons. The real source of power in our world is narrative, and the ability to control it.

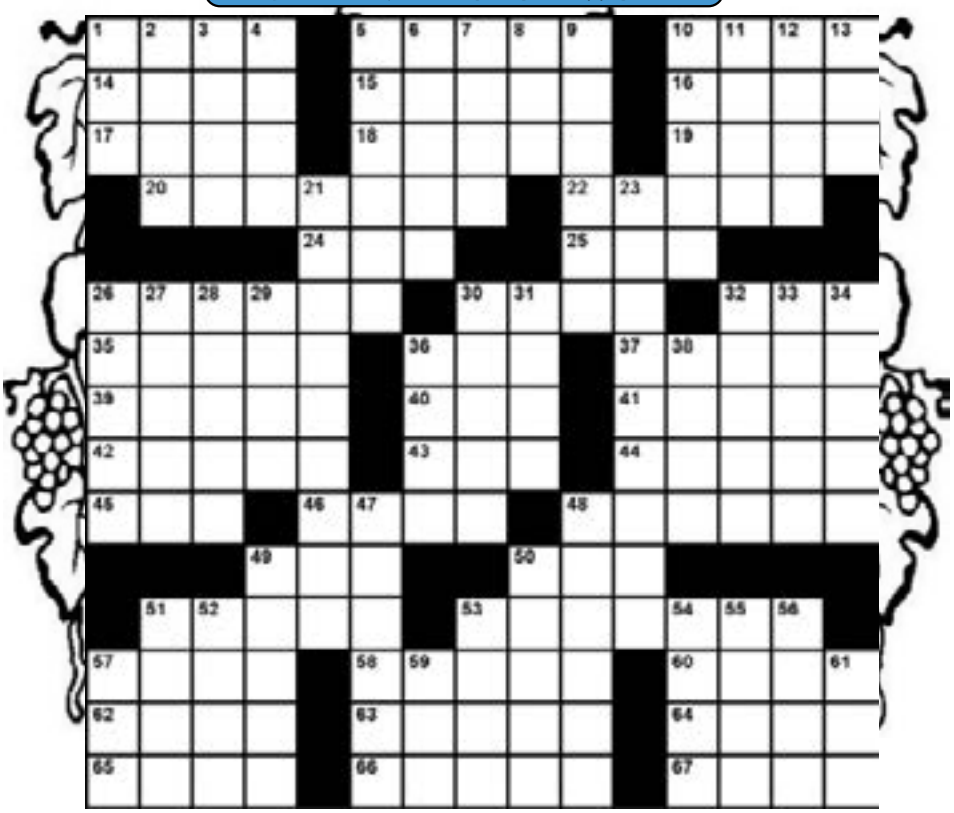
Narrative is the only thing that determines what governments look like, how power works, how money operates, what laws there are, and why nations operate the way they do. They're all completely made-up guidelines made of words which we have all collectively agreed to pretend are true. The only reason anything works the way it works is because enough of us believe the shared narratives saying it is so. It is our collective belief which gives those narratives their power.

That's why our rulers pour so much energy into controlling the narrative. That's what you're seeing with all the news media consolidation, the centralization of internet activity into a handful of trillionaire apps, the aggressive artificial intelligence push, and the efforts to stomp out dissident speech throughout the western world. It's because the powerful understand something most of us do not: that their power comes entirely from narrative. They know that as soon as enough of us stop believing their narratives, we are free.

We can decide to re-write the made-up rules of society whenever we choose to, and change everything about states, authority, money and labor which have allowed the plutocrats to live like kings at the expense of everyone else. We can stop playing the capitalism game they've been winning at any time, because the rules are completely made up, and we can just make up a different game.

As soon as enough people stop believing the stories of the dominant storytellers, we can use the power of our numbers to force the creation of a healthy world.

• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• *ACROSS* •

1. Assess
5. Cymbal sound
10. Gee's kin
14. Bolster up
15. Bane of pool owners
16. Capable of
17. French Sudan, now
18. Board
19. Evil grin
20. Ohioan
22. Dramatize
24. Archaic
25. 18-wheeler
26. Identifying documents
30. Fresh air foiler
32. Actor O'Brien
35. Dwelling
36. Barely manage
37. Shake a leg
39. Sub arctic forest
40. Be the victor
41. Boy scout unit
42. City in W. Germany
43. Australian runner
44. Back comb
45. Born as
46. Star Trek speed factor
48. Partial
49. Droop
50. Amount of money
51. Dried coconut meat
53. Smarty pants
57. Sullen
58. Humid
60. Opinion page, briefly
62. Days of old
63. Hearing related
64. Decorated metalwork
65. Alternative word
66. Engraved pillar
67. Exclusively

• *DOWN* •

1. 45 or 78, e.g.
2. Bedouin tribesman
3. Fragrant gum
4. Big story
5. Caravan animals
6. Bridges of Hollywood
7. Feverish situation
8. Bernardino beginner
9. Different, pref
10. Soviet labor camp
11. Cartel since 1961
12. Cancel a dele
13. 90 degrees from vert.
21. 1950s Asian conflict
23. Dark
26. Church plates
27. Humble
28. Aplomb
29. Apply rickrack
30. Cut corners
31. Cafe card
32. Malay canoes
33. Came up
34. Keyed in data
36. Big pitcher
38. Plastic ingredient
47. Colorful lizards
48. Move busily
49. Joyride
50. Fiber for rope
51. Beatnik's all right
52. Not his and hers
53. Cablegram
54. Be present at
55. Current with
56. Cry out
57. Change the locks
59. Alibi
61. Susan of L.A. Law



• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Issue's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM



"What do you call a shellfish that thinks only about itself? A selfish shellfish."

Thank you
Yvan THERIAULT

• Last Issue's ANSWERS •

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

• CLASSIFIEDS •

• SERVICES •

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

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

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

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

• FOR SALE •

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

WAGNER FIREWOOD. 2 cords to Denman, $720 plus GST. Hornby, $760 plus GST. Text or call Scott at: 250-334-7323

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

• FREEBIES •

Free : 20' fifth wheel camper; storage. No leaks.18' flat bed trailer;
hauling. 335-2040.

• WANTED •

Looking for 'Gourmet by Sally Rae' cookbooks, 'For the Love of Food'... will pay $10 for books in new or gently used condition. Please call 250-335-2099

• COMMUNITY NOTICES •

MOVING/ESTATE SALE ... FREE furniture; sofas, coffee, tables, oak dining room set, wooden queen platform bed, desks ... plus items to sell -10" mitre saw, chicken house, pool table, much more November 14th @8900 Keith Wagner 10-2pm

MOVING/ESTATE SALE
NOVEMBER 14 FROM 10-3
3296 DENMAN ROAD
FURNITURE,POWER & GARDEN TOOLS,HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.
CASH ONLY

NEED HELP?
Alcoholics Anonymous
250-338-8042

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

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 stead- 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!

• BUSINESS DIRECTORY •

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

• REAL ESTATE • INSURANCE • FINANCIAL SERVICES •

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

• BUILDING • CONSTRUCTION •

• Excavator/Backhoe/Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer
Kenny Mather 250•703•6512 (All) John Isbister 250•335•2565 (D)
• Tandem Gravel Truck & Transfer Trailer Lora Mercieca 250•650•9986 (D/H)
• Wicked Shovel Excavating & Landscaping Doug Schmidt 250•222•8076 (ALL)
• Ray Ulovec Excavator/Backhoe, ROWP Septic Installer, Land clearing, ponds, site prep. 250•335•3145 (D/H)
• DB Excavations 250•465•1889 dbexcavations@gmail.com (D)
• Beech & Cedar Homes - construction, renovation & carpentry (D&H) 250•410•5154
• Black Wulf Timber L.T.D - New Construction,Renos, Excavation, Custom carpentry/Finishing. Fully licenced/insured 250•327•4953

• SERVICES •

• Peter T. Mason Land Surveying 250757•8788 (All)
• Able & Ready Septic Pumping Service 250•338•8822 (D/H)
• Bottled Water Delivery DenmanWater.ca 250•228•7161 (D)
• True View Tree Care Wild Bill - Senior's Discount Serving Denman 19 years 250•898•7246
• Beech & Cedar Homes lawn, landscaping, gutter cleaning & proper maintenance (D&H) 250•410•5154
• Chocolate Chicken Farm Tractor Services - Ditch/Brush/Field Mowing, tilling field prep, road grooming , loader work. Insured 250•702•5933
• House Pros Exterior cleaning service, chimneys, windows etc. 250•465•8645 (Insured)

• HEALTH & WELLNESS •

• Spectra Health Physiotherapy & Therapy Acupuncture & Traditional Chinese Medicine, Osteopathy (D/H) www.spectrahealth.net or 250•335•2260
• Massage Clinic 2796 Northwest Rd Leyah Kelly 250•335•2584 (D)
• Acupuncture Jenny McCartney, R.Ac 250•508•8160 www.heartwoodacupuncture.ca (D)



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• Custom Audio
• Custom Video
• Custom Fiberglass
• Custom Panels
• 12volt/110volt Inverters
Jason Rasmussen
Call or text 250-504-1833
New home builds or renovations, small or large projects
Servicing Denman & Hornby Islands
• FREE QUOTES •
HOME
• Backup Generator Systems
• Custom Home Audio
• Custom Home Video
• Custom Drywall Services
• Custom Taping Services
• Custom Lighting

FORTNIGHT EVENTS

12 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

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

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

15 Sun
• DICAN Repair Café/Chainsaw Sharpening 1-4pm DCA Room @ Denman Old School

16 Mon
• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
• Open Mic Night 7pm Hornby Arts Centre
• DILTC Electronic Zoom Meeting 10am

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

18 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
• DIGS Meeting 1-3pm The Gathering Place
• DAAC Open Mic 7:30pm Back Hall
• CyberSafe Seniors Workshop 1:30-3pm DAC

19 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

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

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

22 Sun

23 Mon
• Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
• AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
• Open Mic Night 7pm Hornby Arts Centre
• DIRA Public Meeting 7pm Back Hall

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

25 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
• Planning Palliative/Hospice Care w. Dr Bev Spring 1-3pm Hornby Communtiy Hall

26 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

