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**December 2021 First Edition**

**HICEEC REPORT - YEAR IN REVIEW**

**A time for thanks**

Heartfelt thanks for the tireless work of community volunteers for the HICEEC Board.

To new blood on the HICEEC Board: Donna Tuele and Rudy Rogalsky.

And to those that finished their commitments: Bee Wolf Ray, Jeff Zamluk, and Peter Wardle.

Gratitude is also extended to members of the HICEEC project contributors:

* The Bus Steering Committee: Al Dickie, Alex Ortwein, Arne Olafson, Daisy, Daniel Arbour, Garth Millan, Hilary Wood McDonnell, John Heinegg, John Nemy, Peter Mills, Ray Therrien, Scott Towson, Sheila McDonnell and Stu Brown.

And project adjuncts: Doug Nixon, Edward Kooij, Goya Ngan, Henry Touwslager, Jane Talbot, Jodi Snidjers, Matt Dickie, Michelle Easterly, Paul Ackerson, and Sam Elder

* The “Sea Dogs”, advisors for ferry matters: Brian Pannell, Harry Fearman, Pete Kimmerly, and Ron Tuele
* [www.HornbyDenmanInternet.com](http://www.HornbyDenmanInternet.com): John Grayson, Karen Ross, Peter Spurr, John Wigle, Daniel Arbour, and so many others

**Year in Review**

* Completed 6 years of working for improved island internet, through partnerships with Denman Island Ratepayers, the CVRD, Strathcona Regional District and City West Telecom, resulting in a successful application for a Provincial grant of $5.64 million towards fibre optic “last mile” service on Denman and Hornby Islands.
* “Find Your Way” rebranding and relaunch of the hornbyisland.com website
* Redesign on the hiceec.org website
* Established “the sea dogs” feedback channel for ferry issues
* Successfully operated the Hornby Community Bus and infrastructure
* Application for the National Safety Code certification for the community bus
* Joined the B.C. Coalition of Community Buses
* Working for Affordable Housing and initialized the Hornby Housing Network
* Initiated in 2019, completed the submission of the MRDT application, a.k.a. “pillow tax”, which directs tourism money to benefit the community
* Securing a five-year tenure for a new office, after two moves during the year
* Obtained grant funding to establish a temporary visitor education staff position
* MicroLoan program, one loan retired, one new one issued

**Community Grants**

HICEEC was pleased to award three grants this past year. First, to Hornby Water, $750. towards the new educational sign at the Firehall. Second $1000. for Darren Bond’s Strategic Planning facilitation. Third to the Farmer’s Market, $2000. for COVID mitigation strategies and expenses.

**Celebrating Excellence**

The “Enterprise of the Year Award” is HICEEC’s way to celebrateour year-round, grassroots, entrepreneurial economy and to recognize excellence. Excellence of the management and staff alike. “Hats off” to ALL FRONT-LINE workers who have provided exemplary customer service through another year of COVID!

And a “tip of the hat” to past winners, enterprise/management, of the Award:

* 2014: Sea Breeze Lodge/Bishop family
* 2015: Lix & H.I. Coffee/Dale Armstrong & Alex Lamonte
* 2016: Dental Bus/Dr. Peter Walford
* 2017: Blue Sky Design/Michael McNamara & Tim Wyndham
* 2018: Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre/Gord & Allison Campbell
* 2019: The Barn Recording Studio/Marc Atkinson
* 2020: H.I. Bakery & Pizzeria/Jon & Jane Laskin

Congratulations to the 2021 nominees. The presentation event to find out who they are, is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at Sea Breeze, 5 – 7 p.m. No host food service & bar. Music provided by Bonita Thornsbury & Gary Manzer. Appreciation in advance to those businesses who bring a door prize. Space limited, reservations: Contact Sea Breeze.

**All is Calm, All is Bright**

We wish the whole community Seasons Greetings, filled with joy and harmony!

See you in 2022!

Submitted on behalf of the volunteer HICEEC Board: Carlyn Bishop, Donna Tuele, Jack Hornstein, John Grayson, John Heinegg, Katherine Ronan, and Rudy Rogalsky