

Dec., 2019 First Edition

HICEEC REPORT

Picturing the ferry future

Minister of Transportation Claire Trevena is conducting a Coastal Ferry Visioning exercise, starting the process by meeting with stakeholders around the BC Ferries service area. Karen Ross from HICEEC and Captain Pete Kimmerly attended the session held in Comox, and had a brief opportunity to speak directly with Minister Trevena and express the need for the Ministry to work with BCF to improve the summer service to Hornby. More action will be needed to achieve this. The public opportunity to participate in the broader visioning process will be announced by the Ministry.

Getting on the same page

Thanks to everyone who participated in the public consultation regarding Island Connectivity: 229 people answered to the survey, 45 filled out the questionnaire, over 40 remote workers came forward to give their testimonials, 70+ people attended the public meeting, and almost every sector of the economy responded to the request to make their needs known: healthcare, school, ferries, fire and emergency services, government, employers, non-profits. (Michael McNamara won the \$100 Sea Breeze gift certificate.)

One of the important observations of the consultation was the opportunity that high-speed internet will offer in diversifying Hornby's economy, as more people could live/work here on a year-round basis. Reports on the outcomes of the consultation are in progress and will be on the hiceec.org website. The next step will be for the consultants to complete the report on how to deliver the service, and our options regarding ownership. Our community will need to evaluate the best course of action. Then on to the "big ask"—the multimillion-dollar grants needed to upgrade the Island's digital connectivity.

Serving the visitors, and the visited

In 2012, the Hornby Islands Trust instituted legislation to regulate vacation rentals. The Official Community Plan adopted the clause "Owners of vacation home rentals are encouraged to form an association to establish bylaws or best practices". In 2017 the Trust initiated a review of vacation rentals, which included a survey. Of the 227 survey respondents, 63% said the overall impact of vacation rentals on Hornby Island was positive; however, the survey summary noted that most of the respondents "...want to continue to enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of Hornby Island themselves, and want vacationers to be informed and respectful of the 'Hornby way'."

This fall, a group of people asked HICEEC to provide administrative support to form an Association of Short-Term Rentals, in order to establish best practices and education around local values and culture. That work is under way.

Welcome to the team

Caroline Sneath has joined Karen and Sonja on the HICEEC staff, teaming up in delivering HICEEC's programs.

The wheels of the bus-es

Yes, that is plural: a cross-Denman connector bus is in the works. Proprietor Keith Porteous is looking for funding from various sponsors and government agencies; he has a Facebook page and a website: <http://wrongbus.ca/>. Support for the Wrong Bus (the name may be a nod to the children's story by Lois Peterson) is part of the HICEEC initiative to back public transportation, both for the environmental and the practical benefits. The proposed bus would connect to the #10 Comox Valley Transit bus at Buckley Bay, taking cars off the road and out of the ferry lineup.

What else are we working on?

2020 HICEEC Strategic Plan; Hornbyisland.com EVENTS calendar; Hornby Denman Visitor Guide; participation in CAST and the Central Area Planning; support for shoulder season economic enhancement; Ferry Advisory Committee; etc.

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON, and a joyful and prosperous 2020!

Submitted on behalf of the volunteer HICEEC Board: John Heinegg, Katherine Ronan, Carlyn Bishop, Jason Griggs, John Grayson, Jeff Zamluk, Jim Bulmer, and Jack Hornstein.