

February, 2019 First Edition
HICEEC REPORT

Welcome, James!

The Board of HICEEC is pleased to announce the hiring of James Emerson, to fill the position of Administrative Assistant.

James has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Capilano University, and is excited for the opportunity to put down roots on Hornby and to put his business degree to work. He represents the third generation of his family living on Hornby Island, being the grandson of Tina Walker and the nephew of Ron Emerson. You may know James from his work at the Thatch and at Sea Breeze Lodge.

James will be working with Karen to fill part of the Administrator role vacated when Daniel Arbour was elected to the CVRD. For other parts of Daniel's skill set, HICEEC will contract with experts, as necessary.

From the Community, to the Community

In our Fall 2018 granting cycle, HICEEC distributed: \$2000 to the Farris Farmland Trust, for water cisterns; \$2000 tentatively approved to Hornby Island Radio, for emergency preparedness at; \$2000 to Joe King for structural upgrades; \$1500 to Conservancy Hornby Island for conservation education; and \$2000 to HIAC for Film Festival seed money. This brings HICEEC's cumulative 5-year total grants to \$54,600.

Small Amounts that Add Up

HICEEC acts as the clearing house for a group of investors ("Eagles") who want to support the establishment and expansion of local small businesses. To date, the Eagles have provided microloans to 8 local entrepreneurs. F.M.I: www.hiceec.org

Improving Local Internet

Even with Telus investing \$118,000 in 2018 for infrastructure upgrades to island internet, much of Hornby still has service from "the dark ages". Telus has said that it has no 2019 budget for further service upgrades, without matching funds. What to do? In a collaboration with Denman Island, we have MP Gord Johns and MLA Scott Fraser onside in lobbying for improved service to the Islands. To start, the DIRRA internet committee and HICEEC, with support from Area A CVRD Director Daniel Arbour, are looking to be included in the Coastal Connection fibre-optic project. HICEEC is also investigating hiring a consultant to make recommendations for internet solutions for the harder-to-service areas of the island (Galleon and Whaling Station neighbourhoods).

PST—Vacation Rentals

As of October 1, 2018, all providers of transient accommodation are required to remit 8% Provincial Sales Tax on their rentals. We have sent a brief outline, to assist with registering, to all transient accommodation providers listing on hornbyisland.com

Vacation Rental Well Licensing? Absolutely Maybe!

As of press time, we don't have a response to our inquiry to the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resources about whether obtaining a Water License is mandatory for anyone who uses their well for vacation rentals. In 2017, when the new Water Sustainability Act was introduced, Ministry officials informed the Hornby Water Plan committee that home rentals were considered a domestic use, and hence a license wasn't required for that. However, we are now being advised that the Act is not clear on this matter and that current Ministry officials are unsure as to what advice to give and are asking the Government for a ruling. In the meantime, residents should determine their own course of action. Note that if you are required to register, the deadline is March 1, 2019. And the application form is not simple.

For more information on this new legislation: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact>

Support for the Arts

The CVRD has agreed to release \$25K from the HICEEC reserves to be used by HIAC for the new Arts Centre. This will be helpful on two fronts: the money itself, for the building project; and the show of community support for HIAC's project to leverage grant funding.

Electric Bus? Not Yet.

At the December 2018 HIRRA meeting, the membership passed a motion directing HIRRA to write a letter of support for a steering committee, facilitated by HICEEC, to apply for funding to acquire an electric bus and associated infrastructure, to provide public transportation on Hornby. So far, unfortunately, we haven't found any sources of funding for this large investment. We'll keep looking.

Hornby Is That Popular

Thanks to Darren Bond for his analysis of visitor count. The estimate is that about 40,000 visitors come to Hornby annually.

Submitted on behalf of the volunteer HICEEC Board: John Heinegg, Cath Gray, Katherine Ronan, Carlyn Bishop, Jason Griggs, John Grayson and Gina-Rae Horvath.