

June, 2019 First Edition

## HICEEC REPORT

### **Septic system workshop—last call!**

The Septic System Maintenance Workshop will be held on Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Community Hall, 2-4 PM. CVRD experts will be there, with handouts and answers to your questions. Register for attendance and handouts: [engineeringervices@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:engineeringervices@comoxvalleyrd.ca).

### **Grants, past and future**

HICEEC devotes 8% of its annual budget to community grants, which are given out in the spring and fall. This spring, demand exceeded supply, so some organizations got less than requested and others got regrets. The Spark project received \$1500; HIRRA, \$500 for Emergency Preparedness; and the Hornby Island Mountain Bike Association, \$500 toward hosting Bike Fest 30. Thanks to all the applicants! If your group is thinking of the fall cycle, you can review the criteria at [www.hiceec.org/grants---investment.html](http://www.hiceec.org/grants---investment.html).

To help local groups obtain funding from off-island sources, HICEEC hosted a full-day grant-writing workshop on May 24, in collaboration with the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC) and the Provincial Learning Initiatives for Rural & Northern B.C. program. Twelve community members from a range of Hornby's non-profit organizations attended. Thank you to Lori Nawrot, at the Hornby & Denman Community Health Care Society, for providing the meeting room, and to Sarah Huebert for her excellent coaching.

### **Progress toward better Internet access**

The goal: Bring high-speed Internet to every household on Hornby and Denman, via fibre optic cable. The challenge: Estimated cost of this project is \$10-12 million. The support: Both the federal and the provincial government have declared that rural and remote communities are entitled to the same "first world" levels of internet as urban areas. Locally, HICEEC and Denman Island Internet have been working with HIRRA, School Board Trustee Sheila McDonnell, Island Trustee Grant Scott, CVRD Regional Director for Area A Daniel Arbour, Member of Parliament Gord Johns, and Member of the Legislative Assembly Scott Fraser. The process: Get funds to create a Digital Roadmap and Implementation Plan—initial public consultation and planning that will lay the groundwork for applying for funding. We will encourage community involvement when the funds are secured for creating these preliminary documents.

### **On the road again**

The Hornby bus is revving up for its third summer season. The planned launch day for daily service is June 28<sup>th</sup>—though you may see the bus on the road before then, for private rentals. There are still openings for bus drivers. One requirement for that is an unrestricted Class 4 licence. In collaboration with the fire department, a professional driving school is being brought in to conduct a free

class 4 driver's licence theory course at the Fire Hall, Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. To sign up, email [james@hiceec.org](mailto:james@hiceec.org). If you already have your Class 4 and are interested in driving, the job description and other bus-related information is available from James.

Noise news: The mechanic's report of 80-90% noise reduction by fixing the muffler was probably exaggerated. According to our "people on the street" meter, it's better, but the bus is still a big vehicle with some muscle.

New for this year:

- A bike rack. It will be inside the bus, as an exterior rack would be an unsafe extension of the length of the bus.
- An onboard donation box. You can still ride for free, but giving for what you get could help us improve service—for example, by extending the time frame for operations.

Regular staffing and service levels for the bus project are funded by the CVRD and local businesses. A huge acknowledgement to new sponsors this year: Union Bay Credit Union and the Thatch Pub. Kudos to the illustrious group of returning sponsors: the Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park, Hornby Island Residents & Ratepayers, the Coop Store, and Fords Cove Store and Cabins. And thanks to the bus steering committee members for their hard work: Scott Towson, John Nemy, Garth Millan, Al Dickie, Peter Mills, Sheila McDonnell, Alex Ortwein, James Emerson, Karen Ross, John Heinegg, and Daniel Arbour.

### **Hornby eyes a tourism tax**

A Destination B.C. program called the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) allows for a local "pillow tax" to be collected by all providers of transient accommodation (glamping and camping are excluded). The monies are directed to specific local economic projects, such as affordable workers' housing and offsetting the effects of tourism. HICEEC is bringing together a group of accommodation providers to investigate whether MRDT would be right for Hornby and, if so, what community projects could benefit from an annual influx of money. Hats off to these stakeholders for their civic mindedness in pursuing information on this program.

### **Mark your calendar!**

- **Spring Business Mixer:** Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at Sea Breeze Lodge, 5 to 7 PM.
- **Annual General Meeting:** Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, New Horizons, 3 PM. For information on making a major contribution to your community by becoming a volunteer HICEEC Board member: [www.hiceec.org/about.html](http://www.hiceec.org/about.html)

**What else are we working on?** Hornby Denman Visitor Guide, participation in CAST, developing a front-line service staff Ambassador program, support for shoulder season economic enhancement, etc.

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