



WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT BETTER INTERNET?

HICEEC met with Veronica Smith, Strathcona Regional District rep, the Denman DIRRA committee, CVRD Director Arbour, and reps from the offices of MP Gord Johns and MLA Scott Fraser, to discuss the Coastal Connection fibre-optic project and potential action steps for funding the "last mile" service to the islands. The take-home message from this meeting: there are potential avenues to pursue to improve internet service on the islands and we can gain some economies of scale through regional collaboration.

WANT YOUR BUSINESS ON THE MAP? The 2019/ 20 Hornby Denman Visitor Guide is in the process of production. Participating businesses will have their location shown on the map and keyed to their listing. To share in this community marketing initiative, contact: james@hiceec.org

EVENTS CALENDAR: PICK BEFORE YOU POST When listing your event on the hornbyisland.com calendar, be sure to select descriptions from the DESTINATION CATEGORIES and DESTINATION TAGS fields. For example, if your band will be performing and you list it as "Live Music" in the CATEGORIES field, users who filter their search by selecting that option will find your event easily.

FORWARD IN MARCH! In keeping with our goal to enhance the economy in the off-season, HICEEC is supporting two events this March:
Conservancy Hornby Island's *HerringFest*
HIAC's *Film Festival*
We subsidized the educational components of the *HerringFest* through the "conserve quantity and quality of water" rubric in our annual plan

and granted funds to the Film Festival under the "support for the Arts" banner. These events are well attended, primarily by islanders and cottagers.

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS will go round and round again this summer thanks to the CVRD, HIRRA, local businesses, stalwart drivers, and a newly formed steering committee. This project has had a breakthrough at the CVRD level, as for the first time since the function started in 1990, Hornby transit is included in the district's transportation budget. Baby steps!

With representatives from the CVRD and School District helping to drive the initiative, we're moving closer to achieving our Vision 2020 goals for transportation, which include "a low-cost, convenient, community transportation system, such as a bus...."

Finding qualified drivers has been one of the main challenges the last two summers. If you are interested in becoming a driver we may be able to assist you to upgrade to a Class 4 License. Please contact: karen@hiceec.org

HEARTENING TREND at the Hornby Elementary School:

- 2018-2019 45 students enrolled
- 2017-2018 43
- 2016-2017 40
- 2015-2016 33
- 2014-2015 30

That's a 50% increase in the last 5 years!

LIKE TO JOIN US? If you are interested in the economic wellbeing of this community please consider joining the HICEEC Board of Directors. Info on becoming a board member: hiceec.org.

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