

May, 2019 First Edition

HICEEC REPORT

Spring harvests

Harvests of funding, that is. HICEEC is accepting applications for its spring grants; the deadline is May 10. For more information, go to www.hiceec.org/grants---investment.html. In collaboration with SPARC and the provincial Learning Initiatives for Rural & Northern B.C. program, a full-day grant-writing workshop will be held on Friday, May 24. For pre-enrollment, contact: karen@hiceec.com.

Better internet on the horizon

HICEEC's project for bringing fibre optic internet connection to Hornby is headed toward the public consultation phase; this should lead to producing a Digital Roadmap and Implementation Plan. The Island Coastal Economic Trust has granted \$20,000. to the HICEEC and Denman Island Internet Committees' collaboration for this project. Matching funds are anticipated to come from the provincial Connecting B.C. program. These funds have not yet been secured, but we anticipate moving forward. We will encourage community involvement when this happens.

Blue on the horizon

The bus steering committee has been hard at work:

- Driver recruitment: A free Class 4 Driver's License course will be given at the Fire Hall, Saturday, June 8th. To sign up, email james@hiceec.org. If you already have your Class 4 and are interested, the job description and other bus-related information is available from James.
- Noise reduction: Mechanics report 80-90% noise reduction (including elimination of the rattle) with a \$1056.13 fix of the muffler (which is 20 feet long) and installation of a pre-muffler.
- Route and schedule refinement, and safety improvements, are under way. Thanks to the community-minded sponsors for their input on this.

Affordable housing on the horizon

Sincere thanks to HICEEC Board member Katherine Ronan, for her diligent pursuit of affordable housing on Hornby. Katherine is also on the Hornby Island Housing Society Board and reports that although not all B.C. Housing funding is yet available, some funds have been released for engineering and planning at the Beulah Creek site.

Once and future water

At the water sustainability forum on April 6, Board representatives John Heinegg and Cath Gray offered updates on HICEEC's work on water issues, and heard recommendations for further action. Examples:

- **Septic System Maintenance Workshop:** Sunday June 9th at the Community Hall, 2-4 PM. CVRD experts, with handouts and Q & A. Register for attendance and handouts: engineeringservices@comoxvalleyrd.ca
- **Water information resource:** Developed in collaboration between HICEEC and the Heron Rocks Friendship Society Water Stewardship group: <http://hornbywater.org/awareness-education/>

For visitors, temporary and permanent

The annual Hornby/Denman/Seaside Visitor Guide, which HICEEC produces (at no expense to taxpayers) will be available at the beginning of May. Many thanks to all the advertisers for supporting this well-loved map and services directory. And special thanks to B.C. Ferries for distributing the Guides at the incoming ferry terminals. Also, careful readers will note a strengthened message supporting conservation, especially of water.

Mark your calendar!

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

What else are we working on? Internet improvements, support for shoulder season economic enhancement, BCF's Ferry Advisory Committee, etc.

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