**HICEEC First Edition Report for Nov./21**

**Vote YES, November 27th**

The referendum for Hornby and Denman citizens to endorse the installation of “last mile” high-speed, fibre-optic internet will be held on November 27. Vote “yes” to ensure that our students, businesses, and households have inexpensive access to this fundamental feature of modern life.

If you are unable to vote on that day, there are other options. Here is a summary:



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| **Voting**  | **Date** | **Location** | **Voting Hours** |
| Advance Voting | 17 Nov-21 | 770 Harmston Avenue, **Courtenay** | 8 am to 8 pm |
| Special Voting | 24 Nov-21 | **Hornby** Community Hall, 4305 Central Rd | 2 to 5 pm |
| General Voting | 27 Nov-21 | **Hornby** New Horizons, 1765 Sollans Rd | 8 am to 8 pm |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| By Mail | Apply A.S.A.P. | For Your ballot package:Contact: CVRD Legislative ServicesPhone 250-334-6000Email: elections@comoxvalleyrd.caOr find the application link on www.HornbyDenmanInternet.com | 8:00 am to 8:00 pm |

In the meantime, the Internet Service Provider, City West, is accepting applications for a FREE drop to take service to each premise. Signing up now does not commit you to subscribing to their services, but it does get you in line for that option.

To register online, go to: http://www.citywest.ca/dropping-in. If you want to use a hard copy of the application, blank forms are available in HICEEC’s “big yellow” brochure rack on the Coop porch. Put your completed hard copy in the HICEEC box at the Free Post; staff will collect them and forward them to CityWest.

If you still have questions about the project, visit: **www.HornbyDenmanInternet.com**

By the way, with all this on the horizon, you might want to think twice before locking yourself into a long-term contract with another internet service provider.

**Putting Our Heads Together for Affordable Housing**

In October 2021 a HICEEC initiative resulted in the establishment of a Hornby Housing Coalition consisting of an informal group of individuals who have a deep interest in, and knowledge of, the challenges facing affordable housing on Hornby. Participants include those with experience from the HICEEC Board, the Hornby Island Housing Society, Islands Trust, Hornby Island Short Term Rental Association, the Comox Valley Regional District, and HIRRA. The Coalition’s purpose is to share information and ideas, identify obstacles, and find strategies to overcome those obstacles.

**Community Bus Shelter**

The rains came, and the planting can commence. The finishing touches for the 4-Corners bus shelter are underway. Thanks go to Henry Touwslager, Peter Mills, Al Dickie, Matt Dickie, Goya Ngan and Edward Kooij for establishing an iconic “green roof”.

**Fall Networking Event**

Mark your calendars for the Annual Fall Mixer, with the Business of the Year Award. The event is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at Sea Breeze, from 5 to 7 pm. Attendance numbers and details will be subject to COVID protocols. Last year the “health plan” allowed 50 people, seated. More details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, put on your thinking caps and consider making a nomination:

HICEEC – Enterprise of the Year – Nomination

All nominators are confidential; self-nominators are acceptable

Registered non-profits are eligible, subject to the criteria.

Nominators will be evaluated by past winners and HICEEC

**Criteria:** The venture will have contributed to local economic enhancement—for example, by:

* Creating employment and self-employment
* Committing to excellence, training and development
* Participation in the Hornby business community
* Innovation and diversification from peak-season tourism
* Exemplary customer service and contributions to the community

Let us know who you think should win the award, and why: Email karen@hiceec.org **or** make your nomination online at **https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XDXX58N**

**P.S. Vote YES on November 27**

Submitted on behalf of the volunteer HICEEC Board: John Heinegg, Katherine Ronan, Carlyn Bishop, John Grayson, Jack Hornstein, Donna Tuele, and Rudy Rogalsky.

FMI: www.hiceec.org