

Nov., 2019 First Edition

HICEEC REPORT

Celebrating excellence

The HICEEC Business of the Year was announced at the Fall Business Mixer, October 25th. We can't say here who the winner is, since this article is going to press before then. But thanks to everyone who participated and made a nomination, and sincere congratulations to the 2019 Nominees:

- Sushi Snax/Jake Berman
- Forage Café/Jamara Cronia
- Hornby Denman Health Care Society
- Hornby Island Pizzeria & Bakery/Jon & Jane Laskin
- Hornby Creative/Tamara Lamont
- The Barn Recording Studio/Marc Atkinson
- Ferris Farmland Trust/Community Garden
- H.I. Coop

Casting our net for better Internet

Your voice matters! Have you completed the internet survey yet? If so, thank you for participating. If not, the link is on the bottom of the home page of www.hiceec.org

The survey is a critical part of the local project to get fibre-optic Internet infrastructure installed on both Hornby and Denman Islands.

HICEEC and the Denman Island Internet Committee have secured funding for the development of a Hornby Digital Roadmap & Implementation Plan, with the support of all levels of local government: the CVRD, School District, HIRRA, and Islands Trust.

Every voice counts, as we come together as a community to express our needs and aspirations. Evidence of a cohesive, prepared community will enhance our chance of succeeding with the “big ask”—the multimillion-dollar grant needed to upgrade the Island’s digital connectivity.

A public consultation, with industry experts to answer questions, will be held on Sunday, November 3rd, 10-30 to 1, at New Horizons. Please attend.

Hornby’s accommodation sector steps up to the plate

Hornby resorts, lodges, B&Bs, and vacation rentals, have come together to develop an MRDT (Municipal & Regional District Tax) program for Hornby—a 3% tax derived from short-term rentals, with proceeds to be returned to the community. The anticipated starting date for this tax is October 1, 2020, with revenues coming into the community in 2021.

Projects that fit into the criteria specified by the Ministry of Finance, will be evaluated by the 11 person steering committee, comprised of representatives from Ford Cove Cabins, Hornby Island Diving, My Hornby Stays property managers, Sea Breeze Lodge, Wind 'n' Waves property management, the Thatch, Hornby Island Housing (or a housing rep.), the Coop Store, HIAC, Hornby Recreation and HICEEC.

The next step will be consultation with local accommodation and service businesses to develop priorities for the 5-year strategic plan and the 1-year tactical plan for the MRDT program.

Long awaited

In December, 2012 the Hornby Island Official Community Plan encouraged owners of short-term rentals to form an association to help establish best practices, help educate owners and guests, and to foster low impact ecotourism. The time has come.

HICEEC is providing administrative support for the formation of the H.I. Short Term Rental Association, in order to more effectively manage tourism on our Island.

The little bus that could

The biggest news from the Hornby bus is that ridership in 2019 increased 60% over ridership in 2018. We would like to believe that this is due in part to increased awareness about our changing climate and the need for people to tread more lightly on the earth. Go public transit!

We are looking forward to increased ridership again next year, with more local users and also from the results of forming a partnership on Denman to establish a cross-Denman connecting bus.

Sweet good-bye

It is with a heavy heart that we say good-bye to HICEEC Administrative Assistant James Emerson. Fortunately, James is staying on Hornby, just following his passion in other directions. Thanks to James for his engaging energy, especially in spearheading the 2019 Visitor Guide, putting on engaging Business Mixers, and stick-handling the 2019 bus season.

What else are we working on?

Hornbyisland.com EVENTS calendar; Hornby Denman Visitor Guide; participation in CAST; support for shoulder season economic enhancement including the new bcseaside.com regional website; support for the Festival Society and Farmer's Market internet; Ferry Advisory Committee; etc.

Submitted on behalf of the volunteer HICEEC Board: John Heinegg, Katherine Ronan, Carlyn Bishop, Jason Griggs, John Grayson, Jeff Zamluk, Jim Bulmer, and Jack Hornstein.