

November/20 HICEEC First Edition

Re-Visioning

In 2000, Hornby undertook an extensive visioning process, involving consultation with 600-700 community members and 2 years of work, which came to fruition in Vision 2020. That document formed a touchstone of HICEEC's efforts for over a decade. In 2015, the Vision was refreshed, after consultation with about 400 participants, and the results informed HICEEC's 2015-2020 Economic Action Plan.

Now that 2020 is here (and, blessed be, almost over) HICEEC has formed a working group to see how the community's turn-of-the-century view of the future matches up with the reality of the present. Along with members from HICEEC, the working group includes Daniel Arbour, Grant Scott, Lynn Nunley, and Sheila McDonnell, as representatives of local governance. In addition, previous report authors Darren Bond and Darlene Gage are taking leadership roles in the project. Darlene will be contacting groups representing 13 different Hornby sectors. Along with input on the outcome analysis, the working group will look for recommendations on next steps toward compiling and describing Hornby's vision of itself for 2040.

A Step toward Food Security

HICEEC is supporting the Farris Farmland Trust in applying for provincial COVID recovery funds for a grant to build a small food-processing facility. This is a great incubation project for our agricultural sector.

Reaching Out for Resilience

HICEEC has said 'yes' to an invitation to join the Rural Islands Economic Partnership Society, a support network for BC's coastal islands. One benefit is access to e-commerce, which can reduce local dependence on the summer season for financial survival. The Society's Recovery Program will allow Hornby retailers to offer online Gift Certificates, just in time for Christmas.

Work in Progress

Renovation and improvement of the hornbyisland.com website is under way. We anticipate an improved events calendar, a listing of local businesses' hours of operation, a webcam of the ferry line-up, a high-quality digital media "booklet", and easier navigation.

Honouring Excellence

Every fall, at our business mixer, HICEEC brings island enterprises together to network, foster understanding, and celebrate each other's work. We mark the occasion by presenting a Business of the Year Award, based on nominations from the community. This year the nominations will be collected digitally; watch for the link in your email, on Facebook, and in the Tribune next week. And mark your calendars for the award presentation: Thursday, Nov. 12th at Sea Breeze. Attendance will be by reservation, with COVID protocols in place; come with your pod.

Free the Free Store!

HICEEC is in discussion with the Recycling Committee on ways to support reopening the Free Store. We expect to provide funding for establishing and maintaining COVID-19 safety.

Housekeeping

If only we had an office to clean! HICEEC will be relinquishing our office space to the HIRRA staff at the end of the year, and is continuing to seek a new home. As the cost of rental will be an additional burden on Hornby's taxpayers, we have been focused on finding space with other non-profits, but to no avail. Anyone knowing of potential office space, please contact one of our Board members.

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