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**September 2021 – First Edition**

**CELEBRATING SUCCESSES**

The big news for the summer is a culmination of 3.5 years of work by HICEEC, and the Denman Internet Committee.  In extensive public consultation, the residents of the Islands were resolute that they wanted improved internet service and supported a hard-wired system and not wireless.  Our current primary service provider, TELUS, was uninterested in investing. Fortunately, CityWest (a telecommunications company that is wholly-owned by the City of Prince Rupert.), has committed to providing the service - fibre optic, high-speed internet, television and phone service to Hornby & Denman Islands. Funding will come from a $5.64 million Provincial Government grant, approximately $800k from the CVRD, (fall referendum), and CityWest upward from $1.2 Million.

FMI:  [www.hornbydenmaninternet.com](about:blank)

**A new home for HICEEC**

HICEEC has found a home! As of Sept. 1st, the HICEEC office will be located at the corner of Sollans and Central Roads, in the previous Admin. Building of the School Modular complex.

We will be one of a tri-party group using the space, partnering with the new Natural History Centre, and the School District platform.

**MRDT – A possible solution for affordable workforce housing on Hornby**

The Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) is a tax of three percent on the purchase of fixed roof, transient accommodation, collected by the accommodation provider.  Authorization for the tax falls under the Provincial Sales Tax Act.  While nobody likes taxes, this tax is unique in that the money is collected from visitors here and that same money comes back to Hornby to address local needs.  Thank you to all that provided your feedback in this summer’s MRDT survey.  With over 264 responses, the number one priority identified was affordable, workforce housing.  Results of the survey, and more information on the program is on [www.hiceec.org](about:blank)

**Hornby Bus**

Look for a beautiful green roof being added to the new Hornby Bus Stop structure, in Sept., when watering shouldn't be necessary to establish the plants. Thanks to Goya Ngan and Edward Kooij (Sumana Nursery) who will work together to donate all the plants for the roof.

Thank you so much to the drivers - Stu Brown, Thomas VanDerMolen, Garth Millan and Scott Towson.

And thank you to the volunteer Steering Committee, HICEEC staff, and all the riders for working our way through COVID and into a successful season.

**Farmers Market**

HICEEC has now set up a Visitor Info Booth at the Farmers Market, to help with directions, answer questions, and provide education on;

* Water conservation
* The importance of “reduce, reuse, recycle”
* Pack in/pack out when visiting the local beaches and parks
* Fire regulations
* Current events
* Local businesses, artists, musicians, farmers, and non-profit group information
* Hornby Bus schedule, Exit Survey, Visitor Guide, and Ambassador Program

If you have relevant information or material you would like to have distributed at the booth, please come by on market days or contact [info@hiceec.org](about:blank)

**Ambassador Program**

We are still collecting input for the Ambassador Program Pilot Project. Program directives are to provide training for front-line workers, residents and visitors interested, on protocols and information to raise local Hornby knowledge, pride, and professionalism.

If you/your business would like to discuss the program, offer recommendations, or provide any other directives relevant to your employees or clientele, contact [info@hiceec.org](about:blank)

**Hornby Island Exit Survey**

If you haven’t already completed it yet, we are encouraging every resident, off-island worker, and visitor to complete the survey with their 2021 experience.

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/visitorguide2021](about:blank)

**Changes to HICEEC Board**

We begin the fall season with the departure of an incredible HICEEC Board Member. Peter Wardle has decided to step down from the HICEEC board. Peter gave an incredible amount of time to the Board over this past year, and we thank him so much for his hard work and effort making Hornby a better place to live.

As one door closes, another opens, and with Peter’s departure, we are so pleased to welcome 3 new members to the HICEEC Board – Rudy Rogalsky, Bee Wolf-Ray and Donna Tuele. We look forward to working with these incredible community members this year!

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