

July, 2020 First Edition

HICEEC REPORT

Coming together in trying times

Moving from planking and planning, to a pause: the Zoom calls are coming to an end. Thanks to:

- All the participants who provided steadfast leadership for their sectors at the weekly HICEEC State of the Hornby Economy Zoom calls and supported each other with community information
- The Hornby Island Short Term Rental Association, for their diligent work in developing best practices and cleaning protocols to elevate accommodation offerings
- The healthcare workers and fire department/first responders for their preparations
- Those people helping to take care of the vulnerable
- Our elected representatives to the CVRD, Residents & Ratepayers Association, and Islands Trust.

It is heartening to witness representatives from so many organizations and local businesses coming together to provide compassionate, strong leadership. Concerns for the health and safety of all members of our community, and adherence to the guidance from the Provincial Government and Public Health Officer, has been the consistent focus of this work. And as the time comes for the re-opening of our economy, these groups continue to work to ensure that it is done with care and caution.

Restart and Moving Forward

As BC Finance Minister Carol James has warned, “recovery is going to be a tough task”. For our part, HICEEC is investing resources and funds into a dynamic website revision; enhanced social media content management; distribution of the annual Visitor Guide; lobbying the B.C. Ferries Corporation for continuity of service; expressing concern to Island Trust regarding bylaw enforcement actions against Vacation Rentals during this pandemic.

HICEEC Board of Directors

Current officer appointments, made in the first meeting after the HICEEC AGM (conducted via Zoom):

Chair: John Heinegg

Vice Chair: John Grayson

Treasurer: Jack Hornstein

Secretary: Katherine Ronan

HIRRA appointees: John Heinegg and Katherine Ronan

Members at large: Carlyn Bishop, Jeff Zamluk, Jim Bulmer, and Peter Wardle

Vision testing

In 2000, the community undertook an extensive Visioning process: 600-700 people were consulted, and 2 years later the Vision 2020 document was produced; it formed a touchstone of HICEEC’s work for over a decade. In 2015, public consultation was undertaken to refresh the Vision, and the results informed HICEEC’s 2015-2020 Economic Action Plan. Now that 2020 is here, it’s time to compare expectations with actuality, and assess the community’s current aspirations. Thanks to Darlene Gage, Darren Bond, Carlyn Bishop, and Daniel Arbour for their leadership in developing a desktop review, and recommendations on how to refresh the Community Vision and Economic Action Plan.

Grants awarded

HICEEC administered a Destination B.C. grant program, and funds were distributed to:

- Hornby Island Arts Council Film Festival, \$1,917.71
- Conservancy Hornby Island, \$226.74
- No Horses Jazz Festival, \$322.50

Treasure Map

Support your local enterprises by picking up your copy of the 2020/21 Visitor Guide at the Buckley Bay ferry terminal, or advertisers' venues. Follow the map to explore and support local businesses.

Thank you to Caroline Sneath for coordinating production this year.

Will the Wheels on the Bus Go Round?

After 3 years of increasing ridership, the Community Bus Steering Committee was keen to keep the momentum of public transit going, but the logistics of implementing COVID-19 protocols and physical distancing on such a small bus have probably flattened the tires on this summer's operations. We'll see.

Frustrated with your internet?

Premier Horgan is surveying British Columbians for feedback on how to spend \$1.5 billion.

As we have learned during the pandemic, high quality internet is now critical infrastructure. Please remember, Hornby and Denman have a "shovel ready" "Digital Roadmap and Implementation Plan" to install high quality fibre optic internet to every household. Please mention this project when you complete your survey!

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/recoveryideas>

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