



VILLAGE VOICE

1ST QUARTER 2015

Inside this issue:

HAYDN TURNER CAMPGROUND	2
ADOPT-A-GARDEN	2
BOAT LAUNCH PROJECT	3
EMERGENCY TRAINING	3
ADDRESS IT PROGRAM	4
YOUTH CENTRE UPDATE	4

Coming Events:

Council Meetings

April 20th @ 7:30pm
 May 4th @ 7:30pm
 May 19th @ 7:30pm

**Queen Charlotte
 Secondary School Pole
 Raising Ceremony**
 Friday, June 12th
 Followed by an event at
 Spirit Square

Hospital Day 2015
 Saturday June 20th

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I want to start off by apologizing to all of the people who thought that we were not planning to rehire our part-time gardener and that we might allow our beautiful village gardens to deteriorate. That was not the case, but I did not do a good job in getting that message out. I will try to do better in the future.

And a big thank you to the many people who wrote letters and attended council meetings in support of maintaining Queen Charlotte's public gardens to a high standard, as well as suggesting that we sponsor a volunteer gardening program. You can read more about the gardening program elsewhere in this newsletter. We're hoping for lots of volunteers!

I was very impressed with how polite and constructive the public was in lobbying council on the gardening issue. Along with the movement to support George Westwood's volunteer funeral services, I am very proud of the calm and caring way in which our villagers advanced their causes. Too many political movements have their roots in anger, and I get the sense that our village is growing beyond that and that people know that they are being heard.

Council and staff have too many major projects on the go to cover in this issue of the Village Voice, but I would like to give you a "heads up" for one important event on the horizon. This coming BC Day, August 3, we will be partnering with

the "Friends of the Visitor Information Centre" for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Day. Things will kick off with the unveiling and dedication of a 16 foot high sculpture of a breaching Humpback Whale near the Visitors' Centre. This work of public art is being created by local artist Lon Sharp, who also created the large, copper-clad Coho Salmon sculpture near the Sandspit Airport. Our whale is being created by the same methods, and in the same spirit.

After the dedication of the whale sculpture, we will proceed next door to Spirit Square, where music, food and fun await us. In between musical offerings, we will honor our community volunteers. Anyone wishing to nominate a local volunteer should contact our village office staff soon to find out how to nominate someone for the "Order of Queen Charlotte."

That's it for me this time.

-Greg Martin, Mayor



Portrait of the artist with a young whale

HAYDN TURNER CAMPGROUND PROJECT

Haydn Turner Campground was donated to the Village by the Queen Charlotte Community Club in October of 2014. For years the Community Club struggled with its maintenance and upkeep and as a result it fell into a state of disrepair, resulting in a decrease in use by visitors and locals. Negotiations between the Community Club and the Village resulted in the Village assuming the crown lease for the property, as municipalities have greater access to grant funding opportunities compared to non-profits.

Through the generosity of the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) under the Community Halls and Recreation Fund, the Village was granted \$28,315 in matching contributions to complete an upgrade project for the campground. A grant of \$30,000 was also received from Coast Sustainability Trust (CST), and the remaining funding came from the UBCM Gas Tax agreement funds in the amount of \$67,000 for a total project budget of \$127,000.

Our site plan includes the re-leveling and resurfacing of the six tent/RV sites abutting the road, and the installation of new fire pits, and picnic tables with tent platforms at three of those sites. The plan also includes upgrades to the two beach tent sites which will include resurfacing, benches, tent platforms and fire pits. The two trail systems leading to the beach will be leveled and capped with crush, making the area more accessible for all types of users.

The Queen Charlotte Secondary School (QCSS) Technology Education Department was the successful bidder for constructing the picnic tables and students will be working in teams to build the tables. The Village was pleased to receive their proposal

and is happy to be supporting trades training in our school.

In addition to the upgrades, there will be a new and centralized water source and outhouse.

Once completed, fees for the sites will be \$15 per night for RV's and \$10 per night for tent campers during the peak season. In the low season fees will be \$10 per night for RV campers, and \$5 per night for tent campers. The monies collected will go towards the operations and maintenance expenses for the facility.

Our objective is to make the Haydn Turner Campground an attractive, safe and sustainable facility for off-island travelers and locals to enjoy year round and we plan to work with Misty Isles Economic Development Society (MIEDS) to market this new and improved infrastructure.

-Ben Greenough, SPW



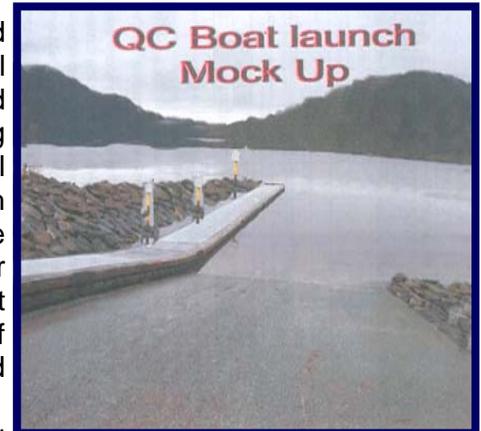
ADOPT-A-GARDEN

Spring is in the air, and getting out to tend to growing things is on the mind of many garden enthusiasts, and the Village is no exception. The Village's six gardens are maintained by a combination of Public Works Staff, including our part-time Gardener Larry Greenhough, and the much appreciated efforts of community volunteers like Benita Lambert and others. 2014 saw significant investment and effort at the Community Park and Day Park which are both looking beautiful. This year the focus of our gardening efforts is shifting from building the garden spaces to maintaining them and keeping them looking their best. To help support the Gardener position this year, the Village is looking to recruit volunteers for our "Adopt-a-Garden" program. The basic idea is to have a list of volunteers interested in keeping on top of the weeding for their adopted garden. Residents can sign up by calling the Village Office at 250 559 4765. Volunteers will be provided with a brief orientation/training on weed identification and safety and will be asked to track and report on their hours with everything set up to be as user friendly as possible. If you have some time and enjoy being out in the gardens, we hope that you will consider joining our "Adopt-a-Garden" program and helping us keep them looking great in throughout the year.

-Lori Wiedeman, CAO

BOAT LAUNCH PROJECT

The Village of Queen Charlotte has received support from the NDI and Gwaii Trust for a major upgrade to the boat launch facility that services all of the southern communities of Graham Island. NDI has contributed \$250,000, Gwaii Trust \$120,000, and the Village will be contributing about \$22,000 from our UBCM Gas Tax agreement funds for a total project cost of about \$392,000 for the first phase of the project which includes the floats and berm/breakwater, armouring of the sides of the boat ramp, and addressing the parking lot drainage. Phase 2 will be for the paving of the ramp and parking lot, which is currently estimated at approximately \$177,000 which is anticipated for the summer of 2016. Once it is all completed the project should come in around \$570,000.



The existing launch is failing to the point where users are seeking alternatives, diverting visitors away from the central service area of Queen Charlotte, and negatively impacting visitors' experience and the local economy. Previously built for airplane use, the existing boat ramp design is a simple black top extending into the bay, with no breakwater or dock to assist and defend boats against the elements while launching.

The boat launch provides critical transportation, tourism and recreation infrastructure supporting access to numerous marine activities in our highly boat dependant region.

Greg Martin, Mayor, Village of Queen Charlotte – "Haida Gwaii offers a spectacular marine environment with endless recreational opportunities. Every year countless visitors travel to our islands with their own boats and our boat ramp provides the only link between land and water for the entire southern half of Graham Island. The boat ramp improvements combined with the new marketing strategy will enhance and increase marine based recreation for residents and visitors."

-Lori Wiedeman, CAO

EMERGENCY TRAINING

On March 30 & 31 Village staff attended training sponsored by Emergency Management BC on Emergency Operations Centre Essentials. In the event of an emergency or disaster the Village may activate an Emergency Operations Centre or EOC to function as a "mission control" during the response.

The EOC is a facility where key Village personnel, volunteers and other agencies involved in the response gather to support activities taking place at the site(s) of the emergency while facilitating a coordinated response.

These activities can include:

- Coordinating resource requests from the site(s), establishing priorities and resolving any conflicting demands for support.
- coordinating and liaising with federal, provincial and other local government
- preparing and disseminating emergency public information to inform, alert and warn the public
- analyzing and evaluating data and maintaining maps, display boards and other data required for emergency operations
- planning for the continuance of government



Moving forward, the Village and its emergency management volunteers will regularly test the activation, set up and operation of the EOC to ensure its constant readiness and effectiveness.

- Larry Duke, Emergency Coordinator

ADDRESS IT PROGRAM

Congratulations to Tom Kile, the winner of our Address it Program draw for an iPad mini. Anyone who purchased a reflective house number from the Village in 2014 was entered into the draw. Signs are still available at cost for \$32 each from the Village Office at 250 559 4765. The price includes installation by our Volunteer Fire Fighters. Look for our booth at Hospital Day for your chance to order a sign and win prizes! Thank you to everyone who participated in this joint project between the Village, Queen Charlotte Emergency Responders and the Haida Gwaii Observer.

VILLAGE OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Mayor Greg Martin
Councillor Ellen Cranston
Councillor Richard Decembrini
Councillor Sabrina Frazier
Councillor Jo-Anne MacMullin

Chief Administrative Officer- Lori Wiedeman
Deputy Clerk- Sandra Brown
Chief Financial Officer- Debra Uliana
Superintendent of Public Works- Ben Greenough

Box 580
903A Oceanview Drive
Queen Charlotte, BC, V0T 1S0

Phone: 250 559 4765
Fax: 250 559 4742
E-mail: office@queencharlotte.ca

We're on the web!
www.queencharlotte.ca



YOUTH CENTRE UPDATE

Things are happening at the Village Youth Centre. The first quarter of 2015 has seen a lot of exciting and unique programming take place with increased participation from the youth in the community and inter-generational knowledge sharing, contacts and mentorship. Participation has come from all communities on island and the community involvement and support for the Centre has been inspiring.

In January, events included two Chill Nights; three Movie nights; Glowstick Capture the flag; a Ceramics Workshop; an Indian Cooking Class for a total of 8 events with 49 youth attending. In February there was a 67% increase in participation. February events included a pre-teen Valentines Craft Night; a Forestry Talk; Girls Night Out; two Movie Nights; Grad Class run Dance; Capture the Flag and a Chill Night for a total of 8 events with 87 youth attending.

March was another high participation period with events that included a Flint Knapping Workshop; Chill Night; Greek Cooking Class; St. Patrick's Day Dance; and a Hunger Games Night. With only 5 events in this month, the total turn out was 90 youth.

Many lessons have been learned from the activities and workshops which will lead to improvements in future programming. There are lots of upcoming events planned that are designed to reach out to all youth in the community, providing them with experiential education as well as fun and a safe place to explore their interests.

-Sarah Hedley, Youth Coordinator

