



VILLAGE VOICE



Message from the Mayor

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Several people have asked me what my vision and plans are for Queen Charlotte – where will the new mayor lead them? The short answer is that I have to meet with my new council to find this out. A municipal council works best when its members work as a team, and our new council has not yet met to discuss future plans and directions. While members of the past three councils have not agreed unanimously on every issue, we have always disagreed respectfully, before moving on to the next issue together.

Of course, there's a longer answer. Previous councils and a committee of local citizens spent more than five years developing our Official Community Plan (OCP), a document which expresses our vision for the future of Queen Charlotte, what our values are, how we would like to see it develop, land use guidelines, and more. There were many public meetings and open houses during the process, all of them lively and some of them contentious. Our new councillors are busily reading and digesting the contents of our OCP as you read this, and I am looking forward to their thoughts on the subject. If they see fit, they have the ability to change the OCP, which would, of course, require an extensive public process.

I have a long list of pet projects for Queen Charlotte, a few of which I'll highlight.

- Hospital replacement project- monitor progress and ensure that cost overruns don't jeopardize the equipment and furnishing budgets;
- Boat Ramp – we submitted a funding application to complete the design and engineering work for a major rebuild that would provide some wave protection and a stiff leg, improve parking, as well as increasing the steepness of the ramp to the same grade as the Kwuna ramp. Too many trucks, especially for larger boats, have to wet their rear wheels and brakes in salt water. We try to think



ahead and have project plans complete and ready for funding opportunities from senior levels of government.

- Industrial Park – we need to be business-friendly and support potential industrial development in our west-end industrial zone by ensuring that suitable land is available.
- Public engagement – I'm hoping that council will agree to reinstate the brown bag lunch tradition. For the first five years, council hosted a BYOL (bring your own lunch) public session in council chambers on the first Friday of each month, at which members of the public would come and discuss any topic they wished. This will be valuable for new council members to become familiar with local concerns.
- Oceanview street sweeping – Perhaps a smaller issue. I've asked Randy Penner, our district highways manager, to consider having the maintenance contractor sweep Oceanview Drive clean of winter sanding materials earlier in the year. The problem is that while we encourage biking as part of a healthy lifestyle, the sand and grit on the road shoulders destroy bike chains and sprockets. It's also hard on the scooters that some of our seniors use. Mr. Penner said that while it's a bit more expensive, salt could be used for ice occurring after an earlier spring road sweeping.

-Mayor Greg Martin



Coming Events:

Tree Lighting Ceremony
Spirit Square
Friday, December 12th
@ 7:00pm

Christmas Trees
for Sale by Grads
December 13th
at Farmers Market

Council Meeting
Monday, December 15th
@ 7:30pm

Teen Dance
QC Youth Centre
Thursday, December
18th from 7-11pm

New Years
Family Dance
December 31st
At the QC Hall



Councillor Ellen Cranston

I'm delighted to serve another 4 years as a member of Council for the Village of Queen Charlotte.

I have been a member of the North and Central Coast Ferries Advisory Committee and have advocated for better service for our Routes servicing Haida Gwaii. It was a bitter pill to swallow when our services were so depleted last April, however, the committee continues to meet with BC Ferries hoping that we can make a positive difference.

Under my Community Engagement Portfolio, we held a mock council meeting at the high school so that students could see what a council meeting consists of...and the students presented items for debate so it was more interactive. The youth should feel confident that their voice is also considered in Village Business.

The Spirit Square and trail is something that we can all be proud of and I find myself trying to imagine even more ways to use that space so it has value to all of our citizens. I would like to see the trail expanded even more and instead of walking along the road from the docks to the hall, I would like to see a boardwalk of some sort between the two locations. Both our residents and tourists can be seen using that trail at all hours of the day so I would like to see it expanded.

Economic Development is crucial to our sustainability and as the South Graham Island Gwaii Trust Director, I can assure you that we are committed to utilizing the information we collected at the Gwaii Trust Economic Development Forum held in Skidegate on November 1st.

It's a new term with a new Mayor and a new Council and I look forward to the opportunity to work together to make Queen Charlotte the best place in the world to live, work and play.



Councillor Richard Decembrini

Well most of the people on the island have known me since I was born, and the other group who have not known me since birth have probably had conversations with me at one of my many jobs. They include Charlisle, B.C Ferries, and Q.C.S.S. I am also with the Queen Charlotte volunteer fire department. I lived on the island for about the first 13 years of my life, then moved away and have been back for over 2 years. In the years off island I finished high school, did courses at BCIT and went to culinary school. I was able to experience various job markets, also I explored most of what is offered by the various cities. I would like to see a possible creation of more programs for the teen center so it could have wider variety to offer the youth. Expansion of the job creation programs that are already in place. See if there is a way to create annual events that would help bring more tourism to the island, as well look into ways of increasing the people coming to the island in the off season months.



Councillor Sabrina Frazier

My name is Sabrina Frazier. I am a new resident to Queen Charlotte, but a lifelong resident of Haida Gwaii. I have worked and volunteered in the island community for the past 14 years. My commitment to community involvement and the pursuit of culture on these islands has now found me on the village of Queen Charlotte council. I look forward to the next four years and all the challenges that I am sure to face. My primary goal at this time is to listen, learn and work hard.

Thank you

Councillor Jo-Anne MacMullin

My name is Jo-Anne MacMullin and I have been a resident of the Village of Queen Charlotte since 1991. Throughout the years I have built many lasting friendships within our municipality. These friendships have extended to other communities on Haida Gwaii. My husband and I have raised three children here. Now that we are “empty nesters” this presented me with the extra time to become more involved in my community.

Along with the experience of working in both the public and private sector, I am a certified Paralegal and a certified Special Education Assistant. Presently employed with School District No. 50, I am an Education Assistant at Queen Charlotte Secondary and presently in my second year. Throughout the years I was employed with Rod Sutton’s law office, Flanagan’s Building Supplies (accounting/administration), BC Ferries (ticket agent), School District No. 50 District Office (Accounting Clerk). I have done contract work as well as prepared business plans for clients. I am familiar with legal and business language, legal research and contract content and law. As well, I have a clear understanding with policy and procedure, legislation, legal research, budget process contracts in a unionized environment and cost accounting/analysis. My volunteer work over the years has included Hospital Days, Child Centre Days and Skidegate Days. Presently, I volunteer with weekly homework help sessions for students at QC Secondary.

As councillor, I support economic growth within the means of the community, advocate and continue supporting programs for our youth and senior citizens. I believe that maintaining our present infrastructure and equipment is important for the safety of our community members and services. I think a lot about our youth and the needs of our families and seniors such as the health and well-being for everyone and this is important to build and maintain a healthy sustainable community. I want people to know that I am approachable and familiar with the needs of our diverse community and will continue to become informed, educated and involved over the next 4 years. I look forward to working with the “Team” at the Village of Queen Charlotte and continue the work that our past council was part of and to look at new initiatives in a cost effective manner with our new council.



New CAO Lori Wiedeman

I grew up in the Northwest Territories, moved to Fort Nelson in high school, then graduated in Golden. After graduation, I moved to Victoria where I worked for the BC Provincial Government from 1983 to 2014. Starting my career as a secretary, I was lucky enough to have worked in 14 different Ministries and agencies in the Public Service, in roles ranging from operational human resources, project management, business analysis and strategic planning, with over 10 of the years at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. In 2011 I took a one year leave of absence to sail my 35' Victory Catamaran 'Falcor' from Haida Gwaii to Hawaii, where me and my husband lived aboard for seven months before selling the boat and returning to my position as the Executive Director, Organizational Development with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology.

My last role with the BC Government was as the District Manager of Transportation, Skeena District. Prior to taking on the CAO role at the Village of Queen Charlotte, I worked on Haida Gwaii part-time with Northern Health as a Practice Support Coach, and part-time as the General Manager of GwaiiTel. I have also been volunteering as the President of the Queen Charlotte City Harbour Authority since August 2014. Throughout my career I have implemented tools and programs in support of innovative solutions and was named an Innovation Champion. I have a certificate in HR Management and an Advanced HR diploma from Camosun College in Victoria BC.

I can honestly say that I love helping organizations maximize their potential. Working with people, helping to shape workplace cultures and utilizing my creativity are the things that keep me highly engaged in my work.



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Councillor Richard Decembrini
Councillor Sabrina Frazier
Councillor Jo-Anne MacMullin

Chief Administrative Officer-
Lori Wiedeman
Chief Financial Officer-
Debra Uliana
Superintendent of Public Works-
Ben Greenough

Winter Hours

The Village Office will be
CLOSED from December 24th to
January 1st, inclusive.

Garbage Pickup

Tuesday the 23rd
Moved to Monday the 22nd
Thursday the 25th (Christmas)
Moved to Wednesday 24th
Tuesday the 30th
Moved to Monday the 29th
Thursday the 1st (New Years)
Moved to Wednesday the 31st

**TREE
LIGHTING
CEREMONY**

Friday, December 12th

Spirit Square @ 7pm

Santa will be there!

**Free Hot Chocolate
& Hot Dogs**

FIREWORKS!

SPONSORED IN PARTNERSHIP BY:

CO-OP
**NORTHERN SAVINGS
CREDIT UNION**
Village
of Queen Charlotte

Winter Road Maintenance

As winter approaches the Village of Queen Charlotte has begun its winter road maintenance program.

In order to assist our employees to provide you with the best possible service please;

- Do not park vehicles on the road during snow removal operations.
- Be aware of snow and ice conditions and drive with caution.
- Pedestrians should wear highly visible clothing so they are easily seen by snow removal equipment operators.
- Keep children out of the snow piles created by snow ploughing.
- Report any maintenance problems to the Village office by calling Ben Greenough, Superintendent of Public Works at 250-559-4757 (Office) or 250-637-1781 (Cell).

For further information see Policy OPS-002 Road Maintenance which can be found on our website or is available at the Village office.