

# VILLAGE VOICE

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

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**March 13**  
Spring Break  
Fireworks

**March 16**  
Council Meeting

**March 16-20**  
Kids AYO Camp

**March 16-20**  
Kids AYO Camp  
Kids Science Camp

Hello Queen Charlotte. Winter is almost over and I am sure everyone is waiting for and welcoming the return of warm weather, the westerlies, and whales.



Your council has continued to work hard and represent our community to the best of our abilities. Council has just completed governance training with Michael Shoop. This was to help us understand our role as a governance board and the relationship council has with the community, CAO and staff. This training was taken just before we started working on our strategic plan. Council has considered the input you provided at our KNOWvember events as we worked on our strategic priorities for the upcoming year.

The 10-Year Child Action plan has been completed and presented by Co-Host to council. This report is available for local organizations to use and move forward with the issue of child care in our community. The new firehall is progressing and the foundation has been poured, which is very exciting. We will be bringing forward a draft version of the Business Licence By-law at a future public meeting for review and discussion before coming back to council for consideration. Please come out and participate as council is supposed to represent the will and the want of the community. At this time we would like to thank all the members of the Business License Select Committee for taking the time to examine this issue.

Council is continuing our conversation with the Skidegate Band Council and we should be able to bring options forward soon on how to deal with our waste water. We are also in discussions on how to improve cycling and walking between our communities. We would like to congratulate the acclamation of Billy Yovanovich to another term as Chief Councillor and wish the best to all candidates who have put their names forward for election to the Skidegate Band Council. It has been a privilege for the Village of Queen Charlotte Council to work with the Skidegate Band Council and we look forward to forging a stronger relationship.

One conversation that is on everyone's mind is the issue of our community's name. We are respectfully working on this issue and will have a road map developed outlining the process that Council will use to move forward. This will include a timeline so everyone in our community will have access to the same information and understands how and when a decision will be made.

Please come in and join us at our regularly scheduled council meetings, which are held on the first and third Monday of the month at 7:30pm or Wednesday night at 7:30pm if Monday is a statutory holiday. If you want to be put on our e-mailing list for meeting agendas and other news releases by council you can email [office@queencharlotte.ca](mailto:office@queencharlotte.ca) or call and request to be added to the list. Remember you can also be a delegate if an issue is concerning you and you feel council needs to understand that issue. We are here for you and our community.

Haawa, Thank You and Merci

Mayor Kris Olsen

## Meet your RCMP

In each edition of the Village Voice this year, we will be featuring a different member of our Queen Charlotte RCMP.

### CST. ERIN WILLCOCKS

Hello! My name is Cst. Erin Willcocks. I have recently moved to Queen Charlotte from Burns Lake, with my husband, Sgt. Greg Willcocks, and our children who are 4 and 2 years of age. I have started in the Indigenous Policing Services roll as of January 2020, and hope to be working with the community until January 2024. I am currently working with partner, Cst. Dale Judd.

I have been a police officer for 15 years serving in Victoria, Kelowna, and recently Burns Lake, prior to transferring to Haida Gwaii. I have a background in community policing, and while in Kelowna worked for three years as a Youth Officer in the schools, as well as with at-risk youth who were in and out of the public school system. While in Burns Lake I also worked with the bands in the area as a First Nations Policing member, and very much enjoyed working with the communities, assisting them with programs that they felt were beneficial, and having opportunities to connect with the youth there.

I am very excited to be living in Haida Gwaii. My favourite past times include: yoga, water sports such as kayaking, and paddle boarding, running, hiking, and getting outside whenever I get the chance. I'm really eager for the opportunity to explore the water, and land right outside my door. I look forward to meeting and working with everyone in the communities, and serving Queen Charlotte area to the best of my abilities.

Haw'aa, Cst. Erin Willcocks



### Are you considering developing your property or subdividing your land?

As of December 2 2019, the Village of Queen Charlotte has adopted a new Development, Works and Services, Subdivision bylaw. This is to ensure we are developing our community in harmony with the environment, the public interest and that developments are suitable to their desired uses and land conditions.

If you have any plans for constructing, demolishing, land clearing, excavation, subdivision, etc., this bylaw will apply to you and will guide you through the process.

Please see Bylaw 107-2019, available online at [queencharlotte.ca](http://queencharlotte.ca) and contact the Village office for guidance in your next development project. Drop by the office with any questions, the Village staff are on hand to walk you through the process towards completing your next project.

**Featured Volunteer Group: Feed the People Food Bank**  
 We want to use the Village Voice to feature the volunteer and Not for Profit Groups of our Community

**Who are we:** Many members of our community need a little help to make ends meet. Monthly, the Feed the People Food Bank supports between 100 to 200 elders, families and anyone else in need from Sandspit to Tlell.



**How to get involved:** The Food Bank are looking for a range of help including: volunteers, donations of excess garden vegetables at Island Wellness Society or help to start the BC Farmers Market Coupon Program for Vulnerable Seniors

**How to donate:** You can make donations through the Credit Union– let them know it's for the food bank. Alternatively go to:  
[www.gofundme.com/f/feed-the-people-food-bank-needs-help-quickly](http://www.gofundme.com/f/feed-the-people-food-bank-needs-help-quickly)

**How to contact:** Bonnie Olson  
 victimservices@islandwellnesssociety.com  
 Cell phone: 250-637-1500

*To have your group featured please email [development@queencharlotte.ca](mailto:development@queencharlotte.ca)*



**Alder House Update**

On February 19, Horizon North began work on the Alder House site, which will be creating new supportive homes in Queen Charlotte. Currently, crews are on site and in the process of deconstructing the previous damaged structure. The new building will have a deck out front overlooking the inlet, as pictured. They are expecting work to be complete and welcoming tenants by late Summer/early Fall.

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Councillor Jesse Embree  
Councillor Lisa Pineault  
Councillor Devin Rachar

Chief Administrative Officer-  
Lori Wiedeman  
Chief Financial Officer-  
Allison Sinkins  
Superintendent of Public Works-  
Ben Greenough

## Update from the Fire Hall

Construction of the new Queen Charlotte Fire Hall is well underway. Sean O'Neil, a local contractor, has been hired as the Site Supervisor and we have established a construction office at the old U-Brew. Tenders have been issued and contractors selected for the foundation, electrical, mechanical, and the steel building. The footings were poured February 4<sup>th</sup>, piers February 18<sup>th</sup>, and walls March 6<sup>th</sup>. We were very pleased to be able to utilize Clarity Contracting, and Dave's Backhoe, both local companies, for the concrete work. Liberty Contract Management has been on site to verify all key construction milestones. We expect the steel building to arrive mid-March and the old Youth Centre property across the street, which is leased by the Village, will be utilized as a staging area in coordination with the Alder House project who are also using the space. Although some quotes have come in over budget, some have also been under budget, and overall we are still on track to meet both our budget and schedule targets for this project. The Fire Department unanimously selected a light color scheme for the inside of the hall and the next tenders to be issued will be for interior finishes.

*- Lori Wiedeman, CAO*



We would like to welcome a new family to Haida Gwaii. Israa and her husband Mustafa, 4-year-old daughter Sandy, 3-year-old son Hasan and 1-year-old daughter Talia will be living in Queen Charlotte upon their arrival on March 19th.

If you

- o Can help with health care, dental care or emotional support
- o Can offer some time to visit with the family
- o Can help with orientating the family with their transition to Canadian living

Please contact [refugee.sponsors.hg@gmail.com](mailto:refugee.sponsors.hg@gmail.com)



Monetary contributions are appreciated. Please make cheques payable to 'Operations Refugees Haida Gwaii'. Charitable receipt will be issued as long as the donor's address is provided. Mail your donation to Box 807, Queen Charlotte, V0T 1S0 attention: 'Operation Refugees Haida Gwaii'.