

December 5, 2012 Mayor's speech

Today begins our 6<sup>th</sup> year as a municipality as well as a new term of office for our council. I want to thank all those who put their names forward to run for council. They demonstrated their interest in being involved and I hope we continue to see and hear from them.

At this our inaugural meeting we celebrate our past endeavors and peak into our future.

We are still a very young municipality and the basic work of developing process, procedure, and infrastructure is paramount. This past term we concentrated on our Official Community Plan and the basic infrastructure of the town. Our water system is on line with clean, clear, tasteful water. We now care for the cemetery. We have policy and procedure in place for roads and snow removal and our public works kept pace with heavy snowfall. We lobbied successfully for cell phone service, staffing lighthouses for boaters and bringing Enbridge review to Haida Gwaii for public comment.

We also had some fun. We were honored by being part of the Olympic torch's travel through British Columbia. We now have a ball hockey court next door and plans are underway for the rest of the family park and the teen centre. This fall we opened Spirit Square and celebrated, dancing the night away. Work is now underway for a walkway around the community hall. At last count our infrastructure projects had brought over \$6 million dollars to our town.

This term we have new as well as ongoing challenges. We are going to try a different committee structure with councilors as champions of their portfolios. You will see the start on this agenda. A new committee is Open Government – we want to try ideas for community engagement and ensure that we are up to date on information exchange.

We are welcoming the fire department. The QCC Volunteer Fire Prevention Society has been a success story since 1976 but some expenses and administration can be served better under the municipal umbrella. So while the society shall continue, and the basic feel and structure of the department remains, today you will see our fire fighters and chief be appointed by council.

We need to continue to lobby for the early build of the new QC General Hospital and Health Centre, which by the way delivered 20 babies this year and remains an essential part of NH's cancer strategy. We also support the QC Emergency Preparedness group and are looking for land and equipment for evacuation sites as well as installation of sirens as a public warning system.

On future agendas and newsletters you will see zoning which is part and parcel of the Official Community Plan. Ongoing as well, is the need for an industrial site and maintenance yard for the town.

This is a busy council; issues are rarely either black and white or easy to decide. The beauty of our community is its physical diversity, the diversity of the people who chose to live here and the diversity of their work and their interests. The community elected us but to truly understand your needs, we need your input. We need your voice in order to do a good job for you. Get in touch with our office, the mayor (me) or the councilor of your choice. We want to hear from you.

And We are grateful for your support.

#### GLADYS NODDIN

Gladys Noddin has been a pleasure to work with. She was the steady backbone of any convention or conference she attended; reporting in detail on the meeting so that those unable to attend had all the information. I appreciated her practical nature, her attention to detail and more personally her knowledge of grammar for those important letters.

Over these past years we had to deal with a number of difficult issues. We benefited from Gladys' thoughtful contributions to the discussion, how she made her points, and then her support of council's final decision. From health, to emergency services to the museum and the library, Gladys has made her voice known.

Gladys loves her community. She has been a volunteer for years and her extensive knowledge of the history and the people of this town and the islands will be sorely missed.

In appreciation we have a small gift that we hope you will enjoy.