

MAYOR'S REPORT July 20 2009

CANADA POST

We have collected almost 1000 signatures for the islands' petition. Good work everyone.

We have 2 arguments with Canada Post. One: They consider us a remote community and so our delivery standards are much longer than much of Canada. As an example a Priority and Express post is to be delivered 5 days if regionally and 7 days if national NOT COUNTING THE DAY DELIVERED TO THE POST OFFICE, WEEKENDS, OR HOLIDAYS so automatically add another 3 days to that delivery schedule. If you live in Prince Rupert the standard is priority and/or express post is 2 business days to Vancouver – and why not, they too have access to airline service. We are not considered a remote community by our Federal government or we would qualify for a full northern living allowance. We are served by 2 airline companies and there is seaplane service as well as BC Ferries.

Two – we are arguing that Canada Post does not meet even these dismal standards. From January to the end of May Canada Post can prove that packages coming to the island can be tracked for on time performance and of the 715 packages mailed to the island 28 did not arrive. In the winter the ferry leaves the island only twice weekly and Canada Post's records show that outbound express post meets its own remote standards only 85% of the time. To Canada Post this is considered "good enough"! I am shocked and dismayed.

At the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Moya Greene CEO Canada Post, The Honourable Stockwell Day for Prime Minister Harper, Liberal Leader Mr. Michael Ignatieff and NDP leader the Honourable Jack Layton all spoke of the importance of rural areas and their party's support of the rural community. Our next step is to ask for that support by forwarding to the House of Commons, the Petition, endorsed by every municipality, band council and region and backed by almost 1000 of your signatures.

We are preparing to send our petition to the Federal government parties and ask that this be brought to the floor of the House of Commons. Their assistance is needed.

Olympic Torch Committee

I chair the Spirit 2010 and our own Olympic Torch committee. Over the next months you will hear more information about torch runners, pre event events and our November 3rd celebration. We have applied for funding that is available to celebration communities as well as for funding from the Canadian Heritage fund. Gwaii Trust generously endorsed our island wide celebration with over \$12,000 and NSCU as well as a couple of private donors have contributed another \$800. This is going to be a big party and we can use some help. Those who wish to be volunteers to help us hold the event please add your name to the list at the office.

SQCRD

Met in QC on Friday. The island directors have previously met with our new Island solid waste coordinator. Look around our yard. What a difference! We are neat and clean and open for recycling. A word of caution though – recycling is very expensive for islanders and the SQCRD is investigating how to minimize costs. Even with the best plan, costs may have to increase. Minutes added as late submission to our agenda.

Small Craft Harbours and Spirit Square

Much work is underway at the causeway and it has been a challenge to ensure that the area around Spirit Square is cleared before the cruise ship and Artists of the Full Moon need to use it. Services to Albion and the area where the wharfinger's office will be are being put in place and the low tides will be used to continue the dredging and build up of the causeway.

We will staff a kiosk at the Artists of the Full Moon on Sunday and any councilors available to be there will be welcome. We have material for your comments on Spirit Square.

The World

Think of it as a world traveling condominium complex. Some people stay on board all year and others come and go taking part in the trip they are interested in or have the time in which to participate. MIEDS took their arrival as an opportunity to see if we could showcase the islands, advertise our island artisans and make a party all of us can enjoy. The ship lands on Tuesday and leaves Wednesday night. There is an artisans fair around the businesses on Wharf street with the sounds of our very own Jug Band. Have fun.

Water Quality Advisory

The Village of Queen Charlotte has long experienced low water levels and some salt water (Sodium Chloride) intrusion into our water wells during the dry summer months. These wells are monitored daily and currently we are exceeding the esthetic level of chloride in one of the wells. The Village is limiting the flow from this well; however water users may notice a change in taste and even a somewhat salty taste (esthetic level). This Advisory is given as a precaution for those water users who may wish to limit their intake of Sodium.

We are currently constructing an Intake & Water Treatment Plant on the Honna River for a permanent resolution to both water shortages and salt water intrusion. We ask your cooperation and assistance by limiting water usage and practicing good water conservation techniques.

Thank you

Jones Letter

Additional concern with slough in the narrows after logging that lasted for many years. It kept sloughing and the channel moving and was mitigated after marine accidents when the narrows was finally dredged. There was no easy or quick fix and years were needed for recovery. As our letter said, we are not anti logging, only want information to see that these concerns are being addressed.