



Village of Queen Charlotte

VILLAGE VOICE

Message from the Mayor

Special points of interest:

- Drinking Water Leader responds to Village water sodium levels.
- Politicians to discuss Stanley Lake at upcoming UBCM conference.
- Frontage Tax to increase.
- Find the typo and enter for a chance to win a prize!

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Water has been the major work of council and staff this month. I am pleased to report that with your assistance we are holding our own for both quantity and quality. I know how difficult water conservation was during that hot dry spell and we continue to need your care and responsibility.

The health of our community is our major concern and so we have investigated what salinity in our water means to you. We remain at or near *aesthetic* levels (what you can taste) and notified health care professionals, added the warning to our website, circulated public notices and inquired if there is any such thing as an upper limit to drinking water salinity (*toxic* levels). See the Drinking Water Leader's reply on page 2.

Our wells are stressed and we are managing by

adding Tarundle river water and following Northern Health's treatment guidelines. This has been very successful so far. We also have a well ready to add if need be but that would come into the system after the treatment plant and so would add its own taste and odor issues. Though we have had some rain our wells will only fully recover when we can rest them. Towards that end, the work on our second water supply, the Honna River continues.

The work on the Honna River intake and treatment plant looks very promising. Water production tests at the intake were completed during dry low volume days and we appear to have a good water supply. The Honna River system is an expensive water supply for a small town but in truth we have no other options. Though

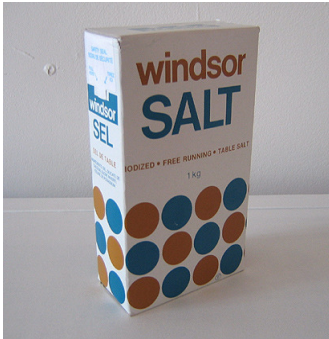


80% of the costs have been covered by grants we will need to invoke the borrowing by-law in order to pay our share. It is fortunate that we are this far along in construction and if all continues as planned, we should not be facing serious water shortage problems next year.

Please remain careful and considerate water users.

Sincerely,
Carol Kulesha, Mayor

Drinking Water Leader's Reply



"...excess sodium exposure due to salt water intrusion in Queen Charlotte's drinking water is likely a minor component to an average person's sodium intake but could also adversely impact sodium restricted diet."

The following letter was sent to us by Bruce Gaunt, the Drinking Water Leader after enquiring about our waters sodium levels (see website or request copy of Dr. Kosatsky's reply)

Your Worship:

I forwarded your question (and council's) for a technical response on sodium toxicity and if there was a Maximum Acceptable Concentration for sodium in drinking water, beyond the Aesthetic Objective.

I have enclosed a response back from Dr. Kosatsky of the BC Centre Of Disease Control. His response emphasizes that the majority of daily sodium ingested is from food, especially if it is from pre-prepared, restaurant or "junk" food. We in North America, already consume too much

sodium than our bodies require and excess sodium in our diets leads to cardio-vascular health risks and is to be avoided. That the excess sodium exposure due to salt water intrusion in Queen Charlotte's drinking water is likely a minor component to an average person's sodium intake but could also adversely impact sodium restricted diet.

Dr. Kosatsky's comments also suggest to me that it is unwise to personally create an ad hoc, upper health limit for sodium concentration in drinking water that has not been thoroughly researched, peer reviewed and adopted as a national standard. Such a value at best, may be conjectural as it is highly dependent on each person's dietary consumption of sodium and as a result, might prove to be

incorrect. I also suspect that once the aesthetic objective is exceeded, the taste of salt in the drinking water might become so objectionable that the public would not drink it and consequently, such a theoretical health limit would not be reached.

Because we already consume too much sodium, any excess, unnecessary inputs in our diet including drinking water should be avoided.

For your convenience, I have enclosed the background documentation for the Canadian Drinking Water Guideline's aesthetic objective for sodium.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/alt_formats/hecs-sesc/pdf/pubs/water-eau/sodium/sodium-eng.pdf

Bruce Gaunt, Drinking Water Leader, Public Health Protection, Northern Health

Stanley Lake



Part two of the Honna River drinking water system is the control at Stanley Lake. Even in this low water time, Stanley Lake contains a large volume of water and, if we can successfully keep it at its high

water levels, we will have additional river volume both for ourselves and the fish. We will be discussing our Towns for Tomorrow grant which is specific for Stanley Lake with the Minister of

Communities and his staff at the Union of BC Municipalities in late September. This project though 75% designed cannot be built until next year within the summer DFO opening for construction.

Borrowing By-Law

As per Referendum 2008 Council has invoked Borrowing By-Law No. 23-2008 in order to complete the Honna River water supply. The Honna River water system is a \$4,307,725 project which is being constructed through the generous contributions of Gwaii Trust \$1,000,000 Province \$2,146,667 and Coast Sustainability Trust \$100,000 and our own water reserve funds. The changes below reflect costs that are our share of the project.



Additional Expense	Dollar Increase	Explanation
Moving intake	\$483,500	From original site
Residuals pipeline	\$206,700	New item – residue from treatment plant into sewer system
Water treatment plant	\$209,800	Increase in cost from 2005 plan
Total	\$900,000	

Total Borrowing	\$900,000
Borrowing Term	20 Years
MFA <i>estimated</i> Interest Rates	4.8%

With the above information average water frontage rates would increase as follows:

15 meter lot = \$111.30 increase
30 meter (and over) = \$222.60 increase

Sewer Treatment Issues

While still under the SQCRD our community paid for an upgrade of our sewer to a town collection system with sewer lift stations ending in a commuinutor (which grinds the sewage) and placed the outfall approximately 1200 meters out into the tidal flow. Knowing that this is still only considered primary treatment, the SQCRD contracted preliminary studies on possible locations for a secondary treatment plant. On August 6th the

Inspector from Environment Canada, under the Fisheries Act sent the Village a formal letter stating that we are putting a deleterious substance into a fish habitat (the inlet). The deleterious substance is our sewage. Though the tests were on river trout with sewage samples directly from the sewer lift station not the outfall which disperses the effluent into the tides; we have no argument that sewage should be treated.

The letter does threaten fines and jail terms for staff and council! Before these threats were issued we had already filed our application for a sewer planning grant to the provincial Ministry of Community Services. We are waiting to see if they will contribute to the development of a strategy. As with our water, funding will be a major stumbling block. The letter is available on our website or directly from our office.

RECYCLING ELECTRONICS

Coming soon to a depot near you!

The SQCRD is reviewing recycling options and you can expect a more efficient system in the near future.

Watch for notices



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Watershed Sediment Study

Simon Fraser University, Department of Geography has a Master of Science Student, Elizabeth Baird, working on her Thesis in Queen Charlotte for the next few weeks. She will be working in the area of the Honna River Watershed and the main objective of her work here will be to obtain a data set that can be used to investigate the triggers of sediment generated from forest roads in the Honna Watershed and to provide maps showing which sections of the roads provide the most sediment input to the river. A rain simulation experiment will be conducted as part of this research project and it is hoped that the results will help to assess and address concerns that this Village has regarding high incidence of turbidity found in our water from time to time. The Village hopes to use this information with Island Timber and others, who have contributed significant funds and equipment towards the success of this project. Ministry of Forests and Range and the Accelerate B.C programme have been instrumental in allowing this project to go ahead.

It is hoped that this study and others will expand the current understanding of when and how much sediment is produced from forest roads, allowing greatly improved management of these factors in the future.

Free Dragon Boat Course this Week

Professional Dragon Boat instructor Don Mulhall is coming to Charlotte to teach a free 3 day paddle clinic on August 20, 21, and 22. The course will cover all the basics of the sport, including paddling, steering, drumming and coaching. His lessons will include time on the water and classroom theory at the Village Office. By the time the weekend is over we will possess the skills needed to race at any competition. The schedule for the paddle clinic are as follows:

Thursday August 20th, 7-9pm

Meet at the fisherman's dock for an evening paddle.

Friday August 21st, 7-9pm,

Theory class at the Village Office.

Saturday August 22nd, 1-2:30 pm

Meet at Fisherman's dock for an afternoon paddle.

2:30-3:00pm— Break time —Coffee and Muffins at Queen B's and review theory.

3:00-4:30pm— Last paddle.

A facebook group called QC Dragon Boaters has been created

as a way to keep members informed and up to date with the developments of the team. If you are interested in joining please add yourself as a member, and for those who are not on facebook you are welcome to leave your contact details with Jeni at the Village Office and you can receive email notifications.

This course is free, PFD's and paddles are provided so all you have to do is show up and participate on any of the 3 days.