



VILLAGE VOICE

FEBRUARY 2011

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NOTICE OF "VILLAGE OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE NOISE REGULATION BYLAW NO. 48-2011"

The Village of Queen Charlotte 'draft' Noise Bylaw, No. 48-2011, will be considered by Council at its next regular meeting, 7:30 pm, February 21st, 2011, at the Village Office, 903A Oceanview Drive, Queen Charlotte.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to look at the draft bylaw, or to make your views known to council, please do so prior to or at the Council meeting on February 21st, or, if the bylaw proceeds, at subsequent meetings of council.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to call the Chief Administrative Officer, Bill Beamish at 250 559 4765 ext. 3

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

When we live side by side as we do in a town, issues arise between neighbours. Talking to our neighbour usually resolves any problems but not always. Sometimes the neighbour seems intimidating, sometimes the neighbour just doesn't seem to care. Noise is one of those irritants that can turn into a problem between people that Council has been asked to address. "Good Neighbour Bylaws" lay out the compromises we make to ensure we all have the ability to enjoy our homes.

Life is noisy. Laughter, music, equipment, hammers, children playing and yes, even that rooster crowing are all the sounds of life. The problem facing council is how to meet the needs and the realities of the noise of life and the

desire for a certain level of peace and quiet.

Inside this edition is the bylaw to address noise issues. The policies to implement it were adopted by council in January and are available to view on our website. The policies ask that neighbours document their complaints, try to talk to one another first and that the village will assist with mediation if they cannot resolve their issues. Charges and fines are of last resort. We need you to look at the bylaw and see if the times during the week and the weekend are reasonable. What do you think makes your neighbour a "good neighbour"?

Council will be discussing the noise bylaw over the next few weeks. Please add your advice and input.

-Carol Kulesha, Mayor

SPIRIT SQUARE

Construction of the foundation for the Spirit Square Stage is completed and now the contractor, Sean O'Neil, will focus on the floor structure. We have tried as much as possible to source materials and equipment for this construction project on Haida Gwaii and we are pleased with the support and cooperation that we have received from local businesses.

Although our target date

for completion is still March 31, 2011, we have requested a 2 month extension from the Province so that we can have a little breathing room in case the weather causes the project to be delayed.

Sean appreciates visitors to the site and welcomes your comments and support for the work he and his associates are doing. We did

experience some minor vandalism recently and we hope that any suspicious activity that is observed in the area would be reported to the RCMP or the Village office.

-Bill Beamish, CAO



NOISE BYLAW

A Bylaw to regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements in relation to noise in the Village of Queen Charlotte

Interpretation

2. In this Bylaw:

- a) "Council" means the Council of the Village of Queen Charlotte;
- b) "Bylaw Enforcement Officer" means the Chief Administrative Officer, member of the R.C.M.P. , or other person who may be appointed by Council;
- c) "Village" means the Village of Queen Charlotte;
- d) "Weekdays" means Sunday night to Friday morning;
- e) "Weekends" means Friday night to Sunday morning.

Prohibited Noise

3. No person shall make or cause, or permit to be made or caused, in or on a highway or public place in the Village, any noise which disturbs or is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public.
4. No owner or occupier of real property shall use such real property, or permit such real property to be used, so that a noise which originates from such real property disturbs or is liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public.
5. Without limiting the generality of Section 3 or 4 of this Bylaw, no person shall cause or permit:
 - a) any amplified music or speech which is audible between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends, outside the premises on the real property from where the music or speech originates or is reproduced and which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public;
 - b) any calls, cries, barks, or other noises made by an animal which are audible between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends, outside the premises where the animal is kept and which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public;
 - c) any noise made by the operation of any machinery or equipment between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends and which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public;
 - d) any noise made in the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, or demolition of any building, structure, or thing, including the excavation or filling of land, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays or between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekends and which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of individuals or the public.

Exemptions

6. This Bylaw does not apply to noises produced by:

- a) emergency response vehicles and equipment proceeding upon or engaged in an emergency;
- b) the excavation, filling, construction, reconstruction, alteration, or repair of streets, highways, public works, infrastructure, or lands by the Village's employees or agents;
- c) snow removal or highway cleaning operations on a highway or public place;
- d) the operation of a public address system, or alarm system, required under a building or fire code;
- e) special events permitted by Council;
- f) an animal impoundment facility or shelter;
- g) activities associated with commercial fisheries operations and fish guides;

NOISE BYLAW CONTINUED

- h) commercial delivery vehicles, or their operators, or any other noise associated with the regular course of the delivery or pickup of commercial goods;
- i) BC Ferries operations in Skidegate Landing;
- j) the landing and takeoff of helicopters from the heli-pad or float planes;
- k) industrial activity on property zoned industrial and including the loading of the log barge in Bearskin Bay.



Inspection

7. Subject to requirements of the *BC Community Charter Act*, a bylaw enforcement officer may enter on any property at any reasonable time for the purpose of ascertaining whether the regulations and requirements of this Bylaw are being observed.

Interference

8. No person shall obstruct or interfere with a bylaw enforcement officer in the performance of his or her duties under this Bylaw.

Offences and Penalties

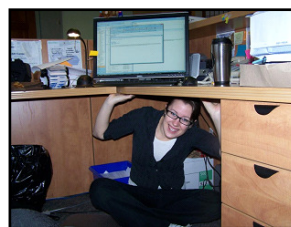
9. Any person who contravenes this Bylaw is liable upon summary conviction to a fine and the cost of prosecution. Every day during which there is an infraction of this Bylaw shall constitute a separate offence.
10. This Bylaw is designated pursuant to s. 264(1)(a) of the *Community Charter*, S.B.C. 2003, c. 26 as a bylaw enforceable by means of a ticket in the form prescribed in the *Community Charter Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 425/2003.
11. All persons acting on behalf of the Village for the purpose of enforcement of the Village's bylaws and members of the R.C.M.P. are designated pursuant to s. 264(1)(b) of the *Community Charter*, as bylaw enforcement officers for the purpose of enforcing this Bylaw.

The fines established by Schedule A of the Bylaw are \$50 for the first offence, \$100 for each subsequent offence and \$250 for interference with a Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

SHAKEOUT BC

January was a busy month in terms of working with the community and staff to be prepared. The municipal office along with other government offices, businesses and individuals participated in the 2011 ShakeOut BC Earthquake Drill. A total of 5,639 people were registered to participate in the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District.

In anticipation and planning for the Drill, we met with the Queen Charlotte Emergency Planning Committee and discussed our plans and activities. Our Public Works Team developed a new Post Earthquake Procedure for checking on our municipal infrastructure and took proactive steps to improve safety at the municipal office. During the drill we all got under our desks for one minute and then we left the building as recommended (I did discover that I need a larger desk or a smaller body). At the end of the drill we also implemented the new Procedure to check on the key infrastructure, the reservoir, sewer lift stations, water treatment plant and intake and the chlorine kiosk, and determined the amount of time it would take under optimum conditions to complete these tasks. This helped us to identify some changes to the procedure which we have made.



-Bill Beamish, CAO

KING TIDES

In January we had the opportunity to observe the effects of the King Tides on our community. Several photos have been contributed to the BC Government King Tide website which you can view at the following site: http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cas/adaptation/king_tide.html It was great to see others taking photos and contributing them as well.



VILLAGE OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE

Mayor Carol Kulesha
Councillor Greg Martin
Councillor Gladys Noddin
Councillor Kris Olsen
Councillor Leslie Johnson

Chief Administrative Officer- Bill Beamish
Chief Financial Officer- Debra Uliana
Superintendent of Public Works-
Ben Greenough

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Every five years Statistics Canada conducts a census. The next Census of Canada will take place in May 2011. Communities depend on census information when planning for new schools, roads, waterworks, public transit, and police and fire services. Town planners use census information on households and families to plan current and future housing needs, health care, and day-care centers.

Population estimates obtained from the census are used to allocate transfer payments from the federal government to the provinces and territories and from the provinces to municipalities.

As a decennial census, data

from the 2011 Census will be used to determine the number of Members of Parliament.

The 2011 Census is staffing 35,000 jobs across Canada.

If you are over 18 years old and can commit to at least 20 hours per week including evenings, weekends and holidays, apply now.

Rates of pay (\$14.72 to \$18.04 an hour) vary by assignment. The work period is early March to the end of July 2011, depending on assignment.

Please tell friends and family about opportunities to work on the census. Visit the 2011 Census website for more information.

To download and submit an online application, visit the website at www.census2011.gc.ca.

RADON GAS

What is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that is colourless, odourless and tasteless. Radon is formed by the breakdown of uranium, a natural radioactive material found in soil, rock and groundwater. When radon is released from the ground into the outdoor air, it gets diluted to low concentrations and is not a concern. However, in enclosed spaces, like basements, it can sometimes accumulate to high levels, which can be a risk to the health of you and your family.

Is Radon Gas a concern for me?

High radon concentrations (> 200 Bq/m³) have been detected across the North including Quesnel, Prince George, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Atlin. Coastal regions, such as Terrace, Prince Rupert and Stewart are expected to represent less of a concern.

The only way to know for sure whether your home is high in radon is to test it. Testing is easy and relatively inexpensive. Test kits usually cost less than \$60.

How do I test my home?

Health Canada recommends that homes be tested for a minimum of three months (preferably 12 months), ideally between October and April. The detectors should be set up in the lowest lived-in level of your home where you spend at least 4 hours of your time each day.

Where can I buy a test kit?

Long-term radon test kits can be purchased for \$30 from Terrace by calling 250-631-4200. Several BC retailers and home hardware stores also sell test kits throughout the province. For more information on radon testing and retail locations, please contact Northern Health at 250-847-6400 or radon@northernhealth.ca.

