



Village  
of Queen Charlotte

# VILLAGE VOICE

February 2008

## Message From the Mayor

The Land Use Plan has been signed and that is a great achievement. At the celebration of the signing in Skidegate last month, both the Premier and Guujaaw stated that there is much more that needs to be accomplished. The signing of the agreement is a door opening. It is an opportunity for the Haida Nation, the province and local government to secure and protect the land and to provide economic stability for the people who live on it. Local government will do its part. Queen Charlotte, Port Clements, Masset, Area D and Sandspit have agreed to work together and, as a first step, signed an ac-

lishes a legal entity that enables us to take the Council of the Haida Nation up on their offer to have the communities become a business partner.

The new members joining the five local government leaders are: Hyland Fraser, Sarah Loewen, Len Munt, Brian Charman, Maureen Weddell, Skye Cantin, Roly Thompson, Ian Gould, Chris Marrs, Shirley Kricheldorf and Bill McKay.

Island local government also needs to meet and speak together on other Island wide issues and towards that aim has established an Islands Directors

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D and Sandspit have agreed to work together and, as a first step, signed an accord with the Council of the Haida Nation; the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands Economic Development Accord. The accord's number one priority is to create a regional economic development organization to provide leadership for the revitalization effort. The start is Misty Isles Development Society, a corporation whose five founding members were Mayor Delves (Chair), Mayor Kulesha (Vice Chair), Mayor Pages, Director Hetman and Director Glasman. Since then, eleven Islanders have stepped forward to participate in this very important initiative. Our communities have also offered the economic development funding (\$35,000 each) granted by Northern Development Initiative Trust towards the first year's operation and are presently advertising for the position of executive director. Misty Isles Economic Development Society is the body that allows us to work together Island wide and estab-

land wide issues and towards that aim has established an Islands Directors Advisory Committee of the Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District. I am pleased to chair this committee and we have started our agenda with solid waste management – garbage. We will be reviewing a report from consultant Laurie Gallant (Footprint Environmental Strategies) this month and I am looking forward to the resolution of some of the long standing issues. These issues stem from our isolation, costly transportation, lack of man power, lack of sufficient funding and long distance administration. These are problems not easily resolved.

As always it is a pleasure to represent you. Please join us for our monthly Brown Bag lunch or feel free to contact myself, councillors or staff with your issues and ideas.

Sincerely,  
Carol Kulesha, Mayor

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## Health Care

At 53 years of age the Queen Charlotte General Hospital is to be replaced. The next step is the master plan which is due to be completed March/April. The master plan is a report that summarizes the requirements for the facility (what needs to be inside it) and can give us a description in area, size and shape of the new building. It will be completed with the input of all health care providers in Queen Charlotte and Skidegate. How the new building will be “phased” and if the use of temporary facilities will be necessary has not yet been released.

A hospital is only one part of health services. The Heritage House Society’s assisted living complex, Martin House, at 306 2nd Avenue is open and 2 of its 4 rooms are already occupied. Assisted living offers a resident who can make decisions about their

iors out of the hospital and active members of our community is the aim.

Visiting a specialist off island is expensive, time consuming and disruptive to job and family. Although Island physicians advocate for specialist working visits to the Islands sometimes your health needs and the schedule do not match. Judy Perry at the medical clinic is the voice at the other end of the line trying to find appointments for those who must travel off island. Queen Charlotte’s Health and Wellness Advisory Committee has worked hard with Northern Health to identify travel issues and find solutions. One solution for Island travel has been initiated. Northern Health and Eagle Transit have announced a bus service to meet each Prince Rupert ferry and transfer clients to and from Queen Charlotte, Masset and locations in between. This bus service can also be used by

already occupied. Assisted living offers a resident who can make decisions about their care some help with tasks of daily living. This includes two meals a day, weekly housework, laundry service, alarm service and social activities. The work of a dedicated group of volunteers keeping our sen-

Queen Charlotte, Masset and locations in between. This bus service can also be used by non medical clients. Contact Eagle Transit at 559 4461. The cost of medical travel by ferry can be covered by TAPS (Transportation Assistance Program). Contact the medical clinic at 559 4447 for more information.

## Sports Fishing Boat Launch

BC Ferries will be fencing their site for mandated security protocols. The Kwuna ramp will not be accessible to launch a boat and the airplane ramp site needs a lot of work.

An initial meeting of interested residents came up with some good ideas and after discussing the pros and cons of other sites, the seaplane ramp remains our best option. On their suggestion the Village has applied

for a water lot licence and has commenced the environmental assessment before estimating construction costs. We will need increased parking, a small dock that can be stored in winter months and the ability to accommodate our helipad on site.

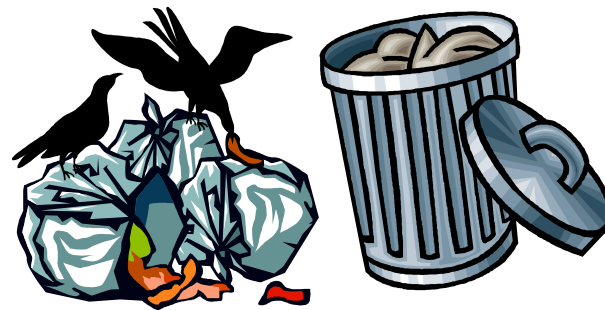


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## Garbage

Garbage collection and recycling is a Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District (SQCRD) function. Our village office is responsible for collecting the money. The Island Mayors and Area Directors represent us at SQCRD and have taken the communities' concerns to the board. There are many reported problems and the SQCRD is reviewing different operational options. If you have a complaint please report missed collections and other issues to 1-888-557-9339 and/or John Holland at 1-888-301-2002.

Please remember: We are allowed only two bags of garbage no heavier than 30 pounds (14 kilos ) each. To be collected, those plastic bags must be placed in a container with a well fitted lid. Your garbage will not be col-



lected if the rules preventing personal injury and animal control are not followed. If you have an extra bag you must purchase a bag tag for \$2 available from Sam and Shirley's grocery store.

One bag of garbage one week does not mean you are allowed an extra free garbage bag the following week!

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Spirit Square

The beginning of improvements to our harbour

## Danger Tree Removal



The beginning of improvements to our harbour and Spirit Square is happening! Small Craft Harbours is placing fill that expands the area to the unloading dock. The community receives free fill at the end of our Spirit Square property in exchange for access to the site - A good deal for both of us. We still await any news on funding. Those interested in contributing ideas for the town park please contact the Village office.

## **Removal**

Big and Beautiful but dangerous. This spring will see many of our alder trees removed due to safety concerns.



## **Haida Gwaii Community Futures**

After one and half years without representation on the Community Futures board, a well qualified nominee has stepped forward. Maureen Weddell who some of you have met as the manager of our Visitors Information Centre, has served on Revelstoke's Community Futures board and was part of that city's revitalization. Here on Queen Charlotte/Haida

Gwaii, she serves on the Community Tourism Foundation, the All Island Trail Alliance and as one of the directors of the Misty Isles Economic Development Society. We look forward to having Maureen bring her experience and island's contacts to Haida Gwaii Community Futures.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In a year when winter does not seem to stop highway maintenance workers need your assistance. Moving your vehicles off the road right away allows the snow ploughs to clear built up snow, keeping the driving portion of the road open and ensures proper drainage when melt occurs.

***PLEASE HELP MAKE OUR ROADS***

***SAFER FOR EVERYONE***



## The Village Welcomes it's Newest Employee

Jeni (Jennifer Bulbrook) our Finance Clerk is the newest member of the admin team at the Village Office. Jeni is a local who was born in at QCIGH and grew up in the inlet.

She graduated from Queen Charlotte Secondary in 2000, and after spending two years in England decided to return home to Canada to continue her education. She completed two years at Camosun College in Victoria were she earned her Associate of Arts degree.

Jeni has been working at the Village Office since summer and has been enjoying the diversity that a



small office demands. We use Jeni's talents to work on our town mapping, to lay out and produce this newsletter as well as other publications.

In September she is planning on attending a Municipal Information Training Institute (MATI) course in Victoria. The course is an introduction to municipal governments functions and responsibilities.

Please don't hesitate to come by the office, phone, or email her at [j.bulbrook@queencharlotte.ca](mailto:j.bulbrook@queencharlotte.ca)