

# VILLAGE VOICE

## Message from the Mayor

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### Coming Events

#### Bursary Deadline

June 15th @ 4:00pm

#### Council Meeting

Monday, June 20th @ 7:30pm

#### Elections Workshop

Monday, June 27th @ 7:00pm

#### Property Taxes

July 4th @ 4:30pm

The North West Regional Hospital District (NWRHD), represents communities from Smithers, Terrace, Prince Rupert, to Dease Lake and across to Haida Gwaii. They committed \$2.74 million dollars of their taxpayers' money to bring the Queen Charlotte General Hospital and Health Centre design through its blue print phase. In practical terms that means the design has progressed to include picking out the light fixtures and flooring. We are ready. When the new Minister of Health Michael De Jong did not commit to a time frame to fund the next building phase, the NWRHD board was united and angry. At last month's North Central Local Government Association they met with the MLA's that were present, and our MLA, Gary Coons said that he would support us. He brought our 60 year plus hospital complete with photographs up in the legislature. He and opposition health critic Mike Farnsworth spoke with passion asking government how long would they wait to fund us. They asked why was the health care of the rural and remote community of Queen Charlotte, Haida Gwaii sidelined?

It was a story with "legs" and was featured by Global TV, the Vancouver Sun, Prince Rupert papers and radio shows from Vancouver to Prince Rupert, Prince George and even Toronto. Minister De Jong responded by phoning and asking questions about our facility. He is now up to date. He stated that he understands

the urgency of the situation. Northern Health must now complete the business case which will be before government in August. I

have received no promises of funding as of yet but I do see a lot of people working on our behalf.

Our staff deserves better working conditions and our families deserve care with dignity. Our medical staff supply great services but we need the space to deliver them. We need wheelchair accessible toilets and tub room, proper areas for the comfort of those suffering from dementia, a place for families to gather at the end of life and a lot more. As the post disaster facility we know that we will need to take care of islanders for several days before we can receive assistance from the outside but we are not built to accommodate the need. We are still very lucky in that we have dedicated and committed staff that do whatever it takes to make our health services work. Our ability to deliver health care has outgrown the buildings and no more sheds or renovations can "make do".

Hospital Days is June 18<sup>th</sup> and our well beloved hospital needs our continued support. Come out for a day of fun and good food and all for a good cause. See you there.



*-Carol Kulesha, Mayor*

## 2011 Property Taxes - Due July 4th

Due on  
July 4th @ 4:30pm

There is a code on your tax notice that allows you to claim your Home Owner Grant Online at [www.queencharlotte.ca](http://www.queencharlotte.ca)

### Methods of payment:

- In person at the Municipal Hall, 903A Oceanview Drive with either a cheque, money order or cash. Please note that we do not accept credit or debit cards.
- Mail a cheque to the Municipal Hall early enough to be received before the deadline (post dated cheques dated July 4th, 2011 is acceptable). The post marked date is not accepted as date of payment, it is the date it arrives at our office.
- Pay using telephone or online banking services provided by the Credit Union.

## About Home Owner Grants

The purpose of the home owner grant (HOG) is to help reduce the amount of residential property tax British Columbians pay. Even if your financial institution is remitting property taxes on your behalf, you must still complete your Home Owner Grant and return it to the Municipal Hall. The home owner grant program includes the following types of grants:

- Basic
- Additional

**An unclaimed Home Owner Grant is considered outstanding taxes. In order to avoid penalties, you must submit your completed grant application to the Municipal Hall by July 4th 2011 at 4:30pm.**

### Basic Grant:

- You are a **Canadian citizen** or **landed immigrant** and **ordinarily reside** in British Columbia.
- You are the **registered owner or eligible occupant** of the home. The home must be located **within the province**.
- The home is your **principal residence** - where you live and conduct your daily activities. The grant does not apply to summer cottages, second homes or rental properties.

### Additional Grant:

- You are **65 or older**. If your home is jointly owned, only one owner must be 65 to qualify. The qualifier's birth date and signature must be included on the application.

- You receive a **disability allowance** under the *Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act*. You must provide a Consent for Release of Information form, signed by you and your Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance representative, verifying you are receiving these benefits.

- You are **permanently disabled** or you have a **disabled spouse or relative** residing with you permanently. A signed medical certificate (FORM B) completed by your physician must be attached to the grant application.

- You are a **veteran** or spouse of a veteran who served in World War I, World War II or the Korean War, receiving an allowance under the *War Veterans Allowance Act*.

### Claiming your HOG online:

**Step 1:** Go to [www.queencharlotte.ca](http://www.queencharlotte.ca)

**Step 2:** Click on the link of the pig on our home page.

Home Owner  
Grant Online  
Apply Now!



**Step 3:** Enter the Roll Number that appears on the top left of your tax bill, along with your password.

**Step 4:** Click on **Apply Now**

**Step 5:** Choose between the additional or basic grant

**Step 6:** Fill out relevant fields, tick the boxes, and press "Apply Now" Record the confirmation number for your records.

### The Village of Queen Charlotte Offers \$500 Bursary

#### **Qualifications:**

To qualify for this bursary, a student must:

1. be a resident of Queen Charlotte;
2. have graduated from Queen Charlotte Secondary School
3. have completed at least one year of an accredited post secondary education program and be enrolled in the second or subsequent year (post secondary education may include university, college, trade school or apprenticeship);
4. be registered in a full program of courses per semester; and,
5. have attained an overall 'B' average

Applications are available at the Village Office, 903 A Oceanview Drive, Queen Charlotte and on our website at [www.queencharlotte.ca](http://www.queencharlotte.ca)

Qualified applicants must complete and submit their application by Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

You can contact us via:

Phone 250 559 4765

Fax 250 559 4742

Email [office@queencharlotte.ca](mailto:office@queencharlotte.ca)

## Artist in Residence

Vancouver-Sunshine Coast Artist, Jan Poynter, has been invited to Queen Charlotte in July, to demonstrate materials and techniques for painting scenes on the large metal or plastic utility boxes that feature prominently on the rights of way of most communities. Here in Queen Charlotte these boxes are mainly for the sewer pump stations whereas in some other communities there are many similar boxes for BC Hydro and Telus underground services. Jan has a great deal of experience painting scenes on utility boxes in similar coastal communities like Sechelt, Gibsons and West Vancouver. Through research, experimentation and experience she has learned about the best materials to use to prepare the boxes, paint on them and seal the final painting to protect it from UV, weather and graffiti.

Our hope is that other local artists will be interested in this free learning opportunity and work with Jan while she is here so that they are able to continue this local enhancement project in Queen Charlotte or another communities.

Jan will also provide information and tips on how to prepare Public Art design submissions for jurying, in the event there is a future opportunity to respond to a 'call for artists'.

Examples of this kind of project can be found on Jan's website along with many samples of her original art works

[www.janpoynter.com](http://www.janpoynter.com)

Jan will also be offering FREE afternoon drop-in studio workshops in Queen Charlotte July 14-18.

A professional illustrator and designer, with 30 years teaching experience, Jan is keen to meet and share her experience with local artists. You are invited to attend the morning Plein Air sketching & paint out sessions and afternoon "Works in Progress" workshops - at no cost! Jan has suggested the following schedule for her visit to Queen Charlotte:

### WEEK ONE: Afternoons

**July 6-11** 2pm – 5pm (on site - weather permitting)

Together with other artists and if possible some young people, Jan will prepare, design and paint on site a public art feature on one of the utility boxes on Wharf street, across from the J&T Restaurant. Starting with an informal workshop (AM -Wed July 6) she will discuss the creative and fabrication challenges of a permanent installation. Participants in this process will be prepared with the knowledge & materials to create lasting public art projects that will enhance the community.

**WEEK TWO: Afternoons** 2pm – 5pm (location to be announced) **July 14 -18**

The "Works in Progress" workshops are a relaxed and informal opportunity for participants to experience Jan's paintings from start to finish. Participants are encouraged to bring their own projects for discussion and enjoy lively demonstrations, individual instruction, direction and/or critique. For Drawing/ Acrylic/ Watercolor/Pastel (sorry no Oils). If you have an idea for a painting - started something and don't know what to do - or finished



something you are not pleased with - bring it along ! (please bring photo references as well!) Participants will also receive valuable instructional handouts and exercises on composition, color mixing and technical tips. Email: [poynterjan@hotmail.com](mailto:poynterjan@hotmail.com) for more information.

**WEEK TWO: Mornings:** 9am-11am (weather permitting)

**July 14 -18**

Plein Air sketching & painting - Local artists and students are invited to join Jan in sketching and painting on location with informal instruction and creative support. A meeting location will be posted every morning at Spirit Square (online @ <http://poynterstudio.com>) and a demo will be provided by Jan each day. This is a fun event and visitors are welcome to watch!

### Sign up or Drop in :

Final details of times and locations will be worked out once Jan arrives in Queen Charlotte and we see what the weather is like. In the meantime, if you are interested in participating in any one or all of these activities, please contact the Village Office at: 250-559-4765 or by e-mail to [poynterjan@hotmail.com](mailto:poynterjan@hotmail.com) and leave your name and contact information.

**-Bill Beamish, CAO**



## Village of Queen Charlotte

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Councillor Kris Olsen  
Councillor Leslie Johnson

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

We're on the Web!  
[www.queencharlotte.ca](http://www.queencharlotte.ca)

### **BOAT TRAILERS**

Please be considerate to other boat launch users. Unhitched boat trailers may not be parked or stored at the boat launch for longer than one week. Boats may not be stored on trailers at the site. Violators will be towed at owners expense.

## Are You Thinking of Running for Council in November?

If you are thinking of letting your name stand for the November 2011 Local Government Elections you may also be interested in attending an evening workshop and discussion offered by the Village of Queen Charlotte staff. This workshop will be held on Monday, June 27th, commencing at 7:00 PM at the Village Office. Its purpose is to assist you to understand the workings and activities of local government and to help you to make your decision about standing for election.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Superintendent of Public Works will each present information about the administration and operations of the municipality and will answer all of your questions concerning municipal procedures and bylaws, the budget and financial matters, council remuneration and benefits, roads and other public works activities and any projects planned for 2012 and beyond, to the extent that they are able to do so. Matters that are of a confidential or 'in-camera' nature will not be discussed.

Debra Uliana who is also the Chief Election Officer will present information and answer questions about the local government election process.

We look forward to meeting and sharing information with you.

**-Bill Beamish, CAO**

## Road and Pedestrian Safety

In recent months we have received several comments and complaints about road and pedestrian safety in the areas of Wharf Street and the Causeway. These have concerned the lack of a painted crosswalk, parking too close to the intersection and parking congestion.

To respond to these concerns the Public Works Department is planning to undertake some improvements in the area which include:

1. Angle parking stalls will be established on the Causeway adjacent to the Spirit Square. These correspond to the recommendations of a 2005 traffic safety study and will provide wider aisles between parking stalls and more maneuverability for vehicles and passengers;
2. A turnaround will be developed and maintained at the end of the Causeway to enable vehicles to access the angle parking stalls;
3. Consideration will be given to increasing the number of angle parking stalls on the Causeway depending on our experience with these initial ones;
4. An East - West crosswalk will be painted on the South Side of Wharf Street at the Causeway intersection; (*it is important to note that under Section 119 of the Motor Vehicle Act, a cross walk exists at an intersection whether it is painted on or otherwise marked and drivers must respect the pedestrian right of way at these locations*);
5. Curbs at the intersection will be painted yellow in order to enforce Section 189 of the BC Motor Vehicle Act parking restrictions that provide as follows:

*"Except when necessary to avoid conflict with traffic or to comply with the law or the directions of a peace officer or traffic control device, a person must not stop, stand or park a vehicle as follows:*

*(e) on a crosswalk;*

*(f) within 6 m of the approach side of a crosswalk;*

*(g) within 6 m on the approach to a stop sign located at the side of a roadway."*

We hope that these changes will improve vehicle and pedestrian safety in this area and we would like to thank the residents who have made suggestions for these improvements. If you have suggestions for other improvements that can be made, please contact the Village Office.

**-Bill Beamish, CAO**