

# VILLAGE VOICE



March 2011

## Message from the Mayor

Our Village is now the official "owner" of the Queen Charlotte cemetery. Our cemetery comes with quite a history. George Westwood has assisted in burying our loved ones since 1991. He tells us that the first "legal" burial for the QC cemetery for which there was a permit issued, was baby Cochrane in late 1909. George now lives in the former Cochrane residence. According Dalzell's history a carpenter by the name of John Barge served as the first undertaker until 1928. Jimmy Carmichael's Dad was undertaker sometime after that, and Jimmy assisted his father. The Legion was the last in a long history of volunteers and organizations operating the cemetery.

It is a beautiful resting place and now it is being maintained by the village.

Inside this newsletter is information about the draft cemetery bylaw. Within the legal language needed to comply with provincial regulations, our aim is to make it as simple and straight forward as possible, keep costs down and maintain the flavour of the way things have been done. We have made it possible to continue to bury our own or pay the Village's public works staff to assist. We have established fees for maintenance but unlike larger towns and cemeteries we are not establishing rules for the tomb stones, grave plantings or limiting access.

Your comments are welcomed.

**-Mayor Carol Kulesha**

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## 2011 Policing Priorities

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent, on behalf of council, to Sergeant Rob Knapton, RCMP, on March 1, 2011:

"Our community is very well served by you and the members of the Queen Charlotte Detachment. We have observed that your members participate in community events, work with youth at the high school or the teen center and interact with local residents and young people on a daily basis. RCMP vehicles are highly visible in our commu-

nity as you conduct regular patrols or travel to and from calls which provides residents with a sense of security and confidence to go about their daily activities.

For 2011, Council offers the following suggestions for the Community Policing Priorities:

1. Continue to liaise with students and youth at the local schools and the teen center and to participate in community events;
2. Continue to focus enforce-

ment activities on substance abuse issues with a view to eliminating the sale and distribution of illicit drugs and keeping impaired drivers off the roads;

3. Give priority to public information and education about crime prevention and opportunities for more police-community interactions.

Please pass on our expression of thanks and appreciation to your members."

**-Mayor Carol Kulesha**

## Cemetery Bylaw

Transfer of the Queen Charlotte Cemetery from the Royal Canadian Legion to the Village of Queen Charlotte was finalized in February 2011. We are now preparing to apply to the BC Consumer Protection Office for a License to Operate the Cemetery and to adopt a bylaw that includes the rules and regulations that are required under the BC Cremation, Internment and Funeral Services Act.

The purpose of the bylaw is to establish the required local procedures, permits and fees that will apply to the operation of our cemetery. While some residents will have concerns about the bureaucracy involved, Council is making every effort to keep the procedures as simple and straight forward as possible while meeting the requirements of the provincial legislation. The fees for internments reflect cemetery fees for other communities on Haida Gwaii.

The bylaw will be presented to Council for first reading on March 21, 2011. Some of the features of the bylaw are:

- Applications for internments will be made at the Village Office, during regular business hours, Monday to Friday; emergencies can be accommodated;
- One (1) uncremated body and four (4) cremated bodies may be buried in each grave space, provided there is sufficient depth of cover;
- Internments are permitted on any day, after sunrise and before sunset;
- Memorials and improvements to the gravesite are permitted but are the responsibility of the family to maintain;
- A *Cemetery Care Fund* will be established and any income derived from this fund will be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery;

- Private arrangements for internments are permitted;

Our community is very fortunate to have the knowledge and assistance of George Westwood and many community volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the cemetery has been developed and maintained to a good standard. We encourage the ongoing participation of local volunteers and family members to help us to maintain the cemetery and to ensure that grave spaces are kept in good condition. To this end we plan to have annual volunteer work parties each spring to perform maintenance and plan for future expansion of the site.

Please visit our website, [www.queencharlotte.ca](http://www.queencharlotte.ca), to review the draft bylaw and to provide your comments for consideration. Copy of the bylaw is also available at the municipal office.

**-Bill Beamish, CAO**

## BC Ferries Public Consultation

Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Richter of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will be at our Council meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm. He is here to listen to our concerns regarding BC Ferries and rate structures. We need your input as how BC Ferries rates have affected your livelihood, family life and health care. What will further increases mean to you? Has someone you know cancelled a trip on or off island due to the increased cost? Do your groceries cost more? Do you consider the ferry our "highway"? Are fares

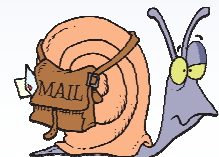
already too expensive? The provincial government offers subsidies to BC Ferries for partial fare support. How and how much they should subsidize our ferry run will be part of the provincial government's discussions after the ferry commissioner's report. The information gathered on island will be brought back to the Minister of Transportation. You are invited to our meeting to speak directly with the Minister's staff or speak with him on Tuesday morning in Council chambers from 8:30 to 10:00am.

Thank you.

**-Mayor Carol Kulesha**

## Canada Post

Are your letters or packages delayed? Help our MP Nathan Cullen work for us. Call and complain to Canada Post (1 800 267 1177) as frequently as needed. Keep their phone line busy. Track your express and priority post mail and claim your refund. Canada Post is ignoring us.



## Memorial Benches– Expression of Interest

Queen Charlotte invites Expressions of Interest from local crafts people for the design and manufacture of benches suitable for placing in public areas in the community. Council is looking for a range of different designs and costs that meet the following criteria:

1. be constructed from local wood, preferably cedar
2. be well built, durable and easy to maintain
3. have an area suitable to mount a 3" x 6" plaque (plaque not included in pricing)
4. be manufactured locally with a maximum 4 week delivery time once ordered
5. have backs and arms at either

end for support and a minimum length of 6.0 ft

6. have concrete legs or supports capable of being bolted to a concrete pad
7. final cost for finished and delivered benches must not exceed \$800.00 each, including HST

Council will review the proposals and will select 3 to 4 designs with different costs that will be made available to members of the public wishing to purchase and donate a bench to the community. Several sites suitable for placement of community benches were identified in a study recently completed by the QC Seniors Association under a grant from the Province of BC and these will be given priority.



Written Expressions of Interest must include a photo and/or copy of the plan for the bench, clearly showing how the above criteria have been met, and must be delivered to the Village Office, PO Box 580, 903A Oceanview Drive, by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 25, 2011.

**-Bill Beamish, CAO**

## Spirit Square Update

As development continues at our town square so does public enthusiasm. The large, locally milled support posts are now in place and as the stage takes shape you start to get a sense of it's scale. During the development of the square Council has been approached by members of the public with many great ideas for features to include in the design. One such project brought forth by Ken Brillon, Captain of the Gwaii Hannas II, has caught Council's attention. He has been cataloging all known sunken vessels in and around the waters of Haida Gwaii, and has given this list to the Village. We are interested in honouring those ships lost at sea by erecting a memorial at Spirit Square– but we need your help to make this project a success. Whether you know of a commercial vessel, a pleasure



craft, a historical wreck or even a barge that went down with loss of life, we'd like to hear about it. So far the list includes all vessel types, from the first sailing ships of the late 1700's to the more recent disasters– even the Queen of the North. If you feel that you can contribute to this list then please contact me with the details directly at [j.bulbrook@queencharlotte.ca](mailto:j.bulbrook@queencharlotte.ca).

Over the next weeks you will see the completion of the building and the marking out of the landscaping. Planting itself awaits spring. Next newsletters will report on our progress.

**-Jeni Bulbrook**

## Tennis & Ball Hockey Courts



March 31st is the expected completion date for the ball hockey and tennis court upgrades. The project was funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Union of BC Municipalities School Community Connections Program and splits the tennis courts into two courts: one for tennis, the other for ball hockey. New nets and posts have been purchased for the tennis side and a new practice board will be installed and painted. The main hockey boards are in place and two new full sized nets will be installed soon. The side boards, trim and lines still need to be painted, so please be advised that the facility may be closed at times during the next few weeks.

**-Jeni Bulbrook**

# 2011 Earth Day



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-  
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They overcome environmental obstacles. They engage others in support of a sustainable community. You may know them as a neighbour, volunteer group or local business, but to Earth Day Canada, they're Hometown Heroes working to support a healthier environment.

The Hometown Heroes Award Program is your chance to help Canada recognize and celebrate environmental leaders, whether an individual, group or small business, who foster meaningful, long-term community awareness and action.

Heroic candidates can win either the Individual Hometown Heroes Award, with a \$10 000 cash-prize (\$5 000 to keep and \$5 000 to donate to the environmental cause of their choice), the Group Hometown Heroes Award, with a \$10 000 cash-prize to support their work, or the Small Business Hometown Heroes Award, receiving an all-expenses paid trip to attend any professional development course, workshop, summit or conference focused on environmental sustainability and/or conservation within Canada.

Nominate yourself, an individual, group, organization or small business from your community by **April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**.

Visit <http://www.earthday.ca/hometown/> to download nomination packages.



## Queen Charlotte Fitness Routes and Trails

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the QC Seniors Association presented a report to Council on **Fitness Routes, Village Trails and Heritage Trails** as the final project under the 2010 Age Friendly Grant Program. This report identifies and rates several community walking trails and routes as to their locations and degree of difficulty or challenge for personal fitness. The following routes and trails are described:

### Fitness Routes:

- Flat Western Fitness Route
- Cardio Western Fitness Route
- Flat Central Fitness Route
- Flat Eastern Fitness route
- Cardio Eastern Fitness Route
- Heritage Walking Tour

### Village Trails:

- Trundle Creek Loop Trails
- Haydn Turner Park
- Crabapple Creek
- Gore Brook Loop Trail
- Charlie Hartie Creek trail
- Regier's Lake Trail

### Heritage Trails:

- Backyard trail
- Skidegate to Queen Charlotte
- Skidegate Landing to Spirit Lake

A great deal of work has gone into the preparation of this report as well as into the development and maintenance of our local trails. It was pointed out that as a community we need to find ways to maintain our trails and to support the 'local heroes' who are donating their time and efforts in developing and making these safe and passable for everyone.

Special thanks for this project goes to: Office Works and the Visitors Centre; Paul Hawes; the 'Over the Hill Hikers' group of Maureen Weddell, Marla Abbott, Eleanor Bowman and Fran Fowler; the QC Seniors Association; and, Karen Church.

The Village will continue to work on this project and is planning to develop a brochure with maps and trail information. In addition we are looking into trail markers, to be placed at entry points, and the Over The Hill Hikers are planning to mark the trails themselves with appropriate color coded tags.

**-Bill Beamish, CAO**