



November 2011

**Upcoming Events:**

**Election Dates:**

Advance Voting:  
Nov 9th from 8am-8pm @ Village Office

General Voting:  
Nov 19th from 8am - 8pm @ Community Hall

**Inaugural Meeting:**  
December 5th @ 7:30

**Council Meetings:**  
Nov 7th @ 7:30  
Nov 21st @ 7:30

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# VILLAGE VOICE

## Message from the Mayor

The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention is a time to lobby the provincial government, exchange ideas and learnings with colleagues and professionals and network with other local governments. UBCM is the most successful organization of municipalities in Canada. Weeks prior to the convention were devoted to planning and writing briefs to address our issues. My job was to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with Ministers and senior staff on behalf our Village, NW Regional Hospital District, Skeena Queen Charlotte Regional District, Misty Isles Economic Development Society, HG Higher Education Society and Gwaii Tel. Below is a summary of council's experiences this year. For full reports from each councillor see our website, the October 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

**"When will we see our new hospital?"** was the question we brought to the province. Council was granted joint meetings with the Premier and the Minister of Health. We were told that the business case for our hospital/health centre had been received, there was no doubt that the facility needed replacement and that the ball was now in the province's court. They were in the midst of developing their budget and a long term capital plan. They hope to tell us *where* on that capital plan the hospital build will be but that won't be until sometime in January. This information was reconfirmed at meetings with the regional hospital district and Northern Health.

Our lack of island wide cell phone service and an internet service that bogs down and is at times unreliable was the focus of a meeting with Minister McDiarmid. Though new to the ministry (24 hours!) she was able to announce that Telus had found extra bandwidth for the islands as an immediate short term solution. We will continue to advocate for cell service island wide and greater bandwidth. You will hear more about Gwaii Tel problems in future newsletters.

As a director of the HG Higher Education Society, our on island university program, I took part in a roundtable on communities with advanced education; issues, demands, challenges and solutions. HG Higher Education Society was definitely the newest and smallest kid on the block but our achievements to date

were well received. Minister Bell used us as an example of economic diversification and innovative education throughout UBCM but no "beef". I was unable to convince government – at this point- for committed funding.

Minister Ida Chong who presided over our inaugural ceremony as a municipality is back in charge of that ministry. Our council took this opportunity to report the achievements as an incorporated community and thank her ministry for the financial support of our water system, Towns for Tomorrow grant, and Spirit Square. We also spoke of the economic stimulation brought into the community by each capital project; money for jobs, rentals and equipment and we addressed the long complicated approval process.

Meetings with Ministers of Agriculture, Energy and Mines, and Forests/Natural Resources were to introduce them to MIEDS and its future projects.

Unlike previous UBCMs there were very little in the way of financial promises or assistance. Money is obviously very tight

**COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

In addition to the above, councillors attended and worked on the following  
Councillor Leslie Johnson pursued her interest in agriculture by taking a day long seminar exploring family farms of various sizes in the Fraser valley. Multiple businesses within one farm (growing the product, value added sales and restaurants) allowed the farms to succeed. Sessions on municipal insurance, infrastructure sustainability, emergency infrastructure, open government and resource panels were also part of her conference program. She was present for Nathan Cullen's Federal NDP leadership announcement.

Councillor Greg Martin Participated in the Coastal Community Network workshop, a forum for BC coastal communities working together on economic and environmental issues: fisheries, resource management, transportation and marine matters. He emphasized the impact of high transportation costs for families in coastal communities caused by increasing BC Ferry rates. He took part in UBCM sessions on the resource economy and was interviewed by a Chinese language television station regarding China buying raw logs instead of finished wood products from BC. He

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also attended other panel sessions focusing on First Nations, jobs, innovation and the BC economy. Councillor Kris Olsen pursued his interest in First Nations relationships by participating in conference seminars and workshops. He addressed funding for youth by requesting Northern Health review their financial support for youth coordinator positions in

rural communities. He arranged to meet the Minister of Child and Family Development to discuss rural youth coordinators and his discussion with ministry staff is ongoing. He continued his anti Enbridge campaign cornering the president of Enbridge at their social event. And he attended Nathan Cullen’s announcement.

**-Mayor Kulesha**

## Rethink, Replace & Rejuvenate: *The New 3 R's*

As CAO I had the opportunity to accompany Mayor Kulesha and Councilors Johnson, Olsen and Martin to the 2011 UBCM Conference in Vancouver, September 26 -30<sup>th</sup>. Unlike many conferences or programs that one attends, UBCM is always hard work followed by opportunities to relax and meet up with associates or network with other government workers or elected representatives. The theme for the 2011 conference, ‘Rethink, Replace & Rejuvenate: *The New 3 R's*’, focused on the fact that local governments currently face increasing challenges with respect to aging populations, workforces and infrastructure. Emerging trends present new challenges, and our ability as local governments to anticipate these challenges may determine our capacity to grow and adapt our communities, long-term. In addition, the dynamics of our communities are changing. Concepts that we have long understood - retirement, volunteerism, and community involvement, among others - are being rethought. Many of the clinics, workshops and policy sessions attended by council this year were focused on how they, as community leaders, can effectively respond to these changes in our communities.

The Conference began each morning at 7:00am with coffee and a variety of fresh fruits and muffins. The first meetings or clinics start at 7:30am for one hour followed immediately, at 8:30am, by the convention proceedings or policy sessions. The policy sessions provide an opportunity for local governments of all sizes and from all areas of the province to debate the resolutions that have been submitted for consideration, express concerns, share their experiences and take a united position. Resolutions endorsed by the membership are conveyed to other orders of government or organizations involved in local affairs, as appropriate. This year, a total of 187 resolutions were considered and debated at the conference. (Copies of the resolutions and results are available on the UBCM Website at: [www.ubcm.ca](http://www.ubcm.ca)) During the conference I had the opportunity to attend workshops dealing with the following topics:

- Building Communities- Building the Future
- The BC Hydro Smart Metering Program
- The Small Talk Forum – a forum for communities under 5000 population to discuss issues and share ideas of solutions to problems they have encountered

*It's that time of year again!*

Please ensure that your vehicle is ready for the winter driving conditions. It's time to put on those winter tires and be on the lookout for black ice. Let's make this a safe season!

- A presentation on the proposed Municipal Auditor General Program
- ‘closed’ Meetings to the public presented by the BC Ombudsperson

•Open Government – on sharing information via websites, and,

- A cabinet panel on Business and the Economy

In addition to attending the workshops I had an opportunity to accompany Mayor Kulesha and councillors to meetings with Premier Clark, Minister Chong and other provincial government representatives.

At the conclusion of the conference I reflected on what was important to me and to Queen Charlotte and committed that I would work on the following three areas during the remainder of my tenure as CAO:

Continue to work to improve staff to staff relations with Port Clements, Masset, Old Massett, Skidegate, the CHN and the Regional District Work with Mayor Kulesha, Council and staff to increase access to information through improvements to our website and general initiatives towards ‘open government’

Focus efforts to identify and reduce risks with respect to our municipal operations and facilities.

**-Bill Beamish, CAO**

## Vancouver Island Regional Library

The Vancouver Island Regional Library board works hard to ensure adequate financial resources to maintain universal access to ideas, information and technology. The public library is a great equalizer, providing the best books, for the most people, at the least cost ... just 11¢ per day! It also provides everyone equal access to computers, technology and other on-line resources.

From its humble beginnings in 1936, the VIRL has evolved into a complex system owning some 1.1 million items to borrow. Since the Queen Charlotte branch was established in 1983, the world of literacy has experienced volumes of advances in technology and, thanks to the volunteers who preceded me as active board members and their vision, the whole region, including our small branch, has been able to keep pace. Go into the branch and check it out.

Many books can be borrowed in any of these three forms: printed copy, audio book on CD, or downloaded to your

computer, personal MP3 or e-reader. At some branches you can even borrow the e-reader! Use the on-site computers to do the downloading. If you think that is too complicated, just ask for assistance from the local staff. They love to help.

The mission of your VIRL board is ... "to enrich lives and communities through universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning and literacy." We endeavour to do this by working closely with the member community representatives, listening to our local professional staff (in QC, Judy Baxter – library manager & Lorelee Parker – community support technician), and providing programmes, contests and exciting activities for all ages.

Funding comes from grants, programme fees, donations and your tax dollars. It is regulated by the Library Act of British Columbia which falls under the direction of the Ministry of Education. You are represented on the board by an appointed member of your local municipal government.

As with all public institutions, both the financial statements and the annual reports may be accessed in-branch or on-line. ( [www.virl.bc.ca](http://www.virl.bc.ca) ) Go in and ask for them.

The Queen Charlotte branch is open 5 days a week.

**Monday Closed**  
**Tuesday 2:30-5:00 & 6-8**  
**Wednesday 10:00 – noon**  
 & 1:00 – 5:00  
**Thursday Closed**  
**Friday 1:00 – 5:00**  
**Saturday 10:00 – noon**  
 & 1:00 – 5:00  
**Sunday Closed**

We value the tradition of the library and the legacy of the printed word, and embrace the benefits that modern technology provides. We trust that you do too. That is why we feel that it is important to continue to be active participants at the board table on your behalf.

*- Gladys Noddin, Councillor*

## Community Park

The skateboard park has been perched alone in the middle of our park area with only the tennis court/hockey ball rink for company. I am pleased to report that we are now in a position to start to develop the rest of the area. Gwaii Trust has granted us our primary funding of \$207,500 to expand the park area. Development will be in phases and we are actively applying for more funding.

The park plan includes areas

for everyone: families, tot playground, seniors activity areas, walking paths, BMX and mountain bike areas, a dog run and the teen centre. We have the big picture but we need your input. We need to put the elements inside the park and see if they work. Are we missing something? Does it work for you? The more eyes the better.

You are welcome to contribute however you wish – by letter, phone call, email and/or

attending a focus group meeting. Please contact our office and leave word for the following councillors if you are willing to be part of the process: Leslie Johnson for family and tots areas, Greg Martin for seniors' activities and Kris Olsen for BMX, mountain bike and teen centre.

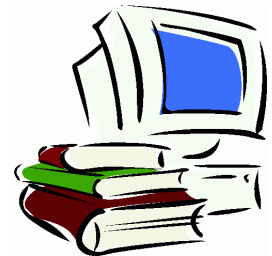
Developing parks and recreation areas encourages healthful living, community interaction and **FUN**. What do you want to see?

*-Mayor Kulesha*



**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
REGIONAL LIBRARY**

*Find books,  
movies, music  
and more for just  
pennies a day!*



## SeaWalk Project

The SeaWalk project has started with work being done on the Community Club property to stabilize the bank prior to construction of the 2 meter wide walkway. When it is completed, this walkway will connect from Bay Street, by the Library, to the Visitor Information Center and will utilize the Southside of Oceanview Drive, Wharf Street, Causeway Street and the new wharf that connects the harbor between Alder St. and the Causeway.

The Harbour Authority has approved construction of the walkway on the wharf head, at the causeway, and we have an agreement in place with the Community Club for the portion of the SeaWalk that is

on their property. Ministry of Transportation and Highways supports the SeaWalk on the south side of Oceanview Drive. We are working with them on the plans for signage and marking the paved shoulder.

This past week council met with some of the residents on Oceanview to discuss their concerns about plans for 'No Parking' on the South side. It was explained that the changes will be signage with painting on the asphalt surface, and that stopping (though not parking) for commercial vehicles, buses, etc, while loading or unloading, will still be permitted. We are also investigating opportunities for additional parking in

this area.

Following an open tender process, initial contracts have been awarded to Skidegate Inlet Construction Ltd. for riprap and bank stabilization and to Dave's Backhoe service, for replacement of a culvert. In November, additional tenders will be advertised for development of the walkway and a section of concrete sidewalk.

This project is funded with a 60% grant from the West Coast Community Adjustment Program (WesCCAP), and 40% from additional grants received by the municipality. The total cost is estimated to be \$302,000.

**- Bill Beamish, CAO**

The West Coast Community Adjustment Program (WestCCAP) is a federal initiative aimed at fostering increased economic activity and improving the quality of life in British Columbia's fishing-dependant coastal communities.

Its goal is to encourage long-term, sustainable economy development and diversification in these coastal communities in order to diversify local economies, facilitate economic adjustment and enable collaboration and partnerships leading to enterprise opportunities.

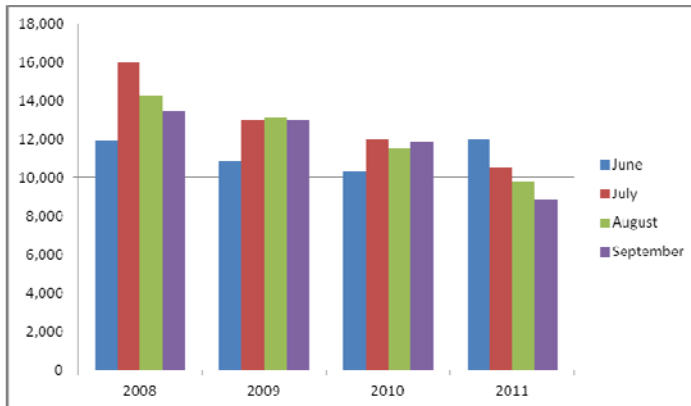


## Water Usage

Residents are reminded that at times, particularly during periods of heavy rains at the beginning of the Fall Season, the Honna River changes dramatically with increased sediment flows. When this happens we have needed to shut down the treatment plant until the sediment plume passes and the river returns to near normal conditions or until we are able to stabilize the water treatment process. This is usually for periods of up to 36 hours during which time we

switch over to the wells. This will result in a change in taste and could impact clothes washing if you are using bleach. Safety is not compromised in this process. Our experience so far is that this will happen only 1-2 times each year, unless there is some other electrical or mechanical breakdown. Please contact Ben Greenough, Superintendent of Public Works, if you have any questions about our drinking water.

*-Ben Greenough*



This chart shows water consumption in our community during the summer months. It is measured in cubic meters. (1m<sup>3</sup> = 1,000 liters)

## BC Ferries Advisory Meeting

On October 20 I attended a meeting of the North and Central Coast Ferry Advisory Committee in Richmond to bring forward our concerns about ferry costs and service levels, especially the fact that every jug of milk and box of nails costs consumers more on Haida Gwaii because of high transportation fees. I made the case that the ferries are part of our highway system. BC Ferries (BCF) Chief Financial Officer Rob Clarke (correctly) pointed out that BCF is required by the Coastal Ferry Act to pursue a

user-pay policy, and that as local politicians, it was up to us to lobby the provincial government to change the legislation. We shall continue to ask for these changes. There was a brief mention of the Federal/Provincial Subsidy Agreement for North Coast Transportation, and I have requested a copy of this document, as it is important to the case that we must make. A member from the Central Coast asked why BCF didn't try to implement fare sales to combat decreasing ridership, much as airlines do. Rob

## Chimney Safety

As the temperature outside drops many of us turn to our woodstoves to heat us through the winter months. However, failing to maintain your wood stove or fireplace properly can lead to a chimney fire. Chimney fires occur when combustible deposits on the inner walls of the chimney ignite. These combustible deposits, called "creosote," are a natural byproduct of wood burning. A fire hazard exists if 1/4 inch of creosote (or more) coats the inner walls of the chimney. Have your chimneys cleaned annually, preferably before the wood burning season begins. This reduces the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisonings due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimneys.



### Top 5 Safety Tips for Woodstoves:

- 1. Get an annual chimney check.** Have chimneys inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary.
- 2. Keep it clear.** Keep tree branches and leaves at least 15 feet away from the top of the chimney.
- 3. Install a chimney cap** to keep debris and animals out of the chimney.
- 4. Choose the right fuel.** For burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well seasoned wood that has been split for a minimum of six months - one year and stored in a covered and elevated location.
- 5. Build it right.** Place firewood at the rear of the fireplace on a supporting grate. To start the fire, use kindling or a commercial firelighter. Never use flammable liquids.



Clarke responded that BCF had commissioned a \$100k study by transportation economist Mike Tretheway on "price elasticity," which reportedly concluded that lowering fares would not increase ridership enough to compensate for the revenue lost by lowering prices. While this seems counter-intuitive to me, I am waiting for BCF Public Relations Manager Darin Guenette to email this and other documents to me. I will share these when they arrive.

*-Greg Martin, Councillor*

## Village of Queen Charlotte

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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

## Winter Road Maintenance

As winter approaches the Village of Queen Charlotte will soon begin its winter road maintenance program. In order to assist our employees to provide you with the best possible service please;

- Do not park vehicles on the road during snow removal operations.
- Be aware of snow and ice conditions and drive with caution.
- Pedestrians should wear high visible clothing so they are easily seen by snow removal equipment operators.
- Keep children out of the snow piles created by snow ploughing.
- Report any maintenance problems to the Village office by calling Ben Greenough, Superintendent of Public Works, at 250-559-4757 (Office) or 250-637-1781 (Cell).



For further information see Policy 17.0 Road Maintenance which can be found on our website or is available in the Village office.



## Garbage



Home owners are reminded to store all garbage in an animal proof container. The regulation garbage receptacle is galvanized, iron, or plastic, circular in design and provided with a sufficient water tight cover, having a capacity of not more than .071m<sup>3</sup>, having a diameter of not more than 41cm and a depth of not more than 61cm. The maximum weight of any receptacle plus its contents must not exceed 30k or

66lbs. Prior to placing garbage into the container it must be bagged and tied in approved plastic garbage bags.

All homes and active commercial establishments on Haida Gwaii accessible by road shall participate in the collection service. Collections are made once weekly. In the event of a Statutory holiday an alternate pick up day will be provided and communicated to these pick up days.

Extra garbage will be removed only if an additional garbage tag is affixed to the contents of additional regulation garbage receptacle. \$2 garbage tags are available to purchase from Sammy's Convenience Store. If you have any questions or comments concerning garbage you are welcome to contact Big Red at 250-559-8880.

*-Jen Bulbrook*