

**Village of Port Clements**

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V0T1R0

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**"Gateway to the Wilderness"**



**Village Office Hours:**  
Monday to Friday  
9:00am to 1:00pm

**BIOMASS**

Just a quick update to let everyone know that our biomass heating project is now operational thanks to funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust and the Provincial Gas Tax program. This project will provide low cost heating for the Fire Department building and the multiplex.



So, keep your eyes peeled for blue markings on the hydro poles and thank you to everyone who is working to make our communities a safer place to live and visit.

Taking a page out of Hawaii's Emergency Planning book, there may be a new look coming for Haida Gwaii.

All of the communities on Haida Gwaii have come together to put a proposal forward to BC Hydro as part of island wide emergency preparedness. Emergency Management BC considers 6 metres and below to be the "danger zone" for potential inundation in a tsunami situation. In Hawaii, to help residents and tourists identify what areas of the island fall beneath this height, they have painted blue markings on Hydro poles to alert people. If where you are situated falls below the blue band on the pole you know that you need to head to higher ground in an emergency situation. Based on this low maintenance, highly visible and easy to understand initiative, BC Hydro is working with the communities to review the request and work out any technical aspects of the project and determine who, how and when this project could move forward.

# THE LEADER

## New Payment Options!!

Beginning in May 2016 the Village of Port Clements will have more ways for residents and customers to pay for services in Port Clements. The Village of Port Clements, in conjunction with Nxgen Canada, will offer online payments by Credit Card for taxes, utilities and any other bills payable to the Village of Port Clements. However there is a bit of a difference to this offering. The Village of Port Clements had previously investigated the costs to provide credit card payment services to residents but the overhead costs, which would have to be covered by all residents of Port Clements through tax or other revenues, seemed excessive for the amount of

times we get asked if this payment option is available. The Village of Port Clements began investigating alternatives and finally settled on a company named Nxgen. Nxgen is a unique credit card payment system because it is a user pay system and it is even more sophisticated than that. The payment system, which is on the Village of Port Clement's website, calculates the user fee based on the type of credit card used. For example, a credit card with a lot of perks, like airmiles and low interest rates, etc would have a higher user fee than a no frills basic credit card. What this all means for Port Clements residents is that they will have more op-

tions on how to pay their bills without the expense being born by all the residents. This system is zero cost for the municipality and there is no minimum use required— if people do not wish to pay a service fee in order to use their credit cards they do not have to use the system and if it turns out to be unpopular it didn't cost the municipality anything. Drop by and ask us if you have any questions about the new system.



**In this issue:**

- ◆ We are now accepting credit cards
- ◆ Social Sustainability Questionnaire
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness Initiative

**EVENTS:**

- ◆ 2nd Friday of each month Senior's Luncheon
- ◆ 1-4pm Mondays Seniors Social
- ◆ Have an event coming up? Let us know so we can include you.

## Social Sustainability: Integrity of a Community

"The integrity of a community is dependent upon its awareness of what makes it whole. Most communities have not identified what it is that makes it "their community". This may sound like a bit of double-talk until it becomes clear what is needed for a community to identify itself. Until this is completed, there will be confusion in Council meetings and committee meetings about how to proceed. The first step is to thoroughly examine the history of your community. This step should clearly answer the following questions." Daniel Raphael, PhD

Each question below has two parts—one for the island community as a whole (Haida Gwaii) and one specific to our community.

**Please complete the questionnaire** and mail it, drop it off in person or drop it off in the drop box outside the entrance to the Multiplex. Please see the next page for more information about this initiative.

### FOR HAIDA GWAII

### FOR PORT CLEMENTS

Who are we? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What is unique about our community? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What are our essential traditions? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What do we wish to preserve.....what is it about what we want to preserve that is important to us?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

What do we want to carry forward into the future? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the Book "Social Sustainability—Handbook for Community Builders" by Daniel Raphael, a group of interested individuals island wide have begun meeting to discuss what being an islander generally and what being a member of a specific community on island means and how we can move towards a socially sustainable future. If you liken the islands to a city then each community on Haida Gwaii is like a neighbourhood with its own unique features and flavour but each neighbourhood is part of a bigger whole. Councils exist to undertake the task of providing direction to a community. Councils are able to make better informed decisions, that are more in line with what the residents want, when they have feedback from those residents. As part of an exercise towards this end, the Village of Port Clements Council invites you to consider the questions posed on the opposite page and provide your answers. You can sign your questionnaire or remain anonymous—the important thing is that you participate and let us know what you feel makes us a unique community and what it is we wish to preserve. Consider who is responsible for the creation of sustainable communities, and what will be the consequences if we do not move towards the creation of sustainable communities. Thank you for taking the time to consider these seemingly simple but deceptively complicated questions. While we don't wish to push the response in any particular direction, sometimes it is difficult when staring at a question to figure out where you wish to go with your answers. Here are some ideas that have been put forward just to give you some examples of how you might want to approach the questions:

Who are we could also be—why do we live here, where do we come from, what common beliefs do we share?

What is unique about our community could be—what features stand out, what are you proud of, what unites us?

What are our essential traditions could be—what brings us together as a community, what do we celebrate, what do you wish to be known for?

What do we wish to preserve could be—what do you wish to pass on to the next generation, what is sacred?

What do we want to carry forward could be—what is our legacy as a community, what is worth saving?

### 30 Km/h REMINDER

Don't forget that school zones are in effect from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday thru Friday. The maximum speed in any school zone is 30km/h.

Bayview Drive, Park Street, Cedar Ave West, Hemlock Ave and Tingley Street are all designated school zones. Next time you come by check your speed.

Thanks.



As the weather begins to warm up we will be painting equipment at the playground in the community park. We apologize for any inconvenience it causes while some of the equipment is out of service. We are also working on upgrades to the playground which we hope to have completed by the end of June. This project is thanks in part to donations received from L.N.R Excavating in the amount of \$5,000.00, Bayview Market in the amount of \$5,000.00 and the Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$500.00. We thank these organizations for their generosity and look forward to providing a revived place for children to enjoy in our community.