

## ***Cortes Island (Area I) Regional Director's Report***

Brian and I returned from our camping holiday just over a week ago. Our travels covered the area from southern Parksville to Port Hardy. The weather was great and we wiled away the days in a number of Provincial Parks--hiking, reading, and singing round the campfire. We also spontaneously dropped in on friends and family. We were even treated to some wonderful displays of autumn colour, which we have continued to enjoy since our return. Once home I started catching up on my emails, phone calls, and reading. I am now back into full swing. Here's a glimpse a few things I feel will be of interest to island residents.

### ***Ferry Advisory Committee***

A wide range of topics were discussed at the October 20 Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) Meeting. The first item of discussion was an update on the Coast Card. Some routes within the minor routes group are embracing the Coast Card. The card will be introduced on those routes first. Cortes and Quadra routes have consistently maintained ferry riders want to retain the paper ticket option. We have been assured that as long as a significant number of riders of these routes continue to use the paper tickets that option will be available. There was also discussion of the upcoming second performance term and a number of ideas regarding the Cortes route specifically. The latter focused upon a number of creative ideas to reduce overload problems that exist during the summer.

### ***Upcoming Public Hearing***

A Public Hearing will be held at the Gorge Hall November 4 commencing at 10:30 am. This Public Hearing is scheduled to listen to anyone who has an interest in the property affected by the proposed bylaws #2964 & 2965. These bylaws, if adopted, would redesignate the subject properties from "Rural" to "Rural Residential" and rezone them from Rural One (RU-1) to Rural Residential One (RR-1) to facilitate a two-lot subdivision on each lot. The property is located on the "water access only" side of the Gorge Harbour with one of the existing lots adjacent to the Gorge entrance. A map of the property can be found on the official notice of Public Hearing, which has been posted on local bulletin boards and on the Tideline. Anyone requiring any further information should contact Lisa Gallo, Planner at 1-800-331-6007.

### ***BC Hydro Meeting***

In response to concerns expressed by some island residents I have been working with BC Hydro representatives to arrange a public information meeting to discuss the frequency of power outages on our island. BC Hydro representatives have been very responsive to the idea of meeting with residents. Details of the meeting continue to be evolve however, it is anticipated that the Area Line Manager and Vegetation Manager will part of the team. It is currently proposed that BC Hydro representatives tour the island during the day followed by an evening public information meeting. The folks attending and the itinerary continue to evolve. Schedules of various individuals (mine

included) need to be considered but I hope to confirm a meeting date sometime mid-November. Once confirmed advertisements will appear in all the normal locations.

Feel free to contact me about these or any other issues at 935-6488 Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4 pm. If you get the answering machine try my cell phone -- 202-6488. You can also email me at [brijen@oberon.ark.com](mailto:brijen@oberon.ark.com) anytime.

*Respectfully submitted by Jenny Hiebert—Regional Director Area 'I' (Cortes)*