

CORTES ISLAND (AREA I) REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November finally brought the rain so desperately needed by forests, watersheds and wells. . . and with the rain came the wind. The first southeast storm arrived coincidentally on a day of a scheduled Public Hearing. As the wind grew stronger throughout the morning I grew concerned that the ferry may stop running leaving my fellow director's and staff stranded in Campbell River or Heriot Bay. The ferries continued running and everyone arrived at the Gorge Hall in ample time—several were, however, seasick.

The next scheduled meeting in November was the well-advertised BC Hydro Public Meeting. Once again a southeast storm rampaged up the coast with winds the strongest of the season thus far. Some weather forecasters called this one a “weather bomb” because it caused extensive damage all over Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the lower mainland. The meeting had to be cancelled as all the BC Hydro representatives that were to be present were coping with the extensive damage caused by the storm. I was struck by the irony of this meeting being cancelled due to power outages in many locations including Cortes. Heartfelt thanks are extended to the Hydro crew that worked so diligently to restore power service to everyone.

This power outage lasted just over two days for both ends of the island—though it appears the timing of loss and restoration were somewhat different. The most significant comments I have heard since are not in relation to the lack of power service but the lack of telephone service. Whaletown did not have phone service for a full 24 hours. I imagine Manson's Landing lost service for a similar length of time. This has long been identified as a safety matter and of concern to islanders. In response to these concerns I am currently attempting to arrange a Public Meeting regarding the reliability of both power and telephone services and hope to confirm participation by both Telus and BC Hydro. Notification of the date and participants will be posted shortly after confirmation. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate this time!

As the holiday season is fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a delightful celebration filled light, love, and laughter.
Cheers! Jenny Hiebert

Feel free to contact me about this or any other issue 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 anytime.