

Report of the Directors, 2008 -2009

In this report by the Chair of the Board of HICEEC, the focus will be on the dynamics of the board itself and the responses by HICEEC to suggestions made at the previous annual meeting.

The HICEEC board met at least six times during this past year, with all current board members actively participating. In addition, there were meetings of the executive and the chair met with the executive director several times. Finally, we were represented at the only CAST meeting of this year.

The detail of our work this past year is better presented in the report of our Executive Director, Tony Law. In broader terms, the chair highlights:

- Completion of a first contract between HICEEC and the Regional District.
- The appointment of a liaison between the district and the economic enhancement entities of both Hornby and Denman. Patricia Gagnon, whom you will meet more extensively a little later on this evening, has come over once to meet the board members and once to actively participate in our deliberations.
- We continue to grapple with our work plan and mandate, trying to focus on helpful actions without pushing a specific economic agenda.
- We listened carefully to the ideas presented to us at last year's AGM, with the primary suggestion being that HICEEC focus on smaller projects with measurable outcomes. We therefore followed through on these specific suggestions made at that meeting:

1. Make transportation a priority: To that end, we have created the "Ride Offered" cards for people to put on their car windshields to let people know that they can offer rides across Denman; the Rideshare website has been revamped and is operational, and Tony has been exploring a bus/van service across Denman with Island Link.

2. Consider the establishment of a business resource centre: Given that a business centre with a fixed location and hours had been tried before without success, we are working on expanding the Real Hornby website to include a virtual resource centre. We are also seeing whether workshops on specific, basic business practices is something our community might benefit from and considering whether to help people attend workshops on Vancouver Island.

3. Partner with the Arts Council to promote spring activities: We partnered with the Arts Council on their new brochure. In addition, we partnered with the school on a project to try and attract families with school age children to the island. In so doing, and by participating in CAST, we have followed through on another of the ideas presented to us last year to explore more options for partnering.

4. Put the Community Vision on the web site: This we have yet to do.

5. Include updates in the First Edition about how the vision is being implemented: This Reina LeBaron has been doing all year better than we could have done it ourselves!

6. Hold a board retreat: Since we had had a board retreat a year earlier, we decided not to have one this past year. This summer, we plan on meeting together with Patricia and members of HICEEC and then follow that with a Fall board retreat with Patricia to explore our work plan for 2010.

I believe that HICEEC has continued to make progress in finding its proper place in the complex constellation of Hornby organizations, that we are stronger than we have been, and that this positive process will continue next year.

Respectfully Submitted, Daniel Siegel, Chair HICEEC
Presented at the Annual General Meeting - June 2009