

**Village of Port Clements**

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**"Gateway to the  
Wilderness"**



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

**Golden Spruce:**  
Betty Stewart is looking for volunteers of people and supplies to enhance the area around our Golden Spruce sapling. Please call her by October 19th for more details 250-557-4760.

**Remembrance Day:**  
Watch for updates on this year's Remembrance Day ceremony.

The Great  
British Columbia  
**Shake  
Out**

At 10:18 a.m. on October 18, 2012, British Columbians will "Drop Cover and Hold On" in The Great British Columbia ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill in Canadian history.

Register to participate and be counted!

The drill is held on the third Thursday of October annually.

[www.shakeoutbc.ca](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca)

While we have your attention, emergencies can happen at anytime, as we all know. Just a power outage can cause a great amount of grief. Ensure that you and your family are prepared for **72 hours**. This means you should have enough water, food and supplies for 3 days. Every home should have a first aid kit, flashlights, batteries and emergency supplies. If you need more information on how to prepare for 72 hours. Please visit [www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca)



Village of Port Clements

SPECIAL EDITION

October 2012

**Coming events**

—October 22nd Taan will be holding a public information session in Port Clements.

—October 27th Betty Stewart is organizing a Fall Clean-up at the Millennium Park—please call 250-557-4760 to volunteer.

—October 29th will be the first public meeting to discuss the update of our Official Community Plan—please see page 3 for more details.

—October 31st there will be hot dogs and hot chocolate at the Fire Hall.

**facebook**

(Got something you want here? Email us!)

Visit us

"The Village of Port Clements"

Group

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/group.php?gid=152718168842>

# THE LEADER

## Public Barge/Port Facility

I am sure that bits and pieces of information have been floating around town in regards to a barge facility that Council is working on. While plans are still in the designing and financial feasibility stage, it is important that we update the community on the progress made to date and make sure that the bits and pieces of information floating around are accurate.

The concept of a roll-on/roll-off barge facility or container port are not new. In 2010 Council had a study done by Moffatt & Nichol in regards to the feasibility and design of a barge facility. In early 2012 this planning took on renewed vigor.

Recently, at the 2012 UBCM conference in Victoria representatives from Council had the opportunity to present

our ideas to various Ministries within both the Provincial and Federal governments to seek financial support. While nothing has been confirmed, the concept was well received and we are ready to work on a business case for the project.

As most of you already know, transportation and shipping costs are one of the greatest barriers to economic development on Haida Gwaii. These costs are often so exorbitant that they make the export of goods too expensive to compete within the market place, and the import of goods too expensive to support a vibrant islands economy.

Forestry still remains a major economic driver on island, especially for Port Clements. However, with over half of the remaining active forest

on Haida Gwaii consisting of second growth white wood of marginal market value it is imperative that we find a way to transport this product economically so that we can take marginal wood and make it financially viable. With a reduction in shipping costs we can move "marginal" stands of wood from being money losers to break even or better under normal market conditions. As stated in the 2012 BC Jobs Plan, "forest product exports are expected to grow by 100 percent by 2020" and we want to ensure Haida Gwaii is involved in that market.

Other benefits of a barge facility include:

◇ Transportation by containers avoids watering the logs which causes

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## Port Facility—continued from page 1

- ◇ Devaluation through parasites and exposure to salt water and also avoids the degradation of the marine environment caused by booming logs.
- ◇ Small businesses do not have the capacity to bid on or hold an inventory of logs substantial enough to fill a traditional barge. This facility would allow businesses to ship by container and even share container space if their product is small thereby allowing their product to get to market faster and more economically.
- ◇ Currently shipping and delivery costs are between \$30-40 a cubic meter. If a barge facility can reduce that by as little as \$10 it will mean a savings of \$9.29 million dollars to the islands once we get to the point of harvesting our Annual Allowable Cut of 929,000 cubic meters.
- ◇ Containerizing logs will result in less handling of product, reducing breakage and minimizing damage so logs will have a greater value.
- ◇ Containerizing allows logging companies to ship specialty logs without having to first fill a barge.
- ◇ Reliable, efficient and economical transportation will encourage secondary manufacturing on island such as prefabricated home building which can be containerized and shipped directly to an end-user, pellet plant, exporting wood waste, sash and door manufacturing and specialty cedar products.
- ◇ Heavy or bulky consumer goods would be able to be transported on and off the islands at a substantially reduced cost thereby reducing the cost of living for islanders.
- ◇ Reduced transportation costs will support the growth and sustainability of other industries such as agriculture and aquaculture.
- ◇ Recycling programs are minimal on island because of the cost to export them via BC Ferries and it is logistically unrealistic to hold recycled goods here until an entire barge load can be gathered. Containerization will support the islands communities in becoming more environmentally conscious.
- ◇ Newly developed fuel containers will also allow for shipping of fuel direct from Vancouver providing our communities with fuel security. It is possible that as diesel generated electricity is replaced with alternative ener-

gy systems current fuel providers may pull out of the area.

### LOCATION:

The proposed location for the facility is in the Port Clements Industrial Park. The October 4 & 11th issues of the Observer included a Crown Land application by the Village for the piece of land we wish to use for the facility. This area allows for easy future expansion and is situated in an area properly zoned for this type of undertaking.

### FACILITY:

Currently the plan is for a channel dredged from deep water to the shoreline. Inland a dredged area approximately 31 meters wide by 95 meters long, secured by the use of engineered retaining walls would form the actual loading/unloading facility. An inland facility would increase the initial construction costs but would require less on-going maintenance such as a long causeway causes and is more efficient in regards to loading and off-loading time. There would be a large staging area surrounding the inland facility and back from the staging area would be a cleared and leveled area for container storage.

## Port Facility—Conclusion

Haida Gwaii has a declining population and workforce. The transportation costs to the island can be as much as six times the cost of the actual product. These costs are passed on to the consumer restricting development and crushing resource industries. With 33% of the island income dependent on sectors such as for-

estry, tourism and fishing, the islands can't survive without the development of an efficient and effective transportation system for the export and import of goods.

The Port will put the value back into our exports. It will reduce the barriers associated with ac-

cess to major transportation hubs.

Port Clements has requested that the Provincial and Federal governments invest in the islands transportation system as we are too small to be able to develop a facility of this magnitude with local taxpayers dollars.

For more information please feel free to contact Mayor Wally Cheer.

## Official Community Plan Update

As noted in the August Newsletter, work has begun on the rewriting of the Official Community Plan for Port Clements. An Official Community Plan is a fairly encompassing document that outlines the direction a community plans to take and the principles that will guide future decisions made on topics such as zoning, residential, commercial and industrial development, services and facilities, and, more recently, a section to discuss efforts that will be undertaken to address carbon emissions within the community and stewardship issues. Draft copies of the plan are now available at the Village Office for pickup as well as on our website at [www.portclements.ca](http://www.portclements.ca) under the Village Admin tab go to documents on the left and choose Misc. The document is entitled "Draft OCP".

The first of a series of public meetings will be held Monday October 29th at 7pm in the Senior's Room of the Multiplex building. Residents are encouraged to review the draft OCP and make suggestions for changes/additions/deletions. Over approximately 3 months additional meetings will be held to allow for public input to be included in revisions and the revised document further discussed until a final document is agreed upon.

Once an Official Community Plan is adopted it is usually reviewed every 5 years to consider any major changes that may impact the validity of the plan. This process was a bit over-due for Port Clements as the original Official Community Plan was adopted in February 1984 and, as imagined, is no longer accurate or very relevant.

We encourage the residents to come out to the meeting and have your opinion heard. However, if you do not wish, or are unable, to attend the public meeting please get a copy of the plan. You can still have input by phoning, writing or emailing us your comments/questions or concerns.