

Village of Port Clements

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VOTIRO

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"Gateway to the Wilderness"

We're on the Web
www.portclements.ca

LANDFILL HOURS

Monday -Friday 11am-3pm
open the 1st Saturday ONLY
of every month 11am-3pm



Want to add your items to the Newsletter ????

We are always looking for items to add to our newsletter. If you have something funny or a coming event you would like to advertise, please email your submissions to cao@portclements.ca we want to hear from you!

TARGETED INVASIVE PLANT SOLUTIONS CONTINUED

Management: Mechanical control is fairly ineffective and cut plants need to be incinerated to ensure that plant parts are not able to re-establish. Chemical control, such as with glyphosate, is effective but needs to be done under the supervision of a certified pesticide applicator when done on Crown Lands.

The Village of Port Clements, in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment, are investigating management options that are both effective and respectful of public concerns regarding the use of chemicals. More information should be forth-coming in May/June on how we plan to deal with this issue on public lands going into the future.

Private property owners are encouraged to use whatever means they are most comfortable with to deal with infestations on their property remembering that any form of mechanical control requires EXTREMELY close attention to how plant parts are moved and destroyed so that the problem is being addressed and not worsened.

COME ON OUT THURSDAY MAY 23RD TO THE COMMUNITY HALL 7PM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES ISSUES ON HAIDA GWAI.

We are seeking feedback from the public in regards to St. Mark's Church. Did you know that it is available for rent for public functions such as weddings, funerals/memorials or for regular services? Are there other uses you think are appropriate for this space? Do you feel it should be unlocked for a few hours daily for tourists and the public? Please let us know your visions for this historical building.



Village of Port Clements

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THE LEADER

T.I.P.S. TARGETED INVASIVE PLANT SOLUTIONS

Although the primary knotweed species found in BC is Japanese knotweed, Bohemian knotweed, Giant knotweed and Himalayan knotweed are also present and all four species are considered invasive.

Habitat: Thrive on freshly disturbed soil along roadsides, low-lying areas and other water drainage areas. Also found in riparian areas, along stream banks and in areas with high soil moisture.

Reproduction: Knotweed has a Rhizome system that may extend from a parent plant up to 20m laterally and to a depth of 3m. Root and stem fragments as small as 1cm can form new plant colonies. Fresh stems submerged in water can produce viable plants within 6 days.

Impacts: Knotweed threatens biodiversity and disrupts the food chain by reducing habitat and increasing soil erosion. Stream banks are particularly difficult as exposed roots break off and float downstream to form a new infestation.

Identification: Leaves are predominantly heart to triangular shaped approximately 8-10cm wide and 15cm long. A distinguishing feature for Japanese knotweed is the zig-zag pattern in which leaves are arranged along the stems. Stems are generally 1-5m in height and grow in large, dense thickets.Continued on page 4

Taxes 2013 and Deferment Programs

Taxes for the 2013 year will be coming through the mail at the end of the month. Please note: if you are eligible for the Home Owner Grant you need to fill it out and return it to the office no later than the **Tax Due Date of July 2nd, 2013 at 4:00pm to avoid interest penalties.**

If you require assistance with paying your taxes, the Provincial Government has a few property tax deferment programs that may fit your needs.

- 55 and older
 - Hardship
 - Families with Children
- All of this information

can be obtained by visiting www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/individuals/Property_Taxes/Property_Tax_Deferment/ptd.htm or come into the office and we will provide you with all the information you need.



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EVENTS

- Art & Sports Program Thursdays 3-5pm. Gym & Seniors Room—May 16 last day
- Soccer tournaments May 25 and June 1 in Port Clements
- Community Cleanup Sunday May 26
- Baseball practice Fridays at 7pm
- No school for children May 10th for a Pro-D day and May 20th for the Victoria Day Stat.
- Invasive Species Presentation Thursday May 23rd 7pm at the Community Hall

REGULATIONS AND OUR WATER SYSTEM

"Chlorine is a disinfectant added to drinking water to reduce or eliminate microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses, which can be present in water supplies. The addition of chlorine to our drinking water has greatly reduced the risk of waterborne disease." - Health Canada.

Chlorination—a contentious issue to say the least. This article seeks to provide you with an understanding of how the safety of drinking water works in Canada and where Port Clements fits in that picture.

There are several pieces of legislation that deal with public drinking water systems be they Federally via Health Canada, Provincially via the Drinking Water Protection Act or Regionally as authorized under the Public Health Act which gets relegated to the Health Authorities to implement via their Environmental Health Officers.

A couple of related quotes from Northern Health's Website:

"The mission of the Public Health Protection Program is to protect the health of Northern communities through education and inspection strategies designed to reduce health risks to the public."

"Operators of water systems are required to complete training, monitor treatment equipment, report hazards and collect water samples, as part of maintaining a safe water sys-

tem. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) routinely inspect, assess and interpret sample results for water systems. EHOs assign hazard ratings to water systems during inspections. A low hazard rating generally means a system is well run and safe to drink. Water systems that are given a high hazard rating are generally placed on a boil water notice until the source of contamination is contained, adequate treatment is installed, treatment system is corrected or hazard is removed. Lack of treatment, interruption of treatment, microbiological or chemical contamination can result in a boil water notice or a do not use notice."

Currently the Village of Port Clements is rated as "low" by Northern Health meaning we have good quality water. Our water permit states that:

"d) a free available Chlorine residual of not less than 0.2mg/l must be maintained within the distribution system."

Health Canada has a publication out (June 2009) called the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality—Guideline Technical Document—Chlorine. In the Executive summary it states:

"Disinfection is an essential component of public drinking water treatment; the health risks associated with disinfection by-products are

much less than the risks from consuming water that has not been adequately disinfected. Free chlorine concentrations in most Canadian drinking water distribution systems range from 0.04 to 2.0mg/l."

Therefore at a rating of 0.2mg/l we are on the low side of treatment requirements here in Port Clements.

Chlorine residual requirements are determined by the Environmental Health Officers and vary from municipality to municipality within provinces based on system-specific requirements. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended that areas with little risk of cholera or related outbreaks should maintain a free chlorine residual range of 0.2 to 0.5mg/l. We are on the very bottom range of this recommendation.

It is not necessary to further filter water at private residences but if individuals prefer to remove the residual chlorine there are a variety of filter systems available that can be added to your entire system or just at one tap. However, if you use a filter make sure you change it regularly or you could actually cause the water to become contaminated. Alternatively, chlorine will evaporate from the water if left standing for 2-3 hours in open air and sunlight or 48 hours if refrigerated. Also adding citrus fruit or vitamin C will cause chlorine to evaporate in approximately one hour.

Grant Writer Employment Opportunity

The Village of Port Clements, with funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust, is looking for a Grant Writer to work on funding applications for the community. This position will involve approximately 400 hours of work at a rate of \$25.00 per hour. It is a term position. The successful person will be responsible for working with various

groups in our community to identify their funding needs and abilities and then researching and applying for funds on their behalf. Groups who wish to work with the Grant Writer should contact the Village office. We hope to have this person in place from June to approximately October. Please call for details if you are interested at 250-557-4295.



HELP!!!

interested in please contact Harmonie Blais for more information at 557-9380 (w) or 557-9359 (h).

The Port Clements Ambulance Service is in dire need of ambulance attendants in order to provide 24/7/365 coverage for our community.

Without more people we risk burning out the existing ambulance attendants. If you think this is something you might be

Requirements are a class 4 driver's license, Grade 12 or GED certificate. You will be required to take a 3-4 week course, likely off-island, pass a physical exam, have a clean driver's abstract and criminal record check.

SUNSET PARK CLEAN UP

On behalf of Council and the residents of Port Clements we would like to thank the following volunteers for coming out Sunday April 21st and lending a hand with the clean up at the Sunset Park:

Germain Vigneault

Matt Gaspar

Penny Cheer

Angela Mielecki

Jim Mould

Sean O'Donoghue

Rubble (Kurt Schutte)

Urs Thomas

Archie Stocker

Wally Cheer

We are having a town clean up on May 26 please mark the date and come out to support your community.

MARK THE DATE!!!

We will be celebrating Canada Days June 29/30 this year. Please contact Bev Lore or Matt Gaspar if you wish to Volunteer. We already have softball, soccer and the parade confirmed but there is still lots of time to put your ideas forward and help make this the **BEST CANADA DAYS YET!!**

Asbestos in the School Gym

This information was provided to us by School District #50. There is a requirement to put up notices in buildings where asbestos is contained. Asbestos is only in VERY specific areas of the gym. The notices are posted so any worker who may be tearing things apart is alerted to find out more information before proceeding. If asbestos is properly sealed and left undisturbed it does not pose a danger. If you have any concerns please feel free to contact Verena Gibbs at the school for more information.