

## Village of Port Clements

36 Cedar Avenue West  
PO BOX 198  
Port Clements, BC  
V0T1R0

Office: 250-557-4295  
Public Works: 250-557-4295  
Fax: 250-557-4568  
Email: [deputy@portclements.ca](mailto:deputy@portclements.ca)

"Gateway to the Wilderness"



DON'T WORRY,  
BE HAPPY



## LANDFILL HOURS

Monday -Friday 10am-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 or announcement you would like to advertise, please email your submissions to [cao@portclements.ca](mailto:cao@portclements.ca) we want to hear from you!

Congratulations to Kyra Bennett-Richardson and Richard McLeod. Their daughter, Autumn, was the first baby born in Port Clements' Centennial



Congratulations to the Port Clements students who passed their Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) training recently.



Village of Port Clements

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# THE LEADER

## Barge Facility Update

In April last year we had a public meeting in regards to the Barge Facility project. Since that meeting Council and staff have been steadily working to move this project closer to a reality. At the end of 2013 funding applications were submitted to Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT), Gwaii Trust (GT) and Western Economic Diversification (WED). To date we have been approved for \$250,000 from NDIT and \$100,000 from GT and will have an answer on our \$600,000 application to WED by September this year. We also have a funding application out to Coast Sustainability Trust for funds to clear and level our new lot (see below). These processes can move very slowly. In addition we are watching for other funding opportunities. Also since we last met with the public we have obtained a 2.25 hectare parcel of land from Crown in the Industrial Park. This land was part of a promise made by the Province to award each of the Municipalities on Haida Gwaii with \$250,000 of free Crown Land. We still have over 50% of that promise left to take advantage of. We have been working with our lawyer to ensure that everything we do as we move forward is in compliance with the Community Charter. We have done the necessary due diligence in regards to Archeology matters so that we are ready to move forward. We plan on having another public meeting in late June or July to once again bring the matter before the public for discussion. We heard at the last meeting that people didn't want this project to affect local taxes so we have kept that in mind as we search for grants and alternate means of securing the necessary funding. Stay tuned for a date and time for the next public meeting or pop by the office if you have questions.

## 2014 Taxes and Deferment Programs

Taxes for the 2014 year will be coming through the mail before 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, 2014 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](http://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

- Soccer Tournament in Port Clements Saturday May 31
- Dance classes (gym) Wednesday 3-5pm
- Pilates Thursdays 7-8pm (gym)—last class May 23rd.
- Tai Chi Thursdays (Seniors Room) 7-8pm
- May 5 & 20 Council Mtgs. 7pm Chambers
- May 16th Lego Movie in Seniors Room
- Tuesdays 12:30-4 Yoga and Social in Seniors Room
- May 25 & 26 Town Clean Up
- Thursdays 12:30-4 Seniors Social



## STRATEGIC PLANNING, TAXES AND SETTING THE ANNUAL MILL RATE.

Have you ever wondered what was involved in the setting of the annual mill rate for taxes?

Each year Council begins with a Strategic Planning Session (or more depending on how many ideas get generated) to prioritize activities for the next 5 years. The previous year's goals and accomplishments are reviewed as well as the previous financial plan and then any new ideas are thrown into the mix. Costs are estimated for all of the ideas generated and then based on this information a draft budget is completed. Between mid-January and the end of April Council and staff review the previous years' costs and revenues and roll this information forward based on all available information. Some costs and revenues are fixed or not easily controlled (ie: Hydro) and some costs are completely variable (ie: staff training).

There are two standards methods of looking at a budget. You can begin with an assumption about revenues (ie: Council has previously opted for 0% increase for taxes) and then make the rest fit based on that criteria or you can lay out your spending plans and then make the revenue items fit that cri-

teria. Either way the end goal must be a balanced budget—any deficits must be able to be completely covered by prior year's surpluses or you will not be in compliance with the Community Charter which governs the actions of Municipalities in BC.

With the revenue from taxation having been determined through the above budget and strategic planning processes, now it is time to determine what the actual mill rates will be. Municipalities collect taxes for many different government bodies—a list of which are shown on your annual tax notice—including things such as School Tax and Regional District Taxes—we currently collect for 8 bodies besides our own tax needs. The tax requirements for all these bodies are predetermined either by advising us of the tax rate we are to use (School Taxes) or the total amount of money we are to collect (Library taxes).

To determine what rate to use when looking at a fixed amount, which is also how we set our own mill rate, you need to build a spreadsheet to compare dollars required and total assessment dollars by categories. For example, if the goal is to collect \$50,000 in taxes from Residential assessments and the residen-

tial assessments total was \$7,500,000 then the rate would need to be .00667 (50,000 divided by 7,500,000 which comes to less than one cent). Mill rates are always expressed in a rate per thousand of assessment so in this example the mill rate would be 6.67 cents per thousand. Therefore if your house was assessed at \$120,000 the Municipal taxes would be \$800.40 (\$120,000 divided by \$1000 times the rate of 6.67).

The province sets limits on the maximum differences mill rates can be between the different classes (for example the industrial mill rate can't be more than 3.5 times larger than the residential mill rate and the business mill rate can't be more than 2.45 times the residential rate). Port Clements has historically taxed non-residential categories at a rate lower than the Provincial maximum.

For more information please call the office at 250-557-4295.



## Election 2014—Are you Interested?



Locally elected officials are charged with making decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens, families, and the business community – **municipal councils, regional district boards, school boards**, and other local bodies influence jobs, create safe communities for British Columbians and shape the long-term vision for the community as a whole.

The general local election process enables residents and property owners to determine the body of individuals who then make decisions and govern on their behalf.

Local governments have two primary roles: acting first as a political forum through which citizens, families and business owners within the local community express their collective vision; and, secondly as a means of providing desired services and programs to the community.

Each local government is responsible for running its own local elections. Local governments may also run school trustee elections on behalf of school boards. **Councils and boards** appoint a **Chief Election Officer** to ensure the process is run in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

The election legislation contains pro-

visions that must be consistently applied to all **general local elections** and **by-elections**; however, is also flexible enough that local governments and school districts are able to make choices about how they conduct their elections in a manner that suits local circumstances.

### Who may run:

A candidate for **mayor or councillor** must:

- be 18 years of age or older on **general voting day**;
- be a Canadian citizen;
- have lived in British Columbia for at least six months before filing nomination documents (or, since April 15, 2014); and
- not be disqualified by the *Local Government Act*, any other Act, or the Courts from voting in a **general local election**.

Prospective candidates for local government office must be nominated by at least two eligible electors in the jurisdiction where the person is seeking election. Some jurisdictions require more than two nominators.

### Who May Not Run For Office:

An individual is not eligible to run as a candidate for any local government office if they:

- have been convicted of an indictable offence and are in custody;
- are involuntarily committed to a psychiatric or other institution;
- are judges of the Provincial Court, Supreme Court or Court of Appeal;
- are employees or salaried officers

of the local government, including volunteers who are paid for their services – unless they have taken a leave of absence to run for office and agree to resign if elected;

- are federal employees – unless they have requested and obtained prior permission from Public Service Commission of Canada (PSC) to run for office;

- have been found guilty of an elections offence, such as intimidation or buying votes, and are prohibited from holding office; or

- have been disqualified from the election for failing to:

- file a **campaign financing disclosure statement** in a previous election;
- make an oath of office; or
- attend meetings, without being granted permission by the council or board unless the absence is due to illness or injury.

For more information please go to:

[http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov\\_structure/elections/](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/elections/)

Or drop by the office.

