

Stuart Island Community Association Newsletter



Issue 2

Spring 2011

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Wish List

Propane refrigerator in working order

With this addition to the store, we could stock items needing refrigeration before it is feasible to turn on the big generator.

Volunteer Carpenters

We need volunteers to put down decking on a new 144 foot float to make the dock more accessible to float planes. We have the decking - just need the manpower!

Attention Anglers!

We had a great season last summer and are keeping our fingers crossed for another one like it. We had several local fishing derbies in the area last summer, some of which raised money for the Stuart Island Community. The annual Stuart Island Community Derby was held July 9th. Out of 17 entries, we raised \$1320 during last year's community derby; \$660 going to the community and the other \$660 going to our winner, Jim Harvey of Grand Prairie, AB. Jim took the loot with a 33lb Chinook, pulled out of Bute Inlet with the help of his local guide Wes Takahashi of Ritchie's resort. For the upcoming season's derby, we will aim for the same July 9 date to keep it simple. We are also hoping to do a Coho Derby in the beginning of September, in Bute Inlet, depending on this year's Coho return. We will keep you posted!

Kyle Dempsey



Tommy and the Big Fish

About 10 years ago an old-timer in this area remarked that Tommy Thompson could catch a 30 pound salmon in your bathtub. Well, last year's big catch wasn't from a bathtub, and it wasn't a 30-pounder either. It was a 72 pound Chinook salmon!!!

Story to come

Big Bay Trail/Eagle Lake Trail

Peter Hollenbeck and I walked the first section of the Big Bay Trail and the Eagle lake Trail with GPS last fall. Our goal is to develop an active trail map that people can use to find their way to Eagle Lake from Big Bay. Last fall we recorded points up to the spot where the Recreation Site begins at the three way junction after the PACCAR Dam. It will be nice to walk the rest of the trail and get accurate waypoints all the way to the new dock float on the lake then, it's on to Bassett Bay.

This winter I spent some time transferring coordinates and developing a simple map. I have a couple more days of hiking and mapping for those who are interested. This could be a good opportunity to do some trail work at the same time. I will set up some dates for trail maintenance and mapping in June. We are fortunate to have a Recreation Site on our island. As a community I feel that we are responsible for keeping our trails clear and our land clean. Happy trails,

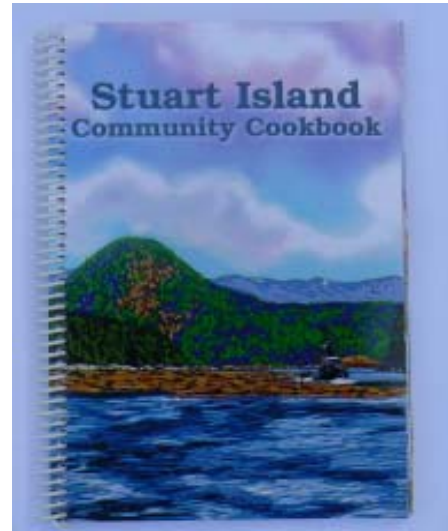
Sam Anderson
sam_nanook@hotmail.com

New SICA Director

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Stuart Island Community Association was held on September 2, 2010 at the community center . At that meeting Tara Kristian was elected to serve as a director of the association. We are delighted to have her join us. Tara and her husband, Ken, came to Stuart Island in 2007. They live and work on Ritchie's south property where Tara is in charge of the beautiful gardens. Tara and Ken are some on the hardy folk who live on Stuart Island year 'round. Last fall and winter Tara shared storekeeper duties so the store and post office would be available for others who spend time at Stuart Island during the off-season. Since coming to the island she has grown to love the area and its residents. She is delighted to be able to serve on the board and help in the development of the Stuart Island community.

Community Association Membership

We have a number of long standing members of the Stuart Island Community Association. Thank you so much; we appreciate your support. The annual membership of \$20 per person helps keep the association alive. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you've never been a member but would like to join, contact us at one of the addresses on the front page of this newsletter and ask that your name be put forward at the 2011 Annual General Meeting to be held later this summer.



Come and Get It!!

The Stuart Island Community Cookbook is now available. The original art on the cover and the whimsical illustrations throughout the book were done by artist and local fishing guide, Steve Woodley.

Recipes included in the book are from a diverse group of cooks whose instructions range from "blob from the spoon" to "flambé." Although all recipe contributors have a connection to Stuart Island, the recipes are certainly not limited to preparing local seafood. They run the gamut from Angel Flake Biscuits to Zucchini Marmalade.

The idea for this cookbook came from Rose Stephenson who was inspired by her copy of a cookbook compiled by the Stuart Island Ladies Auxiliary in 1982/83. She proposed an updated version of the cookbook – but with a tie to the island's past. "Vintage" recipes from the earlier book are intermingled with recipes from today's cooks to give a cross-section of recipes through several generations.

There are over 170 recipes in the book divided into seven sections beginning with Bread and Breakfast and ending with Sweets. The price of the cookbook is \$20.00 including tax. Proceeds from sales will be used to help fund the maintenance and operation of the public

facilities at Big Bay. The cookbook is available at the store or by contacting the association at the addresses on the first page of the newsletter

2011 Dinner and Auction

The Stuart Island Salmon Enhancement BBQ Dinner and Auction will be held this year at the Stuart Island Community Center beginning at 5 pm on Saturday, July 30. As always the evening will feature great food and fantastic items offered in both silent and live auctions.

The auction continues to be a major source of funding for Gillard Pass Fisheries Association and its local salmon enhancement program. Tickets for the evening are \$40 per person and will be available at the door.

Make your plans now to attend this lively event. It's always a busy weekend in the Big Bay area. You can make your reservations for moorage at the Stuart Island Community Dock by calling the Stuart Island store at 250-202-3625 or contacting Cathy Minor via email to StuartIslandCA@aol.com.

Bute Inlet

Hydroelectric Project On Hold

As we reported in the fall 2009 newsletter, Plutonic Power has plans for a massive run-of-the-river hydroelectric project in the Bute Inlet watershed. Here's a brief update:

Since the project was first proposed, the Friends of Bute Inlet (FOBI) has been very active in bringing attention to the environmental issues of the Plutonic plans. The organization and others successfully lobbied for the establishment of a Federal Environmental Review Panel to evaluate Plutonic's reports relating to the project. In late 2010 Plutonic put the Bute project on hold citing the need for additional environmental study. In January Lannie Keller of FOBI reported "*Flood events last*

fall altered course of the wild Homathko River with major impacts to river-side forests and roads. The winter landscape is frozen, Bute is now empty of people, and information is scant. It appears Bute won't happen very soon; Plutonic and GE are presently busy with mega projects elsewhere in BC and Ontario. At Bute Inlet they have special challenges and unresolved issues. For now our job is vigilance."

Further news from Plutonic came in March when they announced a merger with the Vancouver company, Magma Energy. Magma has international interests in "renewable" projects in the US, Iceland, Peru, Argentina and Chile. Once the merger is complete the new company will be known as Alterra. It is reasonable to assume that the merger will result in a larger, more financially viable organization. When or if they will resume the Bute project is unknown.

To our knowledge there have been no further developments on the Bute project. Bute Inlet's rivers and tributaries are a very productive watershed for the plants and animals that live in its waters and on the land. For those who value the place for its healthy ecosystems and its natural beauty, it is important to pay attention to what's happening there. You can stay informed about Bute Inlet at the Friends of Bute Inlet website: www.buteinlet.net.

Community Association Website

Have you looked at the Community Association website? The web address is www.stuartislanddock.org. If you have comments about the site, or information to be posted, send items via email to Peter Hollenbeck, pwhbeck@gmail.com.