



Prince of Wales Chamber of Commerce

Chamber POWER

“Working Together for Progress”
142 Members Strong

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Volume 17, Issue 05, May 2006 [click here to see our website: www.princeofwalescoc.org](http://www.princeofwalescoc.org)

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1. Web Hits!

April's unique web hits (first time viewers) were 1889 visitors.

April's total visitors were 2758.

These visitors looked at a total of 9,621 pages in April, 2006.

2. Chamber POWER

First Bank – Craig / 907-826-3254 / fax 907-826-3910 / www.firstbankak.com / Jeanine Russell, Manager
A full service community bank offering checking, savings and time deposit accounts; consumer, commercial, construction, and home loans; and online banking services. Two ATM locations on Prince of Wales Island.

Prince of Wales Transportation – Craig / Taxi service, ferry shuttle and island wide shuttles, charter car rentals and other aspects of transportation on Prince of Wales Island. For large groups call ahead. John Harshbarger, owner-manager. Taxi service number 907-826-5555. Ferry Shuttle, charters, and other transportation call 907-957-2224. Dedicated to excellence, “Don’t cuss, leave the driving to us”. **Prince of Wales Transportation** appreciates your business.

Tongass Business Center – Ketchikan / 618 Dock St. / Ketchikan, AK 99901 / 1-800-478-9015 / 907-225-9015 / Fax 907-225-9014 / www.tbcenter.com / Call for Catalog. Office Equipment & Supply, Sharp Copiers & Faxes, Printing & Binding, Newsletters, Office Furniture.

3. Tickets on Sale!

\$1 raffle tickets are on sale for an Alaska Airlines/Pacific Airway prize drawing. The Alaska Airline tickets are two round trips/non-directional from Southeast Alaska to either Anchorage or Seattle and the Pacific Airway tickets are for two non-directional round trip tickets between PoW and Ketchikan. All four tickets will be awarded as one package. The winner will be drawn Sunday, July 30th at the Thorne Bay Fair & Logging Show. Also, available are the \$7500 Last Draw tickets. These tickets are \$100 each and pay to 22 winners with the last draw being \$7500, all totaling \$15,000. If all 300 tickets are sold, winners will be drawn on Saturday, July 29th at the Thorne Bay Fair & Logging Show. The proceeds for the AK Air/Pac Air combo will fund improvements in the office and visitor center (like the copy machine that breaks down a lot) The proceeds for the \$7500 last draw are needed to bridge a budget gap as the Chamber endeavors to keep our office staff employed full time to handle the growing Chamber's circle of need. Both of these ticket sales are in need of outlets and persons willing to help promote them. Please call a chamber director or the Chamber office if you are willing to help in the community where you live or work!

4. Adopt-a-Marathon Mile

The Adopt A Marathon Mile campaign, sponsored by the POW Chamber of Commerce, is set to begin on Friday, May 12th and end on May 26th on the eve prior to the start up of this year's run. The two week period before the annual International Marathon is set aside for individuals and teams to adopt a mile of the marathon route and pick up the litter.

The Chamber staff is calling past participants to give them an opportunity to re-adopt the mile they cleaned last year. With that completed, the "orphan miles" will be looking for someone to upgrade their status from the littered roadside that they are at this time of the year.

Anyone interested in participating in this effort is invited to call the Chamber office at 755-2626 during the office hours from 10 AM until 3:30 PM weekdays. Gloves, safety vests and litter bags are supplied for each participant and can be checked out at Klawock IGA and Thompson House before you head out for clean up. Litter bags are supplied by the City of Klawock and when full, they should be taken to the Klawock Landfill where they will be accepted during the two week clean up period. Gloves are provided courtesy of Whale Tail Pharmacy and the Craig Clinic. Vests were provided to the Chamber for this event by DOT and Tyler Rental during past campaigns and are dedicated for use each year.

5. CHAMBER SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS MAY 5TH

Scholarship applications for this year's graduate awards are due by May 5th, 2006. The Chamber is once again coordinating the contributions of the Island Business community to support our 2006 Island High School graduates who are heading off to pursue a post-secondary education.

Graduates are cautioned to submit a completed application as outlined. These include the following documents submitted in a plastic binder: Cover sheet containing name, school, (picture optional), completed application form/essay/budget sheet, resume, official Transcript of Grades for 7

semesters of High School classes, two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a community member not employed by the school. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

6. CHAMBER UNDERWRITING SOUGHT FOR 2006 SCHOLARSHIPS

The annual scholarship applications are coming into the Chamber office, and underwriting is sought to fulfill the need. These tax deductible contributions are recognized on each of the award certificates and in press releases which include follow up articles in the Island News, Chamber newsletter, and Chamber website. Each underwriter will also receive a certificate that recognizes their contribution and will list each of the scholarship recipients. Many of the businesses keep these framed certificates displayed in their offices throughout the year. The Chamber office also has a permanent display of annual certificates that record both underwriters and award recipients.

Individuals and businesses can call the Chamber scholarship committee to make a contribution or answer questions about this annual happening. Call Jan Bush at 755-2375 or Sarah Altland at 826-5750.

Underwriting contributions for 2006 have been received so far from one business that has chosen to remain anonymous, as well as the following: Alaska Power and Telephone, First Bank of Alaska, Catch a King Charters, Petro Marine Services, Log Cabin Resort, Cleary Computer Services, Jody's Seafood Specialties, Black Bear Store, Trophy Inn and B-3 Contractors, Inc. These contributions have made possible five awards thus far. A total of 21 awards were made in 2005 because of the generous support of the business community for our island graduates.

7. Chamber Welcome

The Chamber of Commerce would like to welcome and thank Edna Pearce's **Fish, Furs & Feathers** business of accommodations for becoming our 142nd 2006 member. Continued success, as always, to all members and thank you for your support.

8. May Chamber Board Meeting

The May Board meeting will be Tuesday the 11th, 6pm, at the Chamber office in Klawock. There is no scheduled luncheon this month.

9. Prince of Wales Meets Queen Charlotte

by Karen Petersen

Representatives from Prince of Wales Island had the opportunity to visit Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia this month on a 4 day exchange. The purpose of the trip was to exchange ideas in an "All Islands Forum" to discuss areas of mutual concern to our economy: tourism, fisheries, forestry, culture and transportation. Representing the Prince of Wales communities were John Bruns from the POW Hatchery Association, Karen Petersen with the UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Bill Altland a small business owner and POW Chamber of Commerce member, Cherilyn Holter from Hydaburg, and Kent Miller representing the Inter-Island Ferry Authority.

The trip to Queen Charlotte Islands (QCI), or Haida Qwaii was sponsored by the QCI Chamber of Commerce and they organized a two day FAM trip for the folks from POW. The group was met in Masset on Thursday afternoon upon the arrival of the charter flight from Ketchikan by Andrew Merilees, Jean Traplin, Gloria O'Brien and Dutes Duteil from the QCI Chamber. Andrew owns a small tour company called Northwest Recreation Service and he immediately led the group on a tour of North Beach and Tow Hill. If you want to know one thing QCI has that POW does not have – it is long sandy beaches! A similarity between QCI and POW is the recent extension of their paved road system.

The first evening in the Charlottes was spent in Masset at Gerry's B&B where the Chamber hosted a nice dinner and a chance to rest up. Friday started early with a tour of Masset, and Old Masset before heading to Port Clement. For people who are not familiar with the Queen Charlotte Islands, it is not one island. There are two principle islands that make up QCI, Graham Island is the northern island, and Moresby is the southern island, with many smaller islands included as well. Most of the communities are on Graham Island, and include Masset, Old Masset, Port Clements, Skidegate, Tlell and Queen Charlotte City (newly incorporated in November 2005!). Sandspit is the only community on Moresby Island, and it is connected to Queen Charlotte City by a small ferry. The major ferry terminal for BC Ferries is also in Queen Charlotte City, but that service has been severely impacted by the recent loss of the Queen of the North.

Friday's tour included a stop at the site of the famous Golden Spruce. The original Golden Spruce was a unique spruce tree that lacked the green pigment that turns its needles green and it was over three hundred years old when it was cut down in an act of vandalism. The Golden Spruce is the only tree ever to be given a name by the Haida people, and they called it K'iid K'iyas or Elder Spruce Tree. According to legend it had been a human who had been transformed. There has now been a second golden spruce seedling, taken from genetic material from the original Golden Spruce planted at the original site, and it is protected by a high fence.

The tour continued through the community of Tlell, and to the village of Skidegate where the Qay'llnagaay Center is in the final stages of construction. This Center will open in the spring of 2007 and is dedicated to preserving and presenting the human and natural history of Haida Qwaii. This huge museum complex will focus on the culture of the Haida people up to the present from the first contact of European people, and includes historical exhibits and presentations, as well performances and carving demonstrations. The tour ended in Queen Charlotte City at the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve Headquarters. Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve is most of the southern half of Moresby Island, and has been rated the best National Park in North America by the National Geographic Association. Gwaii Haanas was set aside as a protected area in 1988, and is managed in a unique partnership between the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation. Portions of the park are listed as UNESCO Heritage Sites, and the entire area is only accessible by boat or floatplane.

Saturday was the "All Island Forum" which was held in the Port Clements Community Hall. This event was sponsored by the QCI Chamber and the Ministry of Forests. The morning was spent discussing timber supply issues and fisheries issues, and the afternoon covered culture, tourism and transportation. Karen Petersen and John Bruns from the POW Forest Products Task Force participated in the morning discussions, and many of the topics will sound familiar to POW residents. Although British Columbia harvests more timber than the Tongass (currently) much of the timber is exported in the round, and small mill operators don't have the opportunity to access that timber supply. They struggle for a timber supply that makes operating their small mills feasible. Only one mill in the Charlottes has a dry kiln, Abfam Enterprises which is owned by Jim Abbott They are challenged with finding a market for their dried and dressed lumber but have recently put in a retail outlet in Prince Rupert. Another mill, O'Brien's Logging has a peeler for making telephone

poles, and log cabin house logs. John Bruns presented the state of the commercial fishery in Southeast Alaska. Fisheries in the QCI's has been impacted negatively by fish farming, and when they found out that fish farms were illegal in Alaska there was a rousing round of applause. Although there are some cold storage plants on QCI, the ability to get product to market has now been negatively impacted by the sinking of the ferry, and fishermen are worried that their ever declining market will dwindle away.

The afternoon's tourism discussion was presented by Karen Petersen. She outlined the tourism economy of Prince of Wales and some of the comparisons with the Charlottes. The issues facing the tourism industry on QCI are overshadowed by the loss of their major transportation link to the mainland – the Queen of the North. Although BC Ferries will offer service this summer with the Queen of Prince Rupert, this service will have to be divided between Vancouver Island, and Queen Charlotte Islands, and at best will offer three days a week service. Challenges include a long ferry ride (12 hours) across Hecate Strait which is a difficult body of water to navigate. The afternoon session also featured a presentation on the Haida cultures on POW and QCI by Cherilyn Holter. After a greeting in Haida, Cherilyn outlined the similarities between the communities of Haida Qwaii and the long standing ties between the islands. She focused on the importance of keeping the Haida culture alive, and a stronger connection between POW and QCI was critical. As a closure to her presentation, Cherilyn brought a resolution from the Hydaburg Cooperative Association supporting a new ferry service that would run between Prince of Wales and Queen Charlotte Islands.

And the final presentation at the Forum was from Kent Miller, and he spoke of the IFA, and how it got started. If any topic was of universal interest – this was it. Even before the Queen of the North sank, the people of Queen Charlotte Island had wanted better ferry service. The reasons that BC Ferries gave for not increasing service were similar to the reasons the Alaska Marine Highway gave to POW residents for not increasing service, not enough population, not enough ferries, not enough revenue and so on. Although there are no easy answers, Kent told the folks at the Forum that they had the resources among themselves to come up with the answers they needed for a better ferry service, whether that was working with BC Ferries to establish a dedicated run, or to develop their own service.

The Forum ended with a gala dinner and fund raising auction which was sold out! Both the Forum and the dinner brought out over 100 people, and a great deal of enthusiasm. For more information on the Queen Charlotte Islands you can go to the following web pages: www.queencharlotteislandsguide.com , www.bcferrries.ca , www.haidagwaiitourism.ca , www.pc.gc.ca/gwaiihaanas .

10. FAIR AND LOGGING SHOW UPDATE

by Jan Bush

The Fair and Logging Show Committee is meeting for their monthly meeting tonight, May 1st. On the agenda is the finalization of plans for a coloring contest, and updates on the volunteers who have come forward to take on a portion of the tasks that make the Fair and Logging Show possible.

This year's show will be featured as the SILVER EDITION. Near as we can tell from incomplete records, this is the 25th occurrence of the Fair and Logging Show!!! It promises to be bigger and better than year's past as the army of willing volunteers has grown somewhat and fresh ideas and

energy are available! Please consider adding some of yours to the effort! Contact our chairperson, Julie Isom, and she will put you in contact with the right person for your time and talent.

During the past month, the Chamber board agreed to the purchase of a button making machine and the committee is working on a design for this year's show.

Jan Bush has readied the advertising and sponsorship packets for mailing and they will be sent out this week. Each sponsor from the 2005 show will be getting a certificate to display in their places of businesses. It features a picture of Cody Hillis, the 2005 Bull of the Woods as he rings the bell atop the climbing pole. (If that's not Cody, please let me know!!!...it's his back side!)

The sponsorship and Advertising forms will be appearing in an email next week in case we missed someone that would like to support this annual event.

11. Board of Directors

President- Stu Vincent, *Individual* svincent@princeofwalescoc.org

Vice-President- John Moots, *Alaska Power and Telephone* john.m@aptalaska.net

Secretary- Jan Bush, *B-3 Contractors* belle@aptalaska.net

Treasurer- Karen Cleary, *Cleary Computer Services* kcleary@aptalaska.net

Past President- John Bruns, *Prince of Wales Hatchery Association* powha@aptalaska.net

Director- Tammy Demmert, *Inn of the Little Blue Heron* tammydemmert@hotmail.com

Director- Jan Stevens, *US Postal Service*

Director- Julie Isom, mayor, *City of Thorne Bay* jisom@sisd.org

Director- Wes Morrison, *Tlingit & Haida Technology Industries* wmorrison@ccthita.org

Office Manager & Newsletter Editor-Serafin Lara