

## COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY FORUM

DECEMBER 8, 2005

ROCHER VIEW LODGE (Dinner Meeting)

6:00 pm

Present: Band Manager Vern Joseph and Councillor Ron Austin- Hagwilget Band Council and regrets from three members of council.  
Mayor Pieter Weeber, Administrator Brian Fassnidge, Deputy Clerk Lorraine Herman, Councillors Janet Willson, Pat Coukell, Mike Weeber of the District of New Hazelton and regrets from three members of council

Mayor Weeber opened the meeting thanking the members of Hagwilget Band Council for joining with the District over dinner to discuss several items of interest to both parties.

### 1) Promotion of the area

Much discussion on ways the two groups are going to try and promote their communities. New Hazelton has plans to restore the site of the bank robbery of 1913 as they now own the original site where the bank was. They also are having the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation of New Hazelton in 2005 and opening Allen Park on Highway 16. The district is also interested in having a totem pole at the site of the Information Centre to attract visitors to stop.

Vern enlightened the group on the progress for the plans of developing their cultural and archeology sites. Ideas on promoting "hands on experience" learning about archeology and actual digging at sites, to draw visitors to the area. Feasibility, archeology and fish habitat studies are now in process.

The feeling of those present was that there would have to be more specialized accommodations in the area before more could be done in regards to mass advertising. Vern brought up whether the District has thought about a theme for New Town. Some discussion about this.

### 2) Fire Department

There was a discussion about fire protection on Hagwilget Reserve. New Hazelton is no longer the first responder to Hagwilget and will respond only to a call from Hagwilget (not from security company) asking for a response to a situation. New Hazelton was being called out too many times for false alarms. Vern responded saying that they have been replacing equipment on their fire truck and training individuals in order to get their fire protection back on track.

### 3) Water

The situation of Hagwilget owing the District a considerable amount of money for the supply of water, and their portion of the capital cost for the new treatment plant was discussed. Vern explained to the group that their money was being held up because of the Anneck Report not being completed and some old and revised accounting procedures not being dealt with. They are hoping to rectify the situation and start paying the District in the near future.

Pete and Vern both expressed that this meeting was a good start to promoting good communications between both. An invite was extended to everyone to attend the Hagwilget Community Dinner on December 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm