

As I sit at my computer writing this Chamber Chatter I hear the robins singing, see the daffodils blooming, and take joy in the fact that it is the first day of spring. It certainly seemed like there was quite a lot of snow this year and we would like to take a moment to say thank you to the Mainroad crew, BC Ferries staff, and everyone else who helped to keep the island running.

With the increase in sunny days, comes the corresponding increase in on-island visitors. The roads are busier, parking lots are fuller, and there are more pedestrians making the trek down Village Bay Road from the ferry terminal. Initially, I often find it difficult to adjust to the increase in visitors after a sleepier winter, but these visitors do help keep our community going. They support our businesses, which in turn support the individuals and families that make Mayne Island their home year round. They also bring with them new stories, ideas, and perspectives. Their curiosity about the island also makes me proud to talk about this piece of paradise that I call home. If you are a visitor reading this, welcome!

Our 2017 brochures are available throughout businesses on the island, BC Ferries, and online (<http://www.mayneislandchamber.ca/mayne-island-map-guide.html>). Our online brochure Facebook post reached over 13,000 people. Thank you for those of you who commented, shared, and liked the post. If you're in need of brochures please let us know (executiveofficer@mayneislandchamber.ca).

Our AGM is coming up on May 17th (location to be announced in the May Mayneliner and on posters). Tea and coffee will be provided, as well as some delicious treats by Sue Duncan. We will have membership applications at the AGM if you're interested in joining. Please note that there has been a change in membership fees for new members as well as 2018 renewals. Community memberships have been increased to \$25 to help cover the cost of administering these memberships. Additionally, a new membership category has been created. If you would like to have a business page on the Chamber website, but not be listed within the brochure, you can do so for \$150. You will also have to buy the base membership of \$60 to access this option. If you have any questions we're happy to help.

Lastly, we are in the stage of getting engineering quotes for the new information kiosk, so that project is moving ahead.

I'll close out this month's Chamber Chatter with a wish that you are able to find time to enjoy this special time of growth and renewal.