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# Chemainus Valley Courier

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## Welcoming committee of one awaits on her bike

Hardacker into her 20th year of riding to doorsteps with a basket of goods for newcomers

Don Bodger  
The Courier

There's no actual wagon attached to Welcome Wagon visits in Chemainus and the surrounding area. But there's a bike.

Diana Hardacker is into her 20th year as the Welcome Wagon representative in the region, arriving at homes to provide new residents with a basket of goods and information and, indeed, a warm welcome to the community. And she conducts most of the visits on her bike.

"Ninety-nine per cent of the time I head out, I'm on my bike," Hardacker indicated.

"I just love Chemainus. I hear that so frequently when I welcome newcomers. It's a very warm community."

ing people and I've got the right personality for it.

"The hardest part of it is finding newcomers. People assume because I'm the Welcome Wagon lady, I must know who's new.

"So it's challenging finding the newcomers. When I do, I give them a visit."

Hardacker counts on referrals and people can also request a visit, she said.

She puts together a basket of goods, an official letter from the actual Mayor Jon Lefebvre and council, brochures and pamphlets and invitations from sponsors to receive a welcoming gift.

Some places have gift packages and others offer discounts. There's all sorts of information included that new residents find useful to familiarize themselves



# Experts shed light on approval of Site C project

Public accountability summit to be held in Victoria

Jan. 12, 2018 4:30 p.m. / LETTERS / OPINION

Is the decision to proceed with the Site C dam “devastatingly stupid”, as Elizabeth May says, in her year-end press conference? Let's consider what experts are saying:

The land slated to be flooded could feed even a million people, according to award-winning agrologist Wendy Holm. She envisages using the facilities already built to house a centre of excellence in organic and sustainable production.

Amnesty International's report shows that a government “environmental impact assessment concluded that the dam would ‘severely undermine’ use of the land, would make fishing unsafe, and would submerge burial grounds and other crucial cultural and historic sites.”

Most damning, when B.C. cabinet ministers suggest cancellation of the site C project would “incur an immediate \$3-4 billion public charge on either Hydro ratepayers or B.C. taxpayers,” Robert McCullough has shown that this isn’t actually the case. Former president and CEO of BC Hydro, Marc Eliesen, states, “If (John) Horgan were really concerned about the financial impact of Site C on taxpayers and ratepayers, he would have cancelled the project.”

The Peace Valley Solidarity Initiative has invited Premier Horgan and other cabinet ministers to a public Site C accountability summit to be held in Victoria on Jan. 26 and 27 – what a good way to start a new year, to contribute to a “great turning” in how we interact with each other and the natural world.

Jan Slakov

Salt Spring Island