



Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk

March 2012, Vol. 2, Issue 3



A Baby Welcoming Gathering was held in Hitacu on Tuesday. Pictured, back row, left to right are: Doreen Frank with daughter, Smantha Cluetsi, Jenna Miller, with son Jordan Touchie, Jenna's sister Trisha Miller holding Jenna's daughter (and Trisha's niece) Kaydance Miller, Salina Maher-Touchie holding Jasmine's daughter J'aime' and Jasmine Freeze holding daughter, Katherine. Front row, left to right are: Anita Charleson-Touchie, holding newborn Tiani Touchie, Celena Cook holding daughter Khia Little and Rosalynn Hetu-Touchie holding daughter Lillyonna Hetu-Touchie. Sleeping on the table in the top right corner is Matthew Edgar. Missing from the photo, but in attendance at the gathering were: Iris Frank with Earl Frank-Severinson and Amy Martin with Marcus Mundy and absent was James McCarthy.

Citizens will be asked at Assembly to choose which day to celebrate our independence

Yuulu?it?ath citizens will recognize the first year anniversary of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement when they meet for the second Hit-tat-soo Assembly of 2012, on Monday, April 2nd. Officially, Yuulu?it?ath became an independent nation on April 1, 2011.

Legislature Chair Dr. Michelle Corfield suggested that citizens at the Assembly, discuss a day they wish to celebrate their independence

as a nation. "April 1st was an arbitrary date chosen by the federal government when it was convenient for them," Dr. Corfield said. On Tuesday, at the Legislative Assembly, she suggested that Yuulu?it?ath

citizens choose their own date to celebrate independence. The topic will be added to the agenda at the Assembly.

The Hit-tat-soo Assembly is slated for Monday, April 2nd at 5 p.m. at the

Yuulu?it?ath Community Hall. The draft agenda is on page 12, subject to the approval and addition of items to the agenda, by citizens at the Assembly.

Other Legislature highlights are on page 3.

If undeliverable, please return to:

Yuulu?it?ath Government House
PO Box 699
Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

Toll free: 1-877-726-7342

PM 42129516

Yuulu?il?ath GOVERNMENT

Six homes given to Nation, renovated in Ucluelet

Six homes in Ucluelet are now being renovated and the properties may be used as a source of revenue for social housing for Yuulu?il?ath citizens. The issue of whether to rent the properties to citizens at a reduced rate or rent them at fair market value as a source of income will need to be determined by the Yuulu?il?ath Executive.

Last week an ad hoc committee for housing met to discuss the renovation project which is now taking place in Ucluelet; this committee is not the Housing Authority and has no decision-making powers. Committee members debated the merits of renting the houses to community members at a reduced rate verses renting at fair market value and generating revenue. Ultimately, the Executive will make the decision of what will be done with the homes.

The Nation was given six houses--transferred from Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada; three of the six properties were in extremely rough shape, two had been condemned due to mold issues.

Three of the homes have never been rented by members, and it was discussed that renting those properties for fair market might draw a greater benefit to the community in the long run. It was discussed that revenue generated could be targeted for social Yuulu?il?ath housing locally and in other communities where members live; it was discussed that a program which benefitted a greater percentage of citizens would be better than benefitting only a few people with reduced rent.

Currently three of the houses scheduled for renovations are now rented by citizens for less than fair market value. The committee was told by Housing Coordinator, Marylin Touchie, that the rent does not cover costs of taxes, water, sewer and maintenance. A step program to increase the rent was brought up at the committee; however, rent in Ucluelet would be subject to the BC Residency Tenancy Act and rental increases are regulated. There are exceptions to the act which states that



rent can be increased in the wake of vast improvements, however, it is not known at this time when the rent would be increased or by how much. It has been estimated that fair market value for a home rental in Ucluelet is between \$1200 and \$1500 per month.

Legislature representative Larry Baird expressed being conflicted about this issue, citing the shortages in housing in Hitacu, and the lack of affordable housing in Ucluelet. He added that an apartment building is the sort of construction he would like to see in Hitacu. Debbie Mundy, Social Development Coordinator said there is a need for living accommodations for single people. The group discussed a variety of high density housing options including an apartment building and entry-level accommodations that might be enticing for Elders. Larry said there were many citizens that would like the option of moving back to Hitacu. The idea of providing housing for students living away from home, or citizens living away from home are needs of citizens that have been discussed.

At this time no decisions have been made

and the Executive will have to debate the merits of the options. Executive member Baird said there will be a lot of debate over this issue and said, "we have the opportunity to maximize the benefit to all the citizens of the Nation."

Recently the Lands Department hired a contractor, certified in mold remediation, to take care of the mold issues and bring the houses up to provincial health and safety standards. A request for proposals netted three contractors to bid on the job.

"We found it was tless money to fix these houses than what it would cost to demolish themm so it was decided we should fix them up," said Darren Mead-Miller, Manager of Lands, Resources and Assets.

The Executive recently authorized the renovation contracts for each of the homes, which is expected to run approximately \$250,000, a little less than the funds given from the federal government to fix the homes. Each of the homes will receive new flooring and windows and will be brought up to provincial health and safety standards.

<p align="center">YFN Legislative Assembly</p> <p>Charles McCarthy President chuck.mccarthy@ufn.ca Lawrence D. Baird Art Cootes Alan W. McCarthy Geraldine Touchie Rose Marie Touchie Tad N. Williams Wilson Jack, Tyee Ha'wilth</p> <p>YFN Office of Director of Operations</p> <p>Frank, Iris Director of Operations Williams, Suzanne Administrative Coordinator Touchie, Jeneva Receptionist McKnight-Yeates, Lisa Communications Coordinator</p>	<p align="center">YFN Department of Finance</p> <p>Nelson, Tamara Chief Financial Officer McCubbin Arlo Contractor Mundy, Melody Sr. Accounting Assistant Touchie, Shiela Accounting Assistant</p> <p align="center">Department of Lands</p> <p>Mead-Miller, Darren Manager of Lands and Resources/ Asset Management Robinson, Amelia Administrative Assistant -Lands Registrar Shirley, Emily Property & Building Services Coordinator Touchie, Debbie Custodian Touchie, Marylin Housing Coordinator Dan Cootes Property & Building Services Coordinator</p>	<p align="center">Ucluth Development Corporation</p> <p>Jones, Trevor Chief Executive Officer Silva, Crystal Executive Assistant Williams, Tad Fisheries Technician, UFP</p> <p align="center">Yuulu?il?ath Government House</p> <p align="center">(250) 726-7342 PO Box 699 Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0 www.ufn.ca Yuulu?il?ath Umacuk</p>
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NEWSMAKERS

Elders meet and discuss priorities

Yuulu?il?ath Elders gathered in early March to give input on the Nation's priorities. Sixteen elders attended the event, coming from Hitacu, Port Alberni, Nanaimo and Washington State, to make their voices heard.

Qualities & Roles of an Elder

Identifying the role of the elder within the community was discussed at length, as well as the definition of an Elder. Respect and knowledge were two key elements recognized as being important qualities in an elder.

Barb Touchie said that "you can be elderly and still be disrespectful and you can be elderly and not know anything about your own culture, or be willing to pass it along to others." Being a visionary was another key message the crowd agreed on.

Preserving the Language

Preserving the language has been identified as a priority by the government and also by the Elders but the reality is that there are very few fluent speakers. Roy Barney Sr. (Kee-soo-mah) used to teach language at Rainbow Gardens, "it took practice to see that the tongue was saying it right," he said, and noted that it "is important that these words are sang right when singing a ritual song." He noted that "we start learning when we are born and when you think you know it all, that's when you hit the grave." He remembered the last circle that was held, when he was just 12 years old, and an Elder taught cultural lessons while the children sat and listened.

The creation of an Elder's Advisory was another idea that came from the floor.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing for elders and others that want to move home was also brought up as well as maintaining current government houses to a high safety standards level. There was a discussion regarding residential interest and the fact that community members will be paying taxes and for services. Barb Touchie said for those who have always lived in Hitacu, these services have been taken care of and paying these items is a scary CONTINUED ON PAGE 6-7.



Tyson Touchie Jr. and Kathleen McCarthy crack open urchin for youngsters to try at the Elder's Gathering in Hitacu.

Legislature passes Buiding Development Act

New Legislation

The Yuulu?il?ath Legislature met Tuesday and will meet again this Friday to complete discussions regarding this year's operating budget. The Building and Development Authorization Act was given third and final reading on Tuesday, making it the 22nd law passed since Treaty.

Ucluelet Council Visits

The Legislature welcomed the Ucluelet Mayor Bill Irving and District Councillors to their meeting. The Ucluelet Mayor congratulated the Yuulu?il?ath on self government and said Ucluelet is willing to work together. President Charles McCarthy responded, "We might not always see eye to eye but we want to move forward in a postive way." Legislature member Geraldine Touchie said it was the first

time she could recall, having the Ucluelet council come to introduce themselves.

Committee Appointments

Two committee appointments were made at the Legislature meeting; Gordon Taylor Jr. was appointed to the Housing Authority and Michael McCarthy has been appointed to the Community Services Committee.

Terms Of Reference Adopted

The Terms of Reference for the Implementation Committee were adopted at Tuesday's meeting. The Implementation Committee is made up of: Tad Williams, chair, Art Cootes, Tyson Touchie and Vi Mundy, Gordon Taylor Sr. and Charles McCarthy.

Commercial Fisheries Money

Yuulu?il?ath is set to receive \$1.2 million dollars as part of a separate agreement from Treaty Final Agreement, Canada agreed to provide funding to the Maa-nulth First Nation for acquisition of commercial fisheries licences; the total amount is \$4 million dollars, split between the five Maa-nulth Nations with the split based on population.

The terms of the agreement state the payment from the Government of Canada can be made in one or two payments,

which can be applied for "late in the fiscal year 2011/2012 or early in the next fiscal year 2012/2013."

Joining the ACRD to be discussed and voted on

The Legislature will reconvene Friday to discuss the 2012-2013 Budget and also to discuss the possibility of the Nation joining the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.

President calls for increased transparency in Legislature

Yuulu?il?ath Legislature President Charles McCarthy suggested there need to be ways in which the public can access information about what decisions are taking place at the Legislature. Currently the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act prohibits the release of the Legislature minutes in order to protect privacy and the way the Legislature is structured, meetings are closed to the public. Chair Michelle Corfield said she will seek legal council on the matter; she also suggested having written reports from each committee would go a long ways in informing the public about what members of the Legislature are doing especially now that the Umacuk has been invited to report on the legislature.

Department of Community Services

Wickham, Trevor	Manager of Community Services
Mundy, Debbie	Social Development Coordinator
George, Stella	Care Aide
Touchie, Dr. Bernice	Education Coordinator & Instructor
Touchie, Vickie	Preschool/Daycare Supervisor
Mundy, Connie	Preschool/Daycare Assistant
Valentine, Gloria	Community Wellness Coordinator
Sarah Hagar	Child and Youth Support Worker
Mundy, Lorraine	Sr. Administrative Assistant
Williams, Veronica	Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist
Klotz, Christina	Citizen and Enrolment Registrar

501 Hit-tat-soo Road
(250) 726-7343

Let's celebrate self-government

It's been one year since Yuułu?il?ath became an independent nation and quite a lot has happened in the year since.

The First election as an independent Nation took place September 24, 2011 and 184 votes were cast. The new Election Act was put into action.

The first Legislature was sworn in on October 4th, with Elder Barb Touchie assisting Tyee Ha' wilth Wilson Jack performing the Oath of Office for these people, who make up the First Legislature: President, Charles McCarthy, Lawrence Baird, Tad Williams, Rose Touchie, Geraldine Touchie, Al McCarthy and Art Cootes.

Post Treaty: To date 22 Acts have been put in place, governing everything from laws governing the legislature, to the Resources Harvesting Act, Citizenship Act and Land Use Management Act. On Tuesday the latest Act, the Building and Development Authorization Act was given consent at the Legislature.

Yuułu?il?ath's traditional territory at K'wisitis Beach was recognized with a Welcoming Figure carving, by Clifford George. In January Yuułu?il?ath was one of the Maa-nulth First Nations to sign an agreement with Parks Canada that will see the Nations and Parks work cooperatively in the planning and management of the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

The First Elder's Gathering was held in early March with 16 Elders in attendance from the community and from as far away as Washington State. The First Baby Welcome was held earlier this week, with 12 babies welcomed into the community.

Two key management roles have been filled this year: Darren Mead-Miller was named the Manger of Lands, Resources and Assets and Trevor Wickham was named as Manager of Community Services. A new communications department was created to provide citizens with news via the community bulletin and the Umacuk, which is now being published monthly.

The community has a lot to celebrate this year, from the new Yurts at Wya Campground, new surf shop, weekly Cultural Nights, to signing the TSL, Official Community Plan and Residential Interest work and new plans for the community gym which is expected to break ground in 2012.

On Monday (At the People's Assembly) you will be asked to choose a date to celebrate independence and as you can tell, there really is cause for celebration!



Happy Birthday

To all the Daddy's in heaven today, March 22. xoxo love your Touchie Ballers & Surfers Boys who miss you so very very much. Gratefully you live on in them. Perfect way to celebrate you inside our hearts with a basketball hangover. Gone but never forgotten.



Community members greet the babies at the Baby Welcoming Gathering on Tuesday in Hitacu.

The Umacuk

The Yuułu?il?ath *Umacuk* will now be printed monthly, to foster community awareness.

The fundamental goal of the Yuułu?il?ath paper is to contribute to restoring the mental, spiritual, physical and emotional wholeness of the community.

Send any letters to the editor, comments, questions or requests in writing via e-mail or regular mail to the Yuułu?il?ath Communications Department. Contact information is found below.

Umacuk accepts submissions, but please note that the Yuułu?il?ath Communications Department reserves the right to select submissions based on theme and content and may edit materials for grammar and space. We are committed to accuracy in our reporting. If an error is made, please let us know and we will correct it in our next issue.

Items not selected for publication may appear on the Yuułu?il?ath website and, as above, may be edited for space and grammar.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



TSL signed to areas closed to harvesting

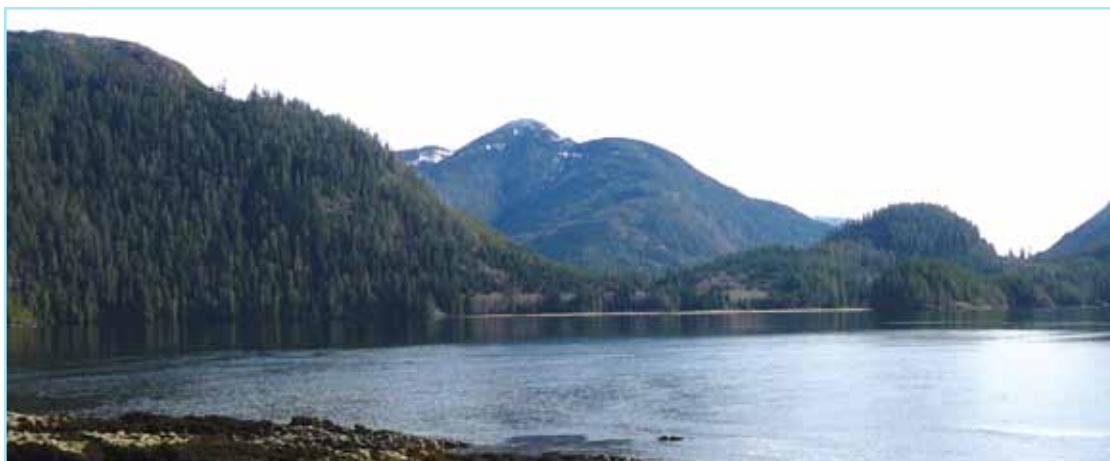
Tad Williams, Yuułuꞑilꞑath Fisheries Officer recently assisted the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada in posting public notices to indicate areas closed to harvesting on Treaty Settlement Lands (TSL) in Effingham Inlet and near Coeur d'Alene Creek.

The Maa-nulth final agreement (Treaty) states that beaches within the TSL are closed to the harvest of intertidal bivalves between the high water mark and the low water mark. The

area has been set aside for the exclusive use of Yuułuꞑilꞑath members only; the area is closed to other First Nations, recreational and commercial harvest of Intertidal Bi-valves.

According to Tad, the areas will be monitored by random patrols and enforcement of infractions will be dealt with by the DFO. The public is encouraged to contact the DFO or Observe, Record and Report Line at 1-800-465-4336 to report infractions.

Fisheries Officer Tad Williams recently assisted the DFO in marking the TSL beaches in Effingham Inlet and Coeur d'Alene Creek.



This computer generated art work is an architectural rendering of how the first Lodge being built at Wya beach, might look like once it is completed; we will have an update on all the activities of the Ucluth Development Corp in April's Umacuk.

Yuułuꞑilꞑath HOUSING AUTHORITY

Yuułuꞑilꞑath is going to establish a Housing Authority. You are invited to apply to be an Authority member.

WHY DO WE NEED A HOUSING AUTHORITY?

In order to operate a sound Housing Program, Yuułuꞑilꞑath needs a Housing Governance structure, a "Housing Authority" which will develop housing agreements and policies, and have a role in other Yuułuꞑilꞑath housing related matters.

WHO MAKES UP THE HOUSING AUTHORITY?

The Authority is made up of five appointed voting Community members; plus the housing coordinator, the social development worker and the Executive member with the Assets Portfolio.

WHAT DOES THE HOUSING AUTHORITY DO?

The Authority has the overall responsibility for the Housing program. The Authority does this by:

- Developing the agreements, policies and procedures that govern how housing operates
- Developing a five year capital housing plan
- Overseeing the operation of the Housing department

WHERE DOES THE AUTHORITY GET ITS POWER FROM?

The Authority gets its authority through a Terms of Reference approved by the Yuułuꞑilꞑath Legislature. The terms of reference sets out the Authority's responsibilities, make-up and way of operating.

HOW OFTEN DOES THE AUTHORITY MEET?

The Authority will meet about once a month.

ARE AUTHORITY MEMBERS PAID?

Community Authority members get an honorarium.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE AN AUTHORITY MEMBER?

Any Yuułuꞑilꞑath citizen who is in "good financial standing" (that means anyone who doesn't owe Yuułuꞑilꞑath money, OR, if they do owe money, they are current in their payments). All interested citizens will be given an opportunity to come into good financial standing. Also, a candidate cannot have been removed from a committee, board or commission, or lost employment due to a breach of confidence. Staff of Yuułuꞑilꞑath are not eligible to be voting community members.

HOW DO I GET CONSIDERED FOR THE AUTHORITY?

All Yuułuꞑilꞑath citizens interested in sitting on the Housing Authority should let the Housing Coordinator, Marilyn Touchie, know. They should write a short letter saying why they want to serve on the Authority and how they think they can help the Authority. The Authority members will be selected from the eligible applicants.

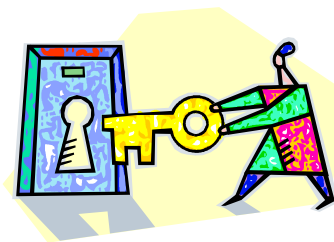
Yuułuꞑilꞑath NEEDS YOU!!!!

Any questions regarding the Housing Authority may be directed to Marilyn Touchie, Housing Coordinator, phone: 250 726 7342, or email: marilyn.touchie@ufn.ca.

Yuułuꞑilꞑath HOUSING GOVERNANCE



IS THE KEY TO



SUCCESSFUL HOUSING

Yuułuꞑilꞑath is going to establish a Housing Governance body, known as a Housing Authority.

You are invited to attend a workshop on all areas of Housing in general, and Housing Governance in particular.

WHERE: 6 Plex, Hitacu

WHEN: Wednesday, April 25th from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

NEWSMAKERS



COMMUNITY NEWS

Elders define own roles



Continued from page 3.

proposition for Elders on a fixed income. She also noted that it will be a great transition,"we will need to prepare ourselves. Other citizens who have lived away from home for years, insist that they had to learn to sort recyclables from garbage, pay taxes and other services, "And you too will learn to do that," commented Evelyn Corfield.



Chairperson for the gathering, Michelle Corfield, reminded the elders and other attendees that "we will have to transform our nation in the next few years to become self-sufficient again."

Elders also expressed the desire to stay in their homes longer and offered suggestions to the government on services that could be provided that would allow them to live at home for longer. Some of those services include transportation for shopping, medical appointments and emergencies. The government currently owns one van, but it is not wheelchair friendly, and would need to be fully accessible for Elders.

Communications with Elders

The Elders talked about the need to be informed about any ongoing projects and plans that the government has in the areas of economic development.

The Elders were questioned about the communications of the government and how they would like to be included in discussions. Where possible and feasible, Elders said they would like to have invitations, be invited by phone, mail, email and in person. They expressed a desire to participate to a greater degree in the People's Assemblies.

Advisory Role

The Elders suggested they could advise the Legislature on variety items from treaty implementation to fishing and traditional foods and helping with the OCP process and capacity building.

The Gathering's business finished at 2:30 p.m. and then there was a break before a delicious traditional seafood feast featuring Urchin, (tucup), salmon (suuha), crab (hasaamac) and clams (hichin) and the cultural group provided a lively drumming and dance routine for the Elders.

Elders who attended the event were Roy Barney Sr., Molly Haipee, Rose Wilson, Vi Mundy, Bob Mundy, Barbara Touchie, Robert O'Connor, Richard Mundy Sr., Eugene Touchie, Gordon Taylor Sr., Kathy Mundy, Ida (Bunny) Baines, Evelyn Corfield, Sullivan Louie, Roberta Jones and Russell Roberts.



NEWSMAKERS

New education agreement expected to be signed soon

The Yuułu?il?ath Government will be signing a five-year Local Education Agreement (LEA) with School District 70 (SD70), that is expected to improve all aspects of education for Yuułu?il?ath students.

The agreement states that both parties will “Develop and reinforce in Yuułu?il?ath students, a strong First Nations identity and pride in their heritage and a feeling of self-worth as a Yuułu?il?ath student.”

The original LEA was signed between NTC and the nations who have students attending school within SD70 in Port Alberni, Bamfield, Tofino and Ucluelet; but now the Yuułu?il?ath has secured its own agreement.

The agreement states that SD70 agrees to provide educational programs of the highest academic and cultural standard which will be de-

signed to enable students to develop their individual potential. The agreement aims to increase the number of Yuułu?il?ath graduates who are able to gain employment or gain entrance into post-secondary institutions.

The school board agreed that timely consultation and assessment of students must be done with the permission of parents or guardians which means that parents will be consulted about any decisions that have to do with their child’s education. For instance, if your child is being promoted even though all the learning outcomes of a certain grade level have not been met, you will be notified of the areas in which your child did not meet the learning outcomes and a plan will be set in place to ensure that those skills are taught. This eliminates the possibilities of children being passed along to the next grade without fully comprehending all of the material that they should have under-

stood. The agreement calls for the SD70 to measure the participation and success of First Nations Students and benchmarks to track the success of the program’s performance.

The Yuułu?il?ath Government’s obligations under the agreement are: “to promote a healthy attitude toward education with all community members by encouraging, inspiring and celebrating the educational successes of all community members and the development and implementation of other suitable strategies.” The government also agreed to encourage and promote regular school attendance.

The government will pay tuition fees to SD70 and those fees will be calculated based on attendance for a full school year and the tuition for each student will be the per student block allocation determined annually by the Ministry of Education.



Flying High, Sheldon Touchie of the Iron 5 basketball team.
Photo by Melody Charlie



Ucluelet Elementary School students from Hitacu were recognized recently at the Celebrate Us assembly. Suzie McCarthy, left, earned a certificate for being polite and Peirce Washburn (right) earned a certificate for being helpful to his teacher. Charles McCarthy, (back) and Randi Lee McCarthy earned Gotcha’s for following the school’s three P’s goal of being Positive, Prepared, and Productive. Babae Williams and Johnny George also received Gotcha certificates.



School students from Hitacu enjoyed ‘strike school’ on the days that their teachers walked out of class in March. The Community Services youth workers put together three days of programming which allowed students to have some fun and catch up on school work as well.



March break activities included all sorts of activities set up by the department of Community Services. These children spent a day creating and acting in their own movie.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Child and Youth Worker & Property Coordinator hired

The Yuułu?il?ath Government has hired two new employees in the last month. Sarah Hager is the new Child and Youth Support Worker. She will be working in the community and with students in the school system. Sarah will be responsible for planning and administration of the Yuułu?il?ath Child and Youth Educational and

Wellness programs. She is a certified teacher who has worked as the Grade 2 teacher in Ahousaht, a substitute teacher in Ucluelet and worked for the NTC as a child development consultant.

"I'm looking for input from community members to get a sense of what they feel we are lacking in as far as community programs for youth," she said. Sarah had a quick introduction to the Hitacu youth when, during her first week, the schools were on strike and she and Gloria Valentine offered a school at the Community Centre. Her interest in drama and outdoor adventure benefitted local children who were treated to some hiking and a drama camp during March break.

Property and Building Services Coordinator hired

Dan Cootes has been hired part-time as the Property and Building Services Coordinator. Dan will

be responsible for planning, coordination, inspection, maintenance and repair to Yuułu?il?ath Government property, services and buildings and includes water systems, waste water, sewage, roads and the general administration of the Property and Building Services Program. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to Dan at the Government House, or call him at (250) 726-7342 or email dan.cootes@ufn.ca



Dan Cootes, new Property and Building Services Coordinator.

BASKETBALL

The Wild Women Basketball team shown here: left to right: Savannah George, Marlene Dick, Michelle Touchie, Nicole Botting, Cory Patrick, Raylene McCreath, Roxanne Touchie and Sky-lene Touchie.



Below: The Iron 5 Basketball Team Left to right Andrew Callicum, coach Calvin George Sheldon Touchie, Matthew Jack, Kenny David, Bryon Patrick, Josh Grilli, Jon David and Ryan Touchie.



Photos by:
Melody Charlie

Lawson contracted to review housing policies

Glenn Lawson is the principal of Lawson Tessier & Associates Ltd., a consulting and project management firm that has worked with First Nations for over 22 years. He will be working with Yuułu?il?ath Lands, Resources and Assets department on a contract basis.

Glenn has assisted First Nations create successful housing programs by focusing on housing governance, effective operations and high quality housing projects. Lawson Tessier has assisted First Nations realize several economic and resource-based development opportunities.

Projects managed by Lawson Tessier include ice arenas, administration buildings, a soil remediation land farm and, most recently, the House of Unity big house for the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations. Glenn Lawson may be contacted at 1 877 577 3778 or glenn@LawsonTessier.com.



Elder's Luncheon at Community Services Centre

Tuesday, April 3rd at Noon.

We invite you to come and reflect on your experiences from the Sencoten Language Experience and discuss ideas for Traditional Language programming in our community.

“The road we travel is equal in importance to the destination we seek. There are no shortcuts. When it comes to truth and reconciliation, we are all forced to go the distance.”

-Justice Murray Sinclair,
Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada,
to the Canadian Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples,
September 28, 2010

The Commission’s overarching purposes are to:

- Reveal to Canadians the complex truth about the history and ongoing legacy of the church-run residential schools, in a manner that fully documents the individual and collective harms perpetrated against Aboriginal peoples, and honours the resiliency and courage of former students, their families, and communities; and
- guide and inspire a process of truth and healing, leading toward reconciliation within Aboriginal families, and between Aboriginal peoples and non-Aboriginal communities, churches, governments and Canadians. (TRC, 2012)

TRC recommendations from interim report

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released an interim report recently that details their activities since their inception in 2009 and recommendations to the federal government.

EDUCATION: The commission said there is a need to “increase public awareness and understanding of the history of residential schools.”

RECOMMENDATION: that each province and territory review the curriculum used in public schools to see what, if anything is taught about residential schools and that age-appropriate educational materials be developed.

LANGUAGE & TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: The Commission acknowledged that Residential School suppressed Aboriginal language and culture, contributing to the loss of culture, language and traditional knowledge.

RECOMMENDATION: The Government of Canada and churches establish an ongoing cultural revival fund to fund projects that promote the traditional, spiritual, cultural and linguistic heritages of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

PARENTING SKILLS: One of the greatest impacts of residential schools is the breakdown of family relationships and the impact continues to be seen today, and is evidenced in high rates of child apprehensions and youth involvement in crime.

RECOMMENDATION: That all lev-

els of government develop culturally appropriate early childhood and parenting programs to assist young parents and families affected by the impact of residential schools.

HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES: Survivors have expressed the need for specialized health supports, especially in isolated areas and in the North.

RECOMMENDATION: That urgent action be taken to develop plans and allocate priority resources for a northern, mental health and wellness healing centre with specialization in childhood trauma and long-term grief.

RECOMMENDATION: That the federal government work with provincial and territorial governments to establish a means to formally recognize and accredit the knowledge,

skills, and on the job training of Health Canada’s community cultural and traditional healing team members.

RECOMMENDATION: That the government of Canada develop a program to establish health and wellness centres specializing in trauma and grief counselling and treatment appropriate to the cultures and experiences of multi-generational residential school survivors.

EXCLUSIONS FROM INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS: Compensation under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement is restricted to the former students or residents of schools listed in the Settlement Agreement or those schools that have been added to the list under specific criteria. The

exclusion of students “is a serious roadblock to meaningful and sincere reconciliation” (TRC, 2012).

RECOMMENDATION: That the parties to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, with the involvement of provincial or territorial governments, identify and implement a means to address legitimate concerns of former students who feel unfairly left out of the Settlement Agreement.

COPY OF THE REPORT: If you would like a pdf copy of the Interim Report, please email lisa.mcknight-yeates@ufn.ca or log onto the Truth and Reconciliation Website at <http://www.trc.ca> Printed copies of the report can be made upon request at Government House.



Survivors show strength by sharing stories

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission came to Port Alberni in March and heard two days of statements from residential school survivors. Many survivors recounted horrific events that took place when they were children and they for which they have carried the burden of guilt and shame for years and in some cases, for generations.

It's unfathomable the degree of unfairness for this burden to have been placed on children, and it's shameful that it has taken decades for the Canadian government, churches of Canada, aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians to begin to account for this tragedy, and start to make amends.

During the hearing we heard that the government and churches were complicit in a cover-up and that until a few decades ago, non-aboriginal Canadians didn't understand that anything was amiss at residential schools—and the Aboriginal community itself was silent about the wrong-doings, even in their own communities and to their own families. The code of silence was kept and the horror stories were not told; until now these stories have been buried.

The TRC hearings have provided a means for these stories to emerge and thanks to the bravery of the survivors, stories are now being told and believed, and perhaps now the healing can begin.

The residential school legacy is complex and multi-generational. Those who were taken from their families and sent to residential school experienced first-hand what it was like to lose family and community connections. They were stripped of their culture, punished for speaking their language and repeatedly told they were lesser human beings. The mental anguish of this form of abuse is appalling and additional sexual and physical abuse added immeasurable pain and suffering.

Many survivors told of a profound sadness that still lingers, and memories of the fear and loneliness they felt at residential school.

That pain and suffering didn't stay at the residential schools, most carried that pain into their adult lives, and it often manifested itself in drug and alcohol abuse and violence which caused even more suffering.

Some residential school survivors themselves don't understand the residual effects of the experience. Intergenerational suffering is sometimes swept under the rug, but it is real. The younger generation did not first-hand

experience residential school, but many dealt with the after-effects of drugs and alcohol, physical abuse and sexual abuse from those who had been abused and they also suffered because the code of silence was still, at that time, impermeable.

The following are excerpts from a few of the statements given by Yuułu?ił?ath community members at the hearing.

An intergenerational Survivor

A young woman thanked the TRC for providing a forum for her and others to overcome silence and visibility, by telling their stories. She never attended residential school but "nevertheless, I am a victim of these schools," she said, as an intergenerational survivor. She prefaced her statement by saying she was not trying to be hurtful or assign blame, "though harsh, this is my reality."

She told the commission about the abuse she and her twin sister suffered at the hands of their father, and his extended family. She spoke of how her mother left before they were a year old and her father struggled to juggle his logging camp schedule and two infants. "But he was also struggling with his own residential experience," she noted, and eventually, the father's lack of parenting skills and substance abuse led to the girls being apprehended by social services and placed in an aunt's home, who was also a residential school survivor.

In that home she and her sister were sexually molested "by our cousin." She said by age 11 they had been abandoned by their Mother, taken from our Father, abused physically and sexually by those caring for us.

Eventually they ended up in a loving foster home but once the sisters went to trial and the molester was criminally prosecuted, "We were rejected by our own fraternal family," she said.

This young woman talked about the disconnect from her Aboriginal heritage, through no fault of her own. The foster family she and her sister found stability in was with a white family and she described how that family attempted to foster connections between the girls and their Aboriginal roots, "We were rejected by the Aboriginal community." This young woman talked at length about the disproportionate percentage of Aboriginal children in Foster Care, and the need to ensure that they are supported by the larger Aboriginal community, no mat-

ter who ends up fostering them. "She said the girls felt guilty for the relationship with their foster family and she encouraged people to understand what children in care are experiencing and to "give them permission to accept love in the homes in which they land and give them the tools to learn how to live in both worlds."

The Commission heard that the sisters spent several years in therapy and still grapple with depression, lack of self worth, lack of trust, feeling unwanted and not belonging anywhere. "Only now am I learning that I'm worthy of good things," she said.

She talked about the victim's shame for the abuse that has occurred and feeling like a traitor to the family for admitting the abuse. "If we keep our eyes closed to predators living in our own communities we will continue to create sad stories," she pointed out.

Elders Reflect:

Fear of going to residential school and being left there, "I think it stays with you for the rest of your life,"

one of our elders told the commission. He told of being physically and emotionally scarred from the experience. "We didn't have love here, we didn't know it at all."

Although fluent in the Yuułu?ił?ath language when he entered residential school, this Elder was beaten repeatedly for speaking the language and it took until just a few years ago, before bits and pieces of the language started to resurface.

"I kept looking around my shoulder, waiting to be grabbed by the ear," he said, remembering the abuse he suffered for speaking his language. Today he is one of a handful of semi-fluent speakers in the community of Hitacu.

He said there were only a few positive memories from residential school, the strong friendships that were formed and the athletics. "I made friend and I've missed those friendships," he commented, adding, "A lot of them have passed away; I still think of them." His love of athletics was encouraged at residential school and "when I walked out of here I had a love of coaching," which kept him active with coaching for a few decades.

"I've had some really good moments in my life but they were mostly before I came here, and after," he said.

Cover up and Eventual Crash

Reaching out for help came only after this Elder thought seriously about taking his own life. He was driving through Cathedral Grove and had a tree lined up to crash into and end his life.

"I couldn't take it anymore. For 40 plus years of my life I had covered up having been a victim of sexual, physical, emotional and spiritual abuse."

"I was sodomized, made to perform felacio on men in this school here, and the only way out for me, to get peace in my life, I thought, at the time, was to end it," he said.

As he sped towards a tree thoughts of his Grandchildren came to his mind, and then he realized he had a lot to live for. "That began my fight to be a better person," he commented.

He spent years in therapy from the late 90s until just recently. "I paid for my own counselling and it was money well spent. It still hurts, but it's manageable now," he said.

The elder held his hand waist high and noted, "this is how big we were when we were abused and made to do all these things that we're talking about now". He also spoke about being able to speak fluently as a child and said, "because of the soap (in the mouth) and beatings, it's in my head and it's in my heart, but I just can't get it out," he said of the loss of the language.

He urged other survivors to get counselling and said if the first one doesn't work out, keep trying. "Eventually you will find someone you are happy with and they will help you down the road to success."

Hope and Forgiveness

The effects of residential school will be around for many years to come, but in Port Alberni, there was a sense of hope that through telling their stories and offering their own apologies (for the after-effects of residential school on their own families), that perhaps now it's time to move forward.

The damn has given way and a flood of memories is pouring across the Canadian consciousness. Over and over two words were repeated in the stories of the survivors of residential school, the words were hope and forgiveness and they seem to be integral to the healing process that has now begun.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Keeping the traditional Yuułu?ił?ath language alive has been made a priority by the Yuułu?ił?ath Legislature and also noted as a priority at the recent Elder's Gathering, but learning the language takes a lot of work and there is disagreement among Elders over whether writing a language that historically was an oral language, is proper.

Elder Barb Touchie has been teaching the language once a week at the Yuułu?ił?ath Community Services



Centre for several years. "People don't take the time to learn it properly. Some people speak a little but they don't write it," she commented, adding that it took her a few years to learn the

written language.

Although traditionally there was no written language, the language has been translated into a written format in order that future generations can learn the proper pronunciation.

"We're not going to be here forever; people need to take this seriously," she said. "Am I the only one who sees that our language is becoming extinct?"

Barb said there are only a handful of fluent speakers in Hitacu and then about twenty-four people who have some knowledge of the language. There are others still who know the language but do not want to speak it and she suggests that is either the case of people who were punished at residential school for speaking their own language, or people who do not feel the language is pertinent in today's society.

Barb wishes that other Elders were concerned about passing along the language to their family members, "if we're not speaking to our

children it will be lost. We can help preserve the language if we use it," she commented.

She finds it discouraging that citizens come to language class and are not willing to commit the time to learn the language. "They want to pick it up in a hurry, without effort, and it won't happen that way," she warned. "People just don't have time; they want to learn but it's not a priority," she said. She believes it take about two to three hours of practice a week to start to be comfortable with the written and spoken language.

The Language Nest program which offers immersion for pre-school aged children is a great way to get young people introduced to the language Barb said. Currently the Language Nest program sees about five different Elders dropping in to talk to the pre-schoolers and recently a group of Elders accompanied Dr. Bernice Touchie, to Victoria, for a conference about the Language Nest Program. Barb is also involved in helping teach the Nuuchahnulth language at the local schools.

In 1991 the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council published the *Our World-Our Ways T'aa't'aaqsapa Cultural Dictionary* to focus attention on language revitalization and to provide a framework for interested elders to help with maintaining the language.

"The writing system used in the language was decided upon by members of the Taat'aaqsapa Language Committee. It is a modified form of the International Phonetic Alphabet (the IPA)." states the dictionary. It goes on to say that there are symbols that are not used in writing English and they can be learned to be recognized and pronounced. Barb believes some Elders are intimidated by having to learn the writing system and she admits, it was not easy

to learn. Barb was still working full-time when the dictionary project was put together, so it was not until after she retired, she learned to read the language. She took a six-week immersion course in Port Alberni which taught her to read the language. She remembered how to speak the language, because she never attended Residential School and therefore, had spoken the language since she was young. "I knew the words and what they meant, I just didn't know how to spell them," she commented.

It bothers her to see community signs spelled incorrectly such as street signs or Wya beach, which she says should be spelled Waya. "I guess they believe it's easier to say; it was done without consultation and in a hurry," she commented.

She would like to see the community entrance sign of Hitacu spelled correctly and notes, "We're not a reserve any more, we're a community, the community of Hitacu".

Barb will see that wish come to fruition shortly as a signage request for proposals was set out a few months ago, and work has begun on designs for a new entrance sign.

Language classes take place every Wednesday afternoon from 1 until 2 p.m., taught by Barb and Dr. Touchie.

In accordance with Yuułu?ił?ath Law

Notice is hereby given that the Yuułu?ił?ath Legislature has initiated a Hit-tat-soo Assembly in accordance with the Constitution and Government Act YFNS 2/2011.

The Hit-tat-soo Assembly is scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2012; 5:00 P.M. at the Yuułu?ił?ath Community Hall.

Dinner will be provided; everyone is invited to attend.

[The agenda is in draft form until approved by the Citizens at the Hit-tat-soo Assembly. Additional items may be added at the time we adopt the agenda.](#)

Agenda Items:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Opening Ceremonies
3. Welcoming remarks
4. Motion and discussion to adopt the agenda
5. Announcements/Discussion
 - a) One year anniversary of Yuułu?ił?ath's Treaty Effective Date
 - b) Opening Ceremonies Discussion (Update)
 - c) Elders Update
 - d) Bylaws Update
6. Other business
 - a) Presentation on 2 YFN Acts (TBA)
 - b) _____
7. Department Updates
 - a) President
 - b) Executive
 - c) Director of Operation
 - d) Chief Financial Officer
 - e) Lands and Resources
 - f) Community Services
8. Adjournment

