



New community centre opens

By the end of this week the Yuulu?it?ath Government staff will have moved into the new community centre in Hitacu.

The centre has been finished for a few weeks now, but could not be occupied until the new water

reservoir was commissioned. The water system was commissioned last week and that paved the way for the new community centre to be occupied. Professional movers will be here over the weekend for the move.

A traditional cleansing will be done before the office staff moves in. The offices will be opened on December 1st and citizens are invited to stop by for a coffee and to take a look at the new building.

Next Thursday night, December 4th, the first Culture Night will be held at the new Community Centre, which will serve as a soft opening for the centre. A Grand Opening has been set for January 17th, 2015.



Photos by Lisa McKnight-Yeates

The new community centre will be occupied by the end of this week. On Monday, December 1st citizens are invited to stop by for a coffee and look around the new building. The first Culture Night at the new building will be held on Thursday, December 4th when the members of the Yuulu?it?ath Legislature will be cooking dinner.

The Grand Opening will take place on January 17, 2015.

Tragedy avoided as three teens plucked from dark chilly water

Two Hitacu teens and a visiting teen to the community are lucky to be alive following a canoe accident that left them clinging to an overturned canoe half way across the bay, in the dark. Their screams for help awakened a few citizens. Mike Louie and Charles McCarthy responded to the calls with a boat and flashlight and were able to rescue two of the teens. The third was able to swim to shore.

McCarthy described a few tense moments as Louie attempted to get his boat motor started. "It was only a couple of minutes but it seemed like an eternity because we could hear them screaming and then the calls were getting weaker all in a matter of minutes."

McCarthy grabbed a high

intensity flashlight from his boat, and said he was grateful that Mike had a smaller boat at the dock, making a quick response possible. Still, with choppy water and a dark night, it was difficult to see anyone in the water, McCarthy said. "Then we saw them hanging onto the boat (which was overturned in the water). "The canoe is flat, nothing to hang onto," he added. The motor boat pulled alongside the teens and pulled them aboard.

"They just collapsed," McCarthy said. Meanwhile, Liz McCarthy had brought a vehicle down to the dock to transport them to a parent's house. "We got to the dock and they couldn't even walk, and they were not shivering, which means they probably had hyperthermia," he added.

"And then the girl asked, 'Where's Luke?' and we realized we needed help for a search." McCarthy called 911. Other community members had also called 911 and police and ambulance were on their way.

They started a search for the third teen before Mike's sister Donna hollered to them that the third teen was safe. He, and a dog that was with the teens swam to shore. The dog had apparently swam to the shoreline and waited for the teen.

The three teens were not wearing life-jackets and took a canoe that was sitting at the Hitacu dock for a joy ride at 3 a.m.

"If it wasn't for Mike having that boat at the dock things would

have turned out very differently," McCarthy said, adding, "A tragedy was avoided here."

The incident took place on Tuesday, November 18th. According to RCMP constable Marcel Midlane the teens were on their way back from Ucluelet when the canoe overturned near the channel marker. Two of the teens were taken to Tofino General Hospital and the third was assessed by paramedics. One of the teens was apparently taken to Victoria for further observation but that report is unconfirmed.

Parents of the two local teens are grateful to those involved in the rescue and to NTC Quu?asa staff who have been counselling the teens and families since the incident.

If undeliverable, please return to:

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Government House
PO Box 699
Ucluelet, BC V0R 3A0

Toll Free: 1-877-726-7342
PM 42129516

Hitacu Assembly and AGM

Monday, December 1, 2014

Community Hall, Hitacu

Dinner starts at 5 p.m. Everyone Welcome to attend.

Implementation Committee reviews the Draft Public Order, Peace and Safety Act which calls for better treatment of pets

Excessive noise and better treatment of pets were two key discussion points at the Treaty Implementation Committee meeting in early November; the committee met to review the draft Public order, Peace and Safety Act.

Vi Mundy cited fireworks as being particularly bothersome and questioned whether those lighting off fireworks were “looking out for people or dogs” when fireworks are let off. Part 2 of the Act concerns noise disturbance and outlines proposed rules on everything from construction hours to disorderly conduct.

Legislature member Geraldine Touchie commented that she thought the noise bylaw seemed heavy handed and Legislature member Alan McCarthy agreed.

He questioned whether the proposed law was culturally appropriate and he cited smoking fish as a time when someone might make noise outside of a certain time frame. He said “It’s a big change. We’re not creating a template of something across the bay,” he said and then questioned, “is this who we are?”

“For me it seems very

controlling to say this is what we are going to impose on our people; it doesn’t strike me as being community friendly,” Geraldine commented.

Ucluelet RCMP detachment Staff Sgt. Jeff Swan, a guest at the meeting said the new law carries a lot of power and he warned that

“whoever is wielding that power has to be careful; this law carries a lot of power.” He said in cases where the police would have a tough time getting a search warrant, the new law would make it much easier for the government to deal with criminal evidence.

Notice is hereby given that the Yuulu?il?ath Legislature has initiated a Hitacu Assembly in accordance with the Constitution and Government Act YFNS 2/2011.

The Hitacu Assembly is scheduled for Monday December 1st, 2014; 5PM at the Yuulu?il?ath Community Hall.

Dinner will be provided; all citizens are invited to attend.

The agenda is in draft form until approved by the Citizens at the Hitacu Assembly. (Additional items may be added at the time we adopt the agenda.)

Agenda Items:

1. Meeting called to order
2. Opening Ceremonies/Welcoming remarks
3. Motion and discussion to adopt the agenda
4. Economic Development Update – YFN Management Services
5. Audit Presentation
6. Updates
 - a. President
 - b. Lands and Resources & Asset Management
 - c. Community Services
 - d. Director of Operations
7. Announcements/Discussion
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
8. Adjournment



A sketch by Clifford George of a proposed sign for the new community centre. Last week the Yuulu?il?ath Executive voted to have Clifford carve a sign for the entryway.

Clifford George asked to carve sign for new Community Centre

The Yuulu?il?ath Executive has voted to have Clifford George carve a sign for the entrance to the new community centre.

Clifford submitted a drawing to the Executive to be considered for the entrance. The sign will feature two hinkeets--to represent the male and female--facing each other. There will also be a sign with the Yuulu?il?ath name carved on it as well.

A few months ago Clifford was contracted to create a sign to mark the Traditional Territory; the sign was supposed to be erected at the side of the highway near Kennedy Lake.

The first hinkeets sign was nearing completion when the suggestion was made that the sign would look great at the new community centre.

Clifford tweaked the design for a second hinkeets and the sketch was presented to the Executive to

consider.

President Charles McCarthy presented the idea of the sign at the November 19th meeting. He said “it means a lot to have our own design and our own person doing the carving.”



“It’s a real honour for me to carve this sign and share my work with the community” said Clifford.

Clifford calls his carving style contemporary and said although the style is not traditional, the hinkeets is culturally significant. In his younger years Clifford was a hinkeets dancer so it seems fitting that is what he has chosen to carve.

Two years ago Clifford carved the new sign on the way into Hitacu and has also done many carvings at the Wya Resort.

Construction underway for Thornton Motel rebuild

The Thornton Motel rebuild has begun and within the next month the framing should begin. According to Sean Clayton of Humphrey's Construction, the new concrete and rebar has been added to the foundation to bring it up to the current building code standards.

There will be 12 units on three floors and it will look very much the same as the last building, Sean said, noting that "some stuff will look a little bit nicer but all within the original budget," he commented.

Yuulu?il?ath citizen Ryan Touchie has been working with the construction crew on the build and several local contractors are being utilized by Humphrey's Construction everything from concrete work, roofing, framing, plumbing, electric and civil work. "It's been great to make a local trades connection"

Sean added.

A new water line into the middle building will increase the flow of water to all the units, Sean said, noting it was under serviced previously.

"This will now be sized properly to service both buildings (main and new build)" he said, noting that the third building has a separate water service that is adequate.

Jeneva Touchie, Manager of the Thornton Motel has begun searching the web for furniture to outfit the new rooms. "We've been looking at beds and sheets," Jeneva commented. She's a little sad that the large evergreen tree in the parking lot, right at the motel entrance, will need to be cut down because its roots are interfering with infrastructure.



The foundation work has been completed on the re-build of the Thornton Motel and the framing is expected to begin shortly. The motel's centre block was ravaged by fire a year and a half ago. Construction is slated to be completed by the spring.

Committee takes aim at unlawful behaviour

A Community Consultative Group was formed last spring as a special committee of the Yuulu?il?ath Legislature. The committee was set up to identify priorities of concerns and to assist the community in addressing the issues by working with the RCMP to develop strategies to deal with the concerns.

Geraldine Touchie is the Executive member who chairs this volunteer committee and is somewhat frustrated that community members seem loathe to take action when it comes to dealing with certain issues.

"It's frustrating at times," admitted Geraldine. "We know there are things happening in our community but we don't want to talk about them openly," she said.

"The negative events in our community that are talked about on the internet but aren't reported to the proper authorities negatively impact our youth and our children who ultimately pay the price," she said.

Consultative committee

members have discussed that the code of silence in the community protects the wrong people. And they agreed that everyone should feel safe and protected in the community.

"We would like to encourage those who know about who's responsible for providing drugs and alcohol to our youth to come forward and report." She urged citizens to contact police and pointed out that people can report anonymously.

"It's important for us to set aside our differences for the sake of our children, the teens and our community," she said.

Several community members were involved in meetings in May and June including: Molly Haipee, Raymond Haipee, Marj Touchie, Brenda Clayton, Vi Mundy, Christina Klotz, Wilson Jack and the late Eugene Touchie. Geraldine said the committee met in June with RCMP Constable Marcel Midlane and again in November.

Under-age drinking and par-

tying by citizens and non-members was discussed by the Community Consultative Group at the first meeting. At the initial meeting the committee agreed that the safety of youth and children in the community was the number one goal. Two separate, violent incidents which involved two young women as the victims was also discussed at length. The group agreed that a community representative would attempt to connect with the young women to see what help the community could provide. Geraldine said although there was an attempt to follow-up with the women, neither could be reached.

RCMP Constable Marcel Midlane has also been attending most of the Community Consultative Committee meetings. He told the group that the RCMP are aware of known "hot spots" for under-age parties and said the houses have, at times, been put under police surveillance. He also encouraged citizens to report incidents.

Geraldine is also hoping to attract more interest in the committee; she wondered if having daytime meetings might prove more popular with citizens. She is thankful to Constable Midlane for his participation.

Hitacu Assembly AGM

Monday, December 1, 2014
Community Hall, Hitacu

Dinner starts at 5 p.m.

Lana MacInnis new Adult Education teacher in Hitacu

Lana MacInnis has been teaching in Tofino and Ucluelet for the past 2 years and has been hired as the teacher for Adult Basic Education in Hitacu. She graduated from the University of Alberta with

a Bachelor of Education and has gained experience teaching for the past 9 years in Victoria, Alberta and Australia. In the summer season she is a sea kayak guide and loves to get outdoors on the water

and explore.

Lana is looking forward to being involved with the Adult Education program and working with the Hitacu community this year. There are currently 6 students enrolled in the ABE program, who are working through courses in the subjects of Math, English and Science in order to gain credit towards their High School Diploma or Dogwood Certificate. She is excited to see the learners motivation and enthusiasm to achieve their goals. The program will be running on Tuesday

and Wednesday evenings at the Youth Learning Center.



Audio tapes preserved in digital format

Maureen Louie has been listening to a lot of stories lately; as part of a 'digitization project' she is listening to old cassette tapes which she intends to turn into a digital format.

She was hired three weeks ago and spent the first week training at UBC along with Language Coordinator Bernice Touchie, who is

overseeing the digitization project.

Maureen said she knew there were cassette tapes in the community but she had no idea there were as many as there were. Currently she's reviewing about 40 tapes from two different families, and the voices on the tapes are of many of the communities elders who have now passed away.



The Hitacu Education and Career Fair Strengthening Connections was held at the Community Hall in early November with representatives from various educational institutions and employers.

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Yuutu?it?ath

NOTICE

We are moving!

Staff from this office will be packing up to prepare for our move during the week of November 24th and it may cause some disruption in services.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to greeting you at our new office, located at:

700 Wya Road, Hitacu, BC

Yuutu?it?ath citizens are welcome to drop by for a coffee and a self-guided tour on Monday, December 1st.

Bob and Vi share 50 years

Bob and Vi Mundy are two Yuulu?il?ath Elders who have lived in Hitacu most of their lives and have been very involved in their community. Recently we sat down with the pair to talk about their lives, how the community has changed and their hopes for the future now that the nation is a self-governing one.



First there was Bob...

Bob was born in Port Alberni, to Gertie Mundy, at his first cousin's home. His mother lived in Hitacu at the time but was visiting her sister in Port Alberni when he was born. He grew up as an only child, although he had an older brother Joe, who died while Bob was still young. Joe didn't live with Bob and his Mom; the only photo he has of Joe was in the hospital, and Bob believes that Joe had TB.

Every spring Bob and his Mom left Hitacu to travel to the States to go berry picking, first at Bainbridge Island for strawberries, then to Vachon Island for red currants and lastly to Pualap to finish off the fall season picking blackberries. "It was probably October by the time we headed back home so even the day school that we had here (in Hitacu) I missed quite a bit," he said. Both he and Vi attended this school and neither could say how it was that Hitacu had a day-school, when many people from here were forced to go to Indian Residential School. From the time he was very young until about the age of 17, Bob travelled with his Mom to the States to pick berries and during that time he only spoke Nuuchah-nulth. Today, he is one of few fluent Elders of the Yuulu?il?ath tribe who can speak the language. A few years ago Vi decided to learn the language as well.

According to Bob there were a lot of

First Nations from across Vancouver Island that went berry picking in the States. "We caught the train in Port to Victoria and then go on the ferry to Port Angeles I guess," he recalled. "We weren't allowed to go upstairs, we had to stay down on the car deck," he said referring to the racial inequalities. Bob said he enjoyed picking berries and found he was quick at picking cannery berries which had the stems left on; his Mom on the other hand was better at picking market berries which had no stems. His Mother, aunt Bessie and her child Nellie worked together and stayed in a cabin together every year.

Back in Hitacu he would attend day school, which he remembered as a large barn like structure. The one-room school was divided with younger children in one area and older children in another. The teacher and his family lived in the upstairs apartment of the school, and the school was used for many community dances and parties.

Bob said he didn't socialize a lot as kid, preferring to spend time playing cowboy and Indians and Tarzan rather than attend dances or other community functions.

Vi has fond memories of her time at the day school. She said about 16 children attended school there and she remembers many dances and Christmas concerts at the school.

"And we had a sports day, May Day and the whole community would go out to it, probably on the waterfront close to where the clinic is now." Both agree that the village was about the same size and boasted a larger population than today. "There would have been 30 houses or more when we grew up, and probably 300 people lived here when we grew up. It was always busy with activities, Christmas parties, concerts in the basement of the community. She said it was the 70s that people left. "I think they wanted to explore; there was really no reason for them to go, that's all I can think of," she said.

Vi's story

Vi grew up as the oldest of 15 children of Barbara and Sam Touchie; ten of those children are still living. "Our family were all early risers because our dad was a fisherman, up at about 4 a.m. and only the girls went fishing with him, none of the boys went," she recalled.

Her childhood memories are marred with some absences though as Vi spent years in the hospital, after contracting TB twice before her

tenth birthday. She had TB when she was two years old and when she was ten years old she spent two years in the Nanaimo Indian Hospital. "I never saw my Dad, only once because it was hard for them to travel there," she said, explaining that her father had to take a six hour boat ride to Port Alberni, followed by a bus or train ride to Nanaimo. "When I came back home I had a hard time interacting with my brothers and sisters. I knew them but I didn't know them. It was like having a stranger moving in," she said. It was difficult being away from family and the community for so long, but there was one very positive outcome of her hospital stay that remains with her today. "My love of reading, that's where it came from," she commented, explaining that a nurse in the hospital brought her a variety of reading material and that's how she whiled away her time. "We didn't have school in the hospital but this nurse brought me all sorts of books. I'm a real fast reader," she smiles. And she added that during the Treaty Negotiations her love of reading came in handy because she had to read through pages and pages of documents.

When she returned to the community she was placed in Grade 7 at the day school. It was there that she first ran into Bob.

How they met

Vi bursts out laughing when asked how she and Bob met. "I get embarrassed but it's funny, you can tell her," she says to Bob. He recalled seeing Vi at a community sports day for the first time. "I was asking who she was and after that I just kept following her around. I'd bump into her at different places and I was not very well liked by her. She would tell me to get lost and swear at me," he says; they both laugh at the memory and then she adds, "I was bad."

Bob wasn't dissuaded and he continued to try to get on her good side. "Finally, I thought, he really does want to get to know me," Vi said, "so, I just started talking to him; I thought, I can't be mad forever." Bob was 17 at the time and found out on Vi's 14th birthday that she was much younger than he thought.

They dated for three years and then Bob got up the nerve to ask for Vi's hand in marriage. "It was hard for me so I had to get some kind of liquid in me and so I was under the influence and said, 'I want to marry your daughter' and he said if you want to marry her you need a job, so I got a job at a logging camp and a few months later they were married. They moved in with Bob's mother who lived in a small home that overlooked the harbour near where the public wharf is today. "There were gas lamps and no electric-

of marriage and memories

ity,” in the small house they shared.

Bob and Vi got married in Hitacu and honeymooned for a week in Port Alberni, staying at the Somass Motel. While on their honeymoon they shopped at Woodward's and bought a set of appliances for home, a washer and dryer and a fridge and stove. There was only one problem, Bob realized, after the appliances arrived by boat. “We had no electricity. They had to go all around on the trail and they got it in the house and we thought, well, this isn't going to work,” he said, smiling at the memory. Fortunately, they knew that Dave Haipee had taken some electrical courses and so they talked to him about wiring the house. “He could only do it in the evenings and weekends. He said, you get the wiring and I will come and do it, but we had no clue what the wiring looked like.” Within a couple of weeks the house had electricity and the appliances were a welcome addition for Vi and Bob, but not for his Mom who refused to use them.

Community memories

According to Bob and Vi, the community was a close-knit community that was buzzing with activity for many years. Bob played guitar for the community dances and Vi said there were always activities such as dancing, Christmas parties and classes for teaching skills.

One of the biggest physical changes was the road being brought to the community. (Note: Bob and Vi's wedding party photo is gathered on the boardwalk that used to run through the community). The road was built as a result of a strike by local loggers who refused to go to work until MacMillan Bloedel built a road to the community. Before the road was built the loggers boated to Ucluelet and were picked up there.

“Our guys were the best for being in the woods and within a couple of weeks of the strike there was a road here,” she said. The road ended just before the hill and the road near Donna's store became known as the ‘parking lot’. “Everyone started getting cars and it was full of cars because there was no road up the hill.” Bob said he and Vi didn't buy a car for a few years after the road was built. “I hadn't learned to drive and wasn't sure I could do it, but after that we learned and then there was no stopping us,” he said. In fact, they would often drive to Port Alberni, on a gravel road through the switchbacks up the mountainside just to watch a movie. “We'd drive all that way to go to the drive-in movie in Port and then we'd all go to the Dairy Queen,” he smiled at the memory.

“We had a boardwalk through the com-

munity and there was so much grass,” Vi recalled. She described the community events that were plentiful in years gone by. “We were always busy with activities. There were Christmas parties and concerts in the basement of the day school. The school was open in the evenings and we had jive sessions, it was always a fun time. There were lots of activities for young people,” she added. “There was a real community setting here, they had lots of activities for teens, the girls would learn to cook or sew and do embroidery,” she said.

Two years after they were married they had their first child, Melody, and Crystal was born two years later. The small family moved away from Hitacu for a year or two, to Everett Washington, where Bob took a job at a boat factory; but the job was short-lived because Bob didn't like working with fiberglass and they moved back to Hitacu after a year or two. Several years later they adopted Aaron when he was a week old, a relative of Vi's and a few years after that they adopted Josh who was a relative of Bob's.

Work life and Volunteering

Both Bob and Vi worked at the fish plant, passing each other after shifts--Vi worked the night shift and Bob worked during the day, and in between they both watched the kids.

Years later they became involved in the business of the government when Vi was asked to step in as the Band Manager. She was reluctant to take the job at first but after some convincing she became the only employee of the nation, and remained in that job for 12 years. Years later she was voted in as the first female Chief and won two consecutive terms. Bob also worked for the tribe as Chief councillor for a term and also on the Central Region Board.

Bob has been a long-time volunteer with the Thornton Creek Hatchery and Vi has been involved as a volunteer with the Wild Pacific Trail Society, the Ucluelet Historical Society, the Ucluelet Aquarium, the Pacific Rim Arts Society and she currently is serving her second term on the North Island College Board of Governors.

In the 1990s Vi and Bob were hired as researchers for the nation and much of the information they gathered during those years

was used when negotiating the treaty.

“We never had good historical research for the tribe and then we got five years of funding for research,” she commented. During that five years the pair travelled across Canada, spending time in church basements and museums gathering information about the tribe. “We went to the archives in Winnipeg and Ottawa two or three times,” Vi noted, and said the information gathered was instrumental in the treaty negotiations.

Both were on the Treaty team and spent many years in negotiations. “It wasn't an easy road at all to negotiate with the government; it got really hard at times,” Bob recalled.

“My personal feeling is that it was the best that we could have done after all the circumstances,” Bob said of the Treaty settlement. “We fought the whole way and sometimes our people didn't like the road that we were going on...they were upset and said the government wasn't listening.”

“We knew we weren't going to get everything but we got a lot more than we thought we were going to get. It wasn't easy,” he added.

Vi agreed that negotiating the Treaty wasn't an easy task but said she feels the current government is bogged down in the wording of the treaty and the laws. “They are overwhelmed by the laws and the treaty. “Really in this whole wide world does anyone really abide by the dots and the i's and the rules and regulations? Can't we include more common sense?” she asked. “I don't want to see our tribe so bogged down that you can't move forward at a faster rate.”

Although post-treaty is not quite as they imagined it, both are still pleased that the treaty was done and that the nation will determine its own destiny.



Language and Culture



Nuu-chah-nulth language class has enjoyed a resurgence in attendance after a new beginners class started recently. Last week about a dozen citizens showed up for lessons. Beginners are invited for lunch and lessons between 12 and 1 p.m. and the regular language class begins at 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the health centre, taught by Dr. Bernice Touchie.



A peek to the past with this photo of Yuulu?il?ath citizens dancing. Shown here are, left to right: Mary McKay, Louise Tutube and Aggie Jackson. This photo is part of the historical photo collection of Vi and Bob Mundy.



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

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To register, please email: aliana@fpcc.ca

More info at: www.fpcc.ca



Hallowe'en Fun

Lindsay McCarthy III became Nintendo's Luigi for Hallowe'en this year.



Red Riding Hood Khia Little and Mom Celena Cook dressed up for Halloween, shown here with Grandma Debbie Touchie.

Myrtle the turtle back at home with family



the communication process would be better, in that the SPCA would give the family the benefit of the doubt that the turtle was in a good home and if they had concerns about the tank size they would address them with the family rather than taking away a beloved pet. Rather than assisting the family with finding an appropriately sized tank, the SPCA told the family that they would find Myrtle a home with a sanctuary if they could not find a larger tank by a certain date. In the end the family paid a few hundred dollars for a large tank and finally Myrtle was allowed home. Anita was also disappointed that the RCMP didn't call the family before the pet was taken and noted that the RCMP had their contact numbers and had been part of the funeral service for Eugene.

Irene Towell, manager branch of SPCA said Myrtle was taken by SPCA volunteers because they felt she was in critical distress. Myrtle was on the deck in a small tank. "It wasn't the tank she lived in all the time. It was filling up

with water and she was stuck. Basically she would have drowned and there was no one home."

Irene said "Myrtle was in critical distress and critical distress means the animal will die," she noted, and that's why she was brought to the SPCA.

"We did some research and they did some research and we all came to realize Myrtle needs a bigger tank and an area that she can get out of the water and bask. Turtles need to bask," Irene said, noting that Myrtle's new habitat is "absolutely spectacular".

Irene said Myrtle is the most social turtle she has ever come across. "I've never seen a turtle that interacted with people as much as Myrtle probably because she's lived with the same family for so long," she commented. Indeed, Myrtle seems content to be back home, enjoying her basking rock and loads of room to swim.

Myrtle the turtle is back home. The 21 year old turtle that belongs to Skylene Touchie was apprehended by the SPCA in October after SPCA volunteers determined the turtle was in critical distress.

The incident happened while the family was out-of-town, and the turtle had been left on the porch in a small tank that was not her usual inside tank. Anita explained that Myrtle usually spends most of the summer outside and had been moved inside for the colder months. Some neighbourhood children were asking about Myrtle one day and Anita decided to put Myrtle outside in the small tank for the children to look at. She was called away and Myrtle was unintentionally left outside in the small tank for a few days.

"Myrtle was apprehended on Thanksgiving weekend when our family was in Port Alberni," she explained, adding that the recent death of Eugene and Barb and other relatives, had put a lot of strain on the family.

Skylene got a Facebook message from her aunt to inform her that two women, accompanied by the RCMP, had taken Myrtle away. Skylene was devastated. Not only has she owned Myrtle for 21 years, but her Grandpa Eugene loved the turtle (it had lived with him for two years), and he was constantly reminding Skylene to clean its tank. Myrtle was named after Grandpa Max Savey's turtle Murtle.

Anita was frustrated with the actions of the SPCA and the RCMP. She thought the SPCA would handle the situation differently. She thought



The Independent Assessment Process is Winding Down.

Notice to IAP Claimants

If you have not heard from the Adjudication Secretariat or from your lawyer in several months

This notice is addressed to former Indian Residential School students who have an unresolved Independent Assessment Process (IAP) claim. If you applied, but are unsure about the status of your claim, or have any questions about your IAP application you can either:

- Contact your lawyer or legal representative;
- Call the toll-free IAP information line at 1-877-635-2648; or
- Visit our website at www.iap-pei.gc.ca

The IAP is winding down

Since 2007, the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat (Adjudication Secretariat) has resolved more than 28,000 cases in the IAP. There are still over 8,000 active files that await resolution. We anticipate holding all remaining claimant first hearings by the spring of 2016 and finalizing all post-hearing work and decisions by spring 2018.

What is the IAP?

As one of the compensation programs established under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement), the IAP is the only option for former residential school students to resolve these claims, unless they opted out of the Settlement Agreement. The deadline to submit an application to the IAP was September 19, 2012.

Indian Residential School Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419

Former Indian Residential School (IRS) students may call the IRS Crisis Line, a national, 24-hour toll-free support services operated by trained Aboriginal crisis counselors. The toll-free telephone number provides access to emotional and crisis referral services in both French and English. Counselors can also provide information about accessing other health supports available to claimants.

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/services/indiresident/irs-pi-eng.php>

Deadline extended for Personal Credits for Education

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased with a court order granting interim relief which will allow former students of Indian residential schools to submit their applications for personal credits for education programs until a final decision is made on a deadline extension.

In response to administrative concerns expressed by former residential school students and their families, AFN has urged the Government of Canada to consider extending the deadlines. An Order by the Supreme Court of British Columbia yesterday allows applicants to submit their Personal Credits Acknowledgement and Personal Credit Redemption Forms for processing until a final decision is made by the Courts. The court Order authorizes Crawford Class Action Services (which is administering the personal credits on behalf of the Government of Canada) to keep accepting and processing applications and redemption forms. A final decision to extend the deadline for applications has not yet been reached.

“We’re pleased the Court

is providing additional time for former students to submit forms while parties to the IRSSA work toward a final decision on an extension,” said AFN Regional Chief Bill Erasmus who leads the work of the AFN Executive Committee in the area of residential schools. “We understand the administrative process for accessing the Personal Credits has not been easy and this is why we are doing all we can to assist former students and their families. Despite these administrative challenges, we acknowledge that there are many people using creative approaches to setting up initiatives to strengthen language, culture and healing. AFN’s goal is to help ensure every CEP recipient has the information they need to apply for the personal credits, including exploring all options whether it be giving it to a family member or contributing to a group initiative.”

AFN Liaison Coordinators, who have been in every region since February offering information to former students interested in learning more about the program and advising on applications, will continue to offer assistance to former

students and their families. Other resources, links and instructional videos will continue to be available at www.afn.ca or directly at <http://www.afn.ca/index.php/en/personal-credits>.

The personal credits for education program, offered by the Government of Canada is the final phase of compensation to Indian residential school survivors as set out in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) of 2007. It provides a one-time value of up to \$3000 to former residential school students who have received the Common Experience Payment to be used for personal or group education programs and services provided by approved educational entities and groups. The program was announced in January 2014 with an original deadline of October 31, 2014.

For more information on the personal credits program, applications and timelines please contact Crawford Class Action Services at 1-866-343-1858 or at www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca.

Important Harvest areas identified

The Yuułu?it?ath Executive has approved the rationale outlining the Significance of Important Harvest Areas to the Yuułu?it?ath, which will now be forwarded to the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation to become part of the Reasonable Opportunities Agreement.

Three main areas have been identified for added protection; the areas include Kennedy Lake (3,110 Hectares of mostly low-lying lands that include the lake, creeks and wetlands. Effingham area include an area of 2,757 Hectares of land which consists of an inlet, lake, river, creeks, estuaries and wetlands which are accessible by boat and by a traditional trail network. The Nahmint makes up the largest of the three regions with 2,235 Hectares and includes an inlet, lakes, rivers, creeks, estuaries and wetlands and is also accessible by boat and a traditional trail network.

In a letter to the Reasonable Opportunities Working Group it was pointed out that the haahuuli is excellent habitat for elk and deer and the tidal flats and wetlands provide rich habitat for waterfowl, beaver, otter, martin and bear. Forests above the flood plains are dominated by old growth red cedar and the valley supports edible and medicinal plants.

All of these areas are currently protected by various pieces of provincial legislation; however the Important Harvest Area designation is expected to provide another layer of protection for this land.

Hitacu Assembly & AGM

Monday, December 1, 2014

Hitacu Community Hall

Dinner starts at 5 p.m.

Everyone welcome



Yuutu?it?ath

Sunday School Adventures

Ages 6-13



Join Aaron and Julie Sunday mornings at the Six-plex. Each morning will include a teaching time from the Bible, fun games and food. We will start at 10:30 AM and end at 1:00 PM.

Contact Aaron Otis with any questions. (250) 266-0090

Legislature cooks

On Thursday, December 4th the Members of Legislature will do the cooking for the first Soup Kitchen & Culture Night to be held at the new Community Centre.

Dinner starts at 5 p.m.

Community Newsmakers



William Severinon and Iris Frank would like to welcome their daughter Edith Columba Theresa Karen Severinon, born in Nanaimo on September 24, 2014, weighing, 5 lbs. 14 ozs. She was 19 inches long at birth.

Lillian Williams would like to announce the birth of her son, Kendrick Williams, born on September 8, 2014, weighing, 9 lbs 1.5 ozs. Proud Grandma is Laverne Williams.

Hydraulic fluid and diesel spilled onto Treaty Lands

A concrete truck working on the water/sewer project in Hitacu, rolled off Port Albion Road last Thursday afternoon which left the hydraulic fluid and diesel floating on the surface of the wetlands in the Mercantile watershed.

Yuulu?il?ath Lands Manager Darren-Mead Miller contacted the Central Westcoast Forest Society to investigate the environmental damage of the accident, which happened on Treaty Lands just south of the fish hatchery road.

Jessica Hutchinson responded to the call but noted that the mandate of the Central Westcoast Forest Society is habitat restoration, not environmental investigations. She assessed the accident scene, noting there were three spill pads placed in the ditch at the accident scene.



“Unfortunately it happened right at a culvert,” Jessica said, noting that the hydraulic fluid and diesel had made through way through the culvert and to the downstream habitat. “It covered an area about three meters by seven meters,” she said.

She contacted the Ministry of Environment and the the local office of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Ministry of Transportation to report the spill.

Emcon responded to the accident scene that night and placed more spill pads and a boom on the site. Dolan’s Concrete truck operator had placed spill pads but it was dark before they could assess the damage. Dolan’s met with Jessica the following day and brought absorbent crystals and more pads. Dolan’s removed contaminated soil from the roadside and the disturbed site.

The driver of the truck told RCMP he swerved on the road to avoid a deer and then hit a soft shoulder on the road. The driver was charged with failing to wear a seatbelt.



Legislature member Larry Baird recently donated \$1000. towards the Traditional Camp project; receiving the cash is Trevor Wickham, Manager of Community Services. The crew building the Traditional Camp have been using Larry’s herring punt for their building trips.



Employable Social Development Learners recently attended a week-long self-improvement course and skills development course at the 6Plex in Hitacu.



Yuutu?it?ath

Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 11th at 6 p.m.

At the new Community Centre ,

700 Hitacu Road



Santa will be visiting children from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

All Yuutu?it?ath citizens are welcome to come. We ask that you call Celena or Veronica **(250) 726-7342** to confirm your attendance. Volunteers will be needed for this event. If you can help cook, serve or be part of the clean-up crew, please let us know.

Please note: there will NOT be a separate Christmas dinner in Port Alberni this year and there will NOT be travel or accommodation support available to citizens for this event.

