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Family's 25-year battle with foster-care

By David Wiwchar
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Nanaimo - Having to fight the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) for the past 25 years has taken its toll on Ellery Cootes Sr. and his wife Sarah.

Cootes has been fighting for two generations of his family he says were abused by foster-care parents and the child-protection bureaucracy.

"The MCFD destroyed our family," said the 63-year old Ellery Cootes. "They've put us through hell for 25 years and they're still doing it to us. It's got to stop," he said.

Sitting in a corner of their downtown Nanaimo basement suite, Ellery recounts struggle after struggle with the provincial ministry. Surrounded by carving tools and recently completed plaques and small poles, Ellery can clearly see the MCFD offices across Selby Street from his carving corner. "What gives those people the right to be judge and jury and destroy our family the way the have," he said as he looks across the street at the beige stucco MCFD building.



(l-r) Huu-ay-aht Chief Councilor Robert Dennis and NTC President Francis Frank speak with Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Abalone Project technician Matilda Charleson. Full story on page 4.

In 1980, Ellery and Sarah Cootes' four children were apprehended and sent to foster homes. The parents were told that if they sought treatment for their alcoholism, their children would be returned to them. But when they came back from the Round Lake Treatment Centre, they allege MCFD reneged on the agreement, keeping their two sons and two daughters in foster care.

"From 1985 through 1989 we fought like hell to get our kids back. We were clean and sober, but we were treated like convicted felons because of our past alcoholism," said Ellery. "We had no

help. It seemed like we were abandoned by everyone," he said.

Afforded some visitation rights, Ellery and Sarah visited their children as often as MCFD would allow. During these visits, their children told them they were being abused and neglected, but when Ellery took their stories to MCFD Social Workers his concerns fell upon deaf ears. "MCFD wouldn't believe us that our children were being physically, sexually, and mentally abused and neglected," said Ellery. "They treat foster children like slaves when they're in foster care, I've seen it," he alleges, comparing MCFD's use of foster care homes to the church-run Residential Schools. "They're using Aboriginal children as hostages, denying the children their rights, while they're being abused in foster care."

Together for the past 32 years, and married for the past 18 years, Ellery and Sarah admit they battled alcohol, and while Sarah has been sober since returning from treatment in 1980, Ellery has occasionally fallen off the wagon, but has been sober for over a year now.

After their children reached the age of majority and were released from foster care, Ellery and Sarah tried to repair the rift that had grown between them. "It took years for our children to trust us again because social workers were telling them we didn't love them and we didn't want them, even though we were fighting hard to get them back," Ellery claimed.

When their eldest son Ellery Cootes Jr. came of age and was released from

foster care four years ago, he took his story of abuse to the Nanaimo RCMP, but according to his father, nothing was ever done.

"There were no services or programs where he could get help or treatment after he came of age," said Ellery. "Then all of a sudden he just seemed to lose it, and he turned to drugs," he alleged. In the meantime, Ellery Jr. had three children of his own.

"The MCFD destroyed our family," said the 63-year old Cootes. "They've put us through hell for 25 years and they're still doing it to us. It's got to stop."

Sarah and Ellery Sr. quickly gained custody of their grandchildren, and took them into their care. "We had them since they were babies, and we had to struggle to make ends meet because they had special needs, but we were doing it despite all the social assistance cutbacks," said Ellery.

Ellery Cootes III had platelet problems and required specialized monthly medical attention in Vancouver. Madelina Rose Cootes suffered from asthma and requires a ventilator twice daily, and the youngest, Wayne George has asthma and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Two years ago, social workers apprehended the grandchildren, and according to Cootes, placed them in the

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Sarah and Ellery Cootes in their downtown-Nanaimo home.

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DEADLINE:

Please note that the deadline for submissions for our next issue is **December 9, 2005.** After that date, material submitted and judged appropriate, **cannot be guaranteed placement** but, if still relevant, will be included in the following issue.

In an ideal world, submissions would be typed, rather than hand-written. Articles can be sent by e-mail to hashilthsa@nuuchahnulth.org (Windows PC).

Submitted pictures must include a brief description of subject(s) and a return address.

Pictures with no return address will remain on file. Allow 2 - 4 weeks for return. Photocopied or faxed photographs **cannot** be accepted.

COVERAGE:

Although we would like to be able to cover all stories and events we will only do so **subject to:**

- Sufficient advance notice addressed specifically to Ha-Shilth-Sa.
- Reporter's availability at the time of the event.
- Editorial space available in the paper.
- Editorial deadlines being adhered to by contributors.

LETTERS and KLECO'S

Ha-Shilth-Sa will include letters received from its readers. All letters **MUST** be signed by the writer and have the writer's name, address and phone number on it. Names can be withheld by request. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted.

We reserve the right to edit submitted material for clarity, brevity, grammar and good taste. We will definitely **not** publish letters dealing with tribal or personal disputes or issues that are critical of Nuu-chah-nulth individuals or groups.

All opinions expressed in letters to the editor are purely those of the writer and will not necessarily coincide with the views or policies of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council or its member First Nations.



Upcoming Meetings

- Campbell River Urban Update Meeting & dinner, Dec. 3, 4 pm**
Campbell River, United Church, 415 Pinecrest
- Nanaimo Urban Update Meeting & dinner, Dec. 4, 4 pm**
Fairview School, 205 Howard Avenue
- Seattle Urban Update Meeting & dinner, Dec. 10, 4 pm**
Pearl Warren Bldg. 606 12th Ave. South
- Vancouver Urban Update Meeting & dinner, Dec. 11, 4 pm**
Vancouver Friendship Centre, Gym, 1607, East Hastings
- Victoria Urban Update Meeting & dinner, Dec. 12, 4 pm**
Queen of Peace, 851 Old Esquimalt Road
- Port Alberni Urban Update Meeting & dinner, Dec. 14, 4 pm**
Hansen Hall, 3940 Johnston

All Urban Update Dinner meetings for Nuu-chah-nulth living away from home will adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Note: Rosie Little, Indian Registry Administrator will also be in attendance for those who need to update their status cards. - Please bring old status card and copy of Identification. For NCN members belonging to: Ditidaht, Hesquiaht, Huu-ay-aht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht or Ucluelet, please ask your IRA to fax your info to 724-5767 - Prior to Nov. 30, 2005 [Will be on location for all meetings with exception to Port Alberni update.]

Please contact Gail Gus @ 1-877-677-1131 or email gailgus@nuuchahnulth.org if you have any questions.

GAMBLING CUFFAWS



CONTACT ME AT: randybabichuk@yahoo.ca

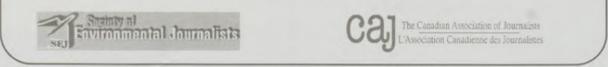
Ha-Shilth-Sa

Ha-Shilth-Sa belongs to every Nuu-chah-nulth person including those who have passed on, and those who are not yet born.

A community newspaper cannot exist without community involvement; If you have any great pictures you've taken, stories or poems you've written, or artwork you have done, please let us know so we can include it in your newspaper.

This year is Ha-Shilth-Sa's **31st year** of serving the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.

We look forward to your continued input and support.
Kleco! Kleco! David Wiwchar, Editor / Manager



The offices of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council will be closed to coincide with the School District #70 break for the winter vacation at noon on Friday, December 16, 2005 and reopen for regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

Legal Information
The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error is due to the negligence of the servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisements.

Family's battle with foster-care

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same foster home where his son had been abused.

According to Cootes, the reason his grandchildren were apprehended was because he had started drinking again, and his meager social assistance cheque left the family with little money.

"The government said they were going to make changes, and they did. They cut our social assistance down to almost nothing, making it almost impossible to live," he said.

Still battling alcoholism, Ellery admits he often stops drinking for a year or two, only to begin drinking for a few months again before stopping for another year or two.

"When MCFD investigates people, they only look for the bad things. They refuse to see the good things people are trying to do with the few resources they have," said Ellery. "When a foster parent does something wrong, nobody does anything about it," he said, adding he believes many people become foster parents simply for the money.

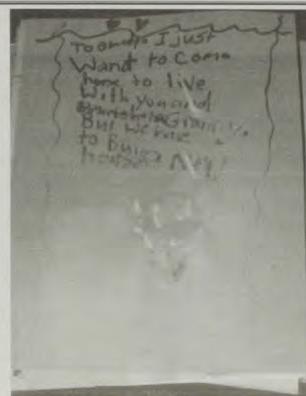
"My grandchildren are on time limits to do their chores, they have to ask permission to go outside and ride their bikes, they have no freedom anymore to be children. They aren't allowed to go to the bathroom after bed time, so they end up wetting the bed and being scolded for things that aren't their fault," said Ellery, who hasn't been allowed to visit his grandchildren since April. "My visitation rights were taken away for no reason. My 96-year old mother (Rose Cootes) would come up once a month to visit her grandchildren, but hasn't been able to see them for 2 years now," he said.

According to Ellery, last Christmas, MCFD promised him and Sarah they would be able to have their grandchildren for Christmas Day. When the social worker didn't bring the children over, Ellery said he and Sarah and their grandchildren were emotionally crushed. "We sat here all day staring at a pile of presents we had got for the children. When they didn't come, it was the saddest Christmas ever," he said. "MCFD broke our hearts."

Sarah is able to visit their grandchildren once a week in a supervised setting at the Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Center. Although she is prevented from giving her grandchildren any gifts, they often bring her pictures they've drawn of the house where they all used to live, and tell her they want things to return as they once were; where the Cootes' are together again as a family.

"As off-reserve people we have no resources when our children are apprehended," said Ellery. "Off-reserve people have no rights or no one to turn to. We're treated like second-class citizens. They don't even treat off-reserve people the same as on-reserve First Nations people," he said. "Non-Native parents wouldn't stand for this. Why do we have to?"

"If MCFD doesn't get their way, they use their power and authority to threaten families; both the parents and the children," alleges Ellery. "We don't have a fighting chance against them. It's their way or no way at all," he said. "We're not criminals, we just want to be together as a family."



Sarah is able to visit their grandchildren once a week in a supervised setting at the Tillicum Haus Native Friendship Center. Although she is prevented from giving her grandchildren any gifts, they often bring her pictures they've drawn of the house where they used to all live, and tell her they want things to return as they once were; where the Cootes' are together again as a family.

Recently, Ellery Jr. fathered two more children, who were put up for adoption at birth.

"He's given up fighting because it kills him that his children are now going through what he went through as a child," said Ellery Sr. "MCFD asked us if we wanted to take the two babies, and we said 'yes'. Then they turned around and adopted them out to non-Natives without telling us or the children's father," he said. "No one in our family knew anything about the adoption until months after it had happened."

"As off-reserve people we have no resources when our children are apprehended," said Ellery. "Off-reserve people have no rights or no one to turn to."

"Aboriginal political leaders need to get more involved," said Ellery. "Somebody has to put a stop to Aboriginal children being abused in foster homes and abused by the MCFD system. This has gone on for far too long. I don't think anyone has put up with this for as long as we have."

Throughout the interview, Sarah would occasionally sit on one of the living room couches to listen, but would leave into the kitchen, emotionally unable to talk about her feelings on their struggles. As the interview ended, Sarah came into the living room again, and steadied herself to say a few words.

"A lot of other families get a second chance. Why don't we?" she asked, her slender hands trembling slightly. "We did everything they asked us to do. They told me to go to AA [Alcoholics Anonymous] meetings even though I haven't had a drink in over 20 years," said Sarah. "Why don't they keep their promises and let us have our life back. All we want is our grandchildren back and things to be the way they were before."

MCFD Child Protection Worker Linda Pudwell said she could not comment on the case as it violates government confidentiality directives, but said she has tried to meet with Ellery and is waiting to hear back from him. MCFD officials in Victoria also refused to comment on the case.

Corfield elected NTC VP

By David Wiwchar
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ahaswinis - Leaders from the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations gathered for an NTC Regular meeting last week to elect a vice president and discuss other issues of concern.

A vice-presidential election was required after delegates voted against acclaiming lone candidate Gloria Jean Frank at the NTC AGM in September. The meeting started with a moment of silence for those who have lost loved ones over the past few weeks, followed by a prayer from Helen Dick.

Hupacasath Chief Councillor Judith Sayers welcomed delegates to their House of Gathering, saying this was an important day for Nuu-chah-nulth-aht as First Nations representatives vote for their vice-president.

Newly elected NTC President Francis Frank introduced electoral officer Beryl Guerin from Musqueam, who then invited the three vice-presidential candidates to give short presentations on who they are and why they believe they should be elected.

Jacquie Adams was first to explain her family roots in Ahasuht and Ehatesaht, and her vision for the future of all Nuu-chah-nulth-aht.

Michelle Corfield described her educational background, saying she is now half-way through her doctoral program.

Karla Point focussed on her experience as a political leader, and gave an overview of her vision for the NTC and member Nations.

Delegates congratulated candidates for having the courage to run for office, and asked numerous questions before determining which candidate would receive their votes.

Questions surrounding communications, cooperation, culture, and the "power of the collective" dominated the hour-long question period.

After a break for Nations to vote by secret ballot, delegates reconvened briefly to appoint the company McGorman MacLean as NTC auditors.

After lunch, Guerin announced of 80 votes cast, Michelle Corfield won the vice-president election with 37 votes.



Ahasuht Chief Councillor Keith Atleo casts his ballot in the NTC Vice-Presidential election.

Karla Point received 25 votes, and Jacquie Adams garnered 18 votes. Delegates confirmed the election by passing a unanimous vote of confidence in Corfield.

Of 80 votes cast, Michelle Corfield won the vice-president election with 37 votes. Karla Point received 25 votes, and Jacquie Adams garnered 18 votes.

"I'm very honoured to have been elected Vice-President for the First Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council," said Corfield. "When you consider the criteria for NTC VP is more stringent than it is for the Prime Minister of Canada, it shows the support and value our Nations place on post-secondary education," she said. "You all campaigned very well, keeping to our cultural traditions, and I know you will represent us well Michelle," said Ucluelet's Tyson Touchie, as all First Nations congratulated the candidates and the new NTC VP.

"We want to congratulate all the candidates in this election," said Ahasuht Chief Councillor Keith Atleo. "You are all great leaders and role models for all Nuu-chah-nulth," he said.



Vice-President candidates (l-r) Michelle Corfield, Karla Point, and Jacquie Adams state their cases at an NTC Meeting.

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Toll Free Number:
1-877-677-1131
Nuu-chah-nulth leadership have now established a toll free number to assist membership with any questions they may have regarding treaty related business.

Fisheries - ca-ca-ṭuk

DFO puts abalone project at risk

By David Wivchar
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Bamfield - A five-year project to rehabilitate local abalone stocks is in jeopardy because of legal interpretation of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). The Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Abalone Project started in 1999 with the goal of rehabilitating local stocks of Pinto Abalone, wiped out by years of over-harvesting and poaching.

"We have millions of abalone here at various stages of development, and this latest hurdle has stopped us dead in our tracks," said John Richard, President of the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Abalone Project (BHCAP). **"They're not thinking things through. Somebody dropped the ball and no one seems willing to fix it."**

With 50 wild abalone, \$900,000 from the federal government, \$600,000 from the provincial government, and additional funds from the Huu-ay-aht First Nation, an abalone aquaculture facility was constructed behind the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre and work was underway to restore stocks all along the coast.

Abalone aquaculturist Guy White was hired to put the initial plan in motion, which would see millions of hatchery-raised larvae and tens of thousands of juvenile abalone replanted in strategic locations near Bamfield.

From the very beginning, it was written into all agreements that some of the abalone raised would be sold in order to offset some staffing and construction costs. With only months to go before their first Abalone would be ready for market, DFO pulled the rug out from underneath the project.

"Sales were a part of this proposal from the very beginning," said an angered former Bamfield Regional District Representative and current Abalone Project board member Jim Levis. "We need that money to help fund the out-planting of these abalone, but obviously people in Ottawa don't give a shit about Bamfield or the great things we're doing here," he said.

The government fundeth, and the

government taketh away.

The federal government has contributed the largest share of funding to the \$1.5 million dollar project, but ultimately it will be the federal government behind its undoing unless they reverse their decision soon, said Levis.

"It looks to me like some government lawyer looked at the Species at Risk Act and drew a line between 'Abalone' and 'illegal to kill'," said Levis. "These are hatchery raised abalone, and there should be a way for us to get around this legal interpretation, but no one at DFO seems willing to help us," he said. "But as it stands right now, if someone drops one of these small hatchery raised abalone on the floor and it dies, they could be up for a \$250,000 fine, and that's absolutely ridiculous!"

"We have millions of abalone here at various stages of development, and this latest hurdle has stopped us dead in our tracks," said John Richard, President of the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Abalone Project (BHCAP). "They're not thinking things through. Somebody dropped the ball and no one seems willing to fix it," he said.

BHCAP representatives are hoping to gain the attention of Federal Fisheries Minister Geoff Regan, and work towards getting a permit that will exempt them from the restrictive SARA legislation.

Walking through the new juvenile abalone grow-out facility, various board members quipped that it's easier to move plutonium around the province than Abalone, and if the government can issue permits for people to sell marijuana, abalone sales permits should be easy.

Self-sustaining through sales

With their first batch of abalone almost ready for market, BHCAP was hoping to raise money through selling 100,000 of them, and offering limited shares in the organization. At \$15 per abalone (\$50/lb.), combined with \$400,000 generated through share offerings, BHCAP hoped to raise \$1.5 million a year for the continuation of the project.

Currently, farm-raised abalone comes from California, Mexico, Chile, New Zealand, Australia and China.

"There is a lot of demand for abalone meat in both foreign and domestic restaurants," said Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert Dennis. "We would have no problem selling these abalone, and we've been studying market opportunities for the past few months,"



BHCAP Board members Larry Johnson, John Richards, and Jim Levis inside their new \$280,000 abalone grow-out facility

he said.

According to the Collaborative Agreement between BHCAP and DFO: "The organization may sell or transfer to third parties the portion of the hatchery-raised abalone not being used for research or out-planting, and shall promptly report any sale, transfer or disposal of abalone to the DFO Project Authority, or the appropriate authority within DFO as directed by the Project Authority. The Organization agrees to tag or mark hatchery-raised abalone prior to any sale or transfer in a manner acceptable to the DFO Project Authority to discriminate hatchery-raised abalone from wild abalone for the proper management, control, and conservation of wild stocks."

"Legal sales would have a huge impact on poachers," said Dawn Renfrew, Project Supervisor and biologist. **"Once there is a legal source of supply, the market price will go down to the point where it's not worth the risk to poachers, and commercial poaching will be gone,"** she said.

"We need at least \$250,000 a year to run this project, and if we can't sell, we can't attract investors," said Richards. "This has totally taken the wind out of our sails," he said.

Project pains poachers

Abalone has long been a traditional food and decorative source of the First Nations people of the west coast. The meat was highly prized, and the lustrous shells were used in jewelry and adornment. The abalone's population remained stable until the advent of SCUBA in the 1970's, which allowed abalone to be harvested commercially at very high rates.

The abalone fishery for export began in British Columbia in 1975 and peaked in 1977-78, before a quota was set (in 1979); the fishery was closed in 1990 to conserve the declining abalone stocks. Surveys by Fisheries and Oceans Canada at indicator sites, during 1979-97, indicated a continued decline of abalone densities on the central coast of B.C. Total abalone density declined 43.75% between the 1993 and 1997 surveys. They soon became over-harvested and their populations were no longer able to

sustain themselves. The decline in abalone stocks prompted the government to place a ban on the harvesting of Pinto abalone in 1990, making it illegal to do so. Since then, poaching has become a problem. The black market demand for abalone has kept the population from coming back, with illegal harvests matching the legal quotas of 1989.

"Legal sales would have a huge impact on poachers," said Dawn Renfrew, Project Supervisor and biologist. "Once there is a legal source of supply, the market price will go down to the point where it's not worth the risk to poachers, and commercial poaching will be gone," she said.

Renfrew said by feeding their abalone kelp infused with dye, the colour of the meat will be slightly different from wild abalone, making them easily identifiable in the market.

Enhancement

BHCAP has out-planted more than 4 million abalone into three local sites over the past three years, and will be releasing 2 million larvae and 30,000 juvenile Abalone each year.

"We just put a million larvae into Grappler Inlet last week, which was a traditional abalone harvest site for Huu-ay-aht for thousands of years," said BHCAP board member Larry Johnson. "By bringing back highly prized traditional foods, we see this type of aquaculture as our future," he said.

Larvae released three years ago are now starting to become visible during dive surveys, which will be starting this week as biologists capitalize on clear winter water conditions.

"This is a project that takes years, and DFO's only recovery strategy has been to lean on the poachers," said Richards.

Employment

BHCAP currently employs four people, including one Huu-ay-aht member, with plans to have a staff of ten once sales revenues start coming in. "Ten jobs might sound like nothing, but ten jobs means a lot in this community, especially jobs like these that are skill-building jobs," said Levis.

Education

Since the project's beginning, children from the Bamfield Community School have been closely involved, learning about abalone life-cycles and their

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Halvorsen continues Fisheries studies

Submitted by Kelly Poirier & Dawn Foxcroft, Uu-a-thluk Outreach



Currently a work experience student with Uu-a-thluk as well as her own Uchucklesaht First Nation, Sabrina Halvorsen of the Uchucklesaht First Nation is in her second year of the Fisheries and Aquaculture program at Malaspina-University College. The daughter of Phyllis and John Halvorsen and granddaughter of Samson and Helen Robinson, Sabrina grew up in Kildonan and has always liked working outdoors. After skimming college calendars she decided that the program for Fisheries and Aquaculture fit her best.

Sabrina is an asset to her community, assisting with Uchucklesaht's oyster farm for the past 2.5 years. Her work experience inspires her commitment to her studies and to continue to learn and get more involved in fisheries and aquaculture with Uchucklesaht and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.

Currently one of the biggest challenges is living in a dorm away from home, but Sabrina tries to focus on her studies and keep her goal of getting her Bachelor of Science degree.

The first year of Sabrina's studies focused a lot on the fisheries, with this year highlighting the shellfish sector. "What I like is that every week you do hands on work at oyster farms, hatcheries and fish farms," said Sabrina "It really gives you a better understanding of what you want to go onto when you do graduate, or if you want to go more into the science and biology."

The course load that a student enrolling in this program can expect is about 6 courses per semester, which includes one day per week doing a practicum. The

highlights of her time so far at Malaspina have been the various hands-on experiences that the program delivers. "Overall I enjoy that we get to go out and do the hands-on things instead of just the book work" said Sabrina. Her least favorite part is writing lab reports, which were fewer in the first year, but the requirements increase with lab reports for up to 4 different classes in the second year. Sabrina warns how they can really pile up.

Sabrina hopes to see more Nuu-chah-nulth youth getting involved in fisheries and aquaculture in the future, and upon completion of her program Sabrina would like to definitely work for Nuu-chah-nulth through Uu-a-thluk or her own First Nation. Sabrina gravitates toward shellfish aquaculture as her area of specialty, and through her practicum with Uchucklesaht and Uu-a-thluk recognizes the need to be involved and informed of other aquatic resource issues in the area.

Big Eddy to bring Makah to island

Submitted by Kelly Poirier, Uu-a-thluk Outreach Coordinator

At the last Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih meeting the Council representatives decided to invite their Makah relatives to join them this coming spring to discuss "The Big Eddy" initiative.

So what is the Big Eddy? The Big Eddy is an initiative for transboundary cooperation for the management of an ocean eddy off the west coast of Vancouver Island and the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. The Big Eddy is one of the most productive ecosystems in North America and supports one of North America's most important recreational and commercial fishing grounds. The Big Eddy is at the opening of the Georgia and Juan de Fuca Straights where Pacific waters mix with water from the nutrient

connection to what is happening in their territory and its effects on the entire ecosystem within Nuu-chah-nulth Ha-houlthee.

This initiative to gather knowledge and science about 'the Big Eddy' shows that this marine ecosystem extends from Brooks Peninsula all the way down to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. The Big Eddy is a move towards managing according to ecosystem boundaries rather than imposed administrative boundaries.

Nuu-chah-nulth has always recognized and wants to build on the historic relationship with the Makah and recognize the mutual history and lineage between them.

This initiative began with a symposium in Makah territory in 2004. The Nuu-chah-nulth Council of Ha'wiih look forward to the opportunity to invite the Makah and meet with them in Nuu-chah-nulth Territory about the Big Eddy.



Nuu-chah-nulth prepare for Oil Spills

Submitted by Kelly Poirier, Uu-a-thluk Outreach Coordinator

On Monday November 20th through Wednesday November 23rd Nuu-chah-nulth and West coast residents; Sarah Tyne and Katy Hind of the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, Philip Edgar of Ditidaht, Jamie James Fisheries Manager for Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, Leonard John Fisheries Manager of Ka'yuk't'h / Che:k'les7et'h' First Nation, and Lesley Cook Jr., of Huu-a-yaht along with Uu-a-thluk biologists Jim Lane and Roger Dunlop participated in 3.5 days of Oil Spill Response and safe boating training. Instructors were Harry Johnston and Mark West from Burrard Clean Operations.

The first day took place in the Tseshaht Treaty Boardroom discussing procedures, safety issues, and methods. One of the days training was spent out

on the water practicing putting out the absorbent floats used in oil spill and industrial spill clean ups.

Burrard Clean operations (www.burrardclean.com) was contracted by the Westcoast Aquatic Management Association to conduct this training as part of WAMA's WCVI Sea Otter Recovery project that is funded by the Habitat Stewardship Program.

The main purpose of the training is to give Nuu-chah-nulth and WCVI residents the skills they need to respond to an oil spill crisis situation. Oil spills are considered the number one threat to sea otter recovery because sea otters are very vulnerable to this particular type of pollution. Sea otters do not have blubber like other marine mammals but instead use air trapped in their fur for flotation and insulation. Oil destroys the insulation and flotation of their fur. Oil spills have the potential to wipe out a large part of the WCVI sea otter population.



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Ahousaht youth host Kamloops group in cultural exchange

By Denise August, Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ahousaht – A group of Kamloops Band youth and their chaperones arrived at Ahousaht on a foggy November 19, keeping a promise made last summer by one of their leaders to support one another by celebrating First Nations Culture. The Kamloops group had already met some people from Ahousaht when a singing/dancing group made their way to Kamloops three weeks earlier to share their love of their culture and to learn about life away from the ocean.

The Kamloops delegation arrived at Ahousaht around 11:00 a.m. and was welcomed to the community. They broke up into groups and toured Ahousaht. Their friendly chaperones wandered the village freely, approaching all they met with wide smiles and questions about the community.

Two little girls from Kamloops ran excitedly to their chaperones, arms splayed wide as they proudly showed off their sea shells and crab parts. "We don't get to see very much of this stuff where we come from," smiled the chaperone.

As dusk approached people congregated to the school gym where Ahousaht youth and adult volunteers busily prepared a huge seafood feast for their guests. Stephanie Frank of Ahousaht welcomed the Kamloops people on behalf of Ahousaht while other young Ahousahts blessed the food with a dinner song.

Soon plates of steamed clams and bowls of herring spawn were carried out to the people seated at the tables and in the bleachers. While there was plenty of fish and other seafood, people with more land-based tastes were offered plates of turkey, spaghetti and even hotdogs.

The people of Kamloops were easily identified in the crowd, distinguished by the jingling sound of the bells sewn to their regalia and also by the vibrant colour and intricate designs of their outfits.

A hand-made paddle circulated around the room and all youth were encouraged to sign it with permanent marker. The paddle was to go back to Kamloops as a gift to mark the first year the two Nations would exchange information about their ways of life.

Just as dinner was ending Emcee Roman Frank announced that some members from Kamloops were overdue from a trek to the beautiful outside beaches of Flores Island. Darkness and intense fog had set in and search parties quickly assembled to take boats out to find the group.

They were discovered a short time later at a river near Cow Bay on the southwest side of the island. Seven people were taken aboard a warm boat for the journey back to Ahousaht. They arrived at the gym to the cheers of their relieved companions and the community. Singing, dancing and celebrating continued on into the night and into the wee hours of the morning.

The two youth groups hope to make the cultural exchange an annual event.



Applications for Post Secondary and Occupational Skills Training for 2006 / 2007

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council is accepting applications for Post Secondary and Occupational Skills Training for the 2006 / 2007 school year. The deadline for submission of applications is **January 31, 2006**. The application can be obtained from the NTC office, from your First Nations office or from our web site at www.nuuchahnulth.org. Due to the high volume of requests, we are unable to mail applications to students.

Wondering if you should submit and application? If you answer yes to any of the questions below, you should submit an application.

1. Do you want to go to University or College in the next year or 2?
2. Did you drop out of high school and now you would like to upgrade your education?
3. Do you want to become trained in a trade or apprenticeship program?
4. Are you graduating from high school and thinking about what type of education or training you would like to do once you are done?
5. Would you like to upgrade your skills to make yourself more employable?

For more information about our Post Secondary Program and to help determine which application you should complete, please contact: Lynette Barbosa (Post Secondary Supervisor), Kelly Johnsen (Post Secondary Counsellor) or Maria Gomez (Post Secondary advisor) at (250) 724-5757.



Gino Odjick and Peter Leech surrounded by Ahousaht youth

First Nations Hockey Stars speak to Ahousaht youth

By Denise August, Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ahousaht – Former NHL Hockey players Gino Odjick and Peter Leech delivered a motivational seminar to high school students at Maaqtusiis School November 17. Organized by NTC CHS staff, the seminar was designed to allow the youth to explore their feelings and assist in the development positive self esteem.

Halaw Management Group, a First Nations owned and operated agency delivers a wide variety of services including life skills seminars for youth. "Our youths are trying to find their way home!" says the Halaw website. HMG delivers its seminars using Aboriginal professional hockey players including Gino Odjick, Ron Delorme and Sasha Lakovic.

Topics they cover include effective communication, building self-esteem, setting and reaching goals, alcohol and drug awareness, dealing with fear and shame, relationship building, developing leadership skills, HIV & AIDS awareness, stereotyping/racism.

Grades nine to twelve students assembled in a class room anxious to see Odjick again and to meet Leech. The captive audience listened intently as Leech talked bluntly about sex, drugs, alcohol, self respect and self care. Some of his remarks caused giggles and knowing glances but his message seemed to hit home as the students shared their thoughts openly and honestly.

Using 'circle of life' models Leech talked about the 'wheel of fear' which includes shame, pain, anger and loneliness. He talked about an angry young man he knew whose violence went so far that he killed a person.

Leech surprised the man by saying something positive about him prior to his sentencing. Later, it was Leech who was surprised when the man, now released from prison after serving his time, turned his life around. "He became sober and started a family, and I asked him what it was that caused him to change," said Leech. The man rolled up his sleeve revealing a tattoo which read, "I am a beautiful person". The man he said learned to love himself and learned that people are only human, nobody is perfect and we all make mistakes.

"The things I share with you today may not work for everyone," said Leech, "but I'll be happy if I just reach one person." He told the story of two young Aboriginal girls who had a suicide pact. One girl completed suicide and the other didn't. Her sense of depression and guilt deepened. Leech said he worked with the girl, giving her the tools that he would be giving that day. He said he told her it would be up to her to decide to use the tools or not. Fortunately, the girl was able to help herself and worked

through her depression.

The room fell silent as Leech talked about fear. "What do you think goes on in the minds and hearts of those who have taken their lives?" he asked. "They don't feel wanted," offered a young man. Leech talked about the fear and despair people must feel at times and suggested that people must take time to care for and love themselves. "We are individuals," he explained, "and in order to take care of others, to love others we must first love ourselves, first."

He told the story of his elder brother who suffered liver failure at the age of 19. "That came from drinking hard liquor straight and he had to stop or he would have died," Leech explained. He said his brother wanted him to deliver this message to young people: Decisions made in youth will seriously affect you when you're older.

Using the Sacred Wheel of Life diagram Leech said we must take care of four aspects of our being starting with emotion. He instructed the students to identify their fears and figure out where they come from. He told them they don't have to discuss with anyone if they are not comfortable with that but he urged them to write it down.

He talked about the physical, mental and spiritual aspects and how the healing process will begin once we deal with our fears. "This is what you need to do to help yourself," he advised.

Gino Odjick described what it was like for him to move from the familiarity of his reserve to the city of Vancouver thousands of kilometers away. Sometimes, he said, his role on the Vancouver Canucks as an enforcer caused him fear but he learned how to deal with it by preparing himself. "Don't put off the things you need to do to be successful," he advised. Odjick explained he had to work hard at improving his skills doing something he loved to do in the hope that he would get good enough at it to get paid for it; and he made it. He was successful in his NHL career until an accident; a slap shot to the back of his head ended his career.

He regaled the class with the answers to their questions and telling stories about memorable moments with other NHL stars, including incidents with Wayne Gretzky and Marty McSorley. Leech told a story about game Odjick played against the Chicago Blackhawks during a war in the Middle East. "There were signs and banners everywhere saying things like 'Gino will take care of Hussein? I'll take care of him!'" Leech said the coach almost 'split a gut laughing'. "Hey, I was sheltered," Odjick quipped in his own defense.

Tournaments

Maqtusiis Lady Storm Hawaii Bound

13th Annual Palama Settlement Classic
Hello Nuu-chah-nulth people. MaqtusiisMaqtusiis Lady Storm have submitted our Senior Girls School Team for a tournament in Hawaii in December of 2005. We will be fundraising to take 12 players and 4 chaperones on this trip of a lifetime. Our families have given us full support for this plan and we would like to inform the community of our intent. If there is any way you can help us we would greatly appreciate it, whether it is financially or giving suggestions. You can contact Rebecca Atleo at the school; 250; 250-670-9589 or at home: 250-670-2390. Thank you!
MaqtusiisMaqtusiis Lady Storm

NIFA Fundraiser Ball Hockey Tournament

December 2, 3, & 4, 2005

Chemainus First Nations Community Centre.

Men's & Women's Categories. \$\$\$ Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Both categories based on teams entered. Entry Fee for the men is \$300.00 and \$250.00 for the women. Entry fee is due prior to your first game. If you wish to enter a team, please contact: Iona Harris - #245-7990. E-mail: IHarris@kwumut.org
HAY CE:P QA! (Thank you all)
Iona Harris, NIFA Ball Hockey

All Native Basketball Tournament Men's and Women's

December 9, 10 and 11, 2005.

Athletic Hall, Beaver Creek Road, Port Alberni, B.C.

Men's Entry Fee: \$300.00 - Women's entry fee: \$250.00. Prize money: 1st Place: and 2nd place. Amounts subject to number of teams' entry. Plus team and individual trophies. Deadline for entry 4 PM December 5, 2005. \$150.00 deposit must be received by December 5, 2005 to be entered in tournament. Cash, money orders or certified cheque only. No personal cheque. For registration and information contact: Edd Samuel: E-mail: eddsamuel@hotmail.com. Wally Samuel: Telephone: 250-724-5290. Fax: 250-724-5597. E-mail: wally-samuel@shaw.ca. You must be prepared to play afternoon Friday December 9, 2005. If you want to enter a team please leave your name and phone number. See you there.

Hot Springs Wolves Open Basketball Tournament

January 13-15, 2006. Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni BC.

10 Men's Teams — 6 Ladies Teams. Entry Fee: \$300 Men's — \$200 Ladies. Seafood Concession (Crab, Clams, Herring Roe, Fish etc), 50/50 raffles and more! Prize money, t-shirts, and other awards to be won!! Call Jeannine Adams or Kevin Charleson @ 670-1150 or email ballgrl1@hotmail.com

Vancouver Island Zone Qualifying Tournament

January 21, 22, 23, 2006

Port Alberni, B.C. @Alberni Athletic Hall
Jr Girls / Boys All Native Basketball

\$150.00 entry fee, trophies awarded, 50/50's, raffles, possible other programs and possible screen dance? Will keep you informed on future events. Tournament is being hosted by Suuma cu-is / Hot Springs Warriors Jr Boys Basketball Club. To enter your team or more info you may get in touch with ralphlucas@msn.com or phone (250) 670-1160. Hope to hear from or see you at the tourney. Thank you for supporting the youths... Cuu Way!
Ralph T. Lucas

Fredrick Cook's hockey team is having a Bottle Drive to fundraise for hockey socks. Please donate your empties!!!! E-mail or call 720-0923 for us to pick them up. Spread the word if your friends, co-workers and community members need them picked up, give them our contact info. Thanks for the support :-)

ALL NATIVE BALLEHOCKEY TOURNAMENT

January 27, 28 & 29- 2006

Maht Mahs Gym, Port Alberni, BC

Men's Entry Fee \$300.00. *All Players Must Have a Valid INDIAN STATUS CARD* \$1,000.00 1st Place. \$ 800.00 2nd Place. (Based on 10 Teams)
MVP, Top Goalie, Best Defensive, Most Inspirational & All Stars
Contact Sherri Cook or Thomas Dick (250) 720-0923 or rezgirl77@hotmail.com

I would like to thank all the people in Ahousaht and Tofino who supported our raffle for my son Jeffery Buckshot (Frank) a.k.a. "The Bus". He successfully raised \$540.00. All proceeds go towards new football equipment and gear for the team. He also received free registration for next year. Jeffery had an awesome year leading his team in tackles. The winners of the raffle were Cindy Dennis, 1st prize, 2nd prize Clara Thomas, 3rd prize Cosmos Frank. I would like to thank Birdie for all her help and hospitality, also thanks to my aunt Charlotte Rampanen and grandpa Grumps for giving my mom and Jeff a ride to Tofino. I would like to thank Herb Lancaster for donating the jewelry. Last but not least thanks to my wonderful Mom Marsha Frank for all her support. Good luck



next year Jeffery keep up the awesome work. Sorry it took so long. Kleco Kleco. Beverly Frank

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Non-Insured Health Benefits Program - NIHB

Medical Supplies and Equipment Program

Specific Medical Supplies and Equipment are available to registered First Nations & Inuit for personal use when all of the following criteria are met:

- The item is on the NIHB Medical Supplies & Equipment List;
- Prior approval, if required, is granted by NIHB;
- The item is not available to clients through other federal, provincial or other third party plan; and
- The benefit is supplied by a recognized pharmacy or medical supply & equipment provider.

The following process for obtaining Prior Approval is currently in place:

- Client received prescription from authorized prescriber
- Client is assessed for medical equipment/supplies by health professional
- Health professional prepares assessment results and recommends supplies & equipment
- Client takes assessment to provider and selects products
- Medical Supplies & Equipment provider completes paperwork (outlining client info, benefits requested & costs) & faxes request, assessment and prescription to NIHB for Prior Approval
- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch- (FNIHB) reviews request and determines eligibility based on program guidelines
- If necessary, NIHB refers request to Medical Consultant for professional opinion on medical requirements
- NIHB faxes letter confirming benefits approved to Medical Supplies and Equipment provider
- Client receives supplies/equipment and signs form confirming receipt of product
- Provider completes claims form & mails to claims payer for payment

Questions or queries may be addressed through your community health centre (Community Health Representative- CHR), First Nations and Inuit Health Branch @ 1-800-317-7878, or NTC CHS NIHB Program Department @ 1-888-407-4888 - locally @ 724-5757.

Any denials may be addressed by an appeal process, contact the above offices for further information

Submitted by R. Cluett, CD - NTC CHS NIHB Department Coordinator

First Nations Basketball in Port Alberni Riding the Waves

By Wawmeesh, George Hamilton
For Ha-Shilth-Sa

"Where you from partner?" asked a friendly fellow as we sat in the bleachers of Skeena Junior Secondary school in Terrace B.C. during the 2005 B.C. Junior All Native Basketball Tournament.

"Our team's from Port Alberni" I said. Looking pleasantly surprised he replied "welcome back strangers."

"We haven't seen a Port Alberni team in ages" said his wife between cheers for their granddaughter who was playing in the game we watched.

After the game players sweating and exhausted, left their benches with bags slung over their shoulders. Some sipped water, others Gatorade.

Some parents warmly greeted their kids yet others appeared displeased with theirs as everyone shuffled towards the school's lobby.

A father playfully tussled his daughters wet hair and teased her about her shoe falling off during the game "Blew a tire did you?"

The lobby buzzed with activity. Another team sat by some lockers and music blared from their portable CD player. Other players milled around talking about the game, and parents chatted with each other too catching up on news.

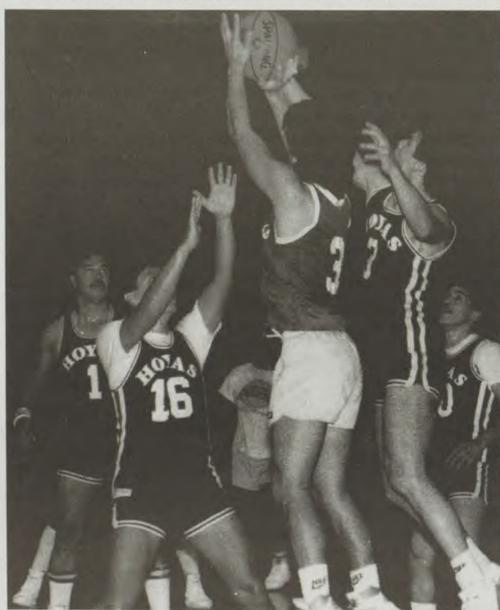
At the concession stand people placed their orders then waited to the side for them. Behind the counter an elderly lady who wore an apron and had a warm smile tended to her batch of fresh fried bread. The doughy mounds hissed softly as she placed each into the skillet, the aroma of goodness soon filling the lobby.

Players asked their parents for money, some for Gatorade, others something else. "Pop and fries?" said one mother "before a game?"

One parent whose daughter was playing struck up a chat. She wistfully recalled First Nations junior basketball tournaments she played in Port Alberni during the 1980's.

"What happened to all the teams from Port Alberni?" she asked. "You'd think Indian basketball there died."

The question resonated throughout the tournament and on the trip back to Port



Alberni. The B.C. Junior All Native

Held annually since 1980 the B.C. Junior All Native Basketball Tournament maybe B.C.'s oldest First Nations basketball tournament. This year's was hosted in Terrace, B.C.

Nestled in a windy northern valley, Terrace is cloaked by the snow blanketed Coast Mountain Range on one side and the mighty Skeena River on the other.

Upon arriving Terrace looked and felt similar to Port Alberni, once a hub of First Nations basketball but sadly no longer.

During the week of March 20-24 fifty-two First Nations junior basketball teams for a total of 520 players not counting coaches, parents, and supporters descended into Terrace to participate in the 2005 B.C. Junior All Native.

The tournament has grown steadily since its inception. There could have been more teams competing this year but the availability of gymnasiums and referees dictated the number of entrants.

"We didn't want to turn anyone away" said Brad Tait a member of the 2005 organizing committee "but we declined entries from three boys and two girls' teams"

Many First Nations teams ritually travel to participate in this annual tournament. They fundraise throughout the year and families save their money all so they can travel to the B.C. Junior All Native.

First Nations teams traveled from all over B.C. to Terrace. There were teams from Lytton, Lilloet, Thompson River, Haida Gwaii, Vancouver, Vancouver Island, as well as from all over northern B.C.

A sense of old traditions stirred as teams traveled to Terrace. There was the surreal feeling this was a traditional gathering being attended and in a way that's what it was.

Several Nuu-chah-nulth teams traveled to Terrace from their home nations on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Ahousaht, Tlaouquiaht, Ucluellet, and Hesquiaht entered teams. The *Nanaimo Lady Sun's* had Nuu-chah-nulth players on their roster. They were coached by Cindy Dennis (nee Frank) of Ahousaht, a fine player in her day.

Also traveling to Terrace were boy's and girl's teams from Port Alberni. Their

players were from various Nuu-chah-nulth nations but make Port Alberni their home.

While not the first Nuu-chah-nulth basketball teams from Port Alberni, they were the first in a while.

Without a doubt, First Nations junior basketball in Port Alberni declined since its heyday. But there was a time when it was as exciting as the B.C. Junior All Native.

The 1960's saw a rise in popularity of First Nations basketball in Port Alberni. In the 1970's its status rose even higher. Games were played in front of lively



1935 AIRS Junior Boys Team Standing L-R are Coach Pitts, Oscar Thomas, Art Cootes, Frank Haipee, and Alec McCarthy. Kneeling L-R are Willie Tatoosh, Johnson Ginger, Cliff Hamilton, and Robert Bob. The team won a championship that year.

Looking Back:

Basketball was primarily introduced to First Nations through the disruption known to all aboriginal families- the Indian residential schools.

The schools were penal and the fallout afterward apocalyptic. Despite this, First Nations students not only adopted sports they were taught, they excelled at them.

"Sports were the one escape students had from the dreariness of residential school life" wrote Randy Fred in his forward to the book *Resistance and Renewal*.

Why though did First Nations peoples thrive at sports during this dark time? Strong and durable peoples developed after centuries of hunting, fishing, whaling, and canoeing. You see it still in "natural athletes." There's more to it though.

Another explanation may lie within an ominous government policy: the Potlatch Ban. It attempted to dismantle First Nations cultures by forbidding traditional gatherings under penalty of imprisonment until rescinded in 1951.

First Nations traditions were forged in time's foundry. They'd long been tempered when settlers arrived, their forging echoing through the ban.

Traditional gatherings survived underground but a void ensued. This gap may have been partially filled with sports. What is a First Nations basketball tournament but a gathering?

Basketball season also occurred in the winter and early spring when Nuu-chah-nulth peoples traditionally gathered.

The Rising Wave

There's a bond between First Nations peoples, even strangers. It's revealed in cursory smiles, head nods, and hellos. But they're not just cursory.

They stem from an ancient wellspring of kinship. Seemingly unseen this bond can be felt. It's in the atmosphere at First Nations basketball tournaments. You don't quite feel the same thing at non First Nation's tournaments.

Despite old tribal rivalries there's a warm sense of family and fellowship at First Nation's basketball tournaments. You can see and feel it at the All Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert just as you can at the B.C. Junior All Native.

And there was a time too when it was seen and felt at First Nation's basketball tournaments in Port Alberni.

In 1964 a tsunami swept through Port Alberni but another wave swelled and was ridden for the next two decades.

The 1960's saw a rise in popularity of First Nations basketball in Port Alberni. In the 1970's its status rose even higher. Games were played in front of lively

crowds at Maht Mahs gym and the Alberni Athletic Hall. "There were lots of teams" said former Port Alberni player Doreen Charleson whose daughter now plays "the stands were packed with screaming fans."

"Teams and players had a lot of fun" said Charleson.

As the 1970's gave way to the 1980's professional players from the National Basketball Association (NBA) became as popular as professional football and baseball players.

Lucrative contracts and basketball shoe endorsements branded NBA players into the minds of thousands of new fans. The 1980's gave basketball fans a new flashy type of game, spirited rivalries, and greatness.

Patrick Ewing powered the *Georgetown Hoyas* to the NCAA National Championship. NBA rivals the Boston Celtics and *Showtime* Los Angeles Lakers clashed for NBA Championships as Bird and McHale duelled with Kareem and Magic. And Bill Laimbeer and the Detroit Pistons were the NBA's *Bad Boys*.

In 1984 the Chicago Bulls drafted University of North Carolina *Tar Heel* Michael Jordan. He led the Bulls to several NBA championships and became the greatest player in basketball history before retiring in 2003.

In Port Alberni meanwhile First Nations junior basketball tournaments occurred almost every weekend during the season. If there wasn't a tournament in Port Alberni then players traveled to tournaments elsewhere.

And then there were the teams who came to play. First Nations Junior teams traveled from Victoria, Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Vancouver, and even Washington State to play basketball in Port Alberni First Nations junior tournaments.

After junior, players could continue playing on one of several senior basketball teams.

First Nations senior teams in Port Alberni in the 1980's included the Eagles, Warriors, Arrows, Braves, and Hoya's. There were senior women's teams which played in Port Alberni also. First Nations senior basketball in Port Alberni would later implode for its own reasons.

It was a boom time but by the late 1980's there were fewer First Nations junior basketball players and teams in Port Alberni.

"It's like it just died out" said Doreen Charleson.

Basketball's global rise in the 1980's coincided with an unfathomable slump in First Nations junior basketball in Port Alberni. It seemed impossible. But it was happening.

The Decline:

While teams were having fun playing the events leading to the demise of First Nations junior basketball in Port Alberni went unnoticed. A great time now ticked down to an end.

The wave that started rolling two decades earlier was cresting and by the 1990's it was all but over.

Junior teams, which developed young players through practices and tournaments, and produced future senior players, began to disband.

Future players lost out on valuable instruction during this formative phase. "It's critical to learn basketball skills at an early age" says Steve Dynie, former director of player development for Basketball BC "you can teach intermediate age players a play but it's too late to teach them how to shoot" said Dynie.

Junior players learned other skills too. Basketball also taught important life lessons.

Doug Wilson played basketball in the mid 1980's for the Junior Eagles in Port Alberni and is now a basketball referee.

"Junior basketball was fun" said Wilson.

"I learned the emphasis wasn't on winning, it was on doing your best, everyone getting to play, and being together" said Wilson.

Mac Sinclair played junior basketball for the Port Alberni Friendship Center in the mid 1980's too. Now grown with children of his own he's living in Port Alberni after a long absence.

"I still played basketball after I moved away and I met some great people" said Sinclair. But junior basketball had left an indelible mark on his life "I still feel a real bond with the guys I played with" he warmly reminisced.

Wally Samuel is passionate about First Nations basketball. "Basketball is a great character builder" said Samuel "and a great way to keep kids together." And there were no shortage kids to keep together.

"We had enough players to fill the rosters of three teams" said Samuel who, with Andy Amos coached junior teams for the Port Alberni Friendship Center throughout the 1980's.

Playing basketball was only part of something bigger in players' lives "The more important thing was kids were together" said Samuel "they fundraised and traveled, and competed together." And they grew up together.

"Players I coached tell me today that being together on the team was a good, positive time in their childhoods" said Samuel.

Junior development and tournaments requires passion, commitment, and hours of volunteer coaching time. But the responsibility of coaching was fading away.

In many communities former players traditionally coached new ones. Certainly at this year's B.C. Junior All Native teams were coached by former players.

And there was a time when former players coached First Nations junior basketball teams in Port Alberni.



The late John "JB" Dick, a fierce former player, coached the Junior Eagles including Doug Wilson to First Nations tournaments in the 1980's.

Harvey Thomas was a team mate of Dick's. He later tried to revive basketball after it languished but his efforts never gained steam.

After them there was no one. Players from this era were different from their predecessors.

Many played into their twilight then retired and never returned. The coaching commitment made to them went unnoticed and few if any would pass down their knowledge of the game to a waiting generation of players.

"I couldn't coach forever" said Samuel "somebody else needed to step in."

Players and coaches got old and with no replacements teams folded. Gyms turned tomb-like from disuse. Uniforms and basketballs were discarded, and the future of First Nations basketball in Port Alberni was bereft.

The disbanding of junior teams wasn't the only reason First Nations junior basketball in Port Alberni declined. The economy rode its own wave, but it too crashed down.

The 1970's and early 1980's was a prosperous time in B.C. This was particularly the case for the resource sector. Logging and fishing, which employed many First Nations peoples, reaped the rewards.

"It was different back then" said Samuel "there was lots of employment, gyms worked, went on U.I.C. and had time and money to support playing basketball."



The 1980's seen an economic downturn in B.C. and the resource sector was hardest hit.

Forestry suffered and there were many layoffs. The fishing industry suffered too. Fish no longer fetched the handsome price it did and the industry downsized.

"Some families were lucky to just get by" said Samuel.

Little work meant less money for extra-curricular activities and First Nations junior basketball in Port Alberni suffered its own downturn.

The 1980's also seen the advent of entertainment technology. It too played a

role in the decline of First Nations junior basketball in Port Alberni.

Arcades were at the height of their popularity. But in the 1990's home entertainment technology expanded and became readily available.

Play-station, Nintendo, and X-Box exploded onto the market and, combined with the growth of the internet, gave rise to an inactive generation of youth.

Parents and kids both lost interest in basketball according to Samuel "kids aren't just to blame" he said. But the former are undermining the very game they grew up playing.

"Its parents who are buying the kids the X-Boxes and Gameboys" said Samuel. "We didn't have any of that" said Doreen Charleson "we had nothing but time to train and play."

New forms of entertainment didn't just affect kids though. "Casinos and gambling weren't around back then" said Samuel "spending money at casinos is a priority for some people, but spending money on kid's basketball isn't."

The Coming Wave

"They always come back to us" some First Nations peoples say about ancestors.

The spirit of First Nations junior



tournaments to participate in. The B.C. Junior All Native is a few years away yet too.

Instead the boys play on separate teams and regularly compete against each other. But they feel a bond with each other and yearn to play on a team together.

Not to be forgotten is First Nations girl's basketball in Port Alberni. Some will be playing in the makings of an AYB midget-age girl's league starting in January.

It takes more than eager kids to make it happen though.

What will it take to bring First Nations junior basketball back to Port Alberni? It starts at the top says Wally Samuel.

"The leadership and communities have to make it a priority again" said Samuel "Former players have to step in and coach now" said Samuel cautioning that the rewards aren't in money "it has to be because it means something to them."

"Dedication is the key" said Wilson. Port Alberni resident Andrew Bos played basketball throughout junior and senior high school in the mid 1970's before playing First Nations basketball. Bos's school coach- retired SMU assistant Bill Greenwell, was a basic guy he remembered. Relentlessly basic "Coach Greenwell constantly drilled us in basic basketball fundamentals" said Bos.

The relentless drilling came in handy though "When I first played native basketball the wide-open game shocked me" said Bos "but the basic fundamentals I was taught gave me an edge."

Basketball fundamentals will still come in handy if First Nations junior basketball returns to Port Alberni. "There has to be a better emphasis on basic basketball fundamentals in junior" said Bos.

Watching First Nations boys play basketball while refereeing brought back memories for Doug Wilson. He wants to help revive what his late coach JB started.

"I want to coach and give back now" said Wilson.

First Nations junior basketball has grown since the 1980's and things have changed.

But things are changing too with First Nation's junior basketball in Port Alberni.

It's in its infancy but it's alive and well. More work needs to be done and more people need to get involved.

It's going to take some time but that's ok.

Good things usually do.

Triplet girls born to Nuu-chah-nulth family

By Denise August,
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni - A young Nuu-chah-nulth family of four transformed instantly to a family of seven in three minutes as Carmen Hayes delivered three tiny baby girls on November 16th.

Takara, Shandra and Stephanie Hayes were not expected until the week before Christmas, a full five weeks away but a feisty little Stephanie, weighing in at 2lb. 4 1/2 oz. broke her water bag forcing an emergency Caesarian Section for her and her bigger sisters.

A young Nuu-chah-nulth family of four transformed instantly to a family of seven in three minutes as Carmen Hayes delivered three tiny baby girls on November 16th.

Carmen Hayes of Tla-o-qui-ah / Ahousaht knew early on that she was expecting triplets and that multiple pregnancies are not expected to go to the full term of 40 weeks. She explained that her doctors had hoped the babies would not be born until her 33rd week when they would be bigger and stronger. Instead, Hayes was rushed to Nanaimo General Hospital after little Stephanie broke her water at 5:45 a.m., November 16th. An emergency C-section took place with Carmen under general anesthesia and the babies were delivered at 7:14, 7:15 and 7:16 a.m.

Takara was the biggest weighing in at 2lb. 9.5 oz.; Shandra weighed 2lb. 3.8oz; and Stephanie, the tiny but tough one weighed a mere 2lb 4.5 oz. The babies were born 13 weeks earlier than a full-term baby!

Carmen says she woke at 8am but could not immediately see her babies who were in Neonatal Intensive Care. She was able to view photographs of

them by 8:30 and saw them for the first time at 9am before the two bigger babies were transferred to Children's Hospital in Vancouver via helicopter.

"Stephanie had to be stabilized," Carmen explained, "she inhaled fluid and they wanted to make sure her breathing was stable before she too was sent out." Hayes was happy that she got to see all of them before they left Nanaimo and relieved to say they are doing well now and have started gaining weight.

Carmen's youngest son got to see his sisters before they were flown to Vancouver but the six year-old son, who is living in Tofino hasn't seen them yet. Carmen and her spouse Jason Graaten are now in a Vancouver hotel where they can be near their daughters. Carmen's mother Vickie is by her side and there are frequent visits and calls from proud family members.

The two bigger sisters have been breathing on their own and are doing well, Stephanie was the last to be taken off the ventilator but had to be put back on because she grew too tired to breathe on own.

Their feeding patterns are also improving at an impressive rate. "When they were first born they could only take 1 ml (1/4 teaspoon) of formula at time," Carmen said, "the bigger ones were taking 13 ml as of last night!"

The family has been told to expect that the babies will remain in hospital six to eight weeks but they won't know for sure when they can all return home to Port Alberni until the babies grow and strengthen.

According to information on the Internet, Hellin's Law states that before the advent of fertility methods, the natural occurrence of triplets would be 1 in 7396 live births.

Triplets can be identical when one egg is released and splits three times after it is fertilized but this is extremely rare. They can also occur when two separate

eggs are released and one splits into identical twins after it is fertilized; two of the triplets will be identical and the other fraternal.

Lastly, triplets can occur when three separate eggs are released and fertilized by three different sperms creating fraternal triplets. This is how the Hayes triplets came to be.

The family has already made some plans for their return home. "Mom and Betty Mae Lucas offered to come over and spend a week a time to help out," Carmen explained. But with maternity benefits just kicking in and Jason being laid off they worry about meeting the needs of their blossomed family.

"We only have one crib but we're getting baby car seats from Nanaimo Hospital," she said. "and we have some clothes and are still trying to get other things."

"If people would like to help," Carmen laughed, "we need 3 of everything!" The most pressing need she says is maybe an

extra crib or baby swings so that they have a safe place to put the babies while taking care of the rest of the family.

"If people would like to help," Carmen laughed, "we need 3 of everything!" The most pressing need she says is maybe an extra crib or baby swings so that they have a safe place to put the babies while taking care of the rest of the family.

Hayes will not be able to work for awhile and is on sick benefits. Jason is laid off and waiting for his Employment Insurance to kick in. The family would greatly appreciate donations of Pampers or other baby items. Family friends Mattie and Guy will be accepting donations on behalf of the family and can be reached at (250) 724-6312.

Abalone at risk

continued from page 4

place in the eco-system. "There are more kids walking around who know about abalone than there ever was before," said Levis.

"This entire process has been an amazing example of the positive things that can happen when we work together as a community," said Johnson. "Natives and non-Natives have been getting along and working well together as we all try to get this project running as it should be," he said.

Species at Risk Act (SARA)

Under the Species at Risk Act (2002), abalone are listed as a "threatened species", which means they are likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse its population decline.

According to SARA, no person shall kill, harm, harass, capture or take an individual of a threatened species, and no person shall possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual (in whole or in part) of a threatened species. The habitat of endangered or threatened species are also protected under the Act.

"We've definitely been pleased with the work that Bamfield has been doing towards the abalone recovery strategy, and we are looking at ways of resolving this because we want to see the Bamfield project continue," said Laurie Convey, DFO management biologist and departmental project authority for BHCAP.

Having worked closely with BHCAP since 1999, Convey said though the project is "very new and experimental", it is considered a "lead study location". But Convey doubts a special permit exempting BHCAP from SARA will be forthcoming. "Buying and selling can be done for scientific purposes, but eating abalone by someone in a restaurant doesn't clearly fall under any of those activities, and that's the issue Bamfield has come up against," she said. "It's not an interpretation of the law that is law, but there is no reason for DFO to issue a permit in this case because it's not scientific research."

Special Permits

Under SARA, the Minister of Fisheries can enter an agreement authorizing activity affecting a listed species as long as the activity relates to the conservation, benefit, or enhancement of

the species, and will not impact the survival or recovery of the species.

DFO can issue a permit for BHCAP to collect wild abalone for broodstock purposes, but BHCAP cannot sell any of their millions of abalone progeny to subsidize enhancement efforts.

"I have no idea why they can't give us a permit to allow sales," said Richards. "We've gone as far as we can go within DFO and we're not hearing anything back," he said.

"This has been a concern for the department and we've been actively working on a solution," said Andy Thomson, DFO's Acting Director of Aquaculture Management. "We're hoping in the near future we can offer short term, and long term solutions, whether its exempting aquaculture product from SARA provisions, which would be a long term option, or finding whether or not there's policy choices that can be made in the meantime that allow the hatchery to continue to sell the product," he said.

"We've definitely been pleased with the work that Bamfield has been doing towards the abalone recovery strategy, and we are looking at ways of resolving this because we want to see the Bamfield project continue," said Laurie Convey, DFO management biologist and departmental project authority for BHCAP.

According to Thomson, there are a number of options being proposed within the department, but he was not able to discuss the details. "A range of options have been looked at, and it's been worked on at the highest level," he said. "The Deputy Minister is aware of it and its being worked on inter-governmentally between Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada at the highest levels."

"What we want is \$500,000 a year, whether it comes from DFO or they allow up to generate it from other sources," said Levis. "We also want some enthusiasm from DFO about this project. There is no downside to what we're doing here. It benefits the Barkley Sound abalone stocks, and our communities, and DFO needs to recognize that and do what's right," he said.

Canada announces Residential School settlement

By David Wivchar
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Former students of the Alberni Indian Residential School in Port Alberni and Christie Indian Residential School in Tofino will finally be receiving recognition and compensation for abuses they endured as children. From 1861 to 1984, the Federal Government and various religious groups operated 60 Indian Residential Schools across Canada, four of which operated on the west coast of Vancouver Island. As Justice John Hogarth noted in his 1995 sentencing of notorious pedophile and Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS) dormitory supervisor Arthur Henry Plint, "the Indian Residential School system was nothing but a form of institutionalized pedophilia".

Former students of the Alberni Indian Residential School in Port Alberni and Christie Indian Residential School in Tofino will finally be receiving recognition and compensation for abuses they endured as children.

After months of negotiations, and years of commissions, reports, and lawsuits, the Government of Canada has finally agreed to a compensation package for survivors of Indian Residential Schools.

"This is the largest and most comprehensive settlement package in Canadian history," said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine, who helped broker the deal. "Today marks the first step towards closure on a terrible, tragic legacy for the thousands of First Nations individuals who suffered physical, sexual, or psychological abuse. It represents a major victory and vindication for all residential school survivors and their families," he said.

Former students will receive \$10,000 plus another \$3000 for every year they attended an Indian Residential School in Canada. For that, people will sign a waiver promising to not sue the government or churches unless they were sexually or severely physically abused, in which case they could still pursue litigation. The total value of the settlement package is said to be in excess of \$2 billion.

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But many survivors say they were not included in negotiations held on their behalf, and if they were, they would have told negotiators the settlement was not enough.

"I feel angry and betrayed," said former Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS) student Charlie Thompson. "We were not all consulted on this matter other than at a conference in July. Most of us were taken aback when we found out that there is a deal with the amount of money, but when survivors started saying that the amount was not enough, Fontaine started backtracking telling us that the amounts were not set in stone and that they

would negotiate a better deal," he said. "Now, there is a deal and Phil Fontaine thinks that we are all rejoicing today because of 'his' deal, not ours. So, I am angry and feel totally betrayed by Phil Fontaine and the AFN".

Thompson was involved in a criminal case against his alleged abuser, former AIRS Dormitory Supervisor David Henry Forde, who recently died of cancer in Puyallup where he had been avoiding extradition to face charges in Canada.

"I know many people are upset about the miniscule amount negotiated between Phil Fontaine and the Federal Government. However, I do not believe a larger amount could have been secured because it was Phil Fontaine who put the figures on the table," said AIRS survivor and plaintiff in the Blackwater case, Randy Fred. "Very few residential school survivors had any direct input into determining the amount to ask for. Residential school victims now have no choice but to live with the decision for the sake of those who are living in ill health and old age. The Federal Government would love nothing more than delaying anymore payments," he said. "My personal hope is that the courts and the government and church lawyers take this seriously. It is an indication that putting First Nations children into residential schools was a crime. They must now quickly move forward with settling the more than



AIRS girls' class

12,000 civil lawsuits claiming sexual and physical abuse. The government and church lawyers now need not waste any time with arguments about establishing facts about the schools themselves and focus on the criminal activity of the residential school staff members," said Fred.

The settlement is based in part on the AFN's Report on Canada's Dispute Resolution Plan to Compensate for Abuses in Indian Residential Schools



Alberni Indian Residential School

released last November 2004. This includes a national apology, an improved compensation process for victims of sexual and physical abuse, a lump sum payment for former students, and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission with both national and regional processes. The Agreement in Principle also calls for an expedited process to resolve the claims of the elderly, where eligible former Indian residential school students 65 years of age and older will soon be able to apply for an advance payment of \$8000. Survivors currently involved in class action lawsuits also qualify for all of the benefits of the settlement package, including compensation.

According to a press release issued by the AFN, their "report and approach was endorsed by residential schools survivors, lawyers involved in class

the First Minister Meeting." "The Agreement in Principle proposes a common experience payment to be paid to all former students of Indian residential schools, an improved alternative dispute resolution process for claims of serious abuse, as well as measures to support healing, commemorative activities, and further investigation and education concerning past policies and their continuing impact on Aboriginal Canadians and their families" said Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan.

It is estimated there are more than 1500 Indian Residential School survivors living throughout the west coast of Vancouver Island. According to the AFN, survivors who have not hired a lawyer to represent them in their residential school claims, should wait until information about low cost or free legal consultation is released.

According to the settlement package, protection from legal fees has been added to settlements, as an additional 15% for legal fees is added onto the "10 plus 3" formula.

Another part of the agreement is the re-establishment of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, with a 5-year endowment of \$125 million.

The \$1.9 billion will be placed in an interest-bearing account, and after all individual claimants have received their payment, any funds left over will go to the Aboriginal Healing Fund.

"No amount of money is going to replace my childhood, give me back my language and culture, my parents and my community," said Thompson.

"No amount of money is going to replace my childhood, give me back my language and culture, my parents and my community," said AIRS survivor Charlie Thompson.

"Will the compensation create any closure? For some it will. For others it will create more anger and pain," said Fred. "The impact the schools had on us as individuals, families, and communities was totally devastating. The other aspects of the decision are critical. Money is necessary for healing," he said. "I don't have any magic solutions to the problem. It can be different for individuals, families, communities, on-reserve and off-reserve populations. Now that it is agreed every residential school victim will receive compensation we can take a collective breath and move forward with confidence knowing there is hope."

THANK YOU to the voters of Area G (Kyuquot and Nootka) for re-electing me as your Regional District Director.

With your help and input, I will do my best to fulfill the duties of the position over the next three years.

Sincerely, Tom Pater

tomdale@shaw.ca 332-5287 and 334-8838

Knee-waas Coat Drive

We are accepting donations for jackets and coats of all sizes. Although we accept all sizes, we are in urgent need of children's coats. You can drop off your donated coats at: 3435 - 4th Avenue, Port Alberni, B.C. Between the hours of 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information please contact Knee-waas at (250) 723-8281

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Young boys at Alberni Indian Residential School

Pacheedaht Man lost in tragic ceremonial cleansing accident

By Denise August,
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Renfrew – A 43 year-old man was swept away in the rushing waters of Gordon River in the predawn hours of November 10 during a spiritual cleansing ceremony.

Percy Jack, accompanied by four family members arrived at the riverbank before 5:00 a.m. prepared to partake in the ceremony, which involves bathing in frigid water.

A 43 year-old man was swept away in the rushing waters of Gordon River in the predawn hours of November 10 during a spiritual cleansing ceremony.

Witnesses say the river was swollen due to recent heavy rainfall and running swiftly. Jack, they said, entered the water clad only in under shorts and waded out to hip depth when his feet were swept out from under him and he was carried down the river in the darkness toward the reserve and the ocean.

His cries for help could be heard but nobody on the scene could reach him to provide assistance. Search and Rescue personnel were quickly notified but due to Port Renfrew's remote location, it took several hours for them to arrive at the scene. Locals immediately launched searches along the shoreline and in riverboats.

Relatives and friends began pouring in from Ditidaht, Ahousaht, Saanich and Vancouver to assist in the search. Divers could not enter the river that day due to the dangerous conditions but were able to search later in the week.

Pacheedaht Chief Councillor Marvin McClurg estimates it is three kilometers from the point where Jack entered the water to the mouth of the river. The river bottom is littered with cable from

the old railroad trestle that ran along its banks more than a century before.

Julia Eaton, Jack's aunt says Search and Rescue Personnel gauged the river to be flowing at a rate of 80km/hr the day Percy was swept away. Days later the water levels dropped and the flow weakened; allowing divers to search underwater but there was nothing to be found.

Pacheedaht hired a helicopter to search the river banks and shores of Port San Juan where the Gordon River drains but McClurg along with the way the weather was, Jack's remains could very well be somewhere in the Juan de Fuca Strait.

With heavy hearts the official search was called off as of November 15 but candles continue to burn in the home of McClurg and Norah Simpson, Jack's mother. One candle sits in the window that faces Gordon River, a gentle beacon for her son still lost.

While the family prepared to feed the people in a Celebration of Life Feast held in Jack's memory, Pacheedaht members continue to walk the beaches everyday, not wanting to give up.

Jack worked for more than ten years at Port Renfrew Elementary School as a lunch hour supervisor and got along well with the students.

Search and Rescue Personnel gauged the river to be flowing at a rate of 80km/hr the day Percy was swept away.

Jack leaves his wife, Charlene and daughter Ashley. He also leaves his mother Norah and sister Addy and her children. A Memorial Service was held in Port Renfrew November 19th. The family wishes to thank all the people that helped in the search, the ladies doing all the cooking and serving for the search team and family and everyone who called, visited, and helped in any way.



Pacheedaht Chief Councillor Marvin McClurg at the Gordon River site where Percy Jack disappeared.

Elder Nuuchah-nulth Women: Aging in Place in Aboriginal Communities

A Study conducted by Dorothy Angeline Wilson, Tseshah First Nation in partnership with the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council Nursing Department.

Wanted: Elder Nuuchah-nulth Women to share their experiences of aging.

Time Required: 1- 1 1/2 hours for an individual interview during November / December 2005.

For more information you may contact: Dorothy A. Wilson at 250-724-6161



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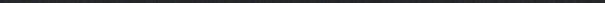
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25 Year Celebration for Wally Samuel

Submitted by Donna Samuel

Way to Go Janice!!!!!! Come on Danny, shoot strikes, you can do it!!!!!!It only takes one Willy, it only takes one!!!!!!Defense!!!! Defense!!!! Defense!!!! Dribble it, Tammy, pass it!!!!Sound familiar? These are some of the words that Wally Samuel has used for the last 25 years. Of course, the names changed as the years went by. Yes! This year, we would like to congratulate Wally Samuel for Managing and Coaching for 25 years.

It all started in the fall of 1980 when Wally was hired as Program Director at the old Port Alberni Friendship Centre. Wally worked hard right from the beginning and is now recognized as one of the best manager and coach for the Native community of Port Alberni. Young people of all ages came out to partake in floor hockey, basketball, softball, track and field and of course, who can forget those teen dances? Wally is a people person and the parents saw that and they reacted in a remarkable way, they were wonderful; they were out there fundraising so that their children could go on trips for a tournament. There was also fundraising so the kids could have cool uniforms and this was also done by the parents. The teams travelled from one end of the Island to the other and up and down British Columbia for Provincial sports competition. It was gratifying when one of the teams won a tournament and more so when they are B.C. Champs. Words cannot express the emotion in the bus when the kids are singing "We are the Champions" and they were in every sense of the word.

Within a very short time on the job, Wally was able to put teams together to participate in the Olympiad games. During the summer when it was easier to travel, kids from as far as Victoria would call to be on one of the teams that the Friendship Centre had. Parents were out there cheering on our teams. These were our Friendship Centre teams and we were proud of them. Some of the names of the teams over the past 25 years were: KwKwiisath, Warriors, Warriorettes, TNT, Raiders, Outlaws, Smirfs, Smirfettes, Arrows, and WitWaaks. Sorry if I missed any teams.

During his reign as Program Director, manager and coach, Wally was involved with sports committees which included the Indian Games. Wally enjoyed his job and being involved with what kept the kids happy and off the streets. Within a very short time after being hired as Program Director, Wally traded his brand new truck in for an old green van (remember old faithful?) and a car for his family. The van was to transport kids to the gyms and out of town tournaments. His main concern was to get the kids to where they needed to go. The van was old but it was dependable.

Now, we would like to pay tribute to Wally for the many years he has dedicated to kids and young adults. Today, some of the original 16 and under boys are still playing softball for him called WitWaak. Wally still looks forward to Softball and basketball. Last spring, we travelled to Terrace, B.C. to watch our grandchildren

compete in the Provincial Basketball Tournament. Wally, first of all, I would like to congratulate you. You did what you love to do and I could not complain for all the times that you were not home with us. Today, I am proud of you and what you have accomplished. I can recall you pushing me to get my drivers license so that I could drive some of the kids when you needed to go out of town and also so I wouldn't be stuck without transportation when you were away. I also remember when you put a team together so we could participate in the 1st of July Ahousaht Sports Days. You did not have quite enough so you put me on the roster. I actually got to play and it was so much fun. For the past couple of years, you say you will retire but I know it is your passion. You sometimes say that if anything happens to you during any sports, "don't let me stop any games, you can do what you need to do in between innings". This might offend some but this is Wally and his dedication for the game. A very happy belated birthday to you for November 27, I hope you enjoyed your day. Way to go Wally, what a great inspiration for our community. What a great leader you have been. Again, Congratulations and I love you. Donnamac

Dad, Coach = **Role model** = (Which in the dictionary states): a worthy person who is a good example for other people. He is my dad first, he coached me when I was young and I continue to observe him work with teams with glowing strength and knowledge. I take great pride in seeing Dad/Grandpa continuing to participate and encouraging all to get involved. With the support of Mom, getting him fed before he runs out the door, I'm sure we'll continue to see Dad either right involved or socializing as a spectator at sporting events for many, many years to come. Wally Jr. DAD, It is hard to put into words, the appreciation I have for my Dad for everything he has done for not only me but my children as well. I do not know where to start. When I think about my dad, I think about the things I have learned from him. I learned commitment, acceptance, supportive, and pride.

My Dad has always been committed to his sports. As far as I can remember, he had me participating on hockey, basketball, track and field, and softball teams. He held tournaments every year from children's age to Junior to Senior Men's and Ladies. Every year you knew exactly when the tournaments were going to be. He always made a point of having it consistent and usually the first tournament of the season no matter what sport it was. That was how committed he was to the teams.

My Dad is always accepting of others. Working at the Friendship Centre for many years, he worked with a variety of children/youth who had a wide variety of lifestyles. He always accepted them for who they were no matter what their family situation was. He always made it clear to me that no matter what situation a person is in, they are still human and have feelings and strengths and to respect them for who they are and not what they wear, or where they live, or how much money they have. He never excluded anyone from playing on the teams he coached. He always developed and coached the teams for the children/youth.

My Dad has always been supportive. He was always there for me throughout my sporting experience. He had me involved on not only Friendship Centre teams but in local leagues as well. He always made a point of coming to all of my games and most of my practices. He always did what he could to get our teams to tournaments outside of Port Alberni. Today, he is still supportive. He travels to watch my kids participate in Basketball and Swimming. If he is not able to go to a swim meet or a basketball tournament (which is rare) he will help his grandkids out financially. The best thing about this is that my children know that their Grandparents will be there to support them. What a memory to cherish forever.

My Dad has always had pride in who he is and where he comes from. Even though I didn't grow up in Ahousaht (just shackled up for awhile...lol), he always managed to get me onto Ahousaht teams. He even got my son playing for Ahousaht Magic Junior Boys Basketball team last year. When ever Ahousaht hosts a tournament in Port Alberni he is always willing to help appreciation if needed. I know he really enjoys watching the Ahousaht teams. Whenever there is a tournament in town, he will phone us to let us know when and who Ahousaht plays. My Dad has always been there for me. He has always been someone I could count on. He has been such a positive influence in my life. I don't think I would be the parent I am today if it weren't for my Dad. I truly know that he has not only had this affect on me but on many others as well. I've grown up with many locals and have made many brothers and sisters through my dad and his dedication to coaching and managing sports teams. One of the memories I have of my dad in his coaching experience is when he brought our girls' team to Campbell River for a Basketball tournament. I know I was very young at the time. I remember Janice and Paula Amos, and probably Pam Sam, Tracy Robinson, and Claudine Watts being there and my Dad was so determined to protect all of us, he slept on the floor in front of the door to block anyone from coming in or going out. I would like to thank my Dad for all the hard work he has put into many teams and tournaments. I will always remember what you have done for not only me, but my children as well. Lots of Love,

Ruby AKA Wally's Daughter
Congratulations Dad for all your hard work and dedication towards the community. You are an inspiration to us

all, not only as a coach but as a respected community leader. Richard DAD (by Edd Samuel)
My dad, Wally Samuel, has been a huge influence on my life, including his involvement in my sports endeavours. Dad has supported and encouraged sports in my life and many others. Sports has always been a passion for me. I learned a tremendous amount about life playing and supporting sports, with his presence, involvement, guidance and leadership throughout the years. I remember when I was young we used to travel with his buddies ANS (Ahousaht Native Sons) to watch them in fastball tournaments. As a child and youth he was always there to watch my games or he was my coach. Even when I played sports as an adult Him and Mom would watch me play as much as they could, including trips out of town. As a coach/manager of many teams my dad worked hard to create and maintain more opportunities for athletes to have fun and pursue achievements. He was the Port Alberni Friendship Center Program Director for many years. Here he established numerous teams, tournaments and a reputation for being a great contributor to "Native" sports. Through his involvement I was gifted to have been by his side, when I learned many many skills from his role modeling. Some of my most memorable sports moments of my life include Junior Boys Basketball All Native BC Champs, carrying the 1988 Olympic Torch, All Native Basketball Intermediate Tournament, becoming a known tournament organizer, becoming the Nuuchah-nulth Games Coordinator, Parade at the 1997 North American Indigenous Games as a Board of Directors and Athlete, and All Nuuchah-nulth Men's Basketball Champs. I am proud of these achievements, and owe so much of it to my dad. A philosophy I've heard is, sports is life. In sports and life I learned from my dad about respect, discipline, control, confidence, decisiveness, generosity, community, honesty, integrity, to name a few values. And people have complimented, to me, these things about my dad. All of these values and skills are important in life. We almost lost my dad when I was a pre-teen. I sometimes wonder how my life would be different if we did lose him. He is a great dad, husband, grampa, relative and friend to so many. My kids love him dearly. You made me the Man that I am. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love you Dad.
by Edd Samuel

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birthdays and congratulations!



Happy Birthday to my Mother Elizabeth Little who turned 18 on November 17th and to my Aunt Louise Little who also turned 18 on November 17? Hope you guys had good days. Love Always Kaydence Tom-Little.

Congratulations to Tummy Mommy, Amelda Johnson, on having a baby October 6. We welcome our little sister, Camille. Well done to both of you! Love Jade and Evan.

The biggest birthday wishes to my Fudd (Elmer Frank) on Nov 27th. Baby I hope that you get to celebrate your birthday to it's fullest, and I hope all your birthday wishes get granted.

Nobody in this world works as hard, with as much heart, and as intelligently as you do baby. All of your amazing hurdles you have conquered this year is much to be very, very proud of. Elmer you have really shown me that even with the most negative reaction, the element to surprise not only yourself but others as well is the most exciting and rewarding.

There is not one person out there who has ever taught in their lifetime what you teach by example in one week. That's how special you are baby. I will continue to tell you that, anything that you encounter I will be here for you. I will be here to listen to you, and offer that support you need.

The hard work, and endless things you do for everyone never goes un-noticed baby. I am so proud to call you my partner, only because you treat me as an equal, we can confide in each other, and count on each other to give each other what we need without even having to request it. That is most important to me, because you I and I can understand each other without holding anything back.

And as most relationships stand still, we can together look forward to the growth of a friendship and life we both eagerly want to construct. That 15mins really means something don't it hun? Huge birthday wishes, and celebrations to you "Tanley"! Love u lots Melanie n Chuck!

Mama Lorri Touchie, happy birthday on December 4th. We are such lucky girls to have such an amazing woman as our mother. Mom as we all grow together into our adulthood, we cannot explain how appreciative we are to you for everything you have done for the both of us in the past, present, and what comes in the future. You and Dad made the ultimate sacrifice two people could make, putting yourselves last to raise your children, spend the time you needed with us, and giving us

everything you gave us then and now. We can fully understand now as adults every thing you gave up for us. That is a love and care so large that can never be topped. Mama, all those nights we drove you crazy, writing on our bedroom walls, anytime we gave you any fuss you conquered through, and we can never thank you enough for that. You are the most amazing role model, mommy, and laughing buddy. We cherish each day we have you and count each day as the best since you are part of it and our lives.

Thanks for everything, hope you have a happy birthday we love you with all our hearts. Love ya lots Jenny Marie, Melanie, Elmer, Tyson, and Chuck *chuck says sorry mom when I whine but happy birthday!*

Mama Nan Marion Louie Happy Birthday Dec 7th. Gramma thank you for all the giggles, stories, teachings, and love you have continuously shared with Jenny and I. You are the best gramma with so many amazing qualities; you have really showed us and been there for us through everything. We appreciate all of it. We want you to enjoy YOUR day. Happy Birthday Mama Nan! Love u lots Jenny, Melanie, Tyson, and Charlie

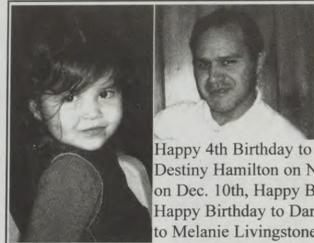
Happy Birthday Wesley D. Frank on Dec 1st! Watching you grow into a busy little man has been great son. Your shining, talkative spirit will bring you far within your lifetime. You speak from the heart, and always make sure happiness is part of your day. We all admire your honest, humorous, and fun loving nature Wesley. And no matter what you encounter you can always count on us to be here for you no matter what it is! We love you and appreciate that you are such a great kid with so much potential and happiness. All the crazy and silly things you say when you're with us always have us laughing. We miss you both so much, and we cannot wait to see you & your sister. Love you lots, and happy birthday Dad, Melanie, and Charlie

Congratulations to our son and brother. We are so proud of you and all that you do for your people and family. We wish you all the best in whatever path you chose. Love mom and dad (Barb and Dan) your sister and brother-

Birthdays wishes out to my sis-in-law Maggie Gus for Dec. 6th, I have never forgot your birthday. Have a good day, we love you, from Liz, Tina, Bonnie, Keith, Paul, Nick, Julian, Alex, Autumn.

To my Little Peanut who's gonna be one year old already on Dec.7th/05 Happy Birthday Baby! It seems like just yesterday I was holding your tiny little body in my arms, and now your almost walking already, you'll always be my little bundle of joy no matter how big you get. Just know that I'll always be here for you when you need me. I love You Che-lynn! Love always your mom Tracy and uncle Kyle, Matthias and Walter. Xoxo.

This one goes out to my Husband Ira Paul Sam happy 37th Birthday to my one and only love on Dec.11th/05,



Happy 4th Birthday to Destiny Hamilton on Nov. 28th. Happy Birthday to John Ross on Dec. 10th, Happy Birthday to Dawn Ross on Dec. 12th, Happy Birthday to Darrell Ross Jr on Dec. 14th, Happy Birthday to Melanie Livingstone-Hamilton on Dec. 16th. Love from Annie, Dave & family. Also from the Ross & Livingstone families.

Hope you had a fantastic day Auntie Effie! Born in 1919 to Charlie Ross of Huu-ay-ahnt and Lulu Roberts of Hupacasath. Her maternal grandparents were Tye Bob and Correction: Cecelia George and her paternal grandparents were Chief Nookemus and Mary Clutesi. The Ross family would like to thank those of you that helped make Auntie Effie's birthday dinner a success, the cooks, set up & decorators, and those that helped with clean up and thanks to our relatives that attended from near and far. Klecco klecco!

Who's been there for me for seventeen wonderful years. We have three beautiful children and a beautiful granddaughter. What more can we ask for. Your a great husband and the best father to our children. You've worked hard all these years to make sure we have everything we need, we've never wanted for anything. I knew right from the day I met you, that you were the one for me. Sure we've had some hard times, but we always managed to make things better. It's our love for each other and our family that keeps us together. I just want you to know I'll always be here for you and love you forever. Love always your wife Cathy Sam and your children Tracy, Kyle, Matthias and granddaughter Che-lynn.

Dec. 4th - Happy Birthday to our nephews Mikey Campbell in Victoria; Dec. 6th Happy Birthday to Trevor Charlie; Dec. 14th to Joe Cool Louie in Brentwood Bay. From auntie Darl, uncle Alec and family and from Grandma Ina. Hope you boys have a good day and behave lol.

Dec. 26th Happy Birthday to our granddaughter Jayden Rose Dick, our niece Vanessa Campbell. From us at home in Ahousaht.

Dec. 27 Happy Birthday to our bro Bushkie Dick, enjoy your day from your family in Ahousaht.

Dec. 2006 Merry Christmas to Uncle Ray and auntie Terry Williams in Friendly Cove, we miss you and think of you often. From your family in Ahousaht.

Merry X-mas to Elaine Jack, Harold J, Chuck Jr, Michelle, auntie Eva and family, Granny and family, nan Vi and family, and a whole bunch of the Tsaxana, Merry X-mas and a happy new year.

Josephine, Brandi Blair, Rebecca & Peter. Merry Christmas my little ones. I love you lots, I love you for ever. I hope you like what you get for X-mas.

Happy Birthday. I'd like to wish my Son Richard Sam Jr. a Happy Birthday for December 7th. Love you lots from your mother Catherine Wats.

Happy Birthday. I'd like to wish our beautiful granddaughter Shawn-taye (sweetie pie) Mack a very special and happy birthday for Dec. 4. Love you a whole bunch Sweetie Pie from Grandpa Sid, Grandma Sharleen, uncles Sid, Sheldon, Steven and Brad and auntie Sabrina and cousin Brad Jr.

We would like to wish our beautiful son Sheldon A.T. Dick a very special and happy 15th Birthday for Dec. 2. Lots of love and hugs and kisses from Dad, Mom, Son, Sylvia, Rick, Sabrina, Brad, Steven, Shawntaye, Mackenzie, Brad Jr.

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poet's nook

I am Gifted With

By Norma-Ann Webster

Ahousat **DEAR RIVER** Compassion Devotion
Equality **FAMILY** Guidance Health
Importance **JOYFULNESS** Kelsmat Love
Memories **NUU CHA NULTH** Optimism
PRIDE QUANTVA Resourcefulness Sincerity
Tranquillest U u inmitis Venturous WEST- coast
Xerography **YOUTHFUL** Zealous.

It was a wonderful Saturday afternoon on October 29th/2005 at the Lady of the Rosary Hall, in Victoria. We finally did it! it took us a long time to get to where we are today, but we did it! We are now Mr and Mrs Ira Paul Sam. There are a lot of people we would like to thank for making it such a Special Day. We are so lucky to have such wonderful family and friends who were so supportive and helpful through all the wedding planning. Everything turned out so nicely, we couldn't have done it without you. The food was great and especially the traditional singing and dancing part, we had so much fun! we would like to thank the singers Guy Louie Jr, Calvin Louie Sr, Hudson Webster Jr, Nathan Charlie, and Terry Frank and the rest of the singers you guys all made our day! Also to a very nice guy who will always be in our hearts, He joined us together in Matrimony, his name is Rick Lindholm thank you very much for coming all the way to Victoria to marry us. To the person who gave me away at our wedding, who never thought twice about it when asked, I thank you from the bottom of my heart cousin Alec Dick. I'll always remember the day you walked me down the aisle and I know my mom would have been so happy you were there for me. Again I thank you and Darl for everything. There are two more special people in our lives, they've always been there for us and never let us down. We can't thank you enough, every little thing you do for us never goes unnoticed. Sidney and Doreen Sam We Love You! it took us a lot of planning for our wedding, but thank god we had a lot of help and input from both sides of our family. Melody Louie and Ben Hillaird we appreciate everything you've done, you don't know how much help you were to us. You guys made sure we had places to cook all the food and did a great job of setting up the hall and making sure it was all cleaned up afterwards Thank you both. This one goes out to a very nice lady who gave a lot of her time and expertise in making



the bouquets and flowers for the bridesmaids. She also was supervisor of the decorating of the hall you did a great job! Caroline Frank Thank you very much! Also to our sis Rene Little and Niece Denise John who made lovely boutonnières for the groomsmen and all the cedar roses were done beautifully Thank you! To auntie Lea Louie who took a lot of great photographs of every body they turned out so nice, i know you weren't feeling well that day but you still made sure we had our memories of our wedding Thank you We Love you! Keith Atleo and Linda we loved all the pictures you took they were so nice and you went out of your way to have our guests sign around our photos that was so nice of you Thank you very much! Also to Art and Sarah Charlie who donated their van to drop off and pick-up all the food, and also carved our giveaway gifts within days of our wedding. Art you did a great job with such short notice, the carvings were beautiful Thank you both! And to everybody who donated something or another we can't thank you enough, everything came together so nicely, although I had my worries and doubts. Last but not least We'd like to Thank our Bridesmaids and Groomsmen. If it wasn't for all of you we probably would have fell apart. If we forgot anybody at all it was not intentional we apologize Thank you Choo!

From: Mr and Mrs Sam and Family

Birthdays and congratulations continued from page 14

Love auntie Dee. Luke Wallace Barney. Merry X-mas Dad & have a safe happy New Year. Love Dee.

Grandpa Angus, Joe & grandma Bella, hey! Just wanted to say Hi, Happy Christmas and safe New Year. Love you all. Deanna.

Auntie Rose, Colleen, Linda, Louise, mommy Elaine, uncle Chief, Ronald. I'd like to say Merry X-mas to you and all your family, I hope you all have a safe New Year. I love you all. Love Dee.

Mariah, Mahaney, Annie, Terralynn Happy b-day to you on Dec. 16. Love gamma Dec.

We would like to wish a beautiful and wonderful lady named Marlene Dick a Happy Birthday for Dec. 11th. Love ya a whole bunch from Sid, Sharleen, Sid Jr, Sylvia, Rick, Sabrina, Brad,

Sheldon, Steven, Shawntaye, Mackenzie and last but not least Brad Jr.

We would like to wish our wonderful neighbours Tim and Norma Taylor Sr a very special and happy anniversary for Nov. 30. Love from Sid, Sharleen, Sid Jr, Sylvia, Rick, Sabrina, Brad, Sheldon, Steven, Shawntaye, Mackenzie, Brad Jr.

We would like to wish our nephew Micheal Cootes a very special and happy 19th birthday for Dec. 2. God, you make your auntie feel old now (just kidding). Have a good one. Love from Auntie Sharleen, uncle Sid, Sid Jr, Sylvia, Rick, Sabrina, Brad, Sheldon, Steven, Shawntaye, Mackenzie, Brad Jr.

Season's Greetings to all our Friends & Relatives. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season. All the best for 2006! Dorothy & Dick.

In Memoriam - ʔaʔak^wap

In Memoriam of our Dear Mother And also a Grandmother Josephine Louie

Who was born on July 1st/1947- left us October 14th/2001

Oh mom how we miss you so, there's not a day that goes by that you're not on our minds. Each Birthday and Every Holiday that comes and goes, it's just not as enjoyable as it used to be when you were with us. Although we know your looking down on us, and keeping us safe, I can't help but wonder how our lives would have been. Because since you've been gone, a lot has changed it seems like our family has taken different paths in their lives. Were not as close as we used to be, it's taken a toll on all of us. I know I can't speak for the rest of my siblings, but I feel safe in saying that were all still grieving in our own way. I

know in my heart that we should let you rest, but you are so special, oh the memories we have. You gave us life we'll always cherish that. You always thought of us first, and your self last, never asked for anything in return. If there's one thing you've taught us, it was to never take things for granted especially family. It's taken me along time to realize that life must go on. If not for my sake then for my families sake. It doesn't mean I'm letting you go, it just means I know I'll see you again. I don know when but until then you'll always be in our hearts and soul. My sweet mother we love you so.

Love always your Daughter Cathy Sam and son-in-law Ira Sam, your Grandchildren Tracy, Kyle, Matthias and your Great grandchild Che-lynn.

Remembering our Brother... Lance Dean Ross November 26, 1956

Our lives go on without you But nothing is the same, We have to hide our heartaches When someone speaks your name. Sad are the hearts that love you Silent the tears that fall, Living our hearts without you Is the hardest part of all. You did so many things for us Your heart was kind and true, And when we needed someone We could always count on you. The special years will not return When we were all together, But with the love within our hearts You will walk with us forever.

- Author Unknown -

Miss you bro! We cherish the memory of you... From your family



poet's nook

Pictures On the Wall

Written by Norma-Ann Webster

The man in the picture Is in-depth his head is orange His body is painted with the Colours of fall Coppers He is called stick man There is a box A Flower-Worry stone box Pained with green Their are flowers that surround the box It says " A place where you can cast Your worries.

Offering relive to the weary as a result Stress and anxiety of the mind and soul" The four winds redirect us Boots and roots poetry slam Slammers slam Slammers come Boots and roots walk with us To the Black Rock gallery Dancers dance RB Wainwright A Dress. Has many meanings Subjects and integrations Of symbolism, mythology, spiritually Fantasy morality, surrealism All those things that make up a Human spirit A dress has continuity

The picture holds black Scratch stripes Her hair is long High octane No face Just a body Alternative conceptions Silk and satin black Another dress A duel identity One faces right and The other faces left Two separates connected As one The fabric of existence Orange ,copper, red

Deep colours blended Together an attitude For consideration Five points of interest ***** Initiation to dance Above and below Separate deities A passing reference to a memory Lucid, extended An incomplete A cautious special An unfulfilled Point and counter point A misdirected understanding A dress has many meanings.

Nuu-chah-nulth Registry and Treaty Information ...

Registering events are very important!

- Birth Registrations:** It is important to get baby registered as soon as possible. You must complete the parental consent for Registration/Statement of Band Affiliation form and provide the LARGE form birth certificate, these consent forms can be obtained through your Band Office or at the NTC Office. Registration takes 6 - 8 weeks.
- Transfers:** Are you wishing to transfer to another Band? Write to the Band you want to transfer into. Once accepted you will need to complete a consent to transfer form, also, notify the Band you are currently in and let them know your intentions.
- Marriages, divorces, name change, deaths:** Please provide appropriate certificates to up date the Indian Registry Lists. A consent form needs to be completed for any name changes.
- Are you turning 18 soon?** If you would like your own registration number then you have to submit a letter of request. Process also takes 6 - 8 weeks (no longer automatic).
- All documents are to be submitted to Rosie Little** - Indian Registry Administrator at the NTC Office, with the exception of Ditidaht, Hesquiaht, Huu-ay-aht and Tla-o-qui-aht. Contact these First Nations directly. To have a status card issued through NTC from these four First Nations please have your Indian Registry Administrator fax approval and your information prior to coming into the office if possible.
- Does your First Nation have their membership code in place?** If so, and you would like the above events recorded for "BAND MEMBERSHIP" then it is EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT that you contact them as well.
- Your First Nation needs your current address and phone number so they can contact you regarding Treaty developments, letters and bulletins.** First Nation phone numbers and addresses are listed below for your convenience.

Ahousaht
(250) 670-9563 - Fax: (250) 670-9696
General Delivery Ahousaht, B.C. V0R 1A0



Ditidaht First Nation
1-888-745-3366 - Fax: (250) 745-3332
PO Box 340 Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M8

Ehattesaht
1-888-761-4155 - Fax: (250) 761-4156
PO Box 59 Zeballos, B.C. V0P 2A0



Hesquiaht First Nation
New Toll Free 1-866-670-1181 - Fax: (250) 670-1102
PO Box 2000 Tofino, B.C. V0R 2Z0

Hupacasath First Nation
(250) 724-4041 - Fax: (250) 724-1232
PO Box 211 Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M7



Ka:y'u:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h'
(250) 332-5259 - Fax: (250) 332-5210
General Delivery Kyuquot, B.C. V0P 1J0

Mowachaht / Muchalaht
(250) 283-2015 - Fax: (250) 283-2335
Toll free - (800) 238 - 2933
PO Box 459 Gold River, B.C. V0P 1G0



Nuchatlaht First Nation
(250) 332-5908 - Fax: (250) 332-5907
PO Box 40 Zeballos, B.C. V0P 2A0



Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations
(250) 725-3233 - Fax: (250) 725-4233
PO Box 18 Tofino, BC. V0R 2Z0



Tseshahat First Nation
Toll Free: 1-888-724-1225 - Fax: (250) 724-4385
PO Box 1218 Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M1



Uchucklesaht Tribe
(250) 724-1832 - Fax: (250) 724-1806
PO Box 1118 Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M7



Ucluelet First Nation
(250) 726-7342 - Fax: (250) 726-7552
PO Box 699 Ucluelet, B.C. V0R 3A0



Annie Watts, Ha-Shilth-Sa Administration Assistant
New Email Address, effective immediately
hashilthsa@nuuchahnulth.org

To get the quality you want in your photos, graphics or ads please submit them at a minimum of 175 d.p.i. (to 300 d.p.i.). Keep your address up to date, email me when you move. Please call 724-5757 if you have any questions.

Attention Uchucklesaht Tribe Members and descendants



We are currently accepting applications for enrolment in the Maa-Nulth Treaty. This notice is posted in our effort to ensure that applications for enrolment forms are available for every known person who may be eligible to be enrolled as beneficiaries of the Maa-nulth final agreement. For further information, please contact Tina Robinson at the Uchucklesaht Tribe Office. Phone - 250.724.1832 or Toll Free 1.888.724.1832.

TLA-O-QUI-AHT TRIBE MEMBERS

If you are not receiving "Inside Tla-o-qui-aht" newsletter please call your address in ASAP. This mailing list is also used for important tribal mailouts you may not want to miss. Forward your address to: Carla Moss c/o Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, Box 18, Tofino, B.C., V0R 2Z0. Phone: 250-725-2765, email: cmoss@island.net Fax: 250-725-4233 attn: Carla Moss

TO ALL TLA-O-QUI-AHT FIRST NATIONS MEMBERS

Hello everyone, I am working as the Indian Registry Administrator (back up) I would like to update my mailing list, may you please call it in to me at the office either fax or mail would be greatly appreciated. Are you and / or children registered? If your newborn baby has not been registered yet I need a copy of the large birth certificate and register. Also if there are any deaths, marriages, and divorces I would like the proper certificates brought in so I can register them as well.

*Yes I do issue status cards from my office in Opiatsht
Any questions please call me at work 725-3233 / fax 725-4233
Thank you. Hazel Curley (TFN IRA)*

To All Ucluelet First Nation Band Members and descendants

Just a friendly reminder for those who have not yet completed the application for enrolment in the Maa-Nulth treaty; if you have not yet completed it could you please do so as soon as possible. My target date for having applications completed is coming up very soon. If you have not already enrolled and if you would like information on the Eligibility and Enrolment I can be reached toll free at 1-877-726-7342. I am also trying to keep our mailing list up to date, so if we do not have your current address could you please let us know. Thank you. Christina Klotz, Eligibility & Enrolment Coordinator, membership@ufn.ca

TO ALL TSESHAHT MEMBERSHIP:

Please remember when you register your child(ren) with NTC you must still register your child(ren) to the Band. I do not have names that NTC has so if you're one of these members please contact me for Band membership papers as we administer our own membership and only those people on our list is Tseshaht. I do not issue status cards this is done only with Rosie Little or Mel Braker. Feel free to contact me at lisagallie@shaw.ca or call me at 1-866-724-4229.

To All Tribes - Please return any medical equipment that you may have borrowed from the Tseshaht First Nation Loan Cupboard, our medical equipment is running low and there are many people in need of this service or if you have any medical equipment you would like to donate to the loan cupboard this would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.
Tracy Robinson, Tseshaht Health & Social Services Department
P.O. Box 1218, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 7M1, 724-1225

We are looking for Ka:y'u:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' members current mailing addresses. In particular, the Olebars who live in the U.S. Delia Charlie of Manchester Washington, Elizabeth Barnes of Burien, Wa. Also looking for any of Short family members, and those who live at Vancouver. Please Contact the Kyuquot Bando office, Lenora or Daisy at, 1-888 817-8716, or fax to (250) 332-5210, or email to kchertg@island.net. We look forward to hearing from our members who live away from home and the sooner the better.
Chuu, Daisy Hanson

**Indian Residential School Survivors Society
National Survivors Support Line
1-866-925-4419**



(Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
Are you a survivor of residential schools? Are you an intergenerational survivor? Do you need to talk?
The Survivors Support Line is available to all Aboriginal people affected by their residential school experience or the experience of others. We are survivors of residential schools too. We understand the issues and we have information that might help. Just saying hello is a good place to start.
Give it a try. You can take your time. We care and we promise to listen.
General Information Line: 1-800-721-0066 Website: www.irsss.ca

čuk'aa naa'uuqsta'ičin huuhtakšiih 7uu'uuuk'asathā
Come and join us in learning to speak our own language

- naanaas'aci'atah maquy'is It seems it's going to stop raining
naas the day, daylight
naas'aci' stopped raining
'aci'atah going to stop
maquy'is it seems, looks like
(Has the idea of daylight becoming more visible)
- xi'nii/ha/yit'7is There's a rainbow in the sky
xi'niihak rainbow
-yit' up in the sky
-7is it is
(rainbow is čawayuus in Barclay dialect)
- k'7iis/cu/k'it'7is The wind has changed
k'7iis different
-cu'it' changed direction
- ka'yix/a'yit'7is The clouds are moving fast up in the sky
ka'yix fast
-yit' up in the sky
-7is it is
- kaa'čh/čii'7ak/si'7is It got sort of light in the sky
kaa'čh light up, bright
ka'čhak light
čii'7ak looks like it's going to be
-si'7 suffix for start of action, after consonant
-is it is
- 7uu/qum/hi/čit'7is The weather calmed down.
7uuqumhi calm weather
-čit' suffix for start of action, like -si'7 but used after vowel
-7is it is
- 7uu/7uu/quk/sa'7is ka'7hak It sure is a nice day
7uu/7uuquk nice weather
-sa'7 sure is
-7is it is
ka'7hak daylight, light
- xi'7iis/7a/tu'7is There's a red sunset
xi'7ihuk red
7iis take along
-7atu falling down
-7is it is

Unfamiliar letters in the phrases:

- c - has a ts sound as in cats
- č - glottalized c has a ts sound plus an uh sound
- č' - wedged c has a ch sound
- č' - glottalized wedged c has a ch plus an uh sound
- h - back h has a sound of one breathing on glass to clean it
- k - glottalized k has a k sound plus an uh
- k' - glottalized rounded k' sound of k plus w and an uh
- t - barred L - place your tongue behind front teeth and let air flow out through side of tongue
- m - glottalized m has the sound of m plus an uh
- n - glottalized n has the sound of an n plus an uh
- p - glottalized p has the sound of p plus an uh
- q - has the sound of k made deep in the throat
- s - wedged s has a sh sound.
- t' - glottalized t has the sound of t plus an uh
- w - glottalized w has a w sound as in wow plus an uh
- x - has a sound of a cat's hiss
- x - back x has a sound of clearing the throat of an object
- y - has a sound of y as in yellow plus an uh
- λ - barred lambda has the sound of tla
- λ - glottalized barred lambda has the sound of tla plus an uh
- ʔ - the glottal stop has the sound of the stop in uh-uh
- ɕ - pharyngeal has the sound of i made deep in the throat as in the word 'iniix meaning dog

čuuč huuhtakšiihšiči' 7uu'uuuk'asathā - O.K, Start learning your own language.
Submitted by the Central language group in C'uuumu'asas. We meet every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. Phone Carrie Little at 724-6580 for more information.

Career / Opportunities - q' i-cah-ta-mis

HELP WANTED

ABORIGINAL TRANSITION BED

The Port Alberni Friendship Center, in co-operation with the Youth Justice branch of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, is seeking an Aboriginal Caregiver to provide short-term care for Aboriginal Youth who require Transition Housing on returning to the Community from the Victoria Youth Custody Center. Interested Parties are requested to pick-up a program description at the Port Alberni Friendship Centre, 3555-4th Ave. or phone Cyndi Stevens at 250-723-8281. A Fee for Service of \$1,768.68 will be paid monthly plus maintenance for days the Youth is placed in the home.

"The Tenth Wave"

Westcoast Community Resources Society has a vacancy for a part-time, temporary West Coast Youth Advocate. This position will run from January till September, 2006, with the possibility of an extension. The Youth Advocate will be responsible for listening to youth needs, facilitating youth leadership, developing a West Coast Youth Advisory Council, and training youth in advocacy at the local level. The position requires traveling to all communities in the central west coast region. Interested applicants should send a one-page proposal with resume by December 12th, 2005 to: Executive Director, WCRS, Box 868, Ucluelet, BC, V0R 3A0; or fax to 726-2353. Requirements for the job, job description, and job details available by contacting Jan at 726-2343, ext 56.

Meeting: Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Board of Directors Meeting
Date: December 10, 2005
Location: Iltatsoo - Ucluelet East Community Hall
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided please confirm your attendance by telephoning or faxing Iris at the CBT office, 250.725.2219 or email iris.lucas@clayoquotbiosphere.org

**Employment Opportunity
Finance Manager**

The Halfway River First Nation (HRFN) has an immediate permanent full-time employment opening for the challenging position of Finance Manager. The successful candidate is a proven leader and team player who is committed to delivering results and opportunity for our community.

Reporting to the HRFN Executive Coordinator and following the HRFN Policies the Finance Manager will monitor and evaluate the day-to-day activity of all departmental and organizational related budget activity specific to accounting, reporting requirements, fundraising and short and long term strategic planning.

Employment Requirements:

- A recognized accounting designation (CA, CMA, or CGA)
- Experience in accounting, auditing, budgeting, financial planning and analysis

Skill Requirements:

- Extensive experience with Simply Accounting
- Proven experience in financial planning and budgeting
- Proven experience in reporting procedures
- Excellent computer, written and oral communication skills
- Excellent people skills with conflict resolution ability
- Excellent organizational skills and highly motivated

Salary is negotiable and will be based on qualifications and experience. Accommodations are available within the HRFN community.

How to Apply:
By email: hrfnation@yahoo.ca
By mail: Mary Doyle, Executive Coordinator
PO Box 59, Wonowon BC V0C 2N0
By fax: (250) 772-5200

Closing Date: Friday, December 30th, 2005

All expressions of interest in this position are appreciated; however, only short listed applicants will be acknowledged.

Klecko's - ʔekoo

My dear family and relations on our reserve. If and when you got together, I would just like to share my sister Beulah Martha Williams and my feelings we both felt, well she stayed at my place for at least three weeks before she went back into the hospital.

First of all, she told me, mom, dad and our brothers were calling for her and that she loved her two boys very much. Her last passing days with me, she started calling me mom. I held her hands and stood her up and she said "Sis, I'll start walking and get stronger o.k." and I said "Yeah, sister you are going to start walking and you'll get stronger. I love you sis." We always said goodnight and I love you sis, every night. She told me to be strong and not to cry for her too long. She understood that it was hard for me to hear the things she told me. She said "I believe in God" I'm not afraid any more. Those were her words and she kept saying I wish Bobbitts would quit drinking. But we both knew he wouldn't. He is taking it hard because he used to call her mom too. Well he calls me mom too. Which I don't mind at all. I guess I was mostly angry because I didn't want her to go. I loved and will always have my dear little sister in my heart. It is very hard for me because I lost so many now. I really loved my daughters Lisa Mae George, (Theresa George premature). I miss

everyone of my family very much. I dream about my in-laws a lot. Mother-in-law Julia, Jack, Fay, Jean. I and my sister used to always say "I wonder how things would have been if all our brothers, in-laws were still here with us." We always thought of the good things we used to do. So just thought I'd let you know how much we cared for each other. We joked a lot, about every little thing and laughed a lot. We even played yahtzee two or three times, while she was at my place. May God Bless her soul.

I thank every one that helped with the funeral, and Les and his wife for the meals they gave us. I thank everyone at home for the help and support they gave us.

I thank my brother Darrin for being strong and running back and forth to Ucluelet. I know you were in a lot of pain Bro! But thank you, love you and family lots.

I just want to be near my husband Clifford a lot more now. I love him very much. I guess it's true what some people say; it seems to take a funeral to get family closer together. But we all know that's not the way we want it right! Love you all and God Bless you, Sister Evangeline J. George
All my love to my family in Ahousaht and Tofino. Julia George and kids.

Community Events

Invitation to Friends and Family of (late) Wesley Thomas Sr. You are cordially invited to attend a feast held on **December 03, 2005, Starting at 5pm @ the Ahousaht T-Bird Hall.** Come and join Lil Webster & Family, and the Thomas Family.

First Nations Arts & Crafts Show & Sale
Fundraising weekend. All proceeds will go toward the Tze Tza Watul Homelessness Program. Saturday, December 3 & 4th, 2005 at the Cowichan Tribes Recreation Centre (5574 River, Duncan, B.C.) Sat. 9 am - 6 pm. Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. Admission \$2. donation. Many local prominent artists, including internationally acclaimed Tsimshian artist Bill Helin. Original art, fashion, crafters, prints, jewelry, carvings, door prizes, concession, 50/50 draw, entertainment and more. Come join the fun! For more information contact Vina Robinson 250 729 1314, Nancy Atleo 250 756 0855 vigoldinfo@telus.net - www.umeek.com/homelessness

Dear Nuu-chah-nulth Chief and Council (All 89 of us)
I Stella M, Peters offered to raise \$100.00 for the upcoming Elders Conference "a worthy cause." I also said I would challenge the HFN Chief and Council to raise the same amount (5 of us) totaling too \$500.00, then I challenged all the Nuu-chah-nulth Chief and Council to each raise the same \$100.00. Imagine all our valued most knowledgeable people together.
Respectfully, Stella M, Peters

Honouring Creation

Nanosee First Nation & Associates - Art Show / Fundraiser. Partial proceeds to support YOUTH recreation & activities. December 10-11 & 17-18. All weekend * 10 am - 6 pm * On the Nanosee Indian Reserve near Snaw Naw As Campsite at the *Community Hall * Contact Natasha Bob @ 714-8544 for table booking or volunteer sign-up.

The date that we have planned for the potlatch is **Saturday, November 11, 2006 at Ahousaht starting at noon.** We are going to show all the songs & dances that my dad has given us. We would like to have the invitation open to all First Nations & especially all Nuu-chah-nulth. If you have any questions, please give me a call. Thank-you. Lewis Maquinna George.



Ucluelet First Nation newest housing project is almost completed. Ucluelet First Nations would like to invite any member interested in leasing one of the 2 bedroom units in this complex to fill out an application. For more information, or an application; please contact Kevin Trudel at the band office, phone number 726-7342 extension 30.

Classifieds continued

FOR SALE: Good condition truck, has been cared for 1994 GMC extended cab 4x4 automatic short box \$6000. 250 741 0034 cell 250 741 6586.

Pacific Balance Seal Oil your source of OMEGA 3. Both Omega 3 and Omega 6 are essential fatty acids (EFA's) (the good fats). They cannot be manufactured naturally in the body. In the 1930's, it was found that the Eskimos, with their high seal diet, had nearly 0% heart disease and cancer. Available from Faith and Richard Watts @ (250) 724-2603 (cel) 731-5795.

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Phone (250) 723-7991 or Cell (250) 720-7334 Fax (250) 723-7994
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Adam Coates
Owner/Operator
Phone: 724-4419
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Environmentally Safe Products
Commercial, Industrial, Residential.
Call: 720-6518
24 hours
"We work well under pressure"

LOST: Gold necklace with a 1in X 1in Indian design butterfly pendant. Last seen on my niece at the Ucluelet Secondary School in March. Please call Jeannine Adams @ 670-1150 or email ballgrll@hotmail.com. Thanks.

Meeting facilitator: Are you tired of meetings going all night long, never finishing the agenda, going around in circles? 20 years experience and proven track record. Keep your meetings on track. Call Richard Watts, Wealth-tah @ (250) 724-2603 or (cel) 731-5795. Available any time.

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PORT ALBERNI, BC

VIGOLD & Associates
P.O. BOX 676
Lansdowne, B.C. V8S 2S8
Tel: 250 390 5004
e-mail: vigold@telus.net

VIDEO REQUEST COPY: Kathleen Andrews-Thomas would like a copy of a video from a Potlatch is 2004 March. The Martin family held a memorial for their father. During the night my father gave me his Indian name, held in Tofino gym I don't recall the date just the month and the year. I would greatly appreciate any help you can bring to this matter. Thank you, Katt 1033 Seenuipin Rd Victoria BC V9A 7K8 kattthomas77@hotmail.com

Arts

FOR SALE: West Coast Shopping Baskets. Made by Lavern Frank. To make an order call 250-726-2604(h), 250-725-3367(w). mon-fri 8am -4:30pm.

FOR SALE: Native designed jewellery; silver, copper, gold engraving, stone setting. Contact Gordon Dick by phone 723-9401.

WANTED: I am looking for someone to make Abalone buttons. Call 723-7134.

FOR SALE: Carvings such as coffee table tops, clocks, plaques, 6' totems, canoes made by Charlie Mickey 731-4176. Place an order my mail PO Box 73, Zeballos, BC, V0P 2A0.

FOR SALE: Genuine Authentic basket weaving grass. Linda Edgar, phone 250-741-1622.

BASKET WEAVING FOR SALE: Grad Hat Regalia, Baskets, Weaving material, specializing in Maquinna Hat Earrings. Available to teach at conferences and workshops. Call Julie Joseph (250) 729-9819.

WANTED: whale teeth, whalebones, mastodon ivory and Russian blue cobalt trade beads. Lv. msg. For Steve and Elsie John at 604-833-3645 or c/o #141-720 6th St, New Westminster BC V3L3C5.

FOR SALE: Native painting. Call Bruce Nookemus (250) 728-2397
WHOPULTHEEATUK - Sandra Howard, Mowachah Cedar Weaver. Hats, Caps, Pouches, Baskets, Mats, and Roses for Sale. Price Negotiable. Barter or Trade. Ph: 250-283-7628. e-mail: oomek@hotmail.com.

ROSE AMBROSE: Basket weaving, shawls, baskets, headbands, roses, etc. Also teach 723-2106.

Chief's hat for sale. All hats are different, similar to this one. Phone Mary Martin (250) 753-9118 evenings

House of Win-Chee Aboriginal Fashion

P.O. Box 8013
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9R7
Ph: (250) 382-7379 Fax: (250) 382-7375
Email: winchee@pacificcoast.net



wihayaq.cik, James Swan, AHousaht NATIVE ARTIST. Original paintings, and carvings. (can customize orders). P.O. # 84 - Ahousaht, BC - V0R-1A0 home (250) 670-2438 cell (250) 731-5304. www.ahousahtnativeart.com jamesswan@telus.net

Ben David Nuu-cha-nulth Northwest Coast Native Artist

Masks • Headdresses • Banners
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Automotive

D&M AUTOCLEAN: "We'll do your dirty work" Automobile cleaning and renewal. CARS - TRUCKS - RV'S - BOATS. 7429 Pacific Rim Highway. Phone 720-2211.

PROFESSIONAL BODYWORK: Will do professional bodywork and painting. 14 years experience. Experienced, certified welder on-site. Marcel Dorward. 723-1033.

FOR SALE: 1989 Ford Econoline 17 passenger bus. Auto, runs great. \$5500 obo 723-2308.

FOR SALE: 1990 Ford 2 wd 1 ton crew cab on propane. \$2500. 735-0833.

FOR SALE: 1993 Honda Del Sol Si. 165,000 kms, 5 spd., body kit, blue, motegi white rims, removable top, partial turbo kit, and more. \$9,000. 735-2225. Willard.

FOR SALE: 1997 Ford Aerostar Van. Very good condition, has been cared for and used sparingly. Call 1-360-645-2019 evenings after 6:30 pm. Elizabeth Little Parker.

Marine

MOTOR AND PROPS FOR SALE: XL-115 - Mercury/2004 Opti-Max 2 stroke. 4 - Blade SS prop for 150 or 200 Yamaha. 5 - Blade SS prop for 115 Yamaha or Mercury. Contact: Leo Jack Jr 250-332-5301

BOAT FOR SALE: 1992 - 25 foot Raider. Aluminum cabin, open fore and aft deck, adjustable outboard bracket, tandem galvanized trailer. \$19,900 without engine, \$29,900 with 2001 - 225 Merc Optimax. Call Roger Franceur 723-4005

BOAT FOR SALE: MV Ropo - no license. 40' fiberglass. Ex-freezer troller. Fully equipped. Freezer system only 2 years old. Harold Little (250) 670-2477.

FOR SALE: Area "G" AI Troll License 37.5 ft. Contact Louie Frank Sr. at 250-670-9573 or leave a message at the Ahousaht Administration Office at 250-670-9563.

FOR SALE: New and Used Barclay Sound Sockeye Nets. (250) 923-9864.

WANTED: 18' - 19' Fiberglass Deep V Fishing Boat, Soft Top, (Double Eagle, Hourston, etc). Call Dale or Barb @ 250 - 283 - 7149.

CANOE BUILDING: Will build canoe, or teach how to build canoe. Call Harry Lucas 724-1494.

FOR SALE: 25' Bayliner powered by 350 Chev with Volvo leg. Excellent condition. \$11,000. 735-0833.

MISSING - 30 HP Yamaha. Any information please contact Boyd or Josh Fred at 723-5114 or 724-6491. Reward!

WANTED: Boat Trailer for 20' boat. Call Michael @ 720-6026.

FOR SALE: Nets - Different Sizes, Different prices, make an offer. Trolling gear - offers. View - 5010 Mission Rd. Phone - 723-9894.



For Sale: 28', 1983 Spirit. Command bridge, hardtop stern roof, all new canvas & canopy, twin 350 Chev engines (570 hrs), Volvo dual props, hydraulic steering, anchor winch, all electronics, kitchen, bathroom, security system, hot water. \$49,000 obo. Call (250) 723-1496

FOR RENT: A non-profit organization has rooms to rent, by the day, week or month. Very reasonable rates for Room and Board. Also, there is a Boardroom available for rent. For more information phone 723-6511.

R. FRED & ASSOCIATES - media specialists. Professional quality publishing services, audio-video, website development, accessibility for disabilities, contract writing & business development. Call Randy Fred at (250)741-0153.

PROFESSIONAL available for Workshops/ Conferences. Healing Circles/Retreats/ Canoe Journeys. Contract or full-time position. Holistic massage and aromatherapy with essential oils by Raven Touch. Please contact Eileen Touchie @250-726-7369 or 726-5505.

FOR RENT: Equipment for power point and DVD presentations. Projector and Screen. By the hour or day. Deposit required. Telephone: 250-724-5290.

WANTED: NCN women to join my fantastic Mary Kay team. Perfect way to invest in a home based business. Call me for more information Rosalee Brown @385-9906 or email rosaleeb_61@excite.com

BOARDROOMS FOR RENT: At the Tseshaht Administrative Buildings, Port Alberni. For more information call the Tseshaht First Nations Office at (250) 724-1225 or toll free 1-888-724-1225.

Having a little trouble keeping up to your lawn growth and yard maintenance? Call Ozzie & Darryl or leave a message at my home. Reasonable rates for mowing and weed eating! I work until 2:00 p.m. every day and home by 2:30. Leave a message at Darryl Watts #730-2880.

Miscellaneous

WESTCOAST TRANSITION HOUSE EMERGENCY SHELTER: For Abused Women and their Children on call 24 hours toll free. 1-877-726-2080.

PORT ALBERNI TRANSITION HOUSE: Call 724-2223 or call the nearest local shelter or crisis center.

HELP LINE FOR CHILDREN: 310-1234.

WANTED: Medical Equipment such as wheelchairs etc. Can be dropped off at the Tseshaht Band Office. 5000 Mission Road, Port Alberni. Contact Gail K. Gus at 724-1225.

FOR SALE: Custom built food cart with grill, deep fryer, sink, water pump, and lots of storage. 1 owner. \$6500, obo. 724-4383.

FOR SALE: 1100 motorized wheel chair, with adjustable air seat. Brand new battery charger. (value \$450) colour is candy apple red. Value is \$8000, want \$3000 firm. phone Terry @ 250 741-1622. Nanaimo B.C

FOR SALE: Seaside Adventures in Tofino \$695,000.00 Serious Inquiries Call 725-3448 OR 725-8329 ask for Steve or Cindy Dennis.

FOR SALE: Anyone interested in buying sweaters & sweatpants, blankets and baby blankets, denim handbags. Put your order in with Doreen and Anna Dick at 250 204-2480.

WANTED TO RENT: 3 - 5 bedroom house anywhere in Port Alberni. Willing to pay \$600-650/month. Call Crystal Fred or Wes Price @ 723-6028.

LOST: (during the AGM) a gold ring with a native design on it and it also has a small diamond in it (size 6 1/2-7). Call Barb at (250) 386-3895

Classified Advertisers: Please call Ha-Shilth-Sa @ 724-5757 or email hashilthsa@nuuchahnulth.org when you want your ad deleted or revised.

Reprezent Designs: First Nations Graphics. Specializing in Native Vinyl Decals. (Custom Made/All Sizes). All types of Native Graphics. Call Now! Celeste Jacko. Ph: 604-928-2157 or Email: ladybrave05@hotmail.com

"Traditions are a big part of my culture. Unfortunately, so is diabetes."

Bernie, First Nations counsellor

HELP SOMEONE YOU KNOW. CALL 1-800-BANTING

CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION / ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DIABETE

www.diabetes.ca

2nd Annual Family Fun New Year's Eve Bash.
Saturday, December 31st - 8pm to 1am.
Hupacasath House of Gathering. 5500 Ahahswinis (just off Beaver Crk Rd). Everyone from All Nations invited. Dancing contests, chumus, and fireworks to celebrate the New Year! Please be aware that all children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be no babysitting available. This is an alcohol-free and drug-free event. For more info call Bonnie Gus or Steven Tatoosh at 723-8502. Non-perishable food donations appreciated for local food bank.

Loonie toonies & Flea Markets
FLEA MARKET AND LOONIE TWOONIE: Sat, Dec 3rd. 9am to 4pm. Tseshaht Somass Hall, 6200 Ekooth. Celebrate Christmas and New Years early with lots of great deals, new and used items, baked goodies, concession, tons of movies, and much more. Grand prizes: DVD Player with movies, and artwork. Tables available. For more info call Linda Gomez at 723-6194 or 730-0677 or email at lindagomez67@hotmail.com. Youth Fundraiser. Non-perishable food donations appreciated for local food bank.

GIANT LOONIE TWOONIE AND FLEA MARKET COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER. Saturday, December 10, 2005, 9am to 4pm. Hupacasath House of Gathering, 5500 Ahahswinis (just off of Beaver Crk Rd). Arts and crafts, new and used items, raffles, 50/50 draws, concession, movies galore, and tons more. Loonie Twoonie grand prize: Digital Camera and more. Try your luck at winning some great Xmas gifts for only a dollar or two. Table rentals available. For more info call Bonnie or Steven at 723-8502 or Linda at 723-6194 or 730-0677. Fundraiser for upcoming "2nd Annual Family Fun New Year's Eve Bash" An Alcohol-Free and Drug-Free Event to be held at the House of Gathering. Organized by Steven Tatoosh, Bonnie Gus and their families. Non-perishable food donations appreciated for local food bank.

LOONIE TOONIE AUCTION: Saturday, December 17, 2005 at the Somass Hall, Port Alberni from 1 - 2. Please come out and support Hazel and Susan Cook's soccer tour to South America, Argentina and Brazil on January 13 - 27, 2006. They play with the Native Indian Football Association.

PORT ALBERNI FRIENDSHIP CENTER CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE AND FLEA MARKET: Saturday, December 3rd 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Tables \$10.00. Please book tables by Nov.30th. For more information call Darlene at 723-8281.



N.E.D.C. BUSINESS NEWS



Clayoquot Coastal Adventure Tourism

Take a group of motivated Nuu-chah-nulth people who share an enjoyment for the outdoors, throw in a bit of thrill seeking adventure and qualified instructors with international experience, and you have the Clayoquot Coastal Adventure Tourism Program coordinated by North Island College. The program is based on the west coast of Vancouver Island and provides a picturesque classroom for its students. What makes this program unique is that the participants are hosts to the instructors who are training them.



Ten students started in January 31, 2005 and seven students remain: Bev Sabbas, Tsimka Martin, Brendan Tom, Trevor Cootes, Ray Charleson, Byron Charlie, and Eugene Tom. All of the students had some prior outdoor experience upon entering the program, but they all share a common sense of adventure for the west coast and a willingness to learn skills that will make their enjoyment of the outdoors that much safer. This inaugural class will be completed in April 2006.

The Nuu-chah-nulth territory is the backdrop for much of the program, thereby not only making it more accessible to Nuu-chah-nulth, but more applicable as well. Many of the students have grown up on the west coast and have a natural knowledge of the territory, cultural teachings and/or stories that tie them to the land, and a desire to work and reside within their home territories. The Clayoquot Coastal Adventure Tourism Program draws out the historical and geographical knowledge the students have grown up with, providing them with an opportunity to act as cultural guides to those who are instructing them. The learning opportunities for both students and instructors is unique, as the program's coordinator David Pinel says "I too have been learning many things from the students and receiving a lot of energy back from them – it's been much richer than a one-way dumping of information from teacher to student!" Tsimka Martin of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations chose the Clayoquot Coastal Adventure Tourism Program because of her passion for canoeing and the

Clayoquot area. Tsimka's family is renowned for carving traditional dug-out canoes and their ability to maneuver them on the ocean; this program is providing Tsimka with certification in this family trade, as well training that will enhance her guiding abilities and knowledge of the Tla-o-qui-aht territory. This program will "broaden her outlook".

In the summers Tsimka works for her sister Giselle Martin who is the owner/operator of Tla-ook Cultural Tours. Though Tsimka has been canoeing since early childhood she noticed a difference in technique, explaining that the native style of canoeing is to have one skipper and basic paddling. "I've learned a lot of new canoeing skills that will be really handy on the water" Tsimka explains when discussing the canoeing certification portion of the program. The Clayoquot Coastal Adventure Tourism classroom is ever-changing, from weather conditions to locations, providing students with the opportunity to learn international guiding techniques and a new perspective of their backyard. One week they may be canoeing through the Tla-o-qui-aht territory and lunching on Meares Island, while the next they are on Huu-ay-aht territory studying coastal ecology at the Bamfield Marine Science Centre. At each location the students are learning new ways to look at the Nuu-chah-nulth territory, whether that is by kayak, canoe, or in the forest canopy.



Trevor Cootes is learning the basics of Kayak rescues, in the safety of a pool.

As Nuu-chah-nulth we are all too familiar with Mother Nature's unpredictability. Ocean storms, treacherous terrain and the ever present fact that we share this land with predatory animals, are elements a trained guide must take into consideration. Ensuring the safety and well-being of those he/she is guiding is given great importance in the Adventure Tourism program. The students began the first months of their training focusing on safety & risk management, and have already completed and received certificates in Wilderness First Aid &

CPR, Marine Emergency Duties, Small Engine Repair, Food Safe and First Host. Bev Sabbas of Kyuquot chose the program as she had been working for Homiss Enterprises in Hesquiaht, managing and bookkeeping, and she wanted a more hands on involvement. She wanted to be out on the territory rather than in the office. "I used to take for granted the forest, the water, the whales, and now I see things differently. I see everything different, a walk through the woods isn't just a walk anymore. I see now what the tourists come out here to see." She has a lot more to tell the tourists than "that's a grey whale over there!" as the students are learning about the whales eating habits and behaviour. "There are a lot of opportunities to learn from each other" Bev says, about the Instructor – Student relationship, the learning is two-way.

In early November the students were off the coast of Nanaimo, sailing for five days. "I didn't think I would like sailing, but I did!" Bev says about the trip. They also spent four days in the Broken Group Islands kayaking and camping and spent time learning how to properly pack a kayak. They've canoed on Sproat Lake, and taken High and Low Rope Training on Hornby Island. The training is hands-on, you learn from instruction and doing, which makes for a lot of fun. While the program may seem like an adventure holiday in heaven, the students are also successfully receiving certification in the following:

- Sea Kayak Guiding (SKGABC)
- Canoeing (RCABC Lakewater Level 3)
- Sailing (CYA Basic Cruising Standard)
- Powerboating (CYA Basic Power Standard)
- VHF Restricted Operator Certificate (Marine)



Tsimka and Trevor Cootes are captured in the photo above on Hornby Island during the high and low rope training. The pair is harnessed on a pulley system and their objective was to pull themselves up and climb a giant ladder suspended 35 – 40 feet in the tree tops. As teams they are cooperating to climb higher than either could do alone, and Tsimka and Trevor made it to the top and had a truly breathtaking view of the forest below.

David Pinel is the program coordinator, and primary instructor: "I've been thrilled with the level of support they've been providing one another, and their openness to learning from every session and instructor. Eyes, ears, hearts, and minds all seem wide open. With classic Nuu-chah-nulth humour, spirit and integrity, we've navigated together through many experiences with the students learning to communicate more clearly with one another and striving toward professional outcomes. It's been very worthwhile...and fun!"

The Clayoquot Coastal Adventure Tourism Program prepares graduates for entry to mid level positions in the adventure tourism industry. While employment is not guaranteed, tourism is a fast growing segment of the economy here on the west coast and they have a high rate of graduate employment with students finding employment with local guiding operations. The program is structured to break between mid-April and mid-October, providing an opportunity to put newly learned skills to work during the tourism season.

"When the term ended last April, many of the students said they couldn't wait until classes started again in October", Dave's statement was confirmed when many of the students began contacting him in September confirming the fall start date. "This type of interest and personal accountability bodes very well for the term ahead. I anticipate that our final two semesters will be very rich and energizing learning experiences." The students are approaching the final months of the program and are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. While "a walk will never be just a walk" for Bev ever again, Tsimka is thinking she might take an advanced sea kayaking course in the future. This is the first year for the program and while there are no plans or funding identified yet for another, interested individuals are encouraged to contact the program for more information (www.nic.bc.ca/tourism or dpinel@nic.bc.ca; organizations can contact Douglas Campbell directly to organize similar training in the future – dcampbell@nic.bc.ca). "This is a unique program and I recommend it to anyone who wants to learn more, nothing compares to it" Bev Sabbas sums up her experience. Tsimka's final words were: "this program provides a diverse set of inspiring experiences." The Clayoquot Coastal Adventure Program doesn't just sound fun, it is educational too.

Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation

(250) 724-3131 www.nedc.info

to promote and assist the development, establishment and expansion of the business enterprises of Nuu-chah-nulth Tribes and Tribal members

Celebrating 21 years - 1984-2005

