



Ha-Shilth-Sa



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Photos by Jack F. Little

Above: Saayachapis, his brother Ralph, and Chuuchkamalthnii listen as the Martin family make a presentation at the potlatch to celebrate the life of Saayachapis held at Maht Mahs gym on Feb. 6. Above right: Saayachapis sits in front of his ceremonial curtain on which a grizzly bear figure has been painted to commemorate his close call while working in a densely forested area on the central coast in 2008.

Community celebrates life after grizzly attack

By Jack F. Little
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Tseshaht—More than 800 people paid respect to Saayachapis (Walter Thomas) on Feb. 6 at the potlatch that celebrated his life.

On Nov. 19, 2008, Saayachapis was mauled by a grizzly bear shortly after he was dropped by helicopter in a densely forested area of the central coast where he worked.

Family and friends gathered at Maht Mahs to express their gratitude that Saayachapis life was saved.

The family first paid respect to those Nuu-chah-nulth families who had lost loved ones during the past year, including the family of Brian Amos who had

passed away that morning. Saayachapis and his family honored the families with a taalthmaa (like a cane to hold them up).

Chuuchkamalthnii (Ron Hamilton) emceed the event and introduced the security Saayachapis had appointed: Gary Dawson, John Watts, Jason Dick, Ben Fred, Chuck August, and Leonard Mack. Watts then called on April Thomas, who was introduced as the "real" boss, the head of security. Each of the security members were blanketed by the family.

The men then sang a song as Aaron Watts and Cory Howard danced and cleansed the floor to ensure that the singers and dancers would be protected.

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Nuu-chah-nulth plan while DFO sits silent

By Debora Steel
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni—The Sound of Silence may have been a popular song by Simon and Garfunkel in the 1960s, but when the sound of silence is the only response from the federal government to a court-ordered negotiation, then it's not music to anyone's ears.

Nuu-chah-nulth delegates attended a special meeting Jan. 22 to discuss the fisheries rights decision in which the BC Supreme Court found that the Nuu-chah-nulth plaintiffs have a right to fish and sell fish—any species—into the commercial marketplace. The delegates were told that Canada has failed to respond to many attempts made to engage in talks about how Nuu-chah-nulth fishing rights will be addressed by Canada.

In her Nov. 3, 2009 decision, Justice Nicole Garson gave the parties two years to "consult and negotiate the manner in which the plaintiffs' aboriginal rights to fish and to sell fish can be accommodated and exercised..." With the clock ticking on those two years, the Nuu-chah-nulth are eager to begin the negotiation process.

Don Hall, program manager of Uu-a-thluk (Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Fisheries), told Ha-Shilth-Sa on Feb. 8 that tribal council President Cliff Atleo Sr. had written three letters to Gail Shea, the federal minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), one letter to the Chuck Strahl, the minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, and two letters to Paul Sprout, the regional director general of DFO in B.C.

"Each of the six letters have stated the high level of interest that Nuu-chah-nulth Nations have to start negotiating with

Canada to establish Nuu-chah-nulth rights-based fisheries, as mandated by the B.C. Supreme Court. To date there has been no response by Canada to any of the requests to start these negotiations," Hall explained.

On Feb. 8 and 9, Ha-Shilth-Sa made attempts to contact DFO for comment about the Nuu-chah-nulth's efforts to bring the federal government to the table, but our requests for an interview were ignored.

The federal government has appealed the BC Supreme Court decision, but lawyers for the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations have said the appeal process does not stop the clock on Justice Garson's timetable.

"It is no surprise that DFO is silent in regards to their appeal of our fisheries decision or of the need to begin negotiations," said Priscilla Sabbas-Watts, NTC vice-president. "Unfortunately, this is sta-

tus quo in dealing with First Nations people and, in light of our decision, perhaps we can take steps to remedy this behavior.

"As Nuu-chah-nulth we are working towards what this decision means to us and doing our best to not focus on the silence from DFO. Our people and their interests are where our focus lie."

President Atleo said it was frustrating to have an ongoing non-response to the effort to begin talks with DFO.

"However, we carry on with our preparation. We are in the process of establishing a Nuu-chah-nulth fisheries negotiation team. Our initial meeting will be on Feb. 17."

Atleo said the effect on the Nuu-chah-nulth communities around DFO's silence is uncertainty, but the communities continue with their plans on how to implement the decision.

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Thomas leads by example in education

By Jack F. Little
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter



Freda Thomas

Port Alberni—Freda Thomas decided that the best way to impress upon her children the importance of education was to become school educated herself. The proud mother of three children is attending North Island College.

Thomas is originally from Nuchatlaht, but has transferred to Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

"I decided to go back to school to show my children that education is very important in today's society, and that it is important to complete your schooling and do the best that you can," said Thomas. Her children are Tim Manson Jr., 10; Lorissa, 9; and Jonathan, 7.

Her mother is Lillian John, who is from Nuchatlaht, and her father is Fred Thomas from the Sto'lo Nation (Chilliwack). Freda's great-great grandmother was Queena (Late Lillian Michael). She has an older sister Marla Thomas and a brother Jamie McHalsie.

In an emotional moment, Freda talked about her late brother Michael Thomas, who passed away in a motorcycle accident 10 years ago.

"My brother passed away before my son was born. I was six months pregnant when we lost him. He was bugging me about possibly having a boy. 'Oh no, we can't handle another Tim,' he said to me. Of course, he was just kidding," she said. She also lost a daughter 13 years ago on Jan. 20, so when she had her son Tim Jr. she was very happy and thankful.

Thomas was sad about the losses, but gains strength each day in remembering her brother and daughter.

Thomas was born in Hope, B.C. She has been together with her spouse Tim Manson for 18 years and is very thankful for the support he has shown her as she pursues her education.

A couple of Freda's hobbies include walking and supporting her son and daughter who play minor hockey in the Valley. As a family, they all enjoy swimming.

"We can be seen at the Paper Mill

Damn swimming almost every day and we all enjoy it," said Thomas of the family's summertime pursuits.

Luke George, First Nation's Education Worker for North Island College, is very impressed with Thomas' dedication to her studies. She usually is one of the first students to arrive at the college and one of the last to leave.

"I take a lot of pride in my pursuit for a

better education and I usually spend all of my spare time at the college, as I want to do the best that I can," said Thomas. She has been at the Port Alberni campus since January 2009. Currently she is taking a First Nations course, as well as a Math course. She also took English Grade 12.

Thomas wants to earn her Dogwood Diploma and then pursue courses that interest her, but she is unsure of where she will go from there. She enjoys working for and helping people, and thinks she might like to become a Licensed Practical Nurse.

"I challenge myself daily to be a positive role model for my children," Thomas said. "Education can be your key to success. Don't be afraid to go back to school," she advised.

She is very proud of her children who attend haa-huu-payak school.

"I am so proud of each of my children as they are teaching me the Nuu-chah-nulth language. Each day they come home and speak the language to me," Thomas said. They are reviving our language and passing it on to her and she is so thankful for this.

Cool million for Athletic Hall rebuild announced

By Jack F. Little
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni—At the new building site of the Alberni Multiplex and North Island College, Dr. James Lunney, Member of Parliament for the Nanaimo-Alberni Riding, announced a grant of \$1 million would be provided to rebuild the structure lost to fire in 2009.

The funding is being provided by the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program, a job creation initiative through Canada's Economic Action Plan.

"Today's funding announcement is another example of our government's commitment to supporting Vancouver

Island families and strengthening local communities. This significant investment in Port Alberni will help encourage greater participation in physical activity and the use of recreational facilities," said Lunney.

Pat Deakin, the City of Port Alberni's economic development officer, was the emcee for the gathering on Feb. 9.

"The Alberni Athletic Hall has been a Valley institution for over 50 years, and it has held many functions, such as sporting, cultural gatherings, such as potlaches, badminton, career fairs, graduations and other significant and important events," said Deakin.

He then called on Tseshaht Council member Luke George to say a few words.

Continued on page 14.

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Ahousaht making progress on projects

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ahousaht—A deluge of rain hasn't dampened the efforts of Ahousaht construction crews or chief and council who continue to plug away at more than 20 projects designed to improve life in the community.

Ahousaht has received approval and funding to go ahead with a small run-off the river power project to be built just outside the community. Chief John O. Frank said the engineering work has been done and his council was meeting to plan the construction schedule.

The 2.5-megawatt Cow Creek project will provide enough energy to power

1,500 homes. This project will provide power for Ahousaht, boosting the power availability to the community enough to support light industry like a saw mill. The power plant will be located on a hill near Ahousaht's cemetery.

Planning for a 15-megawatt, run-of-the-river power project is in the works.

Ahousaht fisheries staff were forced to move from their run-down single wide trailer into temporary facilities last year. A doublewide trailer recently arrived in the community as a replacement. It is being set up facing the beach next to the Thunderbird Hall.

The foundation is being laid for the new high school and a pair of eight-plexes. Frank said the eight-plexes

are scheduled to be completed by April 1.

Starting this spring the band will begin a harbor cleanup that will see the removal of derelict boats and vehicles, including those in the community and any other large refuse. Both industry and university students will take part in the clean-up. Industry will be there to recover recyclables and scrap metal; the students to study the health of the harbor.

Chief Frank said the band is considering re-sanding the harbor beach after the

clean-up is done. Ahousaht leadership has successfully negotiated bridge funding to begin work on much-needed housing renovations, however, council continues to struggle through the red tape that is hindering development of Ahousaht's newest subdivision, lot 363.

Work crews are laying the foundation for the new sawmill while council members work to access timber in Ahousaht traditional territory to feed the mill.

The mill will likely not be for profit, at least initially, but will be run to meet the lumber needs of the community, Frank said. Ahousaht not only has the construction of the high school, two eight-plexes, and a new RCMP station, but also needs material to repair, replace and build new housing for hundreds of its members.

The waiting list for housing in Ahousaht is long and Chief Frank admits that not everyone will be happy with council's decisions about who gets what first.

"We can't please all the people, but we have to prioritize," he said.

Frank said he hopes to get back to the days when families only had to approach the chief to access wood for housing needs. He talked about when the explorers and traders arrived.

"We welcomed them, we helped them, we replenished their food, their masts and now we have to ask them permission to do these things for ourselves," he said.

"We don't want to have to ask someone else permission to take from our territories. It's part of independence and history. That's what we want back," he said. Continued on page

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Rosie Marsden, NTC Indian Registry Administrator

Overwhelmed with love and support

Continued from page 1.

Chuuchkamalthnii then did a ciquaa (prayer chant) with Saayachapis by his side. In a very moving moment, the crowd watched in silence as Saayachapis' Thliitsapilthim (curtain) was unveiled. Chuuchkamalthnii spoke of the images on the Thliitsapilthim, and explained that he had included an image of the nanii (grizzly bear) to depict the part of recent events in Saayachapis' life, showing that he had survived the grizzly bear attack that could have killed him.

The family performed a Welcome song and dance and a cleansing ceremony was begun. Saayachapis, Brent Fedrehek, the pilot of the helicopter that helped Saayachapis to safety, and his boss Robert Hunter, took part.

"Robert was one of the first people to reach Saayachapis after he was attacked by the grizzly bear. He held Saayachapis and comforted him while he was being flown to safety. There was another co-worker, Pat, who wasn't able to be here with us today, and to him we are also grateful," said Chuuchkamalthnii.

He explained to Robert that the family of Saayachapis were so grateful, that there weren't words to describe how they felt.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is the pilot who saved Saayachapis' life. Brent carefully picked up Saayachapis and brought him to the hospital. If he hadn't been there, the outcome may have been different. The family also would like to acknowledge you for what you have done, Brent," Chuuchkamalthnii said.

Special gifts were then presented to both Robert and Brent. After the presentations, Saayachapis' family members stepped forward and personally thanked the two men with embraces and personal exchanges. Tears of happiness and gratitude were shed by all.

Sidney Dick of Tseshaht was called forward by Chuuchkamalthnii to remove and dispose of the materials used in the ceremony. It was explained that the head of the Dick family, his brother Alfred Dick, has this responsibility. Sidney had stepped in for his brother to do this honor.

It was explained by the emcee that Saayachapis is the tyee (head of the Thomas family), and that each of the family members are grateful for what the two men had done. The gifts are not payment, but they are gifts of gratitude, and it comes from the depths of their hearts.

Alfred Dick then stepped forward and spoke to everyone. "I want to extend my happiness and gratitude for what I witnessed this morning. I am honored to have witnessed the business. I grew up with Walter. I also can't help but say thank you to these two gentlemen for saving his life. Let's stand up and let them know how grateful we all are," said Dick, and a roar of applause erupted in the hall and people rose to their feet to show their appreciation.

Martin Watts then thanked Alfred for his words.

"On behalf of Saayachapis, he would like to say thank you to Alfred Dick for acknowledging these two gentlemen in front of, and on behalf of the community. It means a lot to Saayachapis," said Watts.

After lunch was served, Saayachapis and his family did a few more songs and dances. Chuuchkamalthnii then announced that Saayachapis and family had a special acknowledgement they wanted to make. Suuwaayaku'utl (Florence Wylie), Saayachapis' sister,

was called upon to speak on behalf of the family. She called upon the individuals who took care of the traditional business after the bear attack. The family wants to acknowledge Simon Lucas and wife Julia, sons Matthew and Linus, Richard Lucas and Tim Paul from Heskiaht. They coordinated a cleansing and held Saayachapis up, giving him strength when he needed it. It was explained by Suuwaayaku'utl that when the bear attack occurred Saayachapis was wearing a watch that was a keepsake from their late father—Bob Thomas. When the boss returned to the site of the attack, pieces of the watch were found and photographs were taken. It was explained that the bear's tooth bit right through the watch. The watch that had belonged to Saayachapis' late father Bob Thomas is what may have helped save him.

When Saayachapis returned home from the hospital, he needed a watch, so he went through his personal belongings left to him by his late father. There was a watch, and Saayachapis was surprised to see that the watch had the image of a bear head on either side of the watch face. The peculiar coincidence was something that Saayachapis took as a sign or a message, that life is precious, time is precious!

"So it seemed appropriate to give the gift of 'time' to those that helped our brother," said Suuwaayaku'utl. "Thank you to each of you for the important role that you played in our brother's healing and recovery. Each of the individuals were gifted with a watch as a symbol of 'time is precious'."

Richard Lucas came forward to accept the gift on behalf of the group, and announced that the family was not able to be at the event because of the loss of a member. He explained that they had planned to attend, but that they would not be performing now due to a loss in their nation and that, in the near future, they would perform and pass on the rights to a song and dance to Saayachapis.

The Martin family from Tla-o-qui-aht then took the floor. Nookmilis (Robert Martin) and his family have seen how well Saayachapis and his family have been taught. They too were very happy that his life was spared and that he has recovered. The Martin family then said that they were going to be carving a 34-foot canoe for Saayachapis and his family Ron Martin also spoke of how Saayachapis' late father had placed a name on him, and that it was Ron's honor to place the name from his house onto Saayachapis. "Aay-uus-ath" was the name given from the Martin family.

Saayachapis called on all members of his family to stand by him. Chuuchkamalthnii did a chant and addressed the Martin family.

"Saayachapis and his family are very touched by your gift and your words. He wants you to know that there is very close ties between our families and that his family is grateful for the gift. Thank you, especially Nookmilis, for being an example of how to behave and how to act," said Chuuchkamalthnii.

The Tate family from Ditidaht were next on the floor. Brian Tate explained the close family ties.

"Our ties to you, Saayachapis, are through your late mother and grandmother. Our Tyee Ha'wiltch Richard Tate and our family are also grateful you are still with us and we have a little tanah (money) for you," said Tate. He explained that the family was in mourn-

ing and could not perform their songs and dances.

Wally Samuel and members of Ahousaht then performed a few of their entertainment songs and dances. Samuel and the Ahousaht members also presented tanah and gifts of ehumas for Saayachapis.

Ray Seitcher Jr. (Hilyuway) and Kelly John also sang a few songs and dances to celebrate their happiness and support of Saayachapis.

Others that performed or took the floor to make presentations included Tyee Ha'wiltch Mike Maquinna from the Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Cory Howard; Ralph Edgar and family from Ditidaht performed and presented a talking stick and a bear skin; Vince McKay, Ucluelet, Marge White and family of Huuayah; the Fred family from Tseshaht and Jackie Watts. K'la-k'iaht-ke-isa (Simon Lucas) also presented Saayachapis with a talking stick.

When the host Saayachapis took the floor, there was more important business conducted. Saayachapis placed a new name onto nephew Ivan Thomas.

He was given the name of his late grandfather, "Ya-yuu-kwia (Bob Thomas). This was the last name held by his grandfather. The family then seated Saayachapis in the traditional seat held by their late father, and he was placed onto the

seat covered with the bearskin. The role and responsibilities held by their late father are now passed down to Saayachapis, as he was draped in Chiefly Regalia of a cedar cape with fur collar, woven by Faith Watts of Tseshaht. The family then thanked everyone for their support and were honored by their presence. The family performed several more family songs and dances, and began the gifting to the guests, giving out gifts and tanah (money) to the ha'wiltch and every one of the guests. He was very pleased with the turnout and overwhelmed with the support of his community.



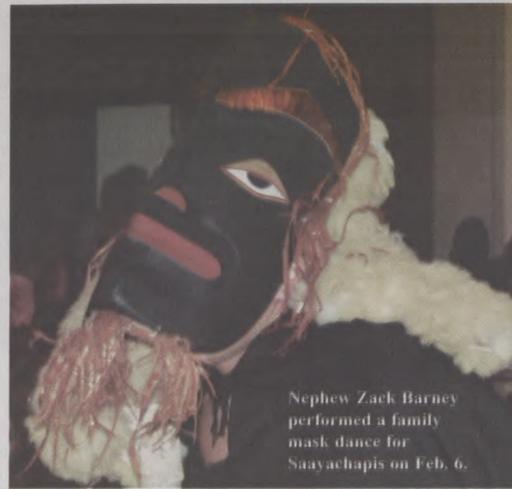
Above: A talking stick was presented to Saayachapis by Simon Lucas.



Left: Ladies perform Ha'wiltch Hilyuway's (Ray Seitcher) dance.



Right: Suuwaayaku'utl (Florence Wylie), sister of Saayachapis, explains the significance of a gift the family was presenting to those who performed important traditional business after the bear attack in 2008. The gift of wathes symbolize that time is precious, a message that struck home for Saayachapis in a peculiar coincidence when looking through his late father Bob Thomas' belongings.



Nephew Zack Barney performed a family mask dance for Saayachapis on Feb. 6.



Members of the Thomas family performed their Paddle Song for guests at a potlatch held to celebrate the life of Saayachapis.



Right: Aaron Watts leads the Tseshaht singers in a song at Saayachapis' potlatch.



Ma-hilimah (Jean Wylie), Saayachapis' sister, does a headdress dance for guests Feb. 6 at Maht Mahs.



Saayachapis and his family members listen to speaker Levi Martin as Tyee Nookmilis presents a canoe on behalf of the Martin family to Saayachapis.



Right: Ahousaht's Tim Sutherland and Sam Halyups lead the Ahousaht singers in a few entertainment dances.



Relatives Brian Tate and Ha'wiltch Richard Tate explain their strong ties to Saayachapis.

Health and Wellness

Are you a First Nation person with diabetes?

Retinal Screening could save you from blindness

Submitted by the ITHATeleOphthalmology Project Team

Nanaimo—The Intertribal Health Authority (ITHA) is partnering with Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Health Services to introduce a new technology health service called TeleOphthalmology to First Nations people with Type 1 or 2 diabetes on Vancouver Island in spring 2010.

This project has the potential to enhance diabetic patient care by providing ophthalmologists (eye specialists) with digital photos capable of showing early indications of eye disease. Getting

Bed bugs: Irritating but harmless blood-suckers

By Sonia Somerville RN
Nuu-chah-nulth Nursing Program

Have you heard of bed bugs? The following is an informative article about this little creature that is more of an irritant than a health risk. Nevertheless the article below will help you understand ways to control and remove this bug from your life.

Bed bugs are insects that have oval-shaped flat bodies with no wings. Shaped similar to an apple seed, an unfed adult is about 6 to 10 mm long and is brown in color. After feeding, bed bugs swell slightly in size and darken to a blood-red color. They may be difficult to see because they hide well, but they are big enough to be seen with the naked eye. A bed bug infestation can be recognized by blood stains from crushed bugs or rusty spots on sheets, mattresses, bed clothes and walls.

Bed bugs feed at night and hide during the day. They prefer dark areas and tend to hide near the bed. They bite all over the body, especially around the face, neck, upper body, arms, and hands. Bites can be mistaken for flea or mosquito bites. The skin lesions are small, raised and red. They may develop into large raised itchy red welts.

Bed bugs don't pose a major health risk. There are no known cases of infectious diseases transmitted by bed bug bites. Most people are not even aware they have been bitten. Some are more sensitive to the bite and may have a localized reaction. Frequent scratching of the bites or picking the scabs can cause skin infections. Bed bugs can cause an allergic reaction and itchy welts, similar to a mosquito bite.

Most bed bug bites go away by themselves and don't need treatment. Keep the skin clean and try not to scratch. If the bites are very itchy, in more severe cases, you can get creams or antihista-

a regular retinal eye exam is a great way to monitor your eye health and protect your vision.

The TeleOphthalmology Project Team early last year approached Ina Seitcher, Home Care Nursing Supervisor, Matilda Atleo, Healthy Living Coordinator and Chris Lemphers, Acting Nurse Manager from the NTC health programs to discuss the provision of this new service to eligible Nuu-chah-nulth membership. Discussions continued throughout the summer on the distribution and access to this service throughout the tribal council geographic area.

NTC Community Health and Home Care nurses will be key players in the referral process of Type 1 and 2 diabetic

mines to relieve the itchiness. Oral antibiotics may be prescribed for skin infections caused from excessive scratching.

Bed bugs are often carried into a home on objects such as furniture, clothing, shoes, luggage or bags. If you think you have a bed bug problem, check for live bed bugs in the following areas:

- Seams, creases, and folds in mattresses and box springs
- Cracks in the bed frame and head board
- Under chairs, couches, beds, and dust covers
- Between the cushions of couches and chairs
- Under area rugs and the edges of carpets
- Between the folds of curtains
- In drawers
- Behind baseboards and around windows and door casings
- Behind electrical plates and under loose wallpaper, paintings and posters
- In cracks in plaster or gyproc
- In telephones, radios, and clocks

Bed bugs are hard to get rid of. Successful treatment depends on the approach used. Pesticide application alone will not kill bed bugs at all stages. Approaches to bed bug control involves vacuuming, steaming, laundering belongings washed in hot water and dried on a high heat setting, as well as sealing gaps and areas where bed bugs can hide. Bed bug infestations can be extremely difficult to treat, repeat applications may be required.

Female bed bugs deposit three to eight eggs at a time, usually in cracks or rough surfaces. A total of 200 to 500 eggs can be produced per female. The eggs hatch in four to 12 days. The newly emerged nymph is colorless and will feed immediately. After getting a blood meal, the nymph turns red or purple in color because of the blood in its body. A bed bug goes through five molts (shedding of its skin) before it reaches maturity in 35 to 48 days. Each stage requires a blood meal. Adult bed bugs can survive up to a year-and-a-half without feeding.

For more information contact your local Community healthy or Home Care Nurse.

clients having their retinas photographed for examination by an eye specialist.

You may recall the information table at the last NTC Annual General Meeting on the TeleOphthalmology project. Participants were also given CD copies of project information.

TeleOphthalmology is a new eHealth technology program that has been developed in collaboration between the Inter Tribal Health Authority (ITHA) and the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). Digital pictures of a patient's inner eye (retina) are taken and sent to an ophthalmologist for viewing and diagnosis using 3D imaging software. People can have their eyes examined by an eye specialist without the inconvenience and expense of traveling to a major urban area.

Diabetics have a high risk of developing chronic retinal eye disease that may possibly result in blurred vision, double vision, cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, or blindness. Sometimes, the signs of eye disease stay hidden and unnoticed for years.

Regular retinal screening can help detect eye disease at an early stage, and help prevent vision loss or blindness by allowing you to access and begin recommended medical care sooner.

Over the next couple of months, a community engagement coordinator from ITHA will be calling the Vancouver Island First Nations leaders and NTC health staff to arrange for an in person meeting to provide more information about this program. At that time they

will present a Powerpoint presentation and video about the program, plus provide information about where and when this service will be delivered, and answer questions or concerns.

The TeleOphthalmology health team will also be presented to the NTC nurses' quarterly meeting in February, to answer any outstanding questions related to communications and support when the project team is visiting their communities.

Beginning in spring, retinal eye exam clinics will be held in various First Nations communities on Vancouver Island and Nuu-chah-nulth tribal areas. This is a great opportunity to enhance client services for clients with chronic conditions such as Diabetes Type 1 and 2, while Nuu-chah-nulth clients themselves further their self care through monitoring and early detection of changes to their eyes.

A camera technician and an eye care nurse will conduct these clinics using safe and reliable technology, and all pictures and personal information will be transmitted in a confidential manner to an eye doctor (ophthalmologist) using secure systems. As follow-up, the patient will be advised of the results, and/or referred to a nearby ophthalmologist for an additional eye exam or treatment.

ITHA and VIHA is looking forward to meeting and working with the Nuu-Chah-Nulth people and NTC health staff as we work towards improving First Nations access to specialized health services.

Ehattesaht

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Backstory

Nuuchaanulth Ceremonial Curtains and
the Work of Ki-ke-in



Bringing together contemporary
ceremonial curtains by Nuuchaanulth artist
Ki-ke-in (Ron Hamilton)
and historical curtains from
museum and private collections in
Canada and the United States.

January 17 to March 28, 2010

Opening reception: Saturday, January 16, 3 to 5 pm

Ki-ke-in painting the thitsapithim of Ha'with
Nuukmas of the House of Iwawsaht. Opiats-h,
Tla-o-quaht, winter 1989-99, Vancouver, B.C.
Photo: Hasyusisnaphathi.

This exhibition is generously sponsored by
The Audain Foundation, and is presented with
the 2010 Vancouver Cultural Olympiad,
with support from the British Columbia Arts Council,
the Canada Council for the Arts and the
UBC Museum of Anthropology

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Health and Wellness

An update on the H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccination program

By Chris Lemphers RN, BN, M.Ed
Acting Nurse Manager

For many of us, this past fall and winter was the first infectious pandemic with which we have been involved. The pandemic primarily focused on H1N1 with vaccination starting for Nuu-chah-nulth communities the last week of October and extending to the end of the first week of December.

All communities received an opportunity for a scheduled vaccination the first week of the project. The scheduled sessions continued from this point for the next five weeks.

All community health nursing staff, home care staff, nursing administrative assistants, healthy living program staff, along with the vital community-based staff support provided an intense and sustained effort. The partnership between NTC staff and community staff demonstrated the importance of the need for mutual support in order to reach maximum effectiveness in this program.

During this period we even cancelled all planned leave for NTC staff. Of course, there were a few of the staff, as anticipated, who came down with illness. Nuu-chah-nulth communities' members responded well and by the end of five weeks, the nurses had completed 3,000

H1N1 and 1,450 seasonal influenza vaccinations in all three regions. This represented roughly 70 per cent of the eligible population. This is just wonderful when you consider that off-reserve communities reached about 40 per cent of their eligible populations.

Apart from the vaccinations, there was a great emphasis on prevention. Information on hand washing and hand sanitizer was made available at the Annual General Meeting, as well as mailed out to community band managers and community clinics. Prevention and early identification of illness was one of the primary cornerstones of the program.

Through an effective partnership of NTC staff, community staff and members, only a handful of members were hospitalized for illness related to influenza, and there was no loss of life.

Even though the second wave has passed, and there is no sign of a third wave, there is a continued need to stay healthy by focusing on prevention through hand washing since 80 per cent of such infections are passed hand to mouth. Early identification of illness and care is the other important aspect of preventing complications.

NOTE: H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccinations are still available on a walk-in basis from your local community health nurse.

Projects in Ahousaht

Continued from page 3.

For Chief Frank, the same sentiments apply to the proposed Catface Copper Mine project. He reports that Imperial Metals Corp (which acquired Selkirk Metals Corp, the previous owner) is in year two of a five-year assessment process; and he continues to struggle with outsiders wanting to put a stop to the project.

"I'm tired of the rest of the world telling us what they want us to do; in other words, they want us to starve!" he said.

Ahousaht has hired consultant Trent Blind to guide Ahousaht leadership in its work with Imperial Metals. Cover Creek Construction, a company owned by an Ahousaht band member, recently com-

pleted road building on the mountain, allowing the exploratory drilling to continue year-round. Prior to the reactivation of the old logging road, workers had to be flown in to the drill sites by helicopter, something that could only be done in good weather.

While all of these projects are on the go, Chief Frank says his council and committees are beginning to plan for other projects like a 16 room luxury floating lodge, riding trails in Cypre Valley and the construction of a youth center, elder's center and a new administration building.

Chief Frank says his council will meet with the community Jan. 26 to report on their progress to date and to receive feedback and direction on future work.



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Yu?tu?if?ath and Ucluelet are partners as well as friends

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ucluelet—Yu?tu?if?ath First Nation (formerly Ucluelet First Nation) and the District of Ucluelet signed a protocol agreement Feb. 1 to formalize their already strong and cooperative working relationship and to ease both parties into a post-treaty environment.

According to Yu?tu?if?ath councillor Tyson Touchie, his people are anxious to reclaim their culture, history and language. Part of that change is the reclamation of their true name, Yu?tu?if?ath, which was changed by early settlers to something that they could more easily pronounce and spell — Ucluelet.

In addition to the first nation name change, Touchie reminded locals that Ucluelet East's real name, dating back hundreds of years, is Hittatsoo.

Touchie welcomed his District of Ucluelet neighbors on behalf of his Tyee Ha'with ?ih-wi-tu-a, Chief Wilson Jack.

He said the signing ceremony marked a very important day for Yu?tu?if?ath and he was saddened that Chief Vi Mundy could not attend the event due to illness. Touchie reminded the two councils that Mundy put a lot of hard work into the making of the agreement.

Even though Yu?tu?if?ath is reinstating some aspects of its history, Touchie told the group that the new protocol agreement is a step forward. The agreement formalizes the cooperative and mutually beneficial working relationship between Yu?tu?if?ath and the District of



Community leaders sign protocol agreement, promising to work in harmony for the benefit of all. Seated from left: Ucluelet Mayor Eric Russcher, Community leaders sign protocol agreement, promising to work in harmony for the benefit of all. Seated from left to right: Ucluelet Mayor Eric Russcher, Yu?tu?if?ath councillor Tyson Touchie, Yu?tu?if?ath Tyee Ha'with Wilson Jack, Yu?tu?if?ath councillor Eugene Touchie.

Ucluelet; one where each works toward the future with the vision of making things better for the younger generation.

"The Yu?tu?if?ath First Nation and District of Ucluelet are neighboring communities that share interests in the Ucluelet Peninsula and surrounding area. The protocol ensures continued communication and joint decision making on matters of mutual interest such as education, land use, health and economic development," said a joint press release.

Touchie said there are provisions in the agreement that ensure both parties work toward building communities in which not only the people, but also the natural environment, thrives and succeeds.

Speaking on behalf of Chief Mundy, Councillor Eugene Touchie said Yu?tu?if?ath council has a unique system of governance; one that partners their elected government, the chief and council, with their traditional govern-

ment, the hereditary chiefs or ha'wiih, whom Eugene says, work closely, side-by-side.

Ucluelet Mayor Eric Russcher called the signing ceremony an auspicious occasion. He thanked Yu?tu?if?ath for giving his community its name and for allowing the people of Ucluelet to live in Yu?tu?if?ath traditional territory.

"Overall, the communities have gotten along," he said. "We are all one. I don't see different nations at this table. I see friends."

"This protocol acknowledges the unique relationship the District of Ucluelet has with the Yu?tu?if?ath First Nation and our desire to build on our collective past for a more secure future for both communities," said Ucluelet Mayor Eric Russcher.

Yu?tu?if?ath First Nation is party to the Maa-nulth treaty, which is in the sixth

and final stage of the treaty process — implementation. Touchie said the effective date for the Maa-nulth treaty is set for April 1, 2011.

"With the effective date for our treaty forthcoming, we are now able to look forward to a new future, a new, bright and prosperous future, with our long-time friends and neighbors, the District of Ucluelet," reads a statement from Vi Mundy in the press release.

"We have agreed to respect each other's communities; and now we will develop the processes for enhanced communication. This marks an opportunity to build a relationship (based) on mutual trust and further economic development through a partnership."

The protocol agreement has a term of four years.

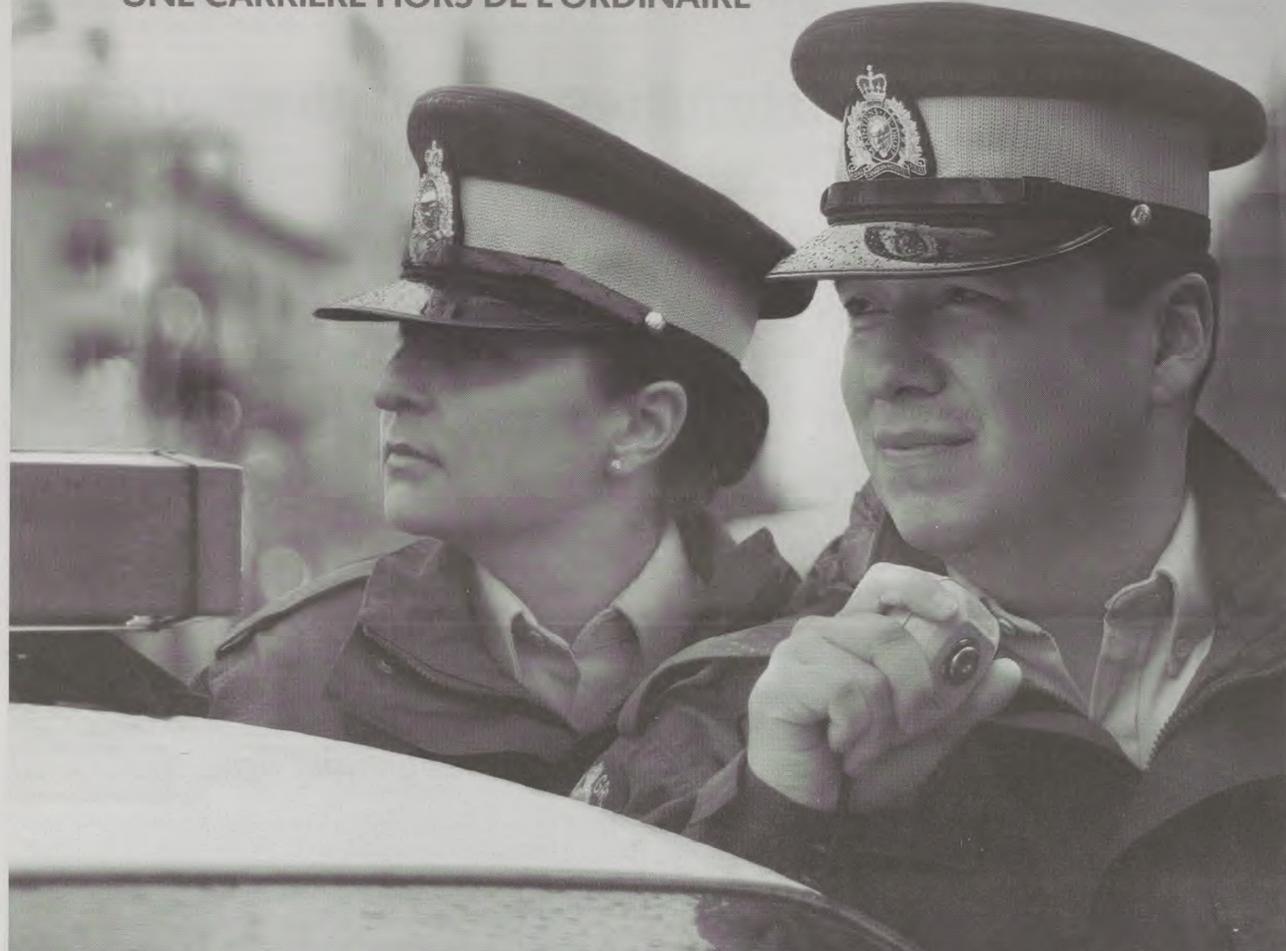
The two communities have already put the protocol into action and created a joint land use planning committee.

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To learn more visit DriveCellsafe.ca




Hesquiaht moves toward fossil fuel-free power

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Hot Springs Cove—The remote community of Hot Springs Cove has struggled for decades to provide an efficient, affordable power supply for its Hesquiaht members.

Located about 42 kilometres from Tofino by boat, Hot Springs Cove is so isolated it is off of the BC Hydro power grid.

Accessible only by boat or float plane, residents of Hot Springs Cove rely on the band administration to come up with solutions to the community's unique power situation.

For years the answer was diesel-fed power generators coupled with propane appliances, but even those measures have proven unreliable given how difficult it can be to get fuel barged into the community.

It's not uncommon for residents to become storm-bound, unable to leave the cove during storm season. And when nobody can leave the community, it stands to reason that nobody can get into the community, including the monthly fuel barge.

Carol Anne Hilton, a Hesquiaht band councillor, believes they have come up with a solution. "Hesquiaht First Nation is committed to leading the way to replace 100 per cent of its fossil fuel power with a portfolio of interconnected, renewable energy systems. By creating an internationally significant example, and taking a multi-disciplinary approach, Hesquiaht Nation is showcasing innovation around climate change, sustainability and economic development," she said.

Hesquiaht plans to phase in new power technologies, including solar, wind, micro-hydro and biomass systems over a period of three years, eliminating their need entirely for imported fossil fuels.

"Working with First Power and partners Powertech Labs and Energy Alternatives, we are creating a new and innovative 'made in Hesquiaht' system that integrates the elements of air, water, earth and fire to create a sustainable energy future that meets and exceeds national and international standards to

create clean energy and a net zero community."

The ambitious plan includes upgrading lighting and appliances and extensive community education.

Solar water heating systems could generate enough power to supply 100 per cent of the summer domestic hot water while biomass heating systems could supply 100 per cent of the heating, and the remainder of the domestic hot water

A micro-hydro system will generate enough electricity to meet 20 per cent of the community needs while providing an ecosystem for a salmon run. A 10 kw wind turbine will generate about 25 per

Harvesting plans

Opportunities are on the horizon

Continued from page 1.

"Fishing plans and management plans will be developed. Some species can be targeted immediately, while others will require some planning and training. All the other connected activities, like identifying buyers, markets and stations for delivery, as well as locations for processing, will have to be brought into the mix."

Other work that is necessary includes identifying the nations' capabilities to harvest any species, as well as the status of the stocks of the species in Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

"DFO must become part of the process soon, because there are seasons for herring, halibut, and salmon on the immediate horizon, which will translate into lost opportunities for our people who are in need of an economic boost."

He said it was paramount that DFO enter discussions, because existing licenses and harvesters must make room for Nuu-chah-nulth harvesting plans. "Our lawyers are of the opinion that discussions should not be stopped because of the court appeal launched by Canada. Indeed, we have a decision in our favor to harvest sea resources to sell into the commercial marketplace. We now have less than two years to carry out the decision. Canada's lack of response to us does not bode well for them should there be a requirement for this decision to go back to court."

Editor's note: On Feb. 10, just before Ha-Shilth-Sa was sent to the press, we

cent of the community's power needs.

Hesquiaht plans to bring in larger wind turbines at a later date.

Finally, there will be a biomass cogeneration system capable of providing supplemental energy when wind and hydro cannot meet community power requirements

Biomass cogeneration systems use plant or agricultural wastes to produce clean energy. In Hesquiaht's case, wood waste is the intended biomass fuel for the project.

"Any one renewable energy source has its limitations, whether it is wind, hydro or solar. This project will ensure reliable

energy supply, day or night, wind or calm, rain or drought," said Hilton.

Hesquiaht administration has applied for funding from a number of government and industry sources to get the project off of the ground.

"Hesquiaht's project draws a circle linking thousands of years of living and drawing the heat, light and power from the sun, the wind, the land and waters," said Hilton. She went on to say that the Hesquiaht want to be leaders when it comes to clean energy and if they are successful, they will be the first aboriginal community to be 100 per cent free of fossil fuel reliance.

received word that a letter from DFO Minister Gail Shea's office had been faxed to Uu-a-thluk. In it she thanked Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council President Cliff Atleo for his letters of Nov. 26, 2009, Jan. 6 and Jan 21. The minister wrote that she was unable to meet with Atleo about the Nuu-chah-nulth fishing rights decision or the consultation process.

"The Ahousaht decision is an important and complex ruling that requires

Canada to seriously evaluate its implications. The analysis of the ruling is not yet complete."

Shea promised that Paul Sprout, regional director general of the Pacific Region, would be in contact to "meet with affected First Nations to consider their views."

The minister said DFO is prepared to continue working with the Nuu-chah-nulth "to use existing programs to advance both of our interests."

From the Chief, Council, and Staff of Yu?tu?it?ath First Nation www.ufn.ca



Attention Ucluelet First Nation Members! (Yu?tu?it?ath Citizens): would you like to receive news and updates regularly? YFN staff strives effortlessly to get as much information to you as we can, but we can only do so if we have your contact information! From time-to-time, our administrative staff sends out instant news via email. If you would like to be added to the YFN Membership Email Distribution List, please call Suzanne Williams or Crystal Silva to update your contact information. For those who do not have an email address, we can add you to our mail out list. Again, please call us to update your contact information! Please also visit our website ~ www.ufn.ca.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NTC is currently developing partnerships with urban Aboriginal agencies in Victoria and Campbell River to provide support to Nuu-chah-nulth children living in foster care in and around those communities. An important part of the agreement with these agencies is that NTC will be represented on their Board of Directors.

Individuals selected for these positions would have experience and interest in the area of family and child services, and be willing to volunteer their time in the interest of better service to Nuu-chah-nulth children living away from home.

If you are a Nuu-chah-nulth member living in Victoria or the North Island and interested in being involved in this important work, please contact Clorissa Ginger at (250) 724-5757 (Clorissa.Ginger@nuuchahnulth.org)

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Information for first time renters

Submitted by Drew LaJeunesse

Whether you are a first time renter, moving into a new place, or thinking about moving, there are six recommendations to consider before you move.

First, location is key. Is it in a safe neighborhood? Is it close to amenities? Is it close to work or school? Is it near public transportation? These differ in importance for people. Determine what your needs are and then look for a place that fits your criteria.

Second, carefully read your lease. Do not skim or have someone else examine it. A lease is a legally-binding document and by signing the lease you are agreeing to its conditions. If you have questions or concerns regarding it, ask your potential landlord. If you feel the lease is unfair, do not sign it. If you are feeling intimidated to sign the lease or move in, ask yourself if this place can feel like home. Finding your rental can be a lengthy process.

Third, do not live beyond your means. At the maximum, rent payments should not exceed 35 per cent of your total monthly income.

Fourth, in regards to the cost of rent, what is included? There can be additional costs that the tenant may not realize, like utilities, heat and hot water, cable, Internet, laundry. The potential tenant can contact the utility companies and ask for an estimate cost (of the previous dwellers). This is only an estimate, but is a good suggestion to understand the other costs of renting.

Fifth, choose your roommate carefully. If you are going to have a roommate (which can help with affordability) be selective. Discuss one another's housing values. Do you prefer a quiet house while your roommate enjoys having guests. Talk about rent payment. How are the bills and the rent to be divided? Keep note, there are no perfect roommates; however, roommates can be good friends while keeping rent affordable.

Lastly, know your rights. Read the Residential Tenancy Act and The Tenant Survival Guide. Both guides explain tenancy law in British Columbia, for example, a landlord can only raise your rent once a year and must give three months written notice.

Happy renting! If you have any questions or concerns please call, 250-723-4050 to access the Aboriginal Housing Response Initiative services.

The Aboriginal Housing Response Initiative program, under the direction of the KUU-US Crisis Line Society, supports the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless, by offering access to emergency housing, public education, advocacy support, and clothing/household items. We also have a weekly housing registry that lists Port Alberni's vacancies.

References: Identify your needs, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2009.

Send Community Events to hashilthsa@nuuchahnulth.org

Community & Beyond

Qassii Qwayaciik: "Eye of the Wolf" Project Feb. 10 – 13 and Feb. 17 Port Alberni

To be held in the Port Alberni Friendship Centre Boardroom from 9 a.m. to noon. This project is for the youth, elders and artists to share their history, culture and language. At the end of the project the artists will contribute a piece of artwork from what they witnessed from the elders and youth. The youth, elders and artists will be honored at the end of the project with gifts. To register please contact Irene, Family Literacy Worker @ (250) 723-8281 or Josephine Marshall

Johnston, Southern Region Quu'asa Counsellor @ (250) 724-3939.

NTC Social Issues Follow-Up Forum Feb. 11 and 12 Port Alberni

To be held at Maht Mahs Gym starting at 9 a.m. each day.

Proposal Writing Feb. 11 Port Alberni

Time: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Location: Echo Park Fieldhouse, 4200 Wood Ave. To register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131. Toll-free 1-866-444-6332. Visit our Web site for full details: www.nedc.info/event

Valentines Junior Boys / Girls Basketball Tournament Feb. 12 to 14 Ucluelet

Host by the Nitinaht Hawks at Ucluelet Secondary School. First game to start at 3 p.m. Valentines dance Saturday night. Place to be announced at gym. Taking the first five (17 and under) Boys and Girls teams. To register your team in our tournament entry fee is \$150 per team. Please email phyllis_shaw_74@hotmail.com or send me a message via Facebook.

Stolen Sisters Memorial March Feb. 14 Victoria

Meet at Pandora Ave. and Vancouver St. at 11 a.m. March begins at noon. Travelling to Totem (Thunderbird Park at Douglas St. and Bellevue Ave. with several stops of cultural and personal significance to our sisters who have gone missing. Contact stolensisters@uvicnsu.ca .

Planning/Managing Arts Projects Feb. 19 Port Alberni

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: Echo Park Field house. 4200 Wood Avenue. To Register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our Web site for full details: www.nedc.info/event

Loonie Tootie/Flea Market Feb. 20 Port Alberni

Moved to Port Alberni Friendship Centre. Pre-bids from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Draws will start at 1 p.m. Main prize will be \$1,000 cash. Plus Chanel purse, cell phone with keyboard, Nintendo DSi, iPod Nano with video, Ray Sim Prints, gift cards and many more. 50/50 draws, concession available. Tables are donation towards loonie toonie. To book your table, call 250-730-5290. Donations are greatly appreciated. Fundraising goes towards travel to Junior British Columbia Championships in Prince Rupert during Spring Break.

Teen Dance Scheduled for Feb. 20 at Somass Hall has been CANCELLED.

How to Set Prices: Pricing Strategies Feb. 24 Port Alberni

Time: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Location: NEDC Office, 7563 Pacific Rim Hwy. To Register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our Web site for full details: www.nedc.info/event

Business Communications March 3 Port Alberni

Time: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Location: NEDC Office, 7563 Pacific Rim Hwy. To Register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our website for full details: www.nedc.info/event

Hawks 6th Annual Men's-Ladies Open Basketball Tournament March 5 to 7 Port Alberni

To be held at Maht Mans Gym on the Tshahat reserve. (Based on 10 teams). 1st Place -\$1,200. \$100 deposit due by Feb. 26. Contact: Bobby Rupert 250-720-5454 or 250-731-6170 email: rupert23@hotmail.com

New Media Marketing March 16 Port Alberni

Time: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Location: Echo Park Field House, 4200 Wood Avenue. To Register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our website for full details: www.nedc.info/event

All Native Ball Hockey Tourney March 26 to 28 Port Alberni

Thunder Sports Men's and Women's Ball Hockey Tourney will be held in Maht Mahs Gym. Individual awards. First place: \$1,500 mens (based on 10 teams). First place \$800 women's (Based on six teams). Men's Entry Fee \$350. Women's Entry Fee \$300. Concession, 50/50 and much more. Raffle ticket for three items. Two Canucks Ticket for Final Game of Season. Luongo Jersey and Burrows Jersey. Raffle will be drawn at end of tourney. Contacts Les Sam at les.sam@tshahat.com, Terry Sam (250) 723-7795, Richard Sam (250) 731-5422 and Ed Ross (250) 720-3728.

Marketing Kit March 26 Port Alberni

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Location: Echo Park Field House, 4200 Wood Avenue. To register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our Web site for full details: www.nedc.info/event

How to Budget Your Marketing March 26 Port Alberni

Time: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Location: Echo Park Field House, 4200 Wood Avenue. To register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our Web site for full details: www.nedc.info/event

Effective Public Relations March 30 Port Alberni

Time: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Location: Echo Park Field House, 4200 Wood Avenue. To register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia at 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our Web site for full details: www.nedc.info/event

Memorial Potlatch for late Jerry Jack Sr. and late Colleen Pendleton April 3 and 4, 2010 Port Alberni

The Jack and Pendleton Families would like to invite you to Port Alberni for a two-day potlatch to honor the memory of the Late Hereditary Chief Jerry Jack Sr. and his late daughter Colleen Pendleton (nee Jack). Starting at 10 a.m. sharp both days at Maht Mahs. For more information contact Jerry Jack Jr. at (250) 283-9123 or Ben Jack Sr. at (250) 283-2614 (H) or 250-778-2487 (Cell) or Claire Newman at (250) 957-2487 (H) or (250) 668-6304 (Cell) or email benjack@hotmail.com or clarettajean@hotmail.com or jerry43307@hotmail.com.

Projecting Sales April 7 Port Alberni

Time: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Location: NEDC Office, 7563 Pacific Rim Hwy. To register: Contact Jennifer or Caledonia @ 250-724-3131, Toll-free: 1-866-444-6332. Visit our website for full details: www.nedc.info/event

Pre-service Orientation April 14 to 16 Port Alberni

Here's your chance to learn more about what is required to become a foster parent for Usma Nuu-chah-nulth Family and Child Services. A Pre-Service Orientation is being hosted by the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents and the Resource Team of Usma. It's free of charge, travel costs may be covered. To register or start your foster home application, please call and speak to a resource worker at 1-877-722-3232 or 250-724-3232.

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The Canada Learning Bond is money provided by the government to help you start saving for your child's education once they complete high school.

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How do I know if I qualify? In order to qualify for the Learning bond

- Your child must have been born after December 31, 2003, and

- You must qualify for the National Child Benefit Supplement as part of the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

How do I apply:

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2. Open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) account with an RESP provider that offers the Canada Learning Bond.

NOTE: you don't even have to put money into the RESP. Your financial institution will apply for the bond, which will be deposited directly into your child's RESP account. For more information: Contact 1 800 O-Canada (1 800-662-6232) Or visit a service Canada Centre near you

Sports and Recreation

Host Young Gunz victorious in zone qualifier

By Jack F. Little
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Tsehaht—Host Nuu-chah-nulth Young Gunz cruised to a first-place finish at the Vancouver Island Zone Playoffs for the upcoming Junior Boys and Girls All Native Basketball Tournament. The zone tournament took place at Maht Mahs gym on Jan. 31. The Young Gunz out-gunned the Wolfpack 86-71.

In girls' play, the Ahousaht Blazers took top spot defeating the Nanaimo Snyperz 60-39. The Blazers breezed through the tournament.

The Blazers got off to a relatively slow start in the final, but after the first quarter they took a 23-11 lead and never looked back.

Blazers' Coach Luke Swan was very pleased with the result and especially with how well all the players seemed to be peaking at the right time.

"I was very pleased with our play this weekend, especially our new players Shayleann Little, Nicole Botting and



In the most exciting game of the Vancouver Island zone playoffs for a place in the upcoming Junior All Native Basketball Tournament, the Wolfpack battled Homiss to win on Jan. 31.

Sabrina Campbell. They fit in well with our style of play, which is defense and speed," said Swan. A couple of other players Swan mentioned were Amber

John and Tianna Tate. "I thought we played a good team defense, which we capitalized on, and scored off of the turnovers our girls created. It is a philosophy I coach: Play defense first," said Swan.

Prior to the girls' final there was a very exciting game between the Wolfpack and

Homiss. The winner of the game would go on to play in the final. The Homiss team had defeated the Hittatsoo Gamerz 70-34 in an earlier game in the morning.

The Wolfpack trailed after the first quarter 20-14, and 28-20 after the first half, but by the end of the third quarter the Wolfpack had a slim two-point lead 53-51. This set up an exciting finish.

With minutes left to play Homiss took the lead. The crowd was cheering on their teams and Maht Mahs gym was loud and proud once again.

Ahousaht trailed but eventually tied up the game. Each team exchanged baskets and with just about a minute to go Tim Little scored the go-ahead basket.

Homiss missed on their attempt to tie and it was Wolfpack now with an opportunity to ice the game. In the last minute they missed four free throw attempts, however.

A tired Homiss team could not come back and at the final buzzer the Wolfpack escaped with a 69-67 squeaker. Steve Tom led Homiss with 29 points and Aaron Lucas tallied 12. Greg Diek scored 30 and Tim Little scored 17 to lead the Wolfpack.

Continued on page 13.

Love of basketball leads to a college education

By Jack F. Little
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Victoria—Eighteen-year-old Greg Charlie from Ahousaht has a passion for sports, and particularly basketball. He is a 2009 graduate from the Maaqtusils School who is currently attending Camosun College in Victoria.

"Playing basketball is what I would like to do as often as I can. It has taught me a lot—teamwork, discipline and hard work. My goal is to attain and receive a diploma in Sport Management so I can do something I thoroughly love and give back to my community," said Charlie.

Family is very important to Charlie. His parents are Greg Charlie Sr. and Carlene Amos (nee Paul) also from Ahousaht. His siblings are brother Henderson Charlie and sisters Inez Paul and Lena Amos. His grandmother is Arlene Paul from Ahousaht. Charlie also has a girlfriend, Jenelle Louie, from Ahousaht.

Charlie played on the Ahousaht Wolfpack Jr. Boys basketball team and now will play for the Intermediate team from Ahousaht. He had a stellar career with the Wolfpack, who placed second at the 2008 and 2009 Junior Boys All Native Basketball Championships.

In Kamloops in 2008 the Wolfpack lost to a strong Kitimaat team, and in 2009 in Port Alberni, they lost to the Prince Rupert Friendship House team.

Charlie realizes the importance of education.

"I have heard it all the time from my father, mother and my grandmother the importance of staying and finishing school, and am thankful for their advice," he said.

Luke Robinson, who is also from Ahousaht, has been a role model for Greg, who has sought out Robinson's advice on both education and basketball.

"I would like to thank Luke for his guidance and especially for his support



Greg Charlie

as I have asked him about school and especially college basketball. He has helped me a lot. He has been an inspiration to me," said Charlie.

Robinson told Greg that college ball takes a total commitment. It needs to be a priority if he wants to succeed. Charlie fondly remembers training with Robinson. Rebecca Atleo also has been very supportive of Charlie in his educational goals as she has helped Greg to find a place and to adjust to the pressures of college.

Rick Lindholm has coached Charlie since he was in Grade 8 at Maaqtusils School.

"I owe a debt of gratitude to Rick as he was the one who really got me interested in playing basketball," Charlie said. In Grade 8, the team lost every game. But by Greg's graduation year they ranked as high as fourth in the province in Single A (small schools) and they actually placed seventh in the provincial tournament in Abbotsford last year.

"You can do anything you put your mind to," said Charlie. "Follow your dreams... Work hard in school, train hard in basketball so you can get your skills to the next level. Believe me, it will all pay off for you in the end." Charlie said by way of encouragement to other players.

Armada undermanned at Countdown tournament

By Jack F. Little
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Mill Bay—In the Countdown to the Playoffs Senior Boys Basketball Tournament held at Brentwood College Jan. 29 and 30, the Armada squad for Alberni District Secondary School could rally only six players on Friday and seven players on Saturday due to a competing qualifying tournament for the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament held in Port Alberni.

Coach Nick Serediek knew going into the Mill Bay event that a few of the players for Armada had chosen to play in the zone tournament held at Maht Mahs.

"We were hurt by this in the Brentwood tournament, however, overall I was pleased with the boys efforts this past weekend," said Coach Serediek.

The Armada played three games in the Countdown to the Playoffs high school tournament. They won one game and lost two.

In their first game they played GW Graham from Chilliwack. The game was relatively close through the first half with Armada taking the lead. Graham came back though in the second half and by the fourth quarter took control. The final score was for GW Graham with an 80-67 win over the undermanned Armada squad.

Armada were also reduced to five players for almost two quarters as Jon Sim was hurt diving for a loose ball. He came up limping with an injured knee. It was a rough game for Sim who was also hit by an errant elbow on a rebound attempt and came off the court bleeding. Sim, however, managed to come back in the game and finish playing.

Armada would next play Shawnigan Lake. The six warriors for Armada would put up a good fight and effort, but would tire in the second half to come up short 69-54.

A poor shooting game for Armada, especially star players Jess Black and Greg Diek, cost them the tilt. Diek was playing with blisters on his foot which affected his game. Diek also got an elbow in the face from a Shawnigan player. The referee chose not to call anything, which netted a verbal exchange with Diek and Coach Serediek who was sticking up for his player.

In its final game of the tournament, Armada met Isfeld. Armada now had seven players who came out hitting a majority of their shots. In the first quarter alone they shot 60 per cent from beyond the arc. With a first quarter lead of 25-16 and a 20-point lead at the half (49-29), the Armada cruised to an 80-55 win.

Blaek tallied 38 points, Diek scored 18 and Spencer Yaredick scored 11 points.

"I was very pleased with our boys' composure as we came out of the gate fast. Our bench also was able to play crucial minutes as Darien Baker and Keumper played very well on the defensive end. Baker scored crucial baskets," Coach Serediek said. He noted that Jon Sim and Russell Totenham were able to play a lot of minutes, which will help to boost their confidence.

Under the circumstances of a depleted bench for the tournament, Serediek was pleased with the Armada weekend. This experience for players who stepped up will hopefully carry them into both league play and the zone playoffs, Serediek said.

Continued from page 12.

In the boys' final, the Young Gunz faced off against the Wolfpack. In a feature game Saturday night the two teams played with the winner advancing to the final game. The Gunz out-matched the Wolfpack by a score of 90-60.

After a slow start the Young Gunz gradually picked up their game. They led after the first quarter 20-12 and took control of the game. At the half they had a comfortable lead of 20 points, 40-20.

Key to the success of the Young Gunz in the final was their team defense and the speed of play. After the third quarter, they led 68-45. With 7:20 left in the game, they had an insurmountable lead 77-49. To their credit, however, the Wolfpack refused to give up and eventually their shots started to fall into place and the Pack began to close the gap. The Wolfpack outscored the Gunz 22 to nine in the last seven minutes.

In the end though the Young Gunz prevailed with an 86-71 final win.

Greg Diek scored a game high 27 points, including six three pointers. Tim Little played a solid game both on defense and offense tallying 22 points. Daryon Charleson hit for 26 points with a majority of his scoring in the second half. Darryl Patterson scored 19 and Mike Johnson scored 17 points for the Young Gunz.

Coach and tournament organizer Francis Frank was pleased with the team's play on the weekend.

"I thought our overall defense and pressure on the ball was much better in the final game than it was all weekend," said Frank.

The Young Gunz now had wins in two tournaments over the Wolfpack in their friendly rivalry.

Frank was also very pleased about all of the fans who came to cheer on their teams. Frank acknowledged this in his remarks prior to the trophy presentations.

"I would like all of you fans to please

Blazers breeze through zone tournament action

Left: Daryon Charleson wins the opening tip-off for the Young Gunz in their finals battle against Ahousaht Wolfpack in zone action. The Gunz took the game 86-71.



Middle: In an exciting game the Wolfpack and Homiss battle under the boards for a rebound. The Wolfpack squeaked by Homiss 69-67 to advance to the final game.

Below: A Nanaimo Snyperz player attempts a free throw in the Junior Girls final. The Ahousaht Blazers breezed through the tournament undefeated taking the final 60-39.



give yourself a round of applause for your support of our youth," said Frank.

In the trophy presentations the following were rewarded for their play:

Junior Girls All Stars were Darcy Edgar, Geraldine Tom, Sabrina Campbell, Briana Wyse-Seward and Sabrina Williams. Shayleann Little was chosen as the Most Inspirational Player. Geraldine Tom was chosen as the Best Defensive Player. Ariel Campbell was chosen as the Most Sportsmanlike Player, and Nitnaht Lakers were the Most Sportsmanlike Team. Sabrina Williams was the Most Valuable Player.

Nanaimo Islanders were third place, Nanaimo Snyperz placed second and the Ahousaht Blazers captured first place.

The Junior Boys All Stars were Steve Tom, Tim Little, Mike Johnson, Daryon Charleson and Jerome Frank. Tim Little was the Most Inspirational Player. Brandon Frank was the Best Defensive Player. Zack Samuel was the Most Sportsmanlike Player. The Nanaimo Bullets were the Most Sportsmanlike Team. Darryl Patterson was chosen as the Most Valuable Player.

There were nine girls teams, and included the TFN Kings, Nanaimo Snuneymux, (Islanders), Ditidaht Hawks, Nitnaht Lakers, NCN Lady Warriors, Ahousaht Starz, Ahousaht Blazers and Nanaimo Snyperz. There was eight boys teams: NCN Young Gunz, Ahousaht Wolfpack, Homiss, Hittatsoo Gamerz, Nanaimo Lightning, Ditidaht Hawks, TFN Kings and Nanaimo Bullets.



Rebuild

Continued from page 2.

George welcomed people on behalf of Tseshaht and his relatives in the Hupacasath nation.

"It is a very exciting day for our people, and we are very excited to see the Alberni Athletic Hall move ahead," George said.

Lunney reported that the RInC program has invested \$500 million in recreational facilities across Canada over a two-year period. It was designed to provide a temporary economic stimulus to help to reduce the impacts of the global recession while renewing, upgrading and expanding recreational infrastructures in Canadian communities.

"The reconstruction of the Alberni Athletic Hall will not only create jobs here in Port Alberni, it will re-establish a place where this community can gather and host a variety of events for years to come," said Lunney.

"Shortly after the Athletic Hall burned down," said Port Alberni Mayor Ken McRae, "I met with Larry Spencer (Athletic Hall board member) and had suggested that the board reconsider building on the current site...." New laws and regulations would have made the old site on Beaver Creek Road inadequate. The mayor suggested a land swap could be struck with the City of Port Alberni. With the announcement of the \$1 million grant, the swap is now a reality.

I would like to wish my dear sister Ilene "Eyes" Thomas a very happy birthday for Feb. 7. Also there are a couple of more birthdays on the same day. To my friend Ruth Sam and Lorraine "Winnie" John, I too would like to wish the both of you a happy birthday for the 7th. Love from Corbett "Corby" George.

On Feb. 13, I would like to wish my brother Billy George Sr. (Keith) a very happy birthday. I hope you enjoy your day and many more to come little brother. Love from Corbett "Corby" George.

Happy birthday to our grand-nephew Vincent Livingstone McDougall on Feb. 14. Happy birthday to little bro Nasimius, a.k.a. Darrell Ross Sr., on Feb. 15. Happy birthday to our niece Sherry Livingstone on Feb. 23. Hope you all have a great birthday! From Dave and Annie.

Happy Valentine's Day to my husband. You don't have to buy me chocolates, flowers or jewelry to show your love because you show it every day throughout the year. Love always from your wife.

I'd like to wish my niece Enrica Marshall and nephew John (Jake) Wilson a Happy Birthday for Feb. 17 and Feb. 21. From uncles Doug, Dick & Pete as well as aunts Pearl, Dorothy and Nancy (Mom).

Happy birthday Davina Cecilia George (Kyuquot-Checkleseth), and congrats on going to VIU for the nursing program. We all love you and your daughter!



Dr. James Lunney, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo-Alberni, announced the funding of \$1 million to go toward the rebuild of the Alberni Athletic Hall.

"Just over a week ago I was on the phone with our MP, Dr. James Lunney," said Spencer, "and he informed me that our application was successful for the maximum amount of \$1 million. I have been smiling ever since that day."

He informed the crowd that despite the devastation of May 12, 2009, the Alberni Athletic Hall sign was saved from the fire. It stood behind the podium where the announcement was made. The old sign will be hung for the new building which he estimates will open later this year.

Spencer thanked the federal government for its support, and acknowledged the help of Lunney, Port Alberni city council and all of the staff, with special thanks reserved for Mayor McRae and Pat Deakin;

"I look forward to once again gathering here on this site when the new facility will be officially opened," said Spencer.

With this investment, the Alberni Athletic Hall Association will construct a new Athletic Hall. The new facility will be a 1,532 square metre (16,500 square foot) building that will feature a gymnasium, sports courts and indoor archery range and it will be complete with change rooms and bleachers.

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MEETING FACILITATOR / NEGOTIATOR: 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, Weelth-tshah @ (250) 724-2603 or (cel) 731-5795. Available any time.

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TSAWAAYUUS ELDERS: Are requesting volunteers to come and share your time with us. Singing and drumming, native dancing, storytelling, crafts of any kind and crib players. Come and share some special times with us. If you are interested, please contact Bunt Cranmer at 724-5655.

Lost and Found

LOST: Drum with whale painted on it. On Jan. 28 at party at Maht Mahs Gym. Call (250) 745-3483.

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 ballgrrl@hotmail.com. Thanks.

FOUND: A shawl was left at the House of Himwitsa and has not been picked up by the owner. Please pick up your shawl at the House of Himwitsa. Lewis George, House of Himwitsa Ltd.

LOST: A hummingbird carved by Butch Dick on a black cord [necklace] at the Evelyn Marshall potlatch on October 25th in the Alberni Athletic Hall. Contact : 250-598-0502.

Misc.

HOUSE RENOVATIONS: Decks, siding, basic plumbing. Phone Bill Webster 778-421-1511.

MASSAGES in your home or mine. Call 250-735-2271.

LONG BEACH REFLEXOLOGY STUDIO offers foot reflexology sessions. Experience foot reflexology for relaxation and to energize. To book a session phone 250-725-3482

CERTIFIED EXP. CARPENTER: for hire phone Dave Watts 250-723-9870. Completed 4 year program Camosun College in theoretical and practical aspects of the Carpentry trade with inter-provincial certification ticket.

Marine

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: Custom made nets (250) 923-9864.

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

FOR SALE: 48' Fiberglass Troller. Area F license. Very reasonably priced. View at sellyourboat.ca. Phone (250) 380-3028.

FOR SALE: 16 FT. Malibu 90 horse yamaha \$4,400 take boat and motor. 250-745-6220.

FOR SALE: 115 Horsepower Merc outboard motor. Like new. Test 150 compression in all 4 cylinders. Half price. Ask for Willie (250) 723-8249.

1 BOAT FOR SALE: 1 - 32 foot fiberglass, 180 horse Isuzu motor, radar and colour sounder. Serious inquiries only. Boat can be seen in Ucluelet. Phone 250-726-4620.

MARINE ISUZU ENGINE MODEL 6BD, 145 HP complete with capitol marine gear, 2 1/2 to 1 ratio recently overhauled engine and gear. Any serious offers will be considered. Call Louie Frank Sr @ 250.670.9573 (home) or 250.670.9563 (work).

MUST SELL -1996 24' Crew Boat. 2009 Surveyor Value \$90,000.00 (open to offers) **THIS VESSEL FEATURES:** Welded Aluminum, Total length 26.6, 10' Beam, 36" Draft, 270HP Mercury 4.2Lt Diesel inboard (2007), 80 gallon aluminum fuel tank, Furono 1721 Radar, GPS, PLEASE CONTACT: (250) 724-3915 execdir@kackaamin.org Sadie Greenaway

Employment

ODD JOBS WANTED: A homeless woman (NCN) looking for any odd jobs, willing to do anything. Please call 250-720-9800.

SPEAKER AVAILABLE: I'll be available for Workshops and public speaking for people who live with F.A.S.D. (250) 315-2188. I was born with this Sept. 26, 1969. Tim Manson.

Found at the House of Gathering Fisheries meeting on January 22, 2010- this ring. Please contact the NTC at (250) 724-5757 to claim this ring!

To advertise in Ha-Shilth-Sa call (250) 724-5757

FOUND: black shawl, white designs and name on the left corner.
Phone B.A. Swan 250-735-1258 or 250-724-3915 (w) 9-4

Coast Watch Program



Helps Nations Contribute to Abalone Recovery

There are

several projects underway in which First Nation stewardship is key for species at risk management in British Columbia. The Abalone Coast Watch Program, a community-based outreach and public education program focused on protecting abalone, is one example. Active in several First Nations communities in B.C., Abalone Coast Watch uses volunteers to help stop abalone poaching.

On the northwest coast, the Nisga'a First Nation kicked off its Abalone Coast Watch Program in 2006, basing their program on a standard model of patrols, basic awareness, newsletters, and brochure distribution.

"We were trying to make people more aware of the plight of abalone," says Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Coastal Manager, Blair Stewart. Although abalone does not live in abundance in traditional Nisga'a territory, Stewart says there is still a lot of illegal trade and barter occurring.

"We all know where it is coming from, but it is really hard to shut it down. Big poachers go out for big profit, and I think that First Nations need to get the message that even if you take only five, if twenty people take only five, there's eventually nothing left."

In 2009, Nisga'a ramped up its program to go beyond patrolling by educating youth through a Youth Marine Stewardship Program.

"You can't change the old ways," Stewart says, "But you can teach the young and give them a sense of ownership. Our youth have a story that needs

telling; they must be a part of protecting and restoring Nass coastal marine species at risk, critical habitat, and traditional knowledge of marine resource uses."

Last summer, the first-ever Marine Conservation Nisga'a Youth Camp was delivered to 24 students, aged six to 12. With complete support from the community, the camp was a roaring success. Elders acted as guest speakers and educators, and community members volunteered time as mentors, transportation assistants, cooks, and sponsors.

"Everyone was behind the camp," Stewart says. "It was amazing—more than we could have hoped for."

Nisga'a Fisheries also commissioned a local teacher to design an interactive curriculum guide that is now used in Nisga'a public schools and at abalone awareness workshops, some of which are given in Nuu-chah-nulth territories in collaboration with the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Abalone Project (BHCAP).

"Ultimately, our goal is to build a vehicle with the school district and the Nisga'a Youth Organizing Youth Project for implementing a youth driven stewardship program while building capacity," Stewart explains.

Abalone Coast Watch is also active in Nuu-chah-nulth territories through the BHCAP. Organized in partnership with the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, Coast Watch is largely delivered by volunteers who work or live on the water in Barkley Sound. Together residents watch for poachers and suspicious activity, reporting incidents to a toll-free hotline.

"Most of the busts that have been made are thanks to tips from the public," says Anne Stewart, who coordinates Coast Watch from the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. "People who live and work on the water—and that includes HUU-ay-aht Fisheries—are watching what goes on, knowing they are part of the solution. I think programs like these are the only hope for abalone recovery. Unless you have the community taking ownership, the poachers are going to win."

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N'ac'atuk simat



PROTECT WILD ABALONE

ILLEGAL HARVESTING IS A THREAT TO OUR LOCAL ABALONE

HELP PREVENT POACHING
OBSERVE, RECORD, REPORT
1-800-465-4336



COASTWATCH
www.oceanlink.island.net

Helping Abalone Recover:
It's Up to You

Poaching is one of the biggest reasons abalone have had such a struggle recovering on the coast. As the eyes and ears of Nuu-chah-nulth ha-ha-houlthee, we can make a difference. Setting up a coast watch program in your area is one way to help abalone recover. Another is to report any illegal activities to the Coast Watch hotline (1-800-465-4335). To learn more about Abalone Coast Watch, visit <http://oceanlink.island.net> and click on 'Abalone' under the Conservation heading in the left hand column.

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