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Process clarified for Truth and Reconciliation hearings

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—With the regional hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) just weeks away, the manager for Nuu-chah-nulth Teechuktl (mental health services) delivered an update on the event at the Feb. 14 Elder Abuse Awareness workshop at the Port Alberni Friendship Centre.



Vina Robinson, Teechuktl Manager

A series of five hearings are scheduled to take place on Vancouver Island, starting next week, to gather both public and private statements from survivors of the residential school system.

The Port Alberni hearings take place on March 12 and 13 at Maht Mahs gym.

Last week, Vina Robinson, accompanied by Training Coordinator/Administrative Assistant Reg Sam and Stan Matthew, coordinator of the Quu'asa program, which offers support to residential school survivors, spelled out the procedures and protocols for those intending to take part. One immediate question the team faced was, "Why are they doing this?"

"Their role is to take as many stories as they can from across the country and educate Canadians about the residential school system," Matthew said.

The goal is to create a permanent museum as a lasting memorial to a historic injustice, he added.

Robinson said with so many speakers anticipated, a strict time limit of 10 minutes has been set for the public statements.

"No one is going to ask any questions, so be prepared and know what you're going to say," she said. "Survivors must register at the door, so it is first come, first served."

Robinson said for those who wish to make their statement in private, there is no time limit. A time and place will be scheduled at the convenience of the person making the statement, she added.

Written submissions will also be accepted, as will memorabilia such as photographs and artifacts of residential school

life. Robinson said the TRC members are all First Nations members, and some are survivors. The statement gatherers are all Nuu-chah-nulth survivors, she added. Three Nuu-chah-nulth translators will be available at all stages of the process.

The TRC and the Nuu-chah-nulth nations have also ensured there will be ample mental health support available during what will be inevitably a very trying emotional experience.

"There will be a team of 15 support workers (including two clinical therapists) from Health Canada, and our whole [Quu'asa] mental health team will be there for support," Matthew said. "Our manager, Vina, is going to do a callout of the rest of the 14 nations, so we will have mental health workers from all three regions—a total of 23 support workers."

Matthew stressed, however, that this is a TRC event, not a Nuu-chah-nulth event.

Speaking at the elder abuse workshop, Dr. Simon Lucas observed that while he supports the idea of creating a permanent memorial to the residential school experience, he hopes the proposed museum will portray the complete picture. Lucas said the influx of community experience payment money into the First Nations community has created a new round of systematic abuse, re-victimizing many survivors.

"If we are going to set up a memorial along the lines of what the Jewish people have created around the Holocaust, we have to show where we have come since," Lucas said. "I believe this museum should also show what has happened as a result of the settlement."

Robinson said all Canadians are welcome to attend the hearings, and invitations have been delivered to the City of Port Alberni, the RCMP, Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce and other local bodies.

Robinson suggested that anyone who intends to make a public statement contact Reg Sam at 250-724-5757.



Photo by Debora Steel

Maaqtusis Magic battled to the end, but bigger, older Ahousaht Wolfpack gets the better of the team to take the Island Zones.

Magic gives Wolfpack a run for their money at Zones

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—Ahousaht has once again proven it is a basketball powerhouse, dominating at the Island Zone Junior Basketball Tournament held at Alberni Athletic Hall Feb. 18 and 19.

Wrapping up a basketball extravaganza, webcast live by Ha-Shilth-Sa, the Ahousaht senior girls and senior boys clubs took home the winners' trophies, while the Ahousaht younger boys finished as runner-ups.

Francis Frank's NCN Lady Warriors, made up of players from Tofino and Port Alberni, finished second on the girls' side.

The Ahousaht Mystic Suns girls' and the Wolfpack boys' squads were expected to take centre stage, but it was the junior teams, the Maaqtusis Magic boys and the Lady Warriors, who emerged as the twin Cinderella stories, forging come-from-behind victories to earn berths in the finals.

Magic's magic began earlier in the day

with a nail-biter against the Hesquiaht Braves. Magic made a last-minute comeback against the Braves to tie it up 53-53 at the end of regulation, then powered ahead in overtime for a thrilling 62-57 win.

The game was for a berth in the semi-final, with the winner to face the defending B.C. champions, the Homiss Wolves, who fell to Ahousaht Wolfpack in another overtime thriller on Saturday night.

The Braves established an early lead in the first quarter, putting up a seven-point lead, but Magic gained momentum in the second after Braves' #29, Damon Reese, got himself into foul trouble. After racking up three fouls, he was benched until the second half, and Magic was able to get better penetration.

With a last-minute bucket, Magic's Riley Botting closed the gap to one point to end the half 34-33.

The Braves picked up their game in the third quarter, using some fierce rebounding and some fast breaks to establish an eight-point lead, 51-43. But in the fourth, it looked as though they were prepared to run out the clock.

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Respect for culture cited as key to preventing elder abuse

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—About 60 seniors and their supporters took part in the Elder Abuse workshop held Feb. 14 at the Port Alberni Friendship Center.

While the feature speaker was unable to appear, elders heard from RCMP Aboriginal policing officer, Cst. Scott McLeod and Tsawaayus/Rainbow Gardens manager Shaanee Casavant, and contributed a large measure of their own wisdom to the gathering.

Friendship Center mental health and addictions counsellor Maggie Madgett was scheduled to speak on the positive aspects of aging, but when a planned brief update on the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings turned into an extended discussion, it threw the timetable out the window.

With the hall decorated for Valentine's Day, and chocolates at each place setting, the gathering began with an opening prayer from Hesquiaht elder, Dr. Simon Lucas, and a welcoming song from Aousaht elder Ray Samuel and his family.

With Madgett unable to speak, the spotlight fell on McLeod, a 26-year RCMP veteran on his second tour of duty with the Port Alberni Aboriginal policing unit.

"I have learned, people don't want to know what you know. They want to know you care," McLeod said of his experience with the unit.

The officer said no senior is immune to abuse, whether it is physical, sexual, spiritual or emotional.

"They may be wise. They may be healthy and not dependent on anyone else. It doesn't matter if you are in care or in a hospital. Elder abuse can happen anywhere," he said.

For the Port Alberni unit, McLeod said, the most common form of abuse is financial, which he defined as, "the illegal use



Photo by Shayne Morrow

Elder Ray Samuel and his family sing a welcome song for people attending the elder abuse workshop Feb. 14 at the Port Alberni Friendship Center.

of an elder's money or property, whether it is their common experience payment (CEP), pension or estate."

It could be the result of pressure by family members or the misuse of power of attorney, or the misuse of temporary access to banks, funds or credit cards. And in many instances, McLeod added, the incidents are not reported to police.

While she is only 55, Darlene Wilson, a member of the Gitksan-Carrier Nation, said she now recognizes how the cycle of elder abuse perpetuates itself. "They [family members] haunt you and beg you until you give it to them," she said. "I know now, because I did it to my parents when I was young, and now it's being done to me."

Ray Samuel agreed that it is critical to instill respect for elders at an early age.

"I have always taught my grandchildren, 'Never depend on anybody,'" Samuel said, explaining that unhealthy dependence can lead to a sense of entitlement.

"I have never been abused by my chil-

dren or my grandchildren, because that is what I have taught at the dinner table," he said. "That is the way I was brought up, and it is our cultural way."

Samuel said many elders set themselves up for financial abuse by putting too much emphasis on wealth as a measure of success and happiness.

"No matter how much money you get, it doesn't make you better," Samuel said, adding, "Your worth is what is inside you."

McLeod said he has spoken with elders who don't want to receive the CEP personally, but wish to

pass it down to their families. This is where financial planning comes in, he said. Credit unions are able to set up trust accounts for family members or for the recipients themselves, he explained.

By setting up a trust account with a fixed monthly payout, elders can protect themselves by preventing excessive withdrawals of their capital.

McLeod said not all financial abuse is brought on by family members.

Continued on page 6.



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. E-mail hashilthsa@nuuchahmulth.org. This year is Ha-Shilth-Sa's 39th year of serving the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations.

We look forward to your continued input and support.
Kleco! Kleco!

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If you are interested in attending this training please contact Katie Beach, Uu-a-thluk Central Region Biologist by phone, 250-726-5229 or by email, katie.beach@nuuchahmulth.org,



Photo by Denise Titian

New building at Ty-histanis will help alleviate the long-standing overcrowding problems for Tla-o-qui-aht nation.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation enjoying housing boom

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ty-histanis—More than two dozen new housing units are going up at Tla-o-qui-aht's new subdivision, Ty-histanis, further alleviating the nation's long-standing overcrowding problem.

"We are currently building 27 units this year as a nation. We have two TFN citizens who took advantage of agreements we have with two banks and got their own mortgages so they can build houses on their own," said Chief Councilor Elmer Frank.

Housing Coordinator for TFN, Barb Audet, said the new housing units include four duplexes and 17 single detached homes. Most are Social Housing (section 95 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Section 10) while two individuals are building their own homes.

CMHC is a government housing corporation that works to assist low income families to acquire safe, affordable housing.

In 2011, TFN saw 16 new housing units go up at Ty-histanis; nine elders units and seven single detached homes.

This year most of the new housing units will be owned by the nation and rented out to band members or sold to them on a rent-to-own basis.

Tla-o-qui-aht is supported by CMHC, AANDC (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada), RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) and the BMO (Bank of Montreal) for their 2012 housing development.

Band members wishing to purchase their own homes are encouraged to contact Barb Audet. They may apply for mortgages through Bank of Montreal or

the Royal Bank of Canada. Once approved for a mortgage, members may choose a lot and house design.

According to Chief Frank, TFN has borrowing agreements with two major lending institutions that allows band members access to mortgages that they otherwise couldn't get.

"In terms of how they want to build their homes, there are some criteria that must be followed to qualify for the subsidies available to them," Chief Frank explained. "The nation has some designs that members can consider, however others that have an interest are getting their own designs done." All new housing designs must accommodate the geothermal heating system at Ty-histanis.

The construction boom at Ty-histanis has created about 10 jobs for TFN members and has gone a long way to ease a serious housing shortage problem.

"There has been a lot of positive energy from our citizens," said Chief Frank.

With more residential space, more band members are able to come home to live.

"It is exciting, (for me) as the elected chief and a co-negotiator to Moses Martin, to see this community build out finally come together and see TFN citizens' dreams fulfilled to come back home," said Chief Frank.

As for the future, Frank said there are a few more construction phases that still need to be completed.

"We are hopeful to start the next phases of infrastructure this upcoming fiscal year and in to next fiscal year and we are looking at options to negotiate a community hall," he said.

TFN members should call TFN Housing Coordinator Barbara Audet at 250-725-3350 for more information about residential housing.

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Please note that the deadline for submissions for our next issue is

March 2, 2012.

After that date, material submitted and judged appropriate **cannot be guaranteed placement** but, if material is 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@nuuchahmulth.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 two - four 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 availability at the time of the event.
- Editorial space available in the paper.
- Editorial deadlines being adhered to by contributors.

Tla-o-qui-aht woman gives back to Women's Centre

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Port Alberni—She has relied on the Alberni Community and Women's Services Society in the past and credits the friendly, knowledgeable staff for helping her to get her life back on track.

On Feb. 9 artist Levina Martin returned the favor by presenting an exquisitely carved mask to the centre.

Stacie Johnston gratefully accepted the mask on behalf of the society saying it would be used to raise much-needed funds for programs and services.

Levi Martin, Levina's father, assisted with the presentation of the mask. He said his daughter made a transformation mask because she thought it appropriate for the work the centre does.

"She's experienced and witnessed transformation in her life and she wants to encourage other women to make positive changes in their lives," he said.

Martin thanked Johnston and the rest of the staff of the society for all they've done for his daughter.

Levina said she has been carving for about 27 years.

"It feels good creating," she said.

Levina left Port Alberni last summer to begin working in a West Coast fish plant. She moved back home to Long Beach where she resumed carving and made plans to get married.

Always grateful for the friendship and support she received at the drop-in centre, Martin would stop by from time-to-time.

In the past few weeks, staff at the centre have been working on fundraising; partly to support the centre and partly to prepare for a larger fundraising event to be held March 9 on International Women's Day.

Organized by Wendy Kerr, the event celebrates women of the Alberni Valley. The year 2012 not only marks the centennial of Canada's Women's Movement but also of the City of Port Alberni.

Volunteer performers and support people will showcase more than 20 variety



Photos by Denise Titian

From left to right: Stacie Johnston of the Alberni Community and Women's Services Society, Levi Martin and his daughter Levina Martin. Levina has donated a mask she has carved for a fundraiser for the society.

acts. The first show will be seen at the ADSS auditorium on March 8. A Gala Night will follow with a show at the Capitol Theatre on March 9. The event will be called In Praise of Women - International Women's Day Celebration. Other fundraising activities will take place at the shows, including a silent auction.

Levina's mask will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to the society.

Johnston said these types of events are crucial for the society because the drop-in centre is not fully funded by the government. Women's centres across the province rely on donations and fundraisers to help pay for the programs and services.

Clients often take part in fundraising efforts. Recently, some drop-in centre regulars stuffed 11,000 envelopes. Each contained letters seeking donations from the community.

"We depend on donations from our community," Johnston said. "Donations show we have community support," she

added.

It was during one of those envelope-stuffing sessions that Levina happened to drop in to the centre. When she learned that the centre needed support, Martin offered to make a carving.

"I knew right away what I wanted to carve, a butterfly mask because it symbolizes metamorphosis," she said.

The butterfly transformation mask to Martin represents strength and courage. "When I carved it, it seemed the natural thing to make and it came together really fast. It was done in four or five days."

Her inspiration comes from inside, she said, motioning to her heart.

"I can't describe it but I always feel grateful that I have this talent to share."

"The mask honors women who have the strength and courage to do the things they need to do," said Martin.

Of the staff at the society, she said "They helped me out a lot while I lived in Port Alberni with counseling, justice...they were a lot of help; they've always been very good, kind to me."

Ever the visionary, Martin made the winning suggestion for a window display contest the society held.

"I suggested they put a big mirror in the window and mark it with positive affirmations; when people look at themselves they will see the positive messages and take it in," she explained.

The estimated value of the mask is several thousands of dollars, but Martin has little time to make art to sell for profit. She and her fiancé Kenneth Johnson carve together now. The couple was up all night putting the finishing touches to another beautiful mask that they will be donate to another good cause.

"Ken's son is fundraising for his basketball tournament so we made another mask for that," she explained.



Levina Martin and Kenneth Johnson have also made a mask for fundraising for his son's basketball tournament.



Photo by Melody Charlie

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation held an Urban Health Fair at the Port Alberni Friendship Centre on Feb. 6 for its members living in the city. The initiative sprang from the Health Vision Circle held in early January. For some time urban members have been requesting some of the same services that those members at home get. Nu-chah-nulth Tribal Council nursing booth was one of the seven set up that day to share information about health services. Here nurse Pearl Dorward took Agnes Brown's blood pressure. She also offer sugar level checks. The RCMP did a presentation on cyber safety and VIHA had a nutrition booth. There were traditional cleanses, crafts, and booths from Ku-usa Outreach and Alberni Community Women's Services.

To Nu-chah-nulth living in Victoria Area

Rosie Marsden, Indian Registry Administrator will be in Victoria for those who need to update their status cards on:

DATE: March 10th, 2012
LOCATION: Accent Inn
3233 Maple St.
TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Mystic Suns take an early lead and never look back

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—The Ahousaht senior girls' team, the Mystic Suns, were victorious at the Island Zones Basketball Tournament held in Port Alberni Feb. 18 and 19. Francis Frank's NCN Lady Warriors, made up of players from Tofino and Port Alberni, finished second.

The event was the precursor to the BC All-Native Junior Basketball Provincial Championships, which will take place in Port Alberni from March 18 through 23.

The NCN Lady Warriors overcame an early deficit to down Nanaimo's Island Storm, 57-52 in play leading up to the final. The Storm used speed and mobility to take an early lead against the bigger Lady Warriors, doubling up on the Warriors 16-8 in the first quarter, with Celina Jeffrey chipping in seven points, including a three-pointer.

The Warriors picked up the pace in the second, led by Janine Robinson, with six points and Chelsea McIntosh with four, to match the Storm bucket-for-bucket. Each team dropped in 17 points to bring the score to 33-25 at the half.

Robinson, visibly hobbled by a sore left knee, took a turn on the bench but came back late in the half. She then sparked a comeback in the third, scoring the tying basket to make it 36-36 with three minutes left, then added another bucket seconds later with a quick steal to take the lead for the first time. By the end of the quarter, the Warriors were ahead 43-39, with the momentum on their side.

Going into the final quarter with Robinson on the bench, Warriors Chelsea McIntosh and Clarissa Jimmy went on a tear in the early going to extend the lead as the Nanaimo shooters went cold. They staged a late rally to get within seven points by the final minute, but it was too little, too late. The Storm's Amber John coolly drained a pair of foul shots with just seconds left, but the Warriors closed the door for the rest of the way.

Robinson led the Warriors with 23 points, while Jeffrey paced the Storm with 17.

Coach Francis Frank, who substituted freely throughout the game, said he was able to change up the Warriors' attack after the Storm's Shania Sabbas fouled out in the third quarter.

"Chelsea [McIntosh] was the key.

Their #8 [John] was killing us until then. She shut them down from there," Frank said. "Our game is high-tempo, so we weren't playing our tempo until then."

Frank said McIntosh and Jimmy have played together a long time, and they were able to use that experience to hold the Storm off the board in the final going.

With the win, the Warriors were set to face the Mystic Suns.

The powerhouse Mystic Suns took the younger Lady Warriors to school through much of the early going, coasting to a 50-32 victory to take the Island title.

The Warriors made a game out of it, however, out-shooting the favorites over the final half, but they were unable to close the gap. The Mystic Suns came out shooting in the first quarter, jumping out to a 27-3 lead, powered by Jaylynn Lucas with 11 points, followed by Kylee Sam with seven and Tracy Frank with five.

The Warriors tightened up in the second quarter, holding the Suns to 13 points, but were still unable to find the basket. The half ended 40-10.

The Warriors put on their rally caps in the second half, holding the Mystic Sun shooters to eight points in the third quarter, but by then, Suns coach Jeremy Sam admitted his girls had taken their foot off the gas.

Warrior Janine Robinson, who played much of the tournament on a sore knee, put on a free-throw clinic in the final quarter, going seven-for-nine, while adding two more baskets to lead her club with 15 points.

In the final minutes, with the game well out of reach



Photos by Debora Steel

Mystic Suns from Ahousaht put on a clinic in the final game of the Island Zones held in Port Alberni on Feb. 19.



The Lady Warriors made a game of it in the second half, but couldn't close the gap

Savannah (#40) and niece, Janice Sam (#60), both eight, hit the floor in full uniform, with Savannah notching the final basket of the game.

Mystic Suns Kylee Sam and Jaylynn Lucas each finished the game with 14 points. Perhaps the most notable stat was that nearly half (24) of the Suns' points came from behind the three-point line.

Coach Sam said his girls used their speed and positional play throughout the tournament.

"It's all about defence. If you look after the defence, the offence looks after itself," Sam said.

Part of that edge comes through conditioning, he added.

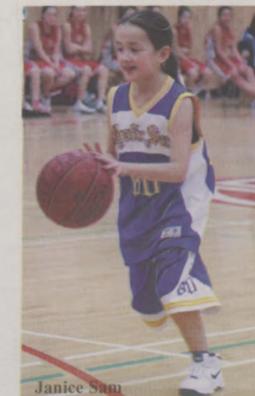
"The gym is available four nights a week and we take full advantage of it," Sam said. "Ahousaht is a basketball community. My girls practice with the Wolfpack. It's a whole-team effort."



The Mystic Suns are now well positioned heading into the Junior Championships March 18 to 24 in Alberni.



Savannah Sam



Janice Sam



Fleury to host National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Hockey legend Theoren Fleury and British Columbia's own Carmen Moore are set to host the 19th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Vancouver, recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of 15 First Nation, Inuit and Métis people.

The awards gala will take place Friday, Feb. 24 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The event will later be broadcasted on APTN and Global.

Rock icon and Mohawk from Six Nations of the Grand River, Robbie Robertson will make a special presentation at the upcoming awards.

Internationally acclaimed Métis singer, songwriter and pianist, Chantal Kreviazuk will enchant viewers with one of her soulful ballades.

Following his performance at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Closing Ceremony, award-winning singer Derek Miller is back in Vancouver to perform a track from his latest album, Derek Miller with Double Trouble.

Kicking off the Awards is a classical piece mixed with Indigenous and western influences composed and conducted by Dustin Peters. Baritone Carey

Newman and mezzo-soprano Marion Newman will be singing the opening number, with dancers Jera Wolfe and Sarain Fox interpreting the piece.

2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards co-host and Gemini Award winner, Evan Adams makes a special appearance in his hometown of Vancouver.

Closing the show is an inspiring number with powerful Indigenous women,

including Andrea Menard, Fara Palmer, Inez, Jani Lauzon, Leela Gilday, Rita Coolidge, Sandy Scofield and rising talent, 10 year old Noelle Maracle.

Actor Adam Beach will be the recipient of the award in the Arts category. Wheelchair basketball athlete Richard Peter will receive an award in the Sports category. Grand Chief Edward John wins in the Politics category.



Edward John.

Financial abuse can happen to elders

Continued from page 2.

McLeod recounted the experience of an elder who took his CEP cash to Nanaimo to purchase a Cadillac priced at \$60,000.

"The salesman offered to sell it to him for \$40,000. He said, 'What a great deal,' and he signed the papers. But it was only a down payment on an \$80,000 car, and he's now on the hook for \$40,000," McLeod said.

Simon Lucas said the First Nations community has been targeted relentlessly since the CEP money came on the horizon. Lucas blasted the "insta-loan" companies in particular.

"You borrow \$400 and you pay back \$570. Our people have helped the dope dealers get rich, and the casinos. We can say, 'Look at what people have done to us,' but look at what we have done to ourselves," Lucas said. "It is going to take us a long time to get over getting all this money."

In her presentation, Casavant, former chief councillor of Hupacasath First Nation, focused on the rights and protections for elders in care.

"Often, people are in care because they

have lost the ability to make decisions. They have also lost the ability to give informed consent," Casavant said. "The way to prevent abuse is to have policies in place. The policy is spelled out, as is the remedy in the event of abuse or neglect."

Samuel said it is important for family and loved ones of elders in care to educate themselves on those policies, and more importantly, to be prepared to speak up if they see abuse or neglect.

"My father was being abused in the old West Coast General Hospital," Samuel said, explaining that two nurses were directly violating hospital policy.

"I reported the incident to the hospital administration and those two nurses were fired," Samuel said. "So don't be afraid to speak up for yourself or others."

Casavant said it isn't always easy dealing with patients with dementia, and in some cases, they must be restrained to protect them from causing harm to themselves.

"There are ways to restrain residents in a chair," she said. "All of those ways are researched and our staff are trained to use them."

Casavant noted that in some instances, elder abuse is the result of actions not taken by family members.

"It is also a form of abuse to not visit your family members after putting them in care," she said.

Dr. Lucas was joined by his wife Julia in delivering closing remarks. Simon reflected on the evolution of Valentine's Day, to where it has become more about consumerism than about love.

"At one time, it wasn't about candy," he said. "Giving good things to the people we love has been part of our culture since time immemorial."

At the time of his engagement to Julia, Lucas said his future father-in-law presented him with a drum. All these years later, that drum is still an important touchstone in his life, he said.

Julia recalled growing up in Ahousaht, in a household with 18 children.

"I still remember sitting with Gladys Sam. She gave me my first knitting needles," Julia said. "I still knit. My mother said, 'Why don't you spend any time with young people?' I said I like being with elders. Growing up with elders has been very good for me."

Nuchatlaht Nation hosts agricultural workshop

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Oclucje—Members of Nuchatlaht First Nation are invited to attend a two-day workshop on Good Agricultural and Collection Practices, which takes place on March 12 and 13 at the Nuchatlaht administration building in Oclucje.

The certification program is taught by Keith Hunter of First Nations Wildcrafters through the Canadian Herb Spice and Natural Collection Association and is free of charge.

Hunter said the certification program, which he helped develop, sprang from his company's early experience in purchasing wild mushrooms. It came to a

head when one of his pickers brought in a bucket of waterlogged mushrooms.

"I decided there had to be a better way," Hunter said. "I suggested he drill some holes in the bucket. He said he couldn't do it, because it was his pee bucket."

Hunter said he realized pickers were turning in mushrooms collected in buckets that had contained fertilizer, floor wax and any number of nasty substances.

"I realized, ultimately, somebody is going to eat this stuff. That's when I decided to find out if there were any HACCP (Hazard Analysis at Critical Control Points) programs for wild foods," he said.

The HACCP (pronounced "HASS-ip") concept for food safety was developed at the industrial level in the 1960s and has

evolved to encompass even the smallest agricultural operations. After searching for some time, Hunter contacted the Canadian Herb Spice and Natural Collection Association, which had established some standards for gathering wild herbs.

"We were the first in B.C. to take the training. Then we had to figure out how to implement those standards in the wild," Hunter said.

Eventually, with help from the Health Canada Food Inspection Agency, a new set of working standards evolved and Hunter became the first trainer in B.C.

"Then we got in contact with the provincial Ministry of Agriculture to develop the B.C. Good Agriculture and Collection Practices supplemental training modules," he said.

While there is governmental oversight, the standards were developed industry by industry.

"Quality assurance and product safety are absolutely critical to the industry," Hunter said.

The training concentrates on identifying risk factors from the growing through post-harvest stages, for farms, herb and spice operations and wild food gatherers. Day One covers the standards established by the federal government and Day Two covers five supplemental modules developed by First Nations Wildcrafters and its industry partners.

"This is the full-meal deal, covering both farm food and wild food," Hunter said.

"Nuchatlaht is looking at local food security, but you have to look at it in terms of safe food security. They are looking at a market garden strategy, and this will give them some tools."

Nuchatlaht band manager Ida Mills said members of the small community, located at the head of Espinoza Inlet, would like to grow more of their own food and are looking at several models.

"There is interest in the community at starting a market garden or a community garden," Mills said. "Even if our people have been involved in growing before, they will need training in food handling, and we also have to study the advantages of a market garden over a community garden."

If members work together to create a community garden, where each family grows its own produce, that would require know-how, but not necessarily certification, Mills said. But the minute a grower contemplates packaging and selling their produce, a number of standards must be met.

"We're hoping Keith can bring in this information so we can get started," Mills said.

Because of the geography in Oclucje, any agricultural operation would require clearing land and building greenhouses, Mills said, adding that there is land available. Besides having a desire for fresh food, Nuchatlaht members would also like to cut down on the shopping trips they currently make. Zeballos is the nearest town; it's about a half-hour away by road.

"Most of our members go to the urban areas [to shop]. It's an outing," Mills said. "Plus, you shop in volume."

Mills added that, while there is some



Photo by Shayne Morrow

Keith Hunter of First Nations Wildcrafters will deliver training on good agricultural collection practices March 12 and March 13 in Oclucje.

mushroom gathering in her region, it hasn't become a major commercial operation so far.

Hunter said he will likely be assisted by trainers from the federal and/or provincial governments at different points through the two-day session.

"When we go through the training, we are very attuned to the needs of the individuals in the room," he said.

One point that is emphasized is that food abundance by itself does not mean food security.

"Thirty per cent of the food that is grown in the world is thrown away because it becomes unsafe to eat," Hunter said.

Food safety means following accepted procedures all the way down the line, Hunter said.

"Organic' may be great for environmental reasons, but it can pose risk hazards," he explained. "If you use manure or compost on your crops, you are working with bacteria, so you don't want to pick your tomatoes after handling fresh manure or raw compost. It's always a good idea to wash your hands."

Once participants have completed the certification, they become eligible for up to \$3,000 in funding for equipment related to traceability or food safety. The Nuchatlaht training sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 12 and 13.

Pre-registration is required, and the class will be restricted to a maximum of 20 students. Mills said the training is open to the greater community, if they are able to make the commute to Oclucje.

For more information, or to register, contact Ida Mills by e-mail at Ida.Nuchatlaht@hotmail.ca or by phone at 250-332-5908. Keith Hunter can be reached at FirstNationsWildcrafters@shaw.ca or by phone at 250-720-8907.

Hunter said he is funded by the provincial Growing Forward initiative to deliver three more Good Agricultural and Collection Practices training sessions this year. But he is also authorized to deliver the program outside of Growing Forward, he added.

Currently, the province is in the process of designating the training as job training, which opens up further funding avenues. Communities are also able to request the training under the auspices of economic development,

Nuu-chah-nulth Catch Monitoring and Reporting Workshop

March 12 to March 14, 2012
Port Alberni, B.C. (location TBD)

Uu-a-thluk is hosting a 3 day Nuu-chah-nulth Catch Monitoring and Reporting Workshop from Monday, March 12 to Wednesday, March 14 in Port Alberni. This workshop will consist of an introduction to catch monitoring and reporting techniques and methods, basic computer training in MS Word, Outlook and Excel. The computer training will be incorporated into the various fisheries modules (salmon, groundfish and shellfish). All 3 days will include plenty of hands-on, practical training.

Travel reimbursement will be available for up to two individuals per Nation. Registration prior to March 2, 2012 is required.

For more information and to register for this 3 day workshop, please contact Errol Sam, Uu-a-thluk Harvest Management Coordinator, at 250-724-5757 or by email at errol.sam@nuuchahnulth.org.



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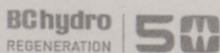
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60511-325 Jun 2012



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Science celebration draws huge crowd

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—Families packed the Alberni Athletic Hall and North Island College (NIC) for a community science celebration on Feb. 11.

The event brought the folks from Science World British Columbia, in partnership with NIC and the Mid-Island Science Technology and Innovation Council (MISTIC), and featured displays and exhibits from a wide range of science-based organizations and businesses.

"This is phenomenal. It's about double last year," MISTIC executive director Paris Gaudet said of the crowds. "We had to call in more volunteers, we're so busy. We haven't stopped."

"This is my eleventh community science celebration with Science World and I think it's the busiest one I've been to. It really speaks to the community."

One of the attractions for children was the opportunity to take part in hands-on activities with applied technology.

At the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. (ASTT) booth, six-year-old Frederick Sieber III of Ditidaht First Nation worked the electronic controls on a robotic arm to "hoe-chuck" a stack of ballpoint pens on the display table.

"We live in Port Alberni and he's in Grade 1 at Haahuupayak," Frederick's dad, Fred Sieber Jr. said. "He likes building things. He just turned six on Boxing Day and now he has an Xbox, and he's learning new hand skills. That's how he picked this up so quickly."

The ASTT display was set up in partnership with the First Nations Career Council.

"The goal is to bring science to First Nations youth," said ASTT manager Jason Jung.

Gilbert Felsman is another parent coming to realize the potential of electronic gaming in attracting children to science. At a display table set up by NIC trades instructor Patrick Balfry, Felsman watched stepson Tristan Tatoosh, 12, manipulate a mirror to simulate a moving vehicle and tripping an infrared speed sensor taken from an ordinary automotive speedometer.

Balfry, who won national awards as a GM technician for Dennis Jonsson Motor Products, now teaches the automotive technician program at NIC, and his display, while relatively low-tech, was an attention grabber for both children and adults.

With just the right combination of hand movements, Tristan was able to reach "speeds" of over 11 miles per hour, while his brother Travis, 10, waited his turn.

"They're both very interested in gaming. Right now, it's Modern Warfare 3," Felsman said. "We have all the different consoles, and their dexterity is well-developed. I think it's really helped them."

The event featured three Science World stage shows presented by outreach workers Sherry Lu and Ella Simon, starting with the Science of Physics at noon. It was a hands-on show employing children drawn from the audience, and involved hurling projectiles like rubber chickens and two-litre pop bottles.

Simon said the Port Alberni event followed a Science on the Road tour that included five days of school visits across the district, from Port Alberni to Bamfield, Ucluelet, Tofino and Ahousaht.

"I get to see some pretty cool places around the province," she said, adding

Frederick Sieber III of Ditidaht First Nation works the electronic controls on a robotic arm to "hoe-chuck" a stack of ballpoint pens.



Photos by Shayne Morrow

that Maaqtusiis Elementary in Ahousaht was a highlight.

"It's an awesome little village. We came in by floatplane and went out by water taxi," Simon said. "I was sad that the weather got so bad. We went out for a walk in the woods and in 15 minutes we were completely soaked."

It was also an education about life in remote communities, she said.

"The weather got so bad for a while, they told us it could get too rough to get back to the mainland. But then it cleared up and it got nice out."

At NIC, Dolly McRae said it was encouraging to see so many young people interested in science. McRae said most First Nations elders had little opportunity to study the sciences.

"I went to the residential school in Port Alberni, and for classroom work we only had science and math. The rest of the time we did crafts or worked at our jobs,"

she said. "When I got to Grade 9, though, we went to the high school in Port Alberni for our regular classes."

McRae said she quickly realized how limited the curriculum at the residential school had been, compared to the range of studies her non-aboriginal peers had been exposed to.

"I had no idea of the number of sciences there were. And I didn't know what 'social studies' were, until somebody took me aside and said 'It's about people,'" McRae said.

"We were fortunate because the people we met in the school were friendly and supportive. I never experienced real racism until I got outside the school."

McRae said the early support was important in keeping her engaged in the education process.

Continued on page 10.



Above: North Island College sessional instructor Peter Drummond talks with Jessica Hamilton about the internal organs of a 250-pound pig.

Left: Tristan Tatoosh, 12, manipulates a mirror to simulate a moving vehicle, tripping an infrared speed sensor.



Winter weather a challenge for Aborigine family

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Long Beach—He loves the people and he loves the place, but the cold climate is something John Clarke of Australia just can't get used to.

Clarke is an Aborigine Parks Victoria Exchange employee; that's Victoria, as in Victoria, Australia. He and his family are spending a year on the Esowista Peninsula learning about Parks Canada's model of management. He will also learn about the people and pass his Australian knowledge to the people here.

"I am a Kirraewurrung Gundiṁjara person from what is now the southwest of the state of Victoria, belonging to the Maar Nations," he said.

"The similarities between ourselves and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations are astounding; we were koontabull (whale) Maar (Aboriginal people) also. We lived in villages and our aquaculture industry consisted of kuyyang (eel) farming prior to European arrival in the early 1800s," he continued.

Clarke and some of his family arrived in Ucluelet in May 2011. The family includes his wife Kathryn, and children Dylan, 17, Liam, 15 and Tanisha, eight, and an older son Caleb, 19. Caleb stayed in Australia but recently dropped by his parents' Ucluelet home for a visit.

In Australia, summer holidays for the kids begin in December and end in January. Not wanting to disrupt their son's schooling, the family waited until their school year ended in late November before allowing the children to join them in Canada.

For the kids, what should have been the start of a long, hot Australian December turned into a blast of Canada's extreme West Coast winter. They are used to dry summer days with temperatures in the 40C range, sometimes going as high as 50C (122F), according to Australian climate reports.

"It was 43C on New Year's Day at home," said Clarke.

Winter temperatures can hit freezing, but Clarke said it's usually around 4C in June and July in Southern Australia where his family is from.

Another huge difference is the rainfall. In the temperate rainforests of Vancouver Island, annual rainfall averages about 15 feet with as much as 22 feet of annual rainfall at Uchucklesaht's Henderson Lake, also known as the wettest place in North America.

By contrast, Australia averages about

3.5 feet of annual rainfall.

When asked about the difference in climate, Clarke shivered, smiled and said, "It's freezing here! We've been like onions walking around in layers."

But Clarke says his family has adapted and has jumped into the experience with both feet. But he had many little things to learn and overcome, like driving on the outside of the road, as he calls it.

"We've had to learn about cultural differences, Canadian English and some expressions," he said. Young Tanisha attends school at Ucluelet Elementary School and, according to her father, has already developed a Canadian accent.

He is happy to see that Nuu-chah-nulth culture is being taught in the local schools.

"Tanisha comes home and tells us what she's learned about the Nuu-chah-nulth at Ucluelet Elementary School," Clarke added.

Another adjustment the family had to make was in their diets.

"We are inland people and we don't eat a lot of fish," said Clarke, adding his family has eaten a lot of salmon since their arrival on the coast.

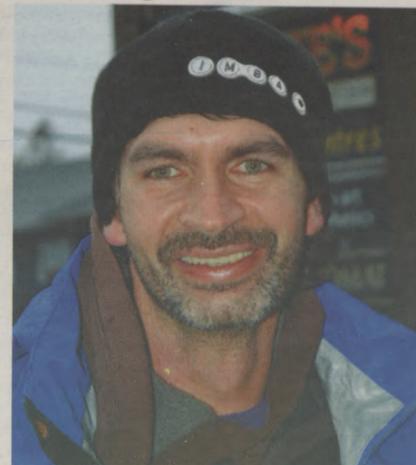
"We are used to eating mostly red meat...you now, like kangaroo or emu," he said.

"We've adapted so much we're really comfortable being here. Joe Martin has had a great influence on us, welcoming us to his traditional home and he takes us out on his boat," he continued.

"We come from a strong cultural influence at home," said Clarke. The family was looking forward to attending a pot-latch on the weekend, the Celebration of Life party for Moses Martin.

Kathryn has taken on the exchange experience whole-heartedly. She works at a resort in Ucluelet and drives the windy road to Port Alberni every week for roller blade practice.

"She loves it here; I think she would stay if she could," Clarke laughed.



John Clarke is on an exchange program with Park Canada. He hails from Australia.

"We've had to learn about cultural differences, Canadian English and some expressions...Tanisha comes home and tells us what she's learned about the Nuu-chah-nulth at Ucluelet Elementary School."

~ John Clarke

Speaking of the notoriously windy, narrow, hilly highway to Port Alberni reminded Clarke of something else he had to get used to.

"Back home it's all flat land and all the roads are straight," he laughed.

The family marvels that the forest comes right down to the beaches on Vancouver Island.

"We see sand all around us when we go to the beach at home. The sand dunes run as far as the eye can see," said Clarke.

"When it comes to walking with nature, Clarke says on Australian flatlands people must look to the ground for venomous snakes.

"Here you have to look behind you and ahead of you, all around you, for cougars and other large animals," he noted.

Clarke has been at his job with Parks Victoria since 1999. Parks Victoria, he says, has long-standing relationships with Parks Canada, Thailand and Japan.

He said it's not his first time to western Canada.

"I was here five years ago on an indigenous studies tour looking at the work Parks Canada had done with the Aboriginal communities," he said.

In three weeks Clarke visited coastal first nations from the Gulf Island to Haida Gwaii learning about working relationships between Parks Canada and first nations. He left with a good impres-

sion and said it whet his appetite for more.

"It's a different system from home," Clarke said. "Aboriginal people in Canada are recognized in the (Canadian) Constitution, but we don't have that in Victoria," he continued.

He said his country operates on what he calls a hand back/lease back system. Joint management between the government agencies and the indigenous peoples is a developing field. The Aborigines negotiate for their share of parks management with the state of Victoria, not the country of Australia.

"Back home the state (or the province in Canadian terms) is responsible for parks," he explained.

Since he's been with Parks Canada he has worked with Nuu-chah-nulth Parks associates Joe Martin, Larry Johnson and Darrell Ross and Terry Dorward. He also works closely with Huu-ay-aht member Karen Haugen, who works with Parks Canada in the First Nations Unit. With their help he works on a Cultural Resources Values Statement for Parks Canada.

The statement, he says, is an effort to capture what is of value to First Nations about the landscape in the context of Parks Canada Reserve.

"I want to highlight values - why this place is important to people," he explained, adding such a statement could influence future management decisions.

Clarke is impressed with the use of the Nuu-chah-nulth language in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, both in signage and in spoken word.

"This has given me the drive to go home and resurrect our language among our people," he said.

"Since I've been here I've been to events and hear your language spoken. Even in everyday conversation I regularly hear people say some of your words," said Clarke.

The Clarke family has barely three months left to stay in Canada. They will leave May 16, just as spring turns to summer and return home to an Australian winter.

"Given the option, I'd do it again and I certainly encourage Nuu-chah-nulth people to come visit us," he said. "I was here to learn about Nuu-chah-nulth people but at the same time I was learning about my own people," said Clarke.

Parks Victoria boasts 45 National Parks with hundreds of other types of parks and reserves. In those parks are 2,500 Aboriginal Heritage Properties and 10,412 Aboriginal Heritage Sites.



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Webcast from Alberni Athletic Hall

Learning from the past on injury awareness

Submitted by the interim
First Nations Health Authority

First Nations have always had a tradition of good health as a priority in their communities. The health of the land and mental, physical and spiritual health of the people comes as second nature. This awareness comes from a deep knowledge and spiritual connection to the natural environment. The land was shared as a way to feed each other, to

stay warm and happy, with respect for the earth and a trust in the laws of nature. Being safe and avoiding injury was necessary for the continuance of traditional ways of living like collecting food, hunting, traveling and harvesting natural resources. "First Nations people have always had an incredible understanding of themselves, their health and their place in the world. Living wisely with good health is something we have always done, and we are often reaching back into our ancestral knowledge - our traditional ways of

being and knowing - to reaffirm how we can live healthier lives today and tomorrow," said Dr. Evan Adams, the Aboriginal Physician Advisor to the BC Provincial Health Officer. "The generation before us hardly interacted with the health care system - often only just near the end of life. If the entire health care system disappeared today, we would still be taking care of each other, and we are taking care of each other. It was said that all we have to do in life is to go out and help the people."



Many preventable injuries in 2012 are still related to boating, hiking and dealing with wildlife.

The statistics today show what many First Nations already know. Preventable accidents impact a high number of communities and families. Rural and urban living both have unique challenges. Something as simple as crossing the street can be dangerous in the big city, whereas rural people deal with the issues related to remote and isolated living.

Many preventable injuries in 2012 are still related to traditional and respected cultural activities like hunting, boating, hiking and dealing with wildlife. Today, First Nations people are also influenced by new risk factors that all community members need to be aware of. Some frequently noted preventable

accidents include chemical safety, intoxication, motor vehicle safety and forms of violence. It has been shown that up to 90 per cent of injuries are predictable and preventable with a little bit of mindfulness. This can be as simple as wearing a seat-belt while traveling in a motor vehicle, boat or ATV.

"Injuries are one of the leading, preventable causes of death, hospitalization, and disability among Aboriginal peoples in BC. The leading cause being motor vehicle crashes," said Dr. Adams. "We need to develop a strategy to support better health and longevity for First Nations by enhancing surveillance, skills, knowledge, community capacity, and support the area of injury prevention."

Continued on page 11.

Kids discover Science

Continued from page 8.

One young student keenly engaged in education is Jessica Hamilton, 15, of Hupacasath First Nation. A member of the Alberni District Secondary School junior girls Armada basketball team, she also has a keen interest in the sciences. On a lab table, NIC sessional instructor Peter Drummond sliced, prodded and poked the internal organs of a 250-pound pig. Hamilton didn't bat an eye. "I'm not grossed out. I find it very interesting," she said. "I want to be an anthropologist or an archaeologist when I get older."

"Some of the kids don't even want to look at it. Others dig right in," Drummond said. Hamilton, whose brother Brandon departed last week for an economic development mission in Uganda, said she has always been interested in social studies and history and plans to follow that interest from a hard-science, rather than an academic path.

Exploring early cultures means digging in the dirt and taking all the measurements, she said. That means studying

all kinds of science and travelling to historic sites. "I've always wanted to travel to Greece and Italy to study the ancient cultures," she said.

Back at Athletic Hall at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre booth, public education instructor Erika Simonson said the Port Alberni event was a rare road trip. For most of the year, schools send field trips to Bamfield.

Simonson said the marine station brings in about 4,000 students each year, from Grade 4 through high school. "We've had students from all over B.C., from Alberta and Saskatchewan, from Ontario and the Yukon," she said. Science World B.C. manager for community outreach JoAnn Coggan said Saturday's event was the most well-attended she has seen this year, and was notable for the number of adults who attended without children.

"And not everyone here is from Port Alberni. There are people from Ucluelet and the West Coast, and some came from Courtenay/Comox," Coggan said.

Exploring early cultures means digging in the dirt and taking all the measurements, she said. That means studying

City of Port Alberni EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/BUSINESS LICENCE INSPECTOR (Casual Relief Position)

The City of Port Alberni is accepting resumes from qualified applicants for a Bylaw Enforcement Officer/Business License Inspector. This is a casual relief position providing coverage when the incumbent is away. There are no assigned hours for this position.

This is inspection and regulatory work involving enforcement of municipal bylaws and policies as well as statutes conferring municipal regulatory powers. The work involves processing and serving of documents, the carrying out of inspections and evidence gathering necessary in the efficient enforcement of a number of regulatory enactments. The incumbent investigates complaints from citizens, City departments, Council and other government agencies with respect to alleged infractions of the City's bylaws and determines appropriate action to gain compliance through negotiation or referral to Council or Court. The work also involves the processing of Business Licenses, inspections of businesses and responding to inquiries.

The candidate must be aware of the requirements under the Offense Act and other legislation that relates to the processing, service and inspection of documents and must be familiar with such court procedures as may be necessary in the enforcement of any bylaw of the municipality, such as the filing and swearing of information summonses, reports to Crown Counsel and making Court appearances.

Candidates are required to have Grade 12 graduation and a minimum of 5 years related working experience or equivalent experience as an RCMP, Provincial or Municipal Police Officer, or an equivalent combination of knowledge and experience in other investigative and enforcement fields.

Rate of pay is per CUPE, Local 118, Collective Agreement.

Resumes with covering letter, examples of work completed and references will be received until 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2012 by Theresa Kingston, Manager of Human Resources and Community Development at Echo Centre, 4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 3Y6 or by email to theresa_kingston@portalberni.ca. We regret that only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

City of Port Alberni EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Port Alberni is accepting applications for Seasonal Positions (temporary position - up to 6 months) in the Parks and Public Works department.

Labourer 1 - Parks (Seasonal)

This is an entry-level position in the Parks department. Successful applicants will be required to perform heavy manual work involving considerable physical effort and agility in a wide variety of unskilled and limited semi-skilled construction and maintenance tasks related to grounds, buildings, facilities and utilities. Applicants must have completed Grade 12 or equivalent and hold a valid Class 5 Drivers License with air brake endorsement and have the ability to drive a standard single axle dump truck with air brakes. Successful applicants will be required to complete a fitness test and demonstrate driving competency.

Labourer 1 - Public Works (Seasonal)

Successful applicants will be required to perform heavy manual work involving considerable physical effort and agility in a wide variety of unskilled and limited semi-skilled construction and maintenance tasks related to grounds, buildings, facilities and utilities. Applicants must have completed Grade 12 or equivalent, hold a valid Class 3 Drivers License with air brake endorsement and have the ability to drive a standard tandem truck. Successful applicants will be required to complete a fitness test and demonstrate driving competency.

Engineering Technician 1 (Seasonal)

This is a technical engineering position involving surveying, drafting, design and inspection of municipal engineering services. Candidates are required to have a two year diploma of Technology in Civil Engineering, registration or eligibility for registration as an Applied Science Technologist with the Society of Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C. and a valid Class 5 Drivers License. Successful applicants will be required to complete a fitness test.

Rate of pay for all positions is per CUPE, Local 118, Collective Agreement.

Resumes with covering letter, proof of qualifications and references will be received until 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2012 by Theresa Kingston, Manager of Human Resources and Community Development at Echo Centre, 4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 3Y6 or by email to theresa_kingston@portalberni.ca. We regret that only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted.

Calling First Nations filmmakers for video contest

Continued from page 10.

The interim First Nations Health Authority (iFNHA) is encouraging BC First Nations to take control of their health messaging. The 'Safer Nations - Injury Prevention' 2012 Video contest is offering up \$10,000 in prizes as well as provincial recognition in creating video

messages that create awareness on injury prevention. The deadline for entries is April 27, 2012 and videos will be judged by a panel at the Gathering Wisdom V forum in Vancouver in May 2012. The contest is encouraging all First Nations film-makers, from the pro's to the amateur camera phone directors to enter.

In line with BC First Nation communities taking control of their health needs, the iFNHA is continually working to elevate the health of their people in an organization created by and working for them. Over the last number of years the First Nations Health Society (FNHS) has been diligently working under the guidance of Chiefs, Health Directors and First Nations communities in collaboration with Provincial and Federal partners.

Many important developments have taken place including the establishment of the First Nations Health Council and Health Directors Association, as well as the achievement of a number of enabling agreements with BC and Canada. Along with other political and technical changes, the FNHS recently changed their name to the interim First Nations Health Authority.

The interim period gives the organization a chance to make necessary internal

changes as well as to seek out the guidance of BC First Nations in the establishment of a permanent First Nations Health Authority, creating a unique and exciting opportunity for First Nations in BC.

As things progress during the interim phase, consultation, input and collective decision making is the path being pursued while regional First Nations meet and collaborate on the formation of their governance structure.

Through advice gained from other Aboriginal peoples in places like Alaska and New Zealand who have already progressed through their own health care self-governance, BC First Nations can set the stage for other aboriginal populations across Canada and even around the globe in operating a new innovative and successful health care service delivery operation.

For more information connect online: www.fnhc.ca

The interim First Nations Health Authority presents... Safer Nations - Injury prevention VIDEO CONTEST!

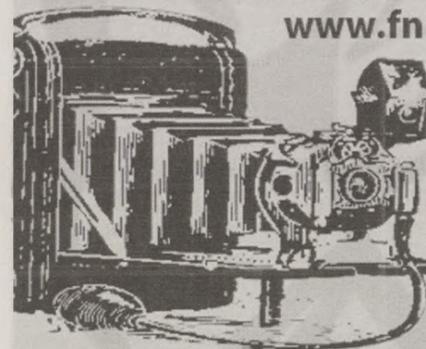
YOU can create a video that could inspire positive change and healthier BC First Nation communities!

- ♦ Interview an Elder!
- ♦ Work with local youth!
- ♦ Talk to your community!

Find out what injury prevention messages would work best for your community, then create a 1-3 minute video that can promote safety from a First Nations perspective!

Visit our website for full contest details:

www.fnhc.ca



Questions?
Send an email to
info@fnhc.ca

Contest Deadline: April 27, 2012 at 4pm



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RHSW
RESOLUTION HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS

With the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) approaching a deadline of September 19, 2012, the Nuu-chah-nulth RHSW team is dedicated to support our survivors and their families.

Our goal is to support Nuu-chah-nulth Survivors. If you choose to proceed with the IAP, we encourage you to contact us for support before, during, and after the hearing. If your community is interested, we are available to facilitate IAP information sessions, provide support, and/or make referrals for clinical and specialized counselling.

For more information, please contact Richard Watts at 250-724-5757 or toll free 1-877-677-1131. You can also drop in at the Quu asa office: 5120 Argyle St. in Port Alberni, Ph: 1-888-624-3939.

Tiic aq



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email chintz@tseshah.com.



SHARE YOUR TRUTH

TRC Community Hearing - Port Alberni, BC

In preparation for the TRC Regional Event in April 2012, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) will be in

Port Alberni, BC:
March 12th & 13th, 2012 9am - 5pm

Location: MAHT MAHS GYMNASIUM, 5000 Mission Road

This Hearing will provide an opportunity for Residential School Survivors to share with the Commission and Canada the unique experiences of children who attended Residential School.

This is also an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system.

Private Statement Gathering will also be available for the two days.
Health Support Workers are available on site

For a complete listing of TRC Hearings, visit trc.ca

For more information please call:
Event Coordinator: Reg Sam, Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
Phone: 250-724-5757 or Toll Free 1-877-677-1131
Email: reg.sam@nuuchahnulth.org

Stephanie Scott, TRC
Phone: 204-984-7928 or toll free 1-888-872-5554
Email: stephanie.scott@trc.ca

Join us for the Victoria Island Regional Hearings in Victoria, BC
April 13th & 14th, 2012 at the Victoria Convention Centre & Fairmont Express

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Ahousaht brings home Prince Rupert championship

The Ahousaht Timberme intermediate men's squad captured its division at the 53rd annual Prince Rupert All Native Basketball Tournament, which concluded on Feb. 11.

The Timbermen eked out a 66-65 victory over Port Simpson in the championship final. Ahousaht's point guard Greg Charlie Jr. sank the winning basket with a mere 1.4 seconds remaining in the contest.

"The building just exploded and I think the whole island did too," said Timbermen coach Tom Campbell of his side's victory.

Even Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo sent a congratulatory text to the team moments following the final buzzer after watching the game via webcast.

The Prince Rupert tournament is considered one of, if not the most prestigious Aboriginal basketball event in western Canada.

The tourney also featured senior men's, masters men's and women's divisions.

As the one-point difference would suggest, the championship final was closely contested.

"It was back and forth all game," Campbell said. "One team would go up by two, three, four or five points and then the other team would catch up to them."

The Timbermen endured a 16-hour ferry ride to travel to the tournament. Since there was no return ferry on the Sunday, team members drove back home, about a 15-hour journey.

Campbell said his squad was expecting to fare well in its division, which attracted 15 teams.

"We wanted to be playing on the Saturday," he said. "Saturday is championship day."

The Timbermen ended up playing six



Ahousaht was celebrating basketball on Feb. 16 and in particular the intermediate men's winners of the 53rd annual Prince Rupert All Native Basketball Tournament, the Ahousaht Timbermen, who took the tourney in an exciting finish with the winning points scored with 1.4 seconds left on the clock.

games during the tournament, which featured a double-knockout formula, meaning teams were eliminated after losing a pair of games.

The Ahousaht side won five of the six matches it played.

Though Campbell was confident his squad could be successful, the Timbermen were not considered a pre-tournament favorite according to the seedings, which can be described as not really helpful at best.

That's because only the Top 3 seeded

teams were based on results from last year's tournament. The remaining clubs were then all simply seeded randomly by a draw.

Campbell didn't seem concerned by the rankings at all.

"When they came out I told our boys you're going to be the first Number 12 seed to win this tournament," he said.

The Timbermen kicked off the tournament in convincing fashion, thumping Massett 101-42. The Ahousaht club then defeated top-seeded Kitimaat 90-70 in its

next outing.

The Timbermen then had the next two days off. But they were certainly busy during the final two days of the tournament, playing twice on Friday and twice more on Saturday.

For starters, Ahousaht downed Vancouver 100-95 in its first game on Friday. The Timbermen were then defeated 84-78 by Port Simpson.

Ahousaht rebounded from that setback though and beat Vancouver again, 97-90 on Saturday morning. That set up the final against Port Simpson that evening. The Timbermen were able to avenge their only tournament loss by scratching out its one-point victory in the final.

The Timbermen roster at the Prince Rupert tournament featured 11 players. Campbell said the majority of the team's members have played together since they were in Grade 8.

Campbell added he was especially pleased the squad was able to win the Prince Rupert tournament as this was the final year of eligibility in the intermediate grouping for two players, centre Brett Botting and forward Tommy Paul Jr.

"I was especially happy for Tommy," Campbell said. "These are pretty intense games they play. And he had popped out his shoulder a few times."

Most recently Paul Jr. had dislocated his shoulder at a tournament in Ucluellet this past November. The Timbermen placed second at that event.

Campbell said Paul Jr. persevered and did his best to be ready for the Prince Rupert tournament.

"He did his rehab," Campbell said. "And he didn't lay back. He didn't play dead."

The Timbermen were not the only local team to enjoy success at the tournament.

The Ahousaht-based Maaqtusis Suns finished second in the senior men's division. Skidegate beat the Suns 107-81 in their final.

Also, a Nanaimo-based club called the West Coast Spirits captured top honors in the women's division, downing Kitimaat 69-47 in its final.



Above: The Ahousaht Timbermen are the 2012 champions of the Prince Rupert All Native Basketball Tournament in the intermediate division. The tournament concluded Feb. 11.



Left: Patti Frank and Cecilia Titian celebrate Ahousaht style, with a rousing song and dance for the returning intermediate Prince Rupert All Native champions, the Ahousaht Timbermen.

Photos by
Melody Charlie

Wolfpack just too much for younger boys' squad

Continued from page 1.

The tactic backfired with Magic mounting a surge and bringing the score to 53-51 with three minutes left.

With Reese already fouled out, the Braves #23 Darien Baker got the hook with two minutes remaining. Magic's Dominic Thomas had the chance to tie it at the foul line but missed his two shots and the game saw-sawed back and forth, scoreless, with the close to capacity gallery of spectators going wild. Then, with 21 seconds left, Adam Campbell dropped the tying bucket.

It was nearly all Adam Campbell in OT, as he dropped four baskets to end the match with 28 points to lead all scorers, with Iziah Robinson adding 18.

Ahousaht coach Travis Thomas said his young players were able to capitalize on their opponents' two foul-outs in the final quarter.

"As soon as we were able to switch to a 2-2-1 press defence, it changed the game," Thomas said.

The switch came with five minutes remaining in the game, and it allowed Magic's big men to get into the shooting lanes and put the critical points up.

Thomas said his players had to turn right around to play the veteran Homiss Wolves, but he expected them to benefit from the experience.

Magic got about one hour's rest before taking to the court against the defending B.C. champion Homiss Wolves, and showed zero signs of fatigue, using their whole bench to knock off the favorites 59-54 to earn a berth in the final against the red-hot Ahousaht Wolfpack.

This time Magic went right to work to take the early lead, sparked by Adam Campbell and Iziah Robinson. The Ahousaht boys took a 14-8 lead at the end of the first quarter, then kept up the pressure in the second, for the most part, holding the Wolves to the outside.

The Wolves' veteran Darian Van Der Merwe, who put on a shooting clinic on Saturday night, was held quiet through much of the first, but caught fire midway through the second, making three solo drives to the net for the close-in lay-up. He then ran the same play twice, only to dish off to Wayne Jules, keeping Magic off-balance.

But Magic continued to outscore the Wolves, taking the edge, 18-13 over the quarter, to take the score to 32-21 at the half.

Van De Merwe put on a stellar solo



Wolves' veteran Darian Van Der Merwe was held quiet through much of the first quarter against Magic, but caught fire midway through the second.



Photos by Debora Steel

Hesquiaht Braves and Maaqtusis Magic put on an exciting show for spectators on the final day of the Island Zones. Darien Baker played an aggressive game, until he was given the hook in the final two minutes of regulation play.

performance in the second half, but Magic countered with a complete team game, outworking the Wolves under the net, pulling in key rebounds and leaving few second chances.

Magic spread out their scoring over the match, with Iziah Robinson leading the charge with 16 points, Dominic Thomas with 12 and Adam Campbell with 10.

Van Der Merwe, who ended up with 33 points on the game, brought the Wolves close, aided by Jules, who added 15. At the one-minute mark, he popped in a lay-up to bring the score to 58-51, and then drained a three-pointer to narrow the gap to four points.

Magic barred the door from then on. Riley Botting made one free throw, then

raced back on the ensuing last second rush to pull in a key rebound to put the game out of reach.

"We ran a box and run defence on them and focused on shutting down their #1 [Van Der Merwe]," coach Travis Thomas said. "Our big guys, Gabriel Campbell and Riley Botting, really outworked them on the defensive boards."

Thomas said it didn't hurt that the Wolves were playing with a short bench, and that, despite having played earlier in the afternoon, his young players were able to dictate the pace of the game.

"We ran a lot of ball movement on them. I encourage my guys to pass and run up the court rather than try to dribble all the way. We have a

very strong training program down in Ahousaht, with some of the guys also doing some rugby training, so it really helps our endurance."

Thomas admitted that endurance was about to be tested to the limit, when his Magic squad took to the court for their third game of the afternoon against the big, experienced Wolfpack.

The boys' final proved to be a furious match-up of youth versus experience as Magic struck early and never let up, despite playing their third tomorrow game since noon. But the Wolfpack applied equal pressure and determination to wear down the junior side in the late stages to grind out a final 68-62 victory.

The Wolfpack came out hard in the first quarter, drawing a series of fouls, which Magic jumped on immediately. Adam Campbell dropped five-for-six, while big man Riley Botting, whose stature grew as the game unfolded, was two-for-three with an added basket. Iziah Robinson was also just warming up for the later stages, dropping the first six of his team-leading 18 points. The Wolfpack's Tristan John dropped a late three-pointer to tie the quarter at 18-18.

The pace never let up in the second, and it was up to the Wolfpack's Robert Frank to tie the score at 31-31 with a last-second basket to end the half.

The Wolfpack stormed out to an early lead in the third quarter, led by Frank and Dominic Campbell, but Magic countered with Botting from under the net and Robinson shooting four baskets from just inside the three-point line, to take a 48-44 lead into the fourth.

When the teams took to the court for the frantic final quarter, one had the feeling the game would be decided at the free-throw line. Stepping up the pressure on their younger opponents, who were by now showing visible signs of fatigue, Wolfpack veterans Paul Smith and Robert Frank quickly extinguished Magic's lead with a cool three-pointer

each, but Botting and Robinson continued to put up the numbers, aided by teammate Gabe Campbell.

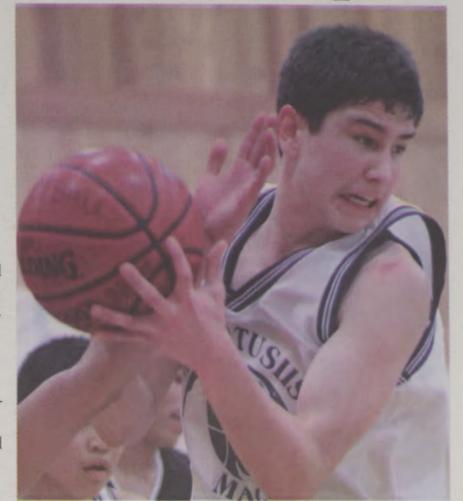
With the score still tight but with the Magic back end visibly sagging, Smith made a key steal at mid-court and cruised in for the easy lay-up to go up 61-58, then Alonso Sam made a second steal to keep the ball in Magic's court as the minutes ticked down.

In the end, it all came down to the free-throw line. With the score at 62-63 in the final minute, the Magic's Botting was unable to deliver the tying basket. All told, he and Robinson went 0-for-six in the fourth quarter while Smith was good on four out of six. Despite a desperate late attack, the Wolfpack were able to keep Magic off the board in the final minute while potting five unanswered points.

Wolfpack coach Jeremy Sam gave full value to Magic.

"Congratulations to them. They're Grade 9 ball, and they came right at us after playing two tournaments in one weekend," Sam said. (Magic came third in a tournament that weekend in Courtenay.) "We could see they were tired in the late going, so we kept the pressure on them. It was a team effort. They wanted it so bad."

Sam said his clubs were both well placed for the provincials which will be



Riley Botting's stature grew as the final game with Wolfpack unfolded.

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Experience ruled the day at the Island Zones Feb. 19 when the Ahousaht's older boys team, Wolfpack, defeated Ahousaht's young squad, Maaqtusis Magic, in an exciting match-up.



Community & Beyond

Basketball Tournament 24 and under Feb. 24 Port Alberni

Samuel Family Tournament to be held at the Athletic Hall. 14 teams, 6 Ladies and 8 men. Teams from Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Duncan, Alert Bay, Nitinat, Ucluelet, Gold River and two based out of Port Alberni. Tip off 1 p.m. Friday, Games all day Saturday starting 9 am. Finals Sunday starting 9 am. Come join the fun, support the youth. Kleco for supporting youth activities.

Book Launch Feb. 29 Port Alberni

You are cordially invited to attend the launch of our books 'Iicuu and The History of the Potlatch on Wednesday, Feb. 29 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Wellness Center across from Kneecross on 4th Ave. For information: Irene or Jackie @ 250 - 723 - 8281.

Loonie Twoonie/Garage Sale March 3 Hupacasath

A fundraiser for Hupacasath and Tshahat youth to raise money to take them to a youth conference in Nanaimo will be held at the House of Gathering March 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables are \$5. Call Carolina Tatoosh 250-735-0444 or 250-724-4041 X 28 for details. Donations for Loonie Twoonie being accepted.

Basketball Championship March 18 to 23 Port Alberni

Hesquiaht Nation and Homiss Wolves will host the BC Junior All Native Basketball Championship at three gyms in Port Alberni. Opening ceremonies are at the Alberni Athletic Hall March 18.

Volunteers at required throughout the week. Contact tournament coordinator Bruce Lucas at 250-918-8588 for details of the weeklong event. Action from the Athletic Hall will be webcast at beginning with opening ceremonies.

8,000 Sacred Drums March 21 Vancouver

2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Location Oppenheimer Park, 488 Powell Street. Bring your drums, rattles as we will gather together to drum prayer songs for our people, our earth... our environment...for all that is going on in our heart. We will pray for peace for indigenous people around the world, suffering from war. We will pray for our children, our youth and families. We will share ceremony for our earth, for our people, and all people around the world. The first great ceremony was held March 21, 2004 in Temoaya, Mexico and there will be drum circles joined around the world on the Spring Equinox continuing every year until 2012."

Sewing Circle Each Monday Evening Port Alberni

SEEDS hosts a sewing circle every Monday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the SEEDS building 5001 Mission Rd.

Adult Graduation Ongoing Port Alberni

SEEDS has ongoing registration for adults who want to graduate. For more information call Ken Watts at 778-421-2450.

Diabetes Education Centre Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays West Coast General Hospital,

Message of continuing love

February 6th is a day that my late husband Brian Cosmos Amos passed and went on to the spirit world.

I first met him at the Friendship Centre when his dad Francis was the manager. He was playing ping pong with his brother Frenchie. Meanwhile, my friend Ester, Barb and a few others were working in the concession. I asked who is this guy, and my friend Ester said "Brian Amos", and do you want to meet him?

That was the beginning of our relationship. He proposed to me down at the Port Alberni wharf. The moon was out and we were in his father's car. Then he says to me, when we get married, there will be no alcohol in our home.

He was a hard worker and loved sports so much. All he did was read sports books, watch sports and play sports. I don't know how he ever got the energy to do this, work at the same time also raise a family.

He loved his family, especially his daughters and our grandson we raised. He'd push them to work hard, never give up; never let anyone put you down and have gratitude for what you have every day.

It was an everlasting courtship that we began together.

We had our losses and challenges in our marriage. But he reminded me over and over, family, family is what it all about. Never get down because sometimes you might never get back up. You have me to lean on, he would say.

When I look back at the 42 years I

had with him, it's like the rainbow never ends or it never moves because it's beautiful no matter what time of the day it is.

He lived a fairly good life with not too many regrets. He taught me in his last days of his life, that death is nothing to fear. There is no pain in this path to heaven. There is no punishment to this disease but how as a family we stay together and then the pain is not so hard to deal with then.

As the journey is slowly getting easier from the grief we have gone through individually and as a family. Each date, celebrations, that come and go, brings joy, sadness, a reminder that we have to go on with our lives.

This day is a celebration because our daughter Roberta was born, February 6th, dark hair, dark eyes and a smile that her father had, so proud of having a daughter and no regrets of not having a son. He treasured her like there was no tomorrow. He sacrificed everything for our girls just so that they would have a good home.

All those memorable times that we shared will never fade in my heart. Today I go on for as I know we will be together one day. I miss you, but I have our girls, our grandchildren and great grandchildren that you have instilled some of you in each one to keep me going.

*A devoted wife
Marge Amos*

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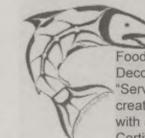
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FOR SALE: Full size canopy. Green and in good condition. \$500. Please call 250-725-2463



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FOR SALE OR RENT: Great commercial opportunity. Great location by Tshahat Market on Pacific Rim Highway. Also ideal for office, etc. Asking \$80,000 or rent for \$1,000 a month. Call Richard Watts, 250-724-2603 or 250-731-5795.

Artists

CEDAR WEAVER: Baseball caps, bridal floral bouquets, for sale. Traditional hats, headdresses, bracelets for trade. Email: sandrahsam@live.ca.

AUTHENTIC BASKET WEAVING GRASS: picked and processed by Linda Edgar of Nitinaht, 3 corner, sharp and swamp grass and cedar bark. Please call 741-4192 in Nanaimo.

FOR SALE: Drums made to order. Please call Earl 250-723-8369 or 250-730-1916



All About Art
Seeking Native Arts and Craft. Traditional & non-Traditional Contact
allaboutart11@gmail.com



REPRESENT DESIGNS: First Nations Graphics. Specializing in Native Vinyl Decals. (Custom Made/All Sizes). All types of Native Graphics. Celeste Howard. Email for quotes and prices. represent.designs@gmail.com

Wanted

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.

HELP WANTED: Need work experience? The Port Alberni Friendship Centre is seeking interested applicants for Volunteer positions including: Reception and Youth Workers. We are seeking individuals that are reliable, committed, flexible and of good character. Hours per week may vary. If you are interested, please contact Jeff at 723-8281 to pick up a Volunteer Application Form.

EMPLOYMENT WANTED: Heavy Equipment Operator looking for work. Call Frank August at 250-735-3485.

Lost and Found

LOST: A drum contained in a blue drum bag with a Killer Whale design on the bag. It was left under the elders' canopy at Bob Daly Stadium during Thluu-piich Games. Contact Cliff Atleo at 250-724-5757.

LOST: Evan's drum, last had on April 2, 2011 (Maa nulth Treaty Celebration) It has his name & phone number inside, would mean alot to us to have it returned. Was a very special gift from his grandfather. Melody & Evan 250 266 2507 or melody-charlie@me.com.



BEAR WATTSH INN 5201 Hector Road, Port Alberni, B.C. (250)724-2603 or cel 731-5795. One Bedroom rooms available, own shower and toilet facilities. Nuu-chah-nulth rate available. www.bearwattshinn.com

SD70 SCHOOL DISTRICT 70 (ALBERNI)
Registration for 2012/13

Kindergarten

Children born in 2007 need to be registered for the 2012/2013 school year. Staffing allocations are being made based on enrollments. Accurate numbers are critical.

Please register your child in your neighbourhood school or school of choice prior to Feb. 28, 2012 and bring their Birth Certificate and Care Card.

School of Choice

Parents/Guardians wishing to have their children attend a school outside their regular attendance area must register them at their school of choice by February 28, 2012. Students will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis after all students residing in the catchment area have been accommodated. Students who are currently attending a school outside their catchment area will be automatically re-registered and accommodated if space permits.

For further information, please contact the school principal or refer to Policy 5111 at the website below.

www.sd70.bc.ca

Uu-a-thluk

TAKING CARE OF



H'ayuupinuŋ (Bill Keitlah) and Kee-kee-kah-yah (Willard Gallic) host a discussion group during the daylong session.

Photos: Ha-Shilth-Sa/Deborah Steel

More than 80 Nuuchahnulth Ha'wiih and their representatives gathered in Hupacasath territory in early February to talk about integrating Nuuchahnulth culture and governance into their fisheries management forum. Known as the Uu-a-thluk Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries, the forum deals with issues affecting Nuuchahnulth fisheries management.

The day began with members of the Nashuk Youth Council seating Ha'wiih according to traditional protocol. Youth council members also shared a song with forum participants, accompanied by Greg Charleson and Robert Dennis Jr.

Following the entertainment and an opening discussion, Ca siits (Stanley Sam) gave a presentation about huupukwanum, the Nuuchahnulth system of rights and title that outlines the ownership and responsibility of hereditary chiefs. He used Ahousaht's traditional governance as an example.

"I first saw our huupukwanum in 1936. That's our government, and it includes the titles, ownership, and territory of our Ha'wiih," he said,

going on to point out the traditional roles of Nuuchahnulth government as illustrated by a series of paintings he created for the day.

"Today I'm asking everyone to get in one capač (canoe) to work together... We have to educate our young people to use [huupukwanum]... They need to know they had a government... It can't just disappear forever."

Other Ha'wiih shared Ca siits' concerns. Following his presentation, they contributed their suggestions about bringing back ha'wilthpatuk (the cloak of

Ha'wiih Gather to Talk Governance

dignity, discipline, wealth, rights, and authorities of a Ha'wiih to govern and serve his or her people) and huupukwanum. Discussion groups occupied most of the afternoon.

Facilitating those discussion groups were members of Uu-a-thluk's implementation committee, Wii-tsuts-koom (Anne Mack), Natch-qu-a (Derek Peters), Thla-quas (Georgina Amos), H'ayuupinuŋ (Bill Keitlah), and Kee-kee-kah-yah (Willard Gallic).

"Our group discussed what practices and protocols we can use to help make this forum a respectful and safe place," recapped Wii-tsuts-koom, when participants came back to the main table. She added that many people liked working in small groups and would like to work that way on a regular basis.

Others reported similarly fruitful discussions, thankful for a day to do such important work.

Aniitsnaas (Tom Curley) spoke directly to the youth council members, telling them not to get discouraged, to be observant, and to acknowledge, respect, and gain the knowledge that they need today. He acknowledged the wisdom and expertise of people attending the forum, noting, "colonizers burned the huupukwanum of Ehattesaht, and it has taken time to rebuild."

Curley's niece, Megan, who is also a youth council member, shared her own message. "I have learned to respect everyone's culture and traditions... When I'm older, I want to get myself into politics and law, so I can get our traditions into schools. We have Japanese and Spanish in school, but no First Nations."

Uu-a-thluk staff gathered everyone's suggestions on behalf of the implementation committee and compiled them into a document for guiding future changes.

Staff and committee members will meet in mid-March to discuss putting those changes into practice in accordance with the recommendations.

Wickaninnish (Cliff Atleo) summed up the significance of the forum when he addressed the main table. "Huupukwanum includes where a Ha'wilth is from, where his roots are, where his territory is... it would be awesome for every Ha'wilth to commit to getting his huupukwanum back... Huupukwanum is a gift from our creator, and that's why it's so sacred. That's where the power comes from."

"Today I'm asking everyone to get in one capač to work together... We have to educate our young people to use [huupukwanum]... They need to know they had a government... It can't just disappear forever."

—Ca siits (Stanley Sam)



Wii-tsuts-koom (Anne Mack), along with four other implementation committee members, helped plan and deliver the forum.

Photos: Ha-Shilth-Sa/Deborah Steel

Keenan Jules introduces Aniitsnaas (Tom Curley) and Na sum yiis (Michael Savey).

Photos: Ha-Shilth-Sa/Deborah Steel

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