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haašit'sa "Interesting News"

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Center launches books that feed the mind and spirit

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

The Port Alberni Friendship Center hosted a special book launch at the Kneewaas Wellness Centre on Feb. 29.

ʔiicuu – Feeding The People, and ʔiicuu – Feeding The People – History, are illustrated by Ray Sim and intended for children and adults, respectively.

Project coordinator Irene Robinson said the books were compiled using traditional knowledge from an Elders Resource Committee.

"There are not many people who have the knowledge that our elders do. They are our universities; they are our libraries; they are our wealth of knowledge," Robinson said in her introduction.

"They carried knowledge when it was often dangerous to carry that knowledge. Without them, we wouldn't have this book. We wouldn't have our songs and our culture."

While the word potlatch, derived from the Nuu-chah-nulth p'aciʔ, became a general term for a ceremony for giving gifts, each ceremonial occasion had its own term.

ʔiicuu – Feeding The People illustrates the many occasions – some very specific – that called for feasts and celebrations, such as a girl's eighth birthday, or formally asking for a bride.

Robinson said one of the first objectives for the committee was to find a working title. "I asked them for a generic term. 'Potlatch' was not one of our words. That was an official word used by the government," Robinson said, adding that the word was recognized primarily to create laws banning the traditional celebrations.

"ʔiicuu (pronounced KLEET-sue) means feeding the people. When you sit down to eat, you absorb knowledge," she explained. "We have written it in the phoenetic alphabet and in 'easy-speak.'"

Robinson noted that many elders don't find easy-speak so easy, so the phoenetic alphabet is included at the back of the book. The companion history book is directed towards adults, and paints a picture of how the ban on the potlatch fit into the social history of the B.C. coast.

"What happened to our people did not



Photo by Shayne Morrow

Project Coordinator Irene Robinson and Project Illustrator Ray Sim

happen in isolation. It was not just the ban on the potlatch, it was all the events surrounding it," Robinson said. "We have to ask, why were they so afraid of the potlatch?"

Sim said the project was a change of pace from his focus on large traditional artworks, mostly in 3-D, as he sought to tell the story of the many ceremonial occasions, each with a few subtle images.

"This was about distinguishing the specific from the general. It was really fun to do, because I'm usually focused on the traditional stuff. It was a change of pace to branch off into illustration," Sim said.

He hopes the new books become part of the curriculum in the Alberni school district.

"They're bringing more and more Nuuchah-nulth culture into the classroom.

That's something I never saw when I went to school in the Alberni Valley," he said.

Susan Sport served as a member of the Elders Resource Committee. Born Hesquiaht, she is now a member of Huu-ay-aht First Nation by marriage. Sport said it is especially important that historic events be looked at in context, to deter

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Forum examines mining prospects in Clayoquot Sound

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Tofino – A gathering was held Feb. 22 at the Tofino Community Hall where invited guests shared their perspectives on two proposed mining sites in Clayoquot Sound. Hosted by Friends of Clayoquot Sound, the forum drew both Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht people who wanted to have their say about the mining issue as it relates to their respective territories.

The crowd was made up primarily of concerned community members from the

Tofino area and the hall was filled to capacity. Almost all appeared to be against mining in Clayoquot Sound.

Chaired by Gord Johns, executive director of the Tofino Chamber of Commerce, the forum featured invited speakers, including Dan Lewis of FOCS; John Rampanen of Ahousaht and Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Indigenous Food Network; Arthur Manuel, Indigenous Network on Economics and Trade; Terry Dorward of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Amy Crook, executive director of

Environmental Mining Education Foundation.

Following a traditional Tla-o-qui-aht welcome, Gord Johns opened the floor, telling the crowd that everyone was there to learn, to get to know one another and to be active.

An Ahousaht delegation led by Tyee Ha'wilt Maquinna Lewis George and Chief Councilor John O. Frank was permitted to open the floor with a statement.

Speaking on behalf of the Ahousaht

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DEADLINE:

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

March 16, 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@nuuchahnulth.org (Windows PC).

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

Pictures with no return address will remain on file. **Allow** 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.

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Ha-Shilth-Sa will include letters received from its readers. Letters MUST be signed by the writer and have the writer's full name, address and phone number on them. Names can be withheld by request. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit submitted material for clarity, brevity, grammar and good taste. We will definitely **not** publish letters dealing with tribal or personal disputes or issues that are critical of Nuu-chah-nulth individuals or groups. All opinions expressed in letters to the editor are purely those of the writer and will not necessarily coincide with the views or policies of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council or its member First Nations. Ha-Shilth-Sa includes paid advertising, but this does not imply Ha-Shilth-Sa or Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council recommends or endorses the content of the ads.



NEDC targets under-serviced market

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Port Alberni—The Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation has taken a step into the insurance industry with the creation of the Nootka Insurance Agency Limited Partnership. The new brokerage was formed in partnership with Growth Financial Corp. and Whitlock Insurance Services Ltd., according to NEDC general manager Al Little.

"They were looking at expanding their programs and services into what they see as a growing aboriginal market," Little said. "At NEDC, we're not insurance people, but we do know about business."

Growth Financial chief operating officer Charlene Loui-Ying said the Nootka Insurance partnership is part of a long-term commitment to move into the First Nations community.

"Nootka is a partnership where we use the experience that we have and partner with an aboriginal group, in this case, the NEDC," Loui-Ying said. "It will start as a virtual office, using the people that we have, who are fully trained and well-experienced, and we will share the profits with you, because we want to promote health in your community."

The agency has already begun operations with one Vancouver-based insurance specialist, Fred Baker, with a Port Alberni phone number.

"In the long-term, the ideal would be to have a physical office somewhere in our territory, but nowadays, people are more used to handling their financial affairs by distance, by phone or online," Little said.

"As the operation grows, what we hope to do is open that storefront and train someone from the aboriginal community into a position to where they are providing that service and developing that capacity," Loui-Ying said.

Little said Growth Financial and Whitlock Insurance provide the startup expertise. The main underwriter is Jardine Lloyd Thompson, an international risk specialist group. NEDC owns a controlling share (51 per cent) of the new venture, with Growth Financial

owning the remaining 49 per cent and Whitlock as the general partner.

Nootka offers insurance for personal (home and condo owners as well as tenant insurance) as well as a full range of commercial coverage. The agency covers logging, mining and hydro equipment, liability for construction, road building, fisheries, boilers and machinery.

More specifically to First Nations, the company will insure band assets, buildings and infrastructure. Little said due to the sometimes-complex terms of ownership on First Nations reserves and their assets, many insurance companies do not know "all the realities."

"It is an under-serviced market—especially on-reserve housing. Nootka will be able to provide more extensive knowledge of the market to the underwriters," he said.

"On-reserve situations can be diverse," Louis-Ying said. "Depending on where you are, ownership can be very diverse. There can be certificates of ownership; you can have long-term leases where you need tenants' policies; you can have outright ownership. You can also have treaty and non-treaty land, and the differences there."

Little said the NEDC should also be able to generate some of its own business.

"NEDC is involved with three green energy projects, with Hupacasath (Upnit Power), Tla-o-qui-aht (Canoe Creek Power) and Ehattesaht (Barr Creek), that all need insurance coverage. There are also a number of our nations looking at mining partnerships," Little said. "We can be providing coverage on a large scale."

That is, as long as Nootka Insurance is able to offer competitive rates, Little added.

"When we began discussions, our two main objectives were: One—to provide insurance services and to make them



Al Little, general manager of the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation

affordable to our members, and Two—if it is profitable, it will help NEDC maintain its operations. We are set up as a non-profit, and extra revenues will allow us to continue providing our services to members."

Louis-Ying said the Nootka partnership demonstrates a commitment to both financial and educational capacity building.

"We are out to show that we can be competitive and wouldn't it be better to support the aboriginal community?" she said. "We're not saying that we're going to be 50 per cent better than anyone else, but we do expect to have competitive prices and to have good insurance companies behind us."

Little said he is confident that the new agency will be able to attract business in both the aboriginal and non-aboriginal community as home and business owners seek to renew their insurance policies.

"The main market would be in our own region, but the goal is to expand our business on Vancouver Island and into the rest of the province," he said.

Nootka Insurance is now offering full services through its virtual office at 778-421-0303.

Forum examines mining prospects in Clayoquot Sound
continued from page one

delegation, David Frank talked about Chetarpe (Catface Mountain) and its significance to the Ahousaht. He said he was there speaking on behalf of Ha'wiih Hayupuunulth Billy Keitlah, Maquinna (Lewis George) and A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo), Ahousaht's highest ranking hereditary chiefs.

Frank thanked the Tla-o-qui-aht Ha'wiih for having Ahousaht included in the forum.

"Our chiefs remind you here today that the mountain you will be speaking of (Chetarpe) belongs to the Ahousaht people and our tyee says his people will speak for him (about the future of Chetarpe) at a referendum," said Frank.

"It will be a decision for the people of Ahousaht, because it is in Ahousaht territory," he continued. Frank went on to read a joint declaration made in 2009 by Ahousaht and Hesquiaht, one that asserts ownership of the lands and resources in Ahousaht and Hesquiaht territory by the respective first nations' ha'wiih.

"We are not in treaty and we will never go into treaty because your government doesn't recognize our rights and title and that was proven when we had to take them to court over fisheries," said Maquinna.

"When you talk about Chetarpe be careful because that belongs to us...we are speaking for our ha'wiih and for the 2,067 people of Ahousaht," he added.

The chief said they will work to ensure that his people will have all the necessary information to make an informed decision at the Ahousaht mining referendum.

"We've not given permission to mine but we've given the mining company permission to explore," Maquinna told the crowd.

"I cannot say to you tonight that Chetarpe will not be mined, but I will tell you I must listen to my people," Maquinna said.

"We want to get our people on a fair and level playing field; we want to go to work like every other Canadian can," said Maquinna.

"We're asking you as friends, as neighbors, to recognize that we have that right to have a job," said elected chief John O. Frank. "Our community faces a 60 per cent unemployment rate," he continued. "When I announced on the VHV that there were four jobs available for two days... 52 applicants showed up at our door," Frank said.

Creating employment opportunities for Ahousaht members is a constant chal-

lenge for Ahousaht council and, according to Chief Frank, with 85 members working at Mainstream's salmon farms, Ahousaht is still criticized by some for allowing the aquaculture industry to operate in their territory.

"We sit on so much wealth yet we're beggars in our own land," he said.

A series of slides showing existing and proposed mine sites in British Columbia was presented. According to information presented about Vancouver Island, Imperial Metals is not only interested in copper in Catface Mountain but also gold deposits at Fandora Mine located in Tranquil Inlet which is in Tla-o-qui-aht territory.

In contrast to Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht stands firmly united against mining in their traditional territory, according to Terry Dorward. He announced that the leadership and people of Tla-o-qui-aht are against mining and they are fighting to keep it out of their territory.

Reading from a prepared statement, Dorward said on behalf of Tla-o-qui-aht chief and council, that TFN is opposed to the establishment of a gold mine operation. His declaration was met with a loud round of applause.

He said Tla-o-qui-aht leadership has written letters to government agencies in an effort to stop the mining operation from going ahead but he says the letters have been ignored. We feel our aboriginal rights and title have been ignored and disrespected by BC and Canada.

Tla-o-qui-aht is deeply offended by the Ministry of Mines which said our interest in the area is low or limited. He also said he, personally, is not a supporter of the treaty process.

Asking for help and support from the audience, Dorward said Tla-o-qui-aht will launch an international campaign to shut Imperial Mines down.

Speaker Arthur Manuel talked about Aboriginal rights, economic uncertainty and how first nations can make the two concepts work for them.

Manuel said that BC Premier Christy Clark wants to open eight new mines in the province by the year 2015.

Moving onto a Canadian history lesson, Manuel said the Canadian Constitution Act of 1982 recognizes Aboriginal and treaty rights, making three orders of government: Canada, the province and First Nations.

He claims that in order for Premier Clark to open all those mines she would eventually have to make agreements with



Photos by Denise Titian

Ahousaht delegation makes a statement at mining forum. From left to right: Chief Councillor John O. Frank, David Frank Sr. and Tyee Hawilth Lewis Maquinna George



Fromleft to right: Gord Johns, Dan Lewis, John Rampanen, Arthur Manuel, Terry Dorward and Amy Crook, invited speakers at the mining forum held in Tofino.

each First Nation in whose territory the mine is located.

"Government, through treaty, wants to extinguish our title, that's why it heartens me to hear our leaders say they won't participate in that process," Manuel said.

Manuel described how natural resources are valued in the first nations' traditional sense. All things are valued equally in the indigenous value system and resources should not be depleted for monetary gain, Manuel explained. To do so could create a catastrophic imbalance that could cause the extinction of some resources.

In what he calls the euro-centric concept of value, resources are put to work in order to create products to feed the economy until the resource is used up—like the cod on the east coast or the sea otter on the west coast.

"Economic uncertainty is a real power that you people have and you have to build on it," he advised.

Amy Crook fears rash decisions to mine in Clayoquot Sound could lead to regrets for future generations. "Most of the really rich ore deposits are gone and the demand for metal is always going up so industry is going to places with okay deposits," she said.

"You will have this issue a long time because industry will always want that resource," she continued.

John Rampanen said he raises his family of nine at the base of Catface

Mountain, where he says his seven children live with nature. The Ahousaht member said he is against mining.

"We share responsibility for the next generations to come. I challenge all leaders to come up with an innovative way to find a shared voice," he said

Tiich according to Joe Martin means alive and that's what a group from Tla-o-qui-aht call themselves. The group works together learning about traditional teachings and culture.

"It's about respect for self and one another. We want this land to be better for the future generations than it was for us today," he said.

The group gets together to talk about culture and environmental concerns like salmon farming and mining. "We don't have the answers but gatherings like this to hear everyone voice concerns are a good start," said a Tiich member.

"Our hope is to create dialogue in order to create good decisions for the future. Like it or not we are all in one canoe; we're going together wherever that canoe takes us," said Dan Lewis.

Eli Enns of Tla-o-qui-aht said he had family members relying on the jobs provided by salmon farms and therefore had a conflict of interest in speaking against industry in Clayoquot Sound, but he had these words of caution, "rights and responsibility go hand-in-hand just like authority and accountability."

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

Ahousaht continues to develop to benefit members

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Maaqtusiis—The main dock in Ahousaht's inner harbor has undergone some much-needed restoration work. The former government dock is heavily relied on by the community as dozens of water taxis and freight boats tie up at the floats each day.

Trucks and vans back down the long, single-lane wooden deck to pick up cargo and bring everyone to their destination in the ever-growing community.

In recent years the float has fallen into disrepair. The once signature red railings of former government-owned wharves had long-since peeled exposing bare weathered wood; many of the railings rotted and broken off. The wooden beams bolted to the end of the dock were badly damaged after being hit by vehicles stopping too late. At least one vehicle went over the edge, luckily with no casualties.

In recent days new railings and decking boards have been installed on the wharf. According to Chief Frank the ramp that will be installed will be better suited for stretchers and wheel chairs.

The current ramp has slats on one side so that people can safely get to the bottom at low tide when the ramp lies at a steep angle. The other side is smooth. It is very narrow so it is extremely difficult to carry a loaded stretcher over it.

The new ramp will have slats installed in the middle third of the ramp, leaving the outer edges smooth so that gurneys may be easily rolled up and down the ramp with only two people.

Besides making patient transport easier for the volunteers, upgrades to the wharf and ramp have another purpose.

Chief Frank is pleased to announce that his council is working on getting one of the first water ambulances on B.C.'s west coast. The proposed new water ambulance would be built band new and would be as fully equipped as a standard street ambulance.

There would be a designated parking area on the wharf for emergency vehicles. The water ambulance will be staffed by trained EMTs; meaning there is an opportunity for a few band members to train as paramedics and work on the water ambulance.

The water ambulance would serve Ahousaht and, potentially, the surrounding area.

Presently Ahousaht relies on private water taxi operators to ferry emergency patients and First Responders about 30 minutes away to Tofino. According to Chief Frank, Ahousaht spent \$800,000 the previous year on emergency patient travel water taxis.

He said Health Canada is on board with the project and will pay at least a

portion of the cost. It is Health Canada that covers the cost of private water taxi for emergency patient travel.

Chief Frank estimates the water ambulance could arrive in the community as early as mid-summer.

The secondary dock, known as the hydro dock, will also be replaced and moved to a more propeller-friendly site slightly further away from the main dock. Originally built to service the generator plant, which, back in the 70s was isolated from the community, the wharf was built to accommodate a small boat. Now it serves as a main water taxi landing, and the water is far too shallow to allow for larger boats, especially at low tide.

Environmental activities

Chief Frank had positive things to say about Ecotrust and what they are doing for Ahousaht. They are the reason for the recycling movement in the community over the past few years.

Ahousaht has adopted a new waste management system that focuses on recycling things like metals and plastics. Organic materials are composted in the community and the remaining trash is barged out of the community in containers.

Ecotrust has also had a hand in helping the community to develop their eco-friendly community kitchen at the Thunderbird Hall and has started a community garden.

More recently they are presenting ideas about greener, more culturally appropriate housing design solutions to council. One such idea is called the Standing Tree to Standing House concept.

With access to nearby forest resources and their own sawmill, Ahousaht could potentially build more homes while obtaining construction materials closer to home, creating more employment for band members in the process.

Chief Frank said his council and Ahousaht's Ha'wiih heard a presentation about Standing Tree, Standing House from Satnam Manhas of Ecotrust in February and would like to learn more about it.

Upgrades need to be made at the sawmill to help it work more efficiently to meet the lumber demand for all the new housing going up.

"We're having some hiccoughs with the sawmill; we overlooked some things we need like a lifter, but we're working through that. We are buying the concrete machine that fills the cement trucks up; now all we have to do is get all of these things working in sync," he said.

New houses are going up at the new subdivision. Most are privately-owned with members getting financed by the bank.

A further three family homes will be

built, each with four bedrooms. They will be built by the band and rented out to members.

In regards to logging, plans to log on Flores Island by Lisaak Forest Resources have been put on hold. The chiefs have decided to reexamine the pros and cons of allowing forestry in their hahoulihi.

Membership

Ahousaht's enrolled membership has reached 2,067 and leadership has decided to take charge of the band membership program. Starting March 1/12, the band has hired Gena Swan as full-time Membership Clerk. Ahousaht members

can no longer go to the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council for Indian Status Cards. Members should contact Gena Swan at the Ahousaht Band Office for membership and status card information.

"We are restructuring our governance and we need to build a government administrative building that will meet the needs of our people both here and away from home. We need to talk to people off reserve to figure out what their needs are and find ways to take care of them," said Chief Frank.

"Home is a root for everyone to hang onto," he said.



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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.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Child & Youth Mental Health Counsellor

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) is seeking a Child & Youth Mental Health Counsellors to provide support to Children, Youth and Families living in the Northern (NCN) region. Based out of the NTC Northern Region office (Gold River), the Child & Youth Mental Health Counsellor will regularly boat and fly into NCN communities on scenic west coast.

Responsibilities

- Clinical counselling with children and youth experiencing stressful or traumatic events, presenting emotional and behavioural responses (including crisis intervention);
- Consultation and Liaison with NCN communities, schools and other agencies;
- Development and coordination of innovative prevention/early intervention programs focusing on resiliency and capacity building;
- Implement culturally safe services that reflect NCN healing practices and western mainstream approaches;
- Maintain a reporting system of client and activity records that supports program reporting and evaluation.

Preferred Qualifications

- Diploma/Degree in a field related to counselling and recovery, or equivalent combination of education and 5 years recent experience working with aboriginal people;
- Knowledge in Child & Youth Mental Health;
- Familiar with Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations culture, healing processes, and cross-cultural education;
- Possess strong personal boundaries, a wellness plan, and familiarity with ethical issues that arise from working with high-risk populations;
- Possess a car and valid driver's licence, and provide acceptable references and criminal record check.

Apply by **March 15, 2012** by sending your cover letter, resume and 3 references to:

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Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Unique reality of life away from technology

By Shayne Morrow
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Benson Island—The ancestral home of Tseshaht First Nation in the Broken Group Islands will be showcased in a reality TV show shot in six of Canada's national parks and historic sites.

Called Operation Unplugged, the Travel Escape Channel series separates eight "self-confessed technology junkies" from their laptops, smartphones and gaming consoles and challenges them to experience some of Canada's most breathtaking locations.

The concluding episode, which airs on March 27, was shot last August on Benson Island in Pacific Rim National Park, assisted by a team of Tseshaht members, and was steeped in Nuu-chah-nulth culture and tradition.

"It was an amazing experience. It had

a profound effect on the cast," said Angela Donald of GlassBOX Television, which produced the series. "We were very lucky to work with the Tseshaht. This was, in effect, the climax of the series."

Tseshaht research and planning associate Darrell Ross said he was approached by Matthew Payne of Parks Canada about shooting an episode in Tseshaht traditional territory.

"We did a lot of different planning. The Tseshaht Beachkeepers, who are employed by Parks Canada, were very much involved," Ross said. "We brought a whole bunch of Tseshaht down there for some traditional activities. It was very successful from our standpoint. The acknowledgement of who the Tseshaht people are was very important for us as a people."

Payne, whose wife, Nanaste Marsden, is a member of Gitksan First Nation with relatives in Port Alberni, said Parks Canada has learned the value of working with First Nations to promote national parks and historic sites.

"When we knew we were going to the birthplace of Tseshaht, we had to make sure we got all the protocols right," Payne said, adding that the TV series has taken that cooperation to a new level.

While the competition itself is still under wraps, what is no secret is that it involved canoeing, using the new Tseshaht deep-sea canoe, according to Tseshaht sports and recreation coordinator Tyrone Marshall.

"Darrell asked me how confident I would be on screen and how confident I am with my paddling skills," Marshall said. "I said I didn't mind being on TV,

because I had some coverage with last year's Pulling Together Journey. That was my first time skipping in the canoe in the open ocean."

Marshall said the Tseshaht canoe has provided an opportunity for members to connect with their ocean-going heritage. For Operation Unplugged, it was to be a crash course for the technology-obsessed.

"There were YouTube addicts, there was one who called herself Facebook Sweetheart, there was a gamer who, I think, still lived with his mom. There was a girl (Alana) who was addicted to texting—she would sit there texting while you were talking to her," Marshall said. "But they didn't have any technology when they were out there with us."

Alana Obey, from Regina, Sask., is the single First Nations person in Operation Unplugged. Obey now lives in Vancouver, and, according to the producers, was receiving up to 500 text messages a day when she took the challenge to give up her cell phone.

Donald said what sets the series apart from much of reality TV is that Operation Unplugged is less about the competition and more about the journey.

"The journey was to make them understand their obsession with technology a little bit more, that there was some betterment in not being attached by the hip to their devices," Donald said. "Our hope was to awaken them, and that is what happened to them on the journey."

Ross said the lesson is, there is a whole different world out there if you are willing to look up from your computer screen or your smartphone, and Canada's national parks are one of the best windows on our natural world.

But there is something to be said for using technology to record those wilderness experiences, Ross added. That lesson was brought home when the Tseshaht team landed to set up the Operation Unplugged base at the site of the traditional whaling village on Benson Island.

"Just when we were preparing to beach, a humpback whale was jumping right across the pass. He must have jumped 40 or 50 times. It was quite awesome. It was like a welcoming party for Tseshaht," Ross said.

Despite the no-technology theme of the event, Tseshaht members recorded the whale on video,

"And I think my son YouTubed it," he added.

Donald said that is the lesson of Operation Unplugged. By all means, share your experiences via technology. But don't allow the technology to deflect you from having the experience.

"We had people who had allowed themselves to be bound by their devices, and at the end, some of them said, 'I had no idea all this was out there. Now I want to go camping and I want to go hiking.'"

Episodes of Operation Unplugged can be downloaded online 24 hours after they are broadcast, at travelandscape.ca. Select "Shows" and click on Operation Unplugged. The Travel and Escape Channel is 128 on the cable dial.



WANTED: TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS

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Corporal TIFFANY MAHAN, Norway House First Nation

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Caporal TIFFANY MAHAN, Première nation de Norway House

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Ahousaht boys injured in motor vehicle accident

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ahousaht – A Feb. 28 single vehicle accident in Ahousaht sent four young members of the Maaqtusiis Magic basketball team to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The boys, all in their early teens, were delivering pies around the community, fundraising for a basketball tournament. According to a local, they were driving near the paved new subdivision when the truck they were in veered off the road,

tumbling down an embankment. "The truck was a real mess but the kids were very fortunate and just got banged up," said the source.

Parents and the rest of the community pulled together, both concerned and deeply relieved the boys would be okay. The boys were taken to Tofino General Hospital where they were treated and released.

Maaqtusiis Magic is competing in the BC Provincial Grade nine Boys' Basketball Championships March 8 to 10.

HOW IS YOUR CHILD DOING IN SCHOOL?

We are almost at the mid-point in the school year. It is important for you to check on the progress of your child/children. The current labour dispute prevents teachers in the public system from producing report cards however you can drop by or call the school to ask for the name of your child's teacher/teachers and their contact information. Set up an appointment to meet with the teacher or contact them by email. Ask how your child is doing academically, is their attendance good, are they doing their homework, are they handing in all their assignments, etc. Support your child/children to success by monitoring their progress and encouraging them to always do their best. Chuu!

Uu-a-thluk Fisheries Intern

Uu-a-thluk is seeking one or more fisheries interns to join our team from early May until Labour Day weekend.

The fisheries intern(s) can be based in any of the NTC regional offices (Port Alberni, Tofino, or Gold River) depending on where the successful applicants live.

Activities will include working on a wide variety of fisheries projects and duties related to fisheries access and management. These include both field and office work.

Uu-a-thluk staff will provide training and mentoring in relevant job skills. This position is only available to Nu-u-chah-nulth candidates.

The ideal candidate will have the following:

- Basic computer skills
- Written and verbal communications skills
- The ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Good physical fitness
- Comfort around the water and in boats
- The ability to travel, occasionally overnight
- A desire to do field work
- Interest in a career in natural resource management

A driver's licence and access to a vehicle are assets for this position.

For more information on this position, please contact Uu-a-thluk at 250-724-5757.

Only those candidates short-listed will be contacted for an interview. Positions are subject to access of funding.

Apply by **Friday, March 30, 2012** by sending your cover letter, resume, and 3 references to:



Nu-u-chah-nulth Tribal Council
P.O. Box 1383
5001 Mission Road
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M2
Attn: Uu-a-thluk Program Coordinator
Fax: (250) 724-2172
Email: sally.hill@nuuchahnulth.org
(Word, pdf and rtf attachments accepted)

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Design: Andrew Dixel

2012 NTC Health Ability Fair

As we prepare for the 2012 NTC Health Ability Fair to be held May 23 & 24, 2012 at Maht Mahs in Port Alberni, it is important to acknowledge the intent of the gathering. There will be guest speakers that have been called upon to share their area of expertise and training. The topics have been chosen based on input from past disability information gatherings and based upon request from NCN members throughout the year.

It is very clear to the Access Awareness Committee members that there are limited resources available to members who live in remote isolated First Nation communities. We do not purport to have all the answers to the various difficult situa-

tions that many individuals struggle with on a daily basis. What we do want to accomplish is to provide a forum where NCN can come together to learn, share, network, with others faced with similar situations, as well as resource people involved with service delivery. We want to hear your concerns but we also want to hear of your success stories! Your story may be helpful to someone else at the gathering, who might think that they are dealing with a situation all by themselves. Often, there is another who has walked the path that we may be walking and we can support one another. We aim to bring together the 'professionals' working in the field of health care and service delivery with members of our

communities, so that there can be mutual learning and benefit.

Jurisdictional inequities have been and continue to have devastating impact to many NCN families. On-reserve programs and services specific to meeting the needs of people living with a disability are rare, if they exist at all. This reality has caused many NCN to have to relocate to an urban area to have their basic health and education needs met to some extent. Unfortunately, this creates a new level of stress on the individual and their families who feel that they have no alternative.

We want the Health Ability Fair to be both interesting and informative – as well as an opportunity to be uplifted and encouraged from the session presenters and resources that are going to be available. At the recent First Nations Summit meeting held in Vancouver, the NCN leadership gave a formal invitation to A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo) – to deliver a keynote address at the Opening on May 23rd. We are looking forward to the Medicine Wheel Workshop that will be given by Don Burnstick on the first day in the afternoon. After a day of presentations and self-care services, we will be hosting a dinner for everyone as well as a one-hour comedy show by Don Burnstick. We will have door prizes throughout both days, which is always another fun aspect of the gathering. Further information will be shared when we have more certainty on the guest speakers. Resource Information Tables and Self-Care Services will be available in previous fairs. There is always



Don Burnstick

very positive feedback from the participants that take advantage of these resources and services – all available at no cost to registered participants. It is our hope that anyone that has an interest in the Health Ability Fair is able to attend. For more information, please contact your appointed regional representatives – these are: Southern Region: Helen Dick (Tseshaht) and Ida Mills (Ditidaht); Central Region: Delores Bayne (Hesquiaht) and Gord Taylor (Ucluelet); Northern Region: Sheila John (Ehattis) and Pat Nicolay (Kyuquot).
Cuu, Florence Wylie, DAC Coordinator & Executive Director



Rosalee Ross learning to weave at one of the DAC Disability Fairs

The interim First Nations Health Authority presents...

Safer Nations - Injury prevention VIDEO CONTEST!

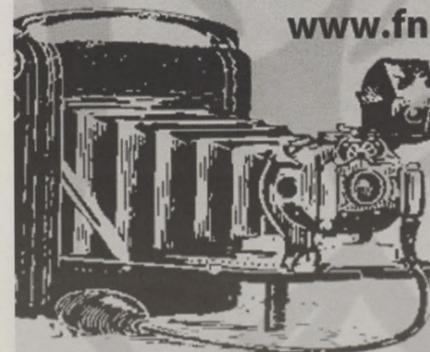
YOU can create a video that could inspire positive change and healthier BC First Nation communities!

- ♦ 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



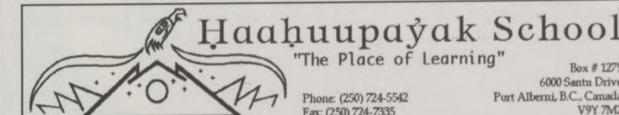
Questions?

Send an email to info@fnhc.ca

Contest Deadline: April 27, 2012 at 4pm



Honoring of Mabel Taylor at a previous DAC Disability Fair



HAHUUPAYAK SCHOOL IS ACCEPTING REGISTRATION for the 2012/2013 school year for all students Kindergarten to Grade 6.

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Note: Please register your child as soon as possible to avoid being placed on a waitlist in September as space is limited.

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Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations
General Delivery, Kyuquot, BC V0P 1J0
Ph: 250 332-5259, Fax: 250 332-5210

Call For Proposals
Fair Harbour Gas Bar

March 2, 2012

The Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations are looking at an individual(s) to lease their gas bar and campground operations at Fair Harbour. The facility is located at the end of the Fair Harbour Road at the mouth of the Kaouk River. The operation includes a gas bar, propane service, a 26 unit campground, private dock, parking lot, and a double wide trailer that serves as the office, small store and accommodation. A Transport Canada wharf and boat ramp is also located adjacent to the site.

Clients include the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations administration, community members, local fish farms and lodge operators, commercial fisherman, sports fisherman, campers and the forest industry.

Interested Parties should submit a Letter of Interest accompanied by a brief proposal by mail, fax or email to:

Gary Ardron
Chief Administrative Officer
Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations
General Delivery
Kyuquot, BC
V0P 1J0

Fax: 250 332-5210
Email: garya@kcfirstnations.com

Letters of Interest must be received by 4:00 pm, March 22, 2012

For more information, please contact
Gary Ardron at 250 332-5259 or 250 287-2775

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or view us online at
www.hashilthsa.com

Students get to see marine world through eyes of biologist

The Grade 5/6 class of *hahuupayak* School got their feet wet last weekend during a three-day adventure at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

The trip was made possible due to the great generosity of the Rebanks Bursary Fund and the Uu-a-thluk organization.

The students saw life through the eyes of a marine biologist. They collected plankton, observed sea life on the beach and through a microscope.

Students conducted hands-on experiments in the lab while caring for creatures from our rich coastal intertidal zone. It was an amazing experience for all.

We send a big thank you / *?uusyaksitee?icuu* to our friends at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre and our sponsors. We hope to see you again!



ꜱiicuu –Feeding the People recounts kinds of celebrations

Continued from page 1.

mine why they happened. That way, we can learn lessons and take action not to repeat the same mistakes.

"It's like when you deal with family. If I get mad at my children, I have to explain why I am angry. That way, they learn how to handle things the next time," Sport said.

The project stirred up a lot of memories, Sport said, and she realizes the importance of those memories.

"I grew up after the rules were fully in place. I was never able to dance when I was a child. When I was sent to [residential] school, my parents did not speak English. One day I was speaking Indian, the next day I was speaking English," she said. "My parents never spoke English, but fortunately, I did not lose my own language, and I am still here because of what they taught me."

Blessed with a natural curiosity, Sport said she always asked questions.

"I asked people, 'How did you get this name?' Usually, they would answer, 'It was given to me,'" she said.

Sport said the concept of ownership is one of her pet peeves, and she hopes First Nations people will work to restore the traditional form of copyright. "You might give another person permission to use one of your songs, but that's not ownership," Sport explained. "Now, if the giver of that permission dies, that does not mean the user can claim ownership. But that is what is happening."

Tseshah elder Kathy Robinson, Irene's mother, said it is important to remember what a devastating effect the residential school system had on generations of young First Nations children. Like Sport, she credits her ability to retain the language of her birth to her emotional and intellectual survival.

"I'm fluent in two languages. I spoke my language right through. I never lost it

when I was five and I was taken to the residential school," she said. "We were punished if we used one word of our language. Those were dark days. I felt like I was blind and I was dead."

Ahousah elder Nelson Keitlah Sr. said he is encouraged by the movement to restore Nuu-chah-nulth culture in detail.

"We feel very fortunate that we have some remnants of who we are. We are on our way back," Keitlah said. "It is good to have leaders like young [Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief A-in-chut] Shawn Atleo to represent us, and I hope projects like this help the young people to be close to the Creator."

The books were published with the help of the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation. Robinson said that, as one of the conditions of the contract, free copies of the books will be provided to all on-reserve schools, day care and Strong Start centers in the Nuu-chah-

nulth territories, as well as to Nuu-chah-nulth education workers.

The Elders Resource Committee included Kathy Robinson, Susan Sport, Mamie Charleson, Hilda and Ben Nookemis, Fidelia Haiyupis, Reggie David, Josephine George and Millie Smith.

Robinson also acknowledged Knee-waas staff members Jackie Wells, Lorna Neuwirth, Carey Karlson, Carol Mattase and Kristie Steinbach for their assistance in putting the books together and for proofreading in English, phonetics and easy-speak.

"It may say 'easy,' but it's not so easy. We had to sit down for hours trying to figure out how to write the sounds," Robinson observed.

The *ꜱiicuu – Feeding The People* set is now available at Knee-waas, at 3416 Fourth Avenue, at \$14 for the pair. For more information, contact Irene Robinson or Jackie Wells at 250-723-8281.

Martin family celebrates life of Moses

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Tofino—Tla-o-qui-aht members gathered at Tofino Community Hall Feb. 11 to celebrate the recovery of one of their members from a near-fatal health crisis. A Celebration of Life party was hosted by Tla-o-qui-aht Ha'wilth Robert Martin.

Elder Moses Martin suffered a heart attack in November 2011 and underwent triple bypass heart surgery.

According to Joe Martin, other members of the Martin family suffered injuries in accidents and it was decided that something needed to be done to show appreciation for the lives and well-being of those relatives.

The family hosted a feast and celebrated in traditional fashion with food, song and dance, gifts and speeches.

Joe said lunch was served to guests from Yuuthluthaht, Toquaht and Tla-o-qui-aht who came to celebrate with the Martins.

The first order of business was to pay respects to the families that suffered recent losses followed by a Tla-o-qui-aht welcome dance and a paddle dance.

The floor was open to guests wishing to share dances and make presentations.

"Our Toquaht relatives danced, made presentations and told us how happy they were to have Moses still with us," said Joe Martin.

Several Tla-o-qui-aht families followed up, making speeches that expressed their respect for Moses Martin and gratitude that he survived his ordeal.

The Martin family danced last. They followed up with a special presentation to Molly Haipee and her family.

"About 15 years ago Molly told me they haven't had a canoe in their family

for many years; can you please make me a canoe," Joe said.

Joe, a well-known master carver, made a dugout canoe and presented to Molly Haipee, Rose Wilson, Luke Touchie and family on behalf of his two daughters.

The Yuuthluthaht families were so grateful with the wonderful gift, they later honoured Martin and his family at a dinner they hosted in Hittatsoo.

"They were really happy," said a satisfied-sounding Joe Martin.

Martin said the celebration ended in the wee hours of the morning.

"Our family feels really blessed firstly for Moses' recovery and additionally blessed that Ha'wilth Robert Martin hosted such a heartwarming party!" wrote Carla Moss, wife of Moses Martin.



Photos by
Melody Charlie

BC Junior All Native Basketball Championships
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March 18 - 23, 2012

Webcast from Alberni Athletic Hall

Ha'wilt Maquinna announces changes at House of Himwitsa



Extensive renovations at House of Himwitsa include new hot tubs

By Denise Titian
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Tofino—Out with the old and in with the new. That seems to be the order of the day at House of Himwitsa, a popular waterfront tourist destination owned by Ahousaht Tyee Ha'wilt Maquinna Lewis George and his wife Cathy. The rooms in the upstairs guest house have undergone extensive renovations, including fresh paint, new flat panel televisions and all new hot tubs for suites overlooking Tofino Inlet and Meares Island.

The Georges have poured decades of blood, sweat and tears into making their businesses successful. Besides the guest house, they operate a busy gift shop, are landlords to a couple of small businesses operating in the building and own and operate the Sea Shanty Restaurant. Or, at least they did own the Sea Shanty.

After years of working every summer through the busy tourist season, the couple decided to take some time for themselves and after much deliberation they decided to sell the restaurant and have announced the Sea Shanty was purchased by Chef Margot Bodchon, the former executive chef at Tin Wis (Calm Waters Dining Room) Resort.

Chef Bodchon has built a solid reputation as a gifted chef in her decades of service to the Tla-o-qui-ah owned Tin Wis Resort. In more recent years she achieved the highest professional culinary recognition and accreditation in

Canada, the C.C.C. certification—Chef de Cuisine.

It was hard to keep staff all summer long, said Maquinna. Even offering perks like nearby staff housing wasn't enough, so the staff house located near Duffin Cove Resort will also be sold.

This is a super big step for Bodchon to take, said George. She has never been a business owner and she has exciting stuff planned for the restaurant.

Among those plans is what to do during the off-season when the restaurant is closed. She has credentials to teach and wants to teach a chef course to Nuuchah-nulth in the off season, said George. That was a problem we had; we had no trained chef. George hopes that by presenting the training opportunity to local culinary students, the shortage of chefs in Tofino will be alleviated.

The Georges are excited about the sale of the Sea Shanty and offer their full support to Chef Margot. She can offer room service to the lodge guests, "something we couldn't do before. We could only take it so far, she can take it to a whole new level," said George.

"We're excited, but at the same time it's hard to let it go. We're going to try enjoying a bit of life in the summer; we've worked so hard and now it's time to relax.

"We've talked about camping at Ahous, now we can finally do that."

The Sea Shanty is expected to open under new ownership during March Spring Break.

Klecko's - kekoo



Photo by Melody Charlie

West Coast Spirit says thanks

Our team would like to send out a thank you message to all of our supporters who helped us get up to Prince Rupert for the All Native Tournament this year. With your help, we were able to bring the women's championship trophy to the Island, as well as a few individual trophies.

All Stars went to Jeannine Adams and Jolene Nagy. Most Promising player went to Chantelle Thomas. Best Defensive and MVP went to Brittany Williams.

Many thanks to Somass Motel, Tofino Co-op, The Coast Hospitality, Five Star Embroidery, Grannys Chicken, FX Night Club and the many supporters and friends and family cheering us on.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts from the West Coast Spirit (Jeannine Adams, Heather Charleson, Mariah Charleson, Brittany Williams, Chantelle Thomas, Cherish Mason, Jolene Nagy, Shawna Charleson, Garaline Tomahawk, Anna Atleo and Coach Kevin Robinson.)

The Hupacasath & Tseshaht would like to thank our Donations from:

Curious Coho Books, Buy-low Foods, Alberni Fitness, Denise Koshieff

—Arbutus & Riverside Wellness Center.

Dave Hooper- for tickets to the train station, Sherry Lauder, Colleen Peters, Judy Sayers, Paulette Tatoosh, Les Sam, Bob Soderlund -Kaw-t-shirts, Elders Hupacasath sewing group, gift cards from Hupacasath Band, Tyrone Marshall, Tricia Little-Avon, Sharon VanVolsen, Diane Evanuiik, Alton Watts, Heather Joseph, Jowsey's furniture-\$50.00 check.

I would like to thank Linda Gomez for her help in everything, Tom Tatoosh for his cooking skills in the kitchen, Lindsey Tatoosh and Collin Miller for attending to the loonie twoonie table, a big thanks to Tyrone and his youth for keeping things clean and running the concession. This event was a success because everyone came together for the same cause our future our youth. Big thank you to all the vendors for coming out and all the communities support. This event was to have the youth attend the Gathering of Voices. Kleco! Kleco!



Nuuchah-nulth Treaty Table First Nations
Ehatesaht/Chinehkint Hesquiaht
Mowachah/Muchalaht Nuchattah Tseshaht

Treaty Planning Session

February 8, 2012

To: Ha'wilt Patak Nuuchah-nulth-ah, Chief and Council
Nuuchah-nulth Treaty Table First Nations

Attention: NCN Treaty Team Members
NCN Treaty First Nation Directors
First Nation's Treaty Chief Negotiators

From: Derek Thompson, Treaty Manager

Details are as follows:

Date	Location	Time
Friday, March 16, 2012	Campbell River Coast Discovery Inn, Quadra Room 976 Shoppers Row	9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Lunch will be served.

If you have any questions please contact: Derek Thompson or Phyllis Francoeur at 250.724.5757 or toll free 1.877.677.1131 or email: derek.thompson@nuuchahnulth.org or phyllis.francoeur@nuuchahnulth.org

cc: NTC Executives; Executive Assistant, Clorissa Ginger, Translator, Helen Dick; Living Away from Home Delegates; NTC Reception; NTC Audio Visual; Accts Payable; Ha-Shilth-Sa

Nuuchah-nulth Treaty Table First Nations
Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council

5001 Mission Road, PO Box 1383, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M2
Telephone: (250) 724-5757 Toll-Free: 1-877-677-1131 Facsimile: (250) 723-0463



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

trc.ca

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, Nuuchah-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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BCAA ROAD SAFETY
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Nuu-chah-nulth Leaping turns 21

By Denise Titian,
Ha-Shilth-Sa Reporter

Ahousaht – Its taken 84 years, and now Ahousaht elder Stanley Sam is old enough to enter licensed establishments in the US.

Well, that's stretching the truth – a lot; by 63 years. But Ahousaht's leap year elder can now say he's had 21 birthdays as of Feb. 29, 2012.

The truth is Stanley was 21 years old back in 1949; the year BC's aboriginal people were allowed to vote in provincial elections. By then he'd only had five birthdays.

In 1928, the year he was born, Calvin Coolidge was the American president, and the first to make a radio broadcast from the White House. In fact, Coolidge was the president who granted US citizenship to all Native Americans born within US boundaries when he signed the

Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. In Canada, William Lyon Mackenzie King was Prime Minister while Queen Elizabeth's grandfather, King George V, ruled in England the year Stanley was born.

The road connecting Tofino to Port Alberni had yet to be built and, in 1924, just four years before Sam was born, the elected chief and council system was introduced by the federal government with the intention of replacing the hereditary ha'wilth system.

Stanley has seen much change over his lifetime. He remembers his father Paul Sam serving as Ahousaht's first elected Chief Councilor.

According to Qaamina Sam, his father lived in Ahousaht through the depression years when there were still lots of fish, mink and otter. Stanley made a living back then as a fisherman and trapper. He even tried his hand at logging and min-



ing. "He is just so special, I really love him when he shares his life stories," said Qaamina. "He helped me with my tour business as a historian and he is speaker for two chiefs," he continued.

He and his late wife Katie raised a family that has grown to include dozens of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Family and friends gathered in Ahousaht to celebrate Stanley's 21st (84th) birthday. According to Qaamina several grandchildren were there to have fun at their grandpa's birthday. Elder Louie Frank was also there and told everyone how important Stanley is in the community and in his tight-knit family.

Stanley Sam remains active in the community, attending meetings and sharing his historical perspective. He consults with community leaders on political issues, has been asked to appear in docu-

mentary films and he carves. He also preserves his knowledge and life experiences on digital media for future generations. Stanley Sam is a true asset to his community and they, in turn, sent dozens of Leap Year happy birthday messages to him.

Leap Day is the name given to the date February 29, which usually occurs every four years. This day is added to the calendar in leap years as a corrective measure, because the earth does not orbit around the sun in precisely 365 days. Years without February 29 are known as common years.

Those born on February 29 are known as Leapers, Leaplings or Leap Year Babies. Most celebrate their birthdays in common years on Feb. 28 or Mar. 1.

According to folklore originating in Europe, women may propose marriage to whomever they choose on Leap Day. Those bachelors that turn down a Leap Day marriage proposal are required to pay a fine that includes leather gloves, money, kisses and roses.

In recent years Leap Day has also come to be known as Sadie Hawkins Day because of the role reversal slant. In the 1937 Al Capp was writing a comic strip called Lil' Abner featuring a character called Sadie Hawkins who was "the homeliest gal in all them hills."

Fearing his 35 year-old spinster daughter would never be married; Sadie's father declared a new annual event for the citizens of Dogpatch called Sadie Hawkins Day. "When ah fires [my gun], all o' yo' kin start a-runnin! When ah fires agin—after givin' yo' a fair start—Sadie starts a-runnin'. Th' one she ketches'll be her husbin."

Suns in the hunt for a championship banner

By Sam Laskaris
Ha-Shilth-Sa Contributor

Ahousaht—The Maaqtusiis Mystic Sunz have already enjoyed some success in Port Alberni this season. And the Ahousaht girls' basketball squad is hoping to return and have even more glory later this month at an even more prestigious event.

The Mystic Sunz will be one of 24 squads entered in the girls' division at this year's British Columbia Junior All Native Basketball Championships. The tournament, which is for players aged 17 and under, runs from March 18 to March 23. The tournament will also include a 28-team boys' division.

"I'm hoping we can finish in the Top 2," said Mystic Sunz' coach Jeremy Sam. "Our girls have been training hard the last two or three months."

The Mystic Sunz were in Port Alberni for the Zone Island championships which were staged Feb. 18 and 19. The Maaqtusiis side emerged victorious in that tournament, which was staged at Port Alberni's Athletic Hall.

Sam is hoping that experience will help his squad at the provincials. "I think we'll be used to the hoops (baskets) and used to the gym," he said. Two other facilities will also be utilized for matches at the provincials. They are the Alberni District Secondary School and Maht Mahs Gym.

The Mystic Sunz also competed at another tournament in Port Alberni in January. They placed second at that event.

They also had a second-place finish at an

event in Ucluelet this past December. Some recent additions have bolstered the Maaqtusiis roster. The club is expected to have 12 players compete at the provincials.

This includes sisters Cory and Janey Patrick, who earlier this seasons played for the Nanaimo-based Island Storm. They joined the Mystic Sunz just prior to the Island Zone championships.

And the club's other newcomer is 6-foot centre Nicole Botting. Earlier this year she had suited up for the NCN Warriors.

"It made our bench stronger," Sam said of these three players joining the Mystic Sunz. "And it made our starters stronger."

Botting is now the team's tallest player and she will be in the club's starting lineup at the provincials.

"Nicole's height is going to help in the post and with rebounding," Sam said, adding his centre is probably five inches taller than the club's second tallest player.

Cory Patrick, a 17-year-old guard, is also a Maaqtusiis starter. "She's going to be our main ball handler," Sam said.

And Janey Patrick, who is 14, is also expected to see plenty of action at the tournament.

"She can play anywhere," Sam said. The Mystic Sunz' coach added the three newcomers all requested to join his team. Botting is from the Ahousaht First Nation while the Patrick sisters have family connections to the area and are thus eligible to play for the team.

Another key player for the Mystic



Sunz's guard Kylee Sam, the coach's niece, who is also just 14. Sam said he can rely on several of his players—and not just his starters—to make significant contributions during games.

"We have a lot of depth," he said. "We tend to go as many as nine players (who see their share of action during games)."

Though this is Sam's first season of coaching the Mystic Sunz, the majority of the team's players have some experience at the provincial tournament.

Nine players from the roster also represented the squad at the 2011 B.C. championships, which were held in Penticton. Sam will be a busy individual at this year's tournament. That's because he's also an assistant coach with the Ahousaht Wolfpack, which will participate in the boys' division.

If the Mystic Sunz and Wolfpack have matches at the same time during the provincials, then Sam will stick with the girls' entry.

Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region First Nation Scholarship Announcement

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust (CBT) and Genus Capital Management are pleased to announce a 4 year, \$3000 per year scholarship to a Central Region First Nation student who will be attending post-secondary school for the 2012-2013 academic year. The scholarship will be available to a student for up to four years by maintaining academic standing.

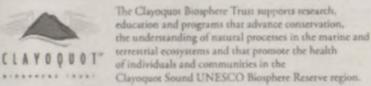
To have your application considered, you must be a member of the Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ucluelet or Toquaht First Nation and you must graduate from secondary school in June 2012. The award will be based on a combination of:

- academic achievement on provincial grade 12 exams,
- citizenship (e.g. involvement in your community), and
- three letters of reference.

Applications are available on our website at www.clayoquotbiosphere.org under the heading What We Do, subheading Grants & Scholarships. **The deadline for applications is March 31, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.** The scholarship will be announced May 31, 2012.

Please direct all questions and completed applications in writing to:

Rebecca Hurwitz, Managing Director phone: 250-725-2219
P.O. Box 67, Tofino, BC V0R 2Z0 cell: 250-725-8925
rebecca@clayoquotbiosphere.org fax: 250-725-2384



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WHEN & WHERE:
Tuesday & Wednesday
March 20-21, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Campbell River, BC
The Coast Discovery Inn & Marina
(The Vancouver Boardroom)
975 Shoppers Row
&
Wednesday & Thursday
April 11 -12, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Ucluelet, BC
Black Rock Oceanfront Resort
(Wine Cellar Boardroom)
596 Marine Drive

COST: FREE to persons of First Nations, Métis or Inuit Ancestry

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For other events, visit: www.nedc.info

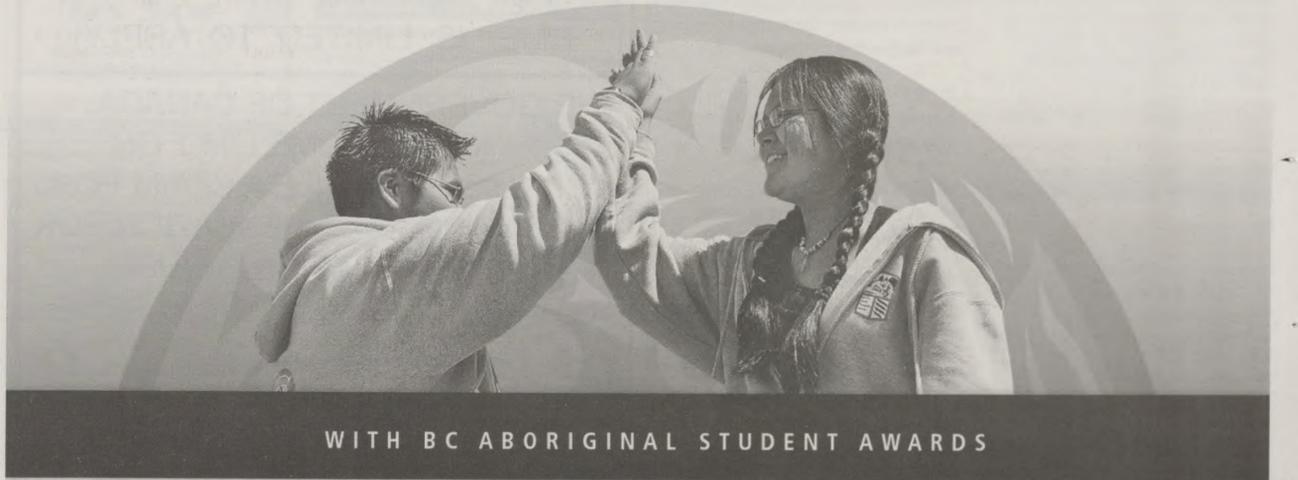
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WHEN & WHERE:
Thursday, March 22, 2012
9:00 a.m. . 4:00 p.m.
Campbell River, BC
The Coast Discovery Inn & Marina
(The Vancouver Room)
975 Shoppers Row
&
Tuesday, April 10, 2012
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tofino, BC
Best Western Tin Wis Resort
(Muu-chin-ink Boardroom)
1119 Pacific Rim Highway

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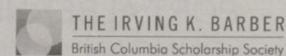


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Community & Beyond

Loonie Twoonie
March 16
Port Alberni

6:00pm Spaghetti or Chili Dinner, 7:00pm Pre-Bids, 8:00pm Draws. At the Tsheshat Cultural Centre. All proceeds will be used to help Fredrick Cook attend Team BC Tryouts in Merritt, BC Mar. 30-Apr. 1, 2012. If he makes the team he goes to Saskatchewan in May 2012 for the National Aboriginal Ice Hockey Championship.

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."

Stunt man shares story
March 31
Port Alberni

Peter Kent was a stand in and stunt man for Arnold Schwarzenegger, and he will share his story with young people beginning at 9 a.m. at the Port Alberni Friendship Centre. Call the friendship centre to confirm your arrival. 250-723-8281.

All Native Ballhockey Tourney

March 30 to April 1
Port Alberni

Thunder Main Event: Mens and Womens All Native Ball Hockey at Maht Mahs Gym. Individual awards; first place mens wins \$1,500 based on 10 teams; first place womens wins \$800 based on six teams. Men's entry fee \$350; Womens entry fee \$300. Concession, 50/50 and much more. Raffle draw for Canuck tickets, Canuck jersey and Native art. To be drawn at end of tourney. Contact Les Sam at 250-720-7334 or les.sam@tse-shaht.com; or Richard Sam at 250-731-5422 or rjsam@hotmail.com

Ball Hockey Tournament
April 13 to 15
Port Alberni

Ahousaht Islanders Men's and Ladies Ball Hockey Tournament will be held at Maht Mahs Gym. Mens entry fee is \$350, and \$300 for women's entry fee if there is enough interest. First Place Cash prize (dependent on how many teams enter) plus trophies for first, second and third and all stars, etc. Deadline is April 10 at 4 p.m. Concession/raffles & 50/50 will be available. Contact: Gena Swan at 250-670-9648. email: islanders58@hotmail.com and/or Larry Swan at 250-670-9535. Email larry_58_swan@hotmail.com

NTC Health Ability Fair
May 23 & 24, 2012
Maht Mahs in Port Alberni

For more information, please contact your appointed regional representatives - these are: Southern Region: Helen Dick (Tsheshat) and Ida Mills (Ditidaht); Central Region: Delores Bayne (Hesquiaht) and Gord Taylor (Ucluelet); Northern Region: Sheila John (Ehattis) and Pat Nicolay (Kyuquot).

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.

Ahousaht Education Authority:

We have moved into our 'new' offices, formerly the NIC College building,

Ahousaht Education Authority Administration Staff:
Rebecca Atleo; Director of Education
Vivien Louie; Post Secondary Counsellor
Sandy Sam; Administrative Assistant to Director and Post Secondary Counsellor
Annie Smith; Administrative Clerk
Timothy Azoadam; Assistant to Annie Smith

Phone: 250-670-9662
Fax: 250-670-9660

Toll Free Number 1-888-670-9662

Happy belated Birthday to our little brother Darrell Ross Sr. aka world's proudest grampa and also beautiful granddaughter Memphis on March 2. Hope you both had a great day. Love from your sis & bro.



Birthdays & Congratulations

Well girl Happy 2? Birthday Feb. 16. Love mama bear. Have a great day.

Happy ?? Birthday Feb. 16 Lisa. March 4 Marvin Sr. Love Mom Pearl, Mike, Marvin Jr and Violet.

What can I say Happy Birthday sister Lisa Feb 16. Love brother Niko.

Happy birthday to my sweetheart, Wilson Jack, on March 23rd. I am thankful to you for many reasons. Our family appreciates your efforts. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Enjoy the year. We will work on our 'goals list'... Together. Make some of those HOPES come true because you deserve it!! Love always, Jacqueline.

Happy Birthday March 4 - Marvin Sr; March 15 - Marvin Jr. Love Ma Pearl, Lisa, Michael and Violet.

March 16 H Bday Bob N. From cuz Marvin, Pearl, Lisa, Michael, Marvin Jr and Violet.

MEETING SPACE RENTAL AVAILABLE NOW

2 Rooms available (boardroom and large Great Room)
Tsheshat First Nation Administration Building
5091 Tsuma-as Drive, Port Alberni, BC.
For more information please contact:
Christine Hintz at 250-724-1225 or email chintz@tse-shaht.com.

WATERFRONT OFFICE RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE

Beautiful view of the Somass River
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DELIVERY SERVICE: Serving coastal First Nations point A to point B delivery service from Port Alberni with delivery van. Call Charles at 250-723-3555 or email kaanowish@shaw.ca.

CUSTOM ART FRAMING SERVICES: Four Directions Photo and Framing. Call Jim at 250-723-7578.

T.S.G. TRUCKING SERVICE: Moving And Hauling. Reasonable Rates. Tom Gus, 5231 Hector Road, Port Alberni, B.C. Phone: (250) 724-3975.

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

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

CEDAR WEAVER: Baseball caps, bridal floral bouquets, for sale. Traditional hats, headdresses bracelets for trade. email whupelth_weaver@shaw.ca; to Cedar Weaves; baseball caps, bridal floral bouquets, for sale. Traditional hats, headdresses, traditional bracelets for trade. email: sandrahsam@live.ca.

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FOR SALE: 40' Breckenridge trailer. 1 br, 1 bath, kitchen/living room, electric fridge, propane stove, micro oven. Good condition, 5 years old. \$30,000 obo. Good for single person or couple. Located at Esowista, can be moved. Call 250-266-2243 for more information or viewing.

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FOR SALE: Hesquiaht Place of Learning has some new tables a chairs available for sale. Shipping charges will apply. The tables are 60 length X 30 wide X 24 high: \$275 each. The desks are adjustable. \$53.35 each. Call 250-670-1191 Crystal Tom Principal.

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

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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 Thlu-piich Games. Contact Cliff Atleo at 250-724-5757.

LOST: Evan's drum, last had on April 2, 2011 (Maa nuth 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.

Uu-a-thluk

TAKING CARE OF

Nuu-chah-nulth Dig Deep for Geoducks



Juvenile geoduck clams found during an Uu-a-thluk clam survey.

The geoduck clam may not be pretty or easy to find, but it is bringing in revenue for Nuuchah-nulth Nations.

This year, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) assigned a geoduck licence from the west coast of Vancouver Island to all 14 Nuuchah-nulth Nations. The Nations decided to have the NTC administer the licence, and to share the revenue generated from the fishing operations.

Yet even this opportunity comes with its challenges. Awarded the contract

to fish the licence for Nuuchah-nulth Nations, Ucluelet member Michelle Corfield of Hyistuup Harvesting is frank about the difficulties encountered on the job.

"It's not like we've been accepted into the industry with open arms," she says. "Practices and policies have changed due to First Nations participation."

Known as the "elephant trunk clam" by the Chinese consumers who purchase most of today's product, the geoduck (pronounced gooey-duck) is the longest lived and largest burrowing clam in the world. But its size doesn't make the geoduck any easier to find. Instead, the clam is often buried up to one meter deep in the ocean floor in areas that are now predominantly subtidal.

To harvest geoducks, divers equipped with hoses called "stingers" direct a pressurized water jet into the ocean floor to loosen the sand. But first they have to know where to look. That's where the Underwater Harvester's Association (UHA) comes in.

The Underwater Harvester's Association manages the geoduck fishery in Canada in partnership with DFO. Their role includes providing monitoring assistance, funding biologists, providing enhancement activities, and participating in policy oriented activities.

"Before 2010, geoduck licence holders received packages with information from the UHA to guide them during the fishery," says Corfield. "Last year when we got the quota, everyone else got their normal packages, but [the UHA] said, 'we're not giving you any information.'"

After complaints from Corfield and her husband Tony Cook, a longtime geoduck harvester, the UHA stopped handing out packages to all licence holders. "All the other boats have been there since they first got their licence, so they have about 20 years data collection in their computers," Cook says.

Now members of the UHA (since receiving the geoduck quota), Nuuchah-nulth Nations are in the awkward position of belonging to an organization that intervened in the *Ahousaht et al vs Canada* court case against them. The UHA successfully argued before the BC Court of Appeal that geoducks should be excluded from the Nuuchah-nulth commercial fishing right. But Canada issued Nuuchah-nulth Nations the geoduck licence through a program called the Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative (PICFI)—and they are now participating members in the fishery.

"It's no bed of roses out there," Corfield says. "We've hit it head on, and I think because of the way Nuuchah-nulth have approached it, we have created space for other First Nations to see the opportunities." She later added, "PICFI has opened doors for First Nations and we're grateful."

In a fishery where the value of the quota has risen dramatically over the past few years, every pound counts. Today more than \$35 million worth of geoducks are purchased from fishermen every year. This makes the geoduck

fishery one of the most valuable on Canada's west coast. It's also one of the most dangerous.

"The west coast is the hardest diving in all of British Columbia," Cook says. "You're dealing with west coast weather—swell—and the tide is so strong...This is not something you pick up and start doing right out of school—this is a highly trained and skilled industry."

It used to be easier for Nuuchah-nulth to dig geoducks by hand, but not anymore. "Now we're seeing geoducks that are all in subtidal areas. Prior to that they were also intertidal," Corfield says.

In Washington State, things were much the same. According to the Nisqually Aquatic Technologies website and Hanford McCloud, a Nisqually diver, "It's not a traditional thing to be out there, diving with surface supplied air...and digging up the clam, but it is a tradition to dig up the clam. And that's what our people did. Low tides during the winter time were the best time to get down there...The geoduck means "dig deep," [in our language] and that's what our people did..."

"PICFI has opened doors for First Nations and we're grateful."

—Michelle Corfield, Hyistuup Harvesting

The Nuuchah-nulth 2012 geoduck licence is for 60,000 lbs. According to Michelle Corfield and Tony Cook of Hyistuup Harvesting, it takes about 75 days to harvest a geoduck quota.

The Nuuchah-nulth word for geoduck is ʕaʕamiqkuk.



Most geoducks harvested in B.C. are destined for the Chinese market. Pictured here, geoduck clams join other seafood for sale in Hong Kong. Photo: iStockphoto.com/exxorian

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Geoduck clams ready for market. Photo: iStockphoto.com/cementjungle