Uyaqḥmis

November 2020 Issue 58



Executive Director Connie Waddell and Executive Council member Edward R. Johnson stand at the newly purchased land for the Oomiiqsu Mother Centre. (Photo by Eric Plummer, Ha-shilth-sa)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations announces Mother Centre coming to Port Alberni

Offering support and healing from multi-generational trauma is a key focus that came out of Huu-ay-aht's independent Social Services Panel's work. In the final report one of the recommendations was to work to establish a centre modeled on the Vancouver Mother Centre.

"Building a road to healing the effects of multi-generational trauma will be of fundamental and central importance to bringing Huu-ay-aht children 'home' and keeping them safe, healthy, and connected with Huu-ay-aht community and culture.

This healing must be done family by family and collectively as a Nation." (Social Services Project p. 24)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the Port Alberni Mother Centre Society has been working with B.C. Housing to develop an Aboriginal Mother Centre, Oomiiqsu, in Port Alberni (Recommendation 26 of the Social Services Project).

Continued on page 2

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Oomiiqsu will offer support to mothers, children, and families

Continued from front page

Oomiiqsu, which means mother in Nuu-chah-nulth, is a unique, creative, and culturally appropriate approach to keeping families together, while providing them with the necessary guidance and tools to not only prevent children from entering care, but also for the families to flourish once outside of Oomiiqsu.

Mothers and children (12 and under) will live in Oomiiqsu and receive wrap-around supports to address ongoing safety concerns from Usma (DAA) and/or Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Land has been purchased by BC Housing at 4305 Kendall Avenue, and design plans for Oomiiqsu and Oomiiqsu Child Care Centre are complete. The Nation is still finalizing the plan for the centre, and we look forward to sharing this rendering with everyone once plans are finalized.

Further progress on the project is subject to other approvals and funding from partners, but Huu-ay-aht is committed to making this centre a reality. As we move through the initial steps, we will continue to offer regular updates when they are available.

Huu-ay-aht made a rezoning application to the City of Port Alberni on September 14, 2020.

A Rezoning Application sign has been posted at the proposed site.

On October 29, BC Housing and Huu-ay-aht met with an Advisory Committee with the City of Port Alberni who voted unanimously for the Rezoning Application to be brought forward to Port Alberni City Council. This meeting will take place on November 23.

If the City of Port Alberni agrees with the application, a date will be set for a public meeting for Port Alberni residents to address concerns and/or show support for this project.

This is an exciting project for Huu-ay-aht and the Alberni Valley, and we look forward to sharing more information from you as the plan progresses.



Oomiiqsu will house multiple programs and services to support Huu-ay-aht and other Nuu-chah-nulth families:

- 12-unit residential program for mothers and their children, 9-12 years
- Office space for the Child and Family Wellness Department
- Oomiiqsu Child Care Centre
- Four second-stage housing units

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envision a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma c̓awak, and ʔuuʔałuk guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy, and sustainable Nation, where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times a year to foster community engagement among a population of more than 800 citizens. Uyaqḥmis promotes the recovery and sharing of the Huu-ay-aht dialect of the Nuu-chah-nulth language, as well as knowledge of Huu-ay-aht culture.

Please send all comments and questions to the Huu-ay-aht Communications Department.

communications@huuayaht.org
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Port Alberni, BC
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www.huuayaht.org
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaqḥmis

Keep up to date with Uyaqḥmis on social media:
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Executive Council, government staff, and family members gather on Zoom (October 5, 2020) for the swearing-in ceremony for Duane Nookemis.

Duane Nookemis joins Huu-ay-aht in to Executive Council

On September 26, Duane Nookemis won the by-election for an empty seat on Huu-ay-aht's Executive Council.

Duane was officially sworn in on October 5, 2020 on Zoom, in order to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) carried out the official oath of office. Members of Executive Council, administration staff, as well as friends and family joined to meeting to witness the event.

Each member of Executive Council offered a message of encouragement to their newest councillor. Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) offered congratulations to Duane and reminded him that this is an important role and he must take his new responsibilities seriously. He added that he is confident Duane will serve Huu-ay-aht citizens well in his new role.

Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. also congratulated Duane and offered him some words of advice. He said to always remember we are all one big family and that decisions must be made with that in mind. He said Duane focused on making things better for the people when he spoke during his campaign. He said this is an important thing to remember. He stressed the importance of Duane's interest in finding employment for citizens and focusing on education, pointing out this is something that will make the Nation stronger. The Chief said it is an essential step in order to close the gap that exists between the average Canadian and that of Huu-ay-aht citizens when it comes to economic stature and income.

Robert offered a personal congratulations to Duane and said he should be proud of himself. He said Duane is a role model in how he conducts himself and how he has raised his family.

Duane thanked everyone for their kind words and support. He also offered his appreciation to all of the citizens who supported him. He looks forward to continuing to have open communication with citizens so he can address their issues and work with them. He said he particularly looks forward to working with the youth and being the role model Robert spoke about.

The next step is a review of Executive Council portfolios. These will be announced soon.

Weekly services available in Anacla Community:

Quuasa Teechuktl Team

Tuesdays
Donna Brown (Clinical Counsellor) and Melinda Sinclair (Child & Youth Mental Health Worker)

Wednesdays
Dave Zryd (Clinical Counsellor) and Donna Lucas (Child & Youth Mental Heather Worker)

Thursdays
Howard Morris (Quuasa Wellness Worker) and Ruby Ambrose (Teechuktl Coordinator)

NTC Nursing

Wednesdays
Laurie Sinclaire and Marion Guiraud

(call 250-728-3414 to book an appointment)

Nation welcomes back six Huu-ay-aht children

September 30 marked a day Huu-ay-aht celebrates the coming home of six Huu-ay-aht children. After hard work and dedication of everyone involved, the children are now in the care of their Huu-ay-aht family.

Huu-ay-aht staff and executive council members, representatives of the ministry, and families, gathered on Zoom to welcome the children back into the care of their family and acknowledge everyone's work along the way to make it happen.

This event was an opportunity to mark the success achieved through the Social Services Project. It highlights the importance of the work the Child and Family Wellness Team is doing to bring Huu-ay-aht children home.

"It was a wonderful day – seeing the results of our social services project at work," said Executive Council member Edward R. Johnson. "The team from the Child and Family Wellness Office is doing a wonderful job in achieving our goals, where our Huu-ay-aht children will grow up safe, healthy, and connected to our home and culture/values guided by our traditions and our nananiiqsu."

In 2017, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Social Service Project was brought to life. Within this project, lay 30 recommendations that Huu-ay-aht will implement to keep families safe, healthy, and connected to their nation, while also bringing children home.

This project has been active for three years and Huu-ay-aht has implemented 28 of those recommendations (almost 29 – Oomiiqsu Mother Centre in the process). In that time, 28 Huu-ay-aht children have been brought home.

Grandparents Wayne and Ida Seitcher welcome home Meredith, Gordan, Rose, and Marley. Mother Christy Smith welcomes home daughters Aurora and Alexya.

"Congratulations to these two families who persevered and worked hard at getting the children back into their care" said Chris Pearson, Huu-ay-aht Protection Support Worker. "They are the reason we do the work that we do, I am humbled and honoured to have been a part of their journey, and I wish them all the very best for the future."

Christine Pearson and Kerry-Ann Collinge worked closely with the families and ministry workers and thanked everyone for their hard work and attending the welcoming home ceremony.

Kerry-Ann said, "What we are witnessing here today is healing for these children, families, and community."

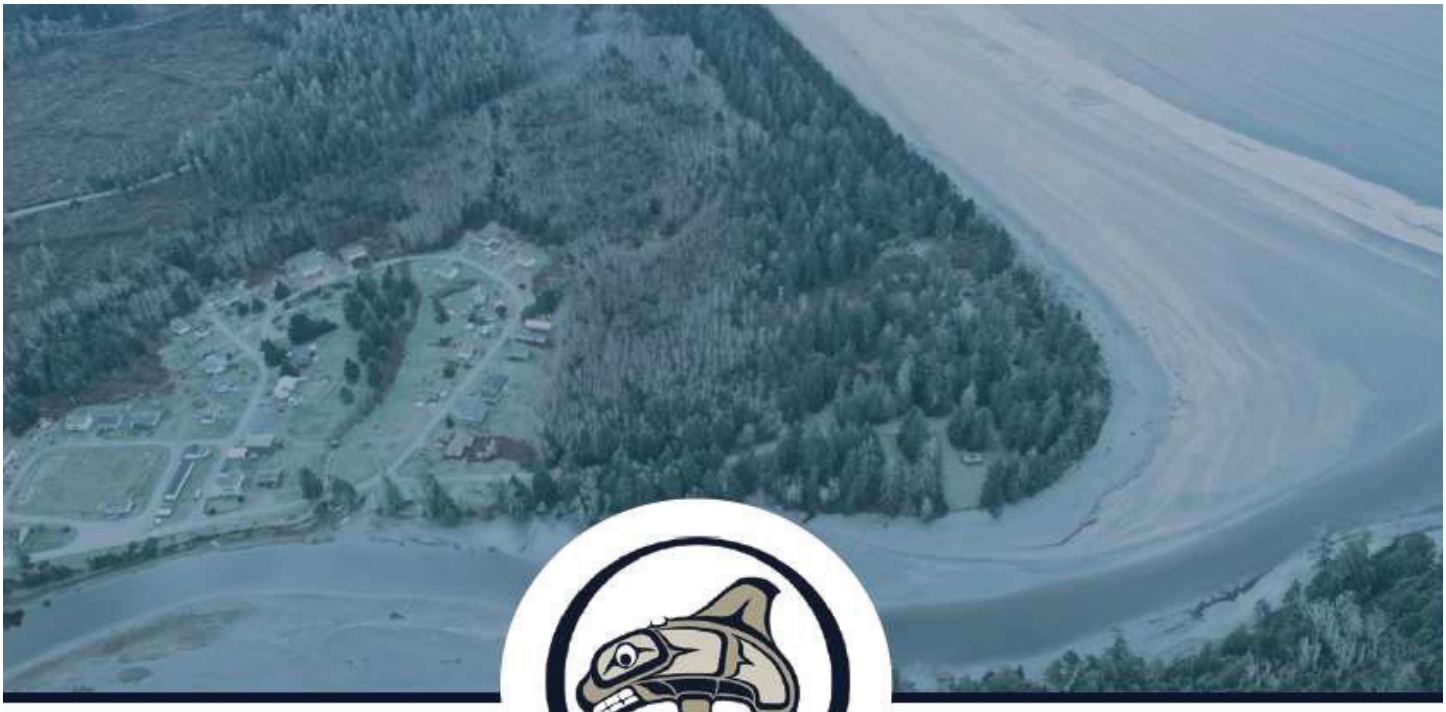
To contact Child and Family Wellness, please phone 778-419-1013 or email Director of Child and Family Wellness Shannon Zimmerman at Shannon.z@huuayaht.org. You can also find more information about the department at www.huuayaht.org.

For after-hour protection support, please contact 250-731-6999. Call this number only if you have received a call from Child Protection Services (i.e. MCFD/Usma or other delegated agencies). Anything not related to this matter will be followed up during office hours.

Grappler Inlet says goodbye to abandoned vessels



During the summer of 2020, the Natural Resource team worked with TimberRose Tug and Barge to remove the derelict and abandon vessels from Grappler Inlet in Huu-ay-aht marine territory. (Photo provided by Amelia Vos)



CCP- Update

October 2020

Thanks for your input into phase 1 of the Comprehensive Community Planning process over the past number of months.

Over 160 citizens joined conversations about what would make Huu-ay-aht an even better community. We heard lots of ideas about increasing housing options within the hahuułi, increasing language programming, and furthering cultural opportunities for citizens in all communities.

Phase 2 involves evaluating priorities and assessing feasible timelines for different ideas. Future development possibilities in Anacla, including what it would take to help Anacla reach its full potential, is a key consideration. Stay tuned for a survey to help make trade-offs and prioritize potential next steps.

HUU-AY-AHT COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

Queen's University project continues to grow

By Heather Castleden and Vanessa Sloan Morgan



Jane Peters taking a photo of the view from the Anacla Government Office. (Photo provided by Queen's University)

The Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin research team has grown. We're very excited and thankful for Honey Johnson and Nicole Malcomson to join us as Research Associates. Over the next few months, Honey and Nicole will be leading phone surveys as we call every Huu-ay-aht citizen to learn: how is treaty going for you? Honey and Nicole will continue to work down the citizen list alphabetically (prioritizing elders). But if you miss a call from them or want to take part, give Honey a ring at 250-206-0107. Those who complete the 15-minute, four question, over-the-phone survey will have their names entered in a weekly draw. Thank you to all those Huu-ay-aht citizens who have already been generous with their time and taken part in the phone survey to date.

As we welcome new research team members, we are pleased to share news from a previous research team member. Jon Aarssen (Queen's University student) who, along with Becki Nookemis (Huu-ay-aht Research Assistant in 2017), Ayanna Clappis (Huu-ay-aht Research Assistant in 2017), and Vanessa Sloan Morgan (UNBC) conducted photovoice with 33 Huu-ay-aht citizens in the summer of 2017, successfully defended his Master's thesis! Jon's thesis is entitled Illuminating Community Experience and Perception of Modern Treaty Implementation Through Photovoice: Photography and Stories from Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Key findings from the photovoice research show that Huu-ay-aht citizens (musčim) have mostly experienced positive and noticeable changes as a result of the Maa-nulth Treaty. For instance, many citizens view changes to Huu-ay-aht First Nations' government and an increased control over Treaty Lands as crucial to ensuring their well-being, and that of Huu-ay-aht families, the environment, and the Nation as a whole. Huu-ay-aht citizens who took part in the photovoice project also viewed the Maa-nulth Treaty as a way for the Nation to have a greater say in what takes place within Huu-ay-aht's ḥaḥuuɬi. For example, citizens expect more consultation on development decisions and for development to be more conscious of its impact on the environment in order to heal the land and to preserve it for future generations of Huu-ay-aht.

Huu-ay-aht citizens who took part in the photovoice research often shared that the Maa-nulth Treaty is having an impact on cultural life in the Nation. Treaty has supported forging important connections to culture and ḥaḥuuɬi amongst citizens, which has also allowed for some of the citizens who participated in the research to find meaningful employment and to move back home to Anacla. Participants pointed to infrastructure, housing, and service improvements as the next steps needed to move Huu-ay-aht citizens back home. Overall, the Maa-nulth Treaty was seen as a shift away from the legacy of discrimination and dependency upheld by the Indian Act, and instead, is supporting the independence and sovereignty of Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Please feel free to email Jon with any questions or to request a copy of the thesis: jonathan.aarssen@queensu.ca. Jon would like to thank all participants for their contributions to this important work. Congratulations Jon.

As always, feel free to reach out to the research co-leads with any questions or comments: Heather (902-489-2412 or heather.castleden@queensu.ca) and Vanessa (250-508-3410 or vanessa.sloan.morgan@unbc.ca). The Huu-ay-aht Research Advisory Committee is also available for questions or comments: Stella Peters, Jane Peters, Simon Dennis, hupinyuk (Tom Happynook), hinatinyis (Brittany Coté), Mercedes Williams, and Heather Johnson.



CALLING ALL HUU-AY-AHT YOUTH ARTISTS 30 AND UNDER

SUBMIT YOUR ART FOR OUR LOGO CONTEST BY DECEMBER 31ST!

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A $500 ARTIST FEE
ONE SUBMISSION ACCEPTED PER PERSON

The Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin (Our Journey, Our Story): Huu-ay-aht Perspectives on Modern Treaty Implementation Research Team needs a logo! The Research Advisory Committee will choose which art piece best represents our research on Huu-ay-aht's journey with the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Email submissions to hinatinyis at: hinatinyis@gmail.com

Research Advisory Committee: hapinyuk (Tom Happynook), Simon Dennis, Mercedes Williams, Jane Peters, Stella Peters, hinatinyis (Brittany Coté), & Heather Johnson.

Research Team: Honey Johnson, Nicole Malcomson, Heather Castleden, Vanessa Sloan Morgan, & Marc Calabretta.

Conducted in partnership with: huu ay aht ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND; Queen's University; UNBC University of Northern British Columbia

Research Funded by: SSHRC CRSH

HGB Welcomes Trevor Moore to the team

The Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (HGB) is pleased to welcome Trevor Moore as the new Tourism and Campground Development Manager. Trevor brings a wealth of knowledge regarding cultural tourism to HGB, which he gained from his work with the Osoyoos Indian Band Development Corporation (OIBDC).

In his role with OIBDC, Trevor was provided with insight into the cultural tourism industry. His position also includes the management of the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, an award-winning centre in a desert conservation area. As the Guest Services Manager, Trevor was instrumental in facilitating the expansion of the campground. While he was operating the RV Park, Trevor was able to expand the year-round 350-site.

Trevor's knowledge of cultural tourism includes the marketing of experiences through various pre-



Trevor Moore

sentations at trade shows and conferences. These include things like, visits to the winery, golf course, and Spirit Ridge Resort.Trevor worked to market not only the RV & Campground but how it could impact and increase visitation to the other businesses in the OIBDC's cultural tourism sector. This has provided Trevor with a greater understanding of how to position cultural tourism amongst various target groups.

Trevor's success in his previous role prepared him to lead the campground and tourism development for HGB. His understanding of the cultural dynamics and how it impacts tourism and experiences make him an excellent candidate for this position. We are confident that Trevor will ensure the rich history of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations is reflected in all of its activities.

Trevor looks forward to having the opportunity to move forward with the plans to expand campgrounds around the hahuułi. He is eager to get to know the citizens and gain a better understanding of what matters most to them. With Trevor's success in his previous role and his cultural tourism background, HGB is confident he will be a successful leader as the Tourism and Campground Development Manager.

Huu-ay-aht Upcoming Events

2020 Annual People's Assembly
Saturday, December 5, 2020
Meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Due to COVID-19, this meeting will be held on Zoom only.

Check out our Facebook page and website for more information and see what prizes you can win.

If you have questions or want to register, please contact Vanessa at vanessa.s@huuayaht.org or call 250-723-0100. You can also visit our website at www.huuayaht.org and register online.

Huu-ay-aht adapting to new "normal"

Numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to rise in British Columbia as the second wave takes hold this fall. Huu-ay-aht First Nations remains committed to ensuring citizens and staff are kept safe and healthy during this period.

All government services have been maintained throughout the pandemic, although it did look a little different. In October, administration returned to the office after spending almost six months with limited staff in the office and the rest working from home. Although all safety precautions are being taken to keep staff safe, the decision was made to continue to keep the office closed to the public.

If during this time you need assistance, please call the offices at 250-723-0100 or 1-888-644-4555. Please stay safe and continue to follow the recommendations from the Province on how to help minimize the spread of this virus.