Uyaqḥmis

April 2023 Issue 71



Dream job comes to light for Huu-ay-aht Citizen

With a great passion for helping others, Williams Coopsie, 20, graduated from the College for The Rookies Fire Services Program.

Coopsie is the son of Carla Williams (Mother) and Alan Coopsie (Father) and the Grandson of Minerva Templeman (Shaw), and Steven Williams (Mother's Parents).

During Coopsie's high school years at John Barsby, he worked a Kal Tire from the age of 15 years old, working every day after school and on weekends. During this time, Coopsie was a part of his high school football team and leadership class. He also volunteered at a hall for nearly four years.

When working at Kal Tire, Coopsie said, "I really enjoyed being able to help people when they needed it and the hard physical work." He continued, "I enjoy being outside and dealing with situations that require problem-solving skills, not every scenario is the same, and I enjoy that."

When it came to post-secondary, Firefighting was not the first thing Coopsie did.

Story continued on page 7

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Huu-ay-aht Warriors build communtiy smokhouses

By Shannon Zimmerman, Director of Child and Family Wellness

In response to requests for Community Smokehouses, a grant was applied for, and received, from the First Nations Summit Society to build four smokehouses. Additional funds for the smokehouse construction and labour costs were provided by COVID-19 Funding and the Warriors Program.



Roof being done on smokehouse (Photo provided by Shannon Zimmerman)

Utilizing valuable input from Elders, the Warriors Community Coordinator, Leonard Nookemis, who worked with other Nations (Bryson George, Ucluelet and Keshawn Charleson, Kyoquot), Red Seal Carpenters, Huu-ay-aht Warriors, Huu-ay-aht staff and community members to construct the smokehouses in October 2022 and March 2023.

The smokehouses are located behind the Soaring Eagle, next to the Carving Shed, behind the House of Huu-ay-aht and one on Nookemus Road. Provision of these smokehouses will allow all citizens to preserve and enjoy traditional foods, in addition to providing food security.

Three of the four smokehouses are completely finished and construction of the fourth will take place the last week of March.

Before the smokehouses are operational, the following steps will take place:

1. Firewood will be provided by the Nation and the Warriors – it is anticipated that firewood will be at all smokehouses by the 2nd week of April

2. Signage will be posted at each smokehouse regarding responsibilities for usage

3. A water source will be located at each smokehouse for cleaning fish and in case of emergencies

For more information, please contact Leonard Nookemis at 250-918-4256 and Shannon Zimmerman at 250-720-5797.



Warriors working on Smokehouses. (Photo provided by Shannon Zimmerman)



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envisons a strong, self-determining, self-reliant and sustainable 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
Mailing Address:
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
4644 Adelaide Street,
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 6N4

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:
@HuuayahtFN

FOLLOW US ON twitter

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Facebook page

Like us on Facebook

Warriors Program teaches Huu-ay-aht Youth

by Shannon Zimmerman, Director of Child and Family Wellness

The Warriors program takes place in Anacla on Friday afternoons, and Huu-ay-aht is currently exploring options for programming in Port Alberni. Warriors' youth are young men ages 9-18.

What have we been up to?

A Warriors Campout was held at Sarita Bay in November of 2022. During the weekend, the Warriors learned and recognized the importance of the role of Aunties. Seeing that this role is a teacher and role models in the lives of young men.

Claiming For Your Community, a multi-nation event, was hosted by Darleen and Leonard Nookemis in Sarita Bay January 2022 and 2023. The Warriors had a great campout and harvested clams for the community!



Sarita Bay Campout. (Photo Provided by Shannon Zimmerman.)

A Collective Training: Semi-Annual Warrior Leadership Gathering was held on Huu-ay-aht ḥahuuḥi February 24-26, 2023.

Activities included:

• Planning events and activities for the next six months

• Making Medicine Bags with Auntie Mel

• COVID-19 Research Input

9:30 a.m. - 6-Month Plan Creation

• Planning for Warrior Games

• Cave Crafts

The Jane Goodall Foundation has provided generous financial support to the Warriors program to enable the Warriors to offer multi-nation training workshops. One of the workshops was a Trapper Program, and we look forward to using the skills we have learned and sharing our knowledge with others.



Leonard Nookemis at Gatherng Wisdom Confernece. (Photo Provided by Shannon Zimmerman.)

The Warriors program was highlighted by Regional Warriors Coordinator Dr. Ricardo Manmohan and Community Coordinator Leonard Nookemis at First Nations Health Authority Gathering our Wisdom on February 28, 2023. Leonard and Ricardo shared a Warriors video and discussed program highlights and the impact on youth and communities.

The Warriors assisted with building four smokehouses s in Anacla in October 2022 and March 2023, and their contribution to food security and preserving traditional foods is greatly appreciated.



Sarita Bay (Photo Provided by Shannon Zimmerman.)

Leonard and Andrew Clappis Jr. supported Spring Break Culture Camp programming in Anacla with the Cultural Wellness Team, Youth Administrator and Bamfield Community School staff. The Warriors were excited to be a part of this team!

Leonard accompanied Anacla Youth on the Spring Break Ski Trip at Mt. Washington.

Here is a video that highlights some more things that the Warriors program did over the last year.

Scan the QR Code or vist the link,https://vimeo.com/758995651/1ba7c8476b

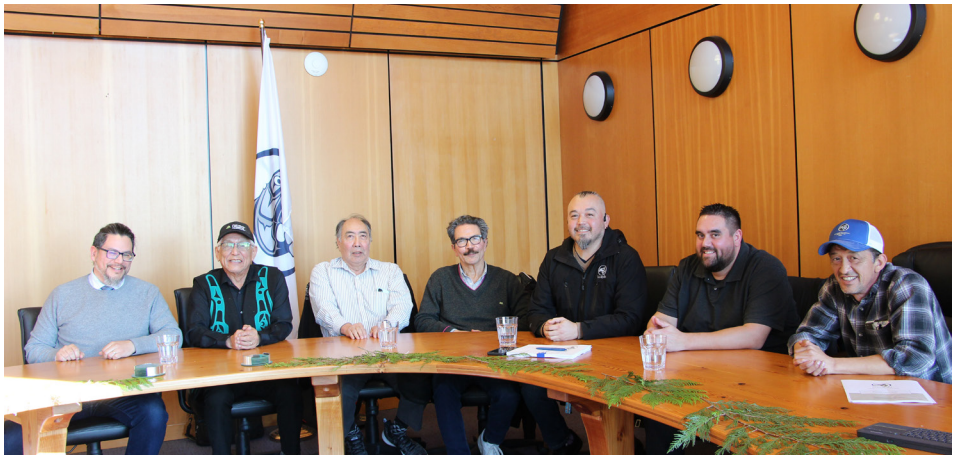
For more information about the Warriors program, please contact Leonard Nookemis, Community Coordinator, at 250-918-4256. For youth living outside of Port Alberni and Anacla who are interested in weekend events, please contact Leonard.

Legislature meetings took place in March

Huu-ay-aht First Nations held its 2023 Spring Session of Legislature on March 22 (first sitting) and March 30 (second and third sitting) at the Anacla Government Office. All sessions were live streamed for citizens to watch. Live streams of all sessions can viewed online at www.video.huuayaht.org

To see full details of all the acts that were amended and passed at the 2023 Spring Legislature, please view the public notice, agenda, and minutes on the Huu-ay-aht website at www.huuayaht.org under the public notices and legislature page.

Below is a summary of the 2023 Spring Session of Legislature:



Executive Council at the 2023 Legislation Meeting on March 22, 2023. Left to Right: John Jack, Robert Dennis Sr., Jeff Cook, Even Cook, Edward R. Johnson, Brad Johnson, and Duane Nookemis. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham).

Budget Act Amendment Act

The Budget Act of 2023 creates the government's ability to make financial decisions between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024. The Finance Administration Act requires a Budget Act for each fiscal year. The only way the government can spend money is if it has this authority.

- General Operating Fund = $12,047,926
- Invested Wealth Fund = $14,659,011
- Special Programs Fund = $45,200,000
- Capital Spending = $106,000,000
- Borrowing = $60,000,000

Election Act Amendment Act

Amendments to this act were passed at the 2022 People's Assembly.

Amendments for this act repealing, replace, adding, and striking parts of section 2, 7, 8, 12 - 15, 20 - 22, 24 - 30, 32 – 37, 41 - 44, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 73, and 85.

This act primarily covers the notions of Huu-ay-aht employees as candidates and contemplates changing the election timeline.

This amendment would respect the requirements for changing the requirement to take unpaid leave for the duration of the candidacy.

Based on input from the election commissioner the election timeline has been changed.

The biggest change is providing coverage on by-elections. Under current legislation no by-election is held if a seat becomes vacant after January 1 in the election year, instead a council member will be appointed by a ḥaw̓iiḥ council. Under the amendment this time would be extended by approximately 6 months to cover the full year leading up to the general election. At the third sitting, these amendments were approved.

Citizenship and Treaty Enrolment Act Amendment Act

Section 25 of this act reads that an individual of First Nation ancestry is eligible for treaty enrolment and Huu-ay-aht citizenship after 5 years of marriage or a marriage like relationship. Furthermore, an individual of non-First Nation ancestry is eligible for treaty enrolment after 10 years of marriage on a marriage like relationship with a Huu-ay-aht citizen. Under the amendment, the duration of eligibility for treaty enrollment for both first nation and non-first nation individuals would be moved to 5 years of marriage or a marriage like relationship, while also demonstrating an ongoing attachment to Huu-ay-aht that is to the satisfaction of the ḥaw̓iiḥ council.

It also adds that an individual who received citizenship and treaty enrollment from a marriage or marriage like relationship could not pass that status onto a future spouse who is not Huu-ay-aht.

This motion was approved at the third sitting and will go to the next people's assembly for approval.

Community Safety Act

The amendments of this act are adding definitions to section 2 and replacing words to keep clear consistencies in section 5, 11, 20, and 25. This act was passed at the third sitting and will go to the next People's Assembly.

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Amendments made to six acts of Legislation

Continued from page 4

Code of Conduct and conflict of interest

Amendments in the act will repeal and replace sections 6, 12, 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 29, and 36. These amendments were approved at the third sitting and will go to the next People's Assembly. To see these replacements, please refer to our website.

Housing Authority Act

The Housing Authority Act establishes the Huu-ay-aht housing authority as a Huu-ay-aht public body to administer, manage, and maintain Huu-ay-aht rental housing. It also authorizes to finance and construct new Huu-ay-aht rental housing and acquire interests in land as required for Huu-ay-aht rental housing. This act was passed at the third sitting and will go to the next people's assembly.

The Special 2023 Session of Legislature will be lived streamed and can be viewed at **www.video.huuayaht.org.** Item on the agenda is Child and Family Wellness Act.



Housing Coordinator to help with all rental housing needs

Huu-ay-aht has always had the vision of bringing Huu-ay-aht citizens home, and over the last few years, the Nation has had the opportunity to bring that vision one step closer by developing 24 rental units.

When entering upper Anacla, you will see a newly constructed community that consists of rental units, duplexes, fourplexes, and homes. The Nation also has five units in lower Anacla that are rental units, one of those being a brand-new unit.

In total, Huu-ay-aht has 64 citizens in rental units.

Huu-ay-aht continues to develop in upper Anacla with three more multi-unit homes to be built this year.

Aside from rental units, Huu-ay-aht strives to have a community that is livable with resources (parks, roads, streetlights, facilities, etc.), and with time and funds, Huu-ay-aht will achieve this.

With the growth in rental units and tenant needs, The Huu-ay-aht Housing Authority has hired a Housing Coordinator, selecting Tiana Peters as the successful candidate. The Housing Coordinator will support tenants in helping to identify and resolve rental housing issues. Tiana will assist tenants in developing maintenance issues, working with Huu-ay-aht maintenance employees to ensure units are accessible, and that work is done in a timely manner.

For all rental housing questions, rental applications, or maintenance requests, please contact:

Tiana Peters
housingcoordinator@huuayaht.org 250-720-6740

Huu-ay-aht Rental Housing Office
143 Nookemus Road
Anacla, BC, V0R 1B0

Reminder: all rental housing applications must be renewed annually by March 1. If not renewed, you will no longer be on the rental housing waitlist.

For rental housing availability posts, and rental housing updates and forms, check out the rental housing page at www.huuayaht.org.



Declaration Acts, Reconciliation, and Collaboration as a Treaty Nation

by Crystal Jack.

In the last few years, British Columbia and Canada have enacted legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and guide them through reconciliation. Both pieces of legislation include a section requiring an action plan.

BC shared its action plan a year ago, in March 2022. This action plan included a section on modern treaties and reference and accountability for a separate but connected "Shared Priorities Framework ."

This framework was signed by the leaders of all eight modern treaty governments in BC and the Premier. Canada is in the final stages of their action plan development, and we expect to see its plan released early this summer.

We have seen some positive changes in our interactions with our treaty partners, such as an increase in interest and understanding of treaties and shifts in the approaches to funding that better respect our treaties and government-to-government relationship. While we're happy to see these changes, they're happening slowly.

Canada and BC have a long way to go in becoming better partners. We will need to continue our commitment to advocating for all Treaty Nations and educating our treaty partners.

The enactment of these Declaration Acts and their action plans have dramatically increased engagement and demands on our time, resources, and capacity. To manage this significant increase in engagement, all Indigenous governments in Canada have had to make decisions about their priorities and participation in various engagements and initiatives.

Modern Treaty Nations have the additional responsibility to ensure our treaties and distinct rights and relationships are respected and upheld.



Celebration at A.D.S.S. following the effective date of becoming a Maa-nulth Treaty. (Photo 2011)

Huu-ay-aht is working with other Nations, Indigenous Governments, and Organizations, as appropriate, to support the increased engagement and collaboration with our treaty partners. Huu-ay-aht works with the other Maa-nulth Treaty Nations to consider impacts on our treaties and opportunities for our Nations coordinated and supported by the Maa-nulth Treaty Society (MTS).

This can look like sharing resources, information, and collective responses. With the increase in engagement from British Columbia from their Action Plan and the commitments in the Shared Priorities Framework (SPF), Huu-ay-aht often coordinates with the other modern treaty nations in BC through the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations (ABCMTN).

The leaders of the Alliance recently met to approve changes to the Alliance structure to meet the needs of its member nations better to navigate this new DRIPA landscape with BC.

Nationally, we are working with 25 other Self-Governing Indigenous Groups (SGIGs) to improve our funding agreements with Canada. This work is ongoing as different funding areas are addressed over time, which has resulted in funding increases for Nations.

Through participation in the Land Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC), we contribute to areas of shared federal such as the collaborative development of the Modern Treaty Implementation Policy (MTIP) announced last month.

Huu-ay-aht determines which level is best fit for its government and citizens. Sometimes that means direct bilateral engagement to meet Huu-ay-aht-specific interests.

Other times that means working with others on areas of shared interest, priorities, and expertise. Huu-ay-aht maintains a unique and individual voice at these tables. The tables we participate in do not "speak for" Huu-ay-aht We add our values, considerations, and input into processes where the weight of collective voices has greater influence.

Our Treaty is a living agreement written before the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the enactment of Declaration Acts by BC and Canada. This is a period of rapid legislative change in pursuit of reconciliation.

It is important that Huu-ay-aht pursue the benefits and opportunities that come with the Acts that are guiding BC and Canada through reconciliation. However, Huu-ay-aht must also ensure they are included because our Treaty was written before these Acts.

Huu-ay-aht's leaders, administration, and experts will continue to represent the best interests of Huu-ay-aht citizens, our government, and our Treaty at all levels of treaty implementation.

The payoff for hard work: Huu-ay-aht Citizen becomes firefighter

Continued from front page

He started at Vancouver Island University (VIU) criminology program for one year and switched to the Fire Fighter academy in Cranbrook.

Coopsie realized his passion for Firefighting after a few emergency calls he attended with the Extension Volunteer Fire Department. He learned about the College of The Rockies program after a visit to the Nanaimo Fire Department. This application took 5-months.



Coopsie and school colleges practicing an auto extraction. (Photo given by William Coopsie.)

His favourite moment in his firefighter schooling was when he and his class graduated. He said, "being able to see where all my classmates began from day one and how we were all successful due to our extreme training and work ethics was a feeling that will be difficult to match."

Williams Coopsie's dream of becoming a full-time firefighter became a reality due to the hard work and drive that he put in. He is also thankful for the tuition assistance that Huu-ay-aht First Nations provided.

Coopsie left a piece of advice to future Huu-ay-aht scholars saying, "All I could say to others is don't be afraid to experiment. I did criminology and realized it wasn't my passion. Still, it greatly helped me develop further education and experience that played a great deal in being successful in my firefighting school."

The final note Coopsie wanted to share is, "find something you love and surround yourself with like-minded people who support you.".

Hišuk ma c̓awak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) Survey

Huu-ay-aht is most concerned with managing the lands in a sustainable way for the next 7 generations and in accordance with our sacred principles of ʔiisaak (respect), ʔuuʔałuk (taking care of) and Hišuk ma c̓awak (everything is one). With this in mind Huu-ay-aht is looking for citizen feedback – this survey provides information about the current state of affairs and what work is being done related to the various values, and to solicit citizen input to identify priorities & focus areas for the HIRMP.

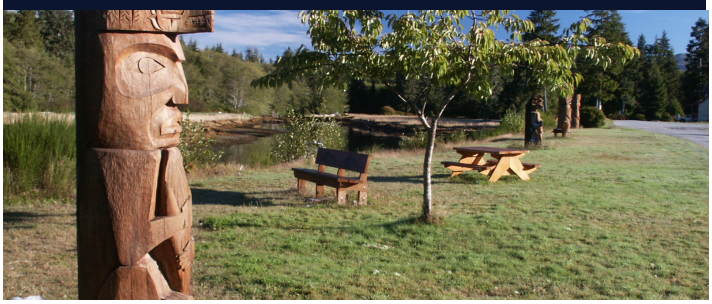
Please visit this survey as many times as you need to complete it.

To complete the survey, please visit: https://huuayaht.org/hirmp-survey

Huu-ay-aht Ḥaẃiiḥ Council Survey

Huu-ay-aht Ḥaẃiiḥ Council are wanting to hear from Huu-ay-aht citizens to help document information about traditional names. By completing this survey, it will help identify who has a traditional name and who doesn't. Ḥaẃiiḥ Council plans to further its research with the end goal of each member within their house having a traditional name.

To complete the survey, please visit: https://huuayaht.org/hawiihsurvey



Pacific Herring Spawn in Barkley Sound

By Tyra Fabrick, Lands and Natural Resources Technician

The Pacific herring (Clupea pallasii) are a keystone species in the marine ecosystem. Coastal Indigenous people have honoured and respected this species since time immemorial.

Pacific Herring plays a significant role in the culture and society of many coastal First Nations communities. Knowledge and traditional handling methods have been passed down through generations, and these methods can vary between families and Nations.

Herring fisheries have also been extremely important to BC First Nations commercially and as traditional food. Herring is harvested for food such as roe and whole fish and as bait for other fishery uses.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nations fisheries team monitored and surveyed this season's spawn in the Barkley Sound.

With special permission from Chief Anne Mack of Toquaht First Nation,

Huu-ay-aht harvested the whole Herring as Food Fish for Huu-ay-aht community members.



Harvested Cedar Boughs.



Fishing boat filled with herring roe on cedar boughs. (Photos by Tyra Fabrick)

Traditional Cedar boughs were set around the Barkley Sound to collect the herring roe. The team was successful in their placement of the boughs and were rewarded with a bountiful harvest which was shared with the elders of the community.

Over the past three years, Huu-ay-aht has worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to survey and sample herring in Barkley Sound, focusing on Huu-ay-aht marine territory.

In decades past, herring has been used to spawn in Huu-ay-aht territory, and citizens could harvest in the shallows and shorelines of Grappler Inlet, Bamfield harbour and Deer Group Islands. As herring began to deplete, Huu-ay-aht observed the disappearance of herring schools and spawning activity in waters around their territory, and we want to know why?

The 2023 herring survey season showed some herring-size bait balls around Huu-ay-aht territory. Huu-ay-aht successfully sampled the whole herring via cast net to help determine age class structure and biological information. HFN hopes to see herring return to their territory as we acknowledge its importance in the abundance of marine life.



Harvested Herring.

Gravel placement nearing completion on the Bamfield Main

When driving the Bamfield Main Road you will come across heavy machinery and vehicles, stop lights/ flaggers with multiple delays along the way.

Progess of the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project continues to be on schedule.

All ditching and culvert work has been completed and the approximately 220,000 cubic metres of gravel has been placed to date. The final stretch of gravel placement is being complete between the 15.5 and 24 km mark. It is expected that gravel placement work will be complete by the end of April 2023.

The Seal Coat work of 76.6 km Bamfield Main Road is currently in negotiations. The seal coat is scheduled to be completed in July and August 2023.



Road-Roller compacting gravel on the Bamfield Main. (Photo by Danielle Tramer)

For questions about the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project, please contact Huu-ay-aht Communications Manager, Amanda-Lee Cunningham at 250-720-7776 or amanda.c@huuayaht.org.

Please see road updates at www.huuayaht.org.

2023 Kiixin tours open on May Long Weekend

Starting May 19, 2023, visitors can take a journey with our ancestors and experience Kiixin Tours.

More than 5,000 years ago, Huu-ay-aht's ancestors made their home in Kiixin Village. Since 1999, the village has been recognized as a National Historic Site of Canada. It contains the only undisturbed, standing remains of traditional longhouses of a First Nations village on the southern coast of B.C.



Tour being given by tour guide and knowledge holder, Wišqii.

The site includes four seperate archaeological sites:
the main village of Kiixin, including the standing remains of eight houses:

The fortress site; a small midden; and a midden with remains of three houses. It is situated on the southeast shore of Barkley Sound between Bamfield and Cape Beale. Since the Huu-ay-aht left Kiixin in the 1880s, the settlement has remained unaltered.

Guided by Huu-ay-aht knowledge holders, visitors will hike their way to Kiixin Village while discovering the stunning old-growth forests, protected beaches, Huu-ay-aht history, traditions, and culture.

This year's theme is Wolves. It is in connection with the Wild with Wolves project, which focuses on maintaining the relationship of living alongside the wolves, just as Indigenous people have been doing for hundreds of years.

Tours are offered four times daily and four times nightly, Thursday to Sunday, from May 19 to September 3, 2023. You must book in advance to secure your spot.

For more information and to book a tour, please visit www.kiixin.ca or email info@kiixin.ca.



Sign displayed on Kiixin tours

Meet the Port Alberni RCMP of Indigenous Policing Services

The Indigenous Policing Service (IPS) offers policing services in rural indigenous communities. Three members of the Port Alberni RCMP travel to Anacla weekly.



Left to right: Cst. Barry Lee, Cst. James Wingfield, And Cst. Beth O'Connor, the three officers that will travel to Anacla weekly. (Photo provided by Cst. Barry Lee)

Cst. Barry Lee

Constable Barry Lee became a regular member of the RCMP in 2007 and was posted to Port Alberni, BC where he served 15 years on General Duty. He was born and raised in a farming community in central Alberta, the heart of the traditional territories of the Cree Nation.

Before joining the RCMP, Cst. Lee worked with the Four Bands that occupy the area of Hobbema, Wetaskiwin and Ma-Me-O Beach. Cst. Lee assisted First Nations communities with the development of local broadcasting system and modern farming practices through various employments. Cst. Lee acquired his Journeyman's ticket in carpentry and successfully owned and operated a three faceted business under of building construction, backhoe service and the village maintenance of Ma-Me-O Beach.

"In large; learning about and helping people is why I became interested in policing. Joining the Indigenous Policing Service has given me a unique opportunity to accomplish this." -Barry

Cst. James Wingfield

Constable James Wingfield came to Port Alberni with my Wife, Christina and two young children, Arlan and Hazel. James has 7 years service with the RCMP, all of which has been served in BC. The vast majority of his service to date has been with the Indigenous Policing Section and he has had the pleasure of working with over a dozen First Nations communities throughout Northern BC and Vancouver Island. James looks forward to working with the Nuu-chah-nulth communities and their citizens.

Cst. Beth O'Connor

Constable Beth O'Connor joined the RCMP in 2015 and posted to Port Alberni out of Depot. She is originally from Hamilton Ontario, the traditional territories of the Haudensaunee and Anishnaabeg people. Before joining the RCMP, Cst. O'Connor worked as a paramedic with BC Ambulance, a Support Worker with youth leaving the criminal justice system and as a Corrections Officer.

Through her employment and volunteer work in drug and alcohol detox programs, she learned a great deal about the complexity and barriers people face every day.

Cst. O'Connor was drawn to a career in emergency services out of a desire to impact others in a positive way and to promote positive change and progress.

Cst. O'Connor has been with Indigenous Policing Services for 4 years.

"Working with and in service to the Nuu-chah-nulth communities has been the highlight of my career." - Beth

If you would like to speak with one of the officers from the IPS, call the Port Alberni RCMP office at 250-723-2424 and they will redirect you.

HGB Invests in the production of TimberTiles

In 2015, a group of innovative thinkers got together and came up with the idea of TimberTiles – manufactured architectural wood tiles. It was the brainchild of FP Innovations, a not-for-profit group that was exploring ways to create value-added products to strengthen the forest industry in British Columbia.

Although the idea was strong, the group could not find a manufacturer to produce their product. That's where Mark Anson and his partners came in. Mark and his wife decided the idea was too good to pass up, and they started looking for a location suitable for manufacturing the tiles. Their search brought them to Port Alberni, where they set up their business, ReaplyWOOD in 2019.

Mark admits their timing was far from perfect. They had a lot of challenges in the beginning because of the pandemic and a forest worker's strike, but soon things started to turn around.

It was always the intent that TimberTiles would partner with a local organization once they got set up in a community.

Sometimes an opportunity comes knocking, and it's too good to be true. That is what the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (HGB) CEO Patrick Schmidt thought when he started exploring the opportunity of partnering with TimberTiles.

The feeling was mutual, as when the chance to work with Huu-ay-aht First Nations presented itself, Mark was excited.

"I knew Huu-ay-aht was forward thinking, so we approached the Group of Businesses about partnering," he says. "It offered an opportunity to follow the product from tree to tile because Huu-ay-aht has everything we need under one umbrella."

This month their partnership will be official, and Huu-ay-aht will enter a value-added sector of forestry. The reasons behind investing in TimberTiles are clear.

It offers an opportunity to use hemlock, which is a lesser desired wood in the market and would be suitable to the value-added market. Port Alberni and HGB have a consistent supply of wood to support the business, and the product promises consistent financial returns, as manufacturing will smooth the forestry cycles.

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Do you have a medical appointment coming up?

Please contact medical travel 5 days prior with:

- ☑ Date
- ☑ Time
- ☑ Doctor's name
- ☑ Travel plans

Gentle reminders to also :

- ☑ Send in confirmation of appointment
- ☑ Confirm travel plans with medical dept before appointment.
- ☑ Send in confirmation of attendance once visit is done

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Please contact Kimberly Nookemus at 1-888-644-4555 or kimberly.n@huuayaht.org



ReaplyWOOD finds its home in Port Alberni

Continued from page 11

Most importantly, the product they would be manufacturing was high quality and promised to compete against ceramic tiles. They have many advantages including being carbon neutral/carbon sequester, a green building product, and certified in many areas.

The way the tiles are manufactured and cut across the grain ensures they are strong and resist warping, cupping, shrinking, or cracking. The unique cutting style also means the grain is attractive and varied, making it uniquely striking.

The factory in Port Alberni is the first of its kind and could employ up to 30 full-time employees. Mark says it is just the beginning. He hopes to build on its success, and that of the partnership with HGB, and grow the business to other communities in the future.

He said Port Alberni was the perfect place to start with its strong forestry workforce, steady wood supply, and welcoming community. Both Mark and Huu-ay-aht Councillor Evan Cook, who holds the economic development portfolio, are optimistic about the future of TimberTiles in the Alberni Valley. It is a win-win opportunity that will allow the Nation and ReaplyWOOD to work together in a way that respects Huu-ay-aht's values and sacred principles. Mark says those principles are just one thing that reassured him that Huu-ay-aht First Nations was a good fit for TimberTiles.



Timbertiles installed in a bathroom by ReaplyWOOD. (Photo provided by Mark Anson)