Uyaqḥmis

October 2023 Issue 74

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Releases Public Notices of Commitment to Community Health and Safety



PM41913515

Child and Family Wellness Hosts 2023 Baby Welcoming Ceremony



Group photo from the Baby Welcoming Ceremony hosted by Child and Family Wellness. (Photo by Kiara Collinge)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Child and Family Wellness Team welcomed Huu-ay-aht babies on Friday, September 15, at the Lawn Bowling Club in Port Alberni, BC.

During the ceremony, families were gifted rattles, headbands, blankets made by ʔiičim (Elder) Barb Johnson, and baby books. Huu-ay-aht Culture Team, Cory Howard Sr. and Mel Edwards, and ḥaẃiɬ Jeff Cook taught the families a cultural baby lullaby. 11 out of 15 families were in attendance.

The ceremony brought much laughter, cheer, and connection for all. Huu-ay-aht First Nations Child and Family Wellness Team would like to wish families and newborns many thanks for attending and sharing their new journeys with them and hope for ongoing connections in the future.

Oomiiqsu Aboriginal Mother Centre is on Schedule

September 2023

IWCD crews have been working extremly hard to meet project deadlines.

The crew recently constructed the basement walls of the building and have moved to continuing to form the main building footings and fundation walls.

They are currently are pouring the footing in the south side of the main building, installing rebar in main building walls and footings, and installing main electrical under footing conduct into the electrical room.

IWCD and Huu-ay-aht First Nations say the the project is on schedule and they both anticipate occupancy in October 2024.

More info about Oomiiqsu

- This project is in response to Recommendation 26 of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Social Services Project Report “Safe, Healthy, and Connected: Bringing Huu-ay-aht Children Home”

- Oomiiqsu will accommodate up to 48 Mothers and children. The facility will offer private bedrooms and washrooms, with a shared kitchen, dining, living, and laundry space. Oomiiqsu childcare centre will provide childcare spaces for children from birth to school-aged children.

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

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Opens New Gym in Lower Anacla



Anacla and Bamfield residents visiting the new Fitness Centre in Lower Anacla on the day of the grand opening. (Photo by Danielle Tramer)

On Tuesday, August 15, 2023, Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the community in the Bamfield/Anacla area gathered in Lower Anacla, at 90 Emchiss Way, for the grand opening of the new fitness centre.

Through a grant from the First Nations Health Authority, the Community Services, Child and Family Wellness, and Infrastructure Department collaborated on bringing the fitness Centre to what it is today.

Prior to becoming the new fitness centre, the building was once the Huu-ay-aht Band Office, and then utilized for storage space.

Over time, the space sat vacant and got closer to being completely removed. The infrastructure department was able to restore the building and prepare it for the fitness centre.

The fitness centre is open to all community members in the Bamfield and Anacla areas.

Before attending the gym for the first time please review this Fitness Centre checklist and fill out liability forms, which can be found on the Huu-ay-aht First Nations website.

Huu-aya-ht First Nations is currently asking citizens to help find an offical name to this facility.

Bamfield Main Reconciliation Project is Nearing Completion

BAMFIELD MAIN ROAD
Surfacing Project

September 26, 2023

Crews are nearing completrion of the Bamfield Main road.

Chip Seal from kilometres 14.3 to 76 is completed, preperation for chip seal is completed between kilometres 0 to 14, the placement of chip seal in these kilometers will be starting this week.

This will require vehicles to follow a pilot vehicle at this section.

Delays are estimated to be a maximum of 15 minutes.

Please stay alert to pilot vehicles, road signs, and speed limits.

As the major work to Bamfield Main comes to an end, Huu-ay-aht First Nations will be hosting a celebration for the Bamfield Main Road Reconciliation Project being complete.

This celebration will host government officals, project workers, DFO, and Huu-ay-aht Citizens and staff.

The celebration will be sharing a meal and culture. Huu-ay-aht encourages citizens to bring shawls and drums.

The event will take place Tuesday, October 10, at 12 P.M., at the House of Huu-ay-aht.



Bamfield Main completed Chip Seal at 49 KM. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Commitment to Community Health & Safety

August 28, 2023 - Huu-ay-aht First Nations over the past several years has been working with citizens, Hawiih, legal counsel, and consultants to better understand intergenerational trauma amongst our Nation.

Three separate groups have interviewed over 50 Huu-ay-aht citizens to discuss various things that affect intergenerational trauma such as addictions, physical & mental abuse, sexual assault & harassment, and abuse of power. Reports such as the Inquiry panel report, intergenerational impacts of residential school, and community wellness, all indicated recommendations for Huuay-aht First Nations to move forward for the betterment of our nation.

The Huu-ay-aht Hawiih and Huu-ay-aht Government are committed to protecting our most vulnerable, women, children, youth, and elders. We can't do this alone. It will take you, our citizens, to help us implement the recommendations and to strengthen our communities to be safe and healthy. We want all of us to help achieve our wellness statement:

Huu-ay-aht Wellness Statement:

“Our citizens are grounded in our culture, teachings, and sacred principles. Through healing, wellness, celebration, and the understanding of our Treaty, we are connected, empowered, responsible, accountable, and motivated.” Working with partners such as the RCMP, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, Province of BC, and the Federal Government departments, we will be committed to identifying resources to support our journey of wellness, health, and safety, and strengthening our environments.

Activities that can damage or cause harm to our communities and citizens in our communities will not be tolerated. Drinking and driving, abuse, or harm to our most vulnerable, women, children, youth, and elders in our communities will not be tolerated. We ask our citizens to support us in achieving our wellness statement and help us create a safe, healthy, and welcoming community.

“We are profoundly grateful to everyone who placed their trust in us by initially bringing their stories forward to our Council and to all of those who participated in the investigations. We are humbled by their bravery and appalled by what they have suffered. The Ḥaw iḥ Council stand with them and are here to support them. We urge them and all our citizens to take care of themselves and one another.”

‘On behalf of the Hawiih Council – Thlu’ as aksup /Theresa Nookemis’

“We recognize and acknowledge that intergenerational trauma throughout Huu-ay-aht citizens and communities is a widespread and long-standing problem. We are grateful & appreciative to everyone who continues to place their trust in us and opened to using their voice in the investigations. It is essential that together we begin to address these painful and harmful legacies of intergenerational trauma, particularly on Huu-ay-aht's most vulnerable, women, children, youth, and elders.”

‘On behalf of the Executive Council – Chief Councillor, John Jack’

We encourage you to take care of yourselves and each other. And please reach out for support, assistance, and guidance. Together we can steer our canoe in the right direction.

For the offical statement please visit our website, www.huuayaht.org, under "Public Notices".



Ḥawiiḥ Council Announces Decision Regarding Seat

The following reading may be upsetting to some readers. This public notice contains material of a highly sensitive nature, including harassment, sexual harassment, and sexual assault, that may be triggering for some individuals. Please practice self-care during the reading, and for support, don't hesitate to contact the Kuu-us Crisis Line at 1-800-588-8717 (BC Wide) or Huu-ay-aht First Nations Child and Family Wellness and Cultural Team at 250-723-0100.

Re: Removal of Derek Peters (ƛiišin) from his seat

On May 5, 2022, following receipt of serious allegations against Derek Peters made by a citizen, we decided that, until the matter was resolved, he would not participate in meetings or decision-making of the Ḥawiiḥ Council, or speak publicly on our behalf.

On August 3, 2022, Executive Council directed that an Inquiry Panel (the “panel”) be convened to inquire into allegations of abuse of power, intimidation, harassment, assault, sexual harassment and sexual assault committed by members of government.

The panel received information from several individuals alleging that ƛiišin had intimidated people, sexually assaulted, harassed, and threatened and assaulted women and children contrary to section 12 (3) of the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Act (COCCIA), and had otherwise breached multiple other provisions of that Act. The panel issued terms of reference for an investigation into these allegations. That investigation has been completed and the panel has shared its findings with the Ḥawiih Council.

ƛiišin was offered the opportunity on multiple occasions to participate in the investigation process, but chose not to do so.

The investigator found, on a balance of probabilities, that the complaints against ƛiišin in relation to breaches of COCCIA s. 12 (3) were substantiated. The investigator also found that ƛiišin attempted to stop a complainant and her family from reporting one of the sexual assaults to the police; assaulted, intimidated and threatened another woman and attempted to obstruct an ongoing police investigation by directing family members what to say and do in relation to allegations of sexual assault made against him. In addition, the investigator found that he improperly used government property and resources and made unauthorized purchases on his government credit card for which he failed to provide receipts for purchases as required.

We are deeply troubled that ƛiišin has failed, over an extended period of time and in many ways, to conduct himself in accordance with our core principles of ʔisaak, ʔuuʔałuk , and hišuk ma ċawak. We cannot condone this behavior and, after careful consideration and discussion we have decided to permanently remove ƛiišin from the Ḥawiih Council and from his role as Tayii Ḥawił.

This decision was not taken lightly and was made in accordance with our customary practices and Nuu-cha-nulth customary practices.

We recognize that the inquiry process and investigation have been challenging for all involved.

We wish to express our gratitude to Sandra Cunningham K.C. and Jennifer Dehoney for their dedication and hard work throughout the inquiry and subsequent investigation. We also wish to thank all of the community members who came forward to share their stories and all of those who supported this important work.

We are profoundly grateful to the women who placed their trust in us by initially bringing their stories forward to our Council and to all of those who participated in the investigation. We are humbled by their bravery and appalled by what they have suffered. The Ḥawiiḥ Council stand with them and are here to support them. We urge them and all our citizens to take care of themselves and one another.

For the offical statement please visit our website, www.huuayaht.org, under "Public Notices".

Huu-ay-aht Welcomes New Government Staff to the Team



Petra Barnfield

Petra Barnfield has joined Huu-ay-aht First Nations Child and Family Wellness Team as a Protection Family Support Liaison.

Barnfield received her degree in Psychology and Criminology from Simon Fraser University and Counselling Sciences from CTI.

Before her time at Huu-ay-aht, she worked for Kuu-us Crisis Services, Port Alberni Shelter Society, and
Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council (NTC).

Once her term ended with NTC, she had already made many connections in Anacla and wanted so much to maintain that.

Barnfield already felt so connected and prayed that this was evident when she applied for her new position and desired to earn a role that would continue to serve the Huu-ay-aht people.

She has four children (a son and three daughters); three are grown, and one is at home starting grade 9 in September.

She also has two stepchildren. Both grown. Her husband has a roofing company, D&A Roofing, and we also have two little dogs and two cats.

Our door is always open, and I am always approachable to anyone in need and willing to help. Barnfield is excited and eager to give her very best to the nation.



Jenelle Johnson-Sabbas

Jenelle Johnson-Sabbas is from Huu-ay-aht First Nation and Hesquiaht First Nations. Her mother is Martha Johnson, and her father is Jeffery Sabbas.

Johnson-Sabbas grew up in Port Alberni and attended Haahuupayak Elementary School on the lands of the Tseshaht First Nations.

She attended high school at Alberni District Secondary School on the shared grounds of the Tseshaht and Hupacasath.

While growing up in Port Alberni, she has grown to love the sport of basketball and still loves to play in her young adult years.

Growing up, Johnson-Sabbas was looked up to by younger children. She grew up teaching and helping with the development of basketball. She loves being able to help children achieve their goals.

In her new role with the Nation as a Special Project Liaison Coordinator, she will reach out to the community, holding engagement sessions to see how the Huu-ay-aht First Nations government can achieve more by collecting the community's feedback.

Another part of her job is supporting the youth mentorship project by receiving input from the youth on how the education team and the government can help them understand what works with the children and what doesn't.



Julie Smith

Julie Smith has joined Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Finance Department as an Accounts Payable Clerk. Smith received her Business Administration Diploma in Toronto, Ontario. She also has her third-year Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Sage 50 Accounting Diploma.

Besides being an accountant, Smith has been a Red Seal cosmetologist for 30 years, is a trained apprentice, and has owned and operated ten salons in Western Canada.

In Smith's free time, she enjoys playing classical piano and violin and spending time with her two puppies, which she adopted from Ziggy's Rescue.

Smith looks forward to her new chapter with Huu-ay-aht First Nations Finance Team.

Continued on page 7

Huu-ay-aht First Nation Citizen Wins Gold at 55 Plus B.C. Games

During a hot summer weekend in August, many relax by the water or hide inside with air-conditioning.

Huu-ay-aht Citizen Jack Cook was participating in the 55 Plus B.C. Games, just like he has been for the last thirteen years.

The 55 Plus B.C. Games, formally known as the B.C. Seniors Games is a multi-sport event hosted in different B.C. communities annually.

The 2023 games were hosted in Abbotsford, B.C., nearly two hours east of Vancouver, B.C. on the Mainland.

Out of this multi-sport event, Cook's sport is soccer.

Cook has been playing soccer, off and on, for nearly 60 years.

He explains his introduction to the sport, "I was, along with many others, introduced to the sport of soccer while at the Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS)."

Cook recalls that four other Huu-ay-ahts (Citizens) participated in soccer and other sports while attending AIRS.

Today, Cook shares that his three children and grandchildren have been playing soccer from a young age.



Jack Cook (last player in the back row on the right) and his Zone 2 Teamates holding their Gold Medals. (Photo provided by Jack Cook)

Through his participation in the 55 Plus Games, Cook represents and plays for Zone 2.

For the Games, B.C. is divided up into twelve geographical zones.

Zone 2 represents Ladysmith, heading north to the top of Vancouver Island and including the Central Coast on the Mainland.

During Cook's continued tenure on Zone 2, the team has taken home eight medals.

During the 2023 games, the Zone 2 Team won all four games played and returned home with a gold medal.

When asking Cook about winning the medals, he wrote, "For me, my participation in the games has not been about winning medals, but about meeting former teammates friends, making new friends, and staying healthy, mentally and physically.

He concludes, "To come home after the games with a medal has just been a bonus." The following 55 Plus Games will be hosted in Salmon Arm, September 10 to 14, 2024.

Falicia Dennis Returns to Huu-ay-aht in New Job Position



Falicia Dennis

Continued from page 6

When entering the Anacla Government office, Citizens and guests are welcomed by a friendly face, Falicia Dennis.

Dennis has returned to working with the Nations as the Receptionist.

Falicia Dennis previously worked for the Nation as the Youth Coordinator until the COVID-19 pandemic began.

When job positions changed due to health regulations and guidelines, Dennis worked as Anacla Government Offices' Receptionist for approximately six months. It was then, Dennis deciding to move closer to her children, daughter Sydney White (26), Granddaughter Abigail Stewart (9) , and Son Lucas Dennis (24)

Dennis is honoured to be back within the Nation working, assisting citizens, guests, and the staff in any way she can.

In her spare time, Dennis loves sports and the outdoors. A fun fact about Dennis is that she has a playlist of her favourite ten songs that she can listen to repeatedly.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Announces Old-Growth Interim Report

September 7, 2023 - Huu-ay-aht First Nations announces completion of an Old-Growth Interim Report that outlines the work completed to date on an Indigenous-led integrated stewardship approach to ecosystem health and biodiversity, including old-growth forests.

In partnership with Huu-ay-aht Forestry Limited Partnership, Ċawak ʔqin Forestry, Mosaic Forest Management, the Old-Growth Interim Report is a step towards finalizing the Hišuk ma ċawak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP). The HIRMP integrates a full range of values and stewardship measures across the entire Huu-ay-aht Ḥahuuḥi (Traditional Territory).

As part of the HIRMP, the partners developed a draft design of the Ṁaƛasap (to take a bite out of) Network that integrates old forests, riparian habitat, rare ecosystems, wildlife habitat and features, and cultural and traditional use areas to maintain connectivity across the Ḥahuuḥi.

Through the Ṁaƛasap Network, 19,819 hectares of old and recruitment forests were identified to align with important values within Huu-ay-aht Ḥahuuḥi – 13,450 hectares being 250 years or older, and the remaining 6,360 hectares part of a long-term recruitment strategy.

Guided by the best science and data available, and Huu-ay-aht's values and principles, the interim report identifies over double the amount of old-growth forests and rare ecosystems in the Ḥahuuḥi than what was established by the Old-Growth Technical Advisory Panel (TAP).

The HIRMP and Old-Growth Interim Report demonstrates the importance and value of taking a collaborative and holistic approach to implementing land and resource management that aligns with Huu-ay-aht values and its three sacred principles: ʔiisaak (Utmost Respect), ʔuuʔałuk (Taking Care of), Hišuk ma ċawak (Everything is One).



This graphic shows how the philosophy of hišuk ma cawak ("everything is one") is used as the basis for the Hišuk ma cawak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP). Each of these landscape values are connected and should be managed holistically. (Photo courtesy of Huu-ay-aht Old Growth Interim Report Based on the Hišuk ma ċawak Integrated Resourse Management Plan)

The Hišuk ma ċawak Integrated Resource Management Plan will be complete by March 2024.

"Hišuk ma ċawak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) represents the present and future needs of the ecosystems within the Huu-ay-aht ḥahuuḥi. Its namesake sacred principle, Hišuk ma ċawak, acknowledges the many interconnected aspects considered and incorporated into the plan. We continue to ensure we are managing our lands in a sustainable way, so it is there for the next 7 generations. To do this, we value the partnerships we have that help us manage our lands and waters".

– Huu-ay-aht Executive Councillor, Brad Johnson (Wiiheyakchikk)

"We are making significant progress together in the development of the Hišuk ma c̓awak Integrated Resource Management Plan. The work underway considers present and future needs to ensure lasting benefits for generations to come and we look forward to continuing to contribute to the progress made through this innovative planning process led by the Huu-ay-aht First Nations."

– General Manager, Ċawak ʔqin Forestry, Geoff Payne

"Western is proud to support the development and implementation of the Huu-ay-aht-led Hišuk ma c̓awak Integrated Resource Management Plan. With each step forward, we are pioneering a collaborative and integrated approach to ecosystem health and biodiversity that draws on local understanding, data, and technology to achieve our collective values."

– RPF, Chief Forester, Western Forest Products, Stuart Glen

"Our relationship with Huu-ay-aht is built on a strong commitment to collaboration. The HIRMP demonstrates the immense value of partnerships for a coordinated and modernized approach to collaborative land-use planning".

– Senior Vice President, Corporate Engagement and Chief Development Officer, Domenico Iannidinardo

To read the full report, visit www.huuayaht.org

RCMP, Conservation Officer, and DFO Visit Huu-ay-aht Territory

On Wednesday, August 30, 2023, members of the RCMP, Conservation Officers, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and Huu-ay-aht took a walk with our ancestors on the Kiixin Tours.

The Tour began at the Anacla Government Office, where Qiic Qiica (formerly known as Wishkey) guided the group through Huu-ay-aht History, speaking on artifacts displayed throughout the building, about the House of Huu-ay-aht and welcome figures, followed by the Kiixin Tours.

The day ended with a traditional meal at the House of Huu-ay-aht with Executive Council members, Executive Director, and staff.

Community safety is one of Huu-ay-aht's main priorities. For community safety in the Anacla area, Huu-ay-aht, and the RCMP are working together, through the Indigenous Policing Service (IPS). IPS offers policing services in rural indigenous communities, with three RCMP members visiting Anacla weekly.

As portfolio holder for public safety, Stella Peters (ḥaasiismisʔaksup) will be leading community safety in Anacla.

"I feel that the work we are tasked to do to ensure community safety in a healthy way requires us to collaborate with other levels of Authority who can work with us in partnership to achieve those common goals" says Executive Council Member, Stella Peters.



RCMP, Conservation Officer, and DFO on August 30, 2023 visiting Kiixin to learn about Huu-ay-aht culture and territory. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Huu-ay-aht holds Special Legislature for Goods and Services Act Repeal Act

Huu-ay-aht Executive Council held a first, second, and third reading of the special legislature for the Goods and Services Act Repeal Act.

On September 11, 2023, the Executive Council was introduced to the Goods and Services Act Repeal Act at the first sitting and accepted and approved it.

On September 15, 2023, the Executive Council had no changes to the Goods and Services Act Repeal Act at the second sitting.

The Executive Council had a motion to accept the Repeal Act which was approved.

At the third sitting the Executive Council had a motion to enact the Goods and Services Act Repeal Act which was approved.

The importance of making these changes to the Goods and Services Act is so Huu-ay-aht and Maa-nulth members can request to have GST tax exemption reinstated.

A motion will go to the BC Legislation requesting GST tax exemption reinstatement. Huu-ay-aht will keep citizens up to date if the motion gets approved.



Photo of the outside of Anacla Government Office. (Photo by Huu-ay-aht First Nations)

Huu-ay-aht Citizens Gather and Celebrate 2023 Huu-ay-aht Days

Huu-ay-aht First Nations would like to say Klecko to all who participated at the 2023 Huu-ay-aht Days, August 11 to 13. Thank you to the vendors, wellness professionals, and Alex Thomas (guest speaker) who attended and shared their talents with Huu-ay-aht.

Recap of 2023 Huu-ay-aht Days:

On August 11, at 11 A.M., 2023, Huu-ay-aht days began. Vendors, Wellness professionals, caterers, citizens, and Huu-ay-aht First Nation staff gathered at the House of Huu-ay-aht.

The event began with a welcome from Executive Council members Edward R. Johnson and Stella Peters, leading to culture.

Following culture, the guest speaker, Alexandra Thomas, spoke addressing the importance of the Huu-ay-aht ḥahuułi (territories) and how to protect it, and to have Huu-ay-aht voices heard, is having someone at the table during decision-making. She also spoke about what her warrior's program does and explained the possibilities of the Huu-ay-aht Warriors program.



Guest speaker, Alexandra Thomas, speaking to Huu-ay-aht Citizens. (Photo by Kiara Collinge)

Concluding her speech, everyone went into lunch and the Bannock, Fry Bread, and Chili Contest. Charlene catered lunch. She and the team prepared sandwiches, soups, salads, hot dogs, hamburgers, and fish.



Sylvia Dennis accepting her Bannock and Fry bRead award. (Photo by Kiara Collinge)

The announcement of the Bannock, Fry Bread, and Chili contest was announced. The winners are as follows: Bannock and Fry Bread – Sylvia Dennis, and Chili – Tiana Peters. Congratulations to the winners!



Richard Nookemus, wins cedar basket. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

After lunch, the door prize winner was announced, winning a beautiful cedar basket made by Huu-ay-aht elder, Barbara Johnson. The winner was Richard Nookemus. This concluded the time at the House of Huu-ay-aht and everyone proceeded down to the Pachena Beach citizen sites.

At Pachena Beach, children played along the shore, building sandcastles and swimming. Some participated in a scavenger hunt. When completing the hunt, children were gifted a Kiixin bag with a Huu-ay-aht shirt and water bottle inside.

Between culture, wellness, and visiting vendors, more prizes were announced. These gifts were a drum, beaded pin, tuque, cedar, and more. At 3 P.M., some guests participated in the Kiix̣in tour.

Dinner was served at 5 P.M., and citizens were left to enjoy their night.



Vendors down at Pachena Beach. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

On Saturday, August 12, at 9 A.M., breakfast was served. This was a time to enjoy each other's company and good food.

After breakfast, Alex Thomas provided a guided walk to citizens to explain the plants on the ḥahuułi (territories).

Saturday activities were provided, but the day was for citizens to enjoy their time and spend time with one another, which happened.

Activities were a community Potluck, Kiix̣in Tour, Movie Night, Tug O' War, Family Photos, and haircuts.

Again, Huu-ay-aht First Nations would like to say Klecko to all who participated and supported 2023 Huu-ay-aht Days.



Group of Huu-ay-aht Citizens singing and drumming at Pachena Beach. (Photo by Kiara Collinge)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Host Nuu-Chah-Nulth Artist Symposium

Huu-ay-aht First Nations hosted a two-day 2023 Nuu-Chah-Nulth Artist Symposium, on September 12 and 13, 2023, at the Best Western Plus Barclay Hotel in Port Alberni, BC.

This event was made possible through a grant Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Economic Development Department was able to obtain through the Canada Council for the Arts.

"We would like to thank the Canada Council for the Arts for their support of Nuu-chah-nulth art and culture," says Chief Councillor, John Jack.

He continues to say, "we believe that this a vital step and a first step in the direction to help organize, support and promote indigenous art and artists and helping to define how it is we can ensure authenticity and protect the cultural and economic importance of this aspect to our life as indigenous people."

The first day, September 12, was a closed event solely for invited master artists. In attendance, there were 11 master artists from various backgrounds of work. There were cravers, jewellers, sculptors, weavers, and clothing makers.

Artist	Work Type
Tom Patterson	Carver
Connie Watts	Media Artist & Designer
Tim Paul	Carver
Rodney Sayers	Carver
Edward Johnson Sr.	Carver
Geraldine Edgar Tom	Weaver
Hjalmer Wenstob	Sculptor & Carver
Hipolite Williams	Carver
Lavern Williams	Weaver
Gerren Peters	Carver & Jeweler
Gordon Dick	Carver

The 11 artists included:

To start off the morning of September 12, 2023, guests were led by Master of Ceremonies (MC) Trevor Little in song and prayer, following a land acknowledgement that the event was being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Tseshaht and Hupačasaṯḥ First Nations.



Master Artists left to right, Hipolite Williams, Lavern Williams, Edward Johnson Sr., Tom Patterson, Connie Watts, Eric Surette, Rodney Sayers, Trevor Little, Geraldine Edgar Tom, Hjalmer Wenstob, and Tim Paul. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Breakfast was served to the artists, and following this, master artists were broken into three groups and participated in round table discussions. This activity brought the group to lunch, and they resumed another set of questions after lunch.

Questions that the master artists answered are the following:

1. How do we create a way to protect our art from being stolen and lost?

2. What are some ways to protect indigenous artists from being taken advantage of?

3. What art do we want to share with the world?

4. What traditional forms of art should be protected and kept private?

5. How do we inspire the next generation?

6. What could mentorship look like?

On day two of the event, the public and vendors joined to converse with master artists and join in on the conversations of preserving and protecting Indigenous Artists' rights and authenticity.

Through breakfast and lunch, individuals purchased from vendors, talked with artists, and participated in cultural songs. From this, the group was transitioned into sitting in a sharing circle discussion. People introduced themselves and shared their thoughts regarding Nuu-Chah-Nulth Art.

Throughout the two days, feedback was received from artists and the public which was collected and will be compiled into a report and will be sent to Canada Council for the Arts.

This is just the beginning of the Nuu-chah-nulth Artist Symposium. With the work Huu-ay-aht has started, there are hopes this can continue and become something bigger and meaningful to all Nuu-chah-nulth Nations to join in on and participate.

If funding is available for next year, there are already suggestions to incorporate traditional language with art to help educate the history and value of an art piece being created.

"I felt very lucky to be a part of this event. Witnessing various artists, vendors, and the public take the time to attend spoke immensely to the significant importance of this Symposium. This Nuu-Chah-Nulth Artist Symposium laid the groundwork for this year's goals, but also helped provide insight for next year." Says Executive Councillor, Stephen Rayner.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nations anticipate that the results of this event will help fund a second Nuu-chah-nulth artists symposium in 2024.

2023 Sarita River Chinook Harvest was a success

Amelia Vos, Natural Resource Operations Manager

The 2023 Sarita Chinook Harvest started early this year as Huu-ay-aht First Nations sought the opportunity to target Terminal Ocean Chinook in the nearshore marine environment of Numukamis Bay.

Citizens, alongside the Natural Resources Team beach seined in various locations of the estuary harvesting some beautiful silver chinook.

As the fish moved in river, so did the harvest and for the first two weeks of September the harvest team were successful in procuring 644 hatchery Sarita Chinook.

The buyers were excited to purchase sustainable, indigenous caught salmon and the funds received will be split between citizens who participated.

Due to drought, the Sarita River is experiencing one of its lowest flows in history, the harvest team, with help of the Nitnat River Hatchery team were successful in transporting 200 wild Sarita Chinook to the upper spawning grounds to help improve the chances of spawning success.

The harvest team also supported Nitnat River Hatchery team in collecting brood stock for the hatchery.

The Natural Resource team monitors the Sarita River by snorkel surveying it each week. We look forward to rain and observing the fish reaching the upper spawning habitat.

2023 Annual People's Assembly is Approaching



Registration is open for the 2023 Annual People's Assembly.

Early Bird Dealine is Thursday, October 2. If registering before this date, citizens will be entered to win a prize of $100.

The winner will recieve the prize following attendance at the Assembly, November 18, 2023.

Deadline to register is Wednesday, November 1, 2023. If citizens fail to register before this date, it is the resposibility of the citizen to book their travel and accomodations. Please save all travel (Ferry) and hotel reciepts, and the Nation will reimburse you. Please note, it can take up to two weeks after recieving receipts for payment.

Citizen Motions, if you would like to enter a Citizen Motion on the agenda, please submit it to the Huu-ay-aht Law Clerk, Coraleah Bauer at lawclerk@huuayaht.org or call 250-723-0100. Deadline for Citizen Motion is Friday, October 6, 2023.

Award Nominations, do you know an amazing Huu-ay-aht citizen and want them to be recognized for it? Nominations form and guidelines can be found on our website, www.huuayaht.org/2023-annual-peoples-assembly/

Vendor forms can also be found on our website, fill out the form now, as spaces are limited.

Visit our website for full information: www.huuayaht.org.
Scan QR Code to Register