Uyaqḥmis

October 2022 Issue 68

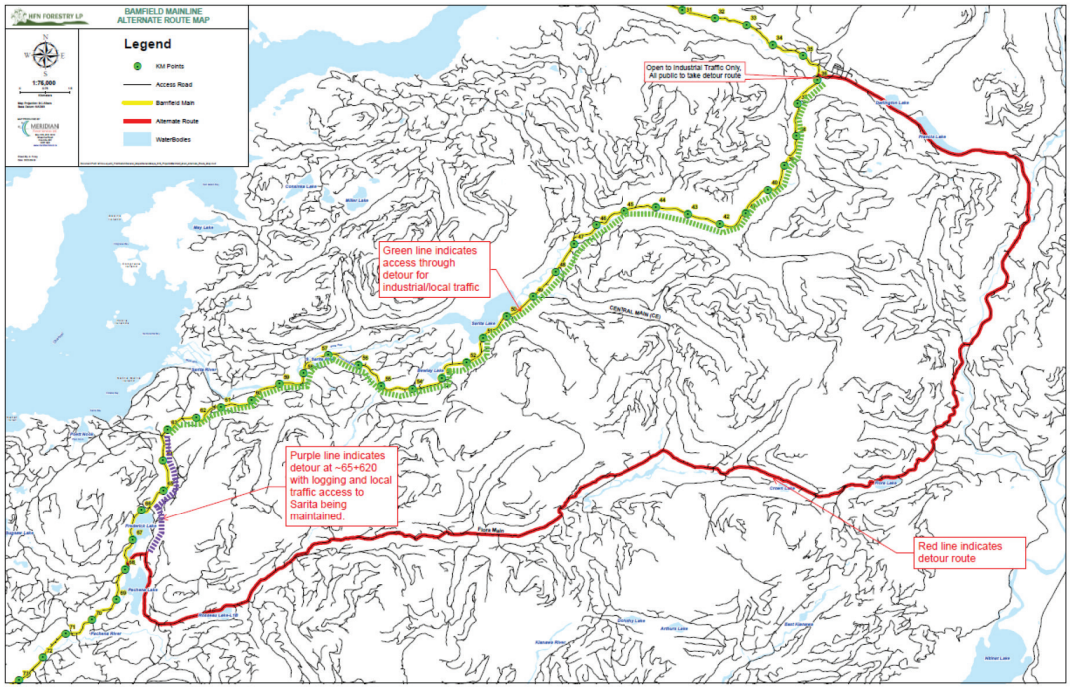
Huu-ay-aht and Bamfield Community School Honour National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



(Photo by Danielle Tramer)

PM41913515

Bamfield Road Construction Progress Moving Forward



Bamfield Main Detour

The Bamfield Main Road detour remains in place from approximately 36 km to 58 km. Drivers can expect single-lane traffic and delays of up to 15 minutes at approximately three automated flag systems with pilot cars placed on both sides of the detour.



Automated flag system and pilot truck to guide traffic through the construction zone (Photo by Danielle Tramer)

Only industrial traffic will have access through construction areas. All other travellers are required to use the detour, and those who attempt to bypass the detour will be turned back.

All traffic can expect new delays of 15 – 30 minutes outside of the detour as ditching is now underway at 34 km. New delays may be experienced at bridges as well.

Please expect extra additional delays due to the changing weather conditions and the movement of construction materials and equipment.

Speed should not exceed 60 km per hour, and drivers are required to slow down when construction equipment and crews are on the road. The RCMP will be monitoring for safe driving throughout the project and detour.

Crews will continue to work on culvert replacement, borrowing, grid placement, ditching, and sign installations.



Road construction crew spreading borrow fill on the road (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

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

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.

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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:
@HuuayahtFN

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Citizen Destiny Stewart Follows Her Career Dreams



Destiny with her daughters Aiyanna, Talullah, and step-daughter, Abigail (Photo provided by Destiny Stewart)

Destiny Stewart (née Williams) graduated from high school in 2015 through a program called Ravens Lelum, a program for young parents. She then began her post-secondary schooling at Vancouver Island University in 2017 in a program called Education Assistance and Community Support. In 2018, she graduated with a certificate and decided to apply for her ultimate post-secondary dream program – Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Care (CYC) with specialization in Child Protection. She is currently in her fourth and final year of the program. Throughout her education, she became very passionate about advocacy for Indigenous peoples and declared a minor to her degree – Xwulmuxw Studies (Indigenous Studies). She is also currently signed up for Community Cousins, an Aboriginal student mentorship program through VIU and her training will begin next month.

Destiny's mother is the late Colleen Williams. Her grandmother is Minerva Templeman and her grandfather is the late Stephen Williams.

Destiny said some of the best parts of attending post-secondary school is the growth that happens within. She has learned an incredible amount about herself and her identity. Growing up in foster care, she had foster parents tell her she would never amount to anything. She feels empowered to prove them wrong. She grew up in many different foster homes and was disconnected from her culture. Post-secondary school has helped her overcome her fears, and has helped her to reconnect with her culture.

During her schooling, Destiny has worked as an Indigenous Culture and Support worker in Nanaimo for four years and she has worked with an organization for people with disabilities. Recently, she has been focusing on school.

Destiny has found that one of her strengths of being a student is having empathy, which will help her once she is working in the field again. Empathy is important while working in the human services field.

One of her favourite moments in her school journey has been picking up cedar weaving. She has made a few things and would like to keep practicing because she likes to keep her hands busy. One of her favourite courses in the CYC program is Adventure Therapy, which essentially uses more nature and physical activity as a therapeutic aid. She has gotten to go surfing in Tofino, caving in Comox, and participated in many outdoor games such as scavenger hunts that took place all over Nanaimo.

Huu-ay-aht has supported Destiny throughout her educational journey. She has always felt that the Nation truly believed in her and that she was capable of achieving her educational goals even when it was very hard to decide on a program or path she

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Citizen, Mother, and VIU Student Success

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wanted to take. Huu-ay-aht has always been supportive of what direction she wanted to go in. She is very happy that she chose CYC and Indigenous Studies.

Her advice for current and future students is to follow your heart and do what you feel passionate about. Pursuing post-secondary education is very rewarding but can come with its own challenges. Do not be afraid to ask for help from professors or peers within the class. Many universities and colleges have counselling onsite, use these services if needed! Ask as many questions as you can when you're in class, whether it is something you write down and you research later or asking a question to your professor.

A big congratulations to you, Destiny and to all you have overcome and achieved!

Bamfield Community School Gets Kindergarten to Grade 12 Program



Bamfield Community School Sign (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

The Bamfield Community School now has kindergarten to grade 12! As a direct result of the decision to expand the grades at the school, School District 70 was able to hire one more full-time teacher to accommodate the increased number of registrations. They are also hoping to see their Indigenous Support teacher's hours increase to match the almost-doubled school population from last year. There are 12 kids registered for kindergarten, 27 in grades 1-8, and nine students in grades 9-12 for a total of 48. The school is looking towards some extra-curricular activities for all their students, including secondary. Those plans are still in the works in collaboration with the Community School Association. When asked if there were any plans for the secondary students to interact with the Alberni District Secondary School (ADSS) students, they replied saying they would love to coordinate interactions with ADSS later in the year. They do not have specific plans for that yet, as they are still establishing multi-grade secondary classroom routines, but that is most definitely on their radar.

"*We are beyond excited that SD70, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, and our local community have worked so hard to turn this K-12 dream into a reality!" said teacher, Robin Schmitt. "It is such a pleasure to come to work every day to such a vibrant community of learners, using all spaces in our building!"*



Bamfield Community School Playground (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Capital Projects and Infrastructure Raise Nutchkoa and Ho-miniki



Raising the welcoming figures at the Kiixin trailhead

The Capital Projects and Infrastructure team helped raised the 8-foot welcome figure replicas at the Kiix̱in trailhead. These figures were carved by master carver Nookemus (Edward Johnson Sr.). Nutchkoa, the first man, and Ho-miniki, the first woman were raised in time for the Kiix̱in National Historic Site Plaque Reveal on September 20, 2022. See story on page 8.

KIIX̱IN
JOURNEY WITH OUR ANCESTORS

Kiix̱in Tours open on May 19 - September 4, 2023. Visit the website for more information: www.kiixin.ca

Huu-ay-aht Gatherings

Please join us for culture and Huu-ay-aht history.

- **Anacla - Mondays - House of Huu-ay-aht at 5 - 7 p.m.**
- **Port Alberni - Wednesdays - The Argyle Room (5022 Argyle Street) at 6 - 8 p.m.**



For questions, please contact at 250-723-0100 or:
Cory Howard - cory.j.h@huuayaht.org
Mel Edwards - mel.e@huuayaht.org

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Do you know successful citizen?

You can nominate them to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Uyaqḥmis.

Tell us about the citizen you would like to see featured.
You can find the nomination form on our website:
huuayaht.org/uyaqhmis/

A Big Welcome to New Huu-ay-aht Staff Members



Cole Giroux

Cole Giroux is the new Public Works Supervisor. In his position, he will be working with the water systems, septic systems, and maintenance crew. Some of Cole's favourite hobbies include fishing, shellfish harvesting, swimming, and beachcombing.



Curtis Needham

Curtis Needham is the new Capital Projects Lead working in both the Port Alberni and Anacla Government Offices. His position is working towards the completion of capital projects in Anacla. Curtis has ten years experience in hospital maintenance and major capital projects and ten years directional boring experience between oilfield and municipal work. He is a Red Seal Millwright with the Blue Seal Certification. Curtis also has a college diploma in Natural Resources Drilling and Blasting. He is a Certified National Construction Safety Officer and has operated equipment for select forest harvests in Ontario. Curtis enjoys fishing and the outdoors take up most of his free time as there is so much to explore.



Jennifer Hastings

Jennifer Hastings is happy to introduce herself as a newest member of the Child and Family Wellness team. She started on August 2 after a whirlwind move from Alberta. In Alberta, she lived in a wee little village where the not-funny joke was when school was in, the village population doubled. Jennifer has two amazing, grown boys, 25 and 28, who are enjoying living their lives. Laughter, memory making moments, and adventure are the special spice of life for her. She is grateful she gets to start her next chapter of life with caring folks!



Karrine Magnussen

Karrine Magnussen is the new Communication Liaison and working out of the Port Alberni Government Office. After ten years of working as a communication designer and marketing manager for a variety of ecommerce brands, Karrine returned to college as a student to update her skills in a formal setting five years ago. She spent two years completing North Island College's Interactive Media Department's Communication Design Program before joining a marketing agency where she worked with some diverse brands as a specialized ecommerce marketing manager and director. Karrine is really excited to join Huu-ay-aht's communication team in both the Port Alberni and Anacla offices. She enjoys anything creative and can be found drawing, creating, reading, or watching anything science fiction/fantasy related.



Carter Burtlake

Carter Burtlake is the new Lands and Natural Resources Associate. In his position, he will support the Lands and Natural Resources Specialist providing organizational, educational, and analytical support to the Marine Monitoring Program. Carter obtained his Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of British Columbia. During his undergrad he worked as a sea kayak instructor. Since then, he has worked as a research associate on a couple of projects studying both community ecology and bioacoustics. In his free time, he enjoys kayaking, climbing, and eating!

Evacuation Route for Anacla and Bamfield



Drone photo of lower Anacla and Pachena Bay

Story information from the British Columbia Government News website.

Fourteen First Nations and local governments are receiving provincial funding to develop emergency evacuation route plans, which will better prepare these communities for emergencies.

This $485,000 in funding will support communities to either update or create new evacuation route plans for residents who do not have an established route in the event of a large-scale emergency. Of the 14 communities receiving this latest support from the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, nearly half are First Nations communities.

"The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, along with project partners the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Toquaht Nation and the Uchucklesaht Tribe, are pleased to be awarded this grant," said Heather Zenner, protective services manager, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. "This grant provides the opportunity for the project partners to collectively develop an evacuation route plan for the west coast of our region. The regional nature of this opportunity allows emergency planning to be done over several jurisdictional boundaries, allowing for all citizens to be incorporated and evacuation planning to consider many remote communities and neighbourhoods on the west coast."

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District has begun planning for evacuation routes as part of the plan with boundaries including Huu-ay-aht First Nations lands. The project has been awarded to Calian Group Ltd.

Calian Group Ltd. had requested citizen input through an online evacuation procedure survey. The survey was open until October 21, 2022 and all citizens and residents of Anacla were encouraged to complete the survey to help Calian understand what an emergency evacuation may look like for you and your family.

The project boundary includes:

- Bamfield & Long Beach Electoral Areas in entirety,
- Huu-ay-aht First Nations lands,
- Toquaht Nation lands,
- Uchucklesaht Tribe lands,
- Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ lands.

More information about the project and funding announcement can be found on the BC Government website: news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022EMBC0012-000380

Evan Cook Elected Councillor in September 2022 By-election



Newest Elected Council Member, Evan Cook

On September 10, 2022 Evan Cook was elected Councillor in the by-election. He will be taking on the Economic Development portfolio. Evan is a successful business owner with more than 25 years of experience in national trucking and shipping. He owned and managed an international shipping company that specialized in moving freight, furniture, and autos worldwide until his retirement in 2019. He also ran Evan's Moving Company Ltd. in Richmond since 1995.

All this experience offers him a great understanding of how to run the day-to-day operations of a busy shipping company, while supervising and training a team of employees. He prides himself on the fact that he was able to maintain his employees through the years, acknowledging this can be one of the biggest challenges of owning a business. Evan also worked hard to promote his business on social media, through online ad campaigns, and word of mouth. All of Evan's knowledge and experience will be an asset to Huu-ay-aht Executive Council. Welcome Evan!

Kiixin National Historic Site Plaque Reveal



L-R: Wišqii, Huu-ay-aht tour guide/knowledge keeper, Dave Tovell, Visitor Experience Manager, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (PRNPR), Helen Davies, Executive Director, British Columbia and Yukon, Parks Canada, Tony Gatt, Superintendent, PRNPR (temporarily), Ron Hallman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada, Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr., Karen Haugen, Superintendent, PRNPR, Geoff Hancock, Field Unit Superintendent, Coastal British Columbia Field Unit (CBCFU), Nancy Hildebrand, Public Relations and Communications Officer, CBCFU, Christa Hanson, Commemorations Officer, CBCFU, Stella Peters, Huu-ay-aht tour guide/knowledge keeper.

In 1999, the Government of Canada declared Kiixin as a National Historic Site and in 2002, gifted Huu-ay-aht with a plaque to commemorate this declaration. On September 20, 2022 Parks Canada and Huu-ay-aht First Nations gathered to honour Kiixin as a National Historic Site and reveal the plaque that was gifted 20 years ago.



Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. and Ron Hallman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada reveal the plaque at Kiixin (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham).

It was a beautiful, sunny day as both groups gathered at the gazebo at the Kiixin trailhead. Huu-ay-aht citizen, knowledge keeper, and tour guide, Wišqii, lead everyone down the lush, forested trail to the beautifully carved cedar frame made by master carver Nookemus (Edward Johnson Sr.) where the plaque now stands. Speeches were made about the significance of this designation, the rich history Kiixin holds, and how important the relationship between Parks Canada and Huu-ay-aht First Nations has been. Many people from Parks Canada were there including Parks Canada President and CEO Ron Hallman and Sheila Copps, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Canadian Heritage. Sheila started this process over 20 years ago. She spoke about how crucial the history of the first peoples of this land needs to be told and taught for future generations, as it is true Canadian history. Huu-ay-aht citizen, knowledge keeper, and tour guide, Stella Peters, told her story of the land and the ties it has to her family. Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. told a story of when he was a little boy sitting on the Kiixin beach with his grandfather being taught how to listen to the ocean and watch the waves, as it will tell you when the weather is going to change. Wišqii told a story of the carved birds and the Thunderbird masks, one named Thunder and the other named Rain; a historic way the Huu-ay-aht people taught their children to watch for extreme tides and to get to high ground. Wišqii likes to call them the original tsunami warning system! These masks are in the Cultural Treasures Room at the Anacla Government Office and were part of the repatriation of 2016.



Thunderbird Masks (Photo by Jen Carwithen).

After some time spent at Kiixin and stories shared, everyone made their way back up the trail and headed to the House of Huu-ay-aht for lunch. Not only were Parks Canada and

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Huu-ay-aht Celebrates Kiix̣in at House of Huu-ay-aht

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Huu-ay-aht in attendance, but the invitation was extended to the community of Bamfield and Anacla and it was so nice to see members join in on the celebration. It was a lovely afternoon with delicious, traditional food, more heart-felt speeches, gifts to and from Parks Canada, and some wonderful culture. There was a drumming circle, songs, and dancers dressed in their beautiful shawls. During the last song, the Huu-ay-aht dancers pulled audience members up and had most of the Parks Canada crew dancing along with them in celebration!

For the official press release, please visit: huuayaht.org/Kiixinpressrelease



Parks Canada and Huu-ay-aht dancing at the House of Huu-ay-aht (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Huu-ay-aht 2022 Fishing Derby a Success!



Weigh Station located at Upnit Lodge dock (Photo by Edward R. Johnson).

Huu-ay-aht First Nations hosted a fishing derby on August 20 – 21, 2022 to help raise funds for Cawak ʔqin Forestry Workers and their families as a support fund for any unexpected crisis that can occur in life.

The weekend was a great success; the weather was sunny and beautiful with calm waters and happy fishermen. Our amazing volunteers received wonderful feedback from the people who entered the derby. The fishermen were delighted by the time of year Huu-ay-aht held their derby stating it is when the chinook start their run up the inlet. They also informed our volunteers that tickets were easy to purchase, communication was clear where the BBQ lunch would be, where the weigh-in station was located, etc. Our volunteers said the vibes were great the whole weekend with a lot of positive, happy people!

"It was a fun-filled weekend with a lot of smiles." said Edward R. Johnson. "It was great to see a nice mix of generations, but especially great to see quite a few of the younger generation out fishing and getting involved."

The weigh station was kept busy throughout the weekend, with a total of 369 chinook and coho weighed in with our winners as follows:

- Grand prize of $5,000: Matt Mesic 29.7 lbs
- 2nd prize of $2,500: Dan Ripley 26.9 lbs
- 3rd prize of $1,000: Brian Yamamoto 25.3 lbs

Biggest fish of the day $1,000:

- Saturday: Brian Yamamoto
- Sunday: Matt Mesic

Hidden Weight Saturday:

- $250: Harvey Gudbranson
- $100: Christopher Nookemis

Hidden Weight Sunday:

- $250: John Chau
- $100: Amelia Stanhope
- Biggest Coho $1,000: Dan Normand - 10.2 lbs

Other prizes included:

- Carved Mask: Chase Young
- 50/50 raffle winner $600: Sandra Young

Huu-ay-aht was amazed with the great turn out with over $10,000 raised!

Huu-ay-aht First Nations could not have pulled this weekend off without all the hard-working volunteers who went above and beyond. We would like to thank Sheila Charles, Edward R. Johnson, Sandra Young, Justin Croft, Annette Ginger, Kristen Young, Becki Nookemis, Stephen Smith, Shannon Janzen, Marci Mudford, and Seanna McConnell who all worked hard at the weigh station, cleanup/set up, ticket sales, 50/50 sales, food serving, ticket collectors, and wrap up. An additional thank you goes out to the caterers Deborah Broad and Aaron Braidwood and the Bamfield Volunteer Fire Department for the use of their hall.

We also want to thank all the sponsors for their generous donations in support of this cause. These sponsors include Western Forest Products, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Bill Coates, Mosaic, Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses, United Steelworkers, Ratcliffe LP, Botterell Law Corporation, Probyn Log, LGL, Tradition Consulting, Rocky Point, Big Lake Trucking, Island Forest Company, Mt. Sticker Timber, Star Contracting.

Because of the great success and positive feedback, Huu-ay-aht First Nations is planning on making this an annual event with plans to host next year on August 19 – 20, 2023. For the most recent updates, please follow our Facebook page "Huu-ay-aht First Nations Fishing Derby."

Huu-ay-aht and BCS Honour National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

On Wednesday, September 28 the Bamfield Community School (BCS) and Huu-ay-aht First Nations hosted a barbeque lunch for National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Heritage Canada donated the funds to support the day. Everyone gathered in the gymnasium to partake in the event. The invitation was extended to the community of Bamfield as well.

Upon entering the gymnasium, the first thing everyone noticed was an enormous map of the world framed by a timeline of Indigenous history on the floor. This map came from the Naut'sa mawt Initiative, which is a movement led by Fellows of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society as part of their role to help champion efforts to honour Indigenous peoples and support the healing processes. Their objective is to bring important educational resources, namely the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada series, including the giant floor map education kit, to every community that would not normally have access to them. You can learn more about their mission at nautsamawt.ca.



Map of the world with Indigenous history border (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Brent Ronning, Huu-ay-aht's Education Manager, started us off with introductions to Ben and Clara Clappis, both of whom are residential school survivors. They shared a bit about their experiences in residential school. Experiences that are hard to share, hard to hear, but so important to bring awareness to. We appreciate their bravery in sharing their stories. Clara spoke to the children and let them know how important they are, that they all matter, and that they are all loved.



Ben and Clara Clappis presenting at the Bamfield Community School (Photo by Danielle Tramer)

Next up was the new superintendent of School District 70, Tim Davie. He shared his Indigenous family history and that he is three generations removed from residential school survivors. His great grandparents were students at Crosby Girls and Boys Homes (residential school) in Lax Kw'alaams (Port Simpson), British Columbia. Tim is a band member of the Old Masset Village Council of the Haida Nation. He also has relations with Metlakatla Village in the Tsimshian Nations. He talked about how he has witnessed first-hand the impact of the residential school experience that many survivors have endured. He says every school in the district has been involved in National Day of Truth and Reconciliation activities and continues to do so; not just leading up to September 30, but truly in terms of reconciliation as this is an everyday, ongoing piece in our education and learning.

Pam Craig, SD70 Board Chair, talked about how wonderful it was to see all the students after all this time of pandemic and not being able to



New Superintendent of SD 70, Tim Davie (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

visit the schools. She said trustees have been out visiting many students for the past couple of weeks in preparation for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Next, Vice Principal Nick Seredick came up to the microphone. He talked about how great the growth in the community is and, therefore, the growth in the school. He talked about when he was in high school, he didn't have the opportunity to learn about residential schools or learn about the true history of Canada's past and, for our precious students today, having that opportunity is of utmost importance. He talks about how difficult this day can be but it warms his heart knowing that we can be together to address the past and be together to move forward in a good way.



Vice Principal of BCS, Nick Seredick (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Brent presented Bamfield Community School teacher,

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Culture, Food, and Awareness for Orange Shirt Day

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Robin Schmitt with a plaque from Huu-ay-aht First Nations for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation 2022. Robin talked about what an honour and privilege it is to work at the Bamfield Community School. It is her second year working there. She spoke about how the children are a gift to them every day and how it's been a super exciting year with almost 50 students attending the school now. The school now has three full classrooms of kids and a fourth that is shared by students and the community.



Huu-ay-aht Education Manager, Brent Ronning presented a plaque to Bamfield Community School Teacher, Robin Schmitt (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Cory Howard Sr. got up and spoke about this experience and his family's experience of going to residential school. He talked about the importance of teaching culture in the schools and that Huu-ay-aht is doing this for their students. When he went to school, he never saw culture or traditions and feels it is important for the kids to learn. He said he never learned culture until 2002 when he picked up a drum. Cory talked about how important it is to also teach the kids about the lands and boundaries, all the things Huu-ay-aht people used to do because it was lost due to residential school. He is proud to be teaching the children culture. He told the story of how his father is not a fluent speaker of the traditional language although his grandparents were. His grandparents would talk to each other in their language but only spoke to their children in English. When his dad asked his parents why they only speak English to him, his mother said it was because she didn't want her children to be spanked or strapped when they went to school for speaking their traditional language. This is another reason why this day is so important, why awareness and understanding of the traumatic experiences our first peoples endured needs to be uncovered and talked about so the healing can begin.

Mel Edwards then did a prayer chant to cover everyone with love, thank the creator for the truth and healing for the people. She told the audience that if anyone wants their prayers to be sent up, send them up silently for your people, your past, your history, and your future. She then went on to sing a beautiful, calming, soothing prayer chant. Several people in the audience were holding their hands upward to send their prayers up to the creator.



Mel Edwards singing the prayer chant (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Cory and Mel then brought out their drums and called dancers up. Many of the kids came up followed by some of the adults. They sang the Paddle Song. He explained that the first people used to sing this song when they were paddling onto shore to let the other people know who they are and that it was a friendly visit. They then sang a Whaling Song, he explained that parts of the song came from Alaska and parts from California and were put together to form one song.



Drummers and dancers honouring the day (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

After some songs and dancing, everyone worked up an appetite and had a barbecue lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs. The sun came out and kids were playing outside on the playground. Once everyone had eaten, the kids got to enjoy a delicious cake to celebrate the day!



Brent Ronning and the cake for the kids (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Huu-ay-aht Rental Housing and Housing Applications



One of the units built in the upper village

New Applicants

If you have a housing application submitted and have not updated your information, please contact rentalhousing@huuayaht.org.

All applications have to be renewed every year on March 1. This is not a new policy, it has been part of the rental process of Huu-ay-aht since day one. If you had a housing application filled out before March 1st of last year, it is no longer valid and your name is no longer on the list. Get a new application sent in by email to rentalhousing@huuayaht.org right away.

Once you have filed an application please call the Huu-ay-aht Government Office at 250-723-0100 to make an appointment. A short interview is needed. The interview list is done based on need and having the right match of the size of the unit and the number of occupants, not on a "first come" basis.

If you do not get an interview right away you will be on the list, but you will not be considered until the interview process is complete. The interview will not take long.

If you are no longer needing to be on the list, please let Rental Housing know so the next person can be moved up.

New Rental Housing in Anacla

Citizens living in or visiting Anacla will have noticed that the Nation has built more housing units.

With the funding that has been made available, there are different requirements to place renters into units, such as family size, genders, incomes, and special needs based on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) requirements. The Nation will need to take these factors into account when allocating units.

Rental Housing Regulation

In addition to the requirements of the CMHC, Executive Council recently approved a new Rental Housing Regulation (RHR) which can be viewed on our website. The new regulation is based largely on the Residential Tenancy Act of BC and does away with the former Huu-ay-aht Social Housing Regulation. The RHR establishes new rules for the allocation of units, as well as the responsibilities of tenants and the Landlord (which is Huu-ay-aht First Nations).

The RHR also requires the establishment of an independent Housing Authority (HA) which will manage all Huu-ay-aht rental units once it is established. The HA will collect rents, maintain all units, and will have responsibility for selecting tenants once it is operational. However, this is not likely to be in place in the next few months, and Huu-ay-aht will have interim responsibilities of the HA.

Additional Information for Leased Tenants

If you have signed a 99-year lease with Huu-ay-aht, please remember that you own the house and that all repairs are your responsibility.

If you are in need of some work, we can help you find workers who will travel to Anacla, but the expense is on you. Remember, you bought the home for $1 and were informed that the onus would be on you for all repairs. This is not Huu-ay-aht responsibility.

If you are an Elder who needs help, please contact Rental Housing and they will help you.

There is a large shortage of homes and Huu-ay-aht is working very hard to get people in homes as soon as they can.

Huu-ay-aht is here to help you. We want nothing but the best for all our citizens and we are trying to accommodate everyone as best we can.



Inside one of the units built in the upper village

For the most up-to-date information as well as housing applications and regulations, please visit our website at https://huuayaht.org/housing-anacla-rentals/

Huu-ay-aht Citizens Celebrate at Huu-ay-aht Days 2022!

On August 12 – 14, 133 Huu-ay-aht citizens and their loved ones came home to beautiful Pachena Bay to gather together at the Huu-ay-aht Days Campout. The weekend was filled with laughter, lots of delicious food, many fun activities and events, culture, and citizens visiting and catching up with each other. There were many kids having fun playing on the beach, flying kites, making sandcastles, participating in the scavenger hunt, and especially the tug-of-war!



Citizens playing tug-of-war at Huu-ay-aht Days! (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Huu-ay-aht recognized and honoured the survivors of the Indian Residential School with a blanketing ceremony, prayers, and drumming by Edward R. Johnson Jr.



Blanketing ceremony for residential school survivors (Photo by Danielle Tramer).

Huu-ay-aht invited ex-NHL player, Reggie Leach, the "Riverton Rifle," to join Huu-ay-aht Days. Reggie received the full Huu-ay-aht experience. He went on the Kiix̣in tour, Chief Robert Dennis Sr. took him out fishing, he played lahal, gave motivational speeches to the citizens, and signed autographs. He said he felt as though he had been there a week with all the activities he participated in but was only there for two days!



Reggie Leach and Carole Nookemus, the winner of the signed Philadelphia Flyers jersey (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham).

Huu-ay-aht also asked comedian, Don Burnstick, to come and entertain citizens with his standup act. He was a big hit with many citizens coming to watch on Saturday evening.

Huu-ay-aht staff worked very hard for months in preparation for this event. It's an event Huu-ay-aht would like to occur annually, as they feel that having their citizens come home and reconnect with family, friends, and traditional lands is very important. They want Huu-ay-aht citizens to feel that sense of community where they gather, visit, share stories, help one another, learn and teach culture, and practice being a self-reliant Nation in keeping with the three Sacred Principles, ʔiisaak (Greater Respect), Hišuk ma ċawak (Everything is One), and ʔuuʔałuk (Taking Care Of). And of course, they also want citizens to have fun and create long-lasting memories!



Simon Dennis drumming (Photo by Danielle Tramer).



Huu-ay-aht Citizens enjoying a canoe ride at Pachena Bay (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham).

"It was a good, long-time coming of gathering and citizens coming home for the first time," said elected councillor, Edward R. Johnson. "There were many stories shared throughout the weekend whether we were gathering to wait for a meal, gathering for an event, or gathering just to visit. Stories shared of days spent in the community years ago, family ties, and connections were really key. Bringing people home to connect to the land was meant to be. The tug-of-war was a big hit and I loved the symbolism of it; everyone working together. I felt the same way about the canoe ride. When you feel the canoe move, it's because we are all working together. The scavenger hunt was also something great to witness. Citizens of all ages participated from kids to aunts, uncles, parents, and grandparents, again, all working together!"

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Reggie Leach and Don Burnstick Visit Huu-ay-aht

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We would like to give a huge thank you to the caterers, Shawn Mack (chef), and those who helped in the kitchen: Debbie Broad, Justin Croft, Chantelle Hartman, Charlene Nookemus, Rhiannon Richards, and Teresa Read for all their incredibly hard work. No one went hungry, the food was delicious, and it was ready and delivered on time! We know just how much hard work and planning that took and greatly appreciate it. Also, a huge thank you to all staff who worked long hours to make this weekend happen.



Clara Clappis teaching Sylvia Dennis how to cedar weave (Photo by Danielle Tramer).



Charlene Nookemus and Coral Johnson working hard in the kitchen (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham).

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is hopeful that this will be the first of many Huu-ay-aht Days to come. If you would like to help out with any future event, please contact communications@huuayaht.org.



Kitchen Staff, Shawn Mack hard at work (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham).



Citizens gathering at the gazebo at Pachena Bay (Photo by Danielle Tramer).



Huu-ay-aht citizens gathered at the gazebo at Pachena Bay for a group photo (Photo by Danielle Tramer).



Want to learn about Huu-ay-aht's path through treaty?
Interested in research that benefits the Nation?

The tašiiʔakqin ʔuyaqḥmisukqin research project is looking for a Huu-ay-aht youth representative to join our Research Advisory Committee!

TAŠIIʔAKQIN ʔUYAQḤMISUKQIN (OUR JOURNEY, OUR STORY)

Honouraria and travel stipend provided!

Earn volunteer hours towards graduation!

Meetings are once a month, usually on Friday's from 10am-2pm.

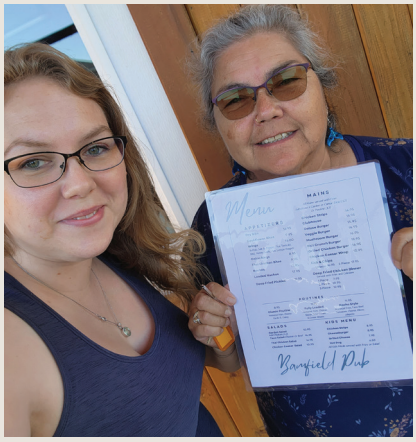
Interested? Questions? Call or text the Research Co-Leads, Onyx at 250-508-3410, or Heather at 902-489-2412

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HFN Group of Businesses

Huu-ay-aht Citizens Start New Business in Bamfield



Kori Woiwood and Sarah Dennis

The Bamfield Pub is now a mother/daughter operation. In May 2022, the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (HGB) issued a request for proposals to operate the pub located within the Motel. The belief was that it had great potential and would be a more successful business venture if run privately by an entrepreneur.

Since she was 13, Kori Woiwod has always wanted to operate a restaurant. With her mother and business partner Sarah Dennis cheering her on, she put in a proposal to HGB. Theirs was the successful proposal, and together with HGB, they submitted the necessary application to operate the existing liquor licence. That application was approved by the BC Liquor Board in late July. Along with Mike Chunyk and his partner Chey, they created a menu, and on August 5 they re-opened the pub for business.

At its peak, Sarah and Kori employed 10 people in their operation – all women and all Indigenous, with the exception of Mike.

When asked what prompted them to submit a proposal, Kori explained "I worked there when Mike was managing it for HGB and thought it would be awesome to run it one day".

For now, with the tourism season complete, Kori is focused on school, so Sarah is looking after things. They will continue to focus on offering good food and service and hope to grow the business to be able to offer other things like live music and events.

Customers who like the menu will be happy to know not much will change, but they will be tweaking things as they go along to make it their own. Because Kori and Sarah are "hands on" and work at the pub, they have front row seats to hear feedback from their customers. This allows them to make timely changes based on what their customers are telling them.

They are looking forward to next season as they believe they will be ready to take advantage of the tourism season and the events that happen in the community.

So far, they have no regrets and are having fun running the operation and enjoy their remarkable staff and customers. Sarah's favourite part is being around all the different people and offering opportunities for employment to people who need it. Kori is grateful to be living her dream. "Sometimes at work I have to pause for a moment and look around," she says, "I feel overwhelmed by the fact that I am really doing it!"

They both have fond memories of time spent in the pub, which was a gathering place for many families in the area. Now it's their turn to help other people make new memories at the pub.

Sarah says it wasn't an easy road, but she knows it will be worth it.

"You have to put everything you can think of into this," she says. "Our season went well, and being an owner is an incredible feeling."

The mother/daughter entrepreneurs say they wouldn't have been able to do it without the help they got along the way.

"We want to thank Mike Chunyk, Cheylyne Wassenaar and HGB management for all their support and expertise," she says. "We would like to also thank our staff for their hard work and dedication. And we are grateful to our amazing customers for all their patience and patronage."

The pub will reopen in the spring. Be sure to like and follow their Facebook page for updates.

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