Uyaqḥmis

August 2017 Issue 46

Camp teaches youth culture

More than a dozen youth spent a week on Diana Island learning what it means to be Huu-ay-aht.



PM41913515

Master carver shares piece of history through canoe project

For thousands of years the Huu-ay-aht People have traveled the waters around the Barkley Sound and beyond by canoe. It is an important part of the Nations' history that is still practiced today.

This summer, citizens, staff, and chief and elected and hereditary council are invited to be part of this rich past by carving a canoe with Master Carver Hipolite Williams. This team building initiative is designed to get Team Huu-ay-aht working together on a project that will be a legacy for the Nation.

This staff/Nation-building project will immerse everyone involved into Huu-ay-aht's culture, while becoming part of the Nations' future.

The main objective of this project is to facilitate a carving project where everyone will carve a canoe together under the guidance of Hipolite.

The final product of this project is to have a carved canoe that can be displayed near the Huu-ay-aht Anacla Government Office.

The goals of the initiative is to create community cohesion, provide a team building activity for Huu-ay-aht's government and staff, and perhaps even start training new carvers. Additional objectives are that participants will learn from the Master Carver as they give guidance and direction on how to use the tools, cultural and logistical items for consideration, techniques, history involved with carving, and the symbolism of the art work.

Our goal is to hold an official launching ceremony in September 2017 with a paddle around Pachena River.

Hipolite is already working on the canoe. He can be found during the day with his carving tools in hand, ready to teach and talk people through the process. Everyone is encouraged to come join him and be part of this Huu-ay-aht tradition. If you are not comfortable carving, you can just watch and listen to him explain the process. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about Huu-ay-aht's culture and traditional ways.

Plans for an official unveiling in the community are in the works for the fall. We will make sure to keep you up to date.



(Front) Huu-ay-aht Master Carver Hipolite Williams works away at the canoe carving project that is located beside the House of Huu-ay-aht in Anacla. Everyone is invited to come by the site to visit with Hipolite and learn how to carve. It is encouraged that you actually try carving yourself, but you can also learn by watching

Photo by Heather Thomson

huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

We, the Huu-ay-aht People, envision a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation. ʔiisaak will guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy and sustainable community, where our culture, language, spirituality and economy flourish for all.

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqḥmis is printed up to six times per year in order to foster community engagement among a population of over 700 citizens. Huu-ay-aht 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

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Youth enjoy rich experience and retrace the paths of ancestors

By Edward Johnson

This summer, more than a dozen youth set out for five days to capture the feeling of their ancestors by retracing their steps.

The summer culture camp was on Diana Island for five days. Camping at Diana Island was a wonderful experience and it allowed the youth to travel back in time. It was a chance to see our youth travelling by canoe, just as our ancestors did.

We travelled through the Deer Group Islands by canoe. We also made the journey from Sarita Bay to Diana Island – the same migration route our ancestors did every spring and fall. The youth got to experience harvesting seafood, welcoming canoes that were part of the Canoe Journey, and sharing stories that were passed down from my sister's songs.

Culture camp was a huge success this year with a big thank you to our chaperone Stephen Smith, Falicia Dennis, and Cory Howard Junior.

My most memorable moment of the cultural camp week was when our youth left Diana Island for Kirby Point for a picnic. I got to see them paddling in our canoe, pulling together as one while singing the songs they have learned.

Another memorable moment was when our youth got to make drums at Diana Island. It made me think to myself about the energy, strength, and power that was put into the drum because they were made on such a wonderful and sacred place.

Independent Panel recommendations will help families and children in care

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations' goal is to bring our people home – with a strong focus on our children.

Since the fall of 2016, work has been underway within the Nation to build a future where Huu-ay-aht children are safe, happy, healthy, and connected with their families. An independent, four-member panel was appointed by Executive Council to research and recommend changes and improvements that can be made under the Maa-nulth Treaty to child and family services for Huu-ay-aht families.

This week Huu-ay-aht's Executive Council is proud to announce it is acting on the recommendations made by this panel. After hearing a presentation from the panel members, council voted in favour of allocating $400,000 to act on some of the 30 recommendations made in the panel's report.

"It's time this Nation stood up and said we are going to take care of our children," explains Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "Today we can focus on an approach that prevents Huu-ay-aht children to be taken away from their families. We were very vulnerable under federal and provincial family services regimes who systematically removed Huu-ay-aht children from their families and homes. Today, we begin our journey to keep our families intact and provide support and services to ensure Huu-ay-aht children are not removed from their families."

Council's decision will provide interim funding for the Social Service Project in support of the immediate implementation several of the recommendations. This enables our Nation to get a jump start on the recommendations while we are in consultation with our citizens.

Huu-ay-aht Councillor Sheila Charles was instrumental in starting this project, and she is pleased with the outcome so far.

"I am very, very pleased with how the panel listened to me and each and every person that they talked to through this process. They kept their focus on keeping families together, not tearing them apart," she said. "My vision is to prevent children from being taken in the first place, and the 30 recommendations will help make that a reality."



Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin supports Trinity Morrow at the Panel's first gathering in Port Alberni in January. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*

These recommendations are made in the spirit of support, prevention, and healing. We recognize that apprehension is not the way to go even when a child is not being cared for in a good way because the act of removing a child causes harm and inflicts further trauma on all family members. We want to be proactive and preventative; providing support to parents on their healing path while aiming for least disruptive measures for the children. Our priority is to protect the children while ensuring they are still connected with and cared for by family.

Although pleased that Executive Council has committed to interim funding, she vows to keep pressing hard until all 30 recommendations are supported.

Story continues on Page 5

Anacla to Bamfield trail turns dream into a reality

By Amanda-Lee Cunningham

The community of Anacla and Bamfield are watching their wishes come true. After nearly 20 years of waiting, they now have a safe walking trail connecting the two communities. Although not quite complete, it is well on its way.

What had been a topic among the community for a while was finalized back in 2012 and the road from Anacla to Bamfield was paved. Unfortunately, they found having a paved road meant the traffic flow was much faster and the safety of the pedestrians was heightened. In 2012, the regional director of Bamfield and the Executive Council of Huu-ay-aht came together in an agreement and signed a community accord. There was a meeting between all the stakeholders where they talked about how they can work together and how the trail project was the key to bring the communities of Anacla and Bamfield together.



The new trail between Anacla and Bamfield is almost complete and is already offering a safer route between the two communities.

The process got off the ground with the help of Steelhead LNG, who provided $276,763, which was 50 per cent of the development cost. Huu-ay-aht then requested the remaining 50 per cent of $276,763 from Island Coastal Economical Trust (ICET). There were also numerous donations from different parts of the Bamfield community.

On July 4, 2017, they began building the trail. The trail starts off by bringing you through the Anacla village, by the Pachena river estuary, through old-growth forests, and finishes in Bamfield. Not only will the trail serve as a connection between communities, but it will provide those visiting with access to wilderness hikes throughout the ḥahuuƚi (traditional territory), such as the Kiix̣in Tours.

If you have any questions about the trail, please contact Charlie Clappis at 250-728-3414. For more information about the Kiix̣in Tours please contact kixiintours@huuayaht.org or call Cheryl at 250-723-0100.

Follow through is ‘vital’ to build healthy, happy future for all Huu-ay-aht

Continued from story on Page 4

“It’s vital that we support citizens and, by following through on these recommendations, we can build a healthy and happy future for all Huu-ay-aht,” she says. “These recommendations take into consideration the healing needed to overcome the intergenerational issues that reside from colonization – it is designed to support not only the children, but also the parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles that make up their family.”

Charles says the challenge now is to determine where to start. She sees staffing as a priority and is eager to get started on building a team to advocate for citizens in need.

The Chief Councillor acknowledges they have a lot of work ahead of them on the road to healing.

“We have a big job ahead of us to ensure that the 34 Huu-ay-aht children currently in care are returned to their families,” he says. “We want to see Huu-ay-aht families kept intact, supported, and nurtured in the strong tradition of the Huu-ay-aht family.”

The full report is available at huuayaht.org, or copies can be picked up at the Port Alberni Government Office.

Nation offers free tours to Kiixin village

Huu-ay-aht Fist Nations Kiixin Tours launched on Canada Day weekend, with an opening ceremony in Bamfield.

The Nation is offering free tours for the 2017 season to the Kiixin village site as a pilot project to draw attention to the future development of the Anacla-Bamfield area as a world-class aboriginal tourism destination.

Kiixin is the traditional homeland of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations people, and is now a National Heritage Site.

Inhabited by Huu-ay-aht ancestors for more than 5,000 years, Kiixin is the only known remaining complete traditional First Nations village on the southern BC Coast with significant standing house remains and is commemorated as a National Historic Site.

Huu-ay-aht staff and Kiixin tour guides have been very busy since the launch. Many visitors have already, and continue to book tours.

Bringing Kiixin to life has been an effort of tremendous teamwork that has brought together all departments of the Huu-ay-aht administration. The trail has been enhanced by installing a full-length boardwalk and staircase. Tour guides have received training in wilderness first aid. Dedicated staff are in place to organize and book tours, and provide administrative and operational support for the tours. A new logo for Kiixin has been developed, and is already being applied to promotional material to get the word out.



We are offering daily complementary tours until the end of September 2017. Tours begin at 10 a.m. You must book in advance in order to secure your spot. It's easy to book, just call 250-735-3432 or e-mail kiixintours@huuayaht.org to reserve your spot. We have space for a maximum of 20 people per tour. You can call the office to book between 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call during office hours, because we need advance notice of 24 hours so that we can arrange for a tour guide.

Please note that it is a moderate hike to Kiixin, unfortunately people with mobility challenges and children under the age of seven cannot be accommodated.

Anyone interested in going on a tour to Kiixin should contact Cheryl Eardley at Huu-ay-aht First Nations at Cheryl.e@huuayaht.org or (250) 735-3432. More information can be found at www.huuayaht.



Communities come together for Music by the Sea















On Wednesday, July 26, the communities of Bamfield and Anacla came together in a Music Circle. This is an annual event that is part of the Music By The Sea celebration that takes place in Bamfield. It offers residents and visitors a chance to experience Huu-ay-aht's culture and share a meal as a community.

Photos by Heather Thomson

Remembering the positives from NAIG

Sam Laskaris For the Ha-shilt-sa

It was definitely a week of mixed emotions for Huu-ay-aht athlete Arianna Johnson-Sabbas. The 14-year-old member of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations was on the British Columbia girls' under-16 softball squad that competed at the North American Indigenous Games.

Arianna was playing right field for the squad in its second game of the tournament when she injured her left knee while making a diving catch.

"I dove for the ball and landed funny on my knee," she said. "They sent me to the hospital where they told me I pulled a ligament."

Arianna was then given crutches to get around, forcing her to miss the remainder of her team's matches.

"Her on-field contributions were halted due to the injury," said Joni Frei, the head coach of the B.C. under-16 squad. "But she did everything we asked of her off the field and in the dugout."

Besides providing vocal support for her teammates, Arianna was also given some additional duties.

"I made sure all the equipment was where it was needed to be," she said.

Despite her injury, Arianna said she is going to prefer to remember all of the positives she experienced during the week. Like the fact her club captured the bronze medal in its age grouping. A total of nine teams had entered the girls' under-16 division.

Arianna and her teammates defeated New York in its first round-robin contest. B.C. was then blanked 6-0 by Ontario, in the match that she was injured. B.C. rebounded from that setback to blank the Quebec-based entry called Eastern Door and the North 25-0 in its final round-robin game. The club's gold-medal aspirations, however, were dashed when it was downed 13-0 by California in a semi-final outing.

Members of the B.C. side then earned themselves some hardware by beating Wisconsin 2-0 in the bronze-medal match. California took home the gold, thumping Ontario 12-2 in the championship final.

Prior to the NAIG, Arianna only knew a couple of the players on Team B.C. But they all became fast friends and a cohesive unit on the field.

"We all played well together and we all worked hard," she said, adding she exchanged contact information with those she didn't previously know and does plan to keep in touch with them. "And we were very supportive of each other."



Arianna Johnson-Sabbas is supported by her teamates after suffering a knee injury at the NAIG in Ontario. Along with B.C.'s under-16 girls squad, the Alberni District Secondary School student earned a bronze in the tournament. (Submitted photo)

After her summer break is over, Arianna will begin her Grade 10 studies at Alberni District Secondary School. She played for the school's softball team this past season and plans to do the same next year. As for her more immediate future, she was planning to see a doctor upon returning home to determine the extent of her knee injury.

This past March she also banged up her left knee while playing basketball, competing with the Hesquiaht Storm at the Junior All-Native Tournament in Kelowna. She required physiotherapy on her knee following that setback.

This year's NAIG, which attracted about 5,000 participants, was staged in Toronto and surrounding areas.

The softball competition was staged at Turner Park in Hamilton, located about an hour drive from Toronto. Athletes then participated in 14 sports throughout the week, from July 16 to 23, 2017.



(Above) Tyrell Johnson-Sears proudly represented Huu-ay-aht First Nations on Team BC's U19 volleyball team at the North American Indigenous Games in Toronto last month. (Below) He took with him a few Huu-ay-aht items to trade with people from other teams, like this T-shirt swap with the coach from the Colorado team. (Submitted photos)

Returning from NAIG more determined than ever to go again

When the Under-19 men's volleyball team hit the court at the North American Indigenous Games last month in Toronto one proud Huu-ay-aht was among them.

At 15, Tyrell Johnson-Sears was the youngest member of the team. He said it was an amazing experience, and one he will never forget. They all played hard against teams that had a full year to practice and get ready for the tough competition. In the end, his team place fifth overall. Tyrell's mother, Doris Johnson, said the placement reflected the experience and determination of the young men on the team.

Tyrell was born in Nanaimo but raised in Victoria where he is going into Grade 10 at Oak Bay High School. He has been playing volleyball since middle school and plans on joining club volleyball this coming year. Ty's favourite sports are volleyball and rugby.



The experience of travelling to Ontario to represent his province has left Tyrell even more determined than before to attend the games again in three years. Next time his two younger brothers are hoping to be there with him.

Tyrell's mother and stepfather Rodney both attended the NAIG games in support of Tyrell. They were happy to be able to attend, especially given the fact that they only had a month to fundraiser. Doris, Rodney, and his grandma Jenny Ginger are tremendously proud of Tyrell, his mother pointed out, and they are happy he could represent Huu-ay-aht while at NAIG games.

They wanted to thank Huu-ay-aht for the portion of the donation that helped them make it there. They are proud to be Huu-ay-aht, and showed that by cheering loudly and trading Huu-ay-aht items with teams from all over the world.

Watershed Renewal team learns why their work is so important

By Brittany Johnson

This summer Huu-ay-aht has begun an extensive Watershed Renewal Project with LGL Limited. The goal is to improve fish and wildlife habitats in our ḥahuuƚi (traditional territory).

Huu-ay-aht and LGL Limited have worked together for many years, and their President/Chief Executive Officer Bob Bocking has been part of the Huu-ay-aht team since the early nineties. He first worked with us on the Sarita Watershed Restoration and after that he was part of the Maa-nulth Treaty negotiations. Most recently, he and his team created the Environmental Framework that is a very important component in the Steelhead LNG agreement.



The team from LGL takes part in a cultural awareness day along the shores of the Sarita River, where Edward R. Johnson (below) shared some Huu-ay-aht stories and songs related to the area. *Photos by Brittany Johnson*

Employment and training opportunities are very important to Huu-ay-aht and were integral in the agreement. With this project, five Huu-ay-aht citizens and their family members were hired and are working as technicians in the Sarita, Sugsaw, and Pachena watersheds.

On-the-job training was offered to those who have never worked in the field, and the entire Watershed Restoration team joined our Cultural and Wellness Coordinator Edward R. Johnson on the banks of the Sarita River for cultural training. Edward shared songs and stories with the team and expressed how important their work is. Cultural training was an addition to the scope of the LGL project when the citizens hired expressed a strong desire to learn more about their Nation.



It was very humbling listening to how important the Sarita River was to our ancestors while we stood where they stood. Edward spoke of usimč (ritual bathing) and the importance of our culture and ritual. He encouraged our team to make time and connect with the land and water.

There are opportunities with the project for long-term employment and training. Watershed Renewal is so much more than just working on the river. When you work with The Heart of the People, hišuk ma c̓awak (everything is one).

Make sure to take advantage of programs to help students achieve great things

By Brittany Johnson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations provides two programs to support families with school age children: School Supply Allowance and Student Recognition.

School Supply Allowance is provided for students entering Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 12. Student Recognition is provided for students who have completed Grades 1 through 12.

To apply for these programs, please submit a completed application form and forward a copy of the student's final report card from the 2016/17 school year. Attendance, honour roll, and school supply allowance will be automatically calculated.

In addition, this year Huu-ay-aht is encouraging all students Grade 6 and higher to enroll in the My Blueprint Education Planner. This free online program connects each student with our secondary and post-secondary education staff.

The program is great for both upper elementary and high school students.

It can track progress toward graduation and can identify post-secondary opportunities. It also compares information on apprenticeships, college programs, and university programs.

Not only does it have many other activities, it also has an incentive program. With each activity you complete you earn points in order to enter prize draws. They often draw for gift cards and each year has a fresh set of prizes.

If you have any questions about our School Supply Allowance, Student Recognition, or My Blueprint programs, please contact our education department at 250-723-0100 or by email at Education@huuayaht.org.

Huu-ay-aht receives prestigious scholarship



Huu-ay-aht Citizen Ayanna Clappis is a Political Science student entering her third year of study at the University of Victoria.

She has recently received a scholarship from the Indigenous led charity Indspire. Indspire is a registered charity that seeks to support the education of Indigenous peoples and work towards closing the education gap in Canada. In the 2016-2017 year, Indspire awarded more than $11.6 million through 3,700 scholarships and bursaries. Ayanna has also had the opportunity to work as a regional representative for Indspire on the Island. This work involved presentations to high school students and attending career fairs to promote the resources Indspire provides to Indigenous students.

This summer, Ayanna participated in the University of British Columbia Summer Institute for Future Legislators program. The program involved a series of weekend workshops including presentations from Preston Manning, Ujjal Dosanjh and George Abbott. Through caucus simulations, social media etiquette workshops, and reflection exercises, the most memorable experience was the Model Parliament simulation at the BC Legislature in Victoria. Ayanna was appointed as the Honourable Minister of Justice for her party where she introduced a bill to the house, addressed concerns of the Official Opposition in debate and defended it energetically throughout Question Period.

Congratulations to the 2017 Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Scholarship Recipients

Mackenzie Parcher
Taylor Parcher
Jasmine Wilson
Tabytha Wilson
Tehya Anderson
Dominic Fraser
Dylan Haugen
Saryta Dick

Congratulations to the 2017 Graduates and Post-secondary Graduates

Edward Johnson Jr.
Samantha Haugen
Stacey McCloud
Alyssa Johnson
Jamie Dennis
Martha Johnson
Geordan Hoeft
Miriah Dennis
Calista Mongtomery
Bailey Nookemus



Summer of photos will explore life following a modern treaty

By Vanessa Sloan Morgan

Last year we completed over 65 interviews and sifted through 3,000 pages of Huu-ay-aht archives. We are reviewing all of this information and we have been sharing our preliminary findings at Advisory Committee meetings and community engagement sessions.

This summer, the research team has also been hearing from Huu-ay-aht citizens on the implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty through photovoice, a research method that uses pictures taken by you to start a conversation with the research team about your experience with Treaty.

Heather Castleden worked with Lonnie Nookemus and William (Dempsey) Dennis using photovoice in 2005-2006, under the guidance of Jane Peters, Stella Peters, and Andy Clappis. Heather is using this research method again, this time with Huu-ay-aht university students, Becki Nookemis and Ayanna Clappis, as well as Queen's university students, Jon Aarssen and Vanessa Sloan Morgan.

At three recent community engagement sessions (July 24 in Vancouver, July 25 in Port Alberni, and July 26 in Anacla), Becki, Ayanna, Jon, Vanessa, and Heather shared some of the pictures and stories from those Huu-ay-aht citizens who are currently participating in this research.

We are excited to report that 26 Huu-ay-aht citizens are actively out taking pictures and that five Huu-ay-aht citizens have completed the project. The photovoice project will be wrapping up at the end of August, so please wrap up your picture taking and contact the research team if you have a camera. Our plan is to have a photo gallery exhibit to share more stories and pictures from Huu-ay-aht citizens through this research at the upcoming People's Assembly.

As we wrap up the photovoice phase of the project, the research team is developing a survey with the Advisory Committee so we can hear from Huu-ay-aht citizens about your experiences with what it is like to implement the Maa-nulth Treaty (what is going well and what can be improved). Our goal is to distribute the survey in the upcoming People's Assembly package and hope that all citizens will take the time to complete it (and enter your name to win a prize).

We will also be holding community engagement sessions the week after the People's Assembly. Please feel free to come out to the sessions, share a meal, hear project updates, share your opinions, and turn in your survey (or you can mail it in).

For more on the research project, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the research team or a member of the Advisory Committee. You can also visit our link through Huu-ay-aht's homepage, including slides from past community engagement session: https://huuayaht.org/whats-happening/queens/ or Heather's website at: heclab.com. Please also keep an eye on Huu-ay-aht's facebook page for information on the upcoming engagement sessions.

Huu-ay-aht Advisory Committee: ƛiišin (Derek Peters), Ha'wiih Council Representative, **Simon Dennis**, Elder and Mainland Rep, **Wišqii** (Rob Dennis Jr.), Port Alberni Rep, **Stella Peters**, Anacla Rep, **Jane Peters**, Anacla Rep; **Mercedes Williams**, Youth Rep.

Research Team: Heather Castleden (Project Lead/Supervisor) 902-489- 2412,heather.castleden@queensu.ca, **Ayanna Clappis** (Student Researcher) 250-710-3324, ayanna.clappis@live.ca, **Becki Nookemis** (Student Researcher) 250-668-6791, bnookemis@gmail.com, **Jon Aarssen** (Student Researcher) 613-770-4877 | E: jonathan.aarssen@queensu.ca, **Vanessa Sloan Morgan** (Student Researcher) 250-508-3410, vanessa.sloan.morgan@queensu.ca, **Marc Calabretta** (Student Researcher) 416-999-9708, marc.calabretta@queensu.ca



Register today for the People's Assembly
Saturday, September 30, 2017
Register online at www.huuayaht.org or call 1-888-644-4555