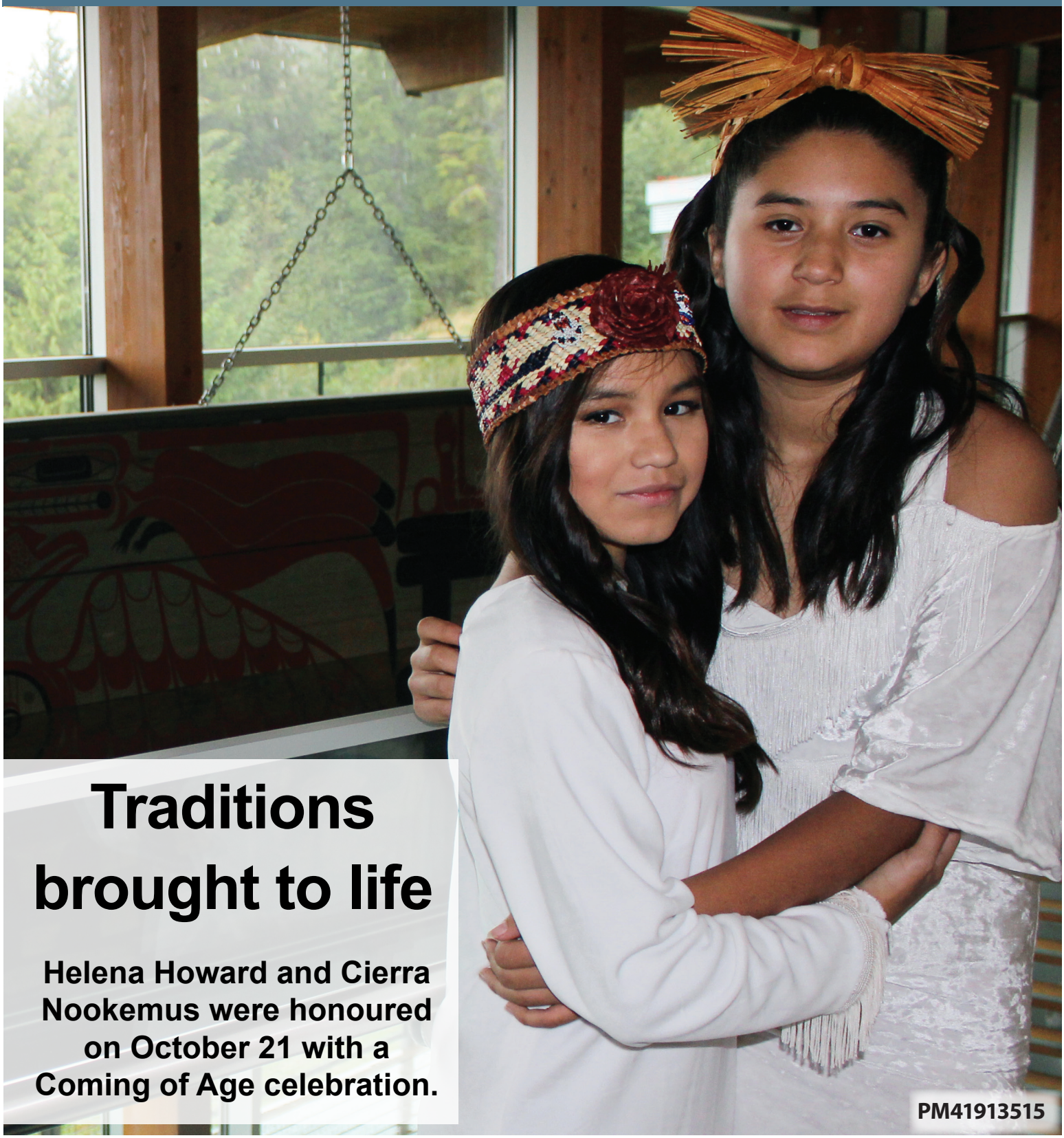
Uyaqḥmis

November 2017 Issue 47



Traditions brought to life

Helena Howard and Cierra Nookemus were honoured on October 21 with a Coming of Age celebration.

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Families bring back celebration

By Heather Thomson

For centuries the First Nations of British Columbia have hosted Coming of Age celebrations, marking the time when a girl becomes a woman. The potlatch ban came into place in 1885, making traditional celebrations like this challenging. Many nations continued the practice in private, but they were not able to bring it out in the open again until the ban ended in 1951.

Because they lost their traditional practice for so long, many families no longer celebrate life's big moments through a community celebration like a potlatch.

On Saturday, October 21, the Howard Family held a Coming of Age celebration for their daughter Helena Howard. Just before the event, Helena asked if her cousin Cierra Nookemus could join the celebration. Both young women were honoured and given traditional names.

After receiving an invitation from Helena's parents, Tammy and Cory Howard, I decided to attend the event. I wanted to help honour Helena. I was also curious and somewhat envious of such a rich cultural event, and so we packed up the truck with camera gear and made the trip to Anacla to check it out.

Elders tell me this is the first time they remember a Coming of Age being celebrated in the House of Huu-ay-aht. Many of them said they could not recall the last time the Nation hosted such an event. This was a special day in Anacla.

Lunch was served and everyone socialized at the House of Huu-ay-aht. The girls ran around visiting their friends and family. It was like any other luncheon in Anacla, that is until the girls were whisked away to the Anacla Government Office to get ready. I was asked to come over to take some photos, and when I arrived I could not believe the transformation. The young girls who were playing at the House of Huu-ay-aht only a few minutes earlier were gone, and two beautiful young women stood before my camera, all dressed in white and ready for their big moment.

Back in the House of Huu-ay-aht, excitement was running high. The only comparison I can offer is when people wait to catch the first glimpse of a bride on her wedding day. Dancers gathered at the door with their shawls spread wide to keep anyone from sneaking a peek of the guests of honour before it was time. As eagle down began to float around the ankles of the dancers, rattles and a voice rose from the circle, drums followed, and finally two sea serpents emerged. As the voices and drums grew louder, a canoe began rising above the dancers, on the shoulders of men. Sitting in the middle were Helena and Cierra, with two guardians by their sides.

The canoe made its way down the centre

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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Message of respect offered to young women at Coming of Age

aisle and circled the front of the building. Dancers followed, all paddling to the beat of the drums and voices that sang out. Finally, with tears running down their faces, the young women were seated at the front of the room with their guardians.



The emcee for the event explained the ceremony and its importance. He also introduced the four guardians and explained their role was to protect and guide these young women for the rest of their lives. This was also our responsibility, he explained, adding that everyone in the room plays a role in ensuring Helena and Cierra grow up with the knowledge that they are special and hold an important place in society – that they should be respected and respect themselves.



Helena's father, Cory explains that aside from receiving a new name and finding out who their relatives are, teaching the young women they deserve respect is the most important part of the event. "It's about raising them up and showing off how important they are because they bring life into the world," Cory explains. "They need to be reminded that they deserve respect."

Hereditary chiefs from several nations were then called up to wash the young women's feet. Cory explains that this is an important part of the ceremony. By bowing down in front of the young women and washing their feet the chiefs are putting themselves below the young women, when they would usually be above them. It is a sign of respect and a way of honouring them on their special day.



The final step in the official ceremony was giving each of the girls a new name. Helena was given the name of her grandmother Marie Nookemus, which has come from her grandmother before her – Kla-qwo-klee-nulth. Sara Dennis, hereditary chief for the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/ Che:k'tles7et'h' Nation, offered Cierra her name, Kluu-ath-apee.

As the drumming, singing, and dancing continued, the room was alive with excitement. People cheered and danced at their seats. The voices grew louder and more drums joined the circle as the Huu-ay-aht dancers joined the Howard family, the Muchalaht/Mowachaht Nation, for a shared song.

It was then time to share a meal and socialize with friends and family, before the dancing and singing into the night.

Looking back on the event, that feeling of cultural envy is even stronger. I think back to my own coming of age. I think I was taken to the local drug store for a quick shop for feminine hygiene products, told once a month I had to be careful in swimming pools, and sent on my way. It makes me wonder, if we all learned to celebrate this stage in life would women respect themselves more and demand the same of the men in their lives? If we marked this change in our life with pride, would men understand it is something they too should celebrate and respect?

I hope that feeling of pride and respect follows Helena and Cierra through their lives, and that the message from Saturday is not forgotten. I also hope their Coming of Age celebration is only the beginning of many more big moments at the House of Huu-ay-aht.

People's Assembly offers chance for citizens to vote on issues and be heard

On September 30, Huu-ay-aht citizens gathered in five locations to participate in the annual People's Assembly.

It was a chance for citizens to hear from the Nation and its elected and hereditary leaders for an update on the Nations' business, as well as other issues and projects that are on the go.

The day included an update from the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses on their successful year. Queens University representatives also attended to tell Huu-ay-aht about the "Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future" research project that is looking into the Nations' progress since signing the Treaty.

Executive Council offered information on its progress on the Citizen Motions that came out of last year's People's Assembly. On behalf of the rest of the elected government, Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. presented the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Annual Report.

Auditors were appointed for the coming year, and citizens heard an Annual Report from the Tribunal. Andrea Pettigrew was appointed to Huu-ay-aht's Tribunal. Amendments were also made to the Tribunal Act and the Financial Administration Act.

Councillor Trevor Cootes holds the Economic Development portfolio, and he presented on the Sarita Run of the River Project and the summer Kiix̣in tours.

It took until after the lunch break to get quorum, but once that was achieved the official voting motions began, including the 2017 Citizen Motions. Below is an update on those motions, following the discussion held on each subject.

Title of Motion	Comments on Motion	Executive Council discussion/ vote/resolution
$5,000 distribution to elders	• Went to a vote at assembly • Resolution adopted	• Executive Council will make a distinct decision during the budgeting process prior to March 31, 2018
Time limit for response to People's Assembly recommendations	• Resolution adopted at People's Assembly by consensus	• Law and Policy Development Committee to develop practical way to implement the motion passed by People's Assembly and bring that recommendation back to Executive Council by its December meeting
Transportation for Anacla Paawats	• Administration is looking into solutions utilizing current budget and assets	• EC accepted the discussion and will communicate with citizens once the motion has been implemented
Childcare subsidy for citizens	• Went to a vote at assembly • Resolution was not adopted	• Motion was not adopted, no further discussion required
Banishment for sexual assault convictions	• Discussion among citizens • Tabled	• Executive Council has discussed the People's Assembly motion regarding banishment of individuals who have been convicted of sexual offences. The matter has been referred to the Social Services Implementation task force, and this will be a standing item at every regular council meeting.
Annual distributions	• Tabled	• Next Annual People's Assembly
Trust funds for Huu-ay-aht children	• Tabled	• Next Annual People's Assembly
The next People's Assembly be held in a single location instead of five satellite locations	• Discussed by citizens at People's Assembly • Resolution adopted	• Executive Council will discuss and come up with an option that is fiscally responsible but honours the request for one location

Nation honours citizens who make a difference

For the second year in a row, Huu-ay-aht First Nations recognized a number of its citizens at the annual People's Assembly on September 30.

Linda Young, Nellie Dennis, and Bill Frank were recognized and given Elder of the Year honours.

The nomination forms did a great job of describing why each should be honoured this year.



(Above) Nellie Dennis receives a blanket from Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. and Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) when she is honoured at the People's Assembly. (Below) Citizen of the Year Edward R. Johnson Jr. accepts his blanket from Huu-ay-aht's elected and hereditary chiefs. [Photos by Melody Charlie]

Linda's said she should be recognized "as a member of the Nookemus family, and a matriarch to all of us who live in the village and hang out at the field and playground – our glue." It said she feeds lunch to members of the Anacla staff at least a couple of times a week without pay, as well as every holiday and birthday. "She is there to talk whenever you need her. She is leaving the Anacla community this fall, and it will never be the same."

Nellie is one of Huu-ay-aht's oldest citizens who continues to learn about her nation and is a role model for and is still very active in the Nananiiqsu. "She is a nanny that continues to pass along the teachings to not only her children and grandchildren, but all Huu-ay-aht. She is a true Elder. She represents iisaak. She walks, talks and breathes iisaak."

Bill Frank was honoured because he is "a role model among Ḥaẇiiḥ. He attends every meeting and is always available to lend his support. Bill has always been an active citizen and cares deeply about Huu-ay-aht First Nations."

This year's citizen of the year was Edward R. Johnson. His nomination says, "Although Edward works for the Nation, he always goes above and beyond to make things better, whether it's for the youth, a cultural event, or a citizen." Edward cares deeply about all people. He is a role model for children, youth, and adults. He is always willing to listen, lend support, and share his knowledge. Edward is a healthy person who enjoys working with all citizens and celebrating Huu-ay-aht culture.

Third-year Political Science degree student, Ayanna Clappis, was named youth of the year because of how far she has come, where she is and where she is going, according to her nomination. "Her goals have always been remarkable, from the time she was a small girl. Ayanna made the first decision to learn French, so she just had to go to French immersion school." She has never stopped bettering herself through education, personal goals, mentoring, volunteering, and helping others. "Ayanna's positive attitude about life and gaining life skills is amazing. Working for her First Nation community this summer has again widened her horizons to learn the language and more of the history."



Team Huu-ay-aht stronger with new hires

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is pleased to announce a number of positions have been filled within the Nation bringing one new face and offering opportunities to two familiar faces.

The Law Clerk position has been filled, and Executive Council has decided to hire an associate executive director once again. Finally, a new Director of Implementation has been hired.



Kathy Waddell

"Creating two new positions within the organization will strengthen our Nation and further support the programs and services we offer our citizens," explains Executive Director Trudy Warner. "The women who will fill these roles bring diversity to our Nation and add value to our team. We are happy to welcome them to their new roles with Huu-ay-aht and look forward to what they have to offer the Nation."

After serving Huu-ay-aht for more than a decade, **Kathy Waddell** has accepted a new challenge as the new Associate Executive Director with the Nation.

In her new position, Kathy will act as the operational lead for the day-to-day management of the Nations' administration and will be accountable for the implementation and delivery of the process and procedures required for Huu-ay-aht's Strategic Plan.

Kathy is a Metis uksupah, and her Huu-ay-aht name is T'at'apw'in. She is the mother of two grown children, both living in Vancouver, and two Chihuahuas. Her children and fur-kids keep her busy when she is not at work, school, or reading. She considers herself a lifetime learner and is currently studying at Royal Roads University.

Kathy started her career with Coulson Group, working for 10 years in their administration and accounting departments. Her desire to spend more time around children, including her own, lead her to go back to school to get her Early Childhood Education diploma. After working for eight years in early learning and daycare programs, Kathy began her career with the Nation as the manager of Paawats in Anacla. From there she moved on in 2010 to become the Director of Human Services, which has since evolved into the Department of Community Services. She also holds a certificate in Aboriginal Health and Community Administration.

"My values are empowering people through collaborative, supportive leadership, while honouring the concepts of Hišuk ma c̓awak, ʔuuʔałuk, and ʔiisaak," she says.

Virginia Shrimpton has joined Team Huu-ay-aht as the new Law Clerk.



Virginia Shrimpton

After being born and raised in a small community in southern Manitoba, Virginia explored other parts of Canada, calling Winnipeg, Toronto, Nanaimo, and Portage la Prairie home for some time. Virginia was happy to escape the cold prairies, moving to Vancouver Island approximately three years ago with her small family when her husband got a job on the Island. Together they are raising two boys, Connor (10) and Dylan (8).

Prior to joining Team Huu-ay-aht in September, Virginia worked in a variety of roles, including as a legal assistant at a small law firm, working in quality improvement, patient safety, and risk management for the corporate office of Southern Health-Santé (regional health authority in Manitoba), and, most recently supporting the executive director and chief and council for another Island First Nation.

"Our family has been having fun exploring a number of opportunities that are connecting us to the Port Alberni community," she explains. "And I feel privileged to call this place home."

She is also enjoying getting to know Huu-ay-aht's traditional territory, having already taken advantage of the opportunity to visit Anacla.

Continued on Page 7

Cultural name chosen for LNG project

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Steelhead LNG are pleased to announce that the co-managed LNG project in Sarita has a new name. Following recommendations from the LNG Advisory Committee, Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council has approved the name Kwispaa (Kwis-pa-a) LNG project.

The traditional name reflects Huu-ay-aht's rich history and connection to the land and territory, as well as its stake in this project. Keeping in line with the co-management and in the spirit of reconciliation, Steelhead LNG agreed to change the name of the project.

Kwispaa means "on the other side," because it is on the other side of the bay from Nuumaqamis, Huu-ay-aht's winter village at the mouth of the Sarita River.



The Sarita River is a very important site for Huu-ay-aht People. It is the "Heart of the People" and is the most important of 35 rivers and creeks in the Traditional Territory. Sarita is a European place name given by Spanish settlers when they arrived in Huu-ay-aht's territory.

The European name has colonial association and reflects an era of assimilation and negative impacts on Huu-ay-aht's culture and community.

Naming the project after the site's traditional and true name demonstrates Steelhead LNG's commitment to reconciliation, co-management, and their strong relationship with Huu-ay-aht as the Nation and Steelhead develop the project together.

Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead are working on a place to publicly announce the name change in mid-November.

New position focuses on treaty implementation

Continued from Page 6

"I am grateful to have been given this opportunity to apply the knowledge I've gained over the years in this position," she adds. "I consider myself incredibly fortunate to work with a remarkable group of people that value integrity, community, and collaboration."



Crystal Jack

Crystal Jack will be rejoining the administration team as the Director of Implementation. In this position, Crystal will be responsible for managing the day-to-day implementation of agreements relating to Sarita LNG, the Maa-nulth Treaty agreements with Western Forest Products, and other special agreements that the Nation enters.

Crystal first worked at the Huu-ay-aht Treaty office for two years from 2008 to 2010 as an assistant to the Treaty Implementation Committees. She has since worked with 11 Nuu-chah-nulth Nations. Most recently, she served as the administrative assistant at the Maa-nulth Treaty Society. She also gained extensive experience as the T'aaq-wiihak coordinator for Ahousaht, Ehattesaht, Hesquiaht, Mowachaht/Muchalah, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and Uu-a-thluk. These positions, and her other experience, makes her ready to take on the challenges her new position offers.

"This is such an amazing opportunity for me," Crystal explains. "I feel like things have come full circle. I was fortunate enough to be part of the treaty process as it was unfolding for Huu-ay-aht through my committee work and was able continue advancing the rights and benefits of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement during my time at the Maa-nulth Treaty Society. Now, I am back to help implement the laws I watched Huu-ay-aht citizens and Government develop. It is a privilege to be working with Huu-ay-aht again."

Crystal is married to Councillor John Jack. The couple are raising their daughter, two-year-old Ezri, in Parksville. They enjoy living on the East Coast of Vancouver Island as it keeps them close to both sides of the family, as Crystal grew up in Qualicum Beach and John in Parksville.

Keeping you up to date

Treaty Implementation

- Director of Implementation hired - October 10
- Connie Waddell (Implementation portfolio) and Crystal Jack (Director of Implementation) are working together to ensure all Maa-nulth Final Agreement obligations, opportunities, and benefits are met
- Implementation Standing Committee will resume regular meetings this winter
- Opportunities to pursue Huu-ay-aht objectives through cooperation with Maa-nulth Nations are being explored
- Updating Huu-ay-aht's Implementation Plan to identify new opportunities and reflect completed obligations

Kwispaa LNG

- Project Agreement between Sarita LNG and Huu-ay-aht First Nations signed June 2, 2017
- Sarita LNG has been renamed **Kwispaa LNG**
- Funding from this project agreement has supported a number of initiatives:
  - An increase to the elders benefit ($300 of the $500 is covered from project funding)
  - Cemetery access road (100% funded from project agreement)
  - Living wage top up for Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (100% from project agreement)
  - Anacla Playground (100% funding from the previous funding agreement)
- Four Huu-ay-aht citizens and a Huu-ay-aht family member have been employed to work on the Watershed Renewal work in progress as part of the Project Agreement
- Huu-ay-aht will be leading engagement and consultations with First Nations along the proposed pipeline routes.
- Leaders from Huu-ay-aht will be leading engagement and communications with First Nations along the potential pipeline corridor, as well as Vancouver Island First Nations and local governments starting in November 2017
- The Nation and Steelhead representatives met with Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser and Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources Michelle Mungall at the Legislature on October 24

Western Forest Products

- The WFP employment and training working group most recently met on November 1
- The Employment and Training working group for Western Forest Products is preparing for the November 18 Career Fair and continue to work on fulfilling employment opportunities for Huu-ay-aht Citizens

Keep an eye out in Uyaqḥmis and Huu-ay-aht's website and Facebook page for regular implementation updates! If you have any questions, you can email the Director of Implementation at crystal.j@huuayaht.org or call the Port Alberni Government office at 250-723-0100.

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Group of Businesses receive Outstanding Achievement award

BC Achievements Foundation celebrated the ninth annual BC Aboriginal Business awards this year. They recognized 19 indigenous businesses for their business achievements.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations, is proud that the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses has won the 2017 BC Aboriginal Business Award for outstanding business achievement in the Community-Owned Business of the Year category (two or more entries).

"Receiving this award is wonderful acknowledgment for the hard work and effort that HGB's staff and management have put in to growing and improving the businesses," explains acting HGB CEO Teresa Gagnon. "My team and I feel proud and honoured to receive this recognition."

Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses board chair Angela Wesley said the award reinforces the Nation's long-term economic strategy.





(Above) Tayii Ḥaẇiłʔ ƛiišin Derek Peters (right) and Huu-ay-aht Councillor Trevor Cootes accept the BC Aboriginal business award on behalf of the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses. [Above Photo by Hugh Braker] (Right) HGB representatives and staff Teresa Gagnon and Sarah Johnson show off the award at the gala on October 26 in Vancouver.

"The Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses is very pleased to receive this recognition and award," Wesley said. "It's our job to support the strong vision of Huu-ay-aht First Nations of creating an economy in our territories and providing employment for our citizens so we can see more of our people move home."

The award follows a bold move by Huu-ay-aht First Nations in 2016 to purchase 11 properties in the Bamfield area. The list of businesses now operated by the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses includes a motel, campground, two lodges, a pub, restaurant, and store. They also own an airport and the old Ostroms plant. This is in addition to the forestry and gravel operations they already operate in our Traditional Territory.

Huu-ay-aht Councillor Trevor Cootes holds the economic development portfolio. He attended the award ceremony on October 26 with a delegation from Huu-ay-aht.

"This award is well deserved," he explains. "Our business arm continues to grow and expand into the tourism industry. The businesses are enhancing what has to offer and the Bamfield area is making a big difference to the community."

He expanded on this by adding that the businesses are creating jobs and opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens and Bamfield residents.

He said receiving this award shows what is possible when a First Nation builds relationships and finds new sources of income to support its people.



Huu-ay-aht council meets with PM

Councillor John Jack had an opportunity to address the Prime Minister while participating with other members of Huu-ay-aht Council in a meeting at the Canada - Modern Treaty and Self-Governing First Nations Forum. Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. and Councillor Connie Waddell also attended the event in Ottawa this week.

Annual gala return this November in support of Nananiiqsu

Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Second Annual Gala Fundraiser will be hosted at the Italian Hall in Port Alberni on November 25, 2017.

We will be sharing the Huu-ay-aht experience, including cultural dancers, songs, stories, Coast Salish hoop dancing, dinner, live and silent auction, draws, and live music.

This year's theme is Kiix̱in Village - Huu-ay-aht's 5,000-year-old Fortress National Historic site.

Our Nananiiqsu (Elders group) was formed in 2002. All funds raised will be used to assist our Nananiiqsu to continue to meet, to help develop and document our culture, to keep our elders active, start support groups, and other identified activities.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is excited to bring you our first Career Fair!

This informative event features guest speakers, training, support services, and local employers.

Why Participate?

- It's our first career fair just for citizens
- Meet face-to-face with the Island's leading companies
- Learn how Port Alberni's leading education and training providers can help you jump start your career and/or help you take your career to the next level
- Resumé and cover letter support
- Great prizes and lunch included
- It's FREE to attend!

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2017
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: North Island College, Port Alberni

If you need a ride, let us know!

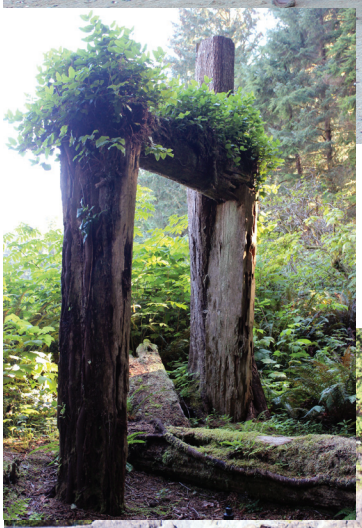
For more information or to register, contact Brent Ronning at education@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100 ext.220

HFN GROUP OF BUSINESSES

Catalyst

Western Forest Products Inc.
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Few things compare to the beauty of the West Coast of Vancouver Island. This summer a few lucky visitors to Bamfield got to experience that beauty while exploring the ancient Huu-ay-aht village of Kiixin. The tour was part of a pilot project through Huu-ay-aht First Nations that was offered free all summer.

Photos by Heather Thomson

Visitors take a step back in time at Kiixin

This summer, more than 500 lucky visitors to Bamfield got to take part in a unique experience, thanks to a pilot project by Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

For the first time, visitors were able to take a guided tour of Kiixin Village. This site was inhabited by Huu-ay-aht ancestors for more than 5,000 years. It is the only known remaining complete traditional First Nations village on the southern BC West Coast with significant standing house remains and is commemorated as a National Historic Site.

The tours included a moderate hike on the trail to Kiixin, while visitors got a chance to explore Vancouver Island's pristine old-growth rainforest and beautiful protected beaches. Along the way they also learned some of Huu-ay-aht's knowledge, history, and culture from their Huu-ay-aht tour guides.

Picture coming out of the old-growth forest to one of the most beautiful beaches overlooking the Barclay Sound. As you walk along the beach exploring, the sound of a traditional drum calls you back to the beat of the waves hitting the beach. It signals that it's time join your group as the tour of the remains of the village begins. The tour concludes with the story of the 50 warriors, giving visitors an idea of who the Huu-ay-aht are and where they came from.

Each tour to Kiixin last approximately three hours. The hike is on an old-growth rainforest trail with boardwalk sections and stairs, leading to a beautiful protected beach with rocky ledges and tide pools. Tours will be open for reservations in May 2018.



Paawats children visit on Halloween

A cute parade of youth came to Huu-ay-aht's Port Alberni Government Office in search of treats on Halloween. So they did not have to share their trick.

Sharing family curtain with pride

Every Ḥaẇił (Hereditary Chief) has a curtain that tells the story of their family. At the annual People's Assembly you often see these on display. They tell the story of the House to which the chief belongs.

On November 11, 2017, Norman Dennis will host a potlatch to introduce his curtain for the ƛ̓amahuus. He is excited to share this treasure with all his relations and hopes everyone will be able to attend the celebration.

"I've waited a long time for this," he explains. "Everyone is welcome to come celebrate with us, and please bring your dancers and drummers."

The event begins at 11 a.m., and it will be held at Maht Mahs. Not only will the curtain be unveiled at the potlatch, but it will be a chance for everyone to share lunch and supper together.

Norman says the curtain will tell the story of his ancestors. He said it took a lot of research to uncover the story of his House and his grandfather. The information came from books, the museum, and historians, such as Kevin Neary. He has ethnographic information about his curtain that he will share at his potlatch, this ethnographic information supports Huu-ay-aht oral history, according to Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.

"I learned a lot about my grandfather through this," he says. "I am intrigued by what I learned, and it makes me excited to keep learning and passing on that knowledge."

Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin (Derek Peters) says when a family can demonstrate its history, lineage, song, and dance, and in return live their history and pass it on through a potlatch and feast it honours that history and is the proper way to do this.

"It's good to know that our history will go on in a strong positive way," he adds. "The family has been preparing for this day, and I'm very proud of our family for its commitment to our nation and our history, in carrying out this potlatch."

Norman says learning all of this is only possible because eight years ago he quit drinking. He describes himself before that as "often fall-down drunk" in Vancouver. One day he decided to change his life. Although the memories of the past and what drove him to the bottle are still painful, he acknowledges he is in a better place now. As the eldest son of ƛ̓amahuus, it is his responsibility to take a seat on Ḥaẇiiḥ Council. When the time comes, Norman will do the same and hand down the title.

Now he is excited to share his story and that of his ancestors with everyone. He says the art on the curtain is designed by Art Bolton, from Vancouver. Norman is pleased to share that the artist will be there to explain the story behind his creation.

Lands and Resources Department Update

It has been an exciting few months in our Lands and Resources Department. Here are some recent highlights of how we are stewarding and using resources in the land, river and sea of our ḥahuuɬi.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations takes charge of Sarita River salmon surveys: The Lands and Resources department achieved the top spot in DFO's standing offer program for salmon swim counts on Sarita in the spring and we have been awarded the contract to lead the autumn swims entirely with our own team. HFN staff have always participated in DFO salmon count swims in Sarita, but for the last few years we have been working in support of another contractor. The contract allows us to build our swim program back up by purchasing gear and learning skills.

The watershed renewal program sponsored a Swiftwater Rescue Technician course for HFN staff and citizens working as Watershed Renewal technicians. Participants learned how to keep themselves and workmates safe during salmon counting swims or other survey work on the river and had a little fun in the process.

Invasive plant removal volunteers: We hosted youth from Regiopolis-Notre Dame High School's IB program in Kingston Ontario for a day in Anacla. The students came to the ḥahuuɬi for a field trip to the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre and were keen to learn about the Nation, meet local youth and do some work to serve the community. The class was treated to a morning of learning about invasive plants in the village from Amelia Vos and then they set to work removing a large amount of invasive knotweed from the creek in Anacla. The young visitors also spent some time





with youth at the Bamfield Community School, had a tour of our Government Office and Treasures Room, and visited Hipolite Williams and the canoe carving project.

Elk Allocation Awarded: Huu-ay-aht First Nations is awarded one elk annually. It has traditionally been awarded to a Huu-ay-aht citizen through a draw or random lottery. This year, the allocation is being awarded directly to Ed Johnson Sr., on recommendation of the Ḥaẇiiḥ Council. Ḥaẇiiḥ wanted to recognize that Ed won the elk draw in 2013, but he decided not to hunt the allocation due to a large number of poaching incidents that happened in the vicinity.

"Ḥaẇiiḥ has made this decision out of respect for one of our harvesters who put aside personal gain to care for the animal resources in our ḥahuuɬi," explains Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters). "We hope that citizens respect this decision and support Ed."

Since 2013, the incidences of poaching have greatly decreased in our ḥahuuɬi, with no intense poaching reported in recent years. Citizens are encouraged to report elk sightings to the Anacla Government Office. All hunters are reminded to report their harvests to the Huu-ay-aht's Natural Resources Department.

Food Fish Season Success: The team is pleased to announce that all fish targeted were caught and distributions were held in all locations. A new idea piloted this year was to offer home delivery for Elders living in all locations.

The service was welcomed by those who needed it, and many nananiqsu chose to come to distributions to pick up their fish instead because they love the opportunity to connect with friends and family.

Another historical event for Huu-ay-aht First Nations: Hosting Queen's University Oral Exams on Our Ḥahuuɬi through the 'Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future' Research Project

Huu-ay-aht First Nations made history on their ḥahuuɬi in October.

Marc Calabretta and Vanessa Sloan Morgan, who are graduate students working with the Nation and Heather Castleden (Queen's University) on the "Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future" Maa-nulth Treaty Research Project, successfully defended their theses on Huu-ay-aht's Treaty Settlement Lands.

Tayii Haẇiɬ ƛiišin and Edward Johnson Jr. were examiners on both examining committees, which involves asking questions about what the students have done, evaluating the quality of the students' work, and determine if the students can graduate.

Queen's University recognized the importance of Huu-ay-aht knowledge in this partnership-based research project. Because of this, these were the first thesis defenses that Queen's University has allowed to take place off campus.

What Has the 'Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future' Research Team Learned from Archives and Interviews about the Maa-nulth Treaty Negotiations and Implementation?

Marc Calabretta, a graduate student working with the Nation and Heather Castleden (Queen's University) for the past two years on the 'Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future' Maa-nulth Treaty Research Project completed his thesis this month, which is titled: "Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind": Documenting Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Journey to Modern Treaty Through Community-Based Archival Research.

He sifted through more than 3,000 pages of Huu-ay-aht's archives to explore how Huu-ay-aht First Nations made the modern treaty negotiation process work for the Nation. With guidance from our Advisory Committee, his analysis found that a Nuu-chah-nulth worldview played a foundational role behind Huu-ay-aht First Nations' desire to pursue treaty. Hišuk ma c̓awak (everything is one and is connected), ʔiisaak (respect with



Marc Calabretta

caring), and ʔuuʔałuk (caring for present and future generations) directed Huu-ay-aht in all stages of negotiation.

A Huu-ay-aht wide understanding of these sacred principles amongst musčim (citizens) was critical in establishing a community-driven mandate and to developing priorities to negotiate the treaty.

A collective understanding of sacred Nuu-chah-nulth principles was also significant at the negotiation table and ultimately contributed to the implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Vanessa Sloan Morgan, a graduate student working with the Nation and Heather Castleden (Queen's University) for the past four years on the 'Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future' Maa-nulth Treaty Research Project completed her thesis, which is titled: Learning new relationships: Settler responsibilities, Huu-ay-aht First Nations' self-government, and implementing the Maa-nulth Treaty.

Vanessa conducted 26 interviews with Maa-nulth Treaty negotiators and implementation teams, and studied Huu-ay-aht

‘Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future’ Research Team Update

We are just past the half-way mark of our five-year research project! Most of our data has been collected, and about half of it has been analyzed. Here’s where we are now:

1. We have wrapped up the archival analysis and interview data collection, but we still need to analyze the interviews that Jane and Wišqii completed with Huu-ay-aht citizens.

2. We have also completed the data collection for the photovoice project. Over six months, 33 Huu-ay-aht citizens shared their pictures and stories on treaty implementation with Becki Nookemis (Huu-ay-aht Research Assistant), Ayanna Clappis (Huu-ay-aht Research Assistant), Jon Aarssen (Queen’s University Student), and Vanessa Sloan Morgan (Queen’s University Student).

3. Three weeks before the Peoples’ Assembly, we sent out surveys in Assembly packages and are now anxiously awaiting your responses - contact us if you have lost your copy of the survey, and we can send you another, or stop by the Port Alberni Government Office to pick one up.

Tayii Haẃiɬ ƛiišin (Derek Peters) and Heather Castleden delivered a short presentation about our research at the Peoples’ Assembly. Pictures from the Photovoice project, one from each Huu-ay-aht participant, along with key messages, were on display at the Peoples’ Assembly and shared at community engagement sessions in Vancouver, Port Alberni, Anacla, Nanaimo, and Victoria (with thanks to the Huu-ay-aht citizen who asked us to expand our engagement sessions to Nanaimo and Huu-ay-aht staff for agreeing to share their engagement session time).

Becki, Jon, Ayanna, Marc, and Vanessa will be sharing what they learned through this research at an academic conference on ‘Indigenous geographies’ at the Canadian Association of Geographers Conference in Kingston, Ontario on October 20-21, 2017.

Heather has been invited to speak alongside a Huu-ay-aht representative at the Land Claims Agreement Coalition Conference in Gatineau, Quebec in November on effective research relationships to learn about treaties. The objective of the Land Claims Agreement Coalition (http://landclaimscoalition.ca/) is to ensure that modern treaties are fully implemented in spirit and intent. The Gathering is well attended by Indigenous Governments and federal as well as provincial and territorial government officials.

In February 2018, the research team plans to hold the next round of engagement sessions to share the results of Huu-ay-aht’s citizen survey on treaty implementation.

What Has the ‘Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future’ Research Team Learned continued



Vanessa Sloan Morgan

First Nations’ Constitution and the Treaty itself to explore what ‘new relationships’ look like through the Maa-nulth Treaty.

With guidance from the Advisory Committee, when looking at the ‘new relationship’ between Maa-nulth Nations and the federal and provincial government, it became clear that Canada and BC have work to do to become better treaty partners. Although BC and Canada are taking steps to learn how to be ‘good’ treaty partners, Canada and BC need to learn that the Maa-nulth Treaty affects the everyday lives of Huu-ay-aht musčim.

Key findings from both Marc and Vanessa’s research will be sent to the Governments of BC and Canada, in addition to First Nations organizations that oversee modern treaty negotiations in BC. Copies of both theses will also be given to Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Queen’s University

‘Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future’ Research Survey: Time is Running Out to Respond and Enter to Win!

The Huu-ay-aht Citizens Survey has been distributed! Copies of the survey were distributed to every eligible (voting) citizen in Huu-ay-aht’s mailed Peoples’ Assembly package in early September.

Those who still want to complete the survey can pick a copy up at the Port Alberni Government Office or contact Vanessa or Heather (see below).

The Queen’s research team must receive your completed survey via mail by November 30th, 2017 for your chance to win one of 10 prizes valued at $100 each.



Edward R. Johnson leads drummers and singers with a dinner song to start the Community Engagement Session in Port Alberni. The next set of rounds involving Queen’s University will take place in February 2018. Please watch for more information on this event as it becomes available.
[Photo by Heather Thomson]

Learn more about the ‘Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future’ Research project

Please keep an eye on Huu-ay-aht’s Facebook page and website for project updates and dates for the February 2018 engagement session!

If you have any questions, this is our team:

Huu-ay-aht Advisory Committee
ƛiišin (Derek Peters), Ḥahuuḥi Council Representative
Simon Dennis, Elder and Lower Mainland Representative
Wišqii (Rob Dennis Jr.), Port Alberni Representative
Stella Peters, Anacla Representative
Jane Peters, Anacla Representative
Mercedes Williams, Youth Representative

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