Uyaqḥmis

August 2015 Issue 38



Huu-ay-aht royalty ties the knot

Tayii Haw̓iɬ ƛ̓iišin and Humin'iki invite Nation to celebrate

PM41913515



Huu-ay-aht celebrates wedding of the Century

By Wish~Key

The wedding of the century started with a Journey on the Kleekleeha first.

To be precise, it was on her 16th birthday, that the KleeKleeha was launched once again to make some more Huu-ay-aht history. We started a journey towards Port Alberni from Poets Nook to finish off the wedding of the century the Huu-ay-aht Taayii Ḥawiɬ and his hakuum.

I say finish, because, this journey was started by Tliishin (ƛiišin) A. Spencer Peters in August of 2007. A. Spencer started this journey with a Tsii-as "proposal" that began in the Homelands of Huu-ay-aht, and we then paddled across the Barclay Sound toward Ucluelet for the sole purpose of asking for the hand of Irene Williams.

ƛiišin "Derek" and Humin'iki "Irene" have arrived, and this day is very much about the culture and customs of the Huu-ay-aht People, as it is about the couple themselves.

Guided by the Huu-ay-ahts of the past, their actions helped to guide the



Huu-ay-ahts of the present. Our nananiqsu, or the "grandparents," entered in unity. Their purpose on this day was to bring good energy to the ring ceremony, and what a wonderful job they did. Both ƛiišin and Humin'iki were literally surrounded by nananiqsu, as the grandparents were lined up on each side of the lovely couple.

Continued on Page 3

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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Community unites around ƛiišin and Humin'iki

From Page 2

The nananiqsu grandparents divided up into two groups – the women and the men – they then surrounded ƛiišin and Humin'iki, one group to the left and one to the right.

They sat in order of age with the eldest having a turn to "charge" the rings. I say charged because, just like in other Huu-ay-aht ceremonies, it is up the community and people to put forth good energy in to life events. The nananiqsu were tasked with the handling of the rings. As a historic and beautiful song from the Nookemis family was sung, the nananiqsu handled the wedding rings, passing them from one elder to another until it reached the couple to be.

The talking stick handed down through the generations started with Tliishin's historic talking stick that was used first. Then a new talking stick emerged, crafted by Lyne Cootes. This new talking stick adorned with three "day stars" to represent the three stars of Orion's Belt. In Huu-ay-aht, we call Orion's belt Aa'mii 'naas, and that is to recognize that each day is three for every day that we have is connected to two other days, yesterday and tomorrow. These "day stars" are bound together, and yesterday, today and tomorrow will remain connected for as long as we have days.

Lastly, I wish to express my gratitude to all who helped to make this day the success it was, it took Huu-ay-aht People to make this event happen.

Our ḥaẇiiḥ and hakuum historic curtains adorned the gym. Another ḥaẇił from Kyuquot First Nation, Tlii-simtliik Dennis John, gifted a song to the couple. I also promised them songs, which will be unveiled as this saga continues.

Uyaqḥmis Community Calendar

Deadlines for Students

- Are you proud of your accomplishments or those of the students in your life? The deadline to submit Student Attendance and Honour Roll Recognition is September 30. For more detail, go to www.huuayaht.org, under the Community Services section.
- September 30 is also the deadline to apply for the School Supply Allowance. The details are available at www.huuayaht.org, in the Community Services section.

Community Engagement Sessions

- The next round of Community Engagement Sessions will soon be taking place. We will be calling citizens to let them know the exact dates, locations and times. Also, watch Facebook and our website (huuayaht.org) for more information.

Fresh Food Box Schedule

Food boxes are delivered as follows:

- Victoria - First week of the month (Tuesday-Friday, will always be the same day of the week for each household)
- Vancouver - Second Tuesday of the month.
- Nanaimo and Parksville - Second Tuesday of the month
- Anacla - Second Wednesday of the month
- Thursday - Second Thursday of the month

More information and the rules of the program can be found on Page 7 of the newsletter or on the website at www.huuayaht.org.

Do you have an event or announcement you would like included in the community calendar? Email us at communications@huuayaht.org, and we will promote it.



(Left to right) Councillors Benny Clappis, Trevor Cootes, Connie Waddell, John Jack, Sheila Charles and Elected Chief Councillor Robert Dennis do their Oath of Office on Tuesday, July 28 at the House of Huu-ay-aht with Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ Derek Peters leading them.

New council ready to get down to business

On July 27, Huu-ay-aht First Nations 2015 election results became official with Chief Councillor Robert Dennis and Councillors Sheila Charles, Benny Clappis, Trevor Cootes, John Jack and Connie Waddell forming the new Executive Council.

On Tuesday, July 28, a swearing-in ceremony took place in Anacla at the House of Huu-ay-aht, and the Executive Council then held its inaugural meeting.

The official swearing-in ceremony started with drumming and dancing. The small crowd of approximately 30 people then had a chance to meet the new members of council.

Taayii Ḥaẇiɬ Derek Peters conducted the ceremony, which included an oath of office and official signing. The tayii also reminded the new council members that the oath should be taken seriously. He said the sacred principles of ʔiisaak, hišuk ma c̓awak and ʔuuʔałuk should guide them in as they move forward and serve their people. He said the most important is ʔiisaak, or simply translated to respect. He stressed the importance of this in Huu-ay-aht culture. He said it has been passed down for generations and is as important today as it was before contact.

Council members also took part in a smudging ceremony, designed to cleanse them of any darkness before working on the business of the Huu-ay-aht People.

2015 Elections Results

Chief Councillor

Cook, Jeffrey Robert - 48
Dennis, Robert (Sr.) Jack - 126
Waddell, Commie Mabel Frances - 65

Councillors

Charles, Sheila Marie - 94
Clappis, Benny Ryan - 94
Clappis, Molly Gloria - 75
Cook, Jack Gary - 94
Cootes, Trevor Lee Michael - 101
Jack, John Alan - 139
Johnson, Brittany Danielle Marie - 65
Mio, Kiana Taylor - 58
Nookemis, Duane Eric - 89
Waddell, Connie Mabel Frances - 121
Werner, Kenneth Roy - 38
Williams, Irene Delores - 92

Run-off Results

Charles, Sheila Marie - 84
Clappis, Benny Ryan - 91
Cook, Jack Gary - 79

After all of the official business was conducted, each member of executive council was given an opportunity to address the crowd. One common thread ran through all of their messages, and that was one of thanks.

Continued on Page 5



Making 2015 Election results official

Continued from Page 4

Each member expressed their gratitude for the trust citizens have put in them by electing them to council.

Chief Councillor Robert Dennis said he always believed things should be done "for Huu-ay-aht People, by Huu-ay-aht People" and moving forward he vowed to do his best.

"I feel good today that I am thinking of tomorrow and moving forward," he said. He hopes council will take careful steps to care for the people, listen to the people and take steps to do what the people want. "The people's priorities will be the government's priorities."

Returning Councillor Sheila Charles said she has seen the Nation pulled together and pulled apart in the past.

"And I want to be part of bringing us back together," she explained. "I want each and every one of us to feel pride in Huu-ay-aht. I will be fighting for each and every voice."

Councillor Connie Waddell said it is going to take a lot of work now that council has been sworn in.

"But I will work hard so that we all work together for the best of all Huu-ay-aht people," she explained.

Trevor Cootes stated that he looks at the members of council and sees they all have individual strengths that they bring to council.

"I look forward to learning from all of them," he said. "It is a great opportunity for me to grow at this point in my life."

Returning Councillor John Jack said despite challenges everyone agrees the future will be bright.



(Top) Huu-ay-ht drummers kick off the swearing-in ceremony. Newly elected Chief Councillor Robert Dennis makes it official and signs his Oath of Office before witness Rob Botterell.

"I am motivated by that," he declared. "Unity comes from compromise, and compromise means you don't always get what you want."

He said they need to focus on that and they move forward and become united as a strong council.

"We will do the job of making tough decisions so that you don't have to," he told the citizens gathered.

Councillor Benny Clappis said it is good to be back.

"We've got a good team here," he explained. "We've got a lot of experience and I'm looking forward to it."





Huu-ay-aht First Nations marked National Aboriginal Day on June 21 with a celebration at the Pachena Bay Campgrounds. The event attracted Citizens, Bamfield residents and tourists from all over who were visiting the area. (Left) Andrew Clappis Jr. gathers with the Huu-ay-aht men, taking responsibility of the naċa. (Above) Jeff Cook enjoys the sun with some youth along Pachena Beach on the beautiful day. *Photos by Heather Thomson*

Remembering ʔiisaak, uu-a-thluk, haa-huu-pah

By Edward R. Johnson Jr.

Modern day First Nations face challenges with healthy healing after generations of negative impacts associated with colonialism. As First Nations people, the challenges we face are getting back to our values and our teachings that were extracted since contact. For example, through the residential school era, teachings like ʔiisaak, uu-a-thluk, haa-huu-pah were extracted.

One of many teachings that was extracted is uu-a-thluk which translates into "taking care of." Taking care of yourself mentally, physically and spiritually creates a balance within. It means focusing on your health. In order for First Nations to get back to our foundational fundamentals of our legacy, we need to exercise the words that have been left behind by our ancestors. It's a way of living. It's a way to be a living example for others. It's a way of life and of seeing hišuk ma ċawak (everything is interconnected), which literally translates into "how everything is one."

Another one of many teachings that were extracted is ʔiisaak, which translates to "respect." Respecting yourself is giving and receiving. Self-respect is a teaching that is absolutely necessary for all of us to exist in the modern world. Respect is not only ourselves and others, but for the environment. Most importantly, we must respect our ancestors, our history and our self-identification.

The final teaching to discuss is haa-huu-pah, which translates to "sacred stories." Teachings that are passed down from generation to generation are vital to our upbringing. These teachings start from when you are in the womb. There are times set aside when the sacred teachings are passed down. Some examples are specific times of your life, coming-of-age, your first kill as a hunter, seasonal times of the year and marriages. The teachings of the Qʷayaċiik (wolves) was, and continues to be, our traditional institution that enforces the rules and laws for our Ḥaẇiiḥ (chief).

Colonialism's aftermath left modern-day First Nations with many challenges. The greatest of these are the values that were taken from our ancestors and our way of living. ʔiisaak, uu-a-thluk, haa-huu-pah our language is not meant to be understood by saying words, but by living and seeing the values in our healthy healing practices.

These are some of the vital teachings that were extracted from First Nations from contact.

ʔiisaak, uu-a-thluk and haa-huu-pah return. It will take generations, but I believe strongly in the modern day First Nations. We can strive to preserve our teachings for generations.



Cultural Program Coordinator Cheryl Thomas and Policy Analyst for Employment and Training Annie Merritt made a lot of citizens happy in June. They represented the Huu-ay-aht Community Services Department at the first-ever Fresh Food Box distribution. The program, funded by the Generations Fund, distributed fresh food to qualifying citizens in Anacla, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Vancouver and Victoria.

Photo by Brittany Johnson

Fresh food offered to Huu-ay-aht citizens monthly

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has delivered the second round of the Fresh Food Box Program.

The Nations' citizens in Anacla, Port Alberni and Vancouver can still register to receive free monthly deliveries of nutritious food through the new Fresh Food Box Program, which is being funded by an unconditional contribution from Steelhead LNG to the Generations Fund. The program is available to all citizens, but first priority will be to support families with children under 18, elders and persons on Social Assistance or something similar. The Fresh Food Box Program will work to help make eating right easier and more affordable.

The Nation would like to take this time to remind you of the rules and invite you to apply for next month's food box.

- Households with one to four members qualify to receive one food box.
- Households with five or more members qualify to receive two food boxes.
- Citizens can only submit one application per household.
- Food boxes are delivered once per month.
- In order to be guaranteed a food box for a given month, you must:
  a) Have signed up for the food box program 10 days before the delivery date for that month.
  b) Be available during the day of delivery that is specified for your location.
  c) Have provided 10 days' notice of a change of address if you have moved recently.
- A limited number of extra food boxes will be available to citizens who did not register for the food box program in advance. These food boxes will be available on a first come, first served basis.
- With the exception of food boxes for those with food allergies, the contents of all food boxes are the same. Staff cannot trade the contents of one food box for another based on personal preferences.
- If a friend or family member is going to be picking up your food box for you, please notify the office

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- Anacla - Second Wednesday of the month
- Thursday - Second Thursday of the month



West Coast Trail Guardians is 20

By Ambar Varela

Ditidaht, Pacheedaht and Huu-ay-aht First Nations together with Parks Canada organized the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the West Coast Trail Guardians Program (Qu'aas). The event was held at the Alberni Athletic Hall, in Port Alberni, on June 19.

The celebration included awards, food, performances, and various speakers from different Nations and Parks Canada. The list was extensive, but it included Chief Executive Officer of Parks Canada Agency Alan Latourelle, Vice president of Ahousaht Economic Development Corporation Wally Samuel, Tayii Ḥaẇił Derek Peters, Huu-ay-aht's Program Manager Edward Johnson and Hupačasath's Communications Coordinator Jolleen Dick.

The Nation's Tayii together with Andrea Pettigrew, Brian Frisco Lucas, Cory Howard Sr., Edward Johnson, James Nookemus Jr., Karen Haugen, Kevin Peters, Leslie Cook Jr., Sheila Charles, Stephen Smith and Tammy Howard are among the Huu-ay-aht citizens who have worked in the initiative. With their cheerful personalities, professionalism, solid environmental beliefs and rich cultural background, they have guaranteed the safety and enjoyment of visitors from all over the world.

Spencer Peters (Derek's father) had the vision to improve the benefits for the guardians and his son emphasized how proud the Nation is for such legacy.

The cultural function prepared by Huu-ay-aht brought the event to a close and many members of the public danced together in a harmonious multicultural circle.

A number of people spoke about their experiences through the years.

This is the fifth season Brian Frisco Lucas has worked on the trail with Parks Canada. Recently, he joined Ditidaht's team as a supervisor because they had a brand new crew in need of a mentor.

"I've had the privilege of sharing with them what I know about safety, how to operate a boat in the ocean, how to talk to hikers, because they are our guests," he says.

Every day offers a different adventure that could involve hiking 10 km to rescue a group, spend a couple of hours with them and take them to the hospital in Victoria or Port Renfrew.

Brian has learned a lot from his co-worker Kevin Peters. Especially, to find his own voice. When he started, he lacked confidence and used to let more experienced guides to do all the talking. Homin'niki Irene Williams advised him to take into account that he represents Huu-ay-aht out there. The reputation of the Nation and the trail depends on his interaction with the hikers. Fortunately, there have been only amazing comments from them and he loves his job. Another lesson learned is how to utilize the forest and the beaches as resources without fearing wild life.

Tammy Howard has been the visitor experience guide since 1999. She issues permits, does orientation and instructs people on how to use the maps.

"The job chose me," she says. "I honestly was an extremely shy person. Connie Waddell knew that I used to work for the Pachena Bay Campground, and she encouraged me to apply. I love where I work now. I meet people from many different backgrounds."

Continued on Page 9



Tayii Ḥaẇił Derek Peters welcomes guests to the grand opening of Huu-ay-aht's Port Alberni Government Office on August 7. The event was well attended with close to 75 people joining in the celebration. The new office is located at 4644 Adelaide Street, on the North side of Port Alberni.

Photo by Ambar Varela

Sharing adventures of a lifetime found hiking the Trail

From Page 8

So many things stand out, according to Tammy. She remembers a young Japanese lady who came totally excited one day by 4:55 a.m.

"She was not sure that she could get into the trail. I was cleaning, and I told her, 'I will put you on the list.' She jumped. She looked as she had won the lottery."

In the upcoming years, Tammy would like to see more storytelling and other First Nations cultural practices incorporated.

"Ed (Johnson Jr.) and Brian (Lucas) used to do that…There are many people who come to the area and who are interested… I encourage the visitors to talk to the guardians."

This is the 15th season that Kevin Peters has worked on the trails.

"I started right out school. I was a student worker for four years and I worked my way up of the ladder," he says.

He is a West Coast Trail Guardian, now. They all get training every year. So, he has lost count of how many certificates he has. "Over the years, I've become pretty confident about running a chainsaw, talking and meeting people."

He also hikes around, does brush cutting and fixes anything required.

When Sheila Charles worked for Qu'aas, she gave orientation to the hikers before they started the trail in Pachena. Then, she spent a year-and-a-half working for Parks Canada. She transferred to Long Beach and continued in the organization for 14 years.

Once, Sheila and her friend Anne Marie were hiking the trail at Nitinat, around Port Renfrew. The couple in charge of the lighthouse made lunch for them and they had a good time.

"It was getting late, and we had a 25-km hike planned. There was a chopper, and I knew the pilot because my dad (Clifford Charles) was a coast guard. I never knew if he was there to pick us up. He said, 'Are you the people I am going to drop off in Logan Creek?' and I sad, 'Yes!" People still bug them because they flew the trail.

The story does not end there. They continued hiking after that and at Camper Bay the tide was coming up. They helped each other carrying their backpacks while going through the channels.

"I was a chicken, and Anne Marie kept saying, 'Come on, Sheila, you can do it!' The water was coming in and out. She asked me to jump. She got into the surge, and I quickly grabbed her."

Under the risk of getting hypothermia, they tried to start a fire. Some hikers showed their solidarity and prepared dinner for them. It was July 4, and the episode ended with a USA Independence Day fireworks show in the distance.



Huu-ay-aht Tayii Ḥaẇił welcomes Ahousaht canoe pullers ashore



By Ambar Varela

As part of their annual Canoe Journey and to strengthen links with Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ahousaht canoers arrived to Pachena Bay on July 23.

A delegation, composed mostly by Huu-ay-aht's beach keeper family (Peters), Ta'yii Ḥaẇił Derek Peters, his mother Norah, his daughter Olivia, his speaker Wish-key and Government staff welcomed the canoes ashore by following ancient protocols, at around 2 p.m. Afterwards, the team leaders introduced themselves to the audience, cheered and had time to rest before the feast.

The annual Canoe Journey started in Seattle, in 1989. A teacher named Emmett Oliver (Quinault) wanted to give First Nations proper representation at the State of Washington's centennial celebration and came up with the idea. This year, it was broken into different routes with stopovers that allowed paddlers to rest and others to join the teams along the journey. In this way it was less time consuming, safer and more affordable.

Ahousaht Youth Counsellor Louie Frank Jr. (ciixʷis) was among the canoe pullers. He said paddling together taught the youth and other citizens what collaborative teamwork means. It was also a good workout, reinforced their values and revitalized their traditions.

Dorothy George, member of the ground crew, said approximately 150 people were part of this adventure and represented four generations. She was delighted to be at Pachena Bay. Guardian and Social worker at USMA Penny Mathews considered this a unique opportunity for kids in foster care. They were visiting our Cultural Camp, received cedar headbands, witnessed the arrival of the canoes and shared dinner with the crowd. At least 10 of the children have Huu-ay-aht ancestors or are citizens, while two belong to Ahousaht.

Six canoes in total took part – four black and two white ones. Some of them were unnamed, one of them featured a hummingbird and the rest had names such as Clipper and Quẇutsun. Huu-ay-aht acknowledges the generosity of Georgie Nookemus Jr. who donated crab, Jane Peters who prepared a pasta dish, which was devoured in seconds, Judy Johnson for the fish, Zelta Clappis for the bannock and other dishes, USMA for the Caesar salad, Pachena Bay Campground staff for their support, and BMSC students Aviva Lessard, Ian Sellers, Kierstin Hamilton and Ria Hoyer, who volunteered for the set up and cooking.

Anacla blooms with community garden

By Ambar Varela

Amelia Vos is Huu-ay-aht's passionate Environmental Technician. She is always leading green activities and has collaborated with our emergency preparedness plans as well. In fact, there is also a recycling program in the works.

The most recent environmentally friendly Huu-ay-aht achievement is the opening of Anacla's Community Garden. On May 26th, planting started with a team integrated by Bamfield Community School members, Marine Science students and members of our community. The goal was to have three to four beds weeded and prepped. It proven to be a bit of a challenge but lots of fun.

Fiona Hamersley Chambers is a PhD Ethnobotanist from UVIC with experience in running organic farms. She was there to enhance attendees' knowledge on every stage of the "Lasagna Gardening" process while sharing enthusiasm and snacks.

According to the Government of Prince Edward Island's website, Patricia Lanza invented this method and actually wrote a book on the subject. She was a military wife who moved every three years with her husband and seven kids. During her childhood in Tennessee, her grandmother inculcated in her this interest in growing food.

The "Lasagna Garden" creates layers of different materials emulating the dish. For instance: newspaper, cardboard, peat moss, animal manures, shredded leaves, grass clippings, vegetable peelings, stalks, coffee grounds, spoiled hay, compost, straw or barn litter. In Pachena, our people took advantage of the seaweed to nourish the soil. Join your children, neighbours and



relatives in such a relaxing and productive activity! There is plenty to be done.

Each plot belongs to a kid. They are ambassadors of the initiative and must spread the word within their families. Corn, tomatoes, fennel, lettuces and quinoa will be harvested as an opportunity to create a local food supply in the area.

Amelia stated in a memo: "It is my hope that we can develop a way to have some involvement from the PAGO in this community project. I feel this will help with team building and also establish a deeper connection between offices and community."

Big Bike challenge made Huu-ay-aht's team proud

Altruism, health and teamwork are part of the Huu-ay-aht philosophy. When Communications Coordinator, Heather Thomson, proposed to ride the Big Bike for the Heart & Stroke Foundation, several members of staff jumped in immediately.

Cardiovascular disease is a leading cause of death for Canadian men and women. In 2014, the foundation helped create 165,000 survivors. On June 10, Huu-ay-aht pedaled to improve the life of many more people, relatives and friends. The bike is 10'x33', and weighs 2000 lbs.

Most of the groups join the challenge by February to start fundraising. The Nation registered only two weeks before the event and raised $2,410. Team gifts amounted to more than $1,000 thanks to Steelhead LNG, Pace Group, the Barclay Hotel, Probyn Log and Dr. Virgil Benoit (University of North Dakota) among others.

Our team had a 20-minute fun and colourful ride along Johnston, Victoria Quay and the surroundings. Everyone was so pumped up that many members expressed their desire to participate next year.



New Executive Council are joined by Tayii Ḥaẇiɬ Derek Peters (back row, second from the right) for a special Executive Council meeting in Anacla on July 31. Council is made up of (back row, left to right) Councillors Trevor Cootes, Ben Clappis, Sheila Charles, (front) Councillor John Jack, Elected Chief Councillor Robert Dennis and Councillor Connie Waddell. *Photo by Heather Thomson*

Huu-ay-aht Government develops 60-day plan

August 2015

• Schedule and hold regular Executive Council meetings and additional special Executive Council meetings, if needed, to implement government transition.

• Chief Councillor and Councillor(s) to meet regularly with HFN citizens and key individuals to outline government transition and to confirm that Executive Council will make any changes consistent with its new mandate, the best interests of HFN, the rule of law, and ongoing input from HFN citizens.

• Chief Councillor to assign portfolios to Executive Council members.

• Karen Haugen, Acting Executive Director responsible for HFN administration.

• Rob Botterell, HFN legal counsel to provide legal advice and related services in relation to HFN matters.

• Marty Eakins, Hayes, McNeill & Partners Ltd (HMPL) to prepare independent financial status report, advice and outlook for HFN and HFN Development.

• Executive Council to take urgent action as required in the best interests HFN.

• Begin development of 4 year HFN Plan in consultation with all citizens.

• HFN administration and responsible Executive Council member(s) to prepare detailed briefings on each area of government.

• Executive Council to be guided at all times by the Huu-ay-aht Oath, including ʔiisaak and hišuk ma c̓awak.

September 2015

• Continue with August 2015 steps set out above.

• During week of September 14th-18th hold Executive Council transition and 4 year plan briefings by government area.

• During week of September 21 to 25 hold community rounds.

• During week of September 28 to October 2, set a date for the People's Assembly, approve four-year plan for community input, and make final committee and other appointments.



Graduates mark exciting accomplishments

By Brittany Johnson

This was the first year that Huu-ay-aht hosted their own graduation ceremony separate from the Nuu-chah-nulth grad event. The ceremony was held at the Barclay Best Western Hotel, on June 29. The theme was Celebrating Success, with the motto ʔaayačiłaḥ ḥamaṫap (I know lots of things).

This year, Huu-ay-aht had 15 graduates, 11 from high school and four post-secondary. Although not all of the Nations' students could attend, Huu-ay-aht did have some make their way from Surrey and Victoria.

Kathy Waddell, the Director of Community Services was the Master of ceremonies. Huu-ay-aht also had welcoming remarks from former Elected Chief Councillor Yaathlua (Jeff Cook) and Tayii Ḥaẇił Tliishin (Derek Peters). Brent Ronning and Kathy Waddell presented the high school graduates with a financial award, as well as a paddle to help them start their journey (paddles made by Shawn Mack and Hippolite Williams).

Congratulations to all of our graduates on your tremendous accomplishments. You should be very proud of yourselves for your hard work and dedication.



This year's graduates are:

Ayanna Clappis - Cowichan Secondary School, Duncan

Dante Dennis - Rutland Secondary School, Kelowna

Samantha Haugen - Alberni District Secondary School, Port Alberni

Corrissa Janson - Guildford Secondary School, Surrey

Alyssa Johnson - Alberni District Secondary School, Port Alberni

Continued on Page 14





Class of 2015

From Page 13

George Johnson - Alberni District Secondary School, Port Alberni

Tyler Nookemus - Vast, Port Alberni

Latisha Seward - Victoria High School, Victoria

Jordan Trach - Esquimalt Secondary School, Esquimalt

Stephen Williams - Esquimalt Secondary School,



Esquimalt

Jacob Williams - Nanaimo District Secondary School, Nanaimo

Justin Stanley-Taylor - Certificate in Welder Foundation, Camosun College

Ciara Wattum - Bachelor of Applied Science, Simon Frazer University

Michael "Maikaru" Douangluxay-Cloud - Masters in Social and Sustainable Management, Seattle Pacific University

Clara Clappis - Certificate in Early Childhood Education, College of New Caledonia

Following the ceremony, we asked graduates to share their thoughts. Here are a few that we received.

Jordan Trach

"My favourite class by far was Spanish, because by taking that class I was given the opportunity to travel to Spain for two weeks with a group of kids and staff from Esquimalt.

"My plans for the summer are to enrol in the Raven Program through the Canadian Armed Forces and then in May, attend Camosun. My advice for future graduates is to take advantage of all the courses you are provided and apply for everything you can, while you can."

Continued on Page 15

ʔaayačiłaḥ ḥamaƛ̓ap

(I know lots of things)



From Page 14

Tyler Nookemus

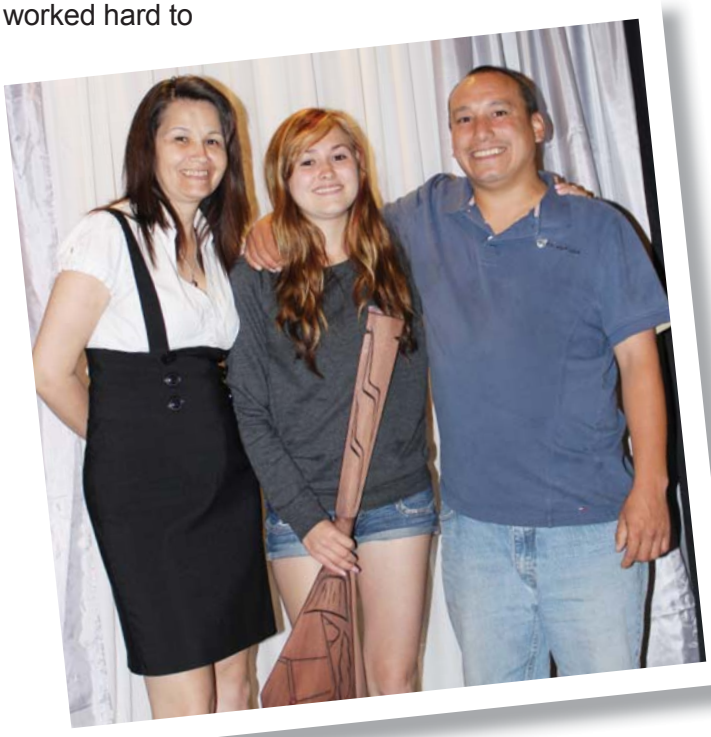
His favourite class was lunch, and he hopes to work for Huu-ay-aht this summer. When asked what message he would leave for the graduates for next year he said, “Grade 12 don’t need words of wisdom, it would be the Grade 10s. You shouldn’t give up.”

Ayanna Clappis

She received a Scholastic Award, which recognizes a B+ and higher average over the school year. She leaves for the Big Island of Hawaii (Kona) to work, learn and live on a mango/fig farm. It is part of the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms program.

Clara Clappis

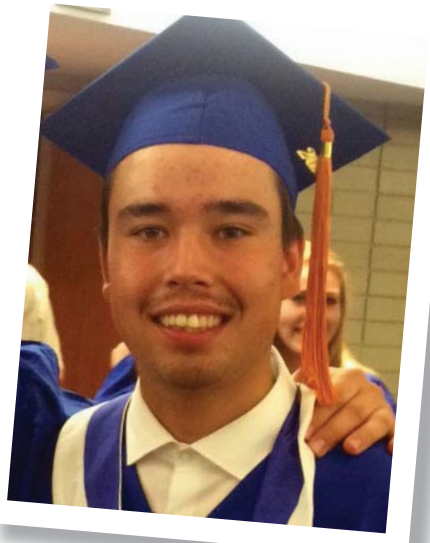
Clara said she began her journey a number of years ago by accessing the distance education program at College of New Caledonia and has worked hard to acquire this important credential for early childcare education in the Anacla community.



Dante Dennis

Dante says his plans for summer is to play baseball, work and go camping.

We asked him if he had any advice for next year’s graduates, he said “don’t slack and work hard to the end because how you do in Grade 12 will determine what you have for the future. Respect and listen to the teachers, because in the end they know more and are willing to help you for what you have in store moving forward.“



(Group photo, left to Right, back row) Stephen Williams, George Johnson, Corrissa Janson (front row) Alyssa Johnson, Latisha Seward, Jordan Trach, Samantha Haugen and Clara Clappis. *(Photos by Ambar Varela)* (Above) Dante Dennis.

Huu-ay-aht Around Town





(Top) Huu-ay-aht First Nations youth take part in the summer cultural day camp, which included some time on the ocean with Larry Johnson.
(Photo by Brittany Johnson)

(Above) Congratulations to Nicole Menz (nee Williams) on her marriage to Terry Menz.

(Right) Antonia and Wayne Peters tied the knot. Congratulations to the happy couple.

If you have photos you would like to share, please email communications@huuayaht.org.





(Above) Cheyenne Nookemus proves you are never too young to check out the Tlu'piich Games. Huu-ay-aht athletes traveled to the games, making their Nation proud. (Below) Jayson Nookemus and Jared Nookemus race to the finish at the Tlu'piich Games on August 12. Their T-shirts show the old and new logos, showing an ever evolving Nation that supports its youth year after year.

