Uyaqḥmis

June 2017 Issue 45



Time capsule will tell a tale in 2033

Huu-ay-aht invites citizens to add an item or treasure to the Nations' time capsule on National Aboriginal Day.

PM41913515



(Front) Seth Nookemus sets out to even off the top of Huu-ay-aht First Nations' time capsule, along with the other youth involved in the after-school program. Beginning on June 21 and wrapping up at the end of the summer, Huu-ay-aht citizens will be asked to contribute a small item that will be sealed in the time capsule until 2033. *Photo by Edward Johnson*

Huu-ay-aht gets ready to host exciting 2017 Aboriginal Day

National Aboriginal Day is held annually on June 21 in Canada. This year Huu-ay-aht First Nations is going to celebrate in Anacla at Pachena Bay Campground. This has been a tradition for a number of years, but 2017 is going to bigger and better than ever.

Along with the usual barbeque on the beach, fun activities, and culture celebrations, Huu-ay-aht will also offer four very special events.

The Nation hired a company to create the third video about Huu-ay-aht, following Heart of the People and Run of the River. Coming Home, is an amazing production that tells of Huu-ay-aht's struggle to bring its citizens home in the face of many challenges. This film will be playing on June 21 at the Anacla Government Office.

While you are at AGO, check out the new Treasures Room. This will be unveiled to the public on Aboriginal Day, offering everyone a chance to see our mini museum that was created for the culture treasures that were acquired in the fall at the People's Assembly.

The new playground in the Village of Anacla is scheduled to arrive on June 15, and on Aboriginal Day there will be a ribbon cutting and acknowledgement by the local children.

Finally, Edward Johnson has been working with the young people in Anacla to create a time capsule. The Nation would like people to think about what they want future generations to know about Huu-ay-aht. Citizens should then bring an item to Aboriginal Day that reflects this and sends a message for future youth, elders, political leaders, staff, and Huu-ay-aht's future Ḥaẃiiḥ. The time capsule was made by Benson Nookemis, with the assistance of Edward and the youth from the Anacla after-school program. It will be unveiled in June and sealed at the end of the summer. The plan is to open the time capsule in the Year 2033, which coincides with the Nations' strategic plan goals. This is your chance to send a message to future Huu-ay-aht.

On June 21, come down to Pachena Beach to help celebrate with Huu-ay-aht. We will feast on seafood, learn to make a cedar rose, paddle Huu-ay-aht's canoe, sing traditional songs, learn about ocean life from the Bamfield Marine Science Centre staff, and spend the day with family and friends.

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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Teary Deakin presents Citizen of the Year award on behalf of sponser INEO to Jeff Cook. *Photo courtesy the Chamber of Commerce.*

Recognized for his Contribution

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Ḥawiiḥ Jeff Cook was recognized as Port Alberni's Citizen of the Year at this year's Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. The recognition is the top award at the annual event and is considered a great honour. Jeff was chosen as Citizen of the Year because of the many ways he contributes to his community, including his involvement with the Athletic Hall Association, volunteering with many boards and organizations, including Rotary and ACAWS, his work with his Nation, and the many ways he gives back in big and small ways.

Huu-ay-aht and Western Forest Products build foundation to a strong, long-term partnership with sale of dryland log sort

One of the most important tasks of the Huu-ay-aht government is restoring Tayii Ḥaẇiłʔ ƛiišin's (Derek Peters) Ḥahuuƚi (traditional territory).

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is committed to practicing sustainable forest management, which will grow our economy and benefit all Huu-ay-aht.

The Nation is focused on setting harvesting targets for the present and future and exploring the domestic and export markets. As a Nation, Huu-ay-aht is committed to supporting value-added silviculture practices to achieve sustainable forest management.

One key step in being successful in this endeavour is to build strong, long-lasting relationships with its citizens and area businesses and organizations.

Western Forest Products Inc. and Huu-ay-aht First Nations announce that they have completed a transaction for the sale and purchase of three properties, including Western's dry land sort, located in Sarita Bay, British Columbia for a purchase price of $3 million. The transaction also involves a long-term lease back of the dry land sort to Western, an agreement to harvest 200,000 cubic metres of timber from Huu-ay-aht Lands, and an employment and training agreement that seeks to increase the number of Huu-ay-aht citizens participating in the forest sector.

The transaction provides a strong foundation for Western and Huu-ay-aht to develop a long-term partnership with respect to lands and timber resources in the Bamfield-Anacla area.

Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. commented regarding the sale, "As a Nation, we want to focus on building a safe and healthy community, and that starts with good relationships, first with our citizens but also with our neighbours and business partners." He added, "Our citizens gave us the message that moving forward with Western is a key priority by providing their support at our Special People's Assembly. Western has shown it respects Huu-ay-aht's philosophy of Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind and our core values. We are writing the book on how business is to be done in our Ḥahuuƚi and opening the door to economic opportunities that will bring our people home and create a strong future for the next generation."

"We recognize the importance of the Sarita area to the Huu-ay-aht and are pleased to have delivered a mutually beneficial transaction to support increased economic benefits from the forest sector to First Nations communities and to Western", said Don Demens, President and CEO of Western.

For the Huu-ay-aht, the Sarita River is the "Heart of the People" and the properties involved in the agreement with Western complete the reunification of Huu-ay-aht-owned lands at Sarita Bay. Huu-ay-aht received strong support for the land acquisition from its People's Assembly held February 19, 2017. With a long-term lease in place, Western will continue to operate its dry land sort at Sarita, supporting its timber operations in TFL 44.

Independent Panel recommendations will help families and children in care

An independent panel, appointed by Huu-ay-aht First Nations' Executive Council, presented 30 recommendations to improve its child protection and family welfare services to council in late May.

Huu-ay-aht children today are, like other indigenous children in B.C., many times more likely to be taken away from their families and placed into the foster care system than non-indigenous children. Huu-ay-aht children are vulnerable under the legacies of the colonial and illegal taking of the Huu-ay-aht peoples' lands and resources, Canada's residential school system, the Sixties Scoop and the continued systematic removal of children from their families into foster care by the provincial government.

As a self-governing nation, Huu-ay-aht First Nations has determined it is a priority to take focused and concerted action to "bring our children home" and to keep Huu-ay-aht children safe, healthy, and connected to their families, culture and community. As part of this work, Huu-ay-aht Executive Council appointed an independent panel to hear from the Huu-ay-aht community, research promising practices and interview external agencies. The panel was given a mandate to provide Huu-ay-aht government with recommendations for concrete steps to be taken to improve outcomes for Huu-ay-aht children and families who are in, or at risk of being taken into, the foster care system.

The independent panel's research and interview process began in November 2016 and concluded May 2017.

For Huu-ay-aht Councillor Sheila Charles this has been a dream of hers for many years, and to see it come to fruition in a respectful way means more than words can express.



Leonard Nookemis and Trinity Morrow were blanketed at the Panel's first gathering in Port Alberni in January. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*

"I have long recognized the flawed system and urgency for change. I clearly can see the parallels between residential school and children-in-care today," she says. "In the spirit of reconciliation, children-in-care contradicts reconciling.

"Healing needs to take place and families need extra support to allow the healing to prevent children from being taken in the first place. I am very pleased with the panel's 30 recommendations and look forward to implementing them," she concludes.

The panel's 30 recommendations build upon the important work and recommendations made previously to the British Columbia provincial government and federal government by the B.C. Representative for Children and Youth and by Special Advisor Grand Chief Ed John, but they are focused on a 'made in Huu-ay-aht' path forward.

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Brave citizens lead panel to report that will change future of Nation

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"Throughout our interview process, we heard from Huu-ay-aht people who have come through great adversity - their own confrontations with addictions, violence and poverty - who, from the depths of their spirits, want to help other Huu-ay-aht people away from that pain, and to support today's Huu-ay-aht children to be happy and safe," the panel says in a statement. "One cannot help children without supporting what is most important to children: their families."

The panel recommends the following actions:

• Focus on building front line, wrap-around supports for Huu-ay-aht people throughout their lifetimes. This means ensuring their parents (including grandparents, family or community members who assist in care) receive the services and supports needed. That support will take many forms, and means that no one will "age out" of care in the Huu-ay-aht community.

• Build structured and resourced circles of protection around its children and families so that decision making happens with and by children and families first, supported by extended families, House Groups and the Nation. Youth should also be involved in planning and decision-making, ensuring they are not left lost and powerless. Through these circles of protection, decision making shifts away from court-sanctioned removal decisions by external agencies and comes back to Huu-ay-aht.

• Provide strong transitional supports to families. The most vulnerable points identified for families were in the times of transition, such as when children have been temporarily taken into care, when they have returned home, or after a parent has undertaken addiction treatment. Transitional supports such as counselling, co-parenting and household support, anti-violence education, safe houses and transitional housing are all necessary.

• Legislate a long-term commitment to dedicated funding for broad front-line services to support children and families. Huu-ay-aht would be a leader in this area.

• Continue to engage with external agencies and other First Nations who are working to improve outcomes for their own children and families.

• Renegotiate properly resourced and structured relationships with provincial and federal agencies. This would see all three governments work in partnership for the well-being of Huu-ay-aht children and families.

"We were deeply moved by the brave determination so many Huu-ay-aht adults and youth showed by speaking to us, and to each other, about the pain, fear and powerlessness they have experienced in being separated from their families, both through residential school and the foster care system, but also about their ideas on how things can improve," says the panel.

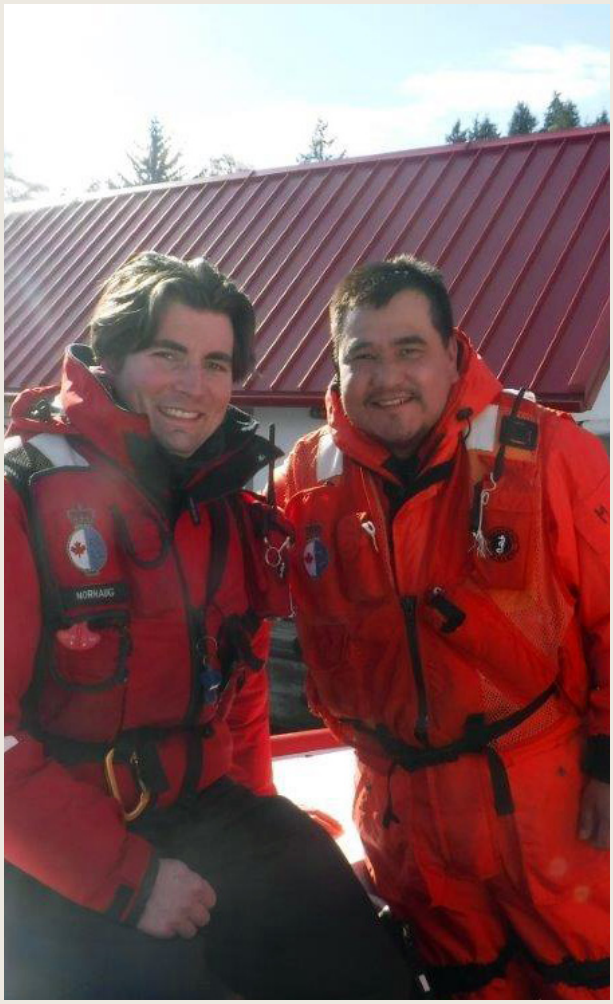
As a self-governing treaty nation, the Huu-ay-aht government is well positioned to act upon the recommendations. Huu-ay-aht is also well poised to work with other levels of government to overcome the systemic biases that remove children from their home and community.

Huu-ay-aht's Chief Councillor says, "Now that Executive Council has the report, we look forward to reviewing it extensively. The next step will be to bring it to the people through community consultation."

At that point, guided by the will of citizens, Executive Council will decide how to proceed with the independent recommendations and forge a new path on this incredibly important issue – the welfare of Huu-ay-aht children.

The full report and all 30 recommendations is available at our website: www.huuayaht.org.







Canadian Coast Guard offers training

Huu-ay-aht's Natural Resources Technician Cory Howard took part in the Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue training program that was held on February 24 to 28, 2017 at the Bamfield Canadian Coast Guard Station. The course included an opportunity to learn from Search and Rescue Specialists like Shane Norhaug (pictured left) and other members of the Canadian Coast Guard. This training provides skills for First Nations members who respond to marine emergencies.

No sockeye this year, but plan in place

The Natural Resources department is gearing up for another busy food fish season.

A big change for this year is that we will not have any sockeye allocation to fish and distribute. Our Treaty Rights to sockeye are second only to conservation, however the Somass run is expected to be only 170,000 fish this year. For there to be any fishing, there needs to be a minimum of 200,000. To allow the fish to move up the river to spawn, no one will be fishing Somass sockeye this year. This means there will be no commercial or recreational fishing of sockeye in Barkley Sound for 2017 or any First Nations fishing (including the government food fish program and harvest by individual citizens).

Even though our Nation is committed to supporting sockeye conservation this year, the Natural Resources team is still working to deliver a Food Fish program to put other delicious fish on citizens' plates, including chinook (spring), coho, and halibut.

To help with a smooth distribution process, please ensure your contact information is up to date especially if you have recently moved or if you are moving for the summer. This can be done online at https://huuayaht.org/change-of-address-form/ or in either of our offices. If you expect to be away during distributions, be sure to complete a Food Fish Release form so that someone else can pick up your fish for you.

For individual harvesters, we would also like to remind everyone to check the date on your Harvest Card. Cards expire after five years, and since many people got theirs shortly after the treaty effective date, many are ready to be renewed. Applications and renewals can be done in either Government Office. It takes just a few days to process the paperwork – renewals cost $26.25 (with tax), but your first card is free.

Doris Johnson lives her dream

By Brent Ronning



Doris Johnson has had a memorable year. Doris graduated this spring from Camosun College's Adult Learning Centre at Brentwood Bay, and was recognized by the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Awards with a financial award to honour her achievements. This award recognizes the sacrifices that Doris has made for her children, and the dedication and commitment that Doris has for her own education and personal journey.

The Live Your Dream Awards assist women who provide the primary source of financial support for their families by giving them the resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects. Each year, more than $1.6 million in education grants are awarded to more than 1,200 women, many of whom have overcome enormous obstacles including poverty, domestic violence and/or drug and alcohol abuse. Live Your Dream Awards recipients may use the cash award to offset any costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education, such as books, childcare, tuition and transportation.

Doris was born in Port Alberni, but grew up in Nanaimo and Victoria. Her mother is Jenny Ginger, and her father is the late Patrick Johnson who was Mowachaht. Her maternal grandparents are Doris Cootes and Adam Ginger, and her paternal grandparents are the late Vi and Sam Johnson.

Growing up was sometimes a troubled time for Doris, and she didn't always make the healthiest or best choices. She left school in Grade 8, which left her in a cycle of poverty with little formal education. However, 21 years ago, Doris connected with a youth probation officer who both inspired her and changed her life path. Everything didn't change overnight of course, but Doris started to imagine a different future for herself and started to do the work to allow that possibility.

Doris began to work on her ABE (Adult Basic Education), and while raising her small boys she obtained her Grade 10. Last year, she took the plunge: "I had always put my children first before my education for a long time, but my oldest is 15 now and I can finally move forward with my goals."

In 2016, with five sons and a new baby of only five months of age, Doris commuted on the bus back and forth between Victoria and Brentwood Bay's Adult Learning Centre for an hour each way. It wasn't easy, and the long days took their toll, but Doris persevered and she completed her adult graduation. Doris has an endgame now, to work with young indigenous people and make a difference in their lives. Doris plans to do the Criminology program at Camosun College and become a youth probation officer just like the individual who inspired and connected with her younger self 21 years ago. "I want to help young people and build a stronger foundation with them so they can break barriers and choose the right path," she says.

In September, Doris will begin the Indigenous Studies diploma program at Camosun (two years) followed by the Criminology diploma program (also two years). The Indigenous Studies program will help prepare Doris to be successful in the college environment, and will also continue to connect her with culturally appropriate teachings that help to ground her in her roots as a Huu-ay-aht woman.

On that spring evening in April when Doris and her friend Sheila stepped into the limo to go to the awards night at the Songees Wellness Centre, Doris certainly had many reasons to celebrate her successes. There will certainly be more reasons to celebrate Doris' continued success in the future.

Government to address concerns

Citizens have raised a number of concerns over the conditions of the Anacla village, and on Friday, March 3, a small delegation of Huu-ay-aht administration took a tour of the village to see firsthand what work needs to be done.

The intention of the tour was to see what needs to be addressed, come up with some ideas, and report back to Executive Council.

Director of Lands, Resources, and Infrastructure Stephen Rayner and Community Maintenance Supervisor Duane Nookemis lead the tour.

They started at the old administration office, where they talked about what needs to be fixed up on the building and what it could be used for in the future. It was determined that it would take a great deal of work to bring it up to standards that would allow it to be a residential unit. On the other hand, it only needs minor improvements to make it more attractive and usable. The old office is currently used for Healthy Living group in Anacla. It was suggested that the next stop on the tour, the four-plex, would be better use of money for housing. The four-plex needs some structural changes, and it would cost a significant amount of money to upgrade, but if this investment was made, it would offer four living units.

The group talked about the field and its uses, and decided it was in good shape and that they would ensure ongoing maintenance is carried out in order to keep it in good working condition.

Next up was the carving shed, which offered a welcomed break from the rain that day. Stephen pointed out that, although the roof protects the items stored there, the building is not sealed to the elements, so it is somewhat limited when it comes to storage uses. The shed is not currently being used for carving, and the group discussed options for the site and whether or not another use would be more appropriate. Some suggestions included a greenhouse, better storage, or a new carving shed. Although the building sits on a concrete pad, if something new was going to be constructed there it would require new concrete.

The group then stopped at the community garden. They discussed the need for more of a push to get people using the garden. It currently has more space available than is being used to grow food, and in order to use that space more hands would be needed. Some discussion took place on programs to get people working in the garden, including the opportunity to get the after-school program growing food. It currently is only used by a couple citizens and one staff dedicated to making it a success. In order to plant more, Stephen explained, you have to ensure there will be enough people available and interested to do the work the garden requires or else it is just a waste of money and staff time.



As a result of the tour by staff, one of the elders received a new porch to replace the one that was broken as a result of an accident. *Photo by Charlie Clappis*

Next they crossed the little bridge and headed to the playground. They discussed on the way the need for only minor repairs to the bridge, and perhaps the lengthening of the roof.

The playground was a hot topic, especially to the children who were on their way to the after-school program at the Soaring Eagle. They yelled out the window, “We want a new playground,” on their way past. The group discussed the changes that are in the works for the playground, as Director of Community Services Kathy Waddell pointed out that a grant application has been submitted and work is expected to begin soon. Executive Director Trudy Warner suggested, in addition to the new equipment, she would like to see a covered bench at the playground for elders and parents who might need shelter from the sun or rain while watching their children.

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Property tax bills in the mail, but most citizens' will see $0 due

If you own a home in Anacla, chances are you received a tax notice in your mail from the Nation this week.

Luckily for citizens, the balance owing this year is $0, but 2017 is the first year the Huu-ay-aht Government has enacted a property tax regulation and levied property taxes. Chapter 19 of the Treaty provides that the Huu-ay-aht First Nations may make laws in respect of direct taxation of Huu-ay-aht Lands.

Although technically citizens are exempt from all property taxes on Huu-ay-aht Lands until April 1, 2023, a tax notice has been delivered to every owner or occupier on the Huu-ay-aht Lands Tax Roll.

If you receive a Tax Notice for $0, you don't have to take any action, but they will have information on the value of your property and show what you would have owed without the exemption.

Property Class	Description	Provincial School Tax Room	Municipal Tax Room	Provincial Police Tax Rate	Regional Hospital District Tax Rate	BC Assessment Authority Tax Rate	Regional District Tax Rate	Total Mill Rate
1	Residential	2.3202	4.8270	0.2473	0.0182	0.0432	0.0143	7.4702
2	Utilities	13.4000	34.8698	0.8656	0.0639	0.4981	0.0499	49.7473
3	Supportive Housing	0.1000	0.1000	0.0000	0.0182	0.0000	0.0143	0.2325
4	Major Industry	4.8000	6.0000	0.0000	0.0620	0.4981	0.0485	11.4086
5	Light Industry	4.8000	2.9500	0.0000	0.0620	0.1393	0.0485	7.9998
6	Business	4.8000	13.9479	0.6059	0.0447	0.1393	0.0350	19.5728
7	Managed Forest Land	1.9000	0.4500	0.0000	0.0547	0.2831	0.0428	2.7306
8	Recreation/ Non-Profit	2.7000	14.6016	0.2473	0.0182	0.0432	0.0143	17.6246
9	Farm	6.9000	0.5300	0.0000	0.0182	0.0432	0.0143	7.5057

The tax rates for each property class were passed in the Annual Property Tax Rates Regulation, 2017 and are outlined here:

If you have any questions you can contact our CFO, Paul Rokeby-Thomas, at paul.r@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100.

Next step will be to consult with citizens for direction

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The playground project is due to begin soon. While at the playground, the group discussed the option of creating a better setup by the boat launch. This could include better storage for the canoes, fish cleaning stations, and some storage.

Looking in the direction of the Soaring Eagle, they talked about the need for WiFi at the building and that it only needs minor upgrades, such as a coat of paint.

Next they talked about the residences in the village that need to be either cleaned up or torn down. It was discussed that Duane would work with homeowners to identify what needs to be done. They also decided to have a conversation with any homeowner who is not currently living in one of the derelict buildings to see what their plans are for the future. Progress has been made in this area, as the Nations has replaced a porch of one of the Elders in the village.

The group will follow-up on their tour and discuss their findings with Executive Council. After that, Executive Council will consult with citizens, and they will determine the direction for the future.

Youth offer advice on future of the playground in Lower Anacla

It looks like the youth of Anacla have no reason to be bored this summer.

Not only do they live next to a stunning beach and ocean playground, they will soon have two actual playgrounds in the lower village in which to play.

It was brought to the attention of staff of Huu-ay-aht that the old playground, located by the stream close to the entrance of the campsite, was unsafe for children. Residents voiced their concerns, and in this year's budget money was put aside to build a new playground. The funds for this project will come out of the Steelhead LNG Generations Fund.



Youth from the Bamfield Community School discuss what they would like to happen to the proposed playground after being asked by council. Photo by Charlie Clappis

The new playground is designed for youth ages three to 12, and it was set to replace the current facility. But when the infrastructure staff went over to deconstruct the old playground, they discovered that with a few repairs it could be a safe for use. So a new plan was suggested for consideration. With the analysis of the village playground situation, infrastructure lead Charlie Clappis suggested executive council consider approving construction of a new playground close to the ball fields on the north side of Lower Anacla and that his team could work to repair the current playground.

"The question was asked, 'Is there a more suitable location,'" he explains. "A majority of the Anacla kids live close to the ball fields and mostly play in that area. It's not safe, and often when they do play at the current location they are unsupervised, and that is a concern."

On Thursday, May 25, Charlie was about to make a presentation to council to propose the two location options, when a group of students from the Bamfield Community School came into council chambers on a tour. Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. suggested they present their opinion on the subject before council. The shy group of youth did not feel very comfortable presenting their ideas, and so Robert called a vote – did the youth want to build a new playground in the old location or repair the old one and construct the new playground on the south end of Anacla. The students voted unanimously to have the new playground equipment installed at the fields and to keep the old one, but get it fixed up.

After the students recommendation, council voted in favour of the same option, and Charlie says the village will soon have an additional playground location.

Luckily, many of the plastic parts that need replacing are the same as the ones in a playground that was once by the House of Huu-ay-aht but has been taken down. Charlie says they will be able to use those pieces to replace many of the plastic parts that are not safe. The second component that needs replacing is the rock wall, and Charlie says a few new parts will have to be ordered. After a coat of paint, the playground will be almost as good as new.

As for the new playground, it will feature a soft-tiled surface beneath the equipment to make it safe should a fall occur and easy to clean and maintain. Prior to the planning phase, the youth involved in the after-school program made a list of suggestions for the playground. It included a lot of exciting suggestions, and all of them were considered when choosing equipment for the site. They will be happy to hear there will be things to spin and swing from, lots of places to monkey around, and no end to the fun.

The equipment for the new playground is set to arrive in mid-June, and there will be a ribbon cutting on June 21, as part of the National Aboriginal Day celebration at Pachena Bay Campsite.

2017 is already looking like a great tourism season for HGB

The Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses is in full swing for their second tourism season since the Nation purchased 11 properties in the Bamfield area.

Tourism now plays a significant economic role within the Nation, given that many of the properties are relevant to that industry. The businesses that Huu-ay-aht now owns includes three accommodation properties, a pub and restaurant, a convenience store, fuel dock, airport, campsite, and a gallery, to name only a few.

Since taking over the Motel, the 35 rooms have been renovated and upgraded, the outside of the building has received a facelift, and a totem pole was erected in front. The improvements will continue, as the motel is continuing a large, but fiscally responsible, overhaul with 2017.

The restaurant and pub had a phenomenal summer season in 2016, and the management hopes to build on that this year.

Going into 2017, we have seen an upswing of what is a large multiplier of the previous year. It is our hope that this trend will continue in subsequent years. Given the ground work currently being done, we are confident this will be the case.

Moving forward, the framework of hospitality will shift to offering a larger package. This will include all of the services Huu-ay-aht has to offer, as well as exciting itineraries with Huu-ay-aht tours, rentals charters, and much more. We plan on not only welcoming the world to Anacla/Bamfield, but showing them an exclusive glimpse of the Huu-ay-aht territory and culture.



Staff for HGB gather at the House of Huu-ay-aht for a team meeting.

With the growth of the businesses, the need for more staff is significant and required a real push this spring. In total, HGB received 73 resumes to date. Of those, eight were were Huu-ay-aht citizens, and 10 were members from other First Nations. From these applications, HGB has hired 13 new people for the coming season - five are Huu-ay-aht citizens, five were First Nations, and three were non-First Nations. Luckily, most of the new hires have accommodations, but four rooms in the Motel were used for staff housig.

When you look at the big picture, Huu-ay-aht First Nations is making a significant contribution to Bamfield and the surrounding area. Altogether, the businesses employ 53 people, with five people holding two positions each. Twenty-nine Huu-ay-aht are currently employed with the Group of Businesses, seven are from other First Nations, and 12 are non-Aboriginal.

To kick off the season, HGB had a successful orientation with 35 staff in attendance. The day began in the traditional way, with an opening prayer done by Elder Richard Nookemus. The CEO of the Group of Businesses offered opening remarks. The group then heard from Huu-ay-aht First Nations Management Board Director Karen Haugen, and Executive Council members Trevor Cootes and Ben Clappis. The staff then met all managers and were given a brief description of their roles within individual Limited Partnerships. After that, they went through some team-building exercises and training.



(Above) Sarita Cemetery has been expanded to double its size, and the road has been updated (below). Photo by Charlie Clappis

Sarita Cemetery project complete

The time has finally come, the Sarita Cemetery has been doubled in size.

Citizens have asked many times for this expansion, and Executive Council is pleased to announce the job is done. The cemetery will now have capacity for decades to come.

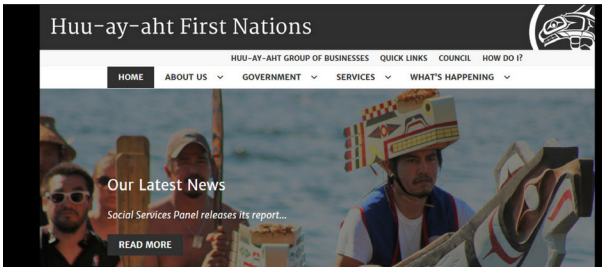
Part of this project also included a new access road constructed from the Bamfield mainline. Entry is approximately one kilometer north east of the Poet Nook junction. The new road is a much shorter distance at 1.75 km in length, compared to the existing 4.5 km route along the waterfront of Sarita Bay.



This new road will be outside any future development that may happen on this property. The route involved mainly reactivating an old logging road. Roc-Star Enterprise was contracted to do this work, which included Huu-ay-aht citizen Andy Clappis as one of the main machine operators involved with the site and road preparation.

Coming later this year, there will be an initiative to identify some unmarked gravesites that are in the existing gravesite area. It is the understanding that there is knowledge out in the community on some of these sites.

Please keep an eye for this initiative, as any help from citizens would be greatly appreciated.



Check out our new website

Our goal was to make www.huuayaht.org more user-friendly. Did we do it? Let us know by emailing your comments and suggestions to communications@huuayaht.org.

Arianna Johnson-Sabbas headed to 2017 North American Indigenous Games



Huu-ay-aht citizens Arianna Johnson-Sabbas' dedication to the game has earned her a spot on the Team BC U16 Softball Team for the 2017 North American Indigenous Games. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*



By Brittany Johnson

Huu-ay-aht youth Arianna Johnson-Sabbas has been chosen to play with the Team BC U16 Softball Team for the 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG). This year the NAIG will be held in Toronto, Ontario.

Arianna is the daughter of Martha Johnson and Jefferey Sabbas. Her grandparents are Judy Johnson, Rudy Watts, Lisa Sabbas, and Louie Sabbas.

Team BC held tryouts in Penticton, Chilliwack, Nanaimo, and Prince George in August of 2016, where 114 athletes competed for spots on Team BC's Softball Development Squads. At selection camps held this spring, Team BC finalized its rosters with 14 players per team.

Arianna has been playing softball since the age of six and is a versatile athlete playing various positions, including pitcher, third base, and short stop. No matter where she plays, she does so with passion and dedication to the sport. She has played under the direction of Coach Doug Chase for the past five years travelling and competing all over Vancouver Island and the Mainland.

Coach Doug Chase has brought his knowledge and experience of the game as he played the sport at both the provincial and international level. He is a great leader and is very tactful and attentive to his team.

When asked about her he said, "Arianna is a real competitor, she always gives it everything she has and cares deeply about doing her best. She is very coachable and eager to learn. She is a power hitter that can change the game with one swing of the bat."

Arianna is all set to travel to Toronto and is excited to be part of Team BC. Her continued efforts and participation in softball could not have happened without the continued support of family and friends and Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

The Nation wishes her all the best in this experience and opportunity representing BC and Huu-ay-aht.

Economic Development Update

New opportunities are moving the Nation forward

To assist any interested Huu-ay-aht citizens interested in starting their own business or sharpening their skills on aspects of a business, the Economic Development and Education Departments teamed up to offer a UBC Saunders School of Business – Business plan workshop in August. If you are interested, please call Brent Ronning at the Port Alberni Government Office.

There is a one-day tour to Kiix̣in being developed to start showcasing Huu-ay-aht's National Historical site. This will eventually be expanded to a four to seven-day tour around the islands. Economic Development has secured a contract with a world-class marketing firm that will help Huu-ay-aht Frist Nations expertly promote recreational and tourism experiences on traditional territory in ways that aim to attract visitors from all around the world.

The department has completed the business development process for the Hospitality LP, which is now operational and delivering motel accommodation services in traditional Huu-ay-aht Territory. We have also completed a feasibility study on the Sarita micro-hydro project, and expect to have a business plan in place by this summer. Working with the Government Services Department, we have secured all necessary funding to complete the Anacla-Bamfield walking trail. Construction of this trail is now underway.

The department has submitted a $500,000 grant application to finance the employment and training initiatives under the Western Forest Products Agreement. If awarded this money, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, in cooperation with Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses and WFP, will be well resourced to provide training and work experience for citizens in the forest sector that will enable them to begin or advance careers in those industries.

Plans are underway for the Second Annual Nana-niiqsu Gala to raise money for Huu-ay-aht Elders to take place in December.

Uyaqḥmis Community Calendar

National Aboriginal Day - Please join Huu-ay-aht First Nations on June 21, 2017 in a celebration of National Aboriginal Day at Pachena Beach. This promises to be lots of fun, as well as an opportunity for Huu-ay-aht to share its culture with everyone in attendance.

Triconic Challenge - Port Alberni is hosting the first annual Tri-conic Challenge this year. This event involves running a race against the steam train, biking to Bamfield against the MV Frances Barclay, and the swimming race in Sproat Lake to the Martin Mars Flying Tankers. This event runs from July 1-3, wiith Huu-ay-aht hosting the meal on July 2 at Pachena Beach.

Canada Day (2017) - It's going to be a busy day in Bamfield on Canada Day. Make sure to check out the parade that starts from the fire hall at 10 a.m. Following the parade, there will be events at Centennial Park, including a pig roast. There will also be soft ball games at the community school.

Music by the Sea - This year Music by the Sea will run from July 22-30. Huu-ay-aht invite people to come to the House of Huu-ay-aht on July 26 for a community celebration of music.

Tribal Journeys - Anacla is one of the stops on this year's Tribal Journeys, so come greet the canoes on July 19.

Cultural History Night - On break for the summer. We will resume in the fall.

Ladies Night - On break for the summer. We will resume in the fall.

Hike the West Coast Trail - If you are between 10 and 16 years old and you want to hike the West Coast Trail, make sure to sign up. This trip is planned for July 24-29. If you are interested, please contact Edward Johnson at Edward.J@huuayaht.org.

Men's Group - Huu-ay-aht men meet every month: Port Alberni - First Thursday at the Government Office from 5-7 p.m.; Anacla at the Čitxʷaama Cixʷatin (Soaring Eagle) from 5-7 p.m. - Last Thursday.

Community Engagement Sessions - Executive Council is hosting community engagement sessions in July. Watch Facebook and www.huuayaht.org for more details as the date nears.

Send us your news -Do you have anything you want to share? If so, we would like to put it in our newsletter. Send your event or exciting news to communications@huuayaht.org.

Elders see increase to monthly benefits

By Judi Lamb

Elders Speak Appreciation for the Elders Benefit Program

Many Elders have expressed their sincere appreciation for the increase to the Elders Benefit Program put into place by Executive Council this year. All said the money was much-needed to help make ends meet and the timing is good. A few Elders had questions about the decision-making process, alternate options, and shared concerns of the financial impact on income assistance recipients and taxation.

Effective May 1, 2017, the Elders Benefit increased to $500 a month. Eligibility for the program requires an Elder to be a registered Huu-ay-aht Citizen aged 60 and older. The $6,000 annual financial gift per Elder is a taxable benefit. Elders will receive a T4A from the Huu-ay-aht Government Office to file with their 2016 taxes. The Elders Benefit money is declared as gift, it is not declared as earned income.

At present, there are 103 Huu-ay-aht Citizens over the age of 60. In 10 years, that number is projected to increase to 170.

Currently, based on the number of registered Citizens, the total Elders Benefit Program expenditure is $51,500 per month, which totals $618,000 per year. With each calendar year, as more Huu-ay-aht Citizens reach the age of 60, they too will be entitled to the Elders Benefit Program. In 10 years, by 2027, the projected number of people eligible could reach 170, which would require an annual budget of $1.2 million.

Simon Dennis said, “It’s good, and I appreciate it,” bu he respectfully asked, “Were any other options like a lump sum put forward? Many have passed away in the last year or two. What about next of kin?”

The decision to make monthly payments to the Elders was made based on sound cash management practices. To do otherwise would not have been financially viable.

While this seems like a lot of money it is still not enough to meet the basic needs of our Elders. Like most aboringal seniors across Canada, our Elders struggle to get by with low income pensions and near poverty supplemental income as compared to non-aboriginal Canadian senior citizens. The main reason for the inequality is the discriminatory federal laws, which were in effect 1966 - 1987.

The Canada Pension Plan came into effect in 1966 and was intentionally designed to exclude Aboriginal People working on reserve. Aborignal People were not allowed to make CPP contributions for the next 20 years. In 1987, the policy changed but the government decided that CPP contributions weren’t retroactive. In the early 90s, Rose Bear, a woman from Brokenhead First Nation, challenged that decision based on discrimination and won. Bear’s lawyer, Tim Valgardson, argued that wasn’t fair to aboriginal people. “They were forced to retire with social assistance benefits, rather than a pension that you and I or almost every other Canadian gets,” he said. (CBC News, 2001).

“Every penny helps pensioners,” said Clifford Nookemus Sr.

A few Huu-ay-aht Elders need social assistance to top up their low pension income. Any and all money must be declared on social assistance documents. Unfortunately, all of the Elders Benefit money, or in part, may be later deducted off the social assistance cheque leaving the financial situation no better off.

“Someone needs to talk to the Elders about how it affects those on [income assistance],” Ruby Burkholder suggested.



Marjorie White honoured at luncheon

On Monday, May 29, 2017, Marjorie White was honored at the 20th Annual Order of Canada and Order of BC Luncheon with The Right Honorable Madam Chief Justice of Canada, Beverly McLachlin, PC. Supreme Court of Canada.

Marjorie was awarded the 2016 Order of British Columbia in recognition of her service with greatest distinction as a founding innovator of what is now the National Association of Friendship Centers, co-founder of the Circle of Eagles Society, and the first aboriginal person appointed as Citizen Court Judge in Canada and the Vancouver Police Commission.

This story follows up on information we shared in the March 2017 Uyaqḥmis.

Summer of photos will explore life following a modern treaty

By Vanessa Sloan Morgan



Members of the "Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future" research team are wrapping up two years worth of data collection. This involves interviews with Maa-nulth Treaty negotiators and implementation teams as well as interviews with Huu-ay-aht citizens (Vanessa Sloan Morgan) and a major review of Huu-ay-aht First Nations' archived documents (Marc Calabretta). This data focused on documenting the Huu-ay-aht journey to negotiating and now implementing the Maa-nulth Treaty.

We want to thank everyone who has helped us along the way. We have just reported our findings to the Advisory Committee, and we will be reporting our findings to citizens at our Research Team's Community Engagement Sessions at the end of July (details below). Our next Advisory Committee meeting is July 28.

We are also moving into an exciting new phase of the project. We are exploring how modern treaty implementation – the act of replacing the Indian Act with Huu-ay-aht's own laws and constitution – is experienced by you, Huu-ay-aht citizens, through photography and storytelling (which we call "photovoice").

Photovoice is a research method we used in Anacla 12 years ago (Heather Castleden with Lonnie Nookemus and William [Dempsey] Dennis) to explore environment and health priorities in Anacla. It's a fun way to share your thoughts about the Maa-nulth Treaty through photos and sharing stories with the research team. The research team will then compile the issues coming from your photos and stories and share these priorities with Huu-ay-aht leadership. We hope you want to participate.

Since the beginning of May, members of the research team (Becki Nookemis, Ayanna Clappis, Jon Aarssen, and Vanessa Sloan Morgan) have been inviting Huu-ay-aht citizens to share your perspectives on the Maa-nulth Treaty. So far, they have talked to more than 20 Huu-ay-aht citizens about the project in Anacla, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, and Vancouver, inviting people to participate. Thank you to everyone who has said "yes" to participating so far.

We hope that many more people will want to get a camera, take photos, and share their stories. Please contact any member of the research team to learn more about the Photovoice phase of our research or to take a camera and share your thoughts.

We will also be holding Community Engagement Sessions in July: Please join us. The first one will be Monday, July 24 in Vancouver. The second one will be Tuesday, July 25 in Port Alberni. The third one will be Wednesday, July 26 in Anacla. Details will be posted on Huu-ay-aht's Facebook page and website soon. We will begin with dinner at 5 p.m., and we will share our research findings and photos from the photovoice project. We will have cultural activities, and we will wrap up by 8 p.m. We hope to see you there.

ƛeko ƛeko! Thank you for supporting this research. We look forward to seeing you at our Research Engagement Sessions.

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