Uyaqhmis
February 2017 Issue 43



Asking tough questions

Nation focuses on ways to bring children home

Huu-ay-aht First Nations has identified "bringing our children home" as a priority for the Nation.

The Nations' Strategic Plan refers to five posts that together will ensure that by 2033 Citizens have healed from the past and are safe, healthy, and connected to their community.

Councillor Sheila Charles says that when she thinks of this goal she realizes it is achievable if we make changes and work to improve the way we do things. Currently, the Nation has approximately 34 children in care, and only nine are in Huu-ay-aht homes.

She says it starts with focusing on prevention, "We have to create a system that keeps children from being removed from homes in the first place."

With that in mind, work has begun on an important project to keep Huu-ay-aht children safe, happy, healthy, and connected with their families and culture.

Huu-ay-aht staff within the Community Services Department have been working hard to help support Huu-ay-aht children and families and have already shown leadership in building continuity and cultural connections for Huu-ay-aht children who are taken into care. But Huu-ay-aht government is also taking a careful and detailed look at what can and should be done under our Treaty powers to provide stronger support to our families and children who need it most.

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

Panel seeks to keep children connected to Nation

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An independent four-member Panel has been appointed by Huu-ay-aht Executive Council to explore and recommend changes and improvements that can be made under our Treaty to child and family services for Huu-ay-aht families.

"The idea of this project just evolved naturally as a result of witnessing children being removed from their homes," Councillor Charles explains. "It opened my eyes and I came to realize that citizens need more support to preventing children from being removed from their homes, as well as help leading them through the system to successfully get their children back."

In early January 2017 the Panel issued a public invitation to parents, grandparents, children, youth, foster parents, and caregivers who have experience around child protection, kinship caring, fostering, and adoption.

These groups of people were asked to come to the first of the community engagement sessions to be held by the Panel in Port Alberni. The Panel asked people to come and share their experiences and ideas for "Made-in-Huu-ay-aht" solutions to support Huu-ay-aht children and their families. Huu-ay-aht staff supported the invitation by conducting a phone bee to reach as many citizens as possible, and to encourage people to come to give their voices to this project.

Over two days at the Cedar Woods Lodge in Port Alberni on January 15 and 16, 2017, Huu-ay-aht community members came together and spoke bravely about their stories and experiences. Councillor Sheila Charles explained the origin of the project, and ƛiišin and Wišqii opened the community circle. As Wišqii said, "A circle has no sides."

Into the circle flowed the voices of parents who have seen their children taken into care, children who have been taken into care, adults who recalled their experiences at residential school and of being taken from their homes and families, as well as the voices of grandparents, great grandparents, and foster parents who have cared for Huu-ay-aht children when their parents have been unable to. People also spoke in private with Panel members, to allow for deeper and broader sharing of their experiences and of their ideas to strengthen support for Huu-ay-aht children and families.

Throughout the two days, cultural support workers from the Nuu-chah-nulth Quu-asa Society listened and stood by, giving support to people as they needed it, and providing song, ceremony, and guidance.

The Panel was very grateful for the open spirit all participants brought to this deeply difficult subject. The Huu-ay-aht solution can only come from Huu-ay-aht people. The Panel's role is to listen so as to understand what is working and what is not working for Huu-ay-aht children and families, conduct external research into best practices in child and family support, and make independent recommendations this spring for Huu-ay-aht consideration that are built upon Huu-ay-aht knowledge, experience, and law.

Councillor Charles sees these meeting as a great first step. "If we set the goal to be a healthy community, we have to be open to doing things differently."

The next community engagement session took place in Vancouver on February 6, 2017 at Skwachays Lodge. Community engagement sessions in Nanaimo, Victoria and at Anacla will also be announced soon. All parents, grandparents, children, youth, foster parents, and caregivers are invited to attend any session that is convenient for them. The Panel will also be extending an invitation for a youth specific engagement, as well as posting questions online for those who wish to submit their written comments to the Panel. Please stay tuned to the Huu-ay-aht website for updates.

If you have questions, or if you wish to arrange another time to meet with the Panel email hfnpanel@gmail.com.

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.

communications@huuayaht.org
Mailing Address:
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4644 Adelaide Street,
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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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Special People's Assembly planned to prepare citizens for referendum vote

In December 2016, Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Steelhead LNG reached agreement in principle on the Huu-ay-aht Sarita LNG Project. Executive Council and the Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council have approved this agreement in principle subject to citizens making a final decision on whether or not to support the Huu-ay-aht Sarita LNG Project in a referendum vote.

Executive Council has called for a referendum to determine the opinion of Huu-ay-aht citizens on the following question as proposed: "Do you approve the proposed Huu-ay-aht Sarita LNG project?"

WHAT TO EXPECT

What: A Special People's Assembly will be held on February 19, 2017 to: a) Discuss the March 25 referendum vote on the proposed Sarita LNG Project, and b) Seek approvals under the Land Act related to acquiring 176 acres of land at Sarita Bay from Western Forest Products.

Where: Echo Centre, 4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni with satellite locations in:
• Anacla at the Government Office, 170 Nookemus Road
• Nanaimo at the Coast Bastion Hotel, 11 Bastion Street
• Victoria at the Songhees Conference Room, 1100 Admirals Road
• Vancouver at the Aboriginal Mother Centre Society, 2019 Dundas Street

AGENDA

When: 9:30 a.m. - Information and discussion sessions about a) and b).

Documentary film screening: "Coming Home", followed by lunch

1 p.m. - Formal Special Assembly Session on a) Discussion regarding the March 25 Referendum and proposed question, and b) Presentation and discussion regarding Proposed Sarita Bay Lands Transaction with Western Forest Products.

* Motion for related approvals under the Land Act., followed by dinner

The Referendum Vote will take place on March 25, 2017.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

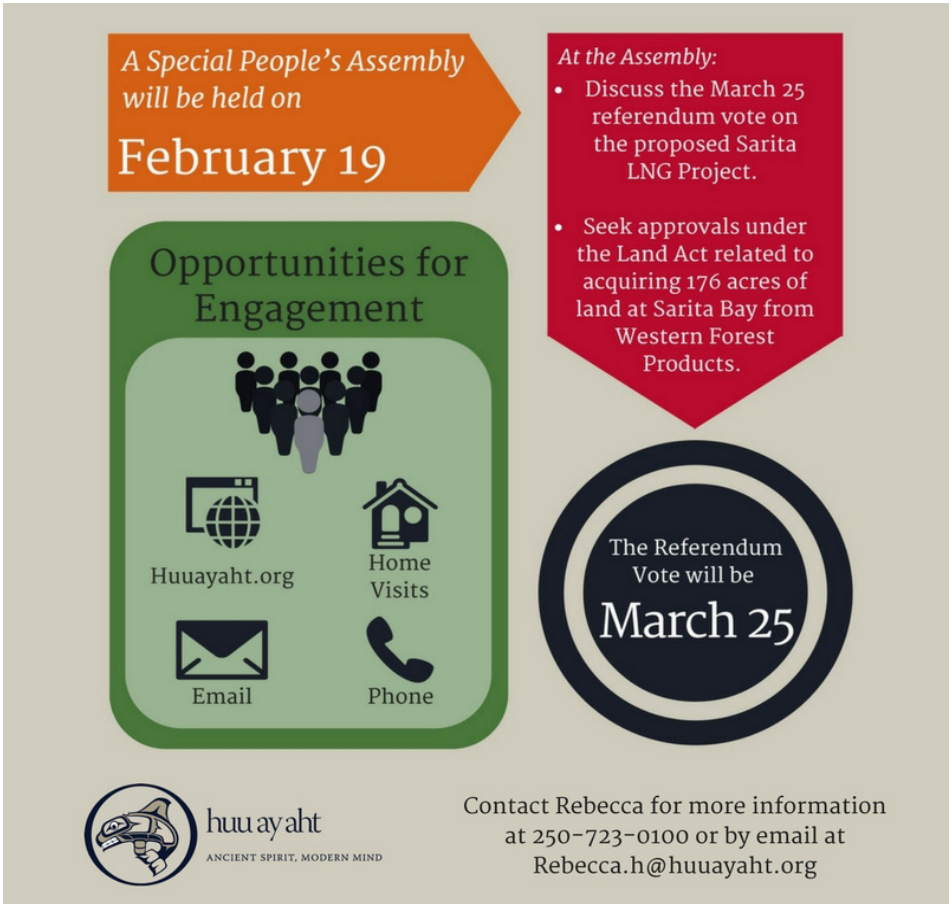
Phone Bee: To ensure we are reaching all citizens, we will be conducting a "phone bee" for all citizens for whom we have telephone numbers to make sure materials are reaching you and to ensure that you have every opportunity to participate.

Home Visits: We will be calling to arrange individual or group "home visits" with Council members at the location of your choosing. This will allow council to personally sit down with each and every one of you, if you so choose, to engage and ask questions about the project.

Online: Updates on the Huu-ay-aht website and social media channels will be posted regularly providing information about the proposed project and related news stories.

Workshops: Workshop sessions will be arranged at select locations to provide supporting project information.

Snail Mail: Supporting materials about the project will be sent the old-fashioned way in the mail to all citizens eligible to vote.



Huu-ay-aht elder Marjorie White receives Order of British Columbia

This year Marjorie White marked her 80th birthday, but the year brought other reasons to celebrate.

In addition to receiving well wishes from friends and family, Marjorie received an unexpected surprise from her home province – the Order of British Columbia.

This is an honour bestowed on only a few citizens each year. Since April 21, 1989, it has been given out to recognize "those persons who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavor benefiting the people of the Province or elsewhere. The Order represents the highest form of recognition the Province can extend to its citizens."

"Receiving the Order of B.C. was a surprise and unexpected, and I accepted this award with great pride," Marjorie explains. "Next year will be 60 years since I started volunteering in the Vancouver urban area, and over the years I have been involved in many areas to help better the quality of life for Aboriginal people."

Marjorie was recognized because of the dedication she shows her community and Aboriginal people across the province and country. According to the introduction read at the ceremony on July 26, 2016 at Government House, she was recognized because she "is a pioneer community builder who changed the framework of supports for Aboriginal peoples leaving reserves."

Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. says Marjorie is a highly respected citizen, having come from the Tayii Ḥawiłƛ ƛiišin's family. As the eldest sibling, she holds a very prestigious and honourable position in Huu-ay-aht culture.



Huu-ay-aht elder Marjorie White displays her Order of British Columbia that she recieved in 2016. [Photo by Brittany Johnson]

"This is the highest order in B.C., and it is quite the honour to see a Huu-ay-aht First Nations citizen recognized," the Chief Councillor explains.

Marjorie's list of accomplishments is long and impressive. She was one of the founders of the first Aboriginal service agencies in

Looking back on 40 years of success with pride

Canada to assist Aboriginals migrating to urban centres. That social innovation evolved into a national Friendship Centres movement that now serves hundreds of thousands of Aboriginal people. She served as the executive director of the organization in Vancouver. Approximately 25 friendship centres exist in British Columbia, and they make up the largest network of service-providing agencies in the province.

Marjorie also helped found the Circle of Eagles Society in 1970, a halfway home for men leaving incarceration. It provides cultural support, teachings, and guidance. She served on its board for 15 years. She also sat on the board of the Aboriginal Mother Centre in Vancouver for many years.

Marjorie was the first Aboriginal person appointed as a Citizenship Court Judge in Canada, and she was the first woman and first Aboriginal person appointed to the Vancouver Police Commission.

"I believe that, outside of my work within the Aboriginal community, my greatest accomplishment was the appointment as a Citizenship Court Judge," Marjorie says. "This three-year federal appointment helped me to understand why people immigrate to Canada. It was a prestigious position and a wonderful experience."

Aside from her volunteer work, Marjorie was a nurse, a temporary elementary school principal, an investigator for the Ombudsman, and a mother of two. She retired at 69, but that did not slow her down. Marjorie continues to be active within her Nation, sitting on a number of committees through the years.

Huu-ay-aht has recognized her as a cultural leader and a high-ranking matriarch in the potlatch system.

"She's done a lot to keep our culture alive by hosting numerous potlatches, and the most recent potlatch was held to give Huu-ay-aht names to all her immediate family," Chief Robert Dennis explains. "She and Chief Arthur Peters worked together to host potlatches that revived our culture. She is very instrumental in the revival of Huu-ay-aht culture."



Huu-ay-aht elder Marjorie White receives her Order of British Columbia from (left) Premier Christy Clark and (right) Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon on July 26, 2016 at Government House.

She spent many years helping young Huu-ay-aht seek out educational opportunities by offering housing for them when they came to Vancouver to study.

"She's been an exemplary role model for her daughters, siblings and extended family," Robert adds, and he knows this first-hand, as her younger brother.

Marjorie grew up on the Tseshaht reserve and attended the residential school there. She lost her mother at 14 and was taken in by her grandmother, who lived across the road from the school. She believes her grandmother protected her from the well-documented incidents of assault and abuse at the Alberni Indian Residential School.

"I always had a lot of monitoring from her, and she always made sure that I was safe and OK. I think one of the reasons I escaped any abuse is because my grandmother was always at the school," she says.

In addition to this honour, Marjorie also received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal and the Community Courage Award from the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society.

Still, even with so many accomplishments in her life, Marjorie remains humble.

"With my many years of community involvement, receiving the Order of B.C. is a great honour, as it is recognition and acknowledgement by the province of my contributions," she says. "It was a day of excitement, a day to reflect on my years of volunteer work, the organizations I founded that have survived over 40 years."

Students get cultural snapshot of Nations

By Heather Thomson

In the fall, Huu-ay-aht and Tseshaht First Nations decided to work together to develop a program that would help teach members of both nations more about their history, traditions, and culture. This program was designed to respond to local labour market needs by providing participants with industry-recognized certificates and experience developing and sharing cultural stories and practices that are approved by their communities.

The Waałšiʔin Cultural Tourism Program was born and participants from both nations were chosen to take part in the four-week program. (Waałšiʔin means 'We are going home.') Through a number of field trips, meeting, talks, and lots of classroom activities, the 12 students brushed up on their culture and learned how that can be used in today's thriving cultural tourism industry.

The program set out to teach students how to introduce themselves in Nuu-chah-nulth and some traditional songs and dances.

They also learned more about traditional roles in Nuu-chah-nulth communities. They were taught origin stories and how to share them. They visited cultural sites in both territories and learned the basics of the tourism and hospitality industry. They learned about residential school history and how to share that with visitors to our territories.

The program also offered students the chance to get technical training, such as World Host, the Law of Attraction and Train the Trainer. They heard from Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce representatives, NETP, NEDC, Aboriginal Tourism representatives, and go2HR Tourism Career Awareness.



After four weeks of working together on the Cultural Tourism Program, graduates from Tseshaht and Huu-ay-aht First Nations joined their facilitator Tamiko Rampanen at their graduation ceremony. The students learned about their culture and how they can share it with people in the tourism industry. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*

They visited the Broken Group Islands with a Tseshaht beachkeeper, Anacla and Kiixin, and the Whaling Exhibit, Alberni Valley Museum, and the Alberni Aquarium.

One participant said, "This Cultural Tourism Program has given me a better understanding of what steps I need to take to further my career opportunities, but also laid a solid foundation to build on the information we learned in these four weeks."

Another pointed out that "I found that Train the Trainer, Law of Attraction, and World Host can benefit anyone in the workforce, not just tourism. Learning to present properly, use time effectively, and to deal with issues and confrontation appropriately. Culture has been a large interest since I have moved back to this area. As soon as I saw the posting, I was on the phone to our education coordinator."

One other participant said "This Cultural Tourism Program has inspired me to look further into my culture and learn more language and history, also how to incorporate my culture into the tourism industry."

For others it was hard to pick a favourite part, "Everything! I truly mean that, but one highlight to me was the song and dance in the long house and the class got to participate in the song and have our own solo parts. I've never been able to do that and enjoyed it (even though I choked and forgot what to say at my part). Also the Broken Group Islands was spectacular. I need to go visit down there again. Thank you to everyone who made it all possible."

Both Huu-ay-aht and Tseshaht have aspirations to expand cultural tourism opportunities in their traditional territories.

This program was designed to respond to these local labour market needs by providing participants with industry-recognized certificates and experience developing and sharing cultural stories and practices that are approved by their communities. The funding came from both nations, as well as the Nuu-chah-nulth Employment & Training Program and Parks Canada.



Huu-ay-aht Strong team gets ready for fundraiser

Huu-ay-aht staff members Edward R. Johnson, Sherri Cook, and Falicia Dennis are heading up a team for this year's Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser. The event takes place in February and raises funds for the Alberni Community and Women's Services Society, which serves people in need both in the Alberni Valley and the West Coast. The Nation has donated $2,000 to support this worthy cause. [Photo by Brittany Johnson]

Canada to appeal Specific Claims Tribunal decision

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is extremely disappointed to learn that the Canadian government has decided to appeal the Specific Claims Tribunal decision awarding the Nation more than $13.8 million in compensation for breaches of duty Canada committed between 1948 and 1969.

The Nation believes a judicial review is unfair and prolonging this clear decision in favour of Huu-ay-aht a waste of taxpayers' money.

"This decision to appeal is outrageous," explains Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. "Part of our reconciliation to this long-term dispute was to seek fair compensation. We trusted Canada's judicial processes to achieve this, but we are extremely disappointed to hear this will be further prolonged. It is unfair to our Nation."

Huu-ay-aht filed a claim with the Tribunal in 2011 about logging that took place on former Numukamis IR1 between 1948 and 1969. Huu-ay-aht chiefs petitioned Canada at the time of the logging operations, asserting that the licence should be cancelled, to no avail.

In 2014, the Tribunal found that Canada had entered into an unlawful deal and had breached its fiduciary obligations. The December 2016 Tribunal decision found that Huu-ay-aht community had suffered significant losses and set the compensation owing.

Dennis points out Canada's decision to appeal runs contrary to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement that, "No relationship is more important to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. It is time for a renewed, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership."

Huu-ayaht's legal counsel, Kate Blomfield of Ratcliff & Company, expressed concern with the legal position put forward by Canada throughout the proceedings and on appeal:

"Canada's position throughout this process has been that Huu-ay-aht should receive less compensation because the community was poor and could not afford to save and invest much of the funds that it was owed. The Tribunal rejected Canada's position as 'patently unfair,' but Canada is again pursuing this argument."

Huu-ay-aht has received support from a number of notable sources. Union of BC Indian Chiefs Grand Chief Phillip said, "The Minister (Justice Minister Jody Wilson) fully understands why Canada needs to honour the Tribunal's decisions, yet she chooses to go against her own words. Taking an action like this against one Nation signals Canada's unwillingness to pursue reconciliation with Indigenous Nations, despite the Prime Minister's promises.

"Canada, who has all the resources, continues to exploit the same imbalance of power that first gave rise to this claim almost 70 years ago. Unless Canada withdraws this application, it will again be choosing denial, conflict, and litigation over fair process, resolution, and upholding the Honour of the Crown."

The release issued by the NTC states that they fully agree that, "a judicial review is unfair, and prolonging this clear decision in favour of Huu-ay-aht is a waste of taxpayers' money."

It went on to say, "The NTC is calling upon Minister Wilson-Raybould, Attorney General of Canada, to do better and follow the direction of the Prime Minister in his mandate letter to 'review [the] litigation strategy. This should include early decisions to end appeals or positions that are not consistent with our commitments, the Charter or our values.'"



Raising funds for Nananiiqsu group

The Huu-ay-aht Economic Development department, in December, coordinated the first Annual Gala Fundraiser for the Nananiiqsu.

This event was a big success attracting more than 130 people, including citizens, community partners, Huu-ay-aht council members, and Nation staff members.

The night included traditional music, sharing a meal, and an auction. Everyone had a great evening, and in the end the event raised $13,594.





(From top to bottom) Benson Nookemis (right) and Nellie Dennis (left) accept a cheque for $13,594.46 on behalf of the Nananiiqsu members (from right to left middle) Councillor Trevor Cootes, staff member Kimberly MacDonald, and Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. The funds will go toward a number of Nananiiqsu activities. At the event, Trevor Cootes auctioned off many items, with help from Economic Development Officer Cynthia Rayner. Among the guests at the Best Western Barclay that night were a large representation from the Nananiiqsu group, which is the made up of elders from Huu-ay-aht.

HGB ready for 2017 as it moves to new location

By Gary Wilson, CEO

The board, management, and staff of the Huu-ay-aht group of businesses would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and all the best to you and your families in 2017.

The 2016 Fiscal Year of our HFN group of business operations has come to an end. Looking back, we are proud of what we have accomplished. On top of the myriad of work that comes with existing operations, the acquisition and operation of a number of hospitality properties posed further challenges, especially considering Huu-ay-aht has little experience in the hospitality business to this extent.

The team we had assembled did not hesitate to step up to the plate and did us proud. They looked at this challenge as an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. It was also a way to show to the communities of Anacla and Bamfield that we are committed to rebuilding the economy in the region.

January 2017 is a time to celebrate our successes and to thank and uplift our HFN group of businesses team for their accomplishments. I look forward to what is in store for the coming 2017 season and seasons thereafter!

With the growing success of the businesses in the Bamfield area comes several job opportunities. As we prepare for the upcoming season, we want to remind people that we will, once again, have a number of positions available. This leaves interested candidates a significant window of time to gain skills that would help them be the successful candidate for the job of their choice.

As of February 2017, HGB is now located in the same building as the Nations' Port Alberni Government office, 4644-B Adelaide and will be hosting an open house in the coming months.

If you are interested in working for the HFN group of businesses, contact Tracy Walker tracy.w@huuayaht.com or 778-421-2663 x202. If you are a Huu-ay-aht citizen and would like to explore education or training opportunities, contact Brent Ronning: brent.r@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100 x220. He can also help you with resume preparation or other related questions.

Huu-ay-aht awards its first Citizen of the Year honours

At the 2016 People's Assembly, Huu-ay-aht recognized five citizens for outstanding dedication and contribution to the community. This is the first year for the "Citizen of the Year" awards and the plaque is on display at Huu-ay-aht's Anacla Government Office. Honourees were nominated by fellow Huu-ay-aht citizens. Below are the winners for 2016, along with the reason they were nominated.

Youth of the Year

Aubrey Rayner-Coad *(pictured right with Tayii Ḥaw̓iɬ ƛiišin and Wišqii)*: Acknowledged for her success in school, her racing, and overall great attitude.

Becki Nookemis: Acknowledged for her hard work and commitment to learning, involvement in her community and as a role model for all Huu-ay-aht youth.

Citizen of the Year

Brittany Johnson: Acknowledged for her mentorship, involvement and true passion for the Huu-ay-aht community.



Stephen Rayner: Acknowledged for his dedication and time spent with Huu-ay-aht youth and being a positive role model for citizens.

Elder of the year

Margorie White: Acknowledged for her years of continual service for Huu-ay-aht and her advocacy and support for all First Nations people.

Preserving Huu-ay-aht's stories

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations wants to share your stories.

We are nothing without our stories. They tell people who we are, where we want to go, and what the future and past looks like. All of these things make us who we are, and so they must be remembered.

Our stories celebrate the culture of this resilient nation and the strength of Huu-ay-aht people. By sharing our stories, past and present, we help preserve our way of life and our traditions and culture.



Because we believe so strongly in our history of storytelling, we want to record the community's stories. In 2016, Huu-ay-aht applied for and received a small grant to start a digital story telling project. The groundwork on this project kicked off in January, 2017 with citizen workshops held in Port Alberni and Anacla. The project will entail gathering the stories that Huu-ay-aht has to tell. It is being spearheaded by the Communications Department, but its direction will be determined by the community and its citizens.

"This is about telling stories that matter to Huu-ay-aht," explains Brittany Johnson, who will be behind the camera for much of this project. "We are such a strong Nation, and we have so many stories. I can't wait to get started on this exciting project. I can't want to share it with everyone."

The next stage of the project will involve recording videos of people talking about the things that really matter to them or enjoying the activities that they love. The hope is to capture the heart and soul of the community by engaging citizens. The communications team is hoping Huu-ay-aht youth will also get involved.

The project is not limited to videos, as people can also tell their stories through still photographs or writing.

"We're hoping to work with some of our archives to preserve the past and really make this a project that is about our Ancient Spirit, Modern Mind," Brittany points out.

She worries that people will think they don't have a story to tell, but she believes everyone does.

"Once you get chatting, you just never know what stories will come up," she says. "That's what's exciting about this project."

Huu-ay-aht is working with Canadian Ecotourism Services on the project, and looks forward to having something to share with citizens in a couple of months. CES has done a number of similar projects. If you are interested in learning more about this company, go to cesclients.com. You can find examples of other communities, such as Chesterfield Inlet, Georgina Island First Nation, and the Moose Cree First Nation.

If you would like info or to sign up to help out, contact Brittany Johnson (Brittany.j@huuayaht.org) or Heather Thomson (heather.t@huuayaht.org) 250-723-0100.

Cultural Treasure will soon have a new home in Anacla

Huu-ay-aht's Government Services Department has been working with Kevin Neary and Pat Scott on preparing space for the Cultural Treasures that were returned from the Royal BC Museum in November.

After the People's Assembly in November, the treasures were returned to Anacla, and they are now being stored in the Government Office there.

The long-term plan includes renovating a room in the Anacla office that will display these items. Also, the large panel will be installed hanging from the ceiling in the main area. All work will begin in February and set to be completed by the first week of March.

Nation welcomes new CFO to finance department

Huu-ay-aht First Nations would like you to join us in welcoming Paul Rokeby-Thomas as the new Chief Financial Officer with the Nation.



Paul will oversee the finance department and will be responsible for providing the leadership, direction, and support for the overall management, recording and reporting of Huu-ay-aht financial affairs.

Paul was born in Stratford, Ontario, but he moved to Salt Spring Island with his family as a teenager. While on Vancouver Island, Paul received his Bachelor of Business Administration in 2007 and Chartered Accountant designation in 2011.

For the last 3.5 years, Paul has been working in the Canadian Arctic, first in Kugaaruk and then Taloyoak. Both communities are in Nunavut.

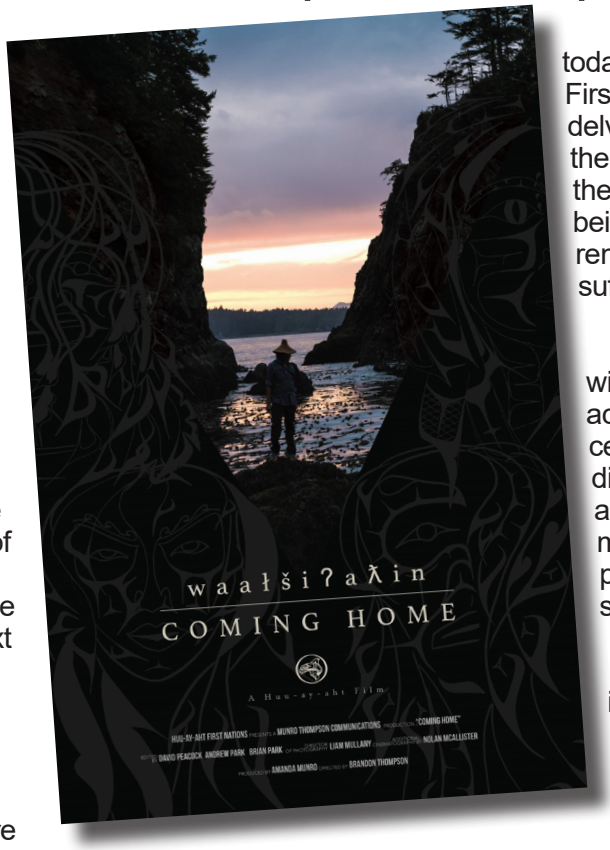
While Director of Finance in Taloyoak, he helped the community get out of a $3.5-million deficit three years ahead of the scheduled five-year deficit recovery plan.

Although Paul enjoyed his time in Nunavut, he knew he wanted to move home to British Columbia, and he sees the opportunity with Huu-ay-aht as just the challenge to bring him home.

When he is not crunching numbers, he enjoys hiking and quading, and he looks forward to discovering new places and exploring Vancouver Island's trails.

Third film to be launched at Special People's Assembly

Last year, Huu-ay-aht First Nations engaged Munro Thompson Communications to develop two films. The first was a short film that will be an introduction to the Huu-ay-aht culture, values, territory, and people, which is now known as "the trailer." The second is a longer documentary film that will examine the long-term vision of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, post-treaty and in the modern day.



Most will have likely seen "Heart of the People" (1996) and "Return of the River" (2002). Both films told stories of the culture and history of the Huu-ay-aht people and the importance of the Sarita River. This film is the next chapter in the Huu-ay-aht story and picks up where the Nation is in 2016.

The documentary will touch on the obstacles the Huu-ay-aht have faced and overcome to get to where they are today - a self-governing treaty First Nation. The film will also delve into the current challenges the Nation faces, and discuss the options and opportunities being considered in order to remain sustainable and self-sufficient going into the future.

Overall, the documentary will provide an honest and real account of Huu-ay-aht's successes and ability to overcome diversity by coming together and ensuring all decisions made follow the three sacred principles, and align with the strategic plan.

The documentary film is still in the works, and is aiming for a mid-February private premiere during the People's Assembly on Sunday, February 19.

Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future Project preps for next round of engagement in April

The team behind the "Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future" Research on the Maa-nulth Treaty project has had a busy fall.

In November, Tayii Ḥaẃił ƛiišin and Heather Castleden, Project Lead, updated Huu-ay-aht citizens on the project at the Peoples' Assembly. The week following the Assembly, the research team and members of the Advisory Committee, with help from Huu-ay-aht staffers Edward Johnson Jr. and Heather Thomson, hosted engagement sessions in Anacla, Port Alberni, and Vancouver.

The engagement sessions were well attended and generated great dialogue from Huu-ay-aht citizens on how implementing the Maa-nulth Treaty is going, what can be improved, and discussion about the future. Notes from the session were shared with citizens at each location so they could know what their relatives in different locations were talking about. We will add a page to the Huu-ay-aht website for the project so that important information, like community engagement session notes, can be shared.

The next engagement sessions will be held in Vancouver on Monday, April 24, Anacla on Wednesday, April 26, and Port Alberni on Thursday, April 27. Stay tuned to Huu-ay-aht's Facebook page and website for details on precise locations. Please come out to the next sessions if you would like to learn more about the project or share your thoughts on Treaty implementation.

Over the past year, the research team has collected more than 65 interviews. Huu-ay-aht citizens who took part in interviews and asked to review their transcripts should have received them in the mail, email, or in person in December. If you did not receive your transcript and wish to review it, please let Vanessa Sloan Morgan, Project Coordinator know (vanessa.sloan.morgan@queensu.ca, 250-508-3410). She is happy to sit down with you, send the transcript over email, or mail – whatever works best for you. If you did not do an interview and would like too, please contact Vanessa or a member of the Advisory Committee. We would love to talk to you.



Jon Aarssen is the newest addition of the research team.

Also over the past year, some 2,000 pages from the Huu-ay-aht archives have been collected. These materials will help us create a detailed timeline of Huu-ay-aht's nearly 20-year journey to Treaty. We have also been given access to materials from the Federal Government and the British Columbia Treaty Commission. These materials will help paint a comprehensive picture of Treaty negotiations – a picture that we hope will be a useful resource for future generations.

This summer we plan to hire one to three Huu-ay-aht university or college summer students who are interested in learning how to do research to help with the next phase of our research. Many may remember that Heather did a photography and storytelling project (called 'photovoice') in Anacla 10 years ago with Lonnie Nookemis and William (Dempsey) Dennis. That project was a success and so our Advisory Committee is in support of us doing a 10-year anniversary project.

For this 'anniversary' project, we want to do photovoice projects in three locations: Anacla, Port Alberni, and Vancouver. Huu-ay-aht university summer students who are recruited as research assistants to help run the photovoice projects will learn research and photography skills from the newest member of our research team, Jon Aarssen (trained photographer, film-maker, and a new graduate student working with Heather at Queen's University).

Up to three part-time contract positions are available for 12 weeks. These can be taken up at any time between May 1 and August 15. More information is available online (www.huuayaht.org), and come out to the engagement sessions in April.

Huu-ay-aht Advisory Committee

- *Simon Dennis*
  Elder & Mainland Rep
- *Tayii Ḥaẃił ƛiišin*
  (Derek Peters) Ḥaẃiiḥ Council
- *Wišqii (Rob Dennis Jr.)*
  Port Alberni Representative
- *Stella Peters*
  Anacla Representative
- *Jane Peters*
  Anacla Representative
- *Mercedes Williams*
  Youth Representative