Uyaqḥmis

November 2015 Issue 39



Čuu kʷaač (JOIN US!)
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY 2015

Have you already given your input for the Four-Year Action Plan?

PM41913515



Crystal Clappis and Nelly, Rita and Norman Dennis share ideas at the Port Alberni Community Engagement Session held on October 13. *Photo and text by Heather Thomson*

Council making progress in the 60-Day Transition Plan

Huu-ay-aht First Nations newly elected Executive Council has been very busy since being sworn in five months ago. They initiated their term by creating and implementing their 60-Day Transition Plan.

The transition plan was created to guide the success of the first few months of office for the Executive Council and to help steer the future of Huu-ay-aht. To date, the Executive Council has been successful in completing 90% of the Transition Plan. The following are some key progress items for the Transition plan:

- Having one-on-one meetings with citizens to hear concerns, issues and get advice on moving our Nation forward;
- Completed a financial review with Marty Atkins and Associates, the plan is now with the finance team for their review and recommended steps moving forward;
- Rob Botterell is led legal advisor moving forward with the negotiations team;
- Urgent items coming up include a development of a Huu-ay-aht 101. With the guidance, support and leadership of our Ḥaẃiiḥ, the HFN 101 will be a helpful tool for new citizens, staff and or partners. This tool will provide an insight into who we are as Huu-ay-aht and where we come from. It will give new citizens, staff and partners more understanding of Huu-ay-aht. Another urgent item is the Ḥaẃiiḥ communication and consultation plan;
- Executive Council meetings are scheduled for twice a month; and
- Executive Council has appointed each councillor to a portfolio and committee chairs. Along with the appointments, Executive Council has been busy appointing citizens to help guide each of their respected committees.

As they move forward, one of the biggest and important tasks in the Transition Plan is to build a Four-Year Action Plan. This is one task that they are ensuring has input by many and one that is "Built for Huu-ay-aht, by Huu-ay-aht." The Four-Year Action Plan will also take into consideration priorities in existing Strategic Plan, identify priorities for the first year, be measurable for review annually and gain input from half of the electorate (approximately 213 citizens).

This project is the Executive Council's top priority, and they spent a month gathering information from Ḥaẃiiḥ Council, Elders, youth, committee members and Citizens. The next step, is drafting the plan and presenting it back to the Ḥaẃiiḥ Council for their support, with the final step to present their action plan at the 2015 People's Assembly on November 20 to 22. All information gathered will be posted on our Huu-ay-aht webpage.

Executive Council is still interested in any input Citizens have on the future of their Nation. If you would like to offer your input, email communications@huuayaht.org or call 250-723-0100.

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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Join us for the People's Assembly 2015

By Heather Thomson

Last year, more than 250 Huu-ay-ahts gathered for the annual People's Assembly in Port Alberni. This year, the Nation is ready for another exciting gathering.

This year will be the first opportunity for many citizens to meet up with their new Executive Council members since they were sworn in this July. The new council is looking forward to seeing so many citizens and getting an opportunity to join together in cultural events, while still taking time to get some of the Nations' business done.

"This is a great opportunity for members of our Tribe to gather and appreciate what it means to be Huu-ay-aht," Elected Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. explained. "We have a lot of business to discuss, but we also need to connect as a family and celebrate our culture and traditions together."

So far registration has been impressive, with more than 200 people already signed up. Huu-ay-aht citizens are coming from as far away as the United States.



Marleen Nookemus and Falicia Dennis spend quality family time at the People' s Assembly 2014. *Photo by Heather Thomson*

As was the case last year, travel and accommodations will be provided by the Nation, but in order to qualify for this, you must register in advance. Although the deadline for registering was October 30, some spaces may still be available, so please sign up.

This year the assembly will include cultural events, meals together, an open house with information about the Nation, its businesses and some of its partners, as well as the regular business of the Nation.

An agenda and more details are available at www.huuayaht.org. To register, you can fill out the form on Huu-ay-aht's website, or call 250-723- 0100.

Uyaqḥmis Community Calendar

People's Assembly
The Huu-ay-aht First Nations' 2015 Citizen Conference and People's Assembly will take place at the Barclay Hotel, in Port Alberni. Join us on November 20 to 22. More information at http://huuayaht.org

Dentist
Huu-ay-aht's dentist, Melanie Baker, will be at the Anacla Government Office on November 19. Please book your appointment by calling 1-888-644-4555 or 250-728-3414



Eagle's mask carving, *courtesy of Huu-ay-aht's archive*

Fresh Food
Food boxes are delivered on the following schedule. Please be aware that it could be subject to change due to holidays.

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.
Port Alberni - Second Thursday of the month.

Do you have an event or announcement? Email us at communications@huuayaht.org, and we will promote it.



Anna Lewis, horticulture program coordinator for Healthy Harvest, explains how tomatoes will grow right to the top of the greenhouse. (Below) Annie Merritt, Employment and Training Policy Analyst, visits the farm. *Photos by Annie Merritt and Sarah Thomas*

Food Box Program celebrates success

By Annie Merritt

Eating well and staying active are keys to healthier living, and Huu-ay-aht First Nations wants to help citizens reach this important goal. The Fresh Food Box Program will work to help make eating right easier and more affordable.

In Port Alberni, Anacla, Nanaimo and Parksville, we receive up to 20% of our food from local farmers around the Alberni Valley. We are also purchasing the food from grocers like Quality Foods, Smart City (Vancouver), and Sustainable Produce Urban Delivery (SPUD) in Victoria.

Our main local food provider is the Healthy Harvest farm, which is run by the Canadian Mental Health Association. Their organic farm is located on Hupacasath-owned land at Beaver Creek Road in Port Alberni. They employ individuals affected by mental illness in a supportive, low stress work environment.

We are currently delivering 198 food boxes per month and reach more than 500 citizens and their families. To register for the program, complete a form online or call Annie or Coraleah at the office. Please keep us informed if you move, so that we make sure that you get your food box.



Frequently Asked Questions

What will be in the food box?

There will be approximately $35 worth of grocery products. We will try to provide a variety of products. Please note that produce may change according to the seasons. A typical box will have fresh fruits and vegetables, a couple dairy products and a basic staple (oats, rice, pasta). No exchanges available.

What if I miss my food box delivery or pickup?

Food boxes are only delivered to Elders, and citizens living in Vancouver or Victoria. All other citizens will need to pick their box up. If you miss a delivery or pick-up, call the office and speak to Coraleah Johnson (250-723-0100, Ext. 224). We may not be able to accommodate you, but we will see what can be done to get you a box. Read more here: **http://huuayaht.org/community-services/#Food**



Deer can be spotted in Huu-ay-aht's Traditional Territory and are common on the way to Bamfield. *Photo courtesy of Huu-ay-aht's archive*

Hunting season is upon us, are you ready?

By Constable Peter Batt, Port Alberni RCMP

It is that time of year again. The bucks have lost their velvet and the fawns are weaned from their mothers. Since going to treaty, there have been lots of questions about hunting. If you have specific questions about it, call the Huu-ay-aht Government or the B.C. Conservation Officer Service, or if you see me around, stop and ask. If I do not have an answer, I will try to get one for you. Here are some questions I have already been asked:

Do Huu-ay-aht people need hunting licences?

Yes. Well, sort of… If you are stopped by a police officer while you are hunting, you will need to provide written authorization to hunt. This will take the form of either a letter or hunting licence from the First Nation on whose traditional territory you are hunting or a provincial hunting licence. While hunting on a Nation's Traditional Territory, you must follow all applicable rules and regulations for that nation or the provincial legislation. It is your responsibility to know what applies.

While hunting on Huu-ay-aht Treaty Settlement Land (TSL) or in Huu-ay-aht Traditional Territory, the same licencing (or documentation) applies. The Huu-ay-aht Government decides how many deer Huu-ay-aht Citizens can harvest and whether they can harvest bucks or does and exactly what the seasons will be. This is critically important for species management.

What documentation do I need to carry while hunting?

Along with your licence or other written authorization to hunt, you will also need a Possession Acquisition Licence (PAL), if you are carrying a firearm (or have one in your vehicle). Failure to produce a PAL will result in a firearms seizure and could result in a criminal charge. To get a PAL, you must complete the Canada Firearms Safety Course. These courses are offered regularly in Port Alberni and Nanaimo. If you are an Aboriginal Elder or you are an Aboriginal Person who faces barriers in applying for a PAL, there are special regulations in the Canada Firearms Act that can help. Either way, make sure you get your PAL.

Who can hunt on Huu-ay-aht Treaty Settlement Land?

Hunters must have written permission to hunt on private land. TSL is considered private land. If a hunter does not know that he or she is on private land, there is no need for permission. There are provincial requirements about the size of signs and letters and the number of signs required. If there are no signs posted to indicate to hunters that they are on TSL, there is no law that would stop them from hunting on the land. (as long as they are 100 metres from a dwelling, school, office building or barn).

That's it for now. Good luck with this year's deer hunt.



(From left to right) Kevin Neary, Andrew Todd, Christine Gruman, John Mass, Brendan Neary, Steven Smith, George Field, Amelia Vos, David Potter, Estevan Ruhle and Charlie Clappis enjoy their tour to Kiix̣in. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*

Long-term plans for Kiix̣in gain ground with Parks Canada support

By Brittany Johnson and Christine Gruman

Kiix̣in Village and Fortress is one of Huu-ay-aht's most important historic sites and was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1999.

It is believed to be the only site on the Southern Coast of B.C. that contains undisturbed, standing remains of traditional First Nations longhouses. Together with Parks Canada and the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses (HGB), Huu-ay-aht First Nations is moving forward on long-term plans to preserve, protect and share this amazing piece of Huu-ay-aht heritage. A grant Parks Canada's National Historic Sites Cost-sharing Program is currently supporting efforts to conserve and protect the site so it can be shared for generations to come.

On September 30, a group organized by Natural Resources and Trade Manager Christine Gruman toured the site to discuss the conservation project. Technical experts included Anthropologists Kevin Neary and Brendan Neary (Traditions Consulting), wood artifact conservators George Field (Royal B.C. Museum) and Andrew Todd (AT Conservators) and Arborists, Dave Potter and Estevan Ruhle (Totem Tree Service). Charlie Clappis (General Manager) and John Mass (Board Member) represented HGB. Huu-ay-aht staff support included Amelia Vos, Stephen Smith and Brittany Johnson.

The project will include removal of intrusive plants growing on and around the archaeological longhouse remains to limit water retention and slow down the decaying process. This will also make the remaining house posts and beams more visible and easier to explain. Stephen Smith and Amelia Vos will lead the vegetation removal. They were trained by the two conservators on how to do so according to recommendations made by another Conservator Mary-Lou Florian, who worked on the site in 2001.

Another piece of the project is an assessment to identify dangerous trees or tree limbs that are at risk of falling and harming the site or workers on the project. There are many trees at different stages of decomposition and levels of risk throughout the site.

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“Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future” Queen’s research project continues

By Vanessa Sloan Morgan

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Heather Castleden (Queen’s University) have been busy over the summer with their research project that is documenting and evaluating the implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty - “Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future” Research on Treaty Negotiations and Implementation: Project Update. Jane Peters and Wish-key (Rob) Dennis Jr. joined the research team as Research Associates in July 2015.

They have been speaking with Huu-ay-aht Elders, citizens, and Ḥaw̓iih to learn more about Huu-ay-aht’s path to negotiating and implementing the Treaty.

The project coordinator Vanessa Sloan Morgan (Queen’s University) has been interviewing treaty negotiators. Together, they have completed more than 40 interviews, recording over 800 pages of materials on how the treaty was negotiated.

The research team will be looking for a five-person advisory committee to assist with future project decisions and help guide the research team.

If you are interested in hearing more about this project or what role the advisory committee will take, feel free to call or email Vanessa. She can be reached at either 250-508-3410 or Vanessa.sloan.morgan@queensu.ca.

The Arborists were able to assess the trees on site

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The Arborists were able to assess the trees on site and review their findings with the Conservators to understand how to minimize the risk of damaging the long house remains.

Reducing human damage to the site is very important. Many precautions are being set to protect the site during restoration and for future generations. A formal pathway that directs visitors through the site is just one method of conservation.

Kevin Neary and Christine Gruman laid out a proposed pathway plan during the visit, designed to highlight notable features while limiting potential for human damage.

The group accomplished a lot during the hike and have much to do before work can start in Kiix̣in. An important next step was to review the proposed pathway plan, vegetation removal method and danger tree assessment on-site on October 14 with Tayii Ḥaw̓ił Derek Peters and Huu-ay-aht citizen Stella Peters to seek their approval. At the same time, Archaeologist Al Mackie provided guidance on the plans. This conservation project is only one step in preserving the site, and Huu-ay-aht will continue to work to safeguard this amazing piece of history.



This doorway, which marks the entrance to the chief’s house, is still magnificent, even blended with nature. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*



The curtain features Čačaaḥsiʔas and its legacy. *Photo by Heather Thomson*

Cultural Corner - Family Curtains

Curtains enlighten Huu-ay-aht lives

By Ambar Varela and Tommy Happynook

Curtains block out light and heat. They also reduce noise. The first ones were seen in mosaics from the second to the sixth century in Rome. On the contrary, the curtains of the Huu-ay-aht Haẃiiḥ (hereditary chiefs) enlighten with their symbolism.

Between January 17 and March 28, 2010, the Belkin Art Gallery at the UBC offered the "Nuu-chah-nulth Ceremonial Curtain Exhibit."

Ḥaẃił Jeff Cook, together with other members of the Ḥaẃiiḥ Council, shared important testimonies of the history of their houses during the People's Assembly in 2014. If you want to read more about the exhibit, check issue 17, page 4, dated February 2010 of the Uyaqḥmis, which is available online.

The people who produced Uyaqḥmis met with Haẃił and Executive Councillor at the time, Tom Mexsis Happynook, who has recently been appointed as a Treaty Commissioner for British Columbia. Tom shared the story of his family's curtain.

The curtain of a Haẃiiḥ serves several functions, the most important being a record of the history, the responsibilities, and the rights of the family. The curtains of the Ḥaẃiiḥ were hung in each longhouse and were part of their ḥuupukʷanum (treasure box); a symbolic box in which each Ḥaẃiiḥ has all his regalia, songs, chants and ḥahuuɬi (hahoothlee).

"My curtain has many images that talk about all of the responsibilities that my family has. It is a record of my role in the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. It shows my home, my ḥahuuɬi (hahoothlee)," Tom explains. "You can see it here. It is called Čačaaḥsiʔas."

Only Ḥaẃiiḥ had the right to own a curtain. Originally, these images were painted on the front of the Ḥaẃiɬ's longhouse facing the ocean, so visitors could see it when they arrived on our shore.

Čačaaḥsiʔas means "knocking on the door" and our family name, "hupinyuk," means full circle, Tom explains. Both of these words are very important to the family and connect them with the other Ḥaẃiiḥ of Huu-ay-aht. Billy Happynook talked about the amalgamation of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, and when you look at the territory in its entirety - it is a circle - by water from Čačaaḥsiʔas, to Numukiimus, Cooksuiis, Klanawah and Tsusiaht, then back by land from Tsusiaht to Čačaaḥsiʔas - a full circle.

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Family history shared through displaying curtain

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"This is why you see Tsusiaht falls, which is Klatsmiik's (Bill Frank's) ḥahuuɬi, shown on our family's curtain because it is the eastern boundary of Huu-ay-aht territory but also to show the connection to Čačaaḥsiʔas. Tsusiaht is the Eastern boundary in which we have the right to hunt whales," Tom explains.

The image of "Sacred Mountain" is on the curtain because it is one of the places used in the preparation for whale hunting. Whaling is a very important part of the family's responsibilities and history.

"My family's oral history and teachings talk about the time of amalgamation and the extensive negotiations that took place to bring the Čačaaḥsiʔasaht into the Huu-ay-aht. It was through these extensive negotiations that my family was given the honour and responsibility of being the head hereditary whaling family for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations," he says.

The supernatural entities on the curtain are the female and male sea serpents. The connection to these beings is necessary to bring the strength to hunt the most powerful animal on Earth with a stick and a mussel shell tip. This belief combined with prayers, chants and months of preparation starting in the mountains and making their way to the ocean help in their responsibility to hunt whales.

"You needed to connect with the entities and with the whale to thank it because it is going to feed your family."

The curtain shows two whaling canoes with eight men each. The two birds are maatkii (petrels), these are called whaling birds because they hang around where whales are located. The curtain shows seven species of fish in Čačaaḥsiʔas. The bear represents the bear skin that was worn by the whaling chief so that when the harpoon was thrown into the whale and the whale (ʔiiḥtuup) dove, the whaler would crouch down in the bow of the canoe and cover himself with the bearskin to avoid getting caught by the cedar bark rope and pulled overboard. Many of the images on the curtain relate to the family`s responsibility as a whaling family.

The man welcoming people is showing the role of Čačaaḥsiʔas (knocking at the door). "When someone comes and knocks on our door, we have to make arrangements for him. For example, we would host visitors while arrangements were made to continue on to see the Tyii."

There is an image of a tuupaatii with a dancer standing on a box also featured on the curtain. The dancer wears a very flexible branch with a feather on the end. He dances in front of the Ḥawiiḥ and if they can grab the feather, they win a prize. Remember from one of the past issues that tuupaatii is used in all kinds of different ceremonies like weddings and other forms of potlatches. It is a fun activity.

A friend of Tom's painted the curtain. "It tells who we are, what we own, our responsibilities… I keep it with me and whenever I am doing something, I will display it. This one was made about 20 years ago."



Tom Happynook (middle) and his sons, Brian (left) and Tommy (right), celebrate the Final Agreement of the Maa-nulth Treaty.
Photo courtesy of Huu-ay-aht's archive

Nuu-chah-nulth language captivates students in Munich

Photo and text by Ambar Varela

It was the day to pick up a new language to learn.



Julia Haslinger, future anthropologist from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany), was going through the list of options until "Nuu-chah-nulth" caught her attention. Why not? Hišuk ma c̓awak (everything is connected). She did not have any background knowledge on it, yet her adventurous spirit made her become one of the three people in that university who took the subject that term. So, each time you need encouragement to speak Huu-ay-aht, think of those students and be proud of your heritage.

Her instructor was Dr. Henry Kammler, lecturer of the Institute of Ethnology and well known within our Nation. While Anthropology studies human societies, cultures and their development, Ethnology analyzes them and their relationships from a more historical point of view. For example, the similarities and dissimilarities between the 14 Nuu-chah-nulth tribes in the 1870s.

Julia is a world traveler. She has been to the United States. However, Romania made a profound impression on her. She said, "My trip to Romania showed me the other side of Europe. Even though it is located so close to Germany, it is completely different. On the one hand, lots of people are very poor. The houses and the infrastructure are not comparable with German/West European standards. But, on the other hand, people focus more on their families than Germans... This fascinated me a lot."

That journey was also enriching from the linguistic point of view. Romanian shares the Latin roots with Italian and even sounds similar.

This was her first visit to Canada. She came specifically to Port Alberni to do an internship with Huu-ay-aht First Nations. She highlighted how friendly communities are.

"People here greet each other on the streets. If you do that back in Germany, they'll ask, 'Do you want to go on a date or something?'" she laughed. Remember this tip if you ever go to her homeland.

She joined the Community Services Department, led by Kathy Waddell, for three and a half weeks. Julia created educational materials for Pawaats, our language nest. She also assisted Anacla's ECE Coordinator Clara Clappis with her final project for the Linguistics 183A course (UVic- Quuquuatsa Language Society), an online audio archive for language acquisition.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council published "Our World – Our Ways" T̓aat̓aaqsapa Cultural Dictionary in 1991. The Huu-ay-aht people speak the Barkley Sound dialect that is only featured in the second part of the book. One of Julia's tasks is to complete the first section for the Nation to be fully represented. The Quuquuatsa Language Society, based out in Port Alberni, was in charge of reprinting it in 2013 and offers it for free during its courses. Keep checking our Facebook page to get its schedule and remember that the Education Department has funding available to sponsor you for these sessions.

Before coming, one of Julia's contributions to language revitalization was to edit some of the clips available at www.firstvoices.com. Even though this young lady declared not to have had particular expectations about her work experience with us initially, she did not want to leave at the end.

Did you know?

- ISO 639-3 states that the official way of identifying the Nuu-chah-nulth language is **nuk**.
- The alternate names of your language are Aht, Nootka, Nutka, Nuucaan'ul, Quuquu'aca and T'aat'aaqsapa.
- The First People's Cultural Council estimates that there are 130 fluent speakers and 200 semi-speakers among 7,680 people.

ʔačaqɬaḥak? (What is your name?)



Andy Daniel

The new **Director of Government Services** is an Applied Science Technologist Professional with more than two decades of experience working with governments on Vancouver Island. He also brings with him an emergency services background, as a volunteer firefighter and emergency operations centre team member.

He began his career in Victoria for a land development consultant. For two years, he was involved in designing, surveying and inspecting subdivisions.

Next his career took him to Duncan for 16 years where he worked for the District of North Cowichan as its Civil Engineering Technologist. This job offered an opportunity to expand his knowledge as he was responsible for engineering support for roads, sewer, storm and water system projects. Andy has a strong interest in nature and public consultation, and this led him to a full-time focus on environmental initiatives, such as water conservation and solid waste reduction programs.

Almost three years ago, Andy was given the opportunity to work as the Manager of Environmental Services for the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. With his interest in the environment, it was a good fit. He led the ACRD team responsible for the Regional District's garbage and recycling services, landfills, water and sewer systems, parks and two airports. This included managing daily operations, upgrading infrastructure and construction of new facilities.

With the Maa-nulth Treaty in effect and Huu-ay-aht representation at the ACRD board table, Andy is familiar with the leadership, vision and accomplishments of the Nation. This, and his extensive experience, made him an excellent choice to lead the Government Services team.

Andy says he is very excited to join the Huu-ay-aht staff. As part of the management team, he looks forward to collaborating on providing quality services in alignment with the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Values, Strategic Plan, culture, sustainability and business goals. He also loves Barkley Sound, and enjoys exploring, boating and paddle boarding in the area.

Tanya Dudoward

The new Port Alberni **Paawats Early Childhood Coordinator** is working to run a daycare/preschool/Paawats and an after-school program.

She was born and raised in Prince Rupert, B.C., which is located on the North Coast, in the Tsimshian territory. She and her husband Randy have been together for many years and have three wonderful daughters together. Tia (14), Raegan (13) and Lexis (11).



Before having children, she and her husband lived in his home community of Lax Kw Alaams that is located within the Tsimshian territory.

"This is were I found my love for working with children and decided to go back to school and get my Early Childhood Educator Certificate. I have not looked back this is my passion and keeps driving me", she said.

They decided to make the big move to the Island, as her husband is a fisherman who fishes a lot out of the Island and Vancouver, and they get to spend a lot more time together here. They are just going into their seventh year living here in the Valley and they are loving it.



Brittany Johnson

The newest member of the Communications team is no stranger to Huu-ay-aht, as it is her Nation.

After living in Victoria for eight years Brittany was eager to move home and work for her community.

Brittany is a Huu-ay-aht citizen, and her parents are Larry Johnson and Darlene Leonew. Her grandparents are the late Joan Johnson (Mack) and Ken Johnson.

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Signs on the road to Anacla direct citizens where to go in the case of a tsunami in the area. *Photo courtesy of Huu-ay-aht's archive*

Citizens and staff embrace Shake Out

By Amelia Vos and Ambar Varela

On October 15, staff from both offices and members of the Anacla community participated in the Shake Out event to promote emergency preparedness in case of earthquakes and tsunamis.

The Anacla event was a huge success. We set off the alarm and sirens, and broadcast an announcement to the lower and upper village. Everyone in that office did a "DROP, COVER and HOLD ON" exercise to practice our preparedness. We then met at the House of Huu-ay-aht where we had an attendance of 22 people, which was a great turnout. After that, there was a brief presentation and an open discussion where everyone talked about concerns and ideas on making Anacla a safer community. Every household proceeded to put together the basics for their emergency kits that will be stowed safely in the House of Huu-ay-aht, and they can add supplies as often as they please. Finally, we shared lunch and stories.

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to come out and participate. We are making good steps toward community preparedness, and we were proud to see our staff acting as leaders in this event.

The Port Alberni office exercise went well too. That day our Safety Committee was organized. It is comprised of Amelia Vos (Environmental Technician), Nicole Otte (Assistant to the Executive Director), Annie Merritt (Policy Analyst for Employment and Training), Tanya Dudoward (Early Childhood Education Coordinator at Paawats Port Alberni), Stephen Rayner (Manager of Infraestructure and Engineering), Coraleah Johnson (Administrative Assistant) and Andy Daniel (Director of Government Services), who will keep us posted on their meetings and recommendations. Thank you to everyone who facilitated and participated there.

As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding this event or our emergency preparedness, please feel free to contact Amelia at any time (amelia.v@huuayaht.org or 1-888-644-4555 or 250-728-3414).

Returning to her Nation to take on Communications

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"I'm glad I had the opportunity to run for Executive Council this year. It was really invigorating and gave me the opportunity for some much-needed soul searching. I'm excited to work with such a dedicated and hardworking team, and I look forward to getting to know everyone all over again."

In her free time Brittany is often singing and is a karaoke fanatic.

She loves spending time with children and hopes to have many of her own someday.

Celebrating Culture at Summer Camp



Natalie Clappis holds a fishing line during the Cultural Camp 2015, which was an opportunity for Huu-ay-aht youth to take part in some traditional practices. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*

Outdoor Safety needs to be your priority

By Constable Peter Batt, Port Alberni RCMP

It seemed like a short summer. Autumn has arrived and people are heading to the bush to hunt, to collect mushrooms and to enjoy the great outdoors. In Canada, the police are responsible for missing persons, including lost and overdue travelers, hikers, hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts. Before you head out, ask yourself this - Have I taken some steps to keep myself safe? Here are some thoughts:

Tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back

Searches can last for a few minutes or a few days. The length of our search is usually determined by how much information we had on where the lost person was supposed to be. It is also helpful for searchers to know what your vehicle looks like, what you are wearing, what your outdoor skills are and what supplies you have with you.

Carry a survival kit

A survival kit can consist of a few basics or a knapsack full of useful items. At the very least, carry a knife, a large plastic bag (or something to make shelters with) and a means to light a fire in the rain. Remember too that if you don't know how to use these items, they won't help you. People do not often die of thirst or hunger before they are rescued. They more often die of exposure because they could not get warm.

Dress for the weather and conditions

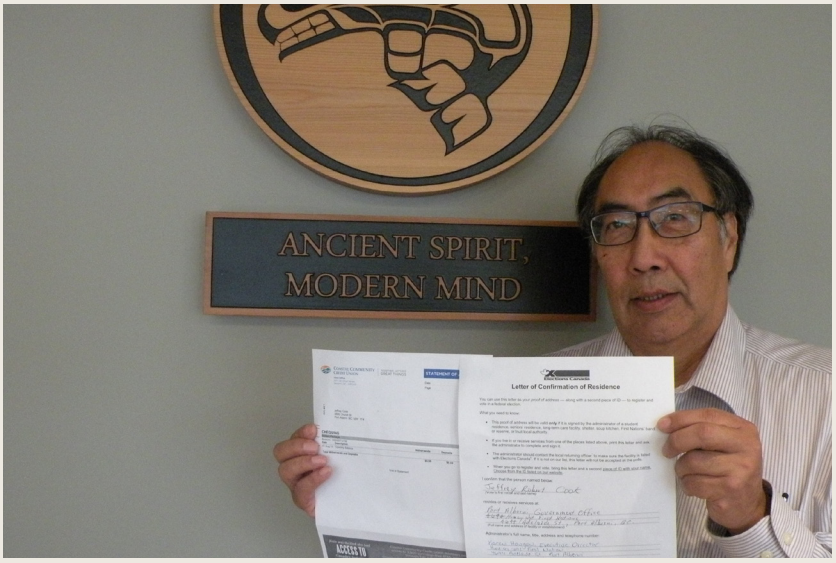
Hypothermia is a killer. All too often, we are called to searches and are told that the lost person is wearing a light jacket and runners. We live in a rainforest. In the fall of the year you should be prepared for cold wet conditions – even if it's sunny when you set out.



View from Darlene Nookemus' property. *Photo by Ambar Varela*

Huu-ay-aht Around Town





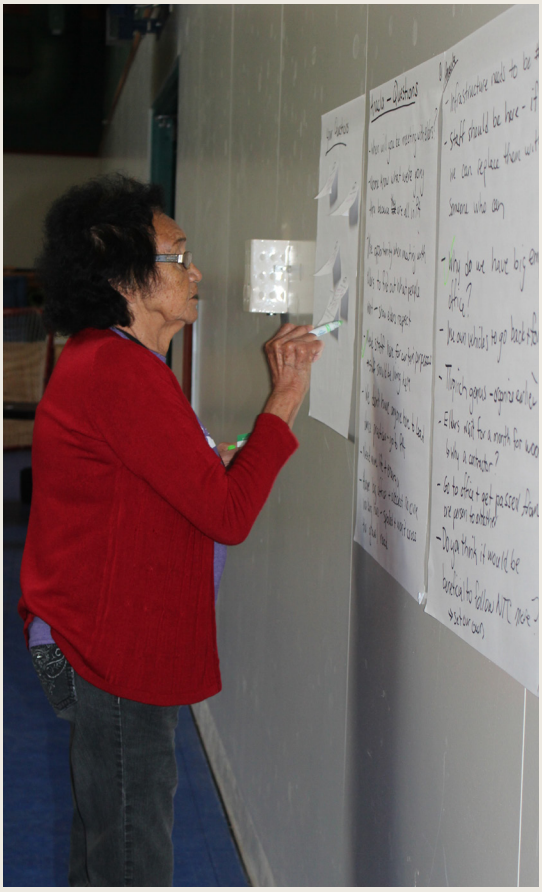
(Top) Ḥumin̓iki Irene Williams celebrates her 40th birthday on October 12. *Photo by Wish-Key*

(Above) Jeff Cook̓ head of the Yaaluuwaštakamalth̓, uses a "Letter of Confirmation of Residence," issued by us, to vote in the advance federal election polls. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*

(Right) Nolan Nookemus graduates from Anacla's Paawats Program this summer. He receives his certificate from ECE Coordinator Clara Clappis.

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





Marie Newfield gives her input during the Community Engagement Session in Anacla, on October 12, focusing on the Four-Year Action Plan to move the Nation forward. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*



Brad Johnson wins the elk draw 2015 and picks it up at the Port Alberni Government Office to receive his award letter. *Photo by Ambar Varela*