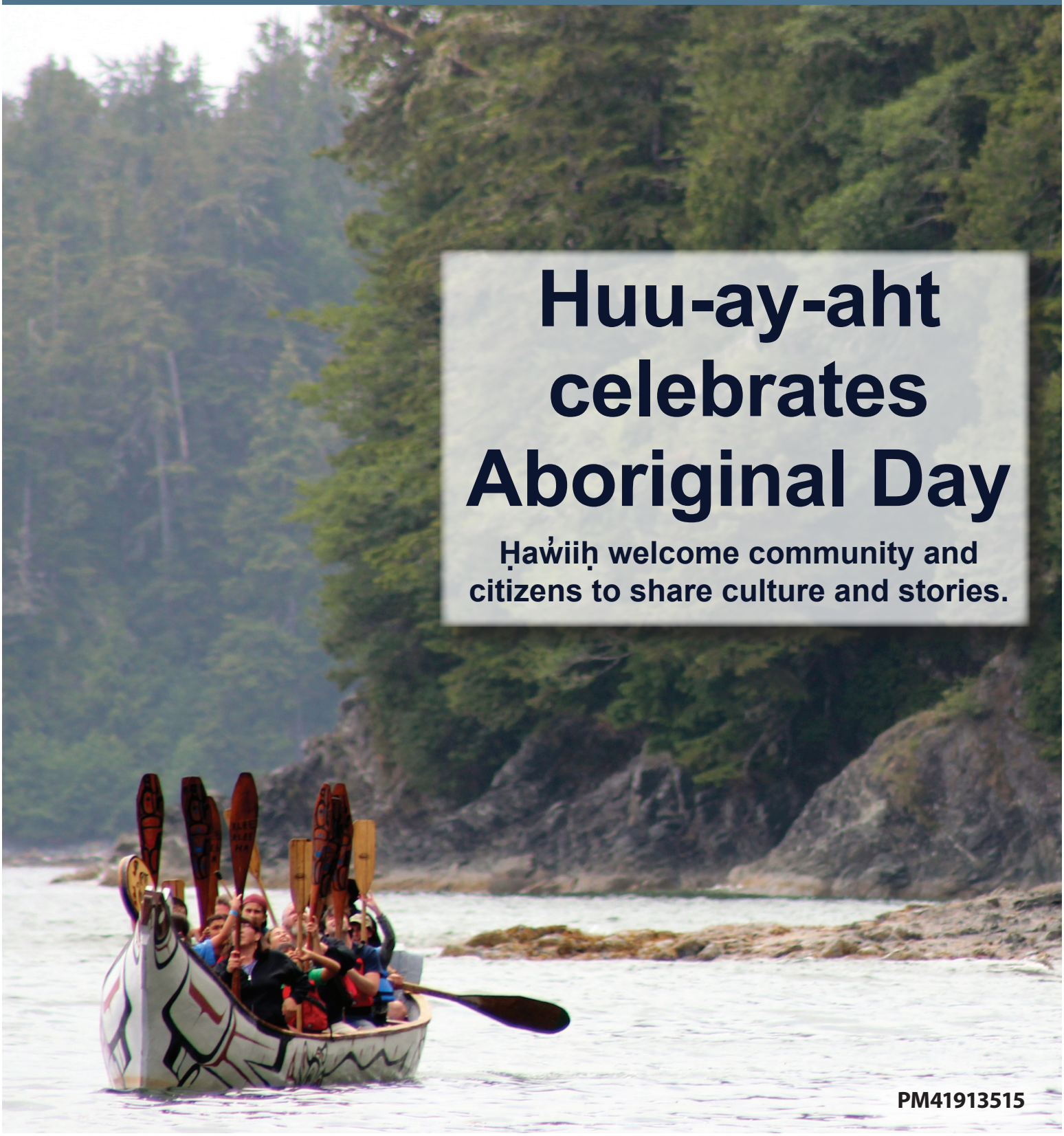
Uyaqḥmis

August 2016 Issue 41



Huu-ay-aht celebrates Aboriginal Day

Ḥaw̓iiḥ welcome community and citizens to share culture and stories.

PM41913515



Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin welcomes the community (Mačinuʔi maʔasukqin - Come into our house) to the pole raising at The Motel in Bamfield on Aboriginal day. Wišqii and Shawn Mack join as they unveil the new totem. *Photo by Annie Merritt*

Mačinuʔi maʔasukqin

By Wišqii

On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, we, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Ḥaẇiiḥ, hosted a memorable Celebration to mark Aboriginal Day.

Excitement in the air started on the eve of Aboriginal Day and a rare natural occurrence with the Summer Solstice aligning with the full moon. That feeling carried on into the early morning hours of Aboriginal Day itself. I am eluding, of course, to a brand new totem that was raised and now stands in front of our newly acquired Bamfield Motel.

Before the guests arrived, we had to first bless the totem in a traditional Huu-ay-aht ceremony. There were a select few that were able to witness the ceremony part, and one significant witness was an eagle perched in the tree - and there she remained for the activities of the day. The eagle bore witness to a brushing ceremony, an unveiling, and celebration song all in honour of the brand new totem.

In the Nuu-chah-nulth culture of beliefs, of which Huu-ay-aht is a part, the totem reflects our Ancient Spirit values. Everything is one and connected, or as we say *Hišuk ma ċawak*, which reflects in the totem outline. In a traditional totem, one main objective is to capture creatures of all the realms of the natural world - the water, the land, and the air.

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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
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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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Ḥaẃiiḥ host successful Aboriginal Day Celebration

From Page 2

Coincidently, there were also three artists - Shawn Mack, Hipolite Williams, and Harry Williams – who began this totem, and for years the totem remained dormant, waiting for an opportunity to awaken and stand. That opportunity came in 2015 when our people first decided to purchase the Bamfield properties. Now that we have that ownership, we feel it would be good for business to reflect our unique culture. It was decided that the time was right to awaken the sleeping totem and landmark the territory of Huu-ay-aht through tradition.

The totem itself has on its base a kakaẃin (orca), the centre piece is čims (black bear), and it's topped with the c̓ix^{w}atin (eagle). Three major predators of the natural world.

That was the ceremonial part of the day, and then it was time to celebrate at The Motel. Team Huu-ay-aht went into song and dance mode, performing a couple of entertainment songs alongside some very enthusiastic students of Bamfield Community School.

It is safe to say the future of Huu-ay-aht's songs, dances, and history is connected to them and are in good hands. It was great to see the talented students embrace the culture and traditions.



(Above) Huu-ay-aht singers and dancers bring a cultural component to the Aboriginal Day celebration that was held on June 21, 2016 in Bamfield and Pachena Beach. (Inset) Huu-ay-aht staff members, Cory Howard Jr. and Steven Smith, place the salmon close to the fire on Pachena Beach. *Photos by Heather Thomson*

We then shifted to Pachena beach for a salmon barbecue feast. This was by far one of the biggest turnouts we have had at an Aboriginal Day celebration.

During lunch, we spoke of the history of the beach at Anacla. The beach, river, and village was a dowry gifted to the late Aggie Peters (nee Jack) when she married the late Arthur Peters. She was gifted this territory and passed it on to all her female descendants.

It was quite an eventful day: a new totem stood, Team Huu-ay-aht celebrated via song and dance, a salmon barbecue, Kristen Young celebrated her birthday, the community sang to her and had cake. Kristen jokingly thanked the Huu-ay-aht and Canadians everywhere for celebrating her birthday with her, and said, "Every year my people throw a party for me!"

The barbecue was followed by the community taking river rides in the Huu-ay-aht canoe ƛiiƛiiḥa (Tleetleehaa), and the Bamfield Marine Science Centre demonstrated a mini sein net dip to discover and learn about the creatures of the tidal zone. The day of festivities ended as they often do in Anacla/Bamfield with a sense of natural wonder and amazement.

To the community, we praise you. 2016 Aboriginal Day was quite the celebration.

ƛ̓eko ƛ̓eko

Calling all citizens, come and learn more about proposed LNG project

Čitakinʔaała ḥačuʔał suẇa (We are happy to see you) getting involved in your Nations' business.

Huu-ay-aht First Nations is continuing to explore our options on the proposed Sarita LNG Project, but plans cannot move ahead without your input.

As part of your leadership's commitment to citizen consultation we will be hosting another series of Community Engagement Sessions this coming September. Two information packages are being sent out in the mail over the coming weeks and will contain information about the various activities that are taking place and what we need from you to help carry out this initiative.

To make sure that we are reaching all of our citizens, we need your help. Please ensure that we have up to date contact information for you and your family. Help us to share the materials in your information packages and talk about it with your fellow citizens.

Regardless of your position, what is most important is that we are talking amongst each other and having these conversations so that we ensure you have all of the information you need to make an informed decision about the future of our Nation.



We will do our best to get you the information you need, and we are open and seeking comments and suggestions on how we might do this better. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us.

Rebecca Henn, Communications Assistant LNG, is waiting to hear from you, so pick up the phone or email her right away - 1-888-644-4555 (Anacla Government Office), 1-250-723-0100 (Port Alberni Government Office) or rebecca.h@huuayaht.org.

Huu-ay-aht crew works to improve program and ensure food fish distribution to all citizens

Many Huu-ay-aht citizens have already been enjoying this year's food fish, but there is more to come.

This year saw a number of changes in distribution, in the hope that citizen satisfaction will increase with this important program.

The team is working hard, explains Christine Gruman, Huu-ay-aht's land and resources specialist.

"We are strategizing how to stretch our budget to allow us to catch more fish than previous years," she says. "The Nation's food fish budget has increased slightly this year to allow us to catch more food fish, but it's not possible at this time to budget enough for the Nation to catch the entire allocation.

Some of the strategies implemented this year are seining a large portion of our Somass sockeye at a much lower rate than can be caught by gillnet. The team also distributed the salmon whole; supplying citizens with fresh, rather than frozen, sockeye and chinook/coho. Although halibut was processed, a portion of that process involved Huu-ay-aht's staff and resources.

As the program continues to improve, citizens will receive an increased amount of some species of fish, but less of it will be processed.

"When we presented this plan at a meeting with our Anacla fishers, a number of people actually volunteered their time and efforts to catch some of the sockeye," Gruman explains. "We're piloting this approach for Anacla this year."

Food fish distribution will continue. For more information or to comment, please contact either Amelia Vos or Christine Gruman at 1-888-644-4555.

Huu-ay-aht and Tseshaht First Nations present the

Waałšiʔin Cultural Tourism Program

Are you interested in learning more about your culture and how it applies to the thriving cultural tourism industry?

In this program you will learn:

How to introduce yourself in Nuu-chah-nulth

Traditional songs and dances

Origin stories and how to share them

Basics of the tourism and hospitality industry

Visit cultural sites within both territories

Waałšiʔin means "We are going home."

huu ay aht
ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

HFN GROUP OF BUSINESSES







September 19
to October 14
Port Alberni
Call Maria Gomez at
250-724-1225 or
Brent Ronning at
250-723-0100.

Nuu-chah-nulth Employment & Training Program

Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future - Researching treaty and implementation

By Heather Castleden and Vanessa Sloan Morgan

In March 2016, the "Our Journey, Our Choice, Our Future" Research on Treaty Negotiations and Implementation Project's new advisory committee (replacing the Treaty Implementation Committee of the former government) had its first meeting to review the first two years of the Treaty negotiation and implementation research project and to discuss the project plans for the next two years.

Committee members attending included: Simon Dennis (Elder representative/Vancouver representative), Wišqii (Rob Dennis Jr., Port Alberni representative), Stella Peters (Anacla representative), and Tayii Ḥaẇił ƛiišin (Derek Peters, Ḥaẇiiḥ representative), along with the project's research team, Jane Peters, Heather Castleden, and Vanessa Sloan Morgan.

The advisory committee and research team would like to see one to two youth fill the remaining seats. Inquiries are being made to recruit these youth who would help direct this project. If you are interested, please contact any of the advisory committee members or research team members about what being a youth representative on this project would involve.

Many may recall that Jane Peters and Vanessa Sloan Morgan have been doing interviews about the Maa-nulth Treaty negotiations and implementation for the past year. Interviews will be wrapping up over the summer months.

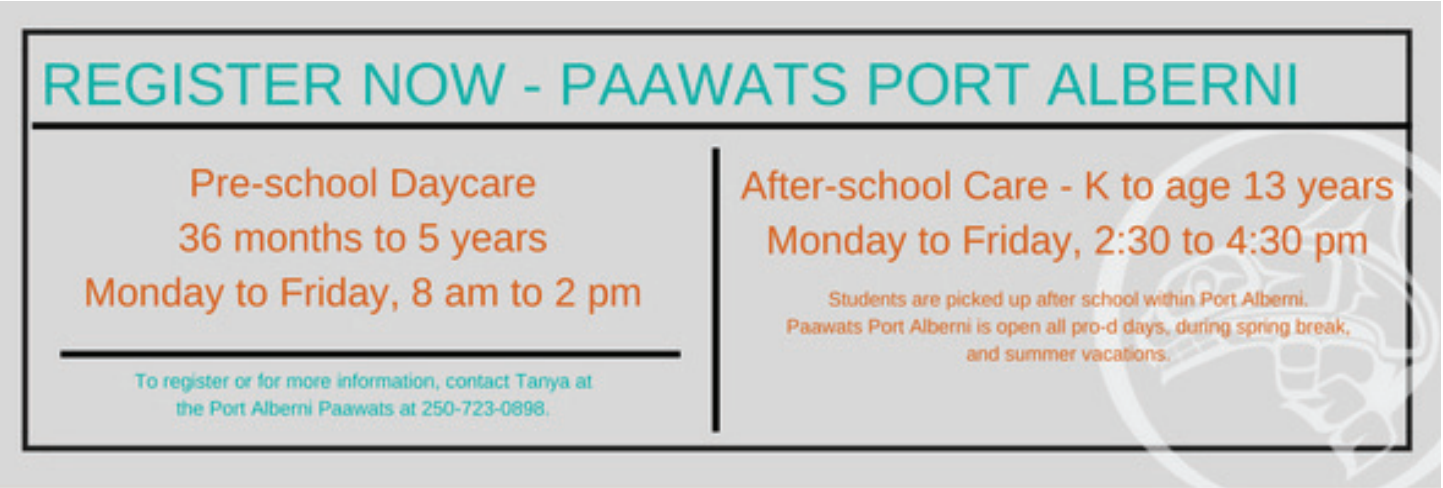
If any Huu-ay-aht citizen would like to take part in the research project to share their perspectives on the negotiation process or current implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty, please contact any of the advisory committee members or research team members so that arrangements can be made for Jane or Vanessa to interview you.

While the interviews are being analyzed, we also have a lot of archival material to look at some 2,000 pages from the Huu-ay-aht archives alone. Marc Calabretta (Queen's University), a student of Heather Castleden's who some of you may remember from the Peoples' Assembly in December 2015 and his visit to Anacla in June, will begin sifting through that material this summer.

The research team is also in the process of seeking access to the federal and provincial archives for their materials on the negotiation process.

In the coming year, we are planning to be do a "10-Year anniversary" Photo Voice Research Project (the same style as Heather did in 2005-2006) involving Huu-ay-aht citizens from Anacla, Port Alberni, and Vancouver. It will be an opportunity for Huu-ay-aht citizens to take pictures to talk about treaty issues that are important to them with the research team. This likely won't get started until next year, but stay tuned for more information. If you are interested in participating or helping out in any way, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information, contact Heather at 902-489-2412 or heather.castleden@queensu.ca, Vanessa at 250-508-3410 or Vanessa.sloan.morgan@queensu.ca, or any of the Project Advisory Committee members noted above.





Huu-ay-aht citizens and elected officials share a meal and celebration with Bamfield residents on April 23. *Photo by Heather Thomson*

Nation celebrates success with Bamfield

In late January, the Nation purchased 11 properties in the Bamfield area. It took a lot of hard work to close the sale and even more to get the turnkey operations open and ready to accept visitors.

On April 23, 2016, Huu-ay-aht First Nations invited its citizens, dignitaries, and residents of Bamfield to join them in a celebration to mark this accomplishment.

The event exceeded all expectations, filling the Rix Centre for Ocean Discoveries for the luncheon and a large crowd gathered at The Hotel for singing, dancing, and a ribbon cutting. It was a chance for Huu-ay-aht to thank everyone involved and welcome the community. It was also an opportunity for people in attendance to hear Huu-ay-aht's vision for the future.







Nation welcomes new executive director

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Executive Council has welcomed Crystal Clappis (Tuu-tu-qi-uks) as the new executive director of the Nation.

Executive Council conducted an extensive search and, in the end, selected Crystal, as they believe she has the qualities and skills they are looking for in this position. Crystal replaced Karen Haugen, who has been acting executive director since August 2015. Karen left the position to continue her career with Parks Canada.

"We are looking forward to a bright future, and we are excited to move forward, working with Crystal as our executive director," explains Elected Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.

Tuu-tu-qu-uks, meaning Thunderbird, is the daughter of the late hereditary Chief Chester Clappis and Zelta Clappis. Her grandparents are the late Andy Clappis and Annie Clappis.

At the age of six, she moved to the Village of Anacla and began attending school. She remained there for four years, but then she moved to Manitoba to be closer to her mother's family. After living on the prairies for a while, she moved to Port Alberni and Qualicum Beach, where she graduated from high school.

Her heart has always been connected to her home in Anacla, and she continued her visits during those years to the village.

Crystal is no stranger to hard work as, from the age of 11, she started her first job. Always artistic, after graduating she attended Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, successfully completing her Foundation



Year. Shortly after that, she welcomed her daughter Ayanna into the world in 1997. In 1999, she received her two-year Diploma in Business Management at Malaspina University-College. When she was not at university from May to October 1998, she managed the Huu-ay-aht-owned Pachena Bay Campground for the season.

Upon completion of her diploma, she returned to Anacla and was offered the position of Director of Tribal Operations with the Nation. She held this position for almost two years. During that time, her proudest accomplishment was the completion of the successful Project Management of the House of Huu-ay-aht.

Crystal was then recruited by the RCMP and continued her journey of learning in Regina, Sask., where she completed the mandatory training. She swore the oath as a RCMP Peace Officer and was posted to Duncan, B.C.

She served 10 years with the North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP in the sections of General Duty, First Nations Community Policing, and the General Investigation Section.

After retirement from the RCMP, she continued her journey as a foster parent, working with a First Nations agency over a four-year period. This gave her an opportunity to continue her passion for art, and she volunteered with the Cowichan Valley Art Council as a gallery host and secretary on the governing board.

Crystal is driven and motivated, and this led her to another dream which stemmed from growing up in Bamfield and memories of sharing the main gravel logging road with off-highway logging trucks. She decided to turn the tables and continued her education and attended Douglas College in Surrey, B.C., to complete a Professional Class 1 Driver's training in 2013 and got her Class 1 licence.

This led her to taking the training to be the first candidate for a pilot project offered through Western Forest Products to train Class 1 drivers as Logging Truck Drivers in 2014. After two months of "on the job" training following the new training model, she successfully completed the training and was hired by Island Pacific Logging as a highway truck driver out of the Cameron Division in Port Alberni, B.C. Unfortunately, after about a year later she required shoulder surgery from a work-related injury and had to reconsider this career.

This pause gave her the opportunity to get more involved in her Nation, and in the fall of 2015, she joined the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Citizen Development Committee, which offers guidance in the areas of Social Services and Culture to the Huu-ay-aht's Executive Council.

Economic Development made a priority to Huu-ay-aht as new EDO takes over the reins of department

One of the new focus points in Huu-ay-aht's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan is Economic Development. The Executive Council is pleased to officially announce that Cynthia Rayner will lead this department for the Nation.

Cynthia started with the Nation in May, taking over the vacant Economic Development Officer position. In this position, she will focus on exploring ways that Huu-ay-aht can move forward in the future with economic opportunities and managing the economic development activities for the Nation.

She will work closely with the Economic Development Committee and its chair to identify and investigate opportunities. She will also work closely with the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses in updating and moving forward on the Nations' business plan.

Huu-ay-aht's Executive Director Crystal Clappis says Cynthia's wealth of knowledge, experience, and education will be of high value and will help the Nation achieve a prosperous economy.

"Cynthia is a great addition to the team," Crystal says. "Her experience will benefit the Nation with its focus on economic opportunities, and I'm looking forward to seeing great progress under her leadership in the economic development department."

Cynthia received her Bachelor of Arts in business, majoring in marketing and management. She also has 20 years of experience working with rural, remote, and urban First Nations, including 11 years in senior



managerial positions.

She is starting her Masters in Business in the fall of 2016.

Cynthia worked for Xaxli'p First Nations in Lillooet as an Economic Development Officer. While in that position, in six months she raised more than $300,000 in funding for Xaxli'p business ventures, including a store, commercial garden, fiberglass operation, and campsite. She also helped the Nation attain important financial and tax laws through the First Nations Financial Management Board. In addition to her work with the Xaxli'p, Cynthia previously worked as an Administrator for Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation.

This role included managing the Nations' economic development, including a five-year economic development plan; managing the nations' finances and organizational development; and overseeing human resources.

Previously Cynthia also worked for a wide variety of clients, including H'ulh-etun Health Society, the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education, Chemainus First Nations, BC Hydro, and the First Nations Health Authority. Her roles included Executive Director, Executive Health Director, Education Manager, Job Placement Officer, and Business Planning Consultant.

"This is an exciting opportunity to build a strong future for Huu-ay-aht," Cynthia explains. "This is an important time for the Nation, and I look forward to making a difference for future generations."

Cynthia originates from the Nuu-chah-nulth, Kwakiutl, and Gitxsan First Nations, and traces her Huu-ay-aht ancestry through her father's side. Her Huu-ay-aht ancestral name is Hacum Tuhuaqsup, which means "queen by the waterfalls."

Her mother, Dolly McRae, is a hereditary Chief from the Fireweed clan in the Gitxsan Nation. Cynthia is also a hereditary Chief from the Fireweed clan. Her Gitxsan Chief's ancestral name is Nu'joulst, which means "mother of a high chief." Her Kwakiutl ancestral name is Poot'lus, which means "you never leave my house hungry."

Cynthia is also the owner and principal consultant at First Nations Management Consulting and has completed feasibility studies, business plan, and marketing plans for First Nations in BC.

Please join the Executive Council in welcoming Cynthia and Crystal to the Huu-ay-aht team.

Telling Huu-ay-aht's story through art

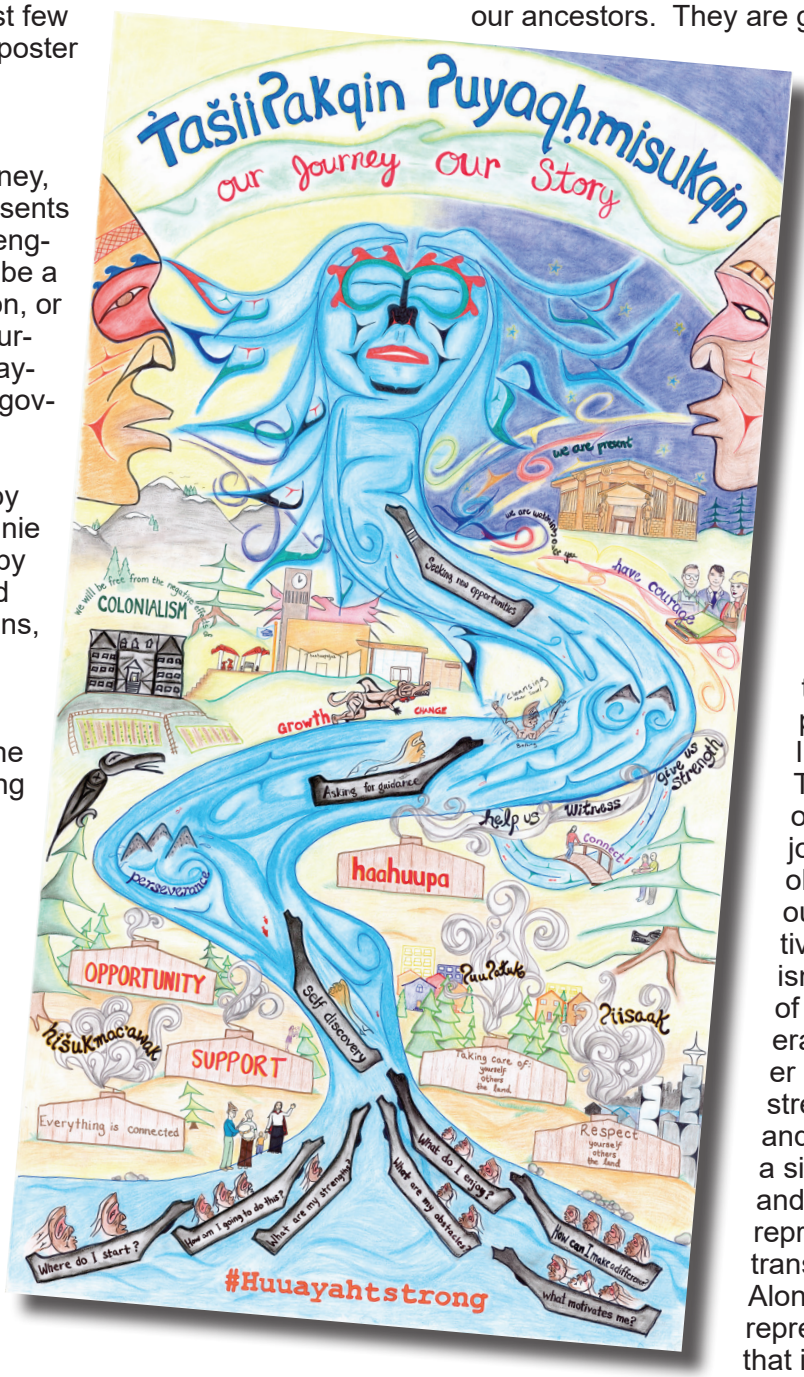
If you have been to the government offices or community events in the last few months, a new Huu-ay-aht poster may have caught your eye.

Named "Tasiiʔakqin ʔuyaqhmisukqin" (Our Journey, Our Story) this poster represents the winding and often challenging quuʔas journey. It may be a journey of healing, education, or growth. It is an individual journey, but also one that Huu-ay-aht is on together as a self-governing Nation.

The poster was created by Edward Johnson Jr. and Annie Merritt, and it was inspired by the visions that were shared by staff members and citizens, as well as stories from our elders.

"We realized that everyone was at a different place along their journey, but, in many cases, the overall experience was similar," Edward says. "While everyone's journey is unique in its own way, we are all in the same canoe, and we can all support each other."

Building on the tradition of house curtains, and using images to tell stories, the poster is intended to bring life to the "Huu-ay-aht Strong" story in a visual way. The title, as well as the images contained in the drawing, reflect a lot of input from Huu-ay-aht citizens and reflect both personal stories as well as historical accounts from Huu-ay-aht's past.



"The two faces on the top left and right represent our ancestors. They are giving us messages that follow the riverside. The smoke coming from the long houses represents messages to and from our ancestors. These are messages of strength and encouragement — they're always there to witness and help us and give us guidance when we call upon them.

"The longhouses and the silhouette of the city represent our people and our families supporting us. The river represents our journey. Along our journey, we run into obstacles that are in our way, like the negative effects of colonialism and the aftermath of the residential school era. However, the poster also captures growth, strength, transformation, and education. There is a silhouette of schools and universities, which represent knowledge transfer and education. Along the river, there is a representation of a wolf that is transforming into a man and into a killer whale. This represents transformation, growth, and change.

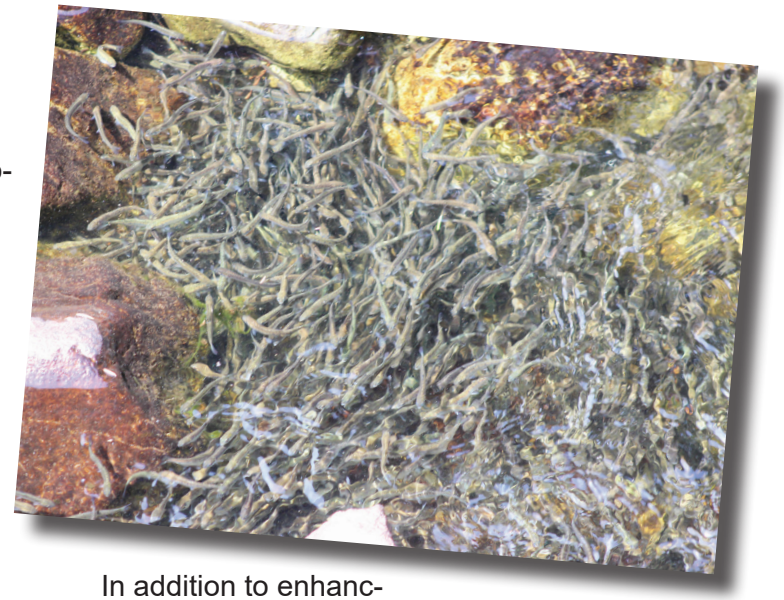
Edward explains some of the meaning behind the drawing, "In the poster, it shows questions inside of the canoes, and the canoes represent our journey. The poster is a journey, a journey of our history, a journey of education and most importantly, a healing journey.

"The face in the middle at the end of the journey is you. It is someone that has travelled through many obstacles to get to where they are now their eyes are closed because they are looking back, reflecting, giving back, and sharing their story. We can all learn from one another and the commonality of our journeys."



Keeping our fish stock healthy one fry at a time

In April of 2016, Huu-ay-aht staff released more than 45,000 chum fry into the Sugsaw Creek, in Grappler Inlet. The hatchery also usually produces coho fry to increase fish numbers in the Pachena River, but broodstock (the adult fish collected to produce the eggs) were hard to come by last fall.



The hatchery has been in operation since 1996, and in its first year, it produced 8,400 chum fry. Since then, it has produced more than 130,000 Pachena coho and 1.3 million Sugsaw chum fry. The best years on record are 2002, when 175,000 chum were released and 2010, when 28,000 coho were grown.

HFN Fisheries Technician, Cliff Nookemus, is the long-time steward of the facility. He has been heavily involved in operating the hatchery since its early days and oversees the entire process from harvesting broodstock in the fall, through caring for the developing eggs and smolts, to releasing them into the waterways in the spring. Cliff trained for his role at the much larger Nitnat River Hatchery that is run by Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and he has been a mentor to a number of colleagues since then.



In addition to enhancing salmon stocks in Sugsaw and Pachena, the Nation contributes to enhancement and monitoring in the Sarita River in partnership with Nitnat River Hatchery and DFO. Staff participate in catching chinook (spring) salmon broodstock and salmon swim counts in the fall, as well as surveying the number of juvenile fish leaving the river each spring.

This and the continued operation of the Sugsaw hatchery are some of the ways that our staff contribute to the 2016 *Strategic Plan* goals to practice good environmental stewardship.

Businesses offer citizens employment

By Heather Thomson

When Huu-ay-aht First Nations began to implement the Maa-nulth Treaty in 2011, one of the main reasons was to create opportunities for its people. Five years later, that is exactly what it has done.

Since returning to self-governance, Huu-ay-aht has had many opportunities to create wealth and opportunities for the Nation, such as forestry, fishery, and other businesses. Gradually more citizens have been receiving training and finding employment, but nothing has been as successful in job creation as the purchase of 11 properties in Bamfield earlier this year. This move has pushed Huu-ay-aht into the hospitality industry.

The property purchase includes four turn-key operations – The Motel, The Pub, the Kingfisher, and Ostroms Guest House. It also offered the opportunity to combine two gas bars into one and open the float house as a tourist information centre and convenience store. The businesses, plus The Market and Café means that Huu-ay-aht has a strong presence in Bamfield, but it also opens many doors for Huu-ay-aht looking for work in their traditional territory.

"With many of these jobs there's not a lot of barriers to enter the workforce," explains Bobby Toor, Hospitality Manager for the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses. "Most jobs require little to no experience to do them, so it's a great opportunity."

Toor has hired approximately 12 Huu-ay-aht to fill the vacant positions at The Motel, The Pub, Ostroms, and the Kingfisher available since the purchase. He says that is not 100 per cent Huu-ay-aht, which is the ultimate goal, but it is getting pretty close.

Toor says it is important to hire and train Huu-ay-aht citizens for more reasons than that their Nation owns the businesses. He explains that they have personal reasons for wanting the businesses to succeed, and that will hopefully create an extra drive to do the job well.



Pachena Campsite has had one of the best track records for employing Huu-ay-ahts.

"It also give us a competitive advantage," he adds. "It offers us something other businesses can't – the Huu-ay-aht experience."

He says people want to hear about the history of the area and the traditions and stories of the First Nations who have called it home for centuries. It only makes sense to hire Huu-ay-aht so that the businesses that are owned by the Nation offers that unique experience. Although the businesses will train all of their staff to be Huu-ay-aht ambassadors, it makes the experience more genuine if the people telling the stories have a connection to the land and the culture.

Esther Jackway manages The Floathouse, The Market and Café. Although Huu-ay-aht has owned these businesses for a number of years, the demand for staff continues to grow. Esther believes they can offer year-round employment for Huu-ay-aht citizens. She explains the biggest obstacle to hiring Huu-ay-ahts continues to be transportation.

"Skills are not the issue here, we can train people," she adds. "Unfortunately getting here can be hard. Often transportation is an issue, as citizens have to come from the Village (Anacla) to work in Bamfield."

Huu-ay-aht First Nations remains committed to hiring and training its people. The Government offers many education and training opportunities that will give citizens the skills they need to fill positions when they become available.

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Nation continues to move forward in positive direction



Huu-ay-aht First Nations is full speed ahead with exciting projects, such as the exploration of an LNG Project, the design stage of a new subdivision, upgrading our sewer infrastructure in Anacla to join the Bamfield system, a trail from Anacla to Bamfield that will assist in keeping our citizens and our neighbours safe while walking and running between our communities, just to name a few.

Since May 6, 2016, as your new Executive Director, I have been very busy and am excited with the growth and future of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. We have three summer students that are working in the areas of maintenance, communications, and with the youth.

We have hired a new term employee Rebecca Henn, as our LNG Communications Assistant to ensure we are fully engaging our citizens in regards to the LNG Project.

We are building our relationship with the Huu-ay-aht Group of Business' and are partnering on various activities.

A friendly reminder to citizens, please contact the government administration in regards to government services and program information. We, welcome citizens to visit us at our offices in Port Alberni and Anacla. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and encourage all citizens to come out to our Community Engagement Sessions and community events.

I would like to leave you with a wonderful quote from an unknown author: *"My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful, and optimistic. And we'll change the world."*

Kleco,
Tuu tuch qi uks - Crystal Clappis

Huu-ay-aht attempts to overcome challenges in employment

From Page 12

Gary Wilson says when he took the role of CEO for HFN Management LP and Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses in December 2015, he was impressed with the companies track record for recruiting and training Huu-ay-aht citizens.

He adds that it has been, and continues to be, HGB's objective to build on this success. The organization will work with the Nation and supporting organizations, like NETP, to create long-term, sustainable opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens.

"Having said this, there are challenges that prevent us from achieving this objective in the short-term, like transportation or lack of accommodation, especially those citizens with families who move home, with which we have no immediate solutions," he says.

"Despite the challenges with respect to recruitment of citizens, we are finding creative ways to overcome the barriers to success, but such bandage like resolutions are temporary. A longer-term solution will require a collective effort of Huu-ay-aht, HGB, and others.

The Nation is there to help in any way possible by equiping citizens with the skills they need to get jobs and stay employed.

The Nation is working on employment equity and diversity measures that would increase the chances of citizens getting a job with the Nation or HGB. They will offer more feedback when people apply for jobs within Huu-ay-aht and its businesses.

The Nation is also working to develop relationships with businesses and organizations who might offer employment opportunities in the future, as well as educators in the area, such as NETP, Vast, and Alberni District Secondary School.

The good news is that Huu-ay-aht is leading the pack when it comes to employment and training. It is very uncommon for Nations to have a dedicated employment and training staff member, and this means that we can get creative with our employment programming and support.

Huu-ay-aht also has a number of summer postings for students. Please go to www.huuayaht.org for more information.

If you would like more help preparing for employment or training, contact Brent at 250-723-0100 extension 220 or email him at Brent.r@huuayaht.org. Employment opportunities with Huu-ay-aht are posted regularly at www.huuayaht.org. You can also contact either the government office in Port Alberni or Anacla, at 25-723-0100 or 1-888-644-4555 for more information or assistance.

Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses Update

First quarter brings promise and optimism to new opportunities

Major Events Year-to-date

• On January 20, HGB and HFN took possession of 11 Bamfield properties valued in excess of $4,000,000, of which 4 were turn-key operations.

• In February, 2016, the HGB hired Bobby Toor as the property manager responsible for the newly purchased Bamfield Properties.

• HFN Hospitality recruited a team to staff the businesses and reviewed the operations to ensure each property met health, safety, and industry quality standards.



• We increased the number of employees by 12 with the addition of hospitality properties.

• HGB successfully negotiated a funding from Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) for loan and grant funds totaling $679,500 to assist with the capital needs for upgrades.

• HGB acquired a pre-approval to access funds for infrastructure development.

• HFN Forestry LP negotiated with major forestry partners to advance payment to support on-going forestry operations, including Spencer Sort.

Results of operations

In the second quarter of 2016, HGB management and staff worked diligently to improve operational efficiencies at all levels.

The significant resources required to get the Motel, Kingfisher, and Ostrom properties prepared for the 2016 tourism season saw certain aspects of the businesses receive less attention than usual.

We are now working hard to bring month end financials to current status. Furthermore, we are challenging management and staff to monitor sales while controlling costs, making sure that all the LP's are on budget.

Outlook

We continue to see opportunities in the tourism sector and are working to maximize the possibilities offered by the recent property purchase. This includes launching a retail, tourism and booking center at the Float House, moving the marine convenience store to the Kingfisher Lodge and Marina dock to better establish a storefront presence, leveraging the airstrip to attract airlines to the region, shoring up buildings on the Ostrom property, and using the boat slips/fingers to attract boaters and generate moorage revenue.

Additionally, we are preparing to pilot cultural canoe and walking tours to the Kiix̣in village site with our first tour, booked for Saturday, August 13. The resulting information and data gathered from this process will lead to a feasibility plan, further informing us about local markets and partnerships, particularly within the Bamfield hospitality industry.

Other opportunities exist to strengthen partnerships within our Nation. This year, Huu-ay-aht First Nations leadership committed to bringing organizations into our territory to do business. In September, the Uu-athluk Council of Ḥaẃiiḥ will take place in Anacla. Leadership has also challenged each Huu-ay-aht councillor to bring in at least 10 people per year.

We are working with Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Bamfield to leverage existing events and developing additional events to attract tourists to the region.



Creating Huu-ay-aht Ambassadors

In the early summer, close to 20 staff from Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses gathered at the House of Huu-ay-aht to learn more about the Nation, its history, and its future.

The weeklong Huu-ay-aht Ambassador Training Program was designed to inform and educate staff so that they could then bring the Nations' stories, traditions, and culture to the people they meet in their jobs. With a strong focus being put on tourism in the future, the Executive Council helped create this program in hopes that everntually everyone who works for the Nation will be a Huu-ay-aht Ambassador.

During the class work, students learned the ancient stories, some of the language and culture, including a song and some dances, and significant places in Huu-ay-aht's history. The course also included more general information on how to host people in the territory and what makes an experience great for visitors.

The program was created by Shamantsut and Marissa Nahanee, of Latash native Arts, and it was conducted by Shamantsut (Amanda Nahanee) and Wišqii (Robert Dennis Jr.)







Huu-ay-aht Around Town



(Top left) Youth take part in a canoe journey as part of this year's summer cultural. (Below left) Students gather at Paawats Port Alberni to sing for students before heading off to various locations in the afternoon during the summer camp program. (Below right) Youth learn to drum during the Music By the Sea event at the House of Huu-ay-aht in July.













(Clockwise from middle left) Chief Councillor Robert Dennis Sr. thanks Karen Haugen for the time she served as Executive Director of HFN. Students at Bamfield Community School take part in a D.A.R. E grad. Huu-ay-aht students participate at the E.J. Dunn School potlatch. Edward Johnson Jr. participates in the Tlu-piich games in August.