Uyaqḥmis

March 2016 Issue 40



Huu-ay-aht invests in the future

Nation purchases properties in Bamfield, work has begun to get them ready for peak season

PM41913515

Nation turns attention to getting ready for tourists

By Heather Thomson

With tourist season fast approaching, the Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation is focused on ensuring the new businesses the Nation purchased this year are ready to welcome guests.

In January, Huu-ay-aht First Nations purchased a package of properties that includes residential lots, businesses, land with cultural significance and land with future development potential. They are: Rance Island, a 6.8 acre parcel on the east side of the Bamfield Inlet; three acres on Binnacle Road; The Bay House on Seaboard Road, 6.11 acres along the Bamfield Inlet; 5.85 acres on Pachena Road; 5.36 acres on Grappler Road; 1.04 acres on Frigate Road; the Kingfisher Lodge and Marina on Bamfield Road; the Bamfield Airport, a 40-acre parcel on Binnacle Road; 0.275 acres on Seaboard Road; and Ostrom's Marine on Seaboard Road, a 1.72-acre property.

Tayii Ḥaẇił Derek Peters said, as head chief, he is proud that his Nation could make such a large investment.

"By purchasing these properties, it will give my tribe more opportunity to play an economic role in the region," he said. "Outside of our current forestry operations, it's a good step into tourism."

Huu-ay-aht has been investigating the opportunity the properties offer the Nation and the community of Bamfield since the spring of 2015. Chief Dennis said the work that the previous government put into this acquisition is greatly appreciated, and he is proud to see it received support from citizens at their People's Assembly.

The priority heading into spring is to get the turn-key businesses operational in a way that reflects Huu-ay-aht's style, culture and values. The first step was hiring Bobby Toor as the new property manager. He will work closely with HDC's General Manager Charlie Clappis and the existing staff to assess what is required to bring the motel and pub up to standard.

Bobby is moving to Bamfield, along with his wife and two young children. They are currently living in Vancouver, and Bobby comes from a management background, having managed a fitness centre and a restaurant and bar.

No major construction is planned for any of the properties, but they will all get a facelift to help make them more welcoming and inviting.

"We want to be fully operational by tourism season," explained Gary Wilson, CEO of HDC. "But we want to ensure we reflect the pride Huu-ay-aht has in its culture and traditions in all of our businesses."

One of the first jobs Bobby will take on in his new role will be to set up infrastructure to offer administration, booking and other aspects of hospitality. This will mean exploring what technology is needed to bring the systems up to date.

This year, the Group of Businesses will offer a central location for all of its bookings, in addition to online reservations.

Continued on Page 3

Logo and naming contest

HDC has a contest going on to design the logo and new name for the motel and pub. The prizes include: $250 for the motel name, $150 for the pub name, and $1,000 for a logo. Send your entries to Tracy Walker, tracy.w@huuayaht.com or call 778-421-2663 for details. Deadline is March 25, 2016.

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:
Huu-ay-aht First Nations
4644 Adelaide Street,
Port Alberni, BC
V9Y 6N4

www.huuayaht.org
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaqḥmis

Keep up to date with Uyaqḥmis on social media:
@HuuayahtFN

FOLLOW US ON twitter

Huu-ay-aht First Nations Facebook page

Like us on Facebook

Businesses offer Huu-ay-aht Citizens job and training opportunities for future

From Page 2

If anyone wants to stay at the motels or the Pachena Bay Campground, they will be able to visit the float house on the government dock to get all of the information they need. Bobby will be working with Esther Jackway, manager of The Market, to make sure the float house is ready in time.

Bobby and Charlie will also work with existing staff and begin the process of recruiting new people for the season.

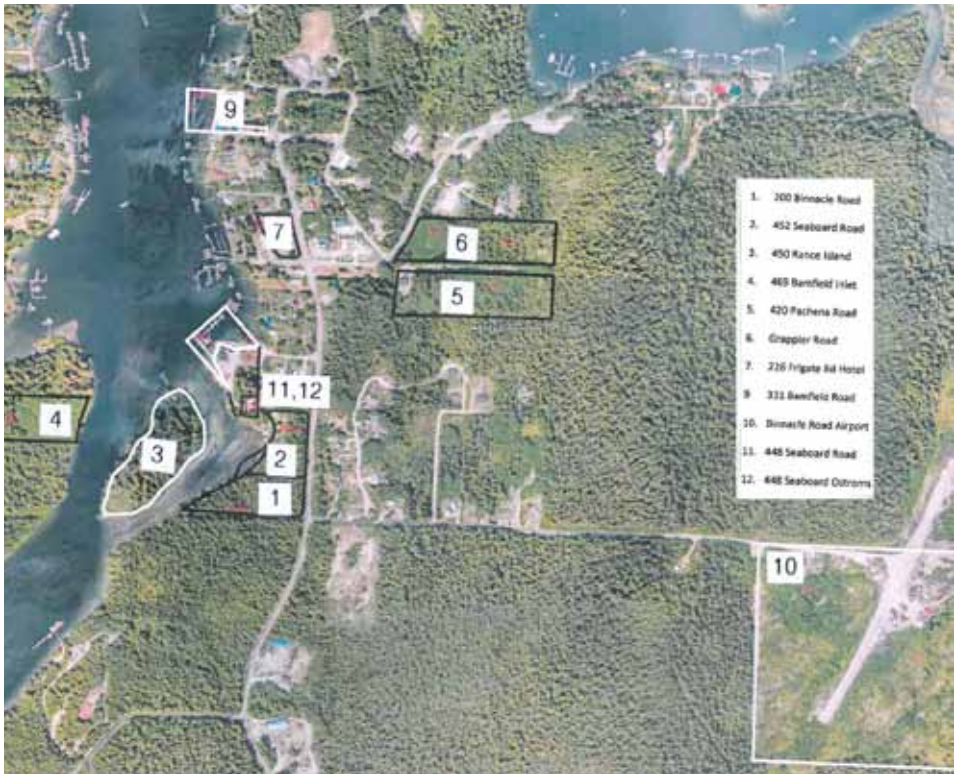
Many of the positions that will be filled for the busy season are already posted (http://hfndevelopmentlp.org/job-board/).

"This is an integral piece to developing a strong Huu-ay-aht economy on our Traditional Territory," explained Huu-ay-aht Councillor Trevor Cootes. "The Bamfield Property acquisition will be a cornerstone to the Nations' Economic Plan, which will guide us into the future."

One of the biggest changes that residents of the area will notice is that HDC will be moving the marine fuel station float assets from Ostrom's Marine to the Kingfisher dock.

"This is the first point of contact, so it makes sense," Gary explained. "We already have a few competitors for fuel, so we need to consolidate the Ostrom fuel assets with our Kingfisher operations, so that we are more competitive."

He said moving the dock will also mean there will be a small convenience store on the water, since it is already part of the fuel station. Considering HDC recently acquired the assets, Gary still does not know exactly what the small store will sell, but he believes it will work closely with The Market. It will likely stock items for fishers and boaters, as well as a few snacks and drinks.



The new properties purchased by Huu-ay-aht First Nations fall on the east side of Bamfield, where many citizens grew up. *Photo courtesy of Huu-ay-aht' Development Corp.*

The Kingfisher, the Bamfield Motel and the pub were all determined to be structurally sound and the electrical is up to code. This means the repairs will be aesthetic ones, such as a fresh coat of paint, finishing's, plus carvings and art from Huu-ay-hat citizens, and in the future we may incorporate a traditional house post to highlight the culture.

Gary said this is an exciting time for Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Although many of the jobs are seasonal, he pointed out that the new businesses will create many opportunities for Citizens in terms of professional development in hospitality industry.

This is an opportunity for recruiting, training and developing Huu-ay-aht People to help us fully resource our own businesses for peak season."

He added that these seasonal jobs will get Citizens working, and then HDC can try to find other openings for them during the slower months. Gary also hopes the new businesses will offer Citizens with experience in hospitality a reason to come home.

"We want to be in full swing by the end of March, but first comes the planning stages," Gary said. "In the next month, HDC will be doing business and strategic planning sessions that will help create a vision for the whole organization."

Finance and economic development discussed at community rounds

By Brittany Johnson



Huu-ay-aht Councillor Trevor Cootes talks to citizens in Nanaimo at the CES about the economic development plan. *Photo by Ambar Varela*

The week of January 11 through to the 18, Executive Councilors Connie Waddell and Trevor Cootes lead community engagement sessions related to the Independent Finance assessment conducted by from Hayes McNeill and Partners Ltd, Financial Plan and Economic Development Plan. Community Engagement Sessions allow citizens to help provide comments, concerns, recommendations and solutions into Government plans such as the Financial Plan and Economic Development Plan. It is also required by law that the Government consults with the Citizens about the Financial and Economic Development plans.

Elected Chief Councilor Robert J. Dennis Sr. would like Citizens to know his door is always open for people who have ideas to bring forward.

"We need to get opinions from the people and make a decision on what to do," he said. "There is nothing better than when something is built by the people."

Executive Councilor Connie Waddell presented a one-page review of the financial assessment which highlighted 10 points of recommendations for the Government to consider. Some of the highlights included;

• Revenues are decreasing well expenses and citizenship are increasing. With some Treaty funding ending the Government will need to focus efforts on other areas for additional funding to continue some of our Government operations;

• The Government needs to have a plan in place to vouchsafe a stable financial situation for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations;

• A Chartered Professional Accountant be hired as a Chief Financial Officer

Some of the key items already being implemented include:

1) Acting Executive Director Karen Haugen has already taken action within the operations by encouraging senior level managers to tighten their budgets.

2) The Nation has also hired a Chief Financial Officer, Donna Tourand, to review and tighten up the monthly financial statements, establish a cash management system and create a six-year cash flow projection, all of which were recommended by the external assessment.

Each four-year term, Trevor Cootes, Executive Councilor holding the portfolio for Economic Development is to develop a four-year plan. The plan is also reviewed annually. The main goal of the Economic Development Plan is to build a sustainable, diverse economy that unlocks the wealth of the ḥahuuḥi. To accomplish this five areas of focus for the Economic Development Plan include: Forestry, Tourism/Cultural Tourism, Fisheries, Entrepreneurs and New business opportunities

The new CEO of the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses Gary Wilson presented at the Anacla and Port Alberni Community Engagement Sessions. He looks forward to working with many different departments especially in getting our youth and culture integrated into our businesses. Gary also mentioned that he does not plan on being the CEO forever, but only until a Huu-ay-aht member can step up and take the role. Gary spoke of a mentoring program within the Nation.

"My objective is to mentor somebody, so I can step away from this role and a Huu-ay-aht citizen can step into this role."

Continued on Page 5

Special tribunal rules in favour of Huu-ay-aht, ordering Canada to pay first compensation

The Specific Claims Tribunal, established in 2008, has issued its first award of compensation.

On February 10, 2016, the Tribunal ordered that Canada pay Huu-ay-aht First Nations more than $1.5 million for damages flowing from Canada's breaches of duty relating to an unlawful timber licence issued by Canada in 1948.

As Chief Robert J. Dennis Sr. said, "This is an important case because the Tribunal ruled that compensation is owed for logging, allowed by the Crown, that was not in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht."

The Tribunal is a judicial body, like a court, that hears claims by First Nations against Canada regarding past wrongs, when no resolution to the claim has been reached through negotiations.

Huu-ay-aht filed a claim about logging that took place on former Numukamis IR1 between 1948 and 1969. In 2014, the Tribunal found that Canada had breached its fiduciary obligations in relation to the way the timber was sold.

Justice Whalen found that the timber company should not have been allowed to the harvest timber from IR1 over many decades. By allowing this unlawful and prolonged harvest the value of IR 1 was significantly reduced because regeneration of the timber was delayed and uneven. The Tribunal found compensation was owed to Huu-ay-aht for this damage, but that it had to be brought forward to 2016 value.

Based on expert opinions, the Tribunal found that the present day value of compensation owed for damages caused by the prolonged logging of IR1 was more than $1.5 million in 2016. This is the first award issued by the Tribunal to a First Nation.

"It is rewarding, after so many years, to have the Tribunal settle on a partial payment amount," Chief Dennis explained. "This is the first ruling for the tribunal, and hopefully it shows that the system works."

Other aspects of Huu-ay-aht's claim remain outstanding. More legal submissions will occur in Anacla at the Huu-ay-aht government office April 19 to 21, 2016. Following these submissions, the Tribunal will rule on the present day value of the compensation owed to Huu-ay-aht for the remainder of the claim.

Chief Dennis said he is thankful for all of the chiefs that kept this issue going through the decades, including Louie Nookemus, Jack Peter, Arthur Peter, Spencer Peter and Jeff Cook. He said it was rewarding to work with this team, and he is glad their hard work has paid off.

Incorporating Huu-ay-aht culture and traditions essential in all business

From Page 4

Tayii Ḥaẇił Derek Peters spoke during the Port Alberni session of his father, the late Spencer Peters, and his grandfather, the late Art Peters, and their wish to bring home our welcome figures. This is something that Derek is very passionate about and has been working towards since we signed the Maa-nulth Treaty. Identifying our HFN Businesses and Government with our figures signifies they belong to HFN.

Chair of the operating board for the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses, Angela Wesley spoke in Port Alberni and Anacla about how the two different organizations work together and how she would like to see them working together in the future.

"We've been working closely with the Nation and talking about different areas that we can work together," she said. "We want to make sure we're using our resources efficiently."

A common theme throughout the community engagement sessions was the Bamfield properties purchase. Several Citizens commented on the opportunities the properties hold such as cultural and historical tourism. There were questions about creating a brand for the different businesses owned by Huu-ay-aht in the Bamfield/Anacla area.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government Office by phone at 250-723-0100 or by email at communications@huuayaht.org.

Full coverage of the Community Engagement Session is available on Huu-ay-aht's website at www.huuayaht.org.

Ceremonial brushing a reflection of Huu-ay-aht's Ancient Spirit

By Wish-Key

First off, I would like to, and on behalf of Tayii ƛiišin, thank all who participated in the day at Kiix̣in. This was for certain a Team Huu-ay-aht effort.

The day started out beautifully and nature, it seemed, was on our side for this important ceremonial brushing out at Kiix̣in. The day was clear, the air was crisp, and Team Huuayaht was preparing to start the hike to Kiix̣in - our First Village and birth place of the Huu-ay-aht Peoples. Participants included Christine, Stella, Mila, Cory, Steven, John, Ambar, Chelsea, Rowan and myself, Wish-Key.

As we walked out toward the first village, I remained quiet, listening and preparing my spirit for the journey we were about to embark on. I learned plenty from the team as they have a vast amount of experience out in the field. The crew was discussing and identifying Culturally Modified Trees along the muddy hike out to Kiix̣in. The discussions, it seemed, set the tone for all along the way, and especially when we discussing the age of some of the CMTs. It was quickly made very clear that we were indeed going to an Ancient Village. That added to the significance of the spiritual work we were about to embark upon.

Kiix̣in yaxšiƛin: We all know that Kiix̣in is our first village and yaxšiƛin means "we brushed." The ceremony too is a reflection of our Ancient Spirit and in order to allow for transformation and growth. We had to prepare this space spiritually for transformation. This was done by the Brushing ceremony, and the tools we used were an Ancient Spirit Chant, a rattle, a thunder drum, boughs of cedar and, of course, the brushers themselves.



Cory Howard Sr. and Wish-Key take part in the brushing ceremony at Kiix̣in on Nov. 25, 2015. *Photo by Ambar Varela*

We literally brushed all around each of the eight identified long house dwellings and, in particular, the posts that are remaining. We had two male and two female brushers, to represent the Ancestors or Grandparents and equality amongst genders. They were armed with boughs of cedar, the most sacred of all ever greens and that represents life and the air that we breathe. This ceremony will prepare the space spiritually, and that will allow for transformation to manifest physically. The work that is intended for the site will start off cosmetically first, but it will continue to transform through time in order to live up to its designation of a National Historic Site of Canada.

This was definitely a daunting task, and much bigger than even I had expected. We dealt with this by taking shifts. As we moved from house to house, we passed on and shared our duties.

Continued on Page 7

Kiix̱in gets TLC to help preserve history

By Christine Gruman



A few days after the brushing ceremony, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations team jumped right into giving Kiix̱in some much-needed TLC.

They have been working very carefully to clip the ferns, shrubs and other plants growing on and around the longhouse remains – all with hand tools. If left to grow, these plants would slowly break down these pieces of our heritage. Removing them allows more air and light to reach the cedar posts and beams and slows their return to the earth.

As well as removing small plants, we also brought in a skilled team of arborists to address several problem trees. Some of these trees only needed to have lower dead branches removed, to prevent them from falling on the longhouses or on workers caring for the site. In other cases, trees were fully removed, either because they were leaning heavily over the site and likely to fall, or because they were growing on posts and slowly pushing them over. A walk through the site reveals examples of where this has happened in the past.

The arborists showed great respect for Huu-ay-aht and for Kiix̱in during this work by carefully considering how to cut or limb each tree, even though the lowest-risk options often took much more time and effort.

We are now working to complete the last final steps of this Kiix̱in conservation project before the end of our grant from Parks Canada's National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program. We are working on creating a few small signs to communicate the importance of Kiix̱in to our Nation and to prevent trespassing that could endanger the remains there and we will finish marking out the new official pathways that guided visitors will use to experience our first village.

Work will prepare national historic site for visitors

From Page 6

With all of Team Huu-ay-aht taking turns in brushing of spaces, singing Ancient Spirit chants and even doing the drum roll on the thunder drum. Whatever the task we were assigned we also shared. With one exception Naa`siis mis ʔaksup or Stella Peters from the tayii family. She did not give up her boughs. She remained consistent and was a trooper brushing each and every site that needed brushing.

At the end of the ceremony, we reflected on the beach, the importance of Kiix̱in the birth place of the Huu-ay-aht, on the work we done on that day and the work that will happen in the future. That is a key point to why we have our three principles of Huu-ay-aht. They are: ʔiisaak (Respect with caring), hishukma čawaak (Everything is one and connected) and ʔuʔaaɬuk (taking care of. They are a reminder to us to think of time in a continuum remember past Huu-ay-aht, present day Huu-ay-aht and future Huu-ay-aht. For, all that we decide for the people of Huu-ay-aht, must be based on the principles and values of our people.

This work was very special as this is not only our First Village, and birthplace of the Huu-ay-aht, it is currently an undeveloped National Historic Site of Canada. One day this place will draw people from all over the world, so that they too can come and see the oldest remains of a long house on Vancouver Island. Team Huu-ay-aht got together and prepared this space spiritually for transformation for the benefit of Huu-ay-aht of all time. Pay attention to Kiix̱in the First Village for it is on a state of growth, and it will transform into the natural wonder that it is.

HDC bids farewell to Stan Coleman

It was a time of celebration and sadness that the Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation bids farewell to its outgoing Chief Executive Officer Stan Coleman. Stan informed the HDC board last year that he would not be renewing his contract when it expired in January 2016. The board has since named Gary Wilson as his successor.

Stan will be missed by the staff at HDC, the board and Huu-ay-aht First Nations as a whole. He began working for the Nation in 2011 and served five years as HDC's CEO. In that time, he took the organization from a small forestry operation employing approximately 15 people to what it is today, with more than 50 employees.

It has since grown from a forestry-based operation to one that has many businesses and responsibilities. This includes the Pachena Campground, The Market, Forestry, Fisheries, Gravel and, now, the new businesses purchased by Huu-ay-aht in Bamfield, a deal that Stan helped move forward. Although his contract continued until the end of January, HDC staff and board members hosted a going-away party for Stan at Chances RimRock Casino on January 13. Approximately 55 people attended, including staff, members of the board, representatives from Huu-ay-aht First Nations and business partners and contractors.

"It was a chance to recognize what he created," explained Tracy Walker, Executive Assistant at the group of businesses, "he made such an impact on everyone." "He has a level of integrity that few could match", said Martha Johnson, Accounting Assistant at the group of businesses, adding that they organized the party as a way of showing their appreciation for all that Stan has offered them, especially the staff. "We appreciate how far he would go for us," Martha explained. "He has such dedication, and he has an eye for seeing potential in employees and fostering that. He is a great mentor."



Dan McKay and John Mass present Stan Coleman with a gift design for him from the staff and board of HDC. (Below) Stan and Gary Wilson. *Photo by Brittany Johnson*



She added that, during his time at HDC, Stan also brought in many outside contacts that have served to be extremely important in the operation of their businesses.

"Stan has been uniquely committed to the Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the group of businesses over the years" said Angela Wesley, Board Chair. "He has not only been our CEO, he has become part of the Huu-ay-aht family, and although he has decided not to extend his contract, we know that Stan will never be far away and will continue to help us as we move forward."

At the party, the staff and board showed their appreciation to Stan by presenting him with a very unique gift. "The board, management team and staff will treasure Stan's strong vision and commitment to leadership. The piece represents the wealth of knowledge and guiding light Stan has brought to the organization," Martha said of the art designed for the outgoing CEO.

The vision for the piece was a collaboration of ideas.

Continued on Page 9

New CEO ready to take on challenges

By Heather Thomson

The Board of Directors of the Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation is pleased to introduce the newest member of their team, Gary Wilson. Gary will be replacing the current Chief Executive Officer Stan Coleman who has advised the Board that he will not be seeking an extension at the expiration of his contract at the end of January 2016.

He is a citizen of the Heiltsuk Nation, located on the central coast of B.C. (Bella Bella). He began his career as a commercial fisherman. From there he decided to pursue post-secondary education, obtaining his Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Royal Roads University. His quest for learning continues, as he is currently enrolled in the Executive Masters of Business Administration Program at SFU.

Gary comes to Huu-ay-aht with a broad set of skills and a great deal of knowledge from his operational, academic and management experiences. He has worked with First Nation communities and organizations for the greater part of his career and spent fifteen years working in various management positions for CIBC in the banking industry.

Over the past decade, Gary has operated his own management consulting company, specializing in comprehensive planning, project management, corporate finance and business development. He also served the Heiltsuk Nation in its resource management department and that Nation's economic development corporation as General Manager. In his role with the Economic Development Corporation, he was responsible for overseeing a group of ten business units, including an airport, fisheries, forestry, fuel company and various retail companies.

CEO Stan Coleman has already had Gary on site, meeting staff and leadership and touring Huu-ay-aht territories and businesses.

"Working together over the next six weeks will allow for a seamless transition period in the CEO position," says Stan. "The transition period will provide Gary with the opportunity to orient himself with Huu-ay-aht and to put his experience and expertise to work developing his own ideas that will lead us into the next phase of growth of our businesses."

"It is an extreme honour to join the Huu-ay-aht team as the incoming CEO for the group of businesses. I look forward to working with the Staff, the Board, Huu-ay-aht leadership and partners, carrying on the good work of the corporation," says Gary. "I am very excited to play a part in enhancing and



building a sustainable economy for the current and future generations of Huu-ay-aht!"

"We are very excited to have Gary bring his experience and enthusiasm to the Huu-ay-aht group of businesses," says Operating Board Chair Angela Wesley. "He will be a great asset to our Nation and our businesses. The Board is confident he will continue on with the great work that Stan has started over the past few years as well as bringing his own ideas for growth into our businesses."

The Board looks forward to continuing to introduce Gary to our citizens, Ḥaẃiiḥ and elected leadership.

čitakinʔaała ṅačuʔał suẃa and welcome to Team Huu-ay-aht

Board and staff offer heart-felt gift to show appreciation to outgoing CEO

From Page 8

Martha and Tracy played a big role in its creation, but it also involved local artist Kelly Poirier and her team at White Raven Consulting, as well as Todd Robinson of Cascadia Glass Studios. The piece is a smaller rendition of art that is showcased at the Richmond oval, called the "Chiefs Treasure Box". It is made of red and yellow cedar, etched glass and LED lights. It is a contemporary version of a traditional hupakwanum of the Nuu-chah-nulth People. Ḥuu-ukʷanum is the tangible embodiment of treasure.

"The wolf paw represents the creation of the Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation, and Stan's instrumental involvement in bringing HDC into fruition," Martha said. "The landscape represents our land and resources, and Stan's extensive background in the forest industry. Finally, the hammer stamp signifies the first Treaty Settlement Land cut block harvested under treaty."



Jeff Cook and Ron Hamilton share his family curtain. It was on presented with its new designs in December. *Photo courtesy of Jeff Cook*

A young kʷikʷinksu guides you to Sarita Falls

By Ambar Varela

A shiny 50-cent coin was given to guests as an invite. It was not an ordinary one but the Queen's Diamond Jubilee edition (1952-2002). Neither was the invitation. The Christmas gathering of the Cook family at the Athletic Hall was a historical event for the head of the Yaałuuwaštakamałtḥ, Jeff Cook (Yaalthuu-a).

One element of his ḥuupukʷanum (treasure box) had evolved with the help of his family members and he was proud of it. For more background knowledge on the origins and use of the curtains, check "Curtains that enlighten Huu-ay-aht lives," published in November, 2015.

"One, two, three … Ten!" The stick was handed over but it was not the talking stick that Tayii Ḥaẇiłˑ Derek Peters uses for giving speeches. You can read about it in Wišqii's article "Ancient Spirit Modern Mind: Team Huu-ay-aht!" at Huuayaht.org.

"Where is Saryta's hand (kʷikʷinksu)?" The audience, excited and eager to get a prize, could not find Jeff's granddaughter's hand on the curtain by using the stick. No wonder, judging by the dimensions of the magnificent canvas. Also, taking into account that Saryta Dick, daughter of Sherri Cook and Thomas Dick, is five years old. So, her tiny kʷikʷinksu could had been anywhere. Nobody guessed, even having the hint that it was around her namesake falls. Have you found it yet?

Colouring books, a cooky decoration session and a song were part of the entertainment of the night. The traditional feast was prepared by Deborah, Hazel, Jack, Susan and Laverne Cook. Sherri was in charge of the beautiful selection of cupcakes for desserts.

Good news from John Moses

Late Mary Moses, sister of John Moses, informed Jeff that he was going to inherit her brother's position at the Haẇiih. They were his grandparents. Elected Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis declared that he witnessed when the seat to the Haẇiih was offered to the host of the dinner, in 1986.

Continued on Page 11

Uyaqḥmis Community Calendar

Anacla/Bamfield Celebration
Huu-ay-aht is hosting a community celebration to mark the recent purchase of properties in Bamfield. The event will be on March 18, starting at 2 p.m. at the House of Huu-ay-aht. Everyone is welcome. A dinner and dancing will follow the official celebration.

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.
Nanaimo and Parksville - second Tuesday of the month.
Anacla - Second Wednesday.
Port Alberni - Second Thursday.
If you have any questions or problems with your food box, or you would like to start receiving one, please contact Kristen Young at kristen.y@huuayaht.org or 1-888-644-4555.

Community Potlucks in Anacla
Anacla/Bamfield community potlucks are taking place monthly. The next one is on March 13, and following that it will be on April 10. They will both take place at the House of Huu-ay-aht at 5 p.m. Make sure to pop by to enjoy a meal with your friends and neighbours.

Men's Group
Port Alberni - First Thursday of every month.
Anacla - Last Thursday of each month.

Women's Group
Anacla - First and third Tuesday of every month.
Port Alberni - Third Thursday monthly.

Education Deadline
If you are hoping for funding assistance, please make sure to have your application for post-secondary funding in by March 31. For more information, email education@huuayaht.org.

Spring Break
Port Alberni Paawats is offering a Spring Break Daycamp, March 21 - 24 and March 29 - April 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both weeks.

Send us your news
Do you have anythign you want to share. Send them to communications@huuayaht.org

Curtain represents 30 years of life and a legacy for Cook family

From Page 10

Dennis was given $5 for that occasion. The catch of such honour was that Yaalthuu-a needed to get married. Both Laverne and Jeff exchanged happy looks across the hall on December 19, 2015 and mentioned that it was the perfect excuse back then.

Customs

Cheryl Thomas, Cultural Program Coordinator, explained that witnesses help to avoid challenges from people within the community who might not believe that an event had taken place. For example, a name giving ceremony, inheriting a seat and so on. Chiefs got the highest amount of money. Their wives might have received half of that, while other witnesses such as Huu-ay-aht First Nations staff were honoured with a token of Jeff's appreciation too.

Symbols for a new generation

The Chief of the Yaałuuwaštakʼamałtḥ introduced his grandson Frederick as his successor. Therefore the importance of understanding the role and the meaning of that piece of their ḥuupukʷanum (treasure box), equivalent to a coat of arms.

Sarita Falls are part of the Cook's ḥahuuƚi (hahoothlee, territory). The canoes represent Thomas Dick and his family when they went to Anacla for Sherri's hand, in 2000.

The Spirits of the West Coast Native Art Gallery's website (spiritsofthewestcoast.com) offers a dictionary of totem animals. The raven represents Naas (God/creator), knowledge and prestige. However, in the curtain, it relates to Jeff's painting done while attending Alberni Indian Residential School. It was part of the exhibit "We Are All One: Residential School Children's Art" showed at the Alberni Valley Museum between October 2014 and March 2015.

In 1988, Mary Moses and Fanny Williams recommended to have the four wolves. The wolf, in general, symbolizes "loyalty, strong family ties, good communication, education, understanding and intelligence". The killer whale means "family, romance, longevity, harmony, travel, community and protection". The thunderbird is a "mythical creature that is said to be the dominating force of all natural activity."

Jeff finished his speech declaring: "It (the curtain) represents 30 years of my life. I want to pass that legacy to my family."

German intern looks back fondly on experience

By Ambar Varela

"Don't all Canadians love ice hockey?" asked intern Lara Stephan to an amused Susan Roth, Huu-ay-aht's Financial Clerk. Susan said that not her and laughed. Lara explained that she had learned about "Canadian culture" or clichés Americans hold about Canadians through the TV series "How I Met Your Mother."

It was Lara Stephan's second visit to Canada and second internship at Huu-ay-aht First Nations. In the same way as Julia Haslinger, future anthropologist from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (Germany), Nuu-chah-nulth was a language that Lara randomly chose to study.



Lara Stephen and Clara Clappis have some fun at the 2015 Christmas party. *Photo by Susan Roth*

"I started to learn the language in 2011, I think, in Munich for one year. I took two language classes. After that, we did a culture and language class on a voluntary basis to learn more about Nuu-chah-nulth and its people," explained Lara.

In March 2013, during her first internship, she transcribed a list of terms to complete the Ḥuu-ay-aht language part of "Our World – Our Ways: Ta·ataaqsapa Cultural Dictionary." She confirmed the terms, sounds and synonyms with the Elders. Ta·ataaqsapa is one of the names given to the Nuu-chah-nulth language.

Originally, she wanted to do a thesis for her Master in Anthropology focused on how language acquisition impacts identity. Residential Schools considered First Nations languages a barrier to "integrate" to the Canadian society. Many people were punished for speaking their dialects. So, they lost them.

Fortunately, language revitalization activists from different nations, the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria and Dr. Henry Kammler (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), among others, have contributed to increase the number of speakers.

She interviewed Elders such as Benson Nookemis and late Marie Newfield during her time here, at the end of 2015. She also attended sessions at Paawats. However, she realized that this kind of study was very extensive and the clock was ticking. She participated in one of Benson's dinners in which four girls were cooking with his wife Hilda. They were throwing in some sentences during the night, introduced themselves and tried the language whenever possible.

Lara also had the opportunity to participate in Huu-ay-aht's 2015 People's Assembly in November. This gave her a chance to talk to citizens and witness more of the cultural practices.

Haʔumuma (He or she is friendly). Lara appreciated the friendliness of the community, their empathy and the privilege of listening to different accents because "in Germany, it was four of us and Henry. I never thought I was going to hear the language in action."

She values the efforts of the language revitalization activists here and hopes that Paawats works as planned to benefit the kids.

Aboriginal Fisheries Apprenticeship Program

If you are interested in investigating a career in fisheries, check out the Aboriginal Fisheries Apprenticeship Program. The three-month course will five you basic skills and certifications required to work in the industry. The program is a combination of learning the necessary safety knowledge to be on the water with practical skills like knots, rope splicing, net mending, and other skills to prepare you for being a commercial deckhand in the fishing industry.

If you would like more information or to sign up, email michelle.colyn@nuuchahnulth.org.

The course begins on March 9.



Offering Welcome

Huu-ay-aht dancers welcome citizens to cultural night at the 2015 People's Assembly in November at the Best Western Barclay in Port Alberni.
Photo by Heather Thomson

Before you travel the roads, know the rules

By Constable Peter Batt, Port Alberni RCMP

I am often asked about B.C. Motor Vehicle Act regulations on the Bamfield Main Line.

The short answer is that the B.C. Motor Vehicle Act does not apply to Industrial Roads and B.C. Forest Service Roads in the same way that it applies on a highway. The B.C. Industrial Road Act and the B.C. Forest Service Road Act stipulate which parts of the Motor Vehicle Act apply.

The problem with knowing what applies is to understand when you are driving on a Forest Service Road or on an Industrial Road. Simply stated, Industrial Roads are privately owned and Forest Service Roads are on Crown Land. There are exceptions, and the Bamfield Main is one of the big ones. Crown Land Roads (Forest Service Roads) under private contract are considered Industrial Roads. Currently, the entire Bamfiled Main is treated as an Industrial Road. Many of the Spurs and Secondary Main Lines that run off of the Bamfield Main are Forest Service Roads, so it all gets a little confusing.

To simplify things a little, I have included the parts of the Motor Vehicle Act that apply to Industrial Roads and Forest Service Roads at the end of this article. Please remember while you are looking at these, that each of the acts has its own regulations that carry fines of their own. Further to that, the service provider on an Industrial Road can carry regulations for the roads they control and they can impose their own fines.

For example, when operating a vehicle on a Forest Service Road, you are required to have insurance and you cannot speed. The Forest Service Road Act Regulations set fines for these infractions (rather than the Motor Vehicle Act). The Industrial Road Act Regulations do not have an insurance requirement or a fine for speeding. However, Island Timberlands can charge you for these infractions on the Bamfield Main.

Motor Vehicle Act Offences that apply to Industrial Roads

Fail to yield at uncontrolled intersection – Section 173(1) - $167
Fail to obey yield sign – Section 173(2) - $167
Fail to yield on left turn – Section 174 - $167
Fail to yield to left turn vehicle – Section 174 - $167
Fail to Yield after stop – Section 175(1) - $167
Fail to yield to emergency vehicle – Section 177 - $109

Motor Vehicle Act Offences that apply to Forest Service Roads

Fail to produce driver's licence – Section 33(1) - $81
Fail to remain at scene of accident – Section 68(1) - $368
Fail to stop for police – Section 73(1) - $138
Fail to state name and address – Section 73(2) - $138
Drive without due care – Section 144(1)(a) - $368
Drive without consideration – Section 144(1)(b) - $196
Fail to keep right – Section 150(1) - $109
Fail to keep slow vehicle on right – Section 150(2) - $109
Pass on right – Section 158(1) - $109
Follow too closely – Section 162(1) - $109
Fail to signal on turn – Section 170(1) - $121

Forest Service Road Use Regulation: (Page 28 of the 2011 Provincial Fines Booklet)

Speed on Forest Service Road – Section 4 - $86
Disobey traffic control device – Section 6(5) - $86
Use forest road without required insurance – Section 12(1) - $345
Vehicle not maintained to standards – Section 7 - $115
Unlicensed industrial vehicle not properly marked – Section 8 - $86

The other question I often get asked is in regard to alcohol use while driving. The new IRP program applies to any motor vehicle operated on a highway, industrial road or forest service road. Criminal Code of Canada Operation of a motor vehicle with blood alcohol over 0.08 applies to any vehicle anywhere in Canada – quads, dirt bikes, cars, trucks, tractors or any other vehicle. Open liquor in a vehicle comes under the Liquor Control and Licencing Act and applies to any vehicle operated anywhere in British Columbia. The simple answer is that alcohol and driving don't mix.

Huu-ay-aht Employee Feature

Introducing you to some of the faces who work for your Nation

Rita Johnson



Rita was born in Port Alberni and has lived most of her live in the Alberni Valley. She and her partner Dan have three children. Her children Hayden, Hannah and Hendrix enjoy family hikes. Their favourite local spot to hike to is "Hole in the Wall."

Rita has worked in many different positions for the Huu-ay-aht First Nation for close to 21 years.

She started in 1995 working as an Archeological Reconnaissance survey worker. She would do field surveys within proposed cut blocks all around Huu-ay-aht First Nations traditional lands. She got to work with a small crew of Huu-ay-aht First Nations workers, as well as many different archeologists.

When asked how much she enjoyed working outdoors Rita replied, "It's not a walk in the park. You're hiking up and down mountains through extreme terrain." She did enjoy the work, the views and the exhilaration of finding a site.

In 2003, she was promoted to Forestry Liaison Manager, and she left field work to take on more of an administrative and supervisory role. For the majority of this position she worked out of the Anacla Natural Resources Office and later through the Port Alberni Government Office. Being promoted to manager really motivated her.

"When people put that trust in you, when you have people depending on you, it really gives you a healthy ego boost. I put my heart and soul into my work. I wasn't just clocking in and clocking out mindlessly."

She is currently the Administrator of Lands and Permitting and has been in this position since 2013. Land management and referrals occupies most of her time. There are many different permits for which she is responsible, for both Citizens and guests of the Nation. Two of the main programs under her supervision are the Elder's Firewood Program and the Harvest Cards.

During her time working for the Nation she has learned many things and worked with a wide variety of people. She looks forward to furthering her career with Huu-ay-aht and to continue serving the community.

Coral Johnson



Coral Johnson always has a positive attitude. She is ƛaaƛaksuqƛiik (a thoughtful person) who became a Huu-ay-aht citizen through marriage. Her husband is Paulo Johnson. Chad, Brad and Coraleah are their children. Coral is grateful that her children had the opportunity to learn from their grandparents about hunting, fishing, and traditional medicines.

Coral began working with the Huu-ay-aht First Nations in September 1997. She has a passion for community health and wellness.

"I began working for the Nation as a homemaker for the Elders when the position for Community Health Representative came up. I applied and got hired," she said. "This position started as just patient travel and home visits to Elders and those who needed to see the nurse. It expanded to being a liaison with other professionals such as the RCMP, probation, etc… and First Aid Attendant along with health workshops."

Connie Waddell was Director of Tribal Operations at the time. Connie knew that Coral frequently filled in for social workers. That gave the Nation an opportunity to combine two positions and create the Community Health and Social Development Coordinator.

Going back to school to get certified was the next logical step for Coral. She has successfully managed her personal, professional and academic roles so far. She just finished her third year in the Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Victoria.

Continued on Page 15

CFO takes reins of Huu-ay-aht finance

By Heather Thomson

Huu-ay-aht First Nations would like to welcome Donna Tourand to the team, as the new Chief Financial Officer position with the Nation.

Donna took over the reins of the Finance Department, and she brings with her an extensive background that will help contribute to the Nations' success in the future.

"On behalf of the Huu-ay-aht administration, we want to welcome Donna to our senior management team as our new Chief Financial Officer," explained acting Executive Director Karen Haugen. "Donna brings to our team strong financial background in both her knowledge, experience and education as a CPA/CGA. She is a great asset to our team, and we look forward to having her as part of our administration."

Donna was born on Vancouver Island, but raised mainly in Northern B.C. Early in her life, she decided to switch her studies at university to work and raising her son, Justin.

"This life-altering shift changed my personal priorities, so I joined the workforce full time and put my



education on hold temporarily."

Donna brings to the job a varied and extensive background. She worked for several years in the forest industry, but she switched after a while to being a controller for Rip Curl Canada when the forest industry started its downward turn in the early 2000s.

Eventually her travels brought her back to Vancouver Island in the mid-2000s, when she started working for a local accounting firm, Canet and Co. She remained there for eight years, but in 2009 she decided to return to school after her 22-year break. She attended Vancouver Island University and completed her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting.

After graduation, she started working as a controller at Hetherington Industries, while finishing her Chartered Professional Accountant and Certified General Accountant designations.

It was after her successful completion of these programs that she realized she was ready for the next step in her professional career. That led her to apply for the CFO position with Huu-ay-aht.

"I am honored to have been accepted for this position and look forward to working with everyone," she said. "I am excited about the challenges my new position will offer me."

Donna is married, and has one son, two step-children and three grandchildren. Her time away from work is never boring with a beautiful silver seven-month-old lab puppy keeping her running when her grandchildren are not. The other love of her life is her 26-year-old horse who has been a constant companion no matter where life took her.

Introducing you to some of the faces who work for your Nation, continued

From Page 14

Some of the examples that her education encompasses are collaborative conversations, social change, human development, the history of colonization in Canada, and how traditional healing improves families' lives.

Manager of Culture and Education is the hat she has been wearing lately. This is her second term in this position. She provides leadership and strategic planning in the development and management of education, cultural and languages initiatives to manage the ongoing growth and development Huu-ay-aht cultural values throughout all segments of the population. When asked about the most rewarding moments at Huu-ay-aht, she said there had been many.

"I just love working for people and being an advocate… Breaking the barriers between doctors and people, and helping them to meet their personal goals. Working with the nurses to learn about health and using that information to pass onto citizens."

She has a lot to share about nutrition, health information and medical conditions. Being able to utilize this knowledge to educate the citizens in personal health is a gift she values deeply.

Talking about the impact working for the Nation has had on her, she said, "When I work in the community, it is so much hands on. It is great to build relationships, have staff support, trust and acknowledgement. It is honouring. I am very grateful to be here."

Huu-ay-aht Around Town







(Above) Simon Dennis and Trevor Cootes drum at the Vancouver Community Engagement Session on January 14, while dancers fill the Aboriginal Mother Centre. (Below) Huu-ay-aht drummers sing a welcoming song at the cultural night in November at the 2015 People's Assembly. *Photos by Heather Thomson*

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





(Top) 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 (Middle) Madison* Lucas gets a special gift from Santa in November at the 2015 People's Assembly. *Photo by Heather Thomson*
(Left) Nolan Nookemus graduates from Anacla's Paawats Program this summer. He receives his certificate from ECE Coordinator Clara Clappis.