

CanyonCurrent

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 3 - Issue 3 December 2010

Living History - Canoe Project

As the carvers sand and shape a traditional canoe in a workshop just outside the Terrace city limits, the comforting pungent odor of cedar fills the air bringing with it images of a simpler time. The smell always brings me home. I remember leisurely strolls along the river banks and can imagine what it must have been like for the ancestors whose time in this area stretches back since time immemorial. I can see a river bank filled with massive long houses, smoke curling high above the beams. The chatter of an ancient tongue fills the air as people complete the tasks of the day, and children laugh and play in a world untainted by modern amenities – no cell phones, no exhaust fumes, no landfills.

The importance of preserving traditional practices becomes ever pressing as this knowledge only survives in the minds of individuals who take the time to learn and then teach it to others. The ancient practice of building a canoe, for instance, cannot be learned simply by reading a book or searching the internet. It is something that requires seeing and doing; learning from a teacher who can correct you and guide you. Clifford Bolton, Tsimshian Artist, learned how to build a canoe from his step-son, Mark Point, from the Stolo Nation. Clifford is now passing on this knowledge to two other artists, Titus Aukland and Darren Bolton, through an initiative driven by the Kitselas Development Corporation. The canoe, which is 25 feet in length and is nearing completion, will be housed in the Transportation Long House in Gitau. It is half the size of a war or ocean going canoe which was typically 50-60 feet long. A canoe of this type hasn't been built in this community for at least 60 years.

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Clifford Bolton (left) with Darren Bolton and Titus Aukland (far right) have been working steadily on the Canoe Project started last summer.

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In the Community

Dec. 6th - 17th - Dental Therapist, Hugh Omerod, will be available for check-ups, fillings, cleaning and dental education for parents and children, please leave your name at the Main Office front desk for an appointment.

Dec. 8th & 15th - Transportation to the Wednesday noon hour AA will move ahead as scheduled, please arrive at the Band Office by 11:30 am. Rides will resume January 5th (after Christmas Break).

Dec. 12th - Community Christmas Dinner at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers needed for shopping, gift wrapping, set-up, clean-up and cooking. Call 635-5084 for more info.

Dec. 13-17 & Jan. 10-17 - Register now for the FREE Aboriginal Best Program at the Kitsumkalum Hall. Learn about what it takes to start and maintain your own business. The program runs daily from 10am-4pm. Open to Aboriginal Adults (Metis, Status/Non-status), Seating is limited, call Roger Leclerc to register at 250-635-8882 ext 223.

Dec. 14th - The last Women's Wellness Group meeting before the Christmas break. Dinner will be potluck (please bring something if you are able) and gift exchange will happen. Please call Therese at 635-5084 ext 226 NO LATER than 4pm on Monday Dec. 13th if you need a ride.

Dec. 14 & 16 (7-9pm) and Dec. 20th (2-4pm) - The Kitselas Sunrunners will be doing giftwrapping at the satellite office (Gitaus) to fundraise, bring your gifts to be wrapped by donation. Call Jada at 635-5084 ext 225 or 631-3310 for more info.

Belly Dancing - every Saturday 1:30-4:30 pm at Administration Building
Basketball Players Wanted - aged 16-25 to form a team to play Kitsumkalum call Sharlene at 641- 1969 for more info.



www.facebook.com/CanyonCurrent
"Like" our page and get updates direct to your Facebook profile and Post your events!



Kitselas Band Office and Kitselas Resource & Treaty Office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from December 20th and will re-open for regular business hours January 4th 2011. Council and Staff extend heart felt wishes for a joyous season and a prosperous and healthy New Year!



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Volume 3 Issue 3
December 2010

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Hi There!

My name is Hilary Zornow and I will be filling in for Holly Spencer while she is on Maternity Leave. I



am Gitksan from Gitanmaax and I have lived and worked in Terrace for close to four years. You will be sure to see me, and perhaps my little family, in and around the community - I'll be the one with the big camera. It is a pleasure to find myself again working for a progressive First Nations organization at a very exciting time for the Kitselas people and I am looking forward to the months ahead!

Here comes the snow!



According to the Farmer's Almanac temperatures are expected to be just slightly colder than last year and we are expecting an above normal snow fall this winter. The Kitselas Public Works department will certainly be busy keeping the roads clear and has purchased a brand new 2011 HD 3500 Silverado that will be used for snow removal. They would like to remind everyone that unfortunately the **snow build up in front of driveways during road clearing is unavoidable and they apologize for the inconvenience.**

With some of the extreme weather we have experienced already this season it is also important to be prepared for power outages or other

circumstances that may keep you home. The Kitselas Administration would like to advise members that **unfortunately kitchen facilities are not available during power outages** and it is advisable to make arrangements with family members who may live in town or have foods on hand that can be easily prepared without electricity. You may also want to consider preparing an emergency kit, or at least having some basic staples on hand. You can assemble a variety of different kits, listed to the right are some varieties and the items you may want to include. These are only suggestions, customize your kit to your needs.

Stay safe and warm this winter!



Pictured Top: Melissa Gerow is part of the crew that will be keeping the roads clear this winter.

Left: the new truck that will be outfitted with a blade for road clearing. Behind is the new Heavy Equipment shop (still under construction) for storage of the 5 ton truck/sander.



Kit Ideas

Sanitation Kit:

- plastic bags with ties
- toilet paper
- improvised toilet seat
- disinfectant (bleach, Lysol)
- feminine hygiene products
- paper towels
- soap
- diapers
- hand wipes

Cooking Kit:

- skillet and lid
- stove fuel (for camp stove)
- paper plates/napkins/paper cups
- can opener
- cooking pot
- utility knife
- dish detergent
- canned meats/stews/pork & beans
- peanut butter
- breakfast squares
- canned soups/vegetables
- crackers/cereal etc

First Aid:

- bandages
- adhesive tape
- cotton
- gauze
- large handkerchief
- tweezers and scissors
- thermometer
- saftey pins
- burn ointment/Neosporin
- laxatives/Gravol
- rubbing alcohol
- hydrogen peroxide
- medicine dropper
- eye drops
- Pain relievers

Kitselas Youth Group

The Kitselas Youth Group has been extremely busy raising funds for their Centre. They held a bottle drive and through their effort earned \$266.00! With the funds from the bottle drive they purchased a Keybo 2 Cell Phone and a wall hanging to raffle and with the remaining funds bought some supplies for their centre. Their overall profit from the raffle was \$214.00 and Darlene Seymour was the lucky winner. The youth have been working hard to raise funds for some items that will compliment their activities, which include: oven mitts, pool cues, "granny" sticks, work out equipment, art supplies and baking items. Donations and contributions to their fundraising efforts are always greatly appreciated. The next initiative will be wood piling and yard work. All of the Youth Group fundraising efforts have been

driven by the young people. Lynn Wright says, "their esteem is so high through their participation [in this program]."

The Youth have also hosted a successful National Addictions Awareness Week with a grant of \$2500.00 that is awarded to various communities across Canada. During the one week campaign the youth hosted a welcoming banquet honoring both the elders and the youth of Kitselas. Information sessions and presentations on the effects of substance abuse and "living the good life" filled the remainder of the week which was concluded by a community feast thanking all of the participants for making the week a success.

Way to go everyone! We can all be proud of such a dedicated young group.

Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu by Fred Wilson

Everything is going well at the school. Students have received their report cards and have seen that they are progressing in their course selections. Everyone is working hard at improving their grades and attaining their educational goals. Some upcoming activities include:

- Firewood Fundraiser: only 20 tickets will be sold at \$10.00 each, buy your ticket for a chance to win a truck load of firewood. Drop by the school to purchase, Draw Date is December 15th.
 - The students will be holding their Christmas Dinner December 16th at the school. Spouses are welcome to attend.
 - Sm'algyax Program runs on Wednesdays at the school, call 250-635-3301 for more information.
- The last day of school before winter break is December 17th

- Brain Exercise -

Add the following in your head
Start with 1000, add 40, add 1000, add 30, add 1000, Add 20, Add 1000, add 10 and write down your answer!

"Some folks are wise, some are otherwise"
~ Tobias George Smollet

Orie Shiga will be coming on board as CHN December 16th to replace Catherine Tanski while she is away on maternity leave, best wishes for Catherine on her new addition. Also Danielle Branco has been hired as a Home Care Worker and will start December 6th. Welcome Danielle!

Kitselas Youth Group ~ Fundraiser ~

Youth are available at your expense for any Yard Work or Wood Piling on a donation basis.

Call Lynn at the Band Office 250-635-5084 ext 227 or Youth Centre 250-635-3117 for more information

Please Support Our Youth!

In Town Medical Travel

Some important items before we break for the holidays:
Please ensure you call the Main Office in advance of any appointments you may have during the Christmas Break (offices will be closed after December 17th). Emergency Trips to the E.R will be covered, however if an ambulance is required please call 911 NOT a taxi. Approval for a taxi can be processed with Sue at 635-4937 or 641-2647 (please do not leave a message, voicemail will not be checked).

Out of Town Medical Travel

Please call 1-888-624-5504



Living History - Canoe Project

Every effort has been made to construct the canoe using traditional practices, but in some cases modern implements had to be used to save time. Clifford shares with me some of the traditional methods used. He explains that at one point, before larger preferential cedars were subject to logging, the Tsimshian people would use one tree to construct a canoe. Once the shape of the canoe had been carved from the tree, lava rocks were heated and used to steam the inside outward into the familiar v-shape. This task is labour intensive and requires constant supervision. Once the shape is formed braces are inserted to keep the shape, otherwise it

would quickly collapse back into itself, as Clifford says, "it's alive". The carvers then go to work perfecting the shape and adding the more practical elements that keep it afloat and ready for the conditions it is intended for.

It is certainly exciting to witness a living history unfold. The Kitselas Development Corporation continues to develop the long houses located on the Gitaus Reserve and will spend another \$376,000.00 this spring to develop an interpretive program and commission more artwork.



Darren Bolton and Titus Auckland work steadily on the 25 foot canoe



Kitselas Development
Corporation
- JOB POSTING -

Part-time Administrative Support
Period: January - March 2011

The successful applicant is
required to have:

- strong interpersonal and communication skills
- reading and writing skills
- Computer skills
- Research skills
- Valid Drivers License and access to vehicle

Salary will be based on qualifications and experience, only those short listed will be contacts. Position contingent on successful funding contract from INAC.

**Please submit your resume by
December 10th 2010**

c/o Roger Leclerc Manager
Kitselas Development Corporation
4562E Queensway Drive

Parents Club

Favourite Family Activity Contest

What is your favourite family activity? Send us a photo of your family taking part in a favourite activity and win a prize!

Entries should include:

- 1) Photo (hard copy or digital - high resolution is best)
- 2) Short description of the activity
- 3) Signed permission form (found online at www.fnsc.ca/parentsclub/stories.html)

All entries will receive a prize and winners will be showcased on the Parents Club website and in the newsletter

Deadline: January 7th 2011

Mail to: Suite 113 - 100
Park Royal South
West Vancouver, BC,
V7T 1A2
Email: info@fnesc.ca



Two totem poles were recently recovered from a private property east of Terrace. The poles are currently housed in one of the long houses at Kitselas Canyon. The detail of the weathered carving is remarkable considering its exposure to the elements over the years. More details regarding the poles will be forthcoming as the story develops.

Prince Rupert Port Authority Accommodation Economic Benefits Agreement

By Wilfred McKenzie - Director of Kitselas Resource Department

The Port of Prince Rupert is undertaking a major expansion to accommodate container shipments from the Orient to central North America. Phase I of the expansion has allowed the container facility to handle up to 500,000 containers per year and Phase II will increase the capacity to 2 million containers. The project area for the Port is subject to First Nations interest and Kitselas, along with Kitsumkalum, Lax Kw'alaams, Metlakatla, and Kitkatla have claimed Aboriginal Rights & Title and in turn have begun negotiating accommodation agreements. Kitselas negotiated a project participation agreement to resource our participation in the Phase II project review and permitting process. That agreement provided funding for staff time and consultant's review of the potential socio-economic and environmental impacts of the project and also committed the parties to negotiate and explore potential accommodation measures to address any infringements of Kitselas aboriginal rights.

Since then, Kitselas has made a number of settlement proposals in April and November 2009 and met with a mediator, Mr. Justice Lambert, who had been engaged by Canada to attempt to come up with an allocation of the benefit package among the five First Nations. Kitselas met independently with Canada and the Port in early November and December and again in January. An agreement-in-principle on the monetary aspects of the agreement was reached in March 2010. Some recent changes to the agreement are:

a) Kitselas First Nation has



Photo Courtesy Prince Rupert Port Authority

been named as the “recipient organization” for the purpose of receiving and managing the funding.

b) All funds are earmarked for economic development rather than split between economic development and training.

c) Funds are all payable upon ratification rather than part on ratification and the balance upon project construction.

d) Funds will be paid into a Kitselas bank account set up for the purpose of managing the money. The account will be managed by one or more trustees appointed by Kitselas and operating under a trust agreement that commits them to expend the funds for economic development purposes.

Federal ratification of the agreement-in-principle and the payment of funds are expected to take place before the end of this fiscal year and likely early in the calendar year. The economic payments are to be used to foster

economic development directly or indirectly related to the Port's activities. Kitselas membership will have opportunities to capitalize on employment and negotiate service contracts with the Port. Key negotiators for the agreement are Wilfred McKenzie, Glenn Bennett and Chris Knight. Lands & Resource staff, Fred McKenzie, Ken McDames Jr. and Terry Collins also took part in the Environmental Review for Phase II.

The Lands & Resource office continues to be involved in the Pacific Trails Pipeline project, which will transport liquified natural gas to Kitimat, and is involved in the environmental review process for the proposed Enbridge project. It is important to remember that an official stance has not been taken with regard to the Enbridge project. The Lands & Resource will make a recommendation to Council once the Environmental Assessment process is complete.

BC Hydro Northwest Transmission Line Benefit Agreement

Excerpts taken from Press Release November 29, 2010

In recent news you may have heard an announcement regarding a newly penned agreement between the Kitselas First Nation and BC Hydro. The Impact Benefit Agreement will provide Kitselas with economic development funds and training related to the construction of the Northwest Transmission Line project. The 344 km, 287 –kilovolt transmission line will provide a secure interconnection point for a clean energy generation project, supply clean electricity to support industrial developments in the area and reduce green house gas

emissions by enabling communities currently relying on diesel generation to connect to the BC Hydro grid.

The Skeena Substation is located on Kitselas traditional territory. Kitselas also expects to gain employment opportunities from the project through the negotiation of a contracts for clearing and road building on the Northwest Transmission Line's right-of-way. Work is anticipated to be undertaken by Kitselas Forest Products Ltd., which is owned and operated by the Kitselas First Nation. Chief Glenn Bennett adds,

“we are continuing to participate actively in the environmental project review of the Northwest Transmission Line, and subject to the issuance of an environmental assessment certificate for the project, Kitselas, pursuant to our stewardship policy, will fully support BC Hydro's Northwest Transmission Line.”

BC Hydro recently sponsored a utility training camp for 22 Kitselas First Nation members in preparation for the project's construction, expected to begin in spring of 2011.

Lands Update by Sonja Foss

Greetings everyone! I am back in the office after an amazing adventure in Australia and am happy to report that it's business as usual.

As of December 3, 2010 the Kitselas Lands Management Office has registered 12 Certificates of Allocation. There are 5 Certificates of Allocation waiting to be registered at our lawyer's office once the legal reviews are complete. If you are interested in owning the land your house sits on, please call my office so we can discuss your options.

Prior to my vacation, the Kitselas Band Council enacted a new law called the Committee to the Council Act, K.B.C 2010-01. This law makes it mandatory for the Kitselas Administration to conduct strategic, operational and financial planning. We are all excited to see the Committee get underway. All Kitselas laws are available on the Lands Department webpage at www.kitselas.bc.ca

Further to that, the Kitselas Band Council also approved the Kitselas Land Pricing Policy. This policy ensures that a fair, transparent and efficient price is determined for the industrial or commercial use of reserve land. Please call me for more details.

Kitselas was recently awarded funds to pursue land use planning on-reserve. We are actively looking for an administrative support person who will be directly responsible for conducting surveys with Kitselas people to understand how the people would like to see the land used in the future! I am truly looking forward to getting to know what the community's interests are in regards to land management.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season and I look forward to working with you all in the New Year! Don't forget that my office door is always open and I invite any questions or comments you may have regarding the work I do here for Kitselas.



Nine new homes are currently under construction in Gitau with an expected completion date near the end of February 2011. The Housing Department and Committee will be meeting to review applications from members who wish to more back to the community.

Negotiations for I.R. # 7 Ketonda Update

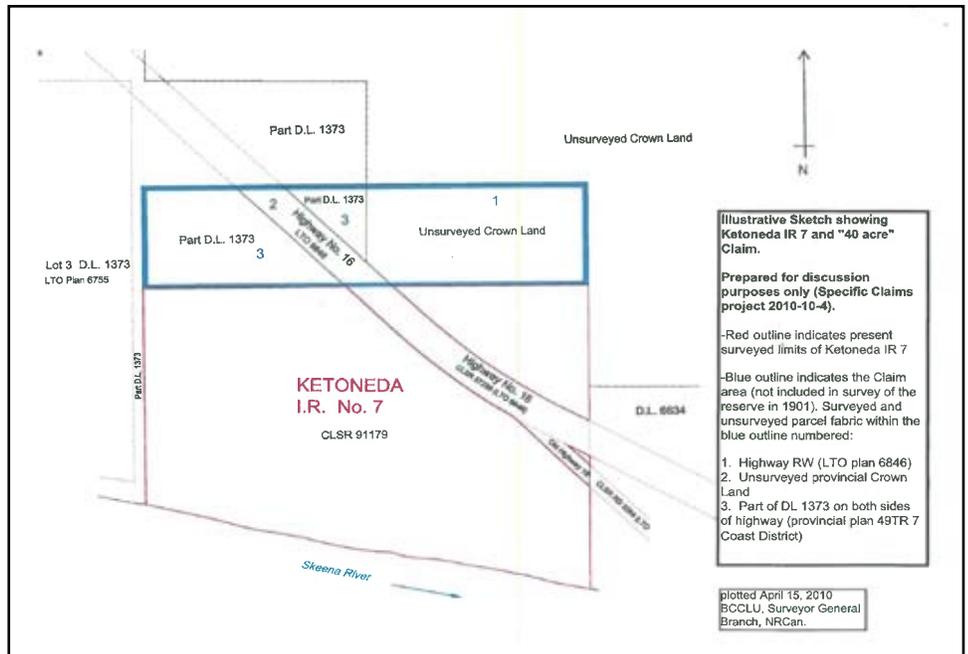
by Stan Ashcroft - Legal Counsel and Federal Negotiator

In April of 2000, the Kitselas First Nation submitted this Specific Claim to the Specific Claims Branch. The basis of the claim is as follows:

1. In 1893, Indian Reserve Commissioner Peter O'Reilly allotted Ketonda Indian Reserve No. 7, a reserve of approximately 145 acres, in favour of the Kitselas First Nation. Upon survey in 1901 however, approximately 40.2 acres from the northern boundary of the reserve were excluded by surveyor E.M. Skinner.
2. At some point during World War II, a 40.2 acre highway right of way for what is now Highway 16, was constructed through the parcel of land.
3. The claim sought compensation for the 40.2 acres of land that should have been allotted and utilized by the Kitselas First Nation, including those lands which became highway right of way.

In August of 2001, the claim was submitted to the Specific Claims Branch through the Department of Justice for a legal opinion.

By letter dated December 21, 2009, Michel Roy, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Treaties and Aboriginal Government, wrote to Chief Glenn Bennett advising that the claim had been accepted for negotiation. In that letter, Mr. Roy stated, "It is Canada's position that Canada breached its fiduciary duty within the meaning of the Policy (the Specific Claims Policy) with respect to the survey of IR 7... by excluding 40 acres from I.R. 7 during its survey of the reserve in



The lands in question are outlined in blue in this map of I.R. # 7

1901". As a result, Canada agreed to negotiate the claim based upon the current market value of the lands in question and any loss of benefit arising from the Kitselas First Nation's inability to utilize those lands since 1901.

On February 17, 2010, a Band Council Resolution was passed agreeing to commence negotiation of the Specific Claim. The first set of negotiations occurred July 14-15 2010 and Work Plans prepared and signed by Canada and by the Kitselas First Nation's negotiator on July 27 & 27, 2010. Funding has been received from the Research Funding Division to cover Kitselas First Nations' costs, including expert consultants and legal costs.

It has been agreed that the timber valuation, which will assess the loss of the use of the timber resources for these lands since 1901, will proceed first and be followed by an appraisal. Rico Jorimann of Alpine Forest Services has been retained to undertake the

timber valuation pursuant to agreed upon Terms of Reference and has started his work. His report is anticipated by January 2011.

Once Kitselas First Nation is satisfied of the timber valuation's accuracy, it will be reviewed by the representatives of the Kitselas First Nation charged with negotiating this claim and then Canada's representatives. At that point the appraisal will be undertaken.

Once the timber valuation and appraisal reports have been finalized, the Kitselas First Nation and Canada will negotiate a tentative settlement agreement. This settlement agreement must be approved by Council and thence an information meeting will be held with the Kitselas First Nation membership. It is hoped that this will all transpire prior to March 31, 2011 or shortly thereafter.

Stay tuned for more on this story as it develops...