



HEALING COMES FROM WITHIN A COMMUNITY

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

On December 7th 2009, the Kitselas Health Department will be holding an open community healing feast. The purpose for this feast is to acknowledge the strength that is evident within our community regardless of the circumstances.

There have been many community challenges and losses for families and friends this past year and coming together to show appreciation and community compassion is a positive way to healing is the focus of this event.

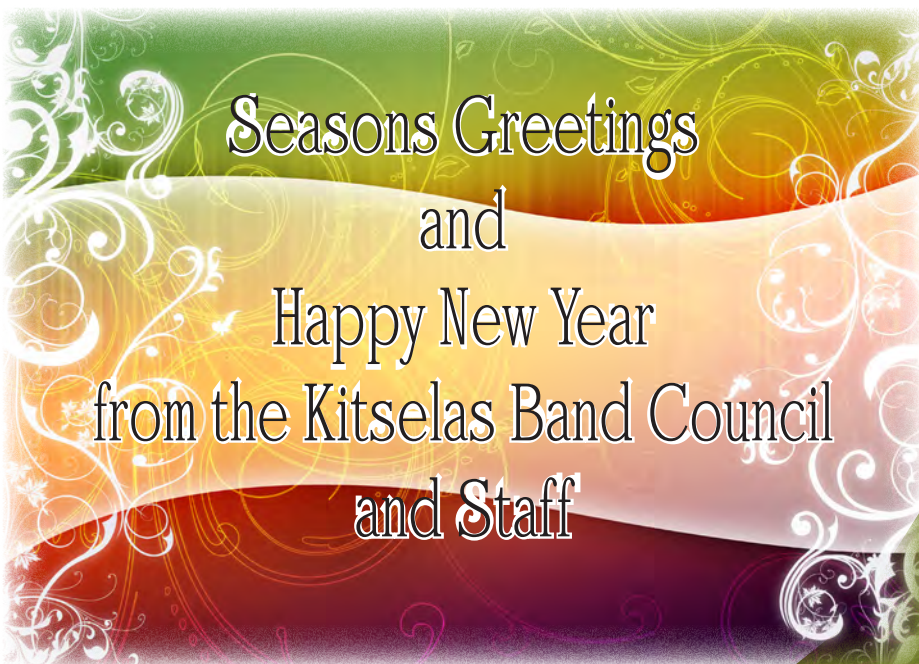
This type of community event has been pursued before, but not to the extent that it is being coordinated this time. Included in the evenings schedule, will be an introduction to FAST and “Through the Pain” Workshops which will be held in January. Also a candle
(continued on page 3)



A beautiful scenic sunrise on a crisp early December morning.
Photo taken by: Therese Hagen

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Seasons Greetings

and

Happy New Year

from the Kitselas Band Council

and Staff

IN OUR COMMUNITY

December 7th | Kitselas Community Healing Feast

The Kitselas Health Department will be holding a feast for the community of Kitselas, to show unity and the community compassion for one another. Begins at the Kitselas Community Hall at 5pm.

December 8th | Community Economic Strategic Vision Meeting - Gitau

All residents of Gitau are encouraged to attend this important informal community meeting that will focus on gathering community ideas for how members would like to see Kitselas form and carve its economic future. Light refreshments will be available. Begins at 6:30pm at the Gitau Health and Administration Office.

December 9th | Community Economic Strategic Vision Meeting - Kulspai

All residents of Kulspai are encouraged to attend this important informal community meeting that will focus on gathering community ideas for how members would like to see Kitselas form and carve its economic future. Light refreshments will be available. Begins at 6:30pm at the Gitau Health and Administration Office

December 13th | Kitselas Annual Community Christmas Party

All Kitselas members are invited to the celebrate the holidays with dinner and presents at the Kitselas Community Hall. Volunteers are urgently needed to make this event a success! Give Sharon a call at: 250.635.5084 if you would like to volunteer in any way. Dinner begins at 5pm with special door prizes and presents for adults and children. See you there!

December 18th at 12pm - January 1st | Christmas Holidays

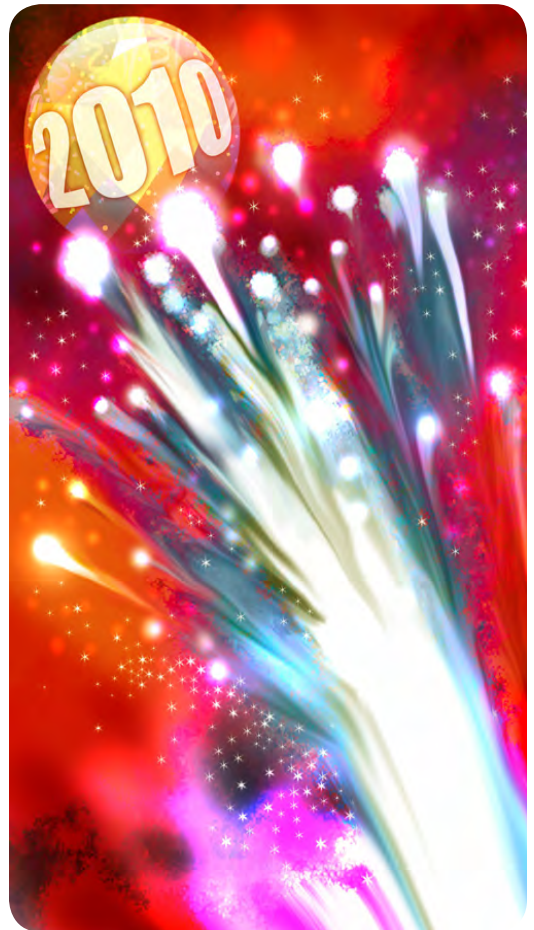
All Kitselas Administration Offices will be closed during this time and will re-open on January 4th 2010.

December 25th | Christmas Day

Enjoy this special time of year with your family and friends.

December 31st | New Years Eve

Ring in the 2010 New Year with family and friends! Be safe and please do not drink and drive. See you back in the New Year!



HEALING COMES FROM WITHIN A COMMUNITY

(continued from front)

ceremony and grand march will be taking place.

The importance of sharing compassion for your neighbor, friends and family especially during the holidays is necessary to help with the healing process. To have a community together, sharing happiness and show willingness to overcome grief, stress and emotional disruptions together, is a true sign of strength.

The Kitselas community has gradually been making changes in becoming closer and more involved in the last few years. Making the choice to join in and become involved with this feast will show how much you care about where you live and will in turn make our community even stronger.

As this is a potluck event, requested by the Kitselas Elders Group, please bring a pot of your world famous soup for everyone to enjoy. Soup and crackers will be donated by the Kitselas Health Department.

This event is a positive event for our community, please set aside this evening to share in community spirit, positive reflection of those who have passed on and enjoy the company of friends, family and neighbors.

Ongoing Programs:

Mondays: Adults/Families are invited to Group Walk with Jada at 7pm.

Tuesdays: Girls (9-15 years) Walking Group in Kulspai at 6pm.

-Kitselas After-School Tutoring Group:

Mondays / Wednesdays - *Gitaus*:

Education Room in the Main Administration at 4pm-5:30pm

Tuesday / Thursdays - *Kulspai*

Board Room in the Treaty Office at 4pm-5:30pm.

Rose Coffey will be helping all students by offering general help in their studies. If your in need of extra help with school work, be sure to show up and take advantage of this extra help.



Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together
for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 2 Issue 7 December 2009

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Proudly written, published and
distributed through the
Kitselas Treaty Office

www.kitselas.bc.ca



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR THE FUTURE

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The future of Kitselas is currently being open to suggestions by upcoming open community meetings for Kulspai and Gitaus residents. On December 8th and 9th, informal community meetings will be held to gather ideas for economic development and training for Kitselas members in the next 5 years.

This opportunity is one that should be taken quite seriously, as we live in a day in age where most of the time, changes are made and those most affected by that change have no choice in the matter. This is a opportunity to voice opinions for what changes are yet to come for Kitselas. This is an opportunity for our voices to be heard and be a pro-active part of the future of Kitselas.

As in most communities, residents here in Kitselas are apt to mainly giving feedback when they dislike something and rarely give positive feedback or ideas and opinions when it is time to enact real change. Being a part of a community means thinking of its future and thinking of

the next generation. That is why these particular meetings are important. Be a part of the process by coming out and making ideas and thoughts known, while the planning stage is still open for discussion. All opinions are important and will be heard.

For a successful community to prosper, we as community members need to play an active part in all areas of development. The core of our community lies in the hearts of residents of Kitselas and all changes discussed will be for the general well-being of all members. There will also be one \$150.00 Gift Certificate from Canadian Tire up for grabs for one lucky participant from these community meetings.

The feedback will be compiled by Roger Leclerc, Kitselas Economic Development Officer, into a 5 year community development plan. Roger is also currently working on a human resources development plan for Kitselas Administration.

Roger can be reached at: 250.635.8882.ext.223 for more information or if you have any questions.

The Kitselas Band Council will be hosting this years Community Christmas Party and your help is needed to ensure this is a fun, joyous successful event for everyone!

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Gift Purchasers
- Dinner Cookers (food will be supplied)
 - Gift Wrappers
 - Set-up and Clean up

Please join the Kitselas Band Council, Staff in an evening of food, laughter and fun.

Various SPECIAL Door Prizes will be given!

To all on-reserve residents:

A \$100.00 cheque will be mailed out on or about December 14th 2009. This supplement is meant to help offset the heavy finances of the holidays for on-reserve Kitselas families. The cheque will be based on one per household.

Holidays begin from 12pm December 18th to January 4th 2010. If there are any emergencies during this time, please contact Fred Mason at: 250615.6847

EMPLOYING YOUR SKILLS

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Seeking employment can be a daunting task, for many reasons. For example: residents of Gitaus who may not have a vehicle have to plan ahead of time for job hunting days, according to the transit schedule or asking friends and family. But looking past any obstacles, there are many various options available here in Kitselas and also in Terrace, for making positive progress to your career goals and dreams.

The new job search board and resume writing computer, located at the Kitselas Health and Administration Offices, have been a very successful addition for our residents. Northwest Training routinely offers free resume writing workshops and other career goal oriented training. The resources for our community are there to be used and taken advantage of. When seeking a job, use all the resources available.

When approached by members who are inquiring about what opportunities are available, Steve Bernard the Kitselas Social Development Officer, is always open to new ideas and suggestions for potential partnerships with Terrace businesses. “There is help through the Social Development Department to get work experience in fields for future employment, but they have to phone and initiate the process,” Bernard says, “being open to any and all ideas to make opportunities happen for Kitselas residents, is what we are striving for.”

Here in Kitselas, there are some short-term employment opportunities available in almost every office. Within the Social Development Department, the program known as TESI or Training / Employment Services Initiative, gives opportunities for employable social assistance recipients to gain work experience and make a few extra dollars at the same time. Within



the Kitselas Resource Department, development projects have continually offered seasonal temporary full time employment to those who are interested in building projects such as the new houses and fourth longhouse project.

Although there are some employment opportunities that arise in our community, one must not forget there are jobs, resources and training opportunities in Terrace that can be utilized also. When you begin to re-vamp your resume, it is important to portray your skills in an effective manner. Rita Wacholtz of Northwest Training explains, “In order to market yourself first you need to understand and be able to articulate what you have to offer. This can happen on a resume, in an interview or in a phone call. It is crucial to recognize your own skills and not be shy about describing them.”



When approaching the job market, optimism is a key quality that you must hold. Finding a job in this town

isn't necessarily easy, but it is not impossible. “There are still opportunities here in Terrace it is just a more competitive job market. Treat your job search like a full time job, get up in the morning and work on it daily, volunteer, network, be persistent and don't rely only on job postings. 80 % of job openings are never advertized. Be ready to accept work when you get it, identify and work on your own barriers to employment. Keep informed, there are many programs available to help individual gain employment,” says Wacholtz.

For more information or to inquire about employment or training opportunities, contact: Steve Bernard at: 250.635.5084.ext.227 or Northwest Training at: 250.638.8108



This picture is from July 2006.
The land was being cleared and the roads weren't even made yet.

Our community of Gitaus has now grown to 66 residential homes in the subdivision, with 6 more on the way.



The new construction of 6 new homes in the Gitaus Subdivision is quickly coming together.

During this time of construction, please be aware of big machinery in the area.

HOUSING POLICY TO BE ENFORCED

BY: KITSELAS HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Kitselas Housing Department administers a number of housing programs which are funded through Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation & Indian & Northern Affairs Canada.

Typically, the mortgages are for a minimum of 20 to 25 years. It's the responsibility of the Elected Council to approve and set out the policies that will be used to determine the criteria for selecting the tenants for the Kitselas Housing Program. The Kitselas Administration follows these policies to the best of their ability to ensure that the Housing Department and selection of tenants are done in a fair manner.

The Housing Department will be carrying out evictions and it's unfortunate that this has to be done but the housing program cannot be jeopardized by those few that refuse to pay their rent. The CMHC housing program is meant for "Kitselas Band Members"

Kitselas Housing Department will unfortunately be forced into a situation where people will be evicted and their personal belongings will be removed from the premises. The RCMP will be advised to attend the eviction to be on hand to keep the peace.

If you have any questions, please contact the Kitselas Main Administration at: 250.635.5084.

ASSIMILATION REINFORCED: THE INDIAN ACT FROM 1876 TO 1951

BY JAY MAKARENKO
REPRINTED FROM THE WEB.

Early amendments and revisions of the Indian Act

Since its introduction in 1876, the Indian Act has undergone several amendments and reforms. The following provides a summary of key changes to the Indian Act during the period 1876 to 1951.



Amendments to the Indian Act 1876-1950

Between 1876 and 1950, the purpose of the amendments to the Indian Act was to strengthen the philosophy of civilization and assimilation underlying the first Act. Moreover, many of the changes to the Act granted the government greater powers to move Aboriginals and expropriate their lands for the purpose of non-Aboriginal use.

Key amendments to the Indian Act during this period include:

- 1885: Prohibition of several traditional Aboriginal ceremonies, such as potlaches.
- 1894: Removal of band control over non-Aboriginals living on reserves. This power was transferred to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.
- 1905: Power to remove Aboriginal peoples from reserves near towns with more than 8,000 people.
- 1911: Power to expropriate portions of reserves for roads, railways and other public works, as well as to move an entire reserve away from a municipality if it was deemed expedient.

- 1914: Requirement that western Aboriginals seek official permission before appearing in Aboriginal “costume” in any public dance, show, exhibition, stampede or pageant.
- 1918: Power to lease out uncultivated reserve lands to non-Aboriginals if the new leaseholder would use it for farming or pasture.
- 1927: Prohibition of anyone (Aboriginal or otherwise) from soliciting funds for Aboriginal legal claims without special licence from the Superintendent General. This amendment granted the government control over the ability of Aboriginals to pursue land claims.
- 1930: Prohibition of pool hall owners from allowing entrance of an Aboriginal who “by inordinate frequenting of a pool room either on or off an Indian reserve misspends or wastes his time or means to the detriment of himself, his family or household.”

1951 Revision of the Indian Act

In the late 1940s, the federal government established a Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons to examine Aboriginal policy. While recommending broad changes to the Indian Act, the Joint Committee nevertheless continued with the previous philosophy of transitioning Aboriginals from wardship to citizenship.

In response to the Joint Committee’s report, the federal government instituted some changes to the Indian Act in 1951 (although, overall, the new Act continued with many of the practices under the previous legislation).



In regard to general administration, the 1951 Act assigned responsibility for Aboriginals to the minister of Indian Affairs, with broad discretionary powers over the implementation of the Act as well as the daily lives of Aboriginals on reserves. The Act also maintained the government's power to expropriate Aboriginal lands, albeit in a significantly reduced manner.

Concerning the definition of Indian status, the 1951 Act instituted some limited reforms. The Act maintained the federal government's power to define Indian status and band membership, instead of transferring this power to Aboriginals themselves. However, the new Act abandoned the criterion of "Indian blood" in favour of a system of registration with strong biases in favour of descent through the male line.



The 1951 Act continued with the band council system, with some small alterations. Band council authority was still limited. However, under the new Act, bands that reached "an advanced stage of development" could acquire additional powers, such as authority to tax local reserve property. The new Act also allowed the full participation of Aboriginal women in band democracy.

The practice of enfranchisement was kept in the 1951 Indian Act. Voluntary enfranchisement was still permitted, as well as the compulsory enfranchisement of Aboriginal women who married non-Aboriginal men was continued and Aboriginals who received a university degree or

who became a doctor, lawyer or clergyman. Moreover, the 1951 Act introduced the double-mother rule, which provided for the compulsory enfranchisement of persons whose mother and grandmother had obtained Indian status only through marriage to a man with status. However, under the new Act, the minister could only enfranchise an individual or band upon the advice of a special committee established for that purpose.



The new Act removed many of the prohibitions on traditional Aboriginal practices and ceremonies, such as potlaches and wearing traditional "costume" at public dances, exhibitions and stampedes. The Act, however, continued many of the paternalistic elements of earlier versions. For example, the Act made it an offence for Aboriginals to be in the possession of intoxicants or to be intoxicated.

One of the more important reforms concerned the application of provincial law to Aboriginals. Previously, the federal government had asserted exclusive jurisdiction to legislate in the context of Aboriginals. Changes made in 1951, however, provided that whenever a provincial law dealt with a subject not covered under the Indian Act, such as child welfare matters, Parliament would allow that provincial law to apply to Aboriginals on reserves. This opened the door to provincial participation in Aboriginal law making.

WHY A TREATY: A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE BC TREATY COMMISSION

WHY in this day and age, are we negotiating treaties in BC?

For many people, treaties seem like a relic of the past, weren't treaties signed a long time ago, when Europeans first settled in North America?

In fact they were, in most of the continent. But treaties are unfinished business here in British Columbia. This unfinished business is costing the provincial economy a lot of money because of continuing uncertainty over ownership of millions of acres of land. It's also standing in the way of aboriginal communities regaining the self-sufficiency they once had.

When the early Europeans first began to settle in the eastern part of North America, Britain recognized that those people who were already living here had title to land: the Royal Proclamation of 1763 declared that only the British Crown could acquire lands from First Nation, and only by treaty. In most of Canada that's what happened.

Before Confederation the British Crown had signed major treaties. The new Dominion of Canada continued this policy of making treaties before the west was opened up for settlement. In most of these treaties aboriginal people gave up their title in exchange for land reserves and for the right to hunt and fish on the land they'd given up.

But west of the Rockies, things were different. Between 1850 and 1854 Douglas, on behalf of the British Crown, negotiated 14 land purchases on Vancouver Island, which are known to this day as the Douglas Treaties. When the mainland was made a colony in 1858, Governor Douglas' superiors in London left him in charge assuming that more treaties would be arranged. But neither Douglas, nor any of his successors made any more treaties. Instead

Douglas began setting out reserves for each tribe, which included "their cultivated fields and village sites."

Although no more treaties were made, under Douglas individual aboriginal people who wanted to take up farming could acquire Crown land on the same terms as the settlers. However, soon after Douglas retired the colonial government took away from aboriginal people the right to acquire Crown land, reduced the size of their reserves, denied that they had ever owned land, and paid no compensation for the loss of traditional lands and resources. So when the time arrived for the colony of British Columbia to join Confederation in 1871, the new province's policy was set: British Columbia did not recognize aboriginal title, so there was no need for treaties to extinguish it. The new Dominion seemed to have been initially unaware of British Columbia's approach to aboriginal affairs. When it became aware to expressed concern about the legality of British Columbia's policy, but the sea-to-sea railway and other matters were the focus and Canada was unwilling to force the issue.

Over the decade, aboriginal people presented letters and petitions to governments, demonstrated and protested and even met with provincial and federal officials demanding treaties. However, the only one signed in the new province was Treaty 8 in 1899. The treaty, which extended west of Alberta to take in the northwest corner of British Columbia, was signed with the federal government: the province took no part.

Continually dismissed and ignored, aboriginal peoples' demand for treaties intensified, culminating in the forming of the Allied Tribes of British Columbia in 1916 to work for treaties. During the 1920s the Allied Tribes petitioned Parliament more than once to have their case sent to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London (Canada's highest court at the time). In response, Ottawa amended the Indian Act in 1927 to make it illegal to

raise funds to pursue land claims and thus prevent land claims activity. The restriction on land claims activity was eventually lifted in 1951.

So, treaties should have been made yet weren't. Isn't it simply too late in the day to revisit this? Aren't we living in a different reality?

Under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, aboriginal rights and treaty rights, both existing and those that may be acquired, are recognized and affirmed. The reality we are faced with is that Canadian Law says aboriginal land title, and the rights that go along

with it, exist whether or not there is a treaty. But without a treaty there is uncertainty about how and where those rights apply.

The reason that this issue is being dealt with so late in the day is due in part to the Indian Act's ban on land claims activity. Not until 1970s was a First Nation able to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to do what the courts in the United States and New Zealand had done over a century earlier: to rule on the status of aboriginal title as a legal right.



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Book 8 Chapters 11-12

KITSELAS TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Understanding the Treaty Process

Kitselas First Nation has been actively involved in Treaty Negotiations with the Province of British Columbia and the Canadian Government for the last 20 years.

Within the six stages of the treaty process, Kitselas First Nation is currently in Stage 4: Negotiation of an Agreement in Principle.

Chapter 11:
Wildlife



Chapter 12:
Migratory Birds

The Kitselas Treaty Office will be concentrating its efforts on regular community consultations, distributing treaty information packages and various other initiatives for Kitselas Band members.

The Kitselas Treaty Office has been regularly sending Treaty Informational Packages to the membership.

Book 8 is currently at the printers and will be mailed this month.

Thank you to all of those who are helping get Kitselas members and their contact information.

It is very important that all Kitselas members are aware of where we are within the Treaty Process and are receiving the informational packages to refer to.

Currently being planned are community consultation meetings and a dvd premiere for Kitselas: A Clean Slate for January 2010.

KITSELAS YOUTH

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

When the Kitselas youth are gathering ideas and trying to bring positive messages to the community, it shows that they are interested in the future and interested in making the community a better place for everyone to live.

On November 28th, to bring National Addictions Awareness Week to a close, our Kitselas youth brainstormed ideas on how to get the community informed on the dangers of drinking and driving, with a Community Walk around Gitaus with anti-drinking and driving signs made by the youth themselves.

Approximately 15 youth and parents joined in the walk, armed with drums, signs and chanting catchy phrases, bringing awareness to the community of the dangers of drinking and driving.



The Community Walk on November 28th 2009 brought the Kitselas Youth onto the Gitaus streets chanting anti-drinking and driving slogans, with signs especially made for the walk.

“This will hopefully be an annual event for everyone to participate in and to become more aware of the effects that drinking and driving has on the community,” says Marcia Spencer, coordinator for the 2009 National Addictions Awareness Week activities here in Kitselas.

The week prior, the youth went door to door giving pamphlets (made by them) and red ribbons to gain support for anti-drinking and driving within our community.

These youth who are showing pride by taking an interest in the safety of our community, should be applauded. Youth are our future and by the looks of their willingness to proudly take a stand against drinking and driving, we are well on our way.

Thank you for all of those community members who tied on their red ribbon onto their vehicles antennas, especially this holiday season.

On average someone is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes.

In 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in drunk driving related crashes—a decline of 9.8 percent from the 13,041 drunk driving related fatalities of 2007

(Statistic taken from www.madd.org)

CONTEST KITSELAS KIDS!

Age: 5-12 years

How many times is the word:

COMMUNITY

written in this issue of the Canyon Current?

Your answer:

Name: _____

Age: _____

Phone Number: _____

Take this part of the paper to the
front desk of the
Gitaus Office or the Treaty Office
on Queensway.

OR

CALL HOLLY at 250.635.8882.ext.242

OR

EMAIL your answer to:
newsroom@kitselas.com

GOOD LUCK KIDS!

One entry per child.
All correct enteries will be placed into a draw.
with the lucky winner winning
a \$25.00 GIFT CARD FOR
WAL-MART

Entries must be in by: January 4th 2010



Don't forget to buy your special loved one,
the perfect Christmas present.....

Kitselas Canucks Raffle Tickets!

Each ticket is \$10.00

This month there will be
2 seperate draws made at once for
2 different games
that will happen in January 2010.

The draws will be for the following games:

Canucks vs Blue Jackets
on January 5th 2010

and

Canucks vs Flames
on January 9th 2010

The draws will take place on
December 31st 2009
at 12pm at the Kitselas Treaty Office.

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FROM KITSELAS
COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF!**