



Canyon *Current*

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 3 - Issue 5 February 2011



Cora Kennedy (left) and Ken McDames (right) present the 1st prize Kitselas Elder's Group Raffle winner, Debbie Moore, with a print by Heber Reece (Raven Stealing the Sun), 2nd Prize went to Annette Bolton (Henry Reece Print- Raven Dance) and 3rd Prize went to Jeanne Drake (George McKay Spoon, Martha Joseph Wolf wall hanging). The Elder's will have more fundraisers to support their efforts to attend the Elder's Gathering this summer. The Kitselas Elder's hosted an open-house and bus blessing on January 31st 2011 - details inside!

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In the Community

Elder's Fundraising Smorgasbord - Friday, February 18th at the Elder's Centre Gitaus from 11 am to 2 pm. Theme: Hamburger - Come out and support your elders!

Elders Walk/Swim - Tuesdays pick up begins at 10:30 am and will begin with a walk and then swimming at 11:30 am. For more info call Sharlene at 635-5084 ext 237. Please bring a snack and drink.

Elder's Tea - Wednesdays Everyone is welcome to join this weekly gathering at the Elder's Centre (Gitau) 1-3 pm.

Floor Hockey - Fridays from 7-9 pm at the Kulspai Community Hall. Call Dustin Sparkes for more information at 635-1985.

Youth Group Info Session on "Good Sportsmanship - Sports, Home, School & Friendship" February 22nd at 7 pm - Youth Centre.

FREE Workshop series at Northwest Training 201-4622 Greig Ave. All workshops run from 9 - 11:45 am, call 638-8108 for more info...

- March 7 - Communication Skills Pt 1
- March 8 - Communication Skills Pt 2
- March 9 - Handling Conflict in the Workplace
- March 10 - Employer/Employee Expectations
- March 11 - Teamwork

UBC Summer Science Program is a one week cultural, science, and health camp for Aboriginal students in grades 8-11, at UBC in Vancouver. Visit www.iah.ubc.ca to download an application, call 604-822-5677 or email kerriec@interchange.ubc.ca for more info. **Application deadline is March 18th 2011.**

Women's Wellness Group meets every Tuesday from 6-9 at the Gitau Office. Everyone welcome!

Alcoholics Anonymous - rides available to attend the Wednesday noon hour meeting. Please arrive at the Band Office by 11:30 am.

Elder's Group meets every Thursday for lunch at the Satellite Office - Kulspai at 12:00 pm

Prenatal Group for all expecting mothers, new mothers and mothers of toddlers are welcome to join in every Wednesday at 12:00 pm Gitau Band Office. Join in for lunch, questions and sharing.

Sm'algyax Lessons - Wednesdays 10am - 12pm and 1 - 2:30 pm at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu. Please call the school in advance to confirm your attendance at 635-3301.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help plan the year-end Education and Graduation celebration, no fundraising will be necessary. Interested persons, please leave your name and number with the receptionist at the Gitau Administration office.



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"Increasing Knowledge
Together
for a Better Tomorrow"

**Volume 3 Issue 5
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Anonymous Text Messages

Please be advised, concerns regarding the Kitselas Administration will most certainly be taken seriously, only if you are willing to sign your name. This is critical in order for any issues to be properly addressed. Thank you for your consideration.

Do you have a community event, story or photo you would like to share? Community submissions are always welcomed at the Canyon Current! The next deadline for submissions is **Monday, March 14th 2011.** Email: newsroom@kitselas.com OR Phone: 250-635-8882 ext 242 and speak with Hilary



**[www.facebook.com/
CanyonCurrent](http://www.facebook.com/CanyonCurrent)**

Long Standing Chief Councilor Not Running In Next Election

Chief Glenn Bennett has announced that he will not be running for a sixth term in the upcoming Council elections in June. Chief Bennett has filled this role for 10 years and feels it is time to let someone else take the reigns. Bennett adds that he will support and work with the newly elected Chief when the time comes. While it was a difficult decision, Bennett is proud of the many things Council has been able to accomplish over the past decade and the many opportunities to come.

Glenn began his employment with the Kitselas Administration in 1992 under the Aboriginal Fisheries Program and was encouraged to apply for the position of Treaty Coordinator in 1995. Later he was appointed as Band Manager and ran for Council and then Chief Councilor.

Throughout his tenure, Glenn has witnessed the successful completion of the new administration building in Gitau; the establishment of new programs such as the Land Management Act; and improved fire protection, water and sewer services. Most recently, the

construction of new homes in Gitaus that will enable 19 young families to come home. Significant projects, such as the Port of Prince Rupert Phase II negotiations will see \$1.9 million coming to the Kitselas to be used to support economic development. Bennett is also looking forward to the successful completion of the Specific Claims Process over IR # 7 (Ketonda) by the end of March, which will represent another \$2.5 million settlement for the Kitselas.

“It has been a good 10 years,” Bennett adds, reflecting on the many successes over the years,. Bennett will be moving back to the Treaty Department after his term is over. He looks forward to his new role and feels the Treaty will enable the Kitselas to determine their own destiny.

The current council mandate will expire June 12th. An electoral officer will be appointed at the next Council meeting. Stay tuned for more information...

Dr. Smith first came to Kitselas territory in 1981 with a passion to research the history of the people here. He has worked with the Kitselas for the last 30 years and was recently conducting research on the CN/Grand Trunk Railway as part of the Specific Claims process for IR # 7. While he is now looking toward retirement the Kitselas Administration is exploring a potential project with Dr. Smith with the objective of recording the oral history of the elders. Dr. Smith's protege Lidia Jendozjowsky was also recently in Kitselas to present the Council with her thesis “Memorializing Historical Imprints: Analysis of Historical Texts and Photos of the Kitselas 1850-1930”. Jendozjowsky is currently a pursuing her Doctorate at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland.



Above: Cliff Bolton presented this totem to the Kitselas Council in recognition of continued support in purchasing artwork over the last several years from both Cliff and his wife, established cedar artist Rena Bolton.

Below: Judy Gerow and Wilfred McKenzie stand with Dr. Derek Smith during a recent trip to Ottawa January 25-26.





Community members have an opportunity to dream of a vision for Kitselas. The Lands Management Office is currently engaged in a Land Planning process that begins with Visioning. Visioning is a formal process in which a group of people develop a shared description of what they want their future to be like. It identifies opportunities to reinforce the essence of the community while making it a better place to live, work and play. Individuals may already have ideas but they are usually not communicated or shared in concrete ways, visioning allows for these ideas to come forward and then sorts the ideas to identify common themes.

The Kitselas Chief and Council and Administrative Staff participated in a visioning session on February 7th and the Elders and Youth were engaged

February 15th. Idea boards have been placed at the Youth Centre and the Gitau Administration office and will remain until February 21st (Monday). Community Members are asked to participate by answering some questions namely: What do you like about Kitselas? What do you not like about Kitselas? In 30 years what would make Kitselas great? Participants can enter a draw for a chance to win Save-On Foods Gift Certificates or for a chance to have their name entered into the Kitselas Administration draw for Canucks Game on February 26th.

If community members are unable to get to the idea board they are encouraged to contact Sonja Foss at 635-8882 ext. 232 or email: sfoss@kitselas.com. This is your chance to have a say in the community you live in and what you want to see it become!



Sonja Foss and Peter Whitelaw of HB Lanarc, a professional planning company made presentations to Kitselas Administrative Staff and Chief and Council on January 31st

Kitselas Treaty
is on
facebook
Join our Group at
<http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>
and invite others to join!

WIN a trip for 2 to Vancouver to watch

VS

Playing February 26th 2011

Plus accommodations and spending money

Funds raised will proceed the Kitselas Sunrunner's, Elders and Youth Center. Tickets available at Gitau Administration Office or Resource Office (Kulspai) or members of the various groups this funding initiative will support.

Draw Date: February 24th 2011 - Get Your Tickets SOON!

Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu - Fred Wilson

Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu is enjoying some successes, this year seems to be moving along way too quickly.

Sm'algayax Language Lessons are moving along nicely with Lorna Johnson instructing. The participants continue to learn many new words and phrases and have a goal of 500 words by June 2011. The program is accompanied by a cultural aspect of singing and drumming. The community is welcome to attend this program, however it is advisable to attend consistently in order to get the most from the lessons. Simply call the school at 635-3301 to confirm your attendance.

Terese Hagen has been presenting every Thursday afternoon to help students to learn how to cope with minor and major difficulties in every day living.

Recently, the students hosted a meeting for Northern Health Care officials on February 3rd at the School. The students prepared snacks and a luncheon. This was a beneficial experience for students as they were able to witness and observe the various professionals in a meeting setting.

The school is planning fundraising events in the future, so stay tuned!

Questions or suggestions can be directed to Fred at 635-3301.



**Irvin K. Barber
Aboriginal Student Award**
Available to all residents who are active in their school or community. Deadline is May 15th, 2011. For more info go to www.bcscholarship.ca/web/aboriginal/apply. Browse this website for other scholarship opportunities that may benefit you!

The Aboriginal Student Career and Employment Program is looking for post-secondary students or graduates who may be interested in summer programs, internships, co-op or full-time employment. For more information visit www.aboriginallynx.ca

The BC Sports Hall of Fame offers a scholarship for one male and one female graduating BC student athlete for \$1500 each. The goal is to encourage athletes to stay in BC post-secondary schools. Deadline for nominations is April 15th, 2011. More information can be found at www.bcsportshalloffame.com/about-us/scholarships

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Are you interested in a career that allows you to travel? A career that encourages authentic expressions of cultural and traditions? A career in tourism is a chance to interact with different cultures, to communicate your heritage the way you want the story told!

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If you are interested in learning more about career opportunities in tourism, program course descriptions, and admission requirements, visit www.nwcc.bc.ca/programs

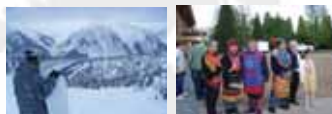
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FALL 2011

Terrace Campus

Course Topics:

- Introduction to tourism
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- First Nations cultural communication
- BC natural history interpretation
- Tourism customer service
- Events & festivals management
- Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable tourism



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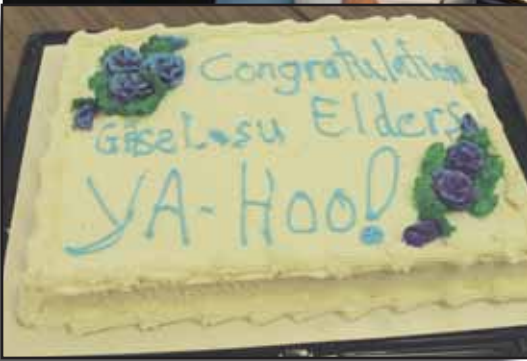
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Elder's Group Celebrates 20 Years



Approximately 30 people filled the Elder's Centre in Gitau on January 31st to join the Kitselas Elders Group in an open house and blessing of their new bus.

The freshly decaled bus made its maiden voyage after Major Dave Moulton blessed the bus and its future passengers. Looping throughout the community of Kitselas everyone was in a joyous mood as the bus represents the efforts of many to bring this project to life. The Elder's Group was first formed in 1991 and is celebrating its 20th anniversary this

year. As Ken McDames stated in the opening remarks, it has taken at least that long to get the bus and the Elder's are definitely looking forward to the opportunities it will present.

The crowd enjoyed a wonderful spread prepared by the Elder's and shared in a cake that aptly expressed the way everyone was feeling - "Yahoo!"

The Kitselas Elders have plans to attend the Elder's Gathering this summer and will be conducting a number of fundraising efforts to help make this happen, so be sure to support your Elders!



Kitselas Elders Fund Raising SMORGASBORD

When: February 18th 2011

Where: Elder's Centre -
Gitau

Time: 11 am to 2 pm

Theme: HAMBURGER!
...meatloaf, burgers, etc.

Come out and support your Elders as they fundraise for their trip to the Elder's Gathering!



Family Tree Project

The Youth and Education Departments had a successful turnout for the Family Tree Project on February 11th at the Gitau Administration Building. The community participants shared a wonderful meal of comforting soup and bannock and a delicious assortment of desserts, catered by the Sunrunners.

This hands on event focused on exploring family tree roots. Attended by a range of age groups this event was a great way for the community to come together and was an especially valuable experience for the youth. The objective of this project is

to promote the integration of traditional knowledge in the school and home learning. Participants developed a Personal History Book which is intended to develop self-confidence while exploring their cultural roots.

Try this activity at home with your children to reinforce their connection to their ancestors. Enter "How to Build a Family Tree" into Google to find a variety of links to get you started or simply start mapping out your roots starting with your grandparents, their children, your parents and their children and so on. Have fun!



Top: Isabelle McKee
Bottom: Lynn Wright holds the resources used for the project
Left: the precious youth who came out to learn and participate

New Website Sneak Peak!

The Kitselas Treaty Office has been working with Consulting company Spark Design out of Smithers to update the existing kitselas.bc.ca website. The new site will be easier to navigate and will host a number of new features. We anticipate the new site will be up and running in March. Stay tuned and in the meantime have a look at the changes!



Thinking About the Indian Act - Hilary Zornow

The Indian Act is simply a part of our lives, it often goes unquestioned and while our ancestors fought fervently to remove the bounds of the Indian Act it has remained essentially unchanged since it was first passed in 1876. This document has stripped Native people of their ability to self-govern and continues to impose itself as we strive toward progress – it is time to start questioning this document and its role in our lives.

The Indian Act set out to control Native people. Section 91 (24) of the Act gave Ottawa legislative jurisdiction over “Indians and lands reserved for Indians” – meaning they had authority to pass and impose laws on Native people. The Indian Act grew to become a powerful force of oppression. Native people were governed on the lands reserved for them by the Indian Agent. They could not leave their reserves unless they had permission from the Indian Agent and if they were caught leaving without permission they could be put in jail. The Indian Act also enabled the government to remove Native children from their homes, placing them in Residential Schools (which operated from 1880 to the early 1970s - over 100 years). In 1884, under the authority of the Indian Act, the government outlawed the potlatch, or feast system, forcing Native people to hide the most fundamental element of their culture for fear of being persecuted. The reserves that Native people had been given were considerably smaller and less fruitful than the lands that were opened for settlers. They were isolated from the territories they

had used for harvesting and earning a living as they were now confined to the reserves and their traditional territories were quickly parceled off to White Settlers and became private lands. In Kitselas territory the Homestead Act of 1904 stated that any one person, except the Natives and Chinese, were allowed to have 160 acres free of charge anywhere along the Skeena River, in that same token the Kitselas were allotted approximately 4 acres each - an obvious injustice to a modern day observer.

Native people did not simply accept their fate; rather they began to fight for their right to maintain their own systems of governance as soon as they were threatened. In 1887 Tsimshian and Nisga’a Chiefs traveled to Victoria to press for treaties and self-government and were turned away. More efforts and petitions were made in these early years and each time the Native people were dismissed. In fact, the government felt so threatened by the political action taking place the Indian Act made it illegal for Native people to organize to discuss land claims in 1927. Native people also weren’t allowed to raise money to hire a lawyer to fight for their cause in the court system. It wasn’t until 1951 the Indian Act was amended and Native people were again allowed to organize and were given back the right to hold feasts.

To this day the Indian Act continues to impose itself on the lives of Native people. The Band Government is limited in its scope of power as it is subject to the will of the Minister of Indian Affairs, formerly known as the Indian

Agent. While the Kitselas Reserve Lands Management Act has given more control over lands to the Kitselas these lands still remain reserve lands and are subject to the will of the Crown. In other words, the home you live in that resides on reserve land is not your private property, the land your house sits on still belongs to the Crown.

So what do you think of all this? This article does not have a conclusion for the express reason that it is intended to promote discussion. I implore you to visit the following website and read the Indian Act if you haven’t already <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/I-5/>, and join the Kitselas Treaty Facebook group to post your views. The URL for the Kitselas Treaty group is <http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>, while you have to request to join, anyone who would like to be apart of this group will be accepted. It is monitored daily and we encourage you to visit often to express your opinion, we want to hear it!

A Community Engagement Series will begin this Spring to discuss various elements related to Treaty and Self-government stay tuned!

**Contact: Hilary Zornow
Email: h.zornow@kitselas.com
Ph: 250-635-8882 ext 242**

Get Your Copy of
“People of the Grizzly:
A Clean Slate” a
DVD produced by the
Kitselas Treaty Office
that you need to see!