



## SM'ALYAX CLASSES FOR KITSELAS KICKING OFF TO A GREAT START

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

In this unique class, students are learning the historic language of Sm'alyax in our very own community. Karen Sankey has come to instruct the Symalgyx class, consisting of twelve registered students.

Every class is joined by Isabell McKee, who participates in every class as a fluent speaker to help the students with pronunciation and overall understanding.

Currently there are six seats still available, so if you are interested in learning Sm'alyax then give Anita Smith a call at Wabsuwilaks'm: 250.635.3301



The Sm'alyax classes have been very informational, hands-on and fun for all those who are taking part.

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## Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge  
Together  
for a Better Tomorrow”

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### Kitselas Band Council Tentative Meeting Dates for 2010

February 9th 2010 - Gitauas

February 22nd 2010 - Queensway

March 15th 2010 - Gitauas

March 29th 2010 - Queensway

April 5th 2010 - Gitauas

April 19th 2010 - Queensway

May 3rd 2010 - Gitauas

May 17th 2010 - Queensway

May 31st 2010 - Gitauas

June 7th 2010 - Queensway

June 21st 2010 - Gitauas. Last KBC meeting before summer break.

These dates are tentative and may be rescheduled, due to a quorum of 4 councillors needed to make decisions. Kitselas Band Council meetings are open to the membership to observe.

## **KITSELAS SUN RUNNERZ HAVE BEGUN TRAINING**

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Jada Seymour has twenty eager participants to train this year for the Kitselas Sun Runnerz Team. Training began on January 28th, and so far they are off to a great start. Training three times a week, the group is gradually advancing in both distance and endurance.

By joining the Sun Runners, participants are making a healthy choice to add physical activity to their schedule thereby getting into shape, losing weight, and lowering risk of heart attack. Taking preventative measures to being active is a true benefit to your health.

Fundraising is also big part of participating and the group hopes to do bottle drives, bake sales and raffles, all to get the community involved and show support.

If you are interested in joining the Kitselas Sun Runnerz, call Jada at: 250.635.5084. The last day to register is February 5th 2010 so call as soon as possible!

The Vancouver Sun Run is Canada's biggest and best community run which takes place Sunday, May 9 at 9 a.m. It is the 2nd largest timed 10K in the world. 55,858 Sun Runners celebrated the 25th year of the event in 2009.

# TEST DRILLING IS PLANNED FOR NEW WELLS IN GITAUS

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Since last summer the water levels in Gitaus have been closely monitored by Fred Mason and Danny Parker, and water restrictions have been put in place for the community until a more secure water source is found.

This coming week, test drilling will be taking place in Gitaus for new sustainable water sources. The drilling will take approximately two weeks by Double D Drilling. During the duration of the drilling, there will be samples taken for testing in Vancouver by the PETO consulting firm.

The test drilling that will be taking place will target what is known as the Skeena River Basin. The test drilling will go down about 200 feet, approximately twenty feet lower than the actual river itself and is the same taste and quality of the water which is currently being used. During the duration of the drilling, there will be samples taken for testing in Vancouver by the PETO consulting firm, who will also be on site.

During drilling, water levels will be constantly watched, and the water tower has been kept at full capacity, which means if there is an emer-

gency or fire, there will be enough water to handle the situation.

After test drilling takes place and the water sample information is brought back to the Kitselas Band Council and INAC, there will be a shift into Phase 2, which is piping from the new wells into the existing pump-house.

Community members should still be aware of water consumption and usage during this time until the new water wells are fully operational.

Fred Mason says, "From my point of view, it has been a slow process to get to test drilling, but with the help I've been getting from Danny Parker, we've been making sure there is a steady constant water availability for Gitaus. I'm optimistic about what will be happening for our community and our water supply."

If there are any questions please contact Fred at: 250.615.6847



For Kitselas members there has been a large stockpile of trees that have been cut down from I.R.#2, which can be used for home, personal use. Any selling of this wood is not the intent, it is meant to be used by those who need it.

Feel free to cut what you need for your home while it is available.

The pile is located near the turnoff for the Kitselas Canyon in Gitaus.

# KITSELAS HOUSING ARREARS

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The ongoing housing situation here in Kitse- las has been both negative and positive. As our community grows and more houses are built, the Kitselas Housing Committee and the Kitse- las Band Council have to make hard decisions when it comes to all arising housing issues.

The new housing coordinator, Ulyses Venegas, has been hired before the Christmas Break be- gan and since then, letters have been sent to all housing tentants who are in arrears.

It is important that all tenants call the Housing Coordinator to establish a repayment plan for all arrears and to keep paying the required amount

of rent for your home on time, which is at the first of every month. When renting a home anywhere, even on-reserve, you are required to pay rent. Rent payment is not considered to be optional and evictions will be enforced by the Kitselas Band Council.

The current standings of arrears for Kitselas will only make it more difficult to pursue further funding for more homes in the future. For our community to grow, we must take ownership and responsibility for our housing matters.

Contact Ulyses Venegas at 250.635.5084. ext.232 for questions or comments regarding your personal housing situation.

## NEW EMPLOYEE:

My name is Ulyses Venegas aka (Gordo) and I am the new Housing Co- ordinator for the Kitselas Band. I was born and raised in Mexico and at- tended University there, I studied Architecture and graduated as an Archi- tect in 1998. In 2003, I moved to Canada where I opened a restaurant in Dease Lake, I then moved to Terrace and opened “El Gordo’s Cafe” which I owned and operated until it burnt down along with the Skeena Hotel in 2008. In 2008, I also started a business called Artitectura Design and Con- struction where I design and draw blueprints. I am very excited to be work- ing with the Kitselas Band, and in my new job position I am looking for- ward to learning to using my skills, learning new ones, as well as meeting new people.



## HEALTH PROGRAMS IN KITSELAS:

### *Parent Connection*

Each Wednesday: Gitaus

Everyone welcome whose children are 0-6 years.

### *Diabetic Group*

Each Thursday in Kulspai.

Drop in for lunch and visit with our elders and learn about healthy food choices.



# FATAL MAULING OF BOY, 9, HIGHLIGHTS WILD-DOG MENACE

KIRK MAKIN

TAKEN FROM MONDAY'S GLOBE AND MAIL.

WWW.GLOBEANDMAIL.COM

PUBLISHED ON SUNDAY, JAN. 31, 2010

The death of a nine-year-old boy torn apart by dogs on a north Saskatchewan native reserve Saturday has highlighted a growing danger – wild dog packs that roam many northern communities.

The child – Keith Iron-Cheekosis – was found dead in the snow near the home of a cousin he was going to visit at Canoe Lake First Nation, a 1,700-member reserve.

“It was shocking to me to see him lying there in the snow,” said Cynthia Ballantyne, Keith's aunt. “I couldn't sleep. I just can't close my eyes. They must have jumped him.

“Something has to be done about these animals because kids go out every day, and they are afraid,” Ms. Ballantyne said. “It's not safe for them to go out. It is the same all across the north. Reserves need help with these animals. The dogs are overpopulated and not fed anything at all.”

By late Sunday, band members had hunted down and killed four dogs with Keith's blood on their fur.

“All of a sudden yesterday, they started killing the dogs – but they were told last week after another kid was attacked,” Ms. Ballantyne said. “They just jumped to it after my nephew was dead. It's not right. They should have done it before. Other kids have been bitten, too. They will even attack grown-up persons. Now, it's too late for my nephew.”

Ms. Ballantyne said that more than 200 half-

starved dogs roam the reserve in packs searching for food.

“Nobody is tying them up or feeding their own animals,” she said. “They don't bother taking care of them. They let them go loose and wild.”

Keith, a boisterous, popular child, was well known in the community. He was extremely close to his elder brother, Sonny, who has a significant learning disability and relied on Keith to help him communicate and understand the world around him.

“Keith is like a guide to him,” said a local resident, who asked to remain anonymous. “Sonny is going to be very lost. It will take a long time for his to understand that his brother is gone.”

Geraldine Red-Iron, a vice-principal at Canoe Lake's high school, said that the dog issue is very divisive. She said that whenever authorities try to kill the wild dogs, people claiming to be their owners rise up in anger.

“They get very, very defensive about the dogs,” Ms. Red-Iron said. “This is not just a reserve issue. It is a northern issue. The bylaws regarding pets are not enforced. Whenever we see a pack of dogs near our school, we have to call the band office to come and remove them.”

She said that bands have tried unsuccessfully to persuade provincial health authorities to send vets up north to neuter dogs.

Mr. Ballantyne said that her cousin was hired by the Canoe Lake band council several weeks ago to kill some of the dogs. Within days, she said, he was arrested for garroting one them, and is now serving a ten-month jail sentence for animal cruelty.

*(continued on page 8)*

# ABORIGINAL POLICY IN TRANSITION: THE INDIAN ACT FROM 1952 TO 2002

BY JAY MAKARENKO

REPRINTED FROM THE WEB.

## *Contemporary amendments and revisions of the Indian Act*

Since the revisions of 1951, the Indian Act has continued to undergo changes, both in terms of its underlying philosophy and its specific provisions. The following provides an overview of the Indian Act during the period 1952 to 2002.

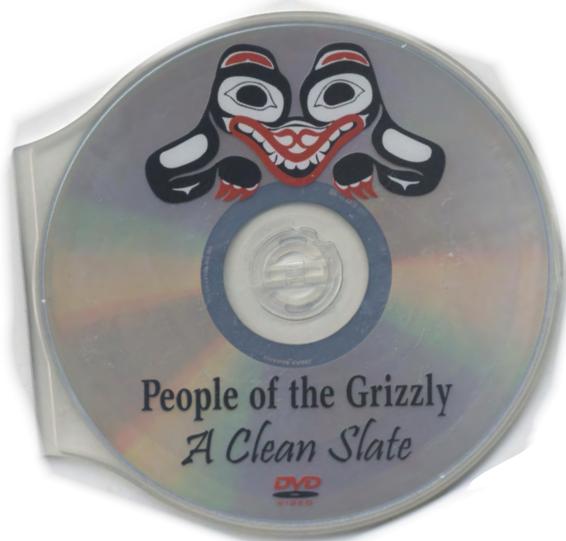
## *Conflicting Views on Aboriginal Policy*

From the 1950s onward, Aboriginal policy in Canada entered into a complex period. On the one hand, there still remained the traditional philosophy of assimilation, which encouraged Aboriginals to leave behind their Indian status and integrate into the broader Canadian society. Contrasted to this, however, were new approaches to Aboriginal policy, based on the desire of Aboriginal groups to assume control over their own communities, as well as new ideas derived from the international indigenous movements of the time. Central to this approach was the view of Aboriginal groups as distinct nations, which

were entitled to political, social and economic self-determination.

This period of complexity is evident in the range of actual and proposed amendments that occurred to the Indian Act between 1952 and 1985. For example, in 1960, Aboriginals received the right to vote federally without having to give up their Indian status. Furthermore, in 1961, the compulsory enfranchisement provisions were removed from the Indian Act, meaning that Aboriginals could no longer be forced to give up their Indian status. This eliminated some of the key assimilation provisions of the Indian Act, which had been in existence since the late 1800s.

In 1969, however, the federal government introduced the 1969 White Paper [12] on Aboriginal affairs. This strategy paper proposed the abolition of the Indian Act altogether, the rejection of land claims, and the assimilation of Aboriginals into Canadian society (with the status of an ethnic minority, as opposed to being a distinct national-cultural group). Strong Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal criticism of the 1969 White Paper eventually led the federal government to back away from this position.



Kitselas Treaty DVD now Available!

The Community Viewing of 'People of the Grizzly-A Clean Slate' on January 14th 2009 was huge success. Over 100 copies were given out to everyone who came out to see it.

If you would like a copy of this Kitselas Treaty Informational DVD, please contact:

Holly M. Spencer

Phone: 250.635.8882.ext.242

Email: [hspencer@kitselas.com](mailto:hspencer@kitselas.com)

### *The 1985 Revision of the Indian Act*

One of the more significant changes to the Indian Act came in 1985, when the federal government introduced Bill C-31. This amendment was in response to changes in Canada's constitutional framework; in particular, the introduction of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms [13] in 1982. Section 15 of the Charter prohibited discrimination based on certain characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability. This right to equality had important implications for sections of the Indian Act, particularly in regard to the historical practice of compulsory enfranchisement for Aboriginal women who married non-Aboriginal men (while Aboriginal men marrying non-Aboriginal women could retain their Indian status).

The Indian Act, 1985 removed this discrimination by asserting that women could no longer gain or lose Indian status as a result of marriage. Moreover, the new Act permitted the restoration of Indian status to several groups that had been forcefully enfranchised in the past. This included Aboriginal women who had lost status due to marrying non-Aboriginals; children enfranchised as a result of their mothers' marriage to non-Aboriginals; persons enfranchised as a

result of the double-mother provision; and illegitimate children of Aboriginal women who lost their Indian status because of non-Aboriginal paternity.

In addition to removing elements of discrimination from the Act, the 1985 revision also granted Aboriginal bands the right to determine their own membership. Under the Act, bands were allowed to administer and update their band lists, which was a record of all persons who were recognized as formally belonging to the band.

Moreover, bands were allowed to establish their own rules of membership in administering their band lists. This reform enabled greater Aboriginal control over who was to be considered an Aboriginal for the purpose of the Indian Act.



From the Kitselas Band Council

The Kitselas Band Council has decided that a by-election will be held for the vacant position recently held by the late Winnie Wells.

The following are dates are:

Nomination Meeting: Tuesday March 16th 2010

Date of By-Election: May 11th 2010

Keith was the third child mauled by dogs in northern Saskatchewan in the past two years. In 2007, a five-year-old boy on the Cumberland House First Nation reserve died after in an unprovoked attack by five dogs.

Last fall, a six-year-old child at Île à la Crosse, Sask., was badly bitten but survived after surgeons at a Saskatoon hospital used 60 stitches to close the wounds.

Lance Loonskin, a five-year-old boy in northern Alberta, died in 2006 after being mauled by a pack of dogs running loose on the North Tallcree reserve.

In Manitoba, two children also suffered the same fate in 2006. A two-year-old boy on the Hollow Water reserve and a three-year-old boy on the Sayisi Dene reserve were fatally attacked by dog packs.

## Winners in the Community:

For participation in the Community Vision Strategic Meetings a \$150.00 Gift Card for Canadian Tire was drawn to: Wilfred Bennett Sr.

For the Canyon Current contest, Counting the word 'Community', the winner was: Hayley Wells. She won a \$25.00 Gift Card to Wal-Mart.

For the final Canucks Home Game draw before the Olympics begin, the winner was: Morris Mason. This is the third time that Morris has won the prize, and each time he only purchases one ticket!

Congratulations to Everyone!

### REMINDER:

It is important to keep your pets tied up on your own property, for the safety of all the children and people in the community.

There should not have to be a tragedy to take place to a child in our community before owners take responsibility for their pets.

There have been numerous incidents where other peoples pets and children have been attacked. This is not safe.

There have been previous newsletters stating that dogs running free on reserve will be bear maced. This will be enforced day and night.

Please keep your pets on your property and kept in a manner so they are not a danger to anyone.



The participants at Parent Connection and Head-Start were pleasantly surprised with free books for their children to help promote Literacy Month. A generous donation of \$200 was given from the Kitselas Social Development Dept. to purchase the books.