



(The photo's above are taken from the first day of the gathering. Courtesy of Morris Mason)

## In celebration of our Elders

The 33rd Annual Elders Gathering was a successful event held last week in Terrace. Three days of gathering and sharing of cultural traditions was the focus of the thousands of various first nations groups from across British Columbia.

This year Melvin and Rosie Robinson of New Aiyansh were crowned King and Queen. The event will be cherished by all those who attended to honor of our elders.

The 34th Annual Elders Gathering will be held in Kamloops in 2010.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- New employees of Kitselas.....P. 2
- Kitselas Land Grant Policy.....P. 3 -4
- Breaking Ground in Gitau.....P. 5
- Kitselas Treaty wraps up production for Treaty documentary.....P. 6



## CanyonCurrent

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## NEW EMPLOYEES:



The Kitselas Band Council would like to welcome Steve Bernard to our offices as the new Social Development Worker. Steve has over 10 years experience in social work and has worked for a number of years at the Terrace MCFD office as well as for the Terrace Family Justice Centre.

Steve trained as a family mediator and worked with families separating and divorcing in developing parenting plans and working through the family court process. He has lived in Terrace for over 9 years and is married with 2 children. Steve recently celebrated the birth of his bay girl Isabella on Jan.15/09.

When he is not is too tired from working and parenting, Steve finds time to participate in the Terrace Kinsmen as there Vice-President. Steve is one of 4 directors of the Terrace Kin Camp at Lakelse Lake and he and his 5 year old love spending the weekends painting and repairing the camp with the other Terrace Kinsmen. Steve also loves fishing and ocean kayaking. Before he moved to Terrace from Victoria BC he spent his weekends scuba diving in the various locations around Victoria BC.



The Kitselas Treaty Department has recently hired Shirley Gray to fulfill the Lands Manager position. Shirley moved home to Kitselas with her parents in 1970; and then moved into a residence on Kulspai in 1987 with her husband John and two children Crystal and Garrett with the addition of Lannea in 1999.

She has witnessed the community grow from eight homes to the present two residential reserves. “I am pleased to be part of Kitselas history in the making as your Land Manager. I have 25 years experience in the administrative field that include eight years as a Central Records Supervisor with INAC; twelve years with Legal Service Society of B.C. in a Native Community Law Office as a Legal Information Counsellor/Manager and trained as a paralegal; four years with the Terrace Nisga’a Society as the Senior Administrator. I have also served on Kitselas Band Council as an elected Councillor for four terms. I am very happy to be able to bring all of my acquired skills and experience back to Kitselas,” Shirley states.

For more information on the Kitselas Land Grants,  
please contact Shirley Gray at the Kitselas Treaty Office: 250.635.8882.ext.232

**Policy Manual  
Land Grants to Members**

| Unit                    | Policy   | Approved  |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| <b>General</b>          | This policy deals with the granting of a right of possession and occupation to a member. <b>It is important to remember that a right does not exist until it is granted by the Band Council.</b> It is only after the Grant has been finalized does the right come into existence.   | Policy approved by KBC by Band Council motion February-09 |
| <b>Authority</b>        | The <i>Kitselas "Land Interests Law K.B.C. 2007 No 1"</i> section 6.02 states: Council may by Order grant an interest or licence in Community Land, including but not limited to the following<br>a) A right of possession and occupation to a member.<br>b) an easement:<br>c) a right of way:<br>d) a permit: or<br>e) a lease.  | Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007                               |
| <b>Member</b>           | For the purposes of the " <i>Kitselas Land Interests Law</i> " Only a band member registered under section 6 of the Indian Act, and is a registered member of the Kitselas Band is eligible to be granted a right of possession and occupation in Kitselas lands.  |   |
| <b>Criteria</b>         | The following is the criteria approved in this policy:<br>1. Residential lots in either Kulspai or Gitauis,<br>2. Lot must be surveyed and have a recorded legal description.<br>3. No money is to be owed to the band for the house.<br>4. House is no longer under a mortgage through CMHC<br>5. If there is to be more than one owner, both or all owners must agree to either a joint tenants to tenants in common.  |   |
| <b>Rights of owners</b> | The right of possession and occupation includes:<br>1. The right to "will" the home and lot to another band member, the band cannot transfer ownership of land to a non band member.<br>2. The right to sell it to another band member,<br>3. To lease or rent<br>4. To give it to another band member<br>5. The right to benefit from the resources on the land.<br>6. The right to benefit from improvements made after transfer of ownership.<br>7. Neither the Band Council nor the Department of Indian Affairs has the authority to cancel a right of possession and occupation.<br>8. Council cannot add owners to the land without the |   |

(Continued on Page 4)

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
|                                 | consent of the present owner.  |
| <b>Rights do not include</b>    | <p>Ownership rights do not include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Starting a business without a business licence issued by the Kitselas Band Office.</li> <li>2. Using the land for anything that may be hazardous to the health and safety of others,</li> <li>3. Owners and all persons are subject to all of the laws of Kitselas including zoning laws,</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Obligations of owners</b>    | <p>The owner's obligations and responsibilities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since it is no longer a band house, the owner is responsible for all maintenance and repairs.</li> <li>2. The owner is responsible for fire insurance, the Council has no obligation to replace a house.</li> <li>3. To prepare a "will" and register the will in the Kitselas Land registry office.</li> <li>4. Inform the Kitselas Lands Office of any changes to ownership.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Council will approve</b>     | <p>The following will be approved by Council;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All documentation is complete and checked by legal counsel.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Council will not approve</b> | <p>The following will not be approved by council under "<i>Land Interests Law K.B.C. 2007 No 1</i>":</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transfers to non Band members.</li> <li>2. Incomplete Documentation</li> </ol>  |



The Kitselas Youth Centre is calling for applications for volunteers from the community to help with the Youth Centre operations during the holidays.

Please contact Jada Seymour at: 250.635.5084.ext. 225

Volunteers will be required to fill out some paperwork prior to being approved.

## FROM THE KITSELAS BAND COUNCIL

RE: Fences for Community Members

The Kitselas Band Council is in the process of replacing the fence. Community members have enquired about fencing around their property. We can do this at a cost for the material and labour.

If interested please call the main office for more information at: 250.635.5084



The Gitaus Subdivision is currently breaking ground and making way for a new soccer/baseball diamond for the community. This exciting new project in Gitaus will be located near the water tower adjacent to the Gitaus Health and Administration office.

As this is a new project, the field should be ready to use in Spring 2010.

## KITSELAS SUMMER STUDENTS



Once again Kitselas has hired summer students to gain experience and earn some extra money by working within various departments of the administration.

Jesse Bevan, Brittany Seymour, C.J. Bennett and Alvin Seymour Jr. have been chosen for various summer student employment within the Kitselas Canyon Development, Public Works and Administration departments.





## AN IN-DEPTH AND INFORMED LOOK INTO THE KITSELAS TREATY PROCESS

The Kitselas Treaty Office has been extremely busy within the last few months preparing for the production of a 22 minute documentary focused on the Kitselas Treaty Process history to present day. Liz Obomsawin of Sekon Productions was the company which was chosen to fulfill the needs of the project.



For almost two weeks, Liz along with the Kitselas Treaty staff worked tirelessly to be sure that every base was covered in terms of footage. Interviews, re-enactments, and a helicopter point of view of the Kitselas Reserves will make this project even more interesting to watch and learn from.

Rather than being similar to dvd's made by other first nations, which focus on convincing the members to vote yes on a treaty, the approach for Kitselas was to inform the members of why a treaty is needed.



With our modern day politics and seemingly endless negotiations, the real reason why a treaty is necessary is to solidify the uniqueness which our people have so painstakingly tried to preserve. The dvd will give historic facts, show the economic and developing initiatives of Kitselas and will also give information which may not be known by all members.

For more information call the Kitselas Treaty Office  
at: 250.635.8882.ext.242

or

visit the BC Treaty Commission Website  
at: [www.bctreaty.net](http://www.bctreaty.net)

