



Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 4 - Issue 18 June 2012

Community Smoke House Under Construction



Edward Mould (left) and William Bolton (right) stand inside the community smoke house currently under construction on a specially designated lot in Gitau. The smoke house is expected to be completed early July.

A year and a half ago William Bolton's wife suffered a heart attack. He was so overwhelmed by the outpouring of financial support from the community he wanted to be able to give something back. William has long wanted to see a community smoke house that is accessible to everyone. Sonja Foss, Lands Manager, took an interest in William's vision and together they worked toward making it happen. The Lands, Social Development and Employment departments all contributed to funding the project and

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In the Community

Bingo & BBQ Buns Tuesday, June 26th 4:00 - 6:30 pm at Ksan Place (2812 Hall Street). Join us for a BBQ Bunwich and a game of Bingo, Prizes will be 'Ksan Care Packs' - this is a FREE event!

Dr. Omrid, Dental Therapist will be in Kitselas June 25th, 27th and 29th. Please call 250.635.5084 to schedule an appointment.

School's Out Youth Dance - Friday July 6th 7-11pm at Gitaus Admin Bldg. A celebration for the years accomplishments for youth aged 13-17. Come out for Pizza, Prizes and Dancing!

Fiscal Relations Post-Treaty: Info Session July 11th 1:00-4:00 pm at Gitaus Admin Building. Financial Expert Bill Stipdonk will be back to re-visit the topic of taxes and elaborate on how program funding works post-treaty. Refreshments will be served. Please call 250.635.8882 if transportation is required.

Improving Indoor Air Quality Workshops June 25th - 29th at Kitselas Hall. Learn about mold remediation and indoor pollutants to help improve air quality in your home. Seating limited, to register contact Ulysses at 250.635.5084 ext 232 or drop-in at the Band Office.

Kitselas Treaty Lands Tours will start July 11th and will be running every Wednesday to August 22nd. Tours start at 9:00 am at the Kitselas Treaty Office (4562 Queensway). This is an opportunity for Kitselas members to see the lands that have been offered and to ask questions. Participants will need to provide their own lunch. To sign up for a tour please contact Sharlene at 250.635.8882 ext 249

Ice Cream, Blizzards & Slushies for Sale. Cones: \$1.00-\$3.00; Slushies: \$1.50-\$2.50. To order text Elaine at 250-975-0892

Ongoing:

Kitselas Soup Kitchen Tuesdays at Noon - Gitaus Admin Bldg. Volunteers needed to help with food prep and to deliver food to Elders and Queensway residents. Contact Sasheen for more info.

Take control of your mental and emotional health! Counseling services at the Gitaus Administration Building:
Wednesdays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm with Jonathan Whonnack
Thursdays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm with Kathy Wesley

Elders Diabetic Group runs each THURSDAY from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Kulspai Health Station. Lunch provided.

Mothers Prenatal Group is each Wednesday from 12:00 - 2:00pm at the Gitaus Administration Building.

Healthy Food Distribution for pregnant women and diagnosed diabetics. Individuals who do not fit into the category of intended recipients can participate in this program at a cost of \$10.00. Contact the Kitselas Health Department for more information.



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www.kitselas.com

Is your mailing address
up-to-date?

Please help us to maintain communication with the Kitselas membership. If you have family and friends who do not currently receive information from the Communications Office please encourage them to be in touch!
Ph: 250-635-8882 ext 242
E: h.zornow@kitselas.com

follow us on
twitter
@Kitselas

Visit us on
Facebook

[www.facebook.com/
CanyonCurrentPage](http://www.facebook.com/CanyonCurrentPage)
Kitselas Treaty Group:
<http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>



Kitselas Headstart recently enjoyed a day trip to the Usk Hobby Farm. The children enjoyed activities and meeting the animals in the petting zoo. Pictured here Anne Wright (left) and Vern Dudoward (right) have some fun with the Kitselas cuties. *Photo: Anne Wright.*



**Kitselas Youth
Summer Activities**

**Reading Program
Fish Camp
Youth Day Camp**

*Stay Tuned for your
information booklet
and registration package!*



National Aboriginal Day 2012
Celebrating cultures and contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people

**Saturday
June 23**

**"Raising Each Other Up through
Respect and Unity"**
10 am - 8 pm

Ceremonies, dance groups and performers, music bands, food vendors, information booth, games and lots more...

For more info contact:
Kernode Friendship Society
at 250-635-6778
Visit www.kernode-fs.ca for vendor forms and additional info.

THANK YOU TO THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM:
Kernode Friendship Society, Coast Mountains School District, CFNR, Northwest Community College, Make Children First Network, Northern Health, Skeena Diversity Society, Family Place

The Kitselas Treaty Office
has a new
TOLL FREE number!
1-855-635-8882

Please encourage others to be in touch to ensure contact information is updated or to ask any questions. We would love to hear from you!

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation: Indoor Air Quality Workshops

Introduction to Indoor Air Quality for Home Occupants:
Monday, June 25th 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Let's Clear the Air - Seminar: Tuesday, June 26th
Learn more about poor air quality and pollutants that can affect your family's health. Learn when and how to fix problems and maintain good air quality in your home.

Let's Clear the Air - Home Assessment: Wednesday June 27th
A hands-on workshop to learn how to do a preliminary indoor air quality investigation (IAQ).

Mold Remediation: Thursday, June 28th and Friday, June 29th
Learn the steps involved in remediating a moldy home and how to direct remediation of mold problems in your community.

Seminars scheduled from Tuesday to Friday start at 8:30 am and end at 4:30 pm

Location:
Kitselas Hall

To Register:
Contact Ulysses
250.635.5084 ext 232

*Space is limited
Refreshments Served*



Youth Represent Kitselas at Caledonia First Nations Art Show



(Left-Right) Randi-Mae Bennett, Alannah Bennett, Brandon Williams and Cyril Bennett-Nabess Jr. pose with their art work at the Caledonia First Nations Art Show May 31st 2012. First Nations students attending Caledonia Senior Secondary put on an amazing demonstration of talent with a number of canvases on display and spectacular murals that adorn the halls of the school. All of the youth should be extremely proud - bravo!

Training & Employment Opportunities

OFA Level 1 and Transportation Endorsement

These two courses will be offered July 10th and 11th from 8:30 am-4:30 pm at the Gitaus Admin Building. There are 11 seats for the OFA Level 1 and 12 seats for the Transportation Endorsement available. Pre-registration is required - Deadline: Wednesday July 4, 2012. Registration forms are available at both the Queensway office and the Gitaus office. Please call Sandy at 250.635.5084 ext 229 for more details.

Kitimat Valley Institute Summer Courses:

Introduction to Scaffold: July 23-Aug 3, 2012

Concrete and Rebar Safety: Date TBA

Funding may be available to those that qualify.

Energy Corridor Service Worker: Date TBA

Registration is July 13 in Kitimat. For more info contact Steve Welsh or Jodie Cook at KVI
Phone: 250 639 9199 ext 31

Northwest Community College is offering a Construction Safety Officer course. You must be 18 years of age and have a minimum of 1 year experience on a construction site. Date and times TBA. For more information call Sue Ann Norton at 250 638 5408.

The next Heavy Equipment Operator course is August 27-September 21. If you are interested in this course, please register early as it fills up very quickly.

Employment Counselling Services:

Different programs within the band are in need of on-call employees. If you are interested in an on-call position with Resources, Reception or as a Cook, please submit your resume to Sandy. You may be required to do an interview.

The employment and training program has a Facebook page, Search: Kitselas Band Employment Page and LIKE the page to receive regular updates.

If you are interested in taking some training, looking for work, updating your resume, working on job skills, please call Sandy or drop by the office. Sandy is in Gitaus Monday, Wednesday to Friday and on Queensway on Tuesdays.

Congratulations to the Kitselas Career Fair

Grand Door Prize Winners:

iPad - Colin Moore

Rip Stick - Terry Bob

Video Camera - Victor Wright

Kobo Reader - Ben Auckland

iPod Docking Station - Tyloh Bolton

Our Vendors kindly donated a number of door prizes for the event, winners have been contacted. Any unclaimed prizes will be re-drawn. Grand Door Prizes were compliments of the Kitselas Treaty Office.



Sadly the Kitselas Career Fair was shadowed by the tragic loss of Peter Bryant whose helicopter crashed during a training session on the same day. He along with two other individuals lost their lives. Peter was to bring his helicopter to the event and speak about his journey to success. Upon hearing confirmation of Peter's untimely death the Kitselas Career Fair was abruptly canceled. We send our deepest condolences to Peter's wife, daughter, family and friends and to the many others affected by the accident. Peter's death is a great loss and we are deeply saddened by his passing.

Kitselas Career Fair

The first annual Kitselas Career Fair held June 1st 2012 at the Gitau Administration Building brought in approximately 90 participants for an action packed day. The event opened with a performance by the Gitselasu Dancers and the building was bustling with activity as participants visited with the assorted information booths and took part in the presentations from various companies and agencies. The Northwest Community College had its heavy duty equipment simulator in full operation, the Thornhill Fire Department and special guest Sparky the Fire Dog engaged the public and everyone enjoyed a BBQ lunch. It was a great start to what is

hoped to be the first of many more to come.

The Employment Counselling Office and Kitselas Treaty Office combined efforts and resources to plan and implement this event. We thank the Kitselas Council and Staff for supporting the use of the Administration Building for this event and to those staff members who rolled up their sleeves and helped in any way they could, our cooks: Harry, Jessica and Jennifer, the many companies and agencies who came to deliver information, the Gitselasu Dancers for performing on short notice and to the many participants who made the day a success.



Top: Kitselas members visit the BC Hydro Reps. **Left:** Participants try out the Heavy Equipment Simulator courtesy NWCC **Right:** Wes Patterson, Sparky the Dog and Rick Bohm - Thornhill Volunteer Fire Dept.

Why Treaty: Settling the Land Question



L-R: Herb George, Zandra Wycott-Ross (meeting facilitator) and Fred Tolmie

Guest speakers Herb George (Satsan), President – National Centre for First Nations Governance, and Fred Tolmie, Chief Executive Officer - Nisga’a Lisims Government, addressed the crowd assembled on May 17th 2012 at the Kitselas Hall for the community meeting dubbed, ‘Why Treaty?: Settling the Land Question’. Both gentlemen have extensive experience with self-government and were able to lend their insight into why the Kitselas are negotiating a treaty and what a post-treaty world would encompass.

Satsan (Herb George) is a Wet’suwet’en hereditary Chief who spent a significant part of his career working to resolve the land question. He was a key figure in the Delgamuukw – Giday Wa case in 1997 and has long been devoted to helping First Nations work toward their inherent right to self-government. In his address Satsan shared his personal experiences in watching his community suffer feelings of hopelessness and powerlessness under the restrictions of the Indian Act. Referring

to a time before the Indian Act Satsan explains, “we had our own resources, governments and we had international relations with our neighbours,” he elaborated, “the Indian Act was originally set up to take our people off the land and force them onto reserves. We had no more economy and our people suffered for that. [It was also designed] to oppress us and make us dependent.” It was in response to the limitations of the Indian Act that First Nations began to seek a new relationship with the Crown, Satsan explains, “the whole point was to take back our place on our own land”. From generations of frustration the BC Treaty Process was born to finally reconcile the land question and help First Nations regain jurisdiction. He acknowledged the feelings of uncertainty some feel when it comes to discussing treaty saying, “it’s a own authority...people fear that if we move away from the system we will lose.” With that he encouraged the crowd by adding, “if we don’t change from out of the Indian Act we can’t achieve

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Myths of the Nisga’a Treaty

Myth #1 - The Nisga’a Nation is financially broke

FACT: In the last 3 years along, the Nisga’a Nation accumulated surpluses of \$24 million. The Nisga’a Settlement Trust Fund is presently valued at \$168,000,000. Annual funding increases at a greater rate than funding provided to bands under the Indian Act.

Myth #2 - Health Services and Education have suffered under the Nisga’a Treaty.

FACT: Health funding to the Nisga’a Nation has increased at an annual rate of 6% since treaty came into effect. This is the same rate of annual increases the province receives from Canada.

Myth #3 - Nisga’a Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the Canadian Constitution were extinguished.

FACT: Nisga’a Aboriginal rights under section 35 continue to exist and are recognized. Nisga’a rights were merely modified to enable modern rights to self-government.

Myths & Facts provided by Fred Tolmie - CEO, Nisga’a Lisims Government

Why Treaty: Settling the Land Question *continued....*

our full potential...the government isn't going to change it for you. We have a lot of work to do and decisions to make, but when we make that decision we *can* have government to government reconciliation."

The Nisga'a were the first in BC to achieve the kind of reconciliation Satsan spoke about in his address. Fred Tolmie's presentation on the realities of a post-treaty world was very candid and the members who remained for the evening were pleased with his honest overview of where the Nisga'a are 12 years after the effective date of the first modern day treaty. He stated, "Twelve years isn't a long time for a new government...there is a lot of areas we need to grow still [but] it's exciting to see the levels of government negotiate rather than being told, there is a level of innovation and freedom we couldn't have under the Indian Act." Fred focused his presentation on the principles of the Nisga'a Treaty and dispelled some common myths (*see panel left*). In his address Fred commented on the purpose behind treaty making stating that there is a fundamental "difference between rights to consultation under treaty as opposed to having to prove rights without a treaty." In reference to the Nisga'a Treaty Fred added, "the fact it is in black and white means our rights our constitutionally protected...Nisga'a Title has replaced Crown Title, the Fiduciary Duty has been transferred from the Crown

**"We have to look to the future
with courage, generosity of spirit
and we can't be afraid"**

~ Satsan (Herb George)

to the Lisims Government, if we fail to provide this we can be sued by our citizens." Fred further explained that there are many checks and balances to ensure accountability. For example, the Nisga'a Trust Fund is tightly managed by a Financial Administration Act, and the budget to use these funds must be approved by 36 elected leaders of the Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a.

Treaty negotiations in BC are a complex process and while the future cannot be foretold, it is clear that creating a better future depends on making serious decisions today. This meeting was the third in a series of community dinners accompanied by special guest speakers. The Treaty Office have accessed grant funding to provide these opportunities to the Kitselas members and remain committed to carrying forward with our communications process. If there are any questions related to the communications process or any suggestions please feel free to contact our office, at 250.635.8882 or toll free 1.855.635.8882.

Community Smoke House (from front)

... community members provided the labor to erect the building now located in a lot behind the four-plex in Gitaus which houses the Youth and Elders Centre and Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu. The Kitselas Council has designated this lot for the future use of the project which is expected to grow over the years to include a smoke house for each clan. The existing structure will have a special space designated for cleaning and preparing fish, jarring and behind the building a space to gather and mend nets.

A 'Fish Camp' is scheduled to be the focus of the smoke house this summer running from July 22-29th. Summer students will be taking part in this project in order to offer assistance to the camp participants. The camp is intended to teach Kitselas cultural practices like fish harvesting, cleaning, smoking, preparation, preservation and jarring to ensure natural resources are utilized for future generations. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

William says, "this became bigger than expected." He is thrilled with the community response and is looking forward to the years ahead. A number of individuals showed up and pitched in to get it started. Thanks go out to Wes Patterson, Fred Mason, Mickey Mason, Georgia Dennis, Coltyn, Medrick, Denise and Clifford, any persons missed were not intentional, but your help has not gone unnoticed.

Assistance is needed to put a roof on the building, if you are able to help please contact William at 250.641.0108.

Volunteers are needed for the Fish Camp. If you are able to volunteer time please contact Geneva at 250.635.8882 to sign up. People are needed for the following tasks: monitoring the smokehouse, preparing jars and nets, sharpening knives, setting nets, cooking, story telling, wood gathering, hanging strips, cleaning up and so forth.

Education News - Debbie Moore

We are quickly approaching the end of the 2012 school year. I'm certain there are many happy students who will embrace the freedom of summer break! Congratulations parents for your endless support of your children. Keep up the good work and have a wonderful, memorable safe summer!

On behalf of Kitselas Education Department and Kitselas Band Council it is my great pleasure to congratulate the graduate students of 2012 who attended Kitselas Head Start, Caledonia Sr. Secondary, Parkside Secondary, Centennial Christian School, College and University. Congratulations on work well done! I do not have confirmations for Wabsuwilaks'm students at this time but will publish a graduate list soon - congratulations to all Adult Students who have been hard at work to complete their Dogwood Diploma.

I want to pay tribute to the memory one of my former students that recently passed away. Peter Bryant was to be a guest speaker at the Kitselas Career Fair. Peter was excited to do a presentation, especially to the youth. Peter was going to establish a business in Terrace as part of the Bailey Helicopter Company. I

cosponsored his Helicopter Pilot Training with Skeena Native Development Society. Peter was an inspiration to me, not only as student but as human being who demonstrated perseverance, commitment to work, hope and respect. His Family has much to be proud of.

KITSELAS SUMMER READING PROGRAM

July 3-13, 2012 at Kitselas Hall 9:30am-2:00 pm daily

Transportation Provided - pick up in Gitau at 9:15am at regular school bus stops.

To register or for more information contact Gerry Seymour, Program Coordinator at 250.635.5082 ext 8211 (during the day)

Mr. Seymour requires 2 students from Kitselas to work in the program for 2 weeks maximum. Please submit letter of interest to Mr. Seymour stating your name, age, grade, and reason you want to work for the Summer Reading Program. Please call Mr. Seymour at the above contact numbers.



Congratulations Grads!

Alanna Bennett
Randi-Mae Bennett
Cheyenne Bevan
Cyril Bennett-Nabess
J. Amadeus Derrick
Grey-Owl Mason
Alvin Seymour Jr.
Brittany Seymour
W. Brandon Seymour Jr.
Benny Stewart



From Left
Clockwise:
Benny Stewart,
Brandon
Seymour with
Grandma Lucille,
Randi-Mae,
Alannah and
Cyril, Amadeus
Derrick.