

Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”



“Thank you to those who voted for me, and it is an honour to serve the Kitselas people.

I am excited to learn what is going on in the various departments of Kitselas. I am sure it won't take me long to get up to speed because I have been at these tables for many years.

I have an open door policy in that anyone can contact me and discuss, in confidence, your concerns.

I will do my best over the coming year to give proper and sound direction to the Kitselas Band, and will always represent Kitselas in a professional and businesslike manner.”

Sincerely,

*Joe Bevan
Councillor*



KITSELAS MEMBERSHIP VOTES: JOE BEVAN

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The recent Kitselas by-election resulted in the Kitselas membership voting for Joe Bevan to serve as the newest Kitselas Band Councillor for the remainder of the term, which is until June 2011.

Final election numbers have been mailed to all Kitselas members, with a total of 146 voters utilizing their right to vote and therefore taking an active part in choosing the leadership of our nation.

Joe Bevan can be reached at: 250.615.9340
or email: joe.bevan@kitselas.com
for any members who have any concerns or comments.

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IN OUR COMMUNITY

Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge
Together
for a Better Tomorrow”

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JUNE 3 - KITSELAS LANDS DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

This is a great opportunity to learn about the Kitselas Land Dept. and Kitselas Laws. Light refreshments will be served and 4 Gift Certificates will be drawn. From 12pm-3pm at Gitau Health/Admin. Office. Everyone is invited.

JUNE 8TH - KITSELAS HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEGINS NEW WOMENS WELLNESS WORKSHOP

A new summer wellness series: ‘Exploring Values’ Join the other women in the community for a healthy meal, interesting and informative dialogue and a craft. Begins at 6pm-9pm at the Gitau Health/Admin. Office.

JUNE 11 - CALEDONIA SR. SECONDARY GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Congratulations to all the 2010 Graduates!

JUNE 14 - KITSELAS DEVELOPMENT AGM

Everyone is invited to attend this important community meeting. Begins at 6pm at the Kitselas Community Hall. For more information contact Roger Leclerc at: 250.635.8882.ext. 223

JUNE 15-17 KITSELAS COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Overview of the 2010/2011 Finances. Special presentations from various departments. Light Refreshments will be available. Everyone in the community is strongly encouraged to attend. Begins at 6pm-9pm daily.

JUNE 20 - NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY / FATHERS DAY

JUNE 21 - KITSELAS OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

In lieu of Aboriginal Day, the Kitselas Offices will be closed and will re-open for regular hours on June 22nd.

JUNE 24 - KITSELAS YOUTH WORKSHOP

Life Cycle of a Salmon hosted by Ken McDames Jr and Fred McKenzie. Learn about the life cycle of our most important food source. Takes place at the Kitselas Youth Centre at 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

JUNE 27 - KITSUMKALUM 2ND ANNUAL SALMONRUN 2010

Join the Kitselas Sun Runners in this local event by calling Jada Seymour at: 250.635.5084.ext.225 Participation is flexible and at your own pace! Tie those shoelaces up and come on out for some healthy exercise.

JUNE 29 - COAST MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #82 SCHOOL YEAR ENDS

Last day of 2009/2010 School Year and Summer Begins.

Congratulations to all the students on their studies!

KITSELAS MEMBERS MOVE BACK HOME

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The recent housing development in Gitaus has been completed, in time and within budget. The six homes have all been assigned to Kitselas members and have already been moved into or will be shortly.

The total of homes in the community of Gitaus is now reached 72 homes. Currently the Housing Coordinator, Ulyses Venegas is also looking into new building avenues for nine more homes for the Gitaus subdivision.

As our community grows and Kitselas members return home, there is a lot of excitement and trepidation. Marlene George (Trick) and her son Brandon are two new residents to the Gitaus community.

When asked about how it feels to have the opportunity to move back to Kitselas, Marlene says, "I felt like we won the lottery, since affordable housing can be so out of reach these days. For us it means a lot to be able to move back home and reconnect to the community."

Our community has grown immensely in the last five years and continues to grow as each year passes. Although arrears are a constant issue that the Band Council and Housing Department struggle with, there is a sense of optimism when it comes to the success within our community.

It is important that all tenants read thoroughly the Tenancy Agreement which was signed upon acceptance of their homes, as it is clearly noted the grounds for termination of the agreement.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to inquire about the status of their rental arrears and repayment plans as soon as possible. If there are arrears owing on your home, it is not eligible for any repairs and you could face a possible eviction.

Affordable housing is a privilege, not a right and should not be taken advantage of. Monthly rent still needs to be paid every month, same as it would if you chose to live anywhere else. Living on-reserve does not mean that the rules do not apply.

Contact Ulyses Venegas at: 250.635.5084.ext.232 to get further information on any housing issues, arrears and applying for housing.

KITSELAS LANDS DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

ON JUNE 3RD 2010
AT THE GITAUS HEALTH/ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE
BEGINS AT 12-3PM

4 DOOR PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN AND
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

This open house is intended to inform the on-reserve membership of the Lands Dept. functions, progress and overall information session.

If you want to know more about if you are eligible to get a Certificate of Allocation, or are wondering what it can mean for you and your home...
than this open house is perfect for you!



KITSELAS HOME OWNERSHIP ON RESERVE IS REALITY

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Last year there were three Kitselas residents who have obtained Certificates of Allocation for their homes. This year there are four more Kitselas members who are currently in the process to attain ownership.

For many years, the idea of owning your own home on reserve was a unreachable dream. Many Kitselas members do not realize the implications that the Indian Act has had, and continues to have on our daily lives.

As Kitselas is one of twenty-nine First Nations across Canada who are at an operational level of the First Nations Land Management Act, and the opportunity for members to own their own homes has now become a reality.

Isabelle McKee, a Kitselas Elder, says: “This wasn’t possible before through Indian Affairs. I feel good knowing that I have a choice in who my house goes to because if I didn’t have this,

it would revert right back to the Band and they could choose.”

The laws in which the Kitselas Lands Department are implementing are beneficial to the membership and the first step is to call Sonja Foss, the Kitselas Lands Manager. It is within her job description to find out whether you are eligible for a Certificate of Allocation and to continue from there.

“It was intimidating at first, but this wasn’t possible before, without the government saying ‘No’ and its our own land laws that make it possible,” says McKee.

There is an Open House scheduled for 12pm-3pm on June 3rd 2010 at the Gitau Health/Admin. Office for all community members interested in the Certificate of Allocation process or any other Kitselas Land/Law questions.

What is a Certificate of Allocation?

A Certificate of Allocation is the legal right to own your home on-reserve and includes the usage of the land/lot in which it is on.

Haliisa’aas

means

Soapberry month

(June)



ENVISION OUR FUTURE

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

As the Kitselas Treaty Negotiations continue well into its 20th year, perhaps it is time to clarify what negotiating a treaty can mean for our people and our future.

Most people think that treaty means losing something, losing status, losing benefits or land. This is a common misconception. Treaty means taking the responsibility back from the government and becoming free from the Indian Act which has only suppressed Aboriginal people since it was enacted in 1876.

“The federal Indian Act makes it virtually impossible to get positive changes accomplished for First Nations people, but I think there are other ways to get things done, like using the treaty process. We need to get inventive.”

*-Sophie Pierre
Chief Commissioner of the
B.C Treaty Commission*

Economic and social growth to become self-sustaining, self-governing nations is the long standing focus of all treaty negotiations.

Without a treaty, utilizing any potential within our communities is impossible, due to the limitations of the Indian Act. The Indian Act was enacted to limit the success of the lives of all aboriginal people, plain and simple. Although in our own community of Kitselas, we have grown to have above average success in comparison to many others in the province, we still abide by the rules set out by INAC.

Many of our on-reserve membership show contentment with how things are now, under the Indian Act. Our lives are relatively smooth and it would appear that we are all well taken care of.

Realistically, we as a nation are living in sub-standard living conditions, being taken care of by sub-standard health and educational systems. So the misconception, that “Natives have it so good” cannot be more further from the truth.

The question: “Why do we need a Treaty when everything is fine the way it is?” can be heard at almost every community meeting we have. The answer is simple: Treaty is the only option to give us proper self-government, to build our own successful futures.

What needs to be realized is that Kitselas does not make all of the laws and rules that it is governed by. We follow what INAC dictates to us. INAC also enforces how much funds are allocated, what they are used for and if there is a surplus, then less money is given the next fiscal year. This does not effectively fit the needs of our community.

First Nations across Canada have realized in these modern times, treaty is the only way in which to become truly prosperous and successful, without the burden of the Indian Act.

Most recently, the Tswwassen First Nation signed the first urban treaty in 2009 and have been implementing it since. “Our Treaty is the right fit for our nation. More land, cash and resources provide us the opportunity to create a healthy and viable community, free from the constraints of the Indian Act. We now have the tools to operate as a self-governing nation, for the first time in 131 years since the first Indian Act was introduced,” said Chief Kim Baird in her historic 2007 speech to the British Columbia Legislature.

It is a very momentous time for Kitselas and the other 42 First Nations in Stage 4 of the treaty process, because now is the time of transition within our communities. Things are changing and opportunities are going available that were never there before, due to the fact that we are embarking on self-government.

Attaining a treaty means creating our own destiny and creating a legacy for the future generations to come.

KITSELAS CANYON BEGINS NEW TOUR SEASON

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

This year there are many exciting changes happening at the Kitselas National Historic Site. This year there will be half a million dollars put into various projects to make further developments.

Currently there are projects that are happening at the same time, such as the building of the fourth longhouse and the three totem poles, all which are currently being carved at the site.

The fourth longhouse will be the Transportation Longhouse and will be completed this summer. Dempsey Bob will be painting the wolf design for this longhouse, which will also be completed this summer.

There are currently 10 carvers, including Stan Bevan, Dempsey Bob and Freda Deising students and graduates located in the National Historic Site, and they will basically be there all summer to complete a total of three totem poles.

The two smaller, 15 feet in length poles (Wolf and the Supernatural) are planned to be ready for Riverboat Days celebrations, and will be placed on the outer longhouse ends. The longer totem being carved is thirty feet in length and depicts the Beaver Legend. This will be placed near the Kitselas Health/Administration Office.

There will be renovations to the soon to be Information Centre / Gift Shop building, which will

showcase local artisans work to be sold to tourists.



Any artists who are interested in knowing how to get their work showcased, should call the Kitselas Resource Centre and talk to Web Bennett.

Again there will be two summer students hired this year to assist with tours and projects: Cyril Nabess and Alvin Seymour Jr. As the School District #82 school year comes to a close, there will be many classes will be coming into the Kitselas Canyon for guided tour field trips. Regular tours have also begun and will be in full swing until the end of August.



There will be cedar benches that will be placed along the one kilometer walkway in various spots until you reach the end of the trail, near the Honoring our Ancestors Totem poles.

Members of the community are welcome to come and take a look at the progress at the Kitselas Canyon National Historic Site and see the progress which is being made. The National Historic Site is a treasure of the Kitselas People and should be treated respectfully and with pride.

For more information on the Kitselas Canyon please contact Web Bennett at: 250.635.5084.ext.231



KITSELAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Kitselas Development Corporation is holding a shareholder meeting and AGM on June 14, 2010 at 6pm at the Kitselas Community Hall on Queensway Drive.

The new structure will have each Kitselas member over the age of 18 years will be issued one common voting share in Kitselas Development Corporation. All shares in Kitselas Development Corporation must be held by Kitselas members only.

This meeting will present the new restructuring model, KDC business plan, and appoint two directors from the community to sit on the board of directors.

Two of the five Directors have been appointed by Kitselas Council. These individuals need not be elected Councillors; Council can appoint individuals who bring certain business or financial skills to the table that can contribute to the further success of the Corporation.

Two more Directors will be elected by shareholders from a proposed slate of Directors presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation.

The two Directors appointed by Council and the two Directors elected by the shareholders, will then select one more Director from the Kitselas community or the broader business community as the fifth Director.

For further information or questions contact Roger Leclerc at: 250.635.8882.ext.223

URGENT NOTICE TO ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

The Thornhill Volunteer Fire Department is urgently needing new volunteers!

The TVFD provides all the equipment and training, all you need to bring is your motivation and interest.

If you are:

-Physically fit

-Want to help keeping our community safe

-Reliable and committed to training

-Interested in how volunteering can lead to other career choices

Call to inquire when the next practice is by calling:
Wes Patterson at: 250.638.1466



*The Kitselas Band Council and Education Department
would like to express appreciation to Anita Smith for two years of service
to Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu Adult School, Students and community.*

*Anita will be leaving the position and moving to be closer to her children and grandchildren
at 100 Mile House. Anita's term ends June 30, 2010.
She will be available until then to assist with registrations for September.
The position will be filled for start date in September 2010.*

*~Anita,
we wish you happiness
and the very best with your future endeavours.
You will be missed.
Thank you for your contributions to building
success at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu~
-The Kitselas Band Council & Staff*



I will be leaving my position here at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu at the end of June so I would like to say a special thank you to the elder's for their ongoing support for the adult school especially Phyllis McNeil, Rhoda Seymour and Isabelle McKee and for bringing the sunshine into our school. These three elders were always there to encourage and recognize our students for all their endeavours. Your community is very blessed to have these elders.

I would like to acknowledge Chief and Council for giving me the opportunity to work in your territory. I would also like to thank all our partners, especially North Coast Distance Education for their ongoing respect and support in meeting the needs of our students. It has been an honour to work with and meet all the adult students in the last two years, you have been a family to me and parts of each of you will remain in my heart forever.

Please remember all the virtues you possess, we have shared lot of laughter and tears and knowledge. To all of my students please remember to continue working on your healing journey and continue to love and respect yourself. In closing I would like to thank all the Kitselas People, It has been a pleasure working in your community. I would like to leave with you a quote that is very important to me "You never fail until you quit trying"

Yours in the circle of education,

Anita Smith

WABSUWILAKS'M GITSELASU IS TAKING PRE-REGISTRATION

BY: ANITA SMITH

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage any of you are 19 and older and have not graduated to take advantage of the opportunity to work towards obtaining your Adult Dogwood Certificate.

I know from experience how hard it is to get decent and steady employment without your grade twelve. I was not as fortunate as many of you are. I lived off reserve and Social Assistance wanted us employed so we were not allowed to go to school. I realized that without grade 12, my family was destined to a life of low income.

Every time I was unemployed I would beg Employment Insurance to allow me to go back to school to continue with my education. It was a long hard journey, however, it has paid off.

Besides role modeling the importance of edu

cation to my children and family, I also had the opportunity of earning a good living doing something I love. With an adult dogwood, many doors will open for you.

The choice is yours; you can choose to live on low income for a couple of years and work towards obtaining a better life for yourself and your family. Once you have your Adult Dogwood Certificate you are then eligible for funding for college or university courses. For many of our First Nations people the dreams of being a Teacher, Social Worker, Nurse, Doctor have become a reality.

Chief & Council and your Education Coordinator have worked hard and dedicated a lot of energy into meeting your educational needs. The funding will not be here forever so sign up for school and start making your dreams a reality.

Rose Coffey our new teacher this year has proven that she has the knowledge and ability to help our students with their academic courses. Rose has a quiet gentle manner and respect for all our students the Kitselas people and culture. She has been a great asset to our school so I know I will be leaving all the students in good hands.

WABSUWILAKS'M GITSELASU ADULT SCHOOL IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FALL 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

- If you have not graduated with a Dogwood certificate or
- You require pre-requisites to enter into a College or University Program and
- You are Committed to studying and
- You are Committed to attending school 5 days per week.....

Then Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu Adult School is the right place for you!

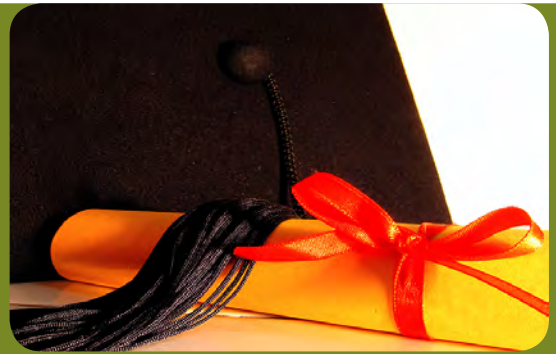
- We offer a structured environment with
- Certified Teacher and support staff
- Scheduled program with breaks
- On-site tutoring and support

Start date September 13, 2010. Please Call Anita at 635-3301 to register.



AM Head Start Class

Eulenina Wright	Sebastian Moore
Mariah Hogue	MacKenzie Seymour
Aiden Lincoln	Arianna Gray
Edie McMillan	Caiden West-Johnson



*Congratulations
to all of the
2010
Kitselas Graduates*



PM Head Start Class

Ashley Johnson	Eve Wright-Seymour
Gabriel Cooley	Aaron Robinson
Henessy Parnell	Madge Gray
Hayden Wesley	



*I am a proud mother to announce that my son:
Rory Elmer John Erickson
is Graduating in the Class of 2010!*

*I am so proud of all his endeavors to this date and to
say I thank God for all the Strength given to my
children to make school happen!
Education is a strong tool in life!
I wish my son all the gratitude and praise
for his Life Accomplishments
and hope to see much more in his future!!
Congratulations My Son*

*Love your Mother Anne & Harry, Geneva and Vince,
Royce, Crystal and Rich and family*

KITSELAS YOUTH CENTRE

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Thursday: 6pm-9pm

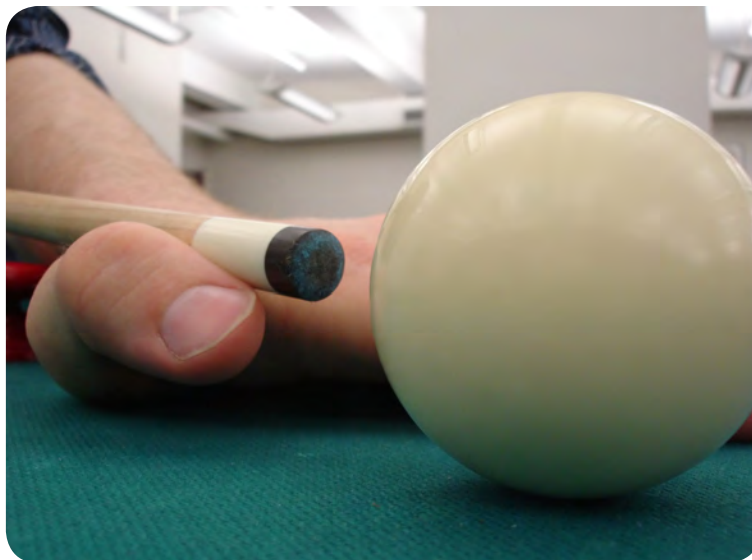
Fridays: 7pm-10pm

Saturdays: 6pm-9pm

Sundays: 12pm-3pm & 6pm-9pm

Things to do:

- Hang out with your friends
- Play pool
- Play foosball
- Check out the book exchange
- Exercise on the gym equipment
- Friday movie night
- Take part in workshops



*For more information
contact:*

Lynn Wright at: 250.635.3117 or

email: youth@kitselas.com



Upcoming Youth Events

Girls Nite Out

Guys Nite Out

Pool Tournaments

Foo's Ball Tournament

*Come and meet your friends at the
Kitselas Youth Centre!*

Upcoming Youth Workshops

*'Life Cycle of a Salmon'
& 'Types of Fish'
Informational Workshop*

DATE: Thursday, June 24th, 2010

TIME: 7pm

PLACE: Kitselas Youth Centre

Refreshments will be served

Kitsumkalum in Action presents

Run Wild!
SalmonRun 2010
Kitsumkalum, BC

5 or 10 km

- ➔ Walk
- ➔ Run or
- ➔ Push a Buggy

Sunday June 27, 2010

at Tempo Gas Bar

Pre-Registration Categories*:

\$25 for all registrants 18 and over
includes T-shirt and lunch

\$15 for youth 6 - 17 years
includes T-shirt and lunch

\$5 for children under 5 and elders over 65
includes lunch

* *pre-registration is required to receive a free t-shirt*

Pre-Registration deadline: June 4 at 4:30 pm

chance to win a trip for 2 to Vancouver courtesy of Hawkair



Gerald Samson

- ➔ Pick-up: 10am
- ➔ Run: 11am
- ➔ Salmon BBQ at noon

Registration & Info at:

www.kitsumkalum.bc.ca

or email:

salmonrun@telus.net

Event Partners: Kitsumkalum Band Council, CFNR, Kitsumkalum Tempo Gas Bar, Hawkair, Silvertip Promotions, Terrace Totem Ford and Pizza Hut.

Sponsored by 'Na Aksa Gila Kyew Learning Centre, Robin Austin MLA Skeena, Skeena Diversity Society, BBL Health & Fitness, Dynamic Health Services, AquaClear, Kalum Ventures Ltd., Kitsumkalum Treaty, Kitsumkalum Health & Social Development, Kitsumkalum Commercial Gilnet Fleet