

# Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”



## SUN RUNNERZ OFF TO A GREAT START FUNDRAISING!

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The Kitseas Sun Runners have been training and fundraising for 4 weeks so far. The winner for the first 50/50 draw was: Kaden West-Johnson who won \$247.00. The next draw will take place on March 5th, during a fundraising luncheon in the Education Room at the Gitau Health and Administration Office. Come on out and support our community members in this exciting healthy challenge.

The 26th Annual 2010 Vancouver Sun Run is a 10km Run/Walk that takes place on May 9th. The Kitselas team trains three times a week, slowly increasing speed and improving technique, and also includes gradual healthy changes by making attainable goals and subtle changes in diet.

All of the Kitselas Sun Runnerz are asked to volunteer their time and energy to all fundraising efforts.

Dedicated team members are making fundraising fun and easy, help support the Kitselas Sun Runnerz.

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“Increasing Knowledge  
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## IN OUR COMMUNITY

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### **MARCH 5TH 2010:**

#### **SUN RUNNERZ FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON**

12pm at the Gitau Administration Office. \$5.00 will get you a healthy lunch, and all proceeds go towards the Kitselas Sun Runnerz Trip. Show your support for our local Sun Runnerz!

### **MARCH 7TH 2010: COMMUNITY CLEAN UP**

Kitselas Sun Runners and families will be cleaning roads and ditches of both communities. Please help by cleaning your own yard, lets make our community shine!

### **MARCH 8TH 2010: INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY**

Celebrate the fabulous and loving women in your life.

### **MARCH 15TH 2010:**

#### **DIABETES AWARENESS WORKSHOP**

At Wabsuwilaks'm at 1-3pm. Everyone Welcome.

### **MARCH 16TH 2010:**

#### **KITSELAS BAND COUNCILLOR NOMINATIONS**

From 6pm-9pm, at the Kitselas Community Hall, nominations for the vacant councillor position will be taken. For more information or nomination forms, contact Sharon at 250.635.5084. ext.221

### **MARCH 17TH 2010: ST. PATRICKS DAY**

Don't forget to wear green!

### **MARCH 21ST 2010: MEGA SALE**

Bake sale, Loonie Auction and Garage Sale @ the Kitselas Community Hall beginning at 10am. Donations are greatly appreciated, all funds raised will go towards the Sun Run Trip. Call Jada: 250.635.5084.ext.225 for questions or info.

### Ongoing Activities:

Tai-chi: At the Kitselas Sattelite Health office at: 2pm on Wednesdays.

Tuesday Evenings: Young Girls Walking Group: 9-16 years @ 6pm. Meet at the Sattelite Center on Kulspai. If younger than 9, please be accompanied by someone older than 16 years of age.

# GRAYDON GROUP INSTALLS HIGH SPEED IN GITAU

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The community of Gitau will have high speed internet access, also to be known at the Kitselas Community Network, beginning as soon as April 2010. The company installing the new broadband technology is the Graydon Group.

Gitau which currently operates on dial-up internet service, or wireless internet (similar to cell phone reception) will finally be enabled to have high speed internet, like our neighbours across the highway.

The cost which customers will have to pay is

actually comparable or lower than high speed internet rates in Terrace. Starting at \$39.95/month for 1800/850Mbs-30 Download Max.

Other rates and full details are located on the last page of this issue. This form which can be torn out and returned to:

Graydon Telephone & Data  
4443 Keith Avenue  
Terrace, BC  
Phone: 1.800.893.5033  
Fax: 250.638.6091  
Email: sales@graydongroup.ca



The new test wells for Gitau have been drilled and are now awaiting further water testing. The new water that is being tested by the PETO company out of Vancouver, is derived from the Skeena Water Basin.

INAC and the Kitselas Band Council have been actively seeking a new water source for the most part of 2009 and hopes to have the water situation solved in the community of Gitau, as soon as possible.

# OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITY

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Recently there have been numerous meetings held between the Northwest Inter-Nation Family and Community Service Society, Kitselas Band, Ministry of Children and Family Development and also community members.

During these collaborative networking meetings, the focus has been the best interests of the children who are in care or who are in transition from being in care, apprehended and foster homes. This is an important issue because NIFCS will be taking the reins from MCFD in the near future, they are hoping for a November 2010.

For the best interest of the children, an Aboriginal child should be placed in an Aboriginal home, if available. Currently, this is not consistently followed by MCFD. In order for this to

possible, community volunteers need to come forth and become informed on what is required to become eligible to be foster parent or safe house.

Currently MCFD controls how and when Aboriginal children are taken into government care. NIFCS has been working continually towards self-reliance when it comes to Aboriginal children apprehension and foster home care, which can be directly linked into the ongoing Treaty negotiations. Other first nations that have reached a Treaty have protocols already set up to address this issue.

There are meetings taking place on a regular basis, and it is important to our community and our children.

For more information on how this ongoing process, or how you can become a part, contact Steve Bernard at: 250.635.5084.ext.227.

The workshop begins at 10am in the community of Gitau. Exact location will be known prior to workshop. Lunch will be provided everyday of the workshop.

For more information contact Jada Seymour at: 250.635.5084.ext.225.

# SUICIDE AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

On March 9th through the 11th, Kitselas will be holding a very important workshop called: Through the Pain, from the First Nations Action & Support Team.

This workshop will bring awareness on how to recognize the signs of suicide, how and where to get help for their loved ones.

Unfortunately, small first nations communities are often faced with dealing with suicide far more often than non-aboriginal communities. Becoming informed and educated on this important topic helps everyone in the community.

**Suicide rates are five to seven times higher for First Nations youth than for non-Aboriginal youth.**

*-Statistic taken from the Health Canada Website:  
[www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca)*

# RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIAN ACT

BY: JAY MAKARENKO  
(REPRINTED FROM THE WEB)

The last major revision of the *Indian Act* occurred in 1985. Since that time, however, there have been further amendments to the legislation.

In 1988, the Act was changed to allow bands greater powers to tax land interests on their reserves, as well as permitted individuals to mortgage these leaseholds on reserves. The purpose of these reforms was to provide bands with access to revenues and financing in order to promote economic development on reserves.

The 1990s and early 2000s saw renewed efforts on the part of the federal government to significantly revise the *Indian Act*. In the early 1990s, the federal government announced its intention to eventually abolish the *Indian Act*. As part of this policy, the government introduced the *Indian Act Optional Modification Act* in 1996.

The proposed legislation included modifications to the Indian Act in several areas, such as the system of the band governance, bylaw authority, and the regulation of reserve land and resources. The Act faced strong opposition from Aboriginal groups, and was never passed by Parliament.

In 2002, the federal government again initiated a major overhaul of the Indian Act with the introduction of *The First Nations Governance Act*. Central to the new Act was the requirement that Aboriginal bands develop a system by which to choose their leaders, as well as clear rules regarding how band money is spent.



Furthermore, under the Act, the actions of Aboriginal bands would no longer be exempt from the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Again, however, the new Act faced opposition from Aboriginal groups and was never passed by Parliament. For more information on *The First Nations Governance Act*:

- Parliament of Canada: Bill C-7: The First Nations Governance Act [14]

While these large overhaul packages were never passed, the federal government did implement more narrow revisions of the Indian Act during this period. In 1999, it enacted *The First Nations Land Management Act* (FNLMA). Previously, reserve land management, such as environmental standards and land use policies, was governed by provisions of the *Indian Act*. Under the FNLMA, however, bands can apply to the federal government to assume control over land management on their reserves. The purpose of the legislation is to improve band capacities and opportunities for economic development.

For more information on *The First Nations Land Management Act*:

- Government of Canada: First Nations Land Management Act[15]

Furthermore, in 2000, the *Indian Act* was amended to allow band members living off-reserve to vote in band elections and referenda.

This amendment was in response to a 1999 Supreme Court of Canada decision which concluded that the denial of voting rights for off-reserve band members violated their right to equality under Section 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* [13].

## Canucks Raffle Tickets:

Canucks vs. San Jose Sharks  
Draw on March 15th 2010  
for  
Game on March 18th 2010

Canucks vs. Phoenix Coyotes  
Draw on March 26th 2010  
for  
Game on March 30th 2010

Prize Package includes:  
Return Airfare for 2 courtesy of Hawkair  
2 Nights accomodation at the Best Western  
Chateau Granville  
2 Club Seats at the Game  
\$200.00 Cash  
Total Prize Package is worth  
approximately: \$1,700

These two Canucks Raffles have been  
donated by the Kitselas Band Council to  
the Kitselas Sun Runnerz Team for Fund-  
raising.

**Buy your Tickets today!**



Tiffany Mason and Debra Gray are now helping out at the newly opened Kitselas Store, located downstairs of the Gitau Health and Administration Office.

A newly expanded variety of  
perishable and non-perishable items are for sale for very  
reasonable prices Monday-Friday 1-4pm.

If your short of any items at home, take a walk over to the Band Office and check out what is for sale, its cheaper than going into town for basic items.

This store is non-profit and has been made available to the community, so use it as a resource and come back often.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

When you make an appointment to have your hearing checked, you will have to **pay** a service fee in town. When you need to have your hearing checked, just ask your Dr. to be referred to the Hearing clinic at the Skeena Health. **You will not have to pay the service fee.** Their program is pretty good. Their hearing aids are up to par, meaning the hearing aids are invisible to the eye, no one will know you are wearing them!! Sound good, give it a try and check them out. There are a lot of things you can do with their hearing aid kits, you can adapt them to listening to music, watching television, or even speaking on the phone. Mind you, there is a waiting list, but guaranteed, you will be satisfied.

If you need further information, please call Anne McDames at: 250.635.5084.ext.223.

Northern Health  
SPEECH & HEARING PROGRAM  
3412 Kalum Street  
Terrace BC  
V8G 4T2  
phone # 250-631-4233  
fax# 250-638-2209

## Wabsuwilaks'm Open House March 19,2010

- Are you tired of working for minimum wage or living on social assistance?
  - Do you feel like life is passing you by?
- Would you like to have something to get up for in the morning?
- At Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu ( Kitselas House of Learning) we know the feelings and struggles many of our learners face.
- We offer you an opportunity to attain your Adult Dogwood Certificate, take workshops in: effective communication, parenting, anger management, budgeting, time management, assertiveness training and work experience.

“This is a great opportunity for you to acquire new skills while working towards obtaining your Adult Dogwood Certificate”.

- All that is required from you is your commitment and dedication; we will help you do the rest.
- Our program offers academic support and trained staff who will help you acquire the skills you need to succeed.

Success gives you the ability to make your dreams a reality.  
There are opportunities waiting for you!!

Come to our open house on March 19 at 12 O'clock  
and hear what our program has to offer.



For additional information or to  
pre-register for September 2010  
please contact:  
Anita Smith Vice-Principal/Facilitator at  
250-635-3301.



# High Speed Internet

## Broadband Internet Access

Kitselas Community Network is proud to offer Broadband Internet Connectivity direct to the home. Sign up for Minimum three months service and receive a free broadband cable modem (Value \$49.95) and an introductory hook-up installation charge of \$25.00

Residential Service - \$39.95 per month 1800/850Mbs - 30 Gig Download Max  
Residential Turbo - \$59.95 per month 2000/850Mbs - 80 Gig Download Max  
Commercial Service - \$400.00 3000/850Mbs - Unlimited Download

Service to Commence in April 2010

Name:	Address:
Telephone:	Email:
Cell:	Date:



Sign up and Return to Graydon Telephone & Data via fax to 250-638-6091, or email to sales@graydongroup.ca



4443 Keith Avenue, Terrace, B.C.  
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Kitselas Community Network