

# Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”



## KITSELAS SUN RUNNERS ARE OFF

By: HOLLY M. SPENCER



The dedicated team of 2010 Kitselas Sun Runners will be heading to Vancouver to take part in the 26th Annual Sun Run this weekend.

Sporting pink t-shirts which read: “In memory of Winnie Wells” with black track suits embroidered with the Kitselas First Nation logo, the Kitselas Sun Runners team will definitely be wearing the pride and dedication to this years race on their sleeves.

The best of luck to this group of dedicated runners/walkers this year and special thanks to the community of Kitselas and Kitselas Band Council for the show of support!

Last year there were over 55 thousand participants who took part. The Vancouver Sun Run is the 2nd largest timed 10k race in the world and takes place at 9am on Sunday May 9th 2010.

*Good Luck Kitselas Sun Runners!*

**THE KITSELAS BY-ELECTION  
VOTING DAY IS  
MAY 11TH 2010**

**VOTING CAN TAKE PLACE AT THE:**

**KITSELAS COMMUNITY HALL  
OR THE  
GITAUS HEALTH AND ADMIN. OFFICE**

**FROM 9AM-8PM**

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# THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR VOTE

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The Kitselas Band Council will be holding the by-election for the councillor seat once held by the late Winnie Wells.

There are 11 candidates nominated for this seat, each candidate bringing with them different skill sets and visions to the already formed Band Council. The term for this particular councillor position will last until June 2011, whereas the next election will be held.

The importance of each and every registered Kitselas member utilizing their vote is extremely important. As our community has a little over 520 registered members in total, it is clear that each vote does make a difference.

When voting, one should keep in mind that the person they are voting for is going to be a representative of our people, a person who will be a spokesperson for our people wherever they go.

Voting should be based on the integrity of the candidate, their vision for Kitselas, commitment to being transparent and open to better commu-

nication while having to face making hard decisions.

The Kitselas Band Council strives to uphold progressive, positive growth and decision making for the Kitselas Nation overall. Currently on Council:

Glenn Bennett - Chief Councillor  
Judy Gerow- Councillor  
Ron Gerow- Councillor  
Ken McDames Sr-Councillor  
Gerald Seymour-Councillor

The voting polls will be located at the Gitau Health and Administration Office and at the Kitselas Community Hall located on Kulpai (Queen-sway Drive). Both will be open from 9am-8pm.

All on reserve residents should utilize their right to vote during these times, as off-reserve members have been mailed voting ballots already.



“I can choose to make a difference.  
I can vote.”

*-this is the principal theme for Aboriginal Voters on the Elections Canada website*

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

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### MAY 9TH - MOTHERS DAY

Celebrate and remember your mother in a special way today.

### MAY 11TH - KITSELAS BY-ELECTION VOTING DAY

All registered Kitselas members are encouraged to utilize their vote in this By-Election. Voting Stations will be located at the Kitselas Community Hall on Kulspai and the Gitau Health and Administration Office from 9am-8pm.

### MAY 13TH - ELDERS LUNCHEON

Join Sue Bevan and Dawn Derrick for lunch and give information on the Needs Assessment Survey they are working on. Takes place at the Kulspai Health Satellite Building @ 12pm.

### MAY 24TH- VICTORIA DAY

Statutory Holiday. Kitselas Offices will be closed for the day.



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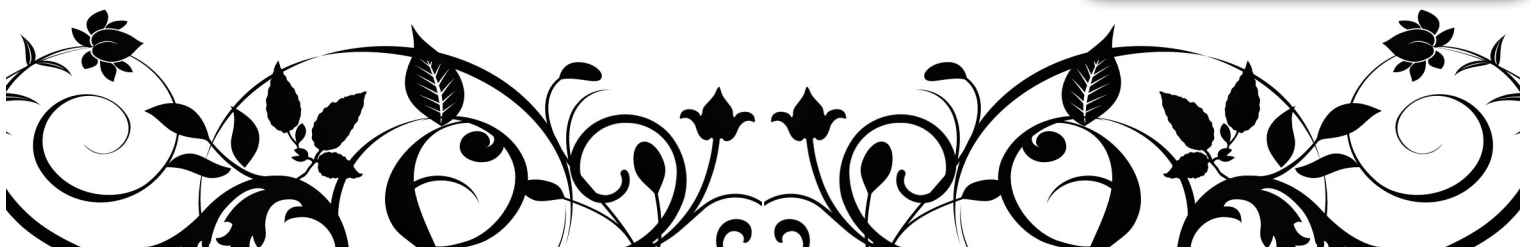
[www.kitselas.bc.ca](http://www.kitselas.bc.ca)

The Canyon Current now has a new online  
interactive forum.



facebook

*Search: “Canyon Current Community Page”*  
and become informed on  
various information and opportunities  
from the Kitselas Staff,  
members and the general public alike.



# HOW WE REPRESENT OURSELVES?

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Recently, the historic schoolhouse in Endudoon was set ablaze and burned to the ground. Although this magnitude of arson is a rather new occurrence to our community, vandalism, littering and other illegal disturbances have taken place at a somewhat regular basis.

Regularly found on the turnoff road, leading towards Gituas, there is garbage needlessly thrown on the road for everyone to see and near the woodpile there was an old mattress apparently thrown away in plain view from the Kitselas National Historic Site turnoff.

My question is: Is this how we are choosing to represent ourselves? Is this how we want visitors and newcomers to our traditional land to interpret their first impression of the Kitselas People?

We have a lot to be proud of as a progressive growing community and it seems that we are projecting a 'less-than' image of ourselves. Changing how we are perceived, begins with how we look at ourselves. Being aware and conscience of how a negative self-outlook allows other people to judge us negatively, is the first step to a positive change in our community.

I would be interested in hearing feedback from the community, regarding this issue and possible solutions that are viable for improvement. If you have any ideas, comments or dialogue please email them to: [hspencer@kitselas.com](mailto:hspencer@kitselas.com) or call: 250.635.8882.ext.242



Before and after photos of the historic Kitselas School in Old Kitselas.



## Attendance records from

**1943 to 1954:**

*(no records before 1943 or after 1954)*

Alfred Bevan  
Amy Bevan  
Emma Bevan  
Maud Bevan  
Mel Bevan  
Rhoda Bevan  
Susan Isabel Bevan  
Thomas Bevan  
Betty Bolton  
Henry Bolton  
Rena Bolton  
Charles Farrington  
Patsy Derrick  
Chester Gray  
Joey Lakey  
Anna Lawson  
Jimmy Lawson  
Larry Lawson  
Ramona Lawson  
Bernice Mason  
Dorothy Mason  
Lorna Mason  
Medrick Mason  
Morris Mason  
Vincent Mason  
Lorraine McKenzie  
Marjorie McKenzie  
Peggy McKenzie  
Wilfred McKenzie  
Sadie Moore  
Everitt Nelson  
Eliza Nyce  
Louisa Nyce  
Marjorie Nyce  
Mary Nyce  
Ronnie Nyce  
Verna Nyce  
Dorothy Oake  
Elmer Wright  
Freda Wright  
George Wright Jr.  
Gary Wright  
Myrtle Wright  
Ralph Wright  
Dolly Young  
Victoria Young

*(submitted by: Mel Bevan)*

## NEW KITSELAS EMPLOYEES:



**Judy Gerow**

Assistant Treaty Negotiator

Located at the Kitselas Treaty Office (Queensway)

Phone: 250.635.8882.ext.243 Email: [jgerow@kitselas.com](mailto:jgerow@kitselas.com)



**Lynn Wright**

Kitselas Youth Coordinator

Located at the Gitau Office/Youth Centre

Phone: 250.635.3317



**Sonja Foss**

Lands Director

Located at the Kitselas Treaty Office (Queensway)

Phone: 250.635.8882.ext.232 Email: [sfoss@kitselas.com](mailto:sfoss@kitselas.com)

Sonja has previously lived in various parts of Canada including: Ottawa, Yukon, New Brunswick and BC most recently. She is excited to be living in the beautiful mountains of the Terrace area and exploring the area.

She brings to Kitselas plenty of field experience such as: Hatchery Technician, Forest Technician, Environmental Assessor, Policy Analyst, Land Manager.

Her educational background includes a Diploma in Renewable Resources Management, a Bachelor Degree in Environmental planning specializing in Natural Resources Management. And she is currently in the process of applying for Provisional membership, from the Planning Institute of BC. Upon successful completion of the membership, she will be a Registered Professional Planner.

Sonja is committed and dedicated to making positive connections and is very excited about the Land Use Planning Process in which Kitselas is currently applying for funding. As Kitselas is on the verge of Self-Government, she sees that the opportunities are endless.

Kitselas is a major leader in Land Management, both in BC and Canada, which encourages its citizens to utilize these opportunities, now and in the future. She looks forward to learning more about the Kitselas people and serving the membership to the best of her ability.

*~We welcome Sonja to our community and hope she enjoys all that Terrace and Kitselas have to offer~*

# HOW GOVERNING WORKS PART II

## The Structure of Canadian Government:

### Early Government Priorities

No one should have difficulty recognizing the first big issues facing the early governments of Canada.

These priorities were:

- How to establish a national cultural identity: overcoming the “two solitudes”;
- How to overcome the impact of geography and climate: making communications possible and stemming the advance of regionalism;
- How to encourage and optimize immigration and settlement;
- How to diversify the economy: moving away from “hewers of wood and drawers of water” to a balanced economy;
- Maintaining independence - cultural, economic, and political - from the major power to the south.

One major result was the transcontinental railway, a means of tying the country together and permitting east-west transportation in the face of the north-south draw. Government stepped in to supplement and manage what funds could be raised from the private sector in order to build the railway, which thus became the first of several Crown corporations -- many of which hark back to the original and continuing issues which define Canada

As successive waves of immigrants were attracted to Canada, the Northwest Mounted Police (later the RCMP) was dispatched ahead in order to secure law and order in the territory. Immigrants were encouraged to move directly to their defined settlement areas, creating still-visible ethnic clusters across the country and giving rise to Canada’s multicultural nature. This contrasts with the United States, where it was

more usual for immigrants to spend their first few years along the east coast, mixing with those already living there, before moving inland.

Governments, in these early years, were expected to play a role in economic development and co-ordination, as well as to maintain national security. Few thought that social issues would be of any great importance.

### Aboriginal Peoples

The term ‘Aboriginal Peoples’ refers to individuals of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit descent. The 2001 Statistics Canada Census states that there are roughly 1.3 million people of Aboriginal descent in Canada, representing approximately 4.4 % of the country’s population.

Peoples of European descent did not establish many of Canada’s earliest forms of government. In fact, prior to the arrival of Europeans, Aboriginal Peoples in Canada had governed themselves for thousands of years. However, Aboriginal Peoples were not included in the deliberations that led to the adoption of the British North America Act and the formation of Canada. They were incorporated into the state of Canada through the Indian Act (adopted on the basis of section 91(24) of the Constitution Act 1867, which gave the federal government exclusive jurisdiction over “Indians and lands reserved for Indians”).

The Métis (mixed race Indians and French) were effectively disenfranchised from Aboriginal status and lost their land base early on. They were placed under provincial jurisdiction and were given the same rights and obligations as other citizens. Inuit were not recognized until 1939, when they were deemed to be “Indians” for the purposes of section 91 of the Constitution Act 1867.

The Constitution Act 1982 recognized existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations (still legally referred to as ‘Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples.) This Act has provided the basis for a number of successive court rulings - many by the Supreme Court - which have furthered the definition of Aboriginal and treaty rights, and reaffirmed the Aboriginal rights of the Métis people as well.

Over the last decade, there have been a number of important events signaling the development of a new relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and governments in Canada. In 1995, the federal government announced a policy on the inherent right and the negotiation of self-government.

In 1996, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples tabled a report to the House of Commons. The Report featured 440 recommendations and was the result of extensive consultations with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

As well, in 1998, the government ratified the first modern-day treaty in British Columbia with the Nisga'a. The first modern land claim settlements were actually signed in 1975 and 1978 with the James Bay Cree and Naskapi First Nations, respectively. More recently, the new territory of Nunavut was created on April 1, 1999. Additional self-government agreements have been concluded with groups in British Columbia, Labrador and the North West Territories.

The federal government continues to negotiate self-government agreements and modern treaties with numerous groups of Aboriginal peoples across the country. By re-establishing their own forms of government, Aboriginal peoples are asserting control over their own lives and seeking to redefine their role within the Canadian state.

In 2005, the Government of Canada signaled its intention to renew and strengthen cooperation with Aboriginal peoples by signing political accords with five national organizations representing First Nations, Aboriginal women, Inuit, Métis and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples. NOTE: The accord is not recognized by the current Conservative Government.

### **Repatriation and The Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

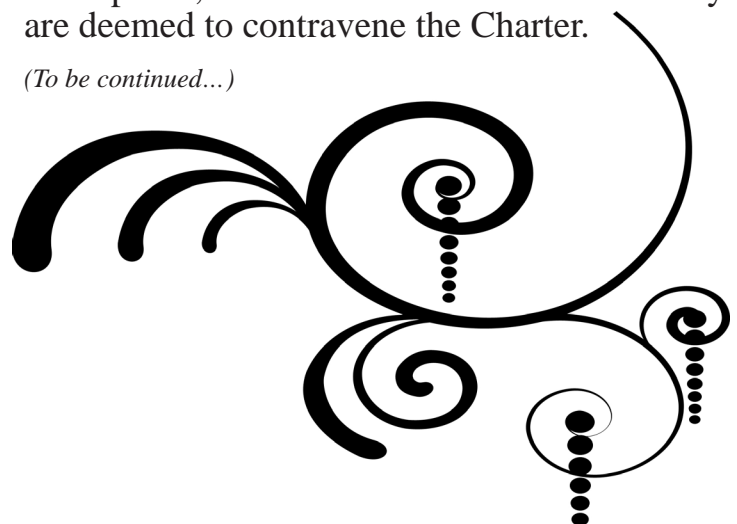
In 1982, the Constitution was repatriated to Canada. This meant that Canada no longer had to apply to the British Parliament for approval

of amendments. Over the years, this application had become increasingly *pro forma*; however, there was strong symbolism in Canada having control over its own Constitution Act. This event followed a long period of federal-provincial negotiations. In the end, the Quebec government refused to sign the new Constitution. The document remains legally valid in Quebec, but the issue of Quebec's political exclusion has been the basis of two unsuccessful attempts at constitutional reform since then and remains a major outstanding political issue.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the centerpiece of the repatriated Constitution, guarantees a series of rights, including the fundamental freedoms of conscience, religion, thought, and expression, and assembly and association. It also lists democratic rights such as the right to vote and to hold regular elections, and mobility rights for Canadian citizens. It enshrines equality before the law for all Canadians and confirms the status of English and French as the official languages of Canada. Section 35 is intended to protect existing Aboriginal Rights.

The rights are guaranteed, subject to "such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society." In practice, this clause has meant that courts are now being asked to develop a balance between the rights of citizens and the rights and obligations of government. The impact of Charter provisions on the work of the Public Service and the government is widespread, as laws can be struck down if they are deemed to contravene the Charter.

*(To be continued...)*



**WABSUWILAKS'M ADULT SCHOOL  
IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
FOR THE FALL 2010-11 YEAR**

IF YOU ARE:

- 18 YEARS OR OLDER
- BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL FOR A YEAR
- HAVE NOT GRADUATED
- WILLING TO COMMIT YOURSELF TO ATTEND 5 DAYS A WEEK FROM 9AM-3PM (ONE HOUR FOR LUNCH)

AND HAVE THE INITIATIVE TO GET YOUR GRADE 12,  
CALL ANITA AT: 250.635.3301  
TO REGISTER AND START PLANNING YOUR  
EDUCATIONAL FUTURE!

**You are invited to a  
Luncheon for the  
Kitselas Elders**

**Hosted by:  
Susan Bevan  
Dawn Derrick**

**12:00 o'clock**

**May 13, 2010**

**Needs Assessment  
Survey  
Kulspai Satellite  
Station**

**WHAT IS A NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY?**

*It means assessing the needs and resources.*

*It is a process used to discover  
and understand the challenges and  
strengths of our community.*

*The objectives are to understand the health status, health needs  
and risks to the health of our community members.*

*Your input is important and valued.*

