



# Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 3 - Issue 14 November/ December 2011

## Kitselas and Terrace Sign Partnership Agreement



*Kitselas Council and Terrace City Council officially acknowledged a commitment to working together for the benefit of both communities with the signing of the Airport Lands Joint Venture and Revenue Sharing Agreements on November 1st 2011 at Terrace City Chambers.*

The Joint Venture Agreement and the Revenue Sharing Agreement will create economic return on over 900 hectares of Airport Lands, now known as the Skeena Industrial Park. A Memorandum of Understanding between Kitselas and Terrace was signed April 19, 2007 putting the collaborative efforts of both teams into motion. By working together Kitselas and Terrace provide certainty to investors in the region and have demonstrated a successful model for cooperation in business relations.

*See back page for more on what these Agreements mean for Kitselas.*

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# In the Community

**New dates for the Kitselas Charrette: January 23-27, 2012.**

Agendas to be prepared and sent out by December 16th.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Do you want to make a difference and gain valuable work experience?** Able-bodied youth who would like to volunteer their time are asked to contact George Lincoln at 250-615-5587. **Do you need a helping hand? Please be in touch with this new community service group!**

## ***Gitselasu Elder's Group Fundraisers***

**Loonie Auction** Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 1:00 p.m. till we are all sold out - Location TBA.

## **Wabsuwilaks'm Raffle Tickets are \$5.00 each.**

1st prize - 32 gig iPad 2; 2nd prize- 8 gig iPod; 3rd prize- 4 gig iPod.

Tickets available at the School or from WAB students.

**DRAW DATE:** December 21st - just in time for Christmas!

## **Kitselas Events Committee - Power Outage Raffle**

1st prize -Generator (w/goodies); 2nd Prize - Etched Canucks Mirror & \$50 gift card; 3rd prize -Family Swim w/ Lrg. Pizza & drinks  
**DRAW DATE:** December 16, 2012 Tickets \$5 each, available from Sharon, Geneva, Sue, Ilene, Maxine, Jenny, Dorreen, Lynn, and Sasheen.

## **Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Registration**

Nov. 24th 1-5 pm, Nov. 26th 1-5 pm at 3236 Kalum St. ID for each member of the household and proof of current address required to register. Hamper pick up is December 15 & 16 1- 6 pm.

**Christmas Crafts & Decorations - Wednesday, Nov. 30th at 6pm at Gitaus Admin Building.** Families welcome to join Maxine McMillan in making Christmas Crafts & Decorations for the Christmas Dinner.

**Would you like to learn more about Kitselas Laws?** If you would be interested in participating in a workshop in the new year to learn more about this important item please contact Sonja Foss at 250-635-8882 ext 232 or E: [sfoss@kitselas.com](mailto:sfoss@kitselas.com)

## **Ongoing**

**Kitselas Coffee House** Wednesdays at 2 pm. Alternating between Elder's Centre (Gitaus) and Satellite Health Station (Kulspai). Contact Hilary at 250-635-8882 ext 242 or on Facebook:

**Hilary Zornow CanyonCurrent** to confirm the weekly location.

**Good Food Box – 1 pm Every 3rd Wednesday of the month.**

Contact Sara Squires at 615-4771 for more info.

**Parent Connection** Wednesdays 12:00 pm at Gitaus Admin Office.



## **CanyonCurrent**

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**[www.kitselas.com](http://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](mailto:h.zornow@kitselas.com)**

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CanyonCurrentPage](http://www.facebook.com/CanyonCurrentPage)**

**Kitselas Treaty Group:  
<http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>**

## Kitselas Hall Renos Nearly Complete



A fresh coat of paint, new roof and sturdy new doors are visible signs something has been happening at the Kitselas Hall. For the months of October and November the community building has been undergoing much needed renovations and the facility will be open to the public by early December.

We can see here a sneak peek of the activity in the building. The cedar walls have been rejuvenated, the ceiling has been painted and various fixtures have been exchanged for new. The floor will be sanded down, leveled out and refinished with a coat of paint and everyone will be pleased with revitalized bathrooms. The kitchen will be outfitted with new cabinets and counter space making it more attractive for catering to large functions.

The Kitselas Christmas Dinner will be the first Kitselas function in the newly refinished building on December 10th and will be accompanied by a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the occasion. The festivities will get underway at 4:00 pm.



# Kitselas Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 10th  
4:00 pm at Kitselas Hall

*Community musical presentations are welcomed and encouraged to add to the festivities!*

*Youth interested in assisting are asked to please get your name and contact number to the Kitselas Events Committee.*

*Contact Sue McDames (250) 631-8287, Ilene McKay (250) 641-3695 or Lynn Wright (250) 641-7669*



# Kitseles Resource and Forestry Office Moving



The Kitseles Resource Management and Kitseles Forest Products Office will have a new home in the new year at 1581 Kulspai Crescent. The former home of the Northwest Band Social Workers Association is being renovated and will provide more space for the team.

Contact information for the new location will be made provided to the community when it is available.



## Notice of By-election for Kitseles Band Council

### Nomination Meeting

December 15th 2011  
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Kitseles Hall

### Election Date

January 26th 2012  
9:00 am to 8:00 pm  
Kitseles Hall or by mail-in ballot

For information contact:  
Sharon Nabess - Bennett  
Ph: 250-635-5084 ext 221  
Toll Free: 1-888-777-2837



**Kitseles Administration Offices will be closed for the Christmas Holidays at days end Friday, December 16th and will re-open for regular business hours Tuesday, January 3rd.**

*Kitseles Council and Staff extend our heartfelt wishes to you and yours for a happy holiday and all the best in 2012!*

Public Works On-Call (Fred) at 250-615-6847  
Social Housing On-Call



**First Responder in Gitau**  
Wes Patterson: 250-615-9337

## News from the Health Hub - Therese Hagen

The past month has been a busy one for the Kitselas/Kitsumkalum Community Engagement Hub. There are many meetings happening at the regional, provincial and national level as First Nations communities in BC move to greater control over the delivery of health services.

A Northern Regional Meeting was held with Chiefs and Health Directors to discuss issues in the North in October. At this meeting an "Agreement-in-Principal" on the Northern 'Terms of Reference' was passed. The 'Terms of Reference' will outline how the Northern communities will work together and make decisions.

Early in November, Health Directors travelled to Ottawa to attend the First Nation Health Forum hosted by the AFN – such a gathering has not been held in ten years. BC's Tripartite First Nations Health Plan was front and centre as other provinces looked on to see how this one-of-a-kind agreement is unfolding.

Locally, the Kitselas/Kitsumkalum Community Engagement Hub is gearing up. Coming soon are community meetings on health, a health survey and a community needs assessment. To help speed up this work, several temporary employment opportunities will be created. To find out more, check Facebook and your community flyers in the coming weeks.

Contact Therese Hagen, Hub Coordinator at 250-635-1003 for more information or to share your ideas about the health of the community, feel free to drop in at the Satellite Health office on Kulspai to chat!



"To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear."  
~ Buddha

### Terminology

#### **Agreement - in -Principle:**

This is a legal term used to describe a document that makes the major terms of an agreement clear, laying the groundwork to make a contract. Agreements in principle are not formal contracts, although sometimes they will be used in legal cases if there is a dispute.



### **Please Be A Responsible Pet Owner!**

Maintain your pet so it does not become a nuisance to your neighbour.

**B**ringing a new furry friend home can be an exciting thing. But sometimes people forget that owning a dog or a cat is adding another member to the family. Pets are not toys that can be shelved, they are living creatures that want and need love and attention. When humans forget to take care of their pets they get bored and start to become a nuisance. Puppy is only looking to play, but he doesn't realize how big he is and can not only frighten, but hurt a child. Cats are also interesting and social creatures whose unique nature can quickly become a problem. **Being a responsible pet owner means ensuring your pets are taken care of so they do not pose health and safety issues for our community.**

*If you are thinking about owning a pet you need to ask yourself some serious questions, such as:*

*Do I have the time to care for this animal, take it for walks, play with it?*

*Do I have the means to continually care for this pet, to feed it?*

*Do I have the means to have this pet spayed or neutered?*

*Do I have the means to provide it with important veterinary care so it does not contract or spread disease?*

**Owning a pet is a rewarding experience for your family - a dog or a cat is ready to be a friend for life. Please respect the animal and your neighbours and be a responsible pet owner.**

## Skinner Specific Claim Update

The Skinner Specific Claim over I.R. # 7 – Ketonda is now approximately 90% complete with two more sessions with the Federal Government planned. We anticipate a settlement agreement with the Federal Government on this lot of land on or about the end of this fiscal year. The Kitselas are working toward a cash settlement on the loss of 40 acres of land on the Ketonda reserve and a compensation for the value of timber that has been logged of these lands.

Glenn Bennett, Mel Bevan and Wilfred McKenzie have been the negotiating team for this claim since it was first filed in 2000.

Below is a snap shot of where we are with the current negotiations courtesy our legal counsel Stan Ashcroft:

1. We are now waiting for the new timber valuation report and the appraisal. We will then attempt to negotiate a settlement of this claim. We are also in the process of negotiating the terms of the Settlement Agreement.
2. Lot 113 Specific Claim. This Specific Claim was submitted to the Specific Claims Tribunal on September 29, 2011. Canada filed its Response on October 28, 2011 opposing the relief sought by

## Wabsuwilaks'm Opens Doors

The Wabsuwilaks'm Open House on November 2nd was an opportunity for the students to showcase the work they have accomplished since a new curriculum was unveiled at the beginning of the current school year.

The WAB students, as they refer to themselves, are completing a series of courses over two semesters that will ensure they have their Dogwood Diploma by the end of this year. The courses are accessed on-line giving students some flexibility in their learning. They work at their own pace, but must also ensure they complete their tasks and testing on time. "Support from families is very important" said Instructor Fred Wilson in his presentation, "It is never too late to get an education."

As part of the presentation Kitselas Staff and Council offered words of encouragement to the students to continue with their work. "I didn't have this opportunity when I was younger," said Councilor Wilfred Bennett Sr., "I'd like to see you all reach your



*Stan Ashcroft and Wilfred McKenzie tour I.R.#7 along with the Federal Negotiator conducted a site visit to I.R.#7 Ketonda.*

Kitselas. We are now awaiting the setting down of a case management conference.

3. Timber Specific Claim. This Specific Claim was submitted to the Specific Claims Branch on December 8, 2009. On February 12, 2010 Director General of the Specific Claims Branch Anik Dupont wrote to you advising that their research has been completed. We are waiting for them to advise us as to whether the claim will be accepted for negotiation.

4. Railway Specific Claim. We are now waiting for the appraisal from Steve Cullis. Once we have that in hand we can finalize the claim and supporting legal opinion and submit it to the Specific Claims Branch.



dreams."

The school has been open for three years and has had one graduate to-date, this year with the new focus and targeted studies that number will increase substantially. Chief Judy Gerow announced that all graduates will receive a lap top computer from Council to acknowledge their achievement and to assist with their continued studies after obtaining their Dogwood. To learn more about the Wabsuwilaks'm Adult School contact Fred Wilson at 250-635-3301.

## Economic Development on Kitselas Lands

At the Land Use Planning Committee meeting on November 23rd at Polly's Café, Sonja Foss presented an update on the Economic Development opportunities on Kitselas Lands to a large number of participants engaging in the Kitselas Master Land Use Plan process.

Peter Whitelaw of HB Lanarc, a consultant on this project submitted the Kitselas First Nation: Economic Development Opportunities Review that outlines opportunities on Kitselas lands in different sectors. While resource-based and manufacturing opportunities are apparent in our rich landscape, what is of particular interest to the average citizen is the opportunity for private enterprise now and in the future.

Entrepreneurship, or independent business development, is an important element of creating wealth not only for individuals, but as a stream of money that flows into the economy. Independent businesses provide important products or services to the various

sectors of the economy. On-reserve it is not uncommon to see small stores operating out of homes. But off-reserve, business looks much different.

The difference stems from a number of different reasons, but one difference related directly to land is planning and zoning. As indicated in the 'Tourism & Hospitality' section of the Economic Development Opportunities Review part of the land use plan can include the development of an identifiable "town centre" to provide a central gathering spot. However, the critical piece is while the land will be zoned or planned to meet this purpose individuals must have an interest in developing and owning a business. Individuals can also consider pieces of land in the community they might consider viable for a business.

At present most economic development is initiated by the Kitselas Band Council, however, as the Kitselas people move forward with the Land Use Plan and toward Self-Government and Treaty the scope of opportunity is widened

### What is the Land Use Planning Committee?

A group of community volunteers who have expressed interest in being more involved in the land use planning process. Everyone is welcome to participate and get involved in this opportunity to fill an advisory role to the Kitselas Master Land Use Plan.

At the most recent Land Use Planning Committee meeting participants received a binder with information on all of the work and activities completed to date. This information will soon be made available as Kitselas.com. LUP Committee members can get a copy from Lynn.

**If you would like to get involved contact Lynn Wright on Facebook or at 250-635-8882 ext 248  
Cell: 250-641-7669  
Email: landsclerk@kitselas.com**

significantly. As a community member, now is the time to start thinking about whether you have ever had the desire to own a business, why not start seriously thinking about it now?

## Opening a Business in Gitau

A number of community members have been confused when it comes to opening a business on-reserve. While a formal process for opening a business has not yet been implemented, it is on the horizon. Getting comfortable with the process of filing paper work with various agencies is also good practice for future shifts in the way we do things in our community.

*If you want to open a business you are encouraged to:*

1. Apply for registration as a vendor from the Ministry of Provincial Revenue (Help Desk: 1-877-822-6727)
2. Apply to Northern Health for a permit
3. Once these applications are completed and the business has been registered by the province, a Kitselas member may apply to the Kitselas Lands Management Office for a temporary business license until such time the Kitselas Band Council enacts a Business License Act for an annual fee of \$75.00 The temporary business license issued by Kitselas Chief and Council is in the form of a BCR.

**If you have any questions about this process please contact Sonja Foss at 250-635-8882 ext 232**

# Airport Joint Venture and Revenue Sharing Agreements

The signing of the Airport Joint Venture and Revenue Sharing Agreements signify the beginning of a great success story of co-operation between Municipal and First Nation governments as business partners. To clarify these agreements, please see below a plain English guide. You will find the actual agreements on-line by visiting this link: [http://www.terrace.ca/news/city\\_of\\_terrace\\_kitselas\\_first\\_nation\\_sign\\_agreements](http://www.terrace.ca/news/city_of_terrace_kitselas_first_nation_sign_agreements)

## Airport Lands Joint Venture Agreement

**Overview:** This agreement formally acknowledges Kitselas and Terrace as business partners over the lands we have described. It identifies the objectives of this agreement which are:

- **To optimize return on investment.**  
*Both parties have contributed funds as an investment in this venture. As business partners both parties have an interest in working together to ensure they get the best return – profit – on the investment they have already made.*
- **Foster the development of the regional economy.** *Both parties have an interest in contributing to economic development in the region.*
- **Attract new business investment into the Terrace area.**  
*By working together the Kitselas and Terrace can equally promote the Airport Lands.*
- **Generate tax revenue.** *To earn a profit.*
- **Address both parties need for Industrial lands.**

### Important Points:

- The project will be managed by a Joint Venture Manager. A Management Committee will consist of a representative from both Kitselas and Terrace. This Committee is to provide advice and guidance and create the forum for consultation and information exchange.
- Money received from the sale, lease or other use of the Airport Lands or parcels of lands within will be distributed in a tiered approach. First cover expenses (development costs, repayment of loans), then to the establishment of a reserve account for infrastructure and finally in equal parts to all parties.
- Neither Kitselas or Terrace can transfer their rights or duties in the Joint Venture without permission from the other.
- Both Kitselas and Terrace agree to manage any disputes in a collaborative manner.
- This agreement is in effect for ten years from the signing date.

## Revenue Sharing Agreement

**Overview:** this agreement establishes how tax revenue from the Airport Lands will be shared with the Kitselas. The City of Terrace will share the Annual Net Revenue for the term of the agreement (10 years). Net Revenue is the money left after all expenses have been paid. Payments will be made each year on or about April 1st.

### Important Points:

- This agreement will not affect aboriginal right, title or interest of Kitselas.
- Both agreements protect Kitselas and Terrace with the general legal provisions of an agreement. For example, Kitselas or Terrace can terminate the agreement if Kitselas or Terrace interest in the lands is adversely affected.

## SNOW REMOVAL

The Kitselas Public Works Crew understands the inconvenience caused by snow piled up on drive-ways, but...



**Please do not shovel snow back on to the road after it has been plowed.**

Unfortunately snow build-up during road-clearing is unavoidable as we work to maintain the main roads. When clearing the end of your driveways please push snow into ditches or banks on the side of your driveway.

If snow is pushed back on to the road it may freeze and create an issue for vehicles using the road. It could also damage the plow equipment.

*Thank you for your co-operation.  
Ensuring the roads are cleared is our top-priority.*