



WATER CONSERVATION AND CONSUMPTION AWARENESS A MUST FOR GIT AUS

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

This past September, the community of Gitau was placed under a water restriction in response to very low water levels. From recent meetings with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, it is now known that the community will continue to be under a water restriction, until further notice.

The situation, that was brought to the community’s attention in the September issue of the Canyon Current, has not changed for the better and is not likely to fix itself, naturally in the upcoming months. Although in previous years water levels have risen in the winter months, this year it would not be a significant enough of a rise to ensure water availability on a continual basis for the community.

As quickly as the water shortage was brought forth to the attention of the KBC, new funding opportunities were being sought to accommodate the growing community of Gitau’s water needs.

Len Block - Project Engineer and Johnathan Tillie - Capital Specialist, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada representatives, were in Kitselas meeting with Glenn Bennett to discuss solutions to this important issue and other business matters during the latter part of October. “Although it is not a big project, it is a very important one” says Block.

The two new water wells that have been applied for are currently in the first stage of the INAC process, stage one being: Feasibility. This means that they have intensely reviewed the application and will begin to look into the need for new water sources.

(continued on page 3...)



The water restriction is still in place for the community of Gitau

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IN OUR COMMUNITY

November 11th | Remembrance Day

Stat Holiday. Kitselas Offices will be closed.

November 13th 2009 | Stone Soup at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu

Everyone is welcome to attend this luncheon put on by the adult students, come and enjoy a nice meal and good conversation!

November 14th 2009 | Gitaus Firehall Open House / BBQ

Come and see how volunteering with the Gitaus/Thornhill Volunteer Fire Department can be fulfilling and can also lead to other career paths. Everyone is welcome, begins at 11am-3pm.

November 15th- 22nd | National Addictions Awareness Week

Look for special events and workshop notices from the Kitselas Health Department!

Starting November 19th 2009

At the Gitaus Health and Administration Office there will be a healthy group activity, such as: Yoga, Meditation, Pilates, beginning at 6:30pm. Suggestions for activities are now being taken by Jada at: 250.635.5084 ext.225 Come on out and take part in some healthy physical activity!

Ongoing:

Mondays: Adults/Families are invited to Group Walk with Jada at 7pm.

Tuesdays: Girls (9-15 years) Walking Group in Kulspai at 6pm.

Upcoming Event:

Community Strategic Planning Meeting for both Gitaus and Kulspai is currently being planned by Roger Leclerc the Economic Development Officer for Kitselas. This important community meeting will focus on identifying priorities for economic development and training opportunities for Kitselas members in the next 5-10 years. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this important community meeting. More details to follow in a Community Bulletin.



A WATER WISE FACT:

Dripping taps are a major cause of wasted water and can also cause water damage in the home.

Fixing a dripping tap can save up to 300 litres of quality B.C. drinking water per week.

Did you know?

On average British Columbians use about 490 litres of water everyday.

We drink only 3% of the water we use, with the rest going down the drain, down the toilet, or used to wash our cars and water our gardens.

By adopting water-efficient activities and technologies, we can reduce water use, energy bills, and help the environment!

(facts taken from www.livingwatersmart.ca)

(from the front: Water conservation is a must...)

This particular process is lengthy. Finding new water sources for a growing community is quite the undertaking and will take some time. From the start of the application to finished full operational water wells, can take up to a year, if everything goes smoothly without any major setbacks. This means that for the community of Gitau, water conservation will have to become an integral part of everyday life.

Water conservation and being aware of water consumption are both things that you can practice in the home. By turning off the water as you brush your teeth, to taking shorter showers to washing laundry in larger loads with cold water fewer times a week, can all help reduce water consumption, which will in turn save you money!

The water wells in Gitau will continue to provide the minimum amount of water needed for our community. In the case of an emergency, such as a housefire, the levels of the water wells will significantly go down, therefore affecting the amount of water that residents of Gitau have available. This water restriction is considered a short term problem, but the point is: Our water wells are low and we should be aware of how much water we are using until a more reliable source of water is found.

Although at this time, there have not been any fires emergencies, the community should be in a state of conservation. The situation is real and the Kitselas Band Council is doing its best to improve the situation, for current residents and for future developments in Gitau.

The situation in Gitau will not likely improve by itself, so as residents of the community, we have to be aware of what we can do to lessen the impacts of water consumption during a water restriction. Monthly updates for the water issues in Gitau will be brought forth to the community in each issue of the Canyon Current.

If you have questions regarding the water restriction or want to inquire on ways to lessen your water consumption, contact: Fred Mason at: 250.635.4780

GITAUS FIREHALL OPEN HOUSE

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The Thornhill Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting and Open House / BBQ at the Gitaus Firehall on November 14th from 11am-3pm.

Currently there are only 2 community members who live in Gitaus who actively volunteer with the department. Volunteers who live close to the hall can respond quicker to an emergency, which in turn means smaller fires. As our community grows, the need for recruiting more active volunteers remains an important issue for Wes Patterson, Fire Chief of the Thornhill Fire Department. "Each firehall is required to have a minimum of 10 volunteers so there is a definite need for new volunteers at the Gitaus Firehall, and everyone brings their own special skills to the team, because really there are many different volunteer positions available," says Patterson.

A new member attends practices from, approximately 7-9:30pm, with some weekend practices for CPR, First Aid training. Since the fire department provides the equipment and training, all that is needed is just need the willingness to learn, respond when needed and work within a

team for emergencies/calls. Volunteers should be in reasonably good health and most importantly, reliable. This is a great opportunity to be a part of a team, for the overall safety of your community.

"What you put in, is what you can get out of it," Patterson says. Volunteering is invaluable training, that is recognized by the province, and the Justice Institute of BC which can lead, if one chose to apply to other fire departments or to be able to persue other goals within the same field.

Good start if you are interested in other similar training/career choices. If your interested in volunteering be sure to attend this open house or if you have any questions contact Wes Patterson at: 250.638.1466



Corrina Miller and Judy Gerow are both active volunteers with the Thornhill Fire Department



Jan Sunberg holds 2 Canucks Tickets that could be YOURS!

The Kitselas Band Council and staff are currently selling Canuck Raffle Prize Packs Tickets.

Tickets for \$10 each.
Prize Pack includes:

Return Airfare for 2 from Terrace to Vancouver
2 Club Seats for a Canucks Game at GM Place
2 Nights accomodation at Chateau Granville
\$200 Spending Cash

There has been only one draw so far, so be sure to wave down one of the councillors or staff to buy your tickets today because the next draw will be on: **November 23rd 2009!**

All proceeds go towards the future construction of the Kitselas Cultural Community Centre



Steve Roberts won the first set of Canuck Tickets drawn on Oct. 30th

WABSUWILAKS'M UPDATE FOR 2009/2010 SCHOOL YEAR

BY: ANITA SMITH

We would like to acknowledge Steve Bernard the Social worker and Therese Hagen Community worker for the role they play in supporting our students. I would like to introduce and welcome my colleague Rose Coffey who has been hired as an instructor. Rose is a recent graduate from the Bachelor of Education program offered through UNBC at the Terrace campus.

We are off to a good start for our second year. Our Career and Personal Planning Course (CAPP 12) has started and we would like to say a special thank you to the Kitselas Band Staff and community members:

- Social Development has provided funding for courses required by students to complete their Capp 12,
- Funds for the breakfast and lunch program along with a new freezer that was bought for the school,
- Katherine & Jazz for facilitating workshops on HIV/Aids & Sexual Transmitted Diseases and other communicable diseases,
- Therese for facilitating workshops on Mental Well Being & Family Life Education,

- North West Inter Nation Family and Community Services Society for upcoming workshops on Child Abuse prevention & Substance Abuse prevention,
- Terrace & District Community Services for Career Development,
- Kermode Friendship Centre for a Diabetes workshop,
- And a special thank you to the Elders Group for allowing us the use of their building.

We would also like to acknowledge Debbie Moore our Education Coordinator for suggesting that the college in Prince Rupert discuss the option of a language program at our school. We are also very grateful to have such a wealth of resources in this community and invite everyone to drop in for our stone soup on the 13th of November at 12'oclock.

Student Council News

We have been busy fund raising. So far we have had two catering jobs; one for CMHC, Canada and the other for Web Bennett for tourism.

President-Hedy McDames

Treasurer-Mary West Johnson

Secretary-Edna Ryan

NEW INSTRUCTOR AT WABSUWILAKS'M GITSELASU

Rose Coffey has joined Anita Smith as an instructor at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu, here is her bio submission:



Rose Coffey the new instructor at Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu

I grew up in Quesnel and came up to Terrace in 2004 to visit a friend and ended up staying for good. I love what Terrace has to offer, especially when it comes to outdoor pursuits and educational opportunities. Just recently, I graduated from the bachelor of education program at the local UNBC campus in Terrace. I am very please to now be an instructor at Wab'suwilaaksamGitsalasu.

My final teaching practicum was at Suwilaaks Community School in Terrace. I have also taught literacy to aborigianls living in a remote fishing village in Guyana, South America and English to adults in Nicaragua, Central America. I expect my education and experience will help ensure the success of students in reaching their goals and I really look forward to working with Anita Smith, the students, and community members.

A HEALING FEAST IS BEING PLANNED

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Within the last year, the community of Kitselas has dealt with trauma/stress that has affected and impacted many lives and families. The Kitselas Health Department has noticed this within the community and is willing to take a pro-active step in the right direction to community healing and will be holding a Healing Feast in the beginning of December. Without the additional funding from First Nation Action and Support Team (FAST) this event would not be possible.

In past years there have been variations of type of event have taken place, although none quite like this that involves the feast aspect. There will be short workshops and informational speakers in attendance, along with local churches, representatives from Northern Health, School Support Workers and the R.C.M.P who have all been invited.

This feast will focus on the unity within the community of Kitselas, how the community stands together during not only stressful times, but also happy times to show appreciation for friends and neighbours. Stress and trauma are caused and affect families in various different ways, especially around the holiday season. The whole community is invited to attend this potluck dinner that has been given “the ok” by the Kitselas Elders Group.

“It would be beneficial to know that there are people to turn to, and to show that you care enough to be there for others because there will be a time when you will need someone to lean upon,” says Sue Bevan.

Keep a look out for a Community Bulletin on the specific date for this event. For more information or to volunteer please contact the Kitselas Health Department at: 250.635.5084.ext.222



Marcia Spencer has been hired to be the new Community Support for Kitselas

A COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER FOR KITSELAS

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

Within the last few weeks, there has been a new employee within the Kitselas Health and Administration Office. Marcia Spencer has been hired to fulfill the newly created Community Support Worker position.

This position works within the Social Development umbrella, from 11am-4pm Tuesday to Friday at the Gitau's offices. Currently Marcia is looking into helping community members access information to provide unlicensed daycare on reserve and also researching resources and service providers in the Terrace area.

Community members can call her if they have suggestions for services that are needed in Gitau's, if they need more information on referrals in town or if there are training opportunities that members may be interested in taking.

“I am very excited and glad to be in this position to help the community and help our people,” says Marcia.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

UPDATE:

BY: DEBBIE MOORE

It will be of benefit to me if high school students were to update me on how they're doing, what's working for them and what isn't working etc. *Very few grade 10-12 students took advantage of the free Scientific Calculators? I would like to initiate an incentive program for K-3, 4-7, 8-9 and 10-12 (3 grades applicable to new graduation program) grade levels, but need direction from the students and parents to help implement a good program that everyone will participate in.

When meeting at schools that your children attend, I have Principals, Teachers and First Nations Support Workers commenting that they'd like to hear and see more parents in the schools. Dighton Haynes, Principal at Thornhill Jr. Has requested a get together with Kitselas Grade 8 – 10 parents. He said the best turn-out seems to be at Queensway office. His once a-year get together with parents is informal and they want to hear what

parents have to say about their child's progress whether it be positive or negative. Each school principal has the authority to write their own school policy and parents can influence it.

NWCC is in a position to deliver Smalgyax classes this coming year and are interested to know how our community would like the classes delivered. For example: Do you want to see evening or day classes; one day per week or 5 days per week (immersion), delivered at NWCC campus or delivered at Kitselas? NWCC intends to provide language revitalization using conversational model, focusing on saying & learning the words rather than getting caught up and distracted by linguistics. 3 University credits will be offered to participants of the program. Anyone can participate. *Your feedback on this important topic is greatly appreciated.

My hopes for 2009-2010 School year is that all students will succeed and productively pass their grade, and anyone struggling will seek assistance from the teachers on site or contact me to set up tutoring services.

Question of the month – November 2009:

This is a 3 part question:

- What is (FSA) Fundamental Skills Assessment and why do the FSA?
- What grades are given the (FSA) Fundamental Skills Assessment?
- What is the benefit of the FSA?

Anyone providing the answers qualify to have their name placed in the draw barrel for a surprise draw! Open to all parents and guardians of school age children K-12!

To get the answers you may contact the principal of your child's school

Smalgyax Word of the Month:

Suwilaks

means

Learning

KITSELAS HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

The Kitselas Health Department has been pro-actively giving information to community members about the H1N1 flu shots / seasonal flu shots and also the precautions that people can take to lessen the risk of getting these types of influenza.

Informational packages have been sent to each household recently, which gave detailed information on the H1N1 pandemic and how to prepare you and your family from contracting this sometimes fatal strain of influenza.

H1N1 and seasonal flu shots are being made available tonite, November 12th 2009 at 7pm at the Gitaus Health and Administration Office.

Get the flu shot before the flu gets you!

For more information on the H1N1 Flu visit:

www.fightflu.ca

or

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1/>



Also the Kitselas Health Department is promoting community activities for National Addictions Awareness Week, November 15-22nd.

November 17th: Addictions Awareness Workshop
November 19th: R.C.M.P will be conducting a presentation on various addictions and the connection to the Law.
November 20th: Community Movie
November 22nd: Community Walk to show that our community is against Drinking and Driving. Come and show your support by taking part and by tying a red ribbon to your vehicles antenna! **Starts at 2:30pm.**

All of these activities will be taking place or beginning at the Gitaus Health and Administration Office. A Community Bulletin will be going out on Monday with specific times for these events.

For more information contact Marcia at: 250.635.5084

Steve Bernard from Kitselas Social Development giving \$400.00 to the Wabsuwilaks'm Gitselasu School for nutrition and community kitchen. This money comes from a special grant received by the Kitselas Band from MCFD for health and safety in the community.

EARLY FOUNDATIONS OF THE INDIAN ACT PART II

BY JAY MAKARENKO

REPRINTED FROM THE WEB.

Aboriginal Legislation Prior to the *Indian Act, 1867*

At the time of the *Royal Proclamation, 1763*, responsibility for Aboriginal affairs in Canada lay with British imperial authorities. By the mid-1800s, however, Britain began to transfer this responsibility to the Canadian colonies themselves. Between 1850 and 1876 (when the first *Indian Act* was passed), Canadian authorities enacted several key pieces of legislation, which strongly influenced the nature of the *Indian Act* itself.

The first of these was *An Act for the Better Protection of the Lands and Property of Indians in Lower Canada* and *An Act for the protection of Indians in Upper Canada from imposition, and the property occupied or enjoyed by them from trespass and injury*, which were passed by the Province of Canada (then a British colony) in 1850.

These statutes are important in that they represented the first attempt to define “Indian” and who would receive the rights and duties of **Indian**

status. Under the acts, the term “Indian” was defined broadly to include the following: 1) any person deemed to be Aboriginal by birth or blood; 2) any person reputed to belong to a particular band or body of Aboriginals; and 3) any person who married an Aboriginal or was adopted by Aboriginals (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1991). While the definition was broadly construed, it is important to note that it assumed for the government the responsibility for deciding who



was an Aboriginal. In other words, Aboriginal groups themselves were not given the power to define their own communities. This power, instead, lay in the hands of non-Aboriginal authorities.

Another important statute was *An Act to Encourage the Gradual Civilization of Indian Tribes in this Province, and to Amend the Laws Relating to Indians*, passed by the Province of Canada in 1857. Commonly referred to as the *Gradual Civilization Act*, this statute was the first to introduce the concept of **enfranchisement** or the process by which Aboriginals lost their Indian status and became full British subjects. In introducing the Act, the colonial government viewed enfranchisement as a privilege for Aboriginals, by which they could gain their freedom from the protected Indian status and gain the rights of full colonial citizenship, such as the right to vote. It is at this point that the strategies of **civilization** and **assimilation** begin their legislative existence, with colonial authorities encouraging Aboriginals to forgo their Indian status and be drawn into the larger colonial society as regular citizens (and, hence, become “civilized”).

Under the Act, only Aboriginal men could seek enfranchisement. In order to do so, they had to be over the age of 21, able to read and write in either English or French, be reasonably well educated, free of debt, and of good moral character as determined by a commission of non-Aboriginal examiners (Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996). Once enfranchised, the person was entitled to receive up to 50 acres of land from the reserve on which they lived and a per capita share of treaty annuities and other band monies. Enfranchisement



was to be fully voluntary by the man seeking it. However, an enfranchised man's wife and children automatically lost their Indian status, regardless of whether or not they so desired.



In 1860, the Province of Canada passed the *Indian Lands Act*. An important element of this Act was the centralization of

control over Aboriginal affairs for the colony. The Act created the office of the Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and transferred all authority for Aboriginals and their lands in the Province of Canada to this single official. Moreover, the Chief Superintendent was given very broad discretionary powers over reserve Aboriginals. This centralization continued in 1867, when the Province of Canada was united with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to create the new nation of the Dominion of Canada. Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, gave legislative authority over Aboriginals and their lands to the federal Parliament, removing it from the provincial legislatures.

In 1869, the Government of Canada passed An Act for the gradual enfranchisement of Indians, the better management of Indian affairs, and to extend the provisions of the Act 31st Victoria [9]. This Act is significant in that it was the first to introduce the notion of **self-government** for Aboriginals on reserves. Under the Act, Aboriginal tribes or bands were permitted to elect chiefs and band councils for the purpose of general administration on reserves. These elected officials were granted limited bylaw powers, and were elected to terms of three years. It is important to note

many Aboriginal groups did not engage in democratic practices at the time. Consequently, the Act granted the government the power to impose democratic institutions on them, regardless of what Aboriginal groups desired. Furthermore, Aboriginal women were excluded from voting for band chiefs and councils (women in general were excluded from voting at this time, as woman's suffrage [10] was not achieved in Canada until the early 1900s).

In addition to a mechanism for Aboriginal self-government, the 1869 Act included other key provisions. It prohibited the sale of alcohol to Aboriginals, on the paternalistic grounds of protecting Aboriginals from themselves. Furthermore, the Act instituted a **compulsory enfranchisement** provision. Under the *Gradual Civilization Act* (see above), enfranchisement was a completely voluntary process, by which Indian status could only be lost at an individual's choosing.

Under the 1869 Act, however, Aboriginal women who married non-Aboriginal men automatically lost their Indian status, regardless of whether or not they so desired it. Moreover, any children resulting from the marriage would also be denied Indian status. This provision continued with the strategy of assimilation, as many Aboriginal women, and their children, forcefully lost their Indian status and gained Canadian citizenship.





Top photo: Taken October 20th the work on the fourth longhouse steadily progresses. Middle photos: Kitselas Resource employees work on the cedar slats that will become the exterior walls of the new longhouse. Last Photo: Taken November 3rd, excellent progress is being made! The fourth longhouse in the Kitselas Canyon Development is coming along.

Whats happening in Kitselas...

- The construction of 6 new homes has begun in the community of Gitau. These new homes are being built on the streets: Ketoneda and Kshish.



- A new cemetery gate for the Kitselas Cemetery has been ordered from the Terrace Steel and will be in place by the end of November, if every thing goes along smoothly during production and painting. This project is a very important one for the community as there have been recent disrespectful occurrences to the area which is not acceptable. Please refrain from disturbing the resting places of those loved ones in the cemetery, it is a place for peace and quiet mourning for those who have passed on. Thank you.

- The Community Meeting held on October 14th 2009 was a great success. Approximately 60 Kitselas community members come out to become informed on the 2008/2009 Fiscal Audit, R.C.M.P Community Policing and a Communications Department Update. INAC Funding Service Officer- Mr. David Seymour was also in attendance to answer questions from the membership on various topics.

*Community involvement
is key to a
Successful Community!*

KITSELAS HALLOWEEN PARTY WAS A SUCCESS!

BY: HOLLY M. SPENCER

On Friday October 30th, approximately 75 people from the Kitselas community came to the Kitselas Community Hall to enjoy a fun filled night of spooky Halloween fun for the whole family.

Included in the festivities were:

- a cake walk, with all the baked delights donated by community members and Party Planning Committee Volunteers,
- a costume contest for various ages,
- a spider webbed treat bag area,
- Pinatas filled with goodies for all the children,
- Hot Dogs and drinks, donated by the Kitselas Band Council
- Fireworks to cap off the night, also donated by the Kitselas Band Council

Without the help of the many volunteers, this event would not have been possible.

A great big THANK YOU to all those in the community who volunteered their time to this community event!

Community involvement is key to successful events/meetings and the Kitselas Band Council and Staff are happy to see the community increasingly becoming more involved.

The next holiday event coming up will be the Kitselas Christmas Party and your help will be needed. Christmas is right around the corner and community volunteers will make this event another success for all of the children in the community! Please consider helping out anyway that you can.

If you would like to volunteer for the Christmas Party, please contact Steve Bernard at 250.635.5084.ext.227



Thank you!