



Canyon Current

“Increasing Knowledge Together for a Better Tomorrow”

Volume 3 - Issue 13 October 2011

Kitselas Hall Gets Much Needed Attention



The Kitselas Hall on Kulspai is undergoing some much needed renovations throughout the months of October and November. While the renovations mean the hall will not be available for public use until approximately early December, community members are sure to be pleased with the results. The hall now has a new roof, and will have newly resurfaced floors, washrooms and a new kitchen. Stay tuned for more as this project moves forward.

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In the Community

Girl Power Group started October 18th (for girls 8 yrs and older). 10 sessions to be held every Tuesday at 6 - 8 pm. For any info or to sign up contact Marcia at 250-635-5084 ext 229 (please leave message) Youth Centre 250-635-3117 (evenings).

Halloween Raffle - Wabsuwilaks'm Students will be selling raffle tickets for a Halloween themed basket with goodies such as DVD's, Movie passes, costumes, and treats.

Draw Date: Friday Oct.28th at 1:00 pm.

Educational Event October 25th at 7 pm Gitaus Admin Building. Learn about sustainability, community wellness and Economic Development opportunities in Kitselas.

November 1st - November 4th – KITSELAS CHARRETTE

Thornhill Elementary PAC meeting will be held in Gitaus Nov. 8th 7-8 pm - Gitaus Admin. Building. Please mark your calendar and try to come out and attend this opportunity to provide valuable input. The school is actively seeking a Kitselas parent to represent our community.

**Elder's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Nov. 11th 8:00 am - 11:00 am - Everyone Welcome!**

Community Halloween Party - Volunteers Needed to help cook, fix goodie bags, set up/clean up, for carnival stations etc. Donations of candies, chocolates, and chips appreciated. **Volunteers will be needed to decorate the band office on Friday, October 28th from 12 noon to 3 pm.** If you are able to volunteer or are able to donate anything, please call Susan McDames at 250 631 8287, or message through FB (check out the Facebook group, **search: Kitselas Yuletide Committee** - all Kitselas members are encouraged to join!).

Elaine's Bakery - Cakes - Pies - Tarts - Banana Bread - etc.
To order call 250-635-2902 or 250-638-7191 (Cell)

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 to confirm the weekly location or confirm your attendance on Facebook event page, visit: on.fb.me/kitselascoffeehouse

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.



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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

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[www.facebook.com/
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Kitselas Treaty Group:
<http://on.fb.me/kitselastreaty>

Kitselas Coffee House Heating Up

Kitselas Community Members have an opportunity to voice concerns and share ideas at the Kitselas Coffee House held every Wednesday at 2:00 pm at the Elder's Centre in Gitauas and the Kulspai Satellite Health Station.

The very first Coffee House was held September 28th at the Elder's Centre in Gitauas. Participants shared some great insight into community concerns and issues.

Items raised at the Coffee House will be taken back to the Committee to the Council (CTTC) and Kitselas Band Council. The Coffee House is part of meeting the Communications Mandate that has been adopted by the Kitselas Band Council committing to open and transparent communications with the membership.

While not all issues raised by participants may have a solution or can be addressed by the Kitselas Administration or Council, the Coffee House is an opportunity for community members to talk about



The very first Kitselas Coffee House, held September 28th at the Elder's Centre in Gitauas, collected great input from the group that grew to a dozen participants.

the changes they would like to see and through discussion develop new ideas for meeting current needs or possible solutions to existing problems.

The Coffee House is also an opportunity for community members to communicate with the Kitselas Administration and Band Council through the Coffee House facilitator Hilary Zornow, who is the official "go-between" for Kitselas members and the Kitselas Band Council. All concerns relayed to the CTTC and the Council are

anonymous.

The Kitselas Coffee House is intended to grow and evolve naturally and community input into the process is especially important. Suggestions are appreciated.

Community Members who are not able to attend the Coffee House or would rather not voice their concerns publicly are welcomed to contact Hilary at 250-635-8882 ext 242 or E: h.zornow@kitselas.com or [facebook.com/canyoncurrent](https://www.facebook.com/canyoncurrent)

Community Halloween Party
October 29th - Gitauas Admin Building

4:30 - 5:00 pm Carnvial Activities (Youth 7 and under)
5:00 - 5:30 pm Light Community Supper
5:30 - 6:00 pm Carnvial Activities (Youth 8+)
6:00 - 6:30 pm Costume Judging **all participants get a prize*
6:30 - 7:00 pm Cake Walk
7:30 pm FIREWORKS!

Check out the Silly Picture Station! (Photos By Donation)
If you are able to volunteer you time or willing to donate goods, please contact: Susan McDames, Kitselas Yuletide Committee, at 250.631.8287 or on Facebook.
**This event is open to all children on and off-reserve*

B.C. First Nations Taking Ownership of Health Issues

from article submitted by Therese Hagen

Kitselas and Kitsumkalum are gearing up to take ownership of health issues in their communities through newly formed Community Engagement Hubs.

Therese Hagen, is the Community Engagement Hub Coordinator for both Kitselas and Kitsumkalum. Both communities are part of a larger network of 33 Hubs in BC that represent 177 First Nations. These Hubs will work together on the planning, collaborating and communication of health priorities. The Hubs allow participating First Nations the power to create new solutions to health service delivery and access issues by working together.

The Community Engagement Hubs will play an important role in the transfer of decision making authority from the federal and provincial governments to First

Nations communities. This process will take a lot of collaboration, planning and communicating. This new initiative is already starting to see positive movements across BC. The Okanagan Nation Alliance focuses their work on connections to the people and the land by including cultural and traditional knowledge of food and food gathering into the delivery of their health services. The Finlay Hub, made up of the Kwadacha and Tsay Keh Dene First Nations, identified their priority of getting lights on their airstrip so that B.C. Air Ambulance services could land after dark; they did not have the funds to do this separately, but together, they found the resources to make this happen.

Kitselas and Kitsumkalum chose to create a Hub together because these two communities have

many things in common; common strengths and common challenges. Together, they will find new ideas and new ways to improve the health of both communities. A thorough Needs Assessment for each community will be vital in helping us recognize what needs our attention most.

The Hub cannot do this work alone. In order to complete an accurate needs assessments, active involvement from the community is essential. Kitselas community members can expect meetings in the near future to begin this work. There will be plenty of opportunities to come out and make sure your ideas and concerns are heard.

For more information on Hubs, or to find out about how you can participate, contact: Therese Hagen, Hub Coordinator, at (250) 638-1003.

PAP Clinic Tuesday, October 25th at the office of Dr. Almas Park Avenue Medical Building - 4th Level



This All-Female clinic is offered throughout the day to women who would prefer to have this important screening done by a female health professional. There will be NO appointments, first-come-first-serve only. No MSP card necessary, anticipated 20 minute wait at most.

This clinic has been hugely successful and screen about 100 women for cervical cancer, one of the leading causes of death in women of childbearing age. It can be treated with early detection!



Gitau Health Office
Drop-in Monday - Friday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Terrace Public Health Unit
9am - 3pm
Wednesday- Friday.

Kitselas Family/House
appointments after-hours,
please contact Catherine
Tanski at 250-641-6353

Kitselas Cuties Get a “Head Start”



Kitselas Headstart is in full swing with some new faces coming on board to take part in the enriched programming that focuses on Tsimshian culture and early childhood development. The little ones are either part of a morning or afternoon class that incorporates Head Start Components, such as:

- Culture and Language
- Education
- Health Promotion
- Nutrition
- Parent & Family Involvement
- Social Support



The children follow the Tsimshian calendar with a focus on culture and language throughout the year. This includes the yummy task of trying traditional First Nations foods (when available).

The Aboriginal Head Start On-Reserve program was launched across Canada in 1998. The program nurtures the healthy growth and development of First Nation children. With programming designed and delivered by communities, the Aboriginal Head Start Program supports the physical, developmental, emotional, social, cultural, and spiritual well-being of children (<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/famil/develop/ahsor-papar-eng.php>).

A warm welcome to new and returning children...

AM Class: Mya Mohr, Majestic Mohr, Rufus McDames, Carleigh Lawson, Grace McMillan, Craig McDames Jr., MacKenzie Seymour

PM Class: Mercedes Seymour, Damen Nyce, Serenity Laberge Alyssa Wilson, Norah-Jane Mojak-Mason

Kitselas Head Start Staff:

Linda Innes:

Kitselas Head Start Co-ordinator

Anne Wright: *Early Childhood Educator/Manager*

Vernon Dudoward:
Bus-driver/Assistant

Researcher Back Working for Kitselas

Hello, my name is Lidia Jendzjowsky. Some of you are familiar with me from my time spent in Kitselas as an Anthropology student. I have been back in Kitselas since May 2011 working with the Kitselas Treaty Office as a Researcher for the Tsimshian First Nations Treaty Society. During the summer, I worked on a project about water and water resources for Treaty purposes.

The start of October has seen me transition to a new project where I will be working on a Kitselas Constitution and developing plans with the Treaty Office to meet with community members to talk about the possibilities that come with self-governance. I will also be working with the Treaty Office staff to develop plans for community consultation for the possible Agreement-in-Principle (AIP).

This is an exciting time for the Kitselas people and I look forward to talking to and meeting new community members over the winter months. Please feel free to stop by my office at 4562 Queensway Drive, please feel free to give me a call at 635-8882 ext. 244 or email at ljendzjowsky@kitselas.com



Land Use Planning - Important Dates:

Community Wellness & Sustainability - Educational Event
Tuesday, October 25 · 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Gitaus Administration Building - Education Room

The Kitselas Charrette is Coming!
November 1, 2, 3 & 4 2011
Gitaus Administration Building

Charrette Schedule:

First Community Meeting - November 1st at 7:00 pm at the Gitaus Admin Office.
The designers will present what they've heard so far and some ideas for the development of Gitaus.

Elders Luncheon - November 3rd at the Gitaus Admin Office
Elders will sit with designers and tell them how Old Kitselas/Endudoon is allowed to look in the future.

Open House - November 3rd at Gitaus Admin Office between 4 pm – 10 pm.
This is a chance to make sure that we've gotten the plans right.

Final community meeting and celebration - November 4th
A chance for us to come together, share a meal and look at the products of the charrette. We will still be able to make changes at this point, but the majority of the plan's visual elements will be completed.

First Steps Toward a Renewed Focus

Kitselas staff took part in a day-long workshop on October 14th at the Best Western aimed at creating a renewed focus in preparation for self-government and an Agreement – in - Principle. It was a full day which opened with an address from Chief Judy Gerow where she unveiled her vision of a strong Kitselas. Mel Bevan discussed team building and preparing for the “road ahead”. To round out the afternoon, Rita Wacholtz, from Northwest Training & Counselling, touched on Customer Service and Conflict Resolution. The workshop was aimed at inspiring a positive movement to further meeting the needs of the community.

“I campaigned on change”, said Chief Gerow of the workshop, “for the strengthening of our community

by moving towards self-governance and breaking our reliance on Indian Affairs. I don’t think that is any different from what anyone else wants.” She adds, “Kitselas wants a proud, independent community that works together. We need to be the change we want to see in our community and lead by our own examples.”

The recent workshop is the starting point for more staff training programs and workshops to improve the services the Administration delivers to the people of Kitselas. This is a growing process as self-government is being realized and the completion of the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) draws near.

The community can expect to hear more about the various

developments beginning to form as well as more information on the AIP in the months ahead. The Kitselas Staff will be working as a team to ensure a clear understanding of the AIP for the membership and new policies and laws will continue to be developed as the Band Council exercises its inherent right to self-government.

Our New Guiding Principles:

“The Kitselas People shall build the nation of Kitselas by supporting individual members to grow and prosper. To build strength, independence and pride through dedication to a common purpose.”

The Road Ahead: Toward a Better Life for Our Children - Mel Bevan

Kitselas has been fighting for rights to our land for well over 150 years, and after 20 years at the treaty negotiation table we are nearing the completion of an Agreement - in – Principle (AIP). Once the AIP is complete and after a period of consultation the people will decide, whether or not Kitselas will move forward with a Final Agreement through a vote. If Kitselas votes “YES” to the AIP then we move forward to Final Agreement negotiations. It is essential to remember an AIP is not legally binding, it is what all parties agree in principle will be included in the Final Agreement. If Kitselas votes “NO” to the AIP then the burden of settling land claims will be passed on to the next generation. We do not want our children to have to carry this burden any further, we

want them to start out with a clean slate.

Approval of the AIP means Kitselas can begin to move toward independence and be free of the Indian Act. Freedom from the Indian Act means we can finally begin to meet the needs of our community on our own terms. Right now, someone else makes the rules and establishes the standards. Our Administration will move from simply delivering programs to actually developing and managing the programs we create.

An AIP will open the way for the Kitselas to have a Treaty that finally settles the land issue for our people. While we cannot recover the lands that have been lost, we can gain new land that will lead to economic growth and sustainability for our children and our children’s

children. They will no longer be chained to a reserve system that has stripped us of our right to benefit from the lands that sustained our ancestors for generations. We will have a true land base as opposed to small parcels we do not own.

In the coming months I urge you to participate in the many opportunities to learn more about the AIP. The Treaty Office will be hosting a number of events to ensure the Kitselas understand what is in the AIP and how it will benefit our community.

Questions are always welcomed and we encourage you to drop in our office during our office hours, Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Our doors are open, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



The " Kitselas Elders " would like to Thank EVERYONE for their support in the past, which enabled a group of them to travel to Abbotsford in July for the "Elders Gathering." Unfortunately, due to health & job reasons, not all of the Elders were able to travel.

The ones who did travel got to meet friends from previous gatherings and made new friends.

We would like to THANK Anne McDames & Dave Anderson for driving the Elders bus.

Thank You Jessica Weget for assisting the Elders during the trip, & Thank You Danielle Morrison for providing health care for the Elders.

The Kitselas Elders will continue to Fundraiser in order to be able to travel again.

Again a BIG " THANK YOU!!" to EVERYONE



Pictured L-R: Lucille Seymour, Jessica Weget, Esther Engelmeyer, Rhoda Seymour, Beverly Bolton, Dave Anderson, Phyllis McNeil, Anne Maitland, Jim Billy, Cora Kennedy