

Kitselas Treaty Office

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Special points of interest:

- First Nations Summit
- Kitselas Fish Wheel
- Summer Students program
- Kitselas Chief Visits Ottawa
- Tsimshian Chief Negotiator meets with Kitselas people

Inside this issue:

Mel Bevan	1
Gerald Wesley	1
Elders Concerned	2
Ken McDames Sr.	2
First Nations Summit	2
Legal Counsel	3
Kitselas Advisory	3

Mel Bevan meets with People

The Kitselas Treaty Office hosted an information session at the Kitselas Community Hall July 18 & 19, 2000. The information session was held to bring the membership up to date on the on-going treaty negotiations with the Federal government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

The two day session was very informative. The Kitselas Treaty Office is planning on hosting the next information session in early October prior to the Tsimshian Tribal Councils Annual Assembly in Prince Rupert in early November.

As the negotiator for Kitselas Mel is also responsible for the Governance component for the Tsim-

shian Nation, with that Mel makes him-



Mel Bevan, Kitselas Treaty Negotiator

self available to the other Tsimshian Bands if they require assistance with the Governance chapter specifically concerning their own community.

Mel also sits on a technical committee for the Assembly of First Nation regarding Lands & Trust. He regularly has to travel back east to attend technical committee meetings. The Kitselas

Treaty office has been discussing the importance of keeping the people of Kitselas informed about the ongoing treaty negotiation. The staff at the treaty office have been considering meeting with individual family groups to discuss what concerns they have about the Treaty negotiation.



Kitselas Members attend treaty meeting

Gerald Wesley, Chief Negotiator



Gerald Wesley, Chief Negotiator.

Mr. Gerald Wesley Tsimshian Chief Negotiator addressed the community of Kitselas July 18, 2000.

Mr. Wesley summarized the last ten years leading up to the present day negotiation. The Tsimshian

table is presently in Stage 4 of a six stage process, which is the Agreement in Principle.

The Tsimshian Treaty table continues negotiations with Canada and British Columbia.

Kitselas Elders Concerned

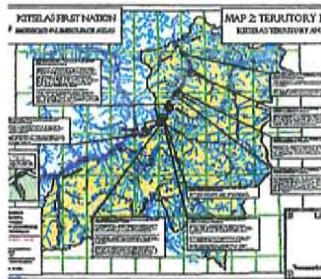
Mr. Ken McDames Sr. spoke on behalf of the Kitselas Elders group.

The Elders group are concerned that the neighbouring Tsimshian First Nations are claiming territory that belongs to Kitselas.

As the president of the Kitselas Elders group Mr. Seymour emphasized the importance for the young people to obtain their education goals.

Mr. Ralph Wright commented the

need for economic development for the Kitselas people. He mentioned that the Kitselas Canyon has potential for a national park and that it would benefit the people of Kitselas.



Internal Overlap amongst Tsimshian First Nations



Ray Seymour & Ralph Wright listen to the Kitselas Treaty Office presentation.

Canada was interested in funding the development of Kitselas Canyon.

The Kitselas Elders group hold regular meeting and they are open to the public if you are interested in attending their meetings. They are always looking for volunteers to help out with various fund raising activities. For More

information about the Elders Group you can contact Mr. Ken McDames Sr.

the secretary for the group.

When Mr. Ralph Wright was Chief Councillor Parks

Kitselas Chief visits Ottawa Museum

Chief Councillor Ken McDames Sr. had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa. Ken was in Ottawa attending the Assembly of First Nations Annual General meeting. Ken was shown exhibits by Dr. Derk Smith.

Dr. Smith has done extensive research work for Kitselas during the archeological studies that happened

in the early eighties in the Kitselas Canyon. Since then Dr. Smith has done some research gathering for the Kitselas Treaty Office. The Treaty Office contacted



Chief Ken McDames Sr.

Dr. Smith to arrange for him to meet with Ken while in Ottawa.

Ken was very fortunate that Dr. Smith was able to show him where they stored all First Nations artifacts that are not shown to the general public. The collection ranged from masks to regalia

First Nations Summit heads North

The First Nations Summit which is the forum in which all the Chief Councillors of British Columbia come together to discuss issues on a Provincial level. These meetings usually take place in North Vancouver at the Squamish Recreation Centre. Within the last year the Summit has held their meetings

outside of Vancouver. One was held in Prince George. The next scheduled summit will take place in Prince Rupert September 20,21 & 22,2000 at the Civic Centre.

The Summit Leaders are Grand Chief Ed John, Co-Chair, Brian Wilson, and Kathleen Tenesis

If you have the opportunity to go to Prince Rupert to take in the three day meeting you will see the majority of the First Nations of British Columbia which is approximately one hundred, ninety-six bands. Not all First nations attend the summit. Meetings

Tsimshian Table seeks Legal Counsel

The Tsimshian Treaty table was able to retain the services of the former Provincial Chief Negotiator, Mark Stevenson.

The Tsimshian hope that with Mr. Stevenson's background as the former negotiator for the Province of British Columbia, he could give recommendation to the Tsimshian Treaty table as to how the Tsimshian can approach the negotiations.



Mark Stevenson, Tsimshian Legal Advisory

Mr. Stevenson is in the process of visiting each of the Tsimshian communities.

Once all the community visits are completed Mark will be preparing a summary to the Tsimshian Treaty table.

Kitselas Fish wheel

The Photo to the right is of a Lamprey caught in the



Fred Mason holding a Lamprey (eel) Ken McDames Jr

fish wheel in the Kitselas Canyon. The selective fisheries project is operated by the Kitselas Band Council with Wilfred McKenzie responsible for the operation of the project.

This year Kitselas was able to selectively harvest approximately 7500 pieces of sockeye under the ESSR program, which was delivered to a processing company. The monies from the sale will be used to off set expenses.

Kitselas Advisory

Chris Knight is no stranger to Kitselas and the Tsimshian Nation. Chris has been assisting both the Treaty office and the Kitselas Band Council.

The Band Council decided to use Chris to assist with negotiation that had to be carried out with companies like Skeena Cellulous, Terrace Paving, Ministry of Forest and Pa-

cific Northern Gas.

Each of the above companies require a permit to access through Indian Reserves that belong to Kitselas. The Reserve in question was I.R.# 5 Zymoetz (Copper River). The Chief & Council felt that rather than just go after money they would begin the



Chris Knight, Kitselas Advisory

process of building a working relationship where Kitselas would explore other potential opportunities to create employment opportunities for the Kitselas Membership.

Silviculture Contract

One of the benefits from these negotiation is the silviculture projects that has seen approximately nine of our members receiving training to work in this field. This project could not have happened without the assistance of Winnie Wells, Social Development, Willie McKenzie, Resource Department, Skeena Native

Development and Skeena Cellulous Inc.

Kitselas has signed an agreement with Skeena Cellulous Inc. and now working on an agreement with each of the users that require access through Kitselas reserves.

Kitselas wants each of the compa-

nies to realize that we are here and Kitselas is willing to cooperate and build a working relationship that would benefit their company and our people. This will not happen overnight but will take time. The Skeena Cellulous agreement took approximately ten months to reach.

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Kitselas Band Council

*Watch for Kitselas's
www coming soon*

The Kitselas Treaty Office will be planning the next community meeting to take place hopefully mid October prior to the Tsimshian Tribal Councils Annual General Assemble in November.

The Kitselas Treaty Office provided three door prizes for the information session and the following individuals received

Copy of the Gitselasu Merle Bevan

Family Air Show Tickets Sammy Greene

Dinner for Four Mr. Milke's Chris Knight, Chris donated the gift certificate to the Kitselas Elders Group.

Congratulations to the above who received gift certificates.

Summer Students complete interviews

The three summer students working in the Kitselas Treaty Office are Jessica Bennett, Trina West-Johnson and Maria Duncan.

The students had the opportunity to attend a Task Group meeting which is a meeting of the Chief Negotiators from each of the Tsimshian Bands.

The girls also attended Tripartite working group session which are with the Province of B.C. and the Federal Government of Canada.

When the Kitselas Treaty office hosted an information session at the Kitselas community hall July 18 & 19, 2000 the students gave a brief report to the community

on their activities and possible projects they would be doing during their employment. The students did record the community meeting on video tape, which is available for viewing to community members.

One of the projects the student did was to begin interviewing community members using a video camera. The students listen to the member on what it was like for them growing up in Kitselas. The three students that worked on the interviews would like to thank the following community members for participating in this project.



Jessica B. Trina W. Maria D

Mr. Willard Seymour,
Mr. Ralph Wright,
Mr. Ray Seymour,

Mrs. Phyllis McNeil, Mrs. Rhoda Seymour, Mrs. Isabelle McKee, Mr. Mel Bevan, and Mr. Wilfred Bennett Sr. We thank you for your time and

The Treaty office would like to thank Mr. Wilfred McKenzie for bringing Ralph & Ray up to the Kitselas Canyon to show them the wheel. We all enjoyed the boat ride.

The Kitselas Treaty office will be working over the next few weeks in developing a web page. More and more First Nations are taking advantage of the World Wide Web. Our neighboring community of Kitsumkalum has their web page up. You can check it out at www.kitsumkalum.bc.ca. The Treaty office would like to carry on with the interviews next summer 2001