



Huu-ay-aht Community Newsletter

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MOVING TOWARDS 2010 TREATY IMPLEMENTATION AND SELF-GOVERNMENT

ISSUE ONE - JUNE 2008



**Huu-ay-aht Reunion on July 27th, 2007
Alberni Athletic Hall, Port Alberni**

CONTEST

Your newsletter needs a name!

Submit Ideas to
<hfn.communications@gmail.com>

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ON THE MOVE

AN INTRODUCTION

During the ratification process of the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations government embarked upon a completely different way of communicating with its people. We began sending out regular messages by mail, holding community meetings and even scheduling home visits with members in many places.

On July 28th of 2007, the Maa-nulth Final Agreement was ratified by your votes in an overwhelming majority with the highest voter turnout ever. Following the ratification of the treaty, our communications to membership lessened but never stopped. Now, we work to reconnect with all of you.

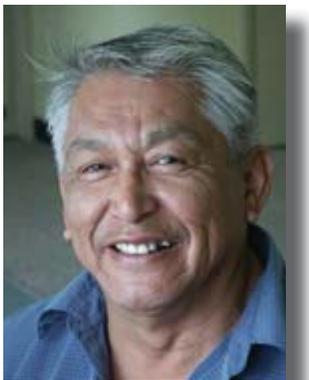
Since that time, our government has been restructuring and reorganizing. We have been preparing ourselves for the process of implementing the treaty, the process of turning the words of the treaty and our consultation from ideas into real and working institutions.

This newsletter will be one of the principal methods of keeping in contact with our members. In addition to communications staff and administrative personnel, your elected leaders and department managers will contribute updates and information to the newsletter in an effort to keep you informed on the issues affecting the nation and the communities.

We will be publishing online as well, so check out <www.huuayaht.org> for the electronic version.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF-COUNCILLOR

For the next year or two, the HFN will be preparing for huge changes. When the Maa-nulth Final Agreement comes into force, we will be operating under Huu-ay-aht authority. For the first time in roughly one hundred and fifty years, we will determine our own laws and practices through a process set out in our own Constitution. This document will be our ultimate law, it will help us prepare for change, and all Huu-ay-aht people should get to know our Constitution.

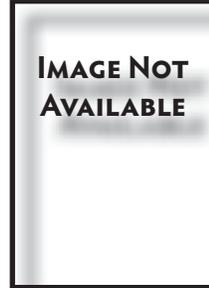
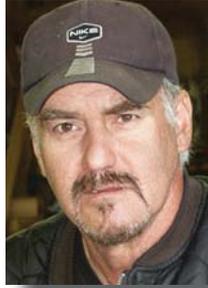


The HFN's goal is to be prepared for the time when the treaty comes into force, a time called the Effective Date. We have set a target of early 2010 and your government has created the HFN Treaty Implementation Committee to oversee the preparations for that great day. We have also created other committees with more focused treaty concerns, like land-use or fisheries, and we will bring you more information about them through this newsletter, on the website and during our community meetings.

We have designed processes that will allow our committees to gain access to your thoughts and ideas: holding the the inaugural People's Assembly in the Fall, having regular community meetings in the four main concentrations of the HFN population, publishing information in this newsletter and on the website and remaining responsive in our phone, postal and e-mail communications.

My commitment to you is best expressed in a saying, "Working with you, the Huu-ay-aht people, to make positive change a reality." *Chuuch!*

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATES



From left to right: Chief-Councillor Robert Dennis and Councillors Ben Clappis, Ed Johnson, Stella Peters and Irene Williams.

CHIEF-COUNCILLOR ROBERT DENNIS SENIOR

My name is Qwiimaqciik, Robert Dennis. My grandfather is the late Telford Deniis and my parents are the late Simon Dennis Sr. and Alice Dennis (Peters). I have been your elected leader for thirteen years. Now, I have focused on preparing our government and administration for implementation of the treaty. Outlined below are five areas that I have focused on for this fiscal year:

My first duty as Chief-Councillor is to ensure that Chief & Council will abide by the Huu-ay-aht Code of Ethics and follow through on their duties and responsibilities. Each member of your government will have a political strategy to achieve community objectives as determined by our annual planning sessions. Each Councillor will determine his or her priority list and focus on it to get things done in a timely manner.

Your HFN government has determined that our number one priority is the recovery of our Huu-ay-aht language. By introducing

a number of new programs, your councillors are showing the political will to make an earnest push for full-recovery. Within the next three years, Council will provide two-hundred and forty thousand dollars towards the HFN Language Recovery Program. In addition, we will seek out other sources of funding so we can provide location-based language programs to reach all Huu-ay-aht members.

Our next priority is overseeing the committees that have been created to do the work needed to prepare our nation for the day we regain control over our collective destiny. To do this, we have one main body, the Implementation Committee, made up of other smaller ones: finance, governance, economic development and more. The members of these committees come from all walks of life and include Councillors, staff, members and consultants for technical work.

We will continue to work towards a safe and healthy community for all Huu-ay-aht. We plan to hold a series of community meetings to get your input on help-

ing to make Huu-ay-aht one of the healthiest and safest communities in Canada.

Councillor Irene Williams

My name is Irene D. Williams, elected Councillor with the capital projects portfolio. I am the eldest daughter of Ben and Clara Clappis and I have recently been married to Naasiismis, Derek Peters. In November 2007, we had our first child, a baby girl named Olivia. This year, my priorities are establishing the infrastructure we need to have a community in our traditional territory.

My first priority is the new government building, which is now nearing the final design stage. Construction should begin in Spring 2009 and our goal is to have it ready for the Effective Date of the Treaty in 2010. Other projects include the construction of a new water pumphouse this summer, seeking approval for and beginning construction of a sixty lot subdivision in the summer of next year, ...

... researching and entering into a partnership with neighbouring communities and organizations to construct a new system for wastewater treatment and disposal, and completing the construction of four mini-longhouses on important sites in our traditional territory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at either the HFN Band Office in Anacla or the HFN Treaty Office in Port Alberni. Klecko, klecko!

COUNCILLOR ED JOHNSON

In our language, my name is Nuukmiis. My English name is Ed Johnson. My biological parents are Edward and Mabel Nookemus and my adoptive parents are Ralph and Ethel Johnson. I am an elected Councillor and my portfolios are forestry and fisheries.

In forestry, I worked with Robert Dennis to negotiate forestry tenures in excess of one hundred and eighty thousand cubic meters of timber. I oversee the work done by the crew that keeps track of important markers of our historical occupation of our lands, culturally-modified trees (CMTs).

In addition, I have been working with Stella to stimulate interest in training and education with a more vocational focus. I have an overall goal of getting more HUU-ay-aht people employed in the forestry sector. One of the most important achievements in forestry for the HFN has been the purchase and use of our own dry land sort at Spencer Creek; it has done very much to decrease our operating costs.

In fisheries I helped negoti-

ate a percentage of the total annual catch of all in-shore and off-shore salmon species. I continue to support our nation's involvement in the Nuu-chah-nulth Fisheries Litigation. Related to fisheries, I attend Uu-a-thluk natural resource meetings alongside Derek Peters and Andy Clappis and I am the chairperson of our fisheries sub-committee on treaty implementation.

My overall goals are to increase HFN employment in the forestry sector, to widen our education funding after treaty to include trades training and mentorship, and secure sources of fish by whatever means necessary to protect our historic right to benefit from harvesting the oceans.



COUNCILLOR STELLA PETERS

Hello, my name is Stella Peters. I have been an elected Councillor since 1998 and I am responsible for education in our nation. I represent our community to K-12 institutions like the Bamfield Community School Association, School District 70 and the First Nation School Association. In addition, I represent the HFN and interact with post-secondary institutions like North Island College, Malaspina University-College and the University of Victoria.

Another one of my responsibilities is keeping in contact with and support HUU-ay-aht "kids in care" -- adopted and foster care children. We do this to make sure that these children keep a connection to their family, community and heritage. These programs also interact with our youth in the court system and part of my job is to see that they have the necessary support to ensure that they are following through with the issues that they need to deal with.

I am a member of the Parks Canada/HUU-ay-aht Cooperative Management Board and heavily involved in all programs and initiatives that have to do with the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and the West Coast Trail. We have recently been awarded the contract for the maintenance and cultural interpretation along our twenty-five kilometers of the West Coast Trail.

Finally, I am also a member of the Land and Natural Resource Committee. In this group, we will be working to help create the laws and rules that will govern how we use our treaty lands and how our natural resources will be used. Like the work we did with the Constitution Committee, we will be using very interactive methods to help us along the way: membership meetings, surveys and maybe even home visits.

COUNCILLOR BEN CLAPPIS

(By John Jack)

Due to health concerns, Ben Clappis was not able to make an update for the month of June 2008.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

SPOKEN HUU-AY-AHT LANGUAGE WILL SURVIVE

Huuayaht Language will survive in the future because we are presently taking well-planned steps to recover to the everyday use of the language, bringing more Huu-ay-aht members to fluency and linking language and cultural recovery.

This past November, Huu-ay-aht Chief and Council approved funding a three year language plan entitled "A Culturally Focused Approach to Language Recovery and Maintenance." Put together by the Huu-ay-at Language Development Team of Ha-weh-tuu-is (Benson Nookemis), Dr. Terry Klokeid and Denny Durocher, this plan includes the Emtii Project coordinated by Ki-ke-in (Ron Hamilton) who has been researching the ancestral Huu-ay-aht names.

The Paawats (Language Nest) remains the flagship of the language recovery plan. We now have preschoolers who are well on

their way to becoming bilingual (English-Huu-ay-aht).

This progress would have been impossible without the pioneering work of our fluent speakers: Ralph and Eb Johnson, Clifford and Marie Nookemus, Oscar Nookemus, Pat LeCoy and Marie Newfield. This project is historic for a lot of reasons and many community members; parents and children share in its success. Worthy of acknowledgement are the Paawats Staff over the past three years: Nancy Logan, Marena Dennis, Kathy Waddell and Trevor Little.

Huu-ay-aht Ey-iichim (elders) meet on the first Friday of each month in Port Alberni. By sharing their knowledge in a group of their peers and with the attendance of Huu-ay-aht of all ages, this group provides leadership to the Huu-ay-aht cultural research and recovery.

Just as it's easy to lose one's way without a map, we can say that our Language Recovery

Plan is our map. With our plan, we can chart our progress of where we have been, where we are now and where we are going.

The Language and Cultural Recovery will be featured in a future issue of this Huu-ay-aht Newsletter. Until then, here is just a glimpse of our plans for this year: develop more Mentor-Student Programs - where almost fluent speakers are linked up with fluent speakers to bring them to fluency, adult language classes for students in Anacla, Port Alberni and Vancouver (via video conferencing), lessons for Huu-ay-aht staff to use the language in the workplace, development of a Huu-ay-aht Dictionary, Huu-ay-aht Cultural Institute, development of Cultural booklets on Huu-ay-aht spiritual beliefs, lunar calendar, and Huu-ay-aht teachings.

UPDATE ON THE PAAWATS (LANGUAGE NEST)

By Kathy Waddell

The Paawats will run through the summer this year and taking a hiatus in winter months (Jan. & Feb) when there are often many missed sessions due to adverse road conditions, power problems and cold and flu season. The summer program will run at slightly shortened hours (10-12pm twice a week) in order to accommodate an afternoon program for the older children to be run in partnership with the HFN Youth Program. Language will be an integral part of both programs. Be sure to come out and join us!

The Paawats Language Team is working with the elders to translate several children's stories into Huu-ay-aht language. Every session we are using more and more Huu-ay-aht and less and less Maamalthnii.

*Natalie
Clappis,
Paawats
Student
(2007)*



Recently we have played a new game in which the children have the opportunity to ask the elders "What is it?" in Huu-ay-aht and the elder responds naming and talking about the picture or object the child has asked about. In addition, we have been developing posters for the children, parents and elders. 5

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS' UPDATES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ook-tlha-mah Anii-tsa-chist, my English name is Larry Johnson. My parents are Kenny and Joan Johnson and my father's parents were Georgie and Louisa Johnson. I have been working with the HFN since 1995. First, I was a Councillor, then I became the Forestry Liaison Manager and now I am the Economic Development Manager. I have currently been focusing my efforts in two areas, the potential purchase of the P.A. Hawkins Gravel Pit and my involvement in the HUU-AY-AHT Implementation Committee, the Economic Development Committee and the Fisheries Committee.

The P.A. Hawkins Gravel Pit is located near Bamfield and has good potential to supplement our efforts with capital projects like the government building, the sixty lot subdivision and road maintenance. We have recently completed a feasibility study with Chatwin Engineering and are now working on developing a business plan with the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation.

We are currently in the process of developing rules of operation, called Terms of Reference, for our Economic Development Committee and our Fisheries Committee. Once reviewed and completed, we will work to create the rules and regulations necessary for controlling our economic and ocean resources.

FISHERIES

My name is Stefan Ochman. I am the Fisheries Man-

ager for the HUU-AY-AHT First Nations and I am also Bamfield's representative on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. My job with the HFN centers around managing the fisheries personnel, licenses and contracts but I am also responsible for surveys, studies, fish counts and other biological tasks relating to fisheries. In my department, I work with three others: Clifford Nookemus Junior, Duane Nookemus and Cory Howard.

In addition to managing licenses and harvesting of fish, we are currently working in two main areas: watershed restoration and the work we do with both our hatchery at Sugsaw and the one located in Ditidaht territory. With help from students at the Bamfield Community School, we recently helped to restore the chinook fish stocks of the Sarita River by releasing one hundred and sixty thousand fry at Poett Nook Bay. Later that day, we released roughly twenty-four thousand Pachena River coho fry: half at Calamity Lake and half at Pachena River above the falls.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My name is Coral Johnson. I am married to Paulo Johnson and we have three children: Bradley, Coraleah and Chad. I have been working for the HFN for the past 10 years as the Community Health Representative and the Social Development Manager. I am looking forward to the time after Effective Date when our nation will take

over the responsibility for our own health programs under the Maa-nulth Treaty.

The primary focus of our community health programs is prevention. For the month of June, this includes Elders Health Workshops with Matilda Watts, Diabetes and Asthma Awareness Workshops, and a one-day mammogram outing to Port Alberni. Nancy Logan continues to promote family wellness and healthy social development through organized outings for children and family members.

With increasing numbers of Anacla's young people moving on to training and employment alternatives, we are glad to report that we are moving beyond the stop-gap programs like Work Opportunities as a way of employing our young people.

We have organized a number of cultural workshops on traditional canning of salmon and berries, cedar bark gathering, and making of traditional cedar dance regalia. We are distributing some seed potatoes to get those most interested in community gardening to create their own patches -- plant one, get back ten. Finally, we are looking forward to an exciting summer of youth and elder outings and community gatherings such as the Ey-iichem meetings and the Aboriginal Day Salmon BBQ at the Wickaninnish Interpretive Centre on June 21st.

For more information on health and community, please call me at (250) 728-2021. Thank you!

MAINTENANCE

My name is Rodney Murray and I am the new supervisor for the HFN Maintenance Department. In the past month, the biggest challenge we have been facing is keeping up with the demands of the community water system. I am pleased to report that our water is in good order and is well-within the parameters set out by Health Canada -- anyone living in or visiting our community can drink straight from the tap free of concern.

We are currently working on two larger projects: the community water pump house and the development of a gas station at the village site. The new pump house will allow for a far more efficient system that will give the maintenance department more time and energy for our other responsibilities. The prospect of a new gas station will do much in giving residents and visitors peace of mind

in the knowledge that there will be fuel at the end of our long and dusty road. It is my goal to have the gas station project complete by the end of June -- stay tuned to this column for more information.

TREATY OFFICE

Hello, my name is Ruby Ann Burkholder and I am the Office Manager of the HFN Treaty Office in Port Alberni. In the past month, we have been busy reorganizing the office space, the filing system and the overall workflow of the Treaty Office. In addition to this, I am responsible for managerial and administrative duties including accounts payable, some payroll procedures and various other tasks assigned by our Director of Tribal Operations, Connie Waddell.

There have been some changes at the office. Martha Johnson is our new receptionist -- welcome back, Martha! Molly Clap-

pis is the new Assistant to Chief & Council and has taken to the job amazingly well. Denny Durocher and John Jack now make up our newly-created Communications Department, located in what was the Treaty Office Boardroom. Councillor Irene Williams has recently moved her workspace here and has become a great addition to the team. We share our office with Steve Gray, Paul Dagg, Darren Hiller and the other forestry workers, who have their offices in the back of the building.

We are currently working on moving the forestry gear outside to the garage and transforming the old storage room into an archive and filing room, repairing our air conditioning system and finishing the reorganization of the office to create a more efficient and worker-friendly environment.

Thank you!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 3-4: Nuu-chah-nulth Career Fair in Port Alberni at the Multiplex

June 6: Huu-ay-aht Culture and Language Ey-eechim Meeting from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Cedar Wood Lodge Huu-ay-aht members welcome!

June 11: Prime Minister's Apology to Survivors of Residential Schools. View it here at 11:30 AM at the Huu-ay-aht Treaty Office.

June 16-17: Nuu-chah-nulth Language Gathering at the Robron Centre in Campbell River at 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

June 21: Aboriginal Day Celebration at the Wickaninnish Interpretive Centre near Ucluelet: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

July 11: Huu-ay-aht Band Meeting
Details to be announced...

July 30-31: Nuu-chah-nulth Uu-a-thluk Meeting and Community Dinner in Anacla



Miniature Longhouse at Paawats, 2007.

STAY IN TOUCH

Have you moved recently? Do you know someone who has not been receiving newsletters? Please be sure to keep your contact information up to date by contacting us below.

Klecko, klecko!

- HFN Communications Staff and Contributors

LOCATED AT ANACLA RESERVE

HUU-AY-AHT BAND OFFICE

P.O. Box 70
Bamfield, British Columbia
V0R 1B0

Phone: (250) 728-3414
Toll-Free: 1-888-644-4555
Fax: (250) 728-1222

E-Mail: <tinac@pachena.ca> (receptionist)

HUU-AY-AHT CLINIC

Phone: (250) 728-2021

LOCATED IN PORT ALBERNI

HUU-AY-AHT TREATY OFFICE

PO Box 20012
Port Alberni, British Columbia
V9Y 8J8

3483 3rd Avenue (Across from the Budget Rental)

Phone: (250) 723-0100
Fax: (250) 723-4646

E-Mail: <huyuayhttreaty@shawcable.com>
<hfn.communications@gmail.com>
(John) <john.jack@gmail.com>

READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.huuayaht.org



JOHN ALAN JACK
Comm. Coordinator

John's grandparents are Ernest and Shirley Jack. He started work as your Enrolment Coordinator, he has worked with the HFN for about four years.

DENNY DUROCHER
Communications Manager

Denny has worked on HFN community development for eight years and now focuses on culture and language as well as communications.

