Do you know where this is?

HINT: The former site of a village very close to Anacla.

See Page 8 for Answer...

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Corrections: From the November issue: the cover headline should have read “Tliishin-mit” to show respect for the deceased; on page 3, the late Spencer Peter’s maternal grandfather was Jackson Jack, not Jackson Peter.
CHIEF & COUNCIL CORNER

Huu-ay-aht Treaty Implementation

A Chronicle of Huu-ay-aht Treaty Implementation

July 28, 2007 – Huu-ay-aht Membership ratify the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, also known as the Maa-nulth Treaty.

September 24-27, 2007 – Preparing for Effective Date – Huu-ay-aht Chief & Council set up Planning Teams to meet certain Treaty obligations prior to Effective Date (July 2010). The following teams were created:

• Land and Natural Resources Team
• Economic Development Team
• Governance Team
• Cash and Fiscal Team

Feb 25-28, 2008 – Huu-ay-aht membership vote overwhelmingly to continue support of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Fisheries Litigation against the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

April 12, 2008 – HFN Council calls for monthly HFN Treaty Implementation Committee meetings to better monitor and coordinate the work of the four Committees

February 2009 – Community Round of Meetings - Huu-ay-aht Implementation Teams to visit Huu-ay-aht communities to consult with members, to provide updates on important HFN matters like NTC Fisheries and to engage members in dialogue on matters related to the Maa-nulth Treaty.

February to June 2009 – Huu-ay-aht Uyaqhmis Newspaper to feature one article a month to keep Huu-ay-aht membership up to date on the progress of the Treaty Implementation Committee Teams.

July 10, 2010 – Effective Date of the Maa-nulth Treaty

The Huu-ay-aht Implementation Committee has the responsibility for turning the treaty into reality. The committee consists of all of our ha'wiih (hereditary chiefs), Chief & Council and the Director of Tribal Operations with the support of HFN staff and specialized consultants.

If we think of the words in the Maa-nulth Treaty and our Constitution as the blueprints and toolbox for building our future, then the process of implementation is the act of 'constructing' the institutions and laws that shape our government.

The work ahead is enormous. Our Constitution has twenty-two pages, the Maa-nulth Final Agreement has over three hundred and its Appendix has over six hundred. The Treaty Implementation committees must carefully review these documents to make sure our Nation meets its commitment to the Treaty obligations in a timely fashion.

Count on Huu-ay-aht Uyaqhmis Newspaper to be here to communicate our nation’s progress toward Treaty Implementation on our historic and irreversible journey toward self-government.

WHAT IS TREATY IMPLEMENTATION?

A treaty -- 1: the action of treating and especially of negotiating 2: an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation: (1): private treaty: (2): a contract in writing between two or more political authorities (as states or sovereigns) formally signed by representatives duly authorized and usually ratified by the lawmaking authority of the state b: a document in which such a contract is set down

Implementation -- 1: carry out, accomplish; especially: to give practical effect to and ensure of actual fulfillment by concrete measures 2: to provide instruments or means of expression for

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The work ahead is enormous. Our Constitution has twenty-two pages, the Maa-nulth Final Agreement has over three hundred and its Appendix has over six hundred. The Treaty Implementation committees must carefully review these documents to make sure our Nation meets its commitment to the Treaty obligations in a timely fashion.

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FAREWELL 2008 - WELCOME 2009

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

Here is a short list of achievements in 2008 to make all Huu-ay-aht proud:

Communications / Education / New Relationships
• Rebuilding the HFN Communications Department
• Success of HFN Uyaqhmis Newspaper
• Establishing a management contract with Parks Canada for Huu-ay-aht portion of West Coast Trail
• Achieving objectives in the important area of language and cultural recovery
• Mentorship Program – increasing number of fluent Huu-ay-aht speakers
• Huu-ay-aht Na-naniqu: A BC Registered Society
• HFN Staff has twice weekly language lessons
• Adult Education in the Anacala Community
• Chief and Council increasing budget for education needs of Huu-ay-aht members

Capital / Economic Development
• Detail Design Stage of New Administration Building
• Opening of our own Gravel Pit
• Design Stage of Subdivision in Anacala
• Completion of four mini longhouses
• Gas Station in the Anacala Community
• Completion of Huu-ay-aht pump station to provide more and higher quality drinking water

Looking Forward in 2009
• Progress on work of Treaty Implementation
• Final design detail and possible construction of new administration building in Anacala
• Construction of the subdivision and more houses in Anacala

HUU-AY-AHT COMMUNITY MEETINGS

HFN Chief & Council will be holding community meetings in the first week of February between the 3rd and 6th. Stay tuned for details...

For more information, please watch your mailbox and the HFN website.

Kleoco, kleco!

<a href="http://www.huuayaht.org/">www.huuayaht.org</a>
Born on 12 June 1974, Naasiismis (Derek Bradley Peters) is the son of Nora Peters and Tliishin-nit (the late Arthur Spencer Peters). He was raised in and around the Anacla community as well as living in Port Alberni. As he was growing up, he was taught his culture and responsibilities by his parents, and his maternal and paternal grandparents: Edward and Melba Nookemus on his mother’s side and Arthur and Aggie on his father’s side. As a youth, Derek met Irene Williams and they have been together since that time. In fact, they were married in the traditional way two summers ago and have been blessed with their first child, a girl named Olivia Naomi Peters on November 28th, 2007.

Values, Vision and Actions

As Tyee ha’wilth (head chief), Naasiismis is actively pursuing the improvement of his community. To do this, he will be taking action in several areas to make the lives of his people better.

Derek has been working for several years to promote a healthy community. He has been an active voice in support of healthy lifestyle choices in communities such as Anacla, Port Alberni and beyond. He sees the need for viable social alternative to substance abuse in our communities. He wants to see our youth choose physical and cultural activity over the consuming alcohol and drugs. He wants to see and increase in the support and availability of programs that foster awareness of education and employment training programs for all Huu-ay-aht. With the support of Huu-ay-aht youth, he hopes to see the improvement of overall community health.

Naasiismis also wishes to see an increase in the involvement of our ha’wilth (hereditary chiefs) in the New Year. He wants to bring our Huu-ay-aht ha’wilth to the forefront by involving them more in the affairs of our community.

To this end, Derek also sees the importance of renewing relations with other First Nations and their hereditary leadership. Fostering positive relationships between elected and hereditary leaders together with improved communication is important for the future of the Maa-nulth Treaty Nations and also at Nuu-chah-nulth level.

Naasiismis also wants it to be known that the Huu-ay-aht are, and always have been, a part of Nuu-chah-nulth. Indeed, Huu-ay-aht’s active involvement, consistent moral support and financial commitment to the NTC’s fisheries litigation is unwavering. It is important that this support is understood not to frustrate any other First Nation’s interests; rather, it represents the best possibility to benefit the broader interests of the Nuu-chah-nulth people.

Derek believes that we can build positive relationships with each other in other ways, too. He has suggested that the NTC put on the Thu-pitch Summer Games again to give the youth of the nations a chance for physical activity and positive social and cultural interaction. He advocates support for U’a-a-thluk and the Council of Ha’wilth, groups dedicated to the protection of the natural resources within the ha’wilth (traditional territory) of the Nuu-chah-nulth ha’wilth.

Cultural and language will play an important part in HFN efforts toward self-reliance and social progress. Derek has been an active and long time supporter of cultural events has engaged the HFN forestry consultants to consider the implementation of the Huu-ay-aht Ha’wilth-lee. Derek has been and key member of the HFN Naa-naniqu (Grandparents) Cultural Society and has attended meetings for the past several years. He attended Nuu-chah-nulth’s language gathering in Campbell River and he has looked forward to continued collective support of our language.

Shared Success

Derek is proud of the efforts that HFN Chief & Council have put into assuring the involvement of its people in the strategic decisions of the community. He relates, “Everything we do is done because our people want it. We don’t move ahead with something important unless our people are on the same page and have given us direction.”

That the Huu-ay-aht government has held regular meetings in larger cities demonstrates respect for the voices of the Huu-ay-aht people. Rounds of Community meetings have played an important role in the ratification process of the Maa-nulth Treaty. Derek sees these meetings, together with the Annual People’s Assembly as playing an essential role in our future. He is especially proud of how the Huu-ay-aht people have become more and more a self-governing people.

“We give our people a chance. Look at who’s leading us now; it’s a mixture of more recent generations, too. Look at how many youth have been involved in just the past few years.”

Looking Ahead

Derek together with the other Huu-ay-aht ha’wilth has engaged the HFN forestry consultants to consider the important issues of forestry sustainability within the area of the Huu-ay-aht Ha’wilth-lee. He is pleased and humbled with the tremendous support he has received. He thanks all Huu-ay-aht people, our ancestors and those now working for so many years for a positive future for our Nation. In closing, he is pleased to share his confidence that the Huu-ay-aht people and their leaders will achieve the greatness they deserve.

Standing Together - Facing the Challenges

Derek identifies several challenges that Huu-ay-aht will need to address in the near future. First and foremost is the work that needs to be done to implement the Maa-nulth Treaty. It is up to the Huu-ay-aht government and staff to write all the laws and build all the institutions necessary for a more independent and self-reliant community. The work required to build the new Huu-ay-aht First Nations government is staggering, but with leadership, planning and effort, the target date of Summer 2010 will be met.

Related to this challenge, Derek believes that the Huu-ay-aht need to find ways to provide appropriate service delivery models for Anacla and the wider Huu-ay-aht community. Water, shelter, health, dental, emergency services, employment and education top the list as services necessary for a successful, healthy community.

Another related challenge is preparing the conditions for a viable economy in Huu-ay-aht territory. Education, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities combined with responsive government are essential ingredients for a prosperous community.

Just as important as these necessary economic and social conditions for success is the need to anchor our community to our ancestral, language and cultural traditions.

“Our language is who we are, if we lose it, we lose part of ourselves. We need to hold a youth conference where our na-naniqu can explain just how close we are to losing our language. We need to explain the reasons why we’re stuck with our culture, community and language. Our people shouldn’t have to figure this story out for themselves.

“Our people are quiet about their tragic experiences in residential schools. We need to show them why it’s not their father’s or uncle’s fault that he is the way he is. Someone needs to tell his story, the story of our parents and grandparents in residential schools.”

Derek believes that we need to continue to support the language recovery efforts in the community, in the office and at home. He is glad to see the beginning of language lessons at the Huu-ay-aht Treaty and Band Offices. The success of the mentor - student fluency program when combined with the efforts of everyone at the Anacla Paawats is a source of great hope for our Nation.

Did you know that the last name Peters was given to Derek’s great-grandfather Jack because that was his father’s first name? This happened quite a bit in the past because our people didn’t use last names the same way that the settlers did when they colonized Vancouver Island. As a result, many Huu-ay-aht and Nuu-chah-nulth people bear the first name of the head of their family at the time when Indian Agents were taking a census and registering our people. For example, because the name given to my great-great-grandfather was Jack, my great-grandfather’s name was Jackson Jack and my grandfather’s last name is Jack.

Above: Naasiismis (Derek Peters) Photo by Jonathan Clark Photography.  Below: Derek’s daughter, Olivia Naomi Peters and his wife, Irene Williams.
COMMUNITY-BASED PARTICIPATORY CONSULTATION WITH THE HUU-AY-AHT
FIRST NATIONS

For our Huu-ay-aht leadership to make well-informed decisions, it is important that they can count on the best quality information and research they can obtain.

HFN has contracted with Katherine Nairne and Sheila Charles on a project to find out what Huu-ay-aht members think is important for the future. They are working hard to make sure that our Ha-wiih and Chief and Council receive this important quality information.

The project is now called “Huu-ay-aht Planning Together” (HPT) and key for Katherine and Sheila to make this project successful is their ability to gather the broadest possible range of opinions, hopes, expectations and visions from Huu-ay-aht members. Given that the 650 Huu-ay-aht are spread across so many geographical communities this presents a bit of a challenge.

The HPT team has already met with the HFN Staff and Managers on two occasions and has made a presentation to the HFN AGM this past October 18th in Anacola.

“We are going to make sure that this report is a useful as can be. This isn’t a piece of work that will gather dust on the shelf and can help the Huu-ay-aht get the kind of future they want,” said Sheila.

Katherine Nairne explained that this process can provide valuable information as the community approaches the treaty implementation effective date slated for summer 2010. “This whole consultation is a ‘dialogue’ between the community and their leadership,” explained Katherine. Katherine added that she is coordinating the HPT meeting with community members to coincide with the Community Rounds that the HFN Council is planning when they will visit HFN members with meetings in Anacola, Alberni, Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver.

The last Community Round of Meetings were held during the Maa-nulth Treaty ratiﬁcation process in 2007. Next community rounds are slated for early February 2009, specific dates updated as soon as they are available.

LISTENING TO HUU-AY-AHT VOICES

MANAGING THE WEALTH OF OUR NATION

The Finance Committee has begun work on drafting a Financial Administration Act. The committee has four members: Irene Williams, Councilor; Connie Waddell, Director of Tribal Operations; with new member Cynthia Rayner and Dan Perrin. The committee is responsible for making recommendations about the financial aspects of Treaty Implementation and for providing Chief and Council with advice on current financial issues.

The Treaty and the Constitution both require that there be a Financial Administration Act in place on Effective Date. The Act must ensure that Huu-ay-aht financial administration meets the same standard that must be met by other governments in Canada. The legislation will be based on the following principles:

- HFN Council is responsible for establishing public policy. Council’s role and responsibilities related to financial matters will be set out clearly in the legislation and it will be clear that Council makes financial decisions.
- HFN Council must act in the best interests of Huu-ay-aht and its members. This principle will be stated in the legislation, reminding Council members that their duty is to the First Nation and its members.
- HFN Council is accountable to the People’s Assembly and HFN members for its actions. An Annual Report will be required to be presented each year to the People’s Assembly saying what happened last year and what is planned for the coming year. The report will include the audited financial statements and budget, but will also include a description of the main activities last year, the results that were achieved and what is planned for the coming year. It will include both the First Nation itself and all of the businesses enterprises, such as the Forestry Limited Partnership. Finally, there must be a report on the performance of invested Treaty Capital.
- Information must be timely to provide for accountability. Audited financial statements will have to be prepared within ninety days of the year end and year-to-date statements will have to be prepared quarterly.
- HFN Council processes must be transparent to the extent possible subject to legitimate confidentiality needs associated with the best interests of the HFN, its members and its business enterprises, to provide for accountability. This will require that information be made available regularly to all members and discussed at the People’s Assembly, including businesses and invested funds. Council will be required to consult with Ha-wiih and the community on key decisions such as the Strategic Plan and agreements with other governments. All assumptions underlying the budget will have to be disclosed.
- The budget process and financial reporting must deal with all of the areas for which HFN is responsible. Provision related to the budget and the requirement that all documents be prepared in accordance with accounting standards will ensure that all areas within HFN’s control.
- Financial information must be consistent to allow for comparability across time. Budget information and year end actuals will be prepared on the same basis so they can be compared and actuals will be monitored against budgets on a regular basis. Money will only be able to be spent in accordance with specific budget legislation passed by Council.

These principles and the proposed legislation will be discussed at upcoming community meetings.

WHERE IS SHE NOW?
Dr. Heather Castleden, PhD

We are pleased to provide this update on Heather Castleden and what became of research findings she assembled with the help of so many Huu-ay-aht residents of Anacola over the past several years.

Over the course of 2005 to 2007, Heather worked with Huu-ay-aht in Anacola on a research project that would prove immediately useful to the Huu-ay-aht and for Heather, would form the basis for her Doctoral thesis.

Heather’s thesis was finished in 2007. It is worth noting that the Huu-ay-aht First Nations shares in the authorship of two papers that have been published on this research.

While it is a bit of a mouthful, the title does describe in very precise terms what consumed Heather’s life over the course of two years: As Sacred as Cedar and Salmon: A Collaborative Study with Huu-ay-aht First Nations, British Columbia, into Understanding the Meaning of Resources from an Indigenous Worldview.

Heather has shared her research with the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Chief and Councilors who have already found it useful during treaty negotiations, federal court cases and for the HFN Land Use Planning Team.

On a personal note, the year 2007 was life changing for Heather for lots of reasons. This was the year that she gave birth to her daughter Jordan Drew and her son Dylan started kindergarten.

Now that she has her PhD and has started teaching geography at UVIC, students are calling her Dr. Castleden, which gives her a chuckle because “it sounds so funny”. She has also shared the collaborative research at academic and community conferences where it has been warmly received at many levels.

Heather has also made joint presentations with Huu-ay-aht with leaders, including one last spring with Robert Dennis before the Vancouver Island Health Authority and Inter-Tribal Health Authority and another in October with Irene Williams before the Chief’s Health Symposium.

First Nations on the Coast can relate stories of having been ‘researched to death’ by academics, consultants and others who have approached members of our First Nations either as ‘informants’ or worse, as ‘objects of study’.
By contrast, it is worth taking a good look at the process Heather brought to Huu-ay-aht territory. Her approach is one of community-based participatory research that respects an equal partnership between community members and the researcher at every stage of the process.

It is not surprising that the Vancouver Island Health Authority has requested that Heather and an HFN representative consider doing additional community presentations to describe their research partnership, widely perceived as a model of ‘good relationships’.

Heather has created a video message to extend a warm “Thank You” to the Huu-ay-aht who welcomed her to their community with such traditional hospitality. Heather’s Story can be found on the Internet on the HFN Communications YouTube Channel – follow the links on the Back Page. You can reach Heather by email at heatherc@uvic.ca – she would be very happy to hear from you.

The HFN Community Newsletter will feature a series of interesting, readable articles over the coming months that will summarize some of the collaborative research findings from Heather’s study with the broader Huu-ay-aht membership.
Proving once again that the Nuu-chah-nulth come from a long tradition listening respectfully to eloquent and thoughtful speakers, the assembled Ha’wih and Chiefs & Council heard presentations from Nuu-chah-nulth people on many important themes.

The NTC AGM held in Port Alberni on November 4th and 5th was unlike any in recent memory. The theme chosen for the meeting was “Reclaiming Nuu-chah-nulth Languages,” but as the meeting unfolded, it was clear that more themes would be brought forward to the table by Nuu-chah-nulth people determined to be heard by the leaders in assembly.

Invited to make a presentation to the Nuu-chah-nulth Assembly, Huu-ay-aht Language Recovery Team member Denise Durocher introduced Deborah Cook’s eleven minute film called “Reclaiming the Huu-ay-aht Language.” This film featured both HFN Pawtus in Anacla and a seven minute segment of Hills Nookumis of the HFN Mentoring Program speaking in the Huu-ay-aht dialect. The mentorship program is designed to produce new H’u-ay-aht speakers and will soon expand to include three new mentors and three new students in Anacla.

Chief Councillor Robert Dennis concluded the presentation with a twelve point plan on how the NTC could support community-based language initiatives throughout the entire Nuu-chah-nulth area as part of a twenty-year plan to recover the Nuu-chah-nulth language. [See November issue of HFN Newsletter]

A Call for Change

A forthright discussion was brought to the table when Bukwilla (Charlie Thompson) of Ditidaht challenged the Nuu-chah-nulth Assembly to revisit the issue of rights of employees and fairness in the workplace.

Bukwilla provided a historical and cultural context by recounting the origins of the Tribal Council. He related how the NTC emerged from the work of the West Coast Allied Tribes in the 1950s, how the closure of the Alberni Residential School in 1972 and the take-over of the Indian Affairs programs through the West Coast District Council of Indian Chiefs the following year established the historical precedents to form a newly-constituted Tribal Council in 1977. The Tribal Council was set up as a registered society as a prerequisite to facilitate program funding from the federal and provincial governments.

Several former employees shared their personal experiences while working for the NTC and appealed to the assembly to make changes to allow for a fair process for employees to redress their legitimate grievances.

Bukwilla challenged the Ha’wih and the Chiefs & Council assembled to find more creative solutions to resolve employee disciplinary issues. According to testimony of these former employees, the unilateral use of administrative procedures has resulted in arbitrary and unfair decisions. Thus far, this has left both parties with only one course of action: the court system. Everyone agreed the only beneficiaries of this system were the lawyers and that it created personal bitterness and excessive financial burdens. Bukwilla’s presentation opened discussion at the table on finding creative alternatives to the present system.

Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert Dennis advanced the discussion by suggesting alternate dispute resolution mechanisms, such as arbitration, community tribunals, or a “Council of Ha’wih” to resolve some of these issues. The matter remains unresolved but the NTC Table agreed that it be referred to the NTC Board of Directors for further considerations and recommendations.

Standing Together with Our Ha’wih

The Hesquiaht and Ahousaht Ha’wih stood together with all their members gathered at the front of the hall to make an important joint declaration. The two First Nations acknowledging respect for each other’s ha’wih-lee (traditional territory) and their commitment to exercise traditional authority over their lands, waters and resources.

Speaking for Tyee Ha’wih Maquinna (Lewis George) of Ahousaht, David Frank told the assembly that as speakers, or anyone who wanted to utilize the forest and ocean resources in their territory must ask permission of our Tyee Ha’wih and not the Ministry of Forests or Department of Fisheries & Oceans. “We are of one thought and of one mind on this. We are in one canoe”, David Frank said for both Ahousaht and Hesquiaht. “We are taking authority on our land and will defend our land. The government does not own our land — we do.”

Hesquiaht speaker Joe Tom further re-affirmed the joint position by stating, “We are happy to be a part of this Ahousaht and Hesquiaht initiative. We are going forward in one canoe. We don’t need anyone to tell us where are land is or where our resources are. They belong to our ha’wih.”

Carol Anne Hilton, also speaking on behalf of the assembled Hesquiaht Ha’wih, stated, “The Hesquiaht maquinna (people) support their hereditary leadership in this historic reclamation of their traditional authority and stewardship of the ha’wih over their territories and the well being of their people”. By the end of the Assembly, several of the important themes discussed over the two-days came together when Hesquiaht youth Greg Charleson related his journey through alcoholism, violence, suicide attempts and finally, his path to recovery.

Endangered Violence Against Women & Children In Our Communities

The Tlo-qui-aht delegation provided the opportunity for a large group of Nuu-chah-nulth men and women who wanted the assembled leaders to take action to halt violence against Nuu-chah-nulth women and children. The assembled people remembered the tragic murder of a young woman in Gold River and forced those in attendance to reflect on violence in our communities.

In a dignified and powerfully-charged presentation, Yawilthma (Sharon Marshall) shared her views on the lack of safety for women and children in Nuu-chah-nulth communities. She told the assembly that when she was younger, she knew there were people in the community that could be counted on for safety. She asked the assembly, “Where are the wolves to protect women and children today? It is their job to help guarantee the safety of our families!”

Maquinna (Lewis George), Tyee Ha’wih of Ahousaht, had authorized Sharon to speak on this issue whenever necessary and he outlined how youth are increasingly drawn to antisocial activities such as drugs, alcohol and gang activity. He then challenged the NTC Assembly to consider organizing a new Tlu-pitch (Summer) Games to provide healthy alternatives to Nuu-chah-nulth youth.

To punctuate this challenge to the NTC, Robert Dennis made a commitment on behalf of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations for a contribution of $10,000 as our share of a NTC plan to revitalize the games.

At the End of the Day

By the end of the Assembly, several of the important themes discussed over the two-days came together when Hesquiaht youth Greg Charleson related his journey through alcoholism, violence, suicide attempts and finally, his path to recovery.

He is now well on his way to a healthier life because of the critical support of his grandparents, his family and his community. Further, he related how the discovery of his ancestral language was central to his personal recovery. He concluded his presentation by singing a beautiful song composed in Nuu-chah-nulth. This remarkable testimony dramatically illustrated the role that language and culture could play in the healing process.

It was a fitting ending to the two-day Annual General Assembly.
This slogan has been spoken often at the Paawats in Anacla over the past year, and now, it’s beginning to be heard during the language lessons in the HFN Treaty Office twice a week. A similar program will be starting soon for employees at the Band Office in Anacla.

The Huu-ay-aht Language Recovery Team is designing a variety of programs for interested Huu-ay-aht who may have different learning requirements.

“Building language fluency means first building the confidence and listening skills of Huu-ay-aht members who want to take on the challenge of learning the language”, says Terry Klokeid, linguist and member of the Huu-ay-aht Language Recovery Team. “For this learning process to succeed, it has to engage the language learner at two levels – first, it has to be fun and second, it has to respect the principle that listening comes before speaking – much the same as the developmental principle that we learn to crawl before we learn to walk.”

First efforts at language recovery designed by the Language Recovery Team were developed for the HFN Paawats in Anacla for children 2-5 years old and their parents. These sessions are becoming stronger as the na-naniqsu speakers increase their use of qu-quu-atsa and decrease their use of ma-malt-ni.

Seeing the urgent need to increase the number of fluent Huu-ay-aht speakers, the team embarked on a Mentor-student program which brings together a fluent Huu-ay-aht speaker with a highly motivated, ‘close to fluent’ speaker up to full fluency over the period of a couple of years. We may have the first Mentor-Student project moving into its second contract with funding from the First People’s Heritage Language Culture Council.

This November 26th, the Huu-ay-aht Language Recovery Team helped to launch an expanded Mentor-student program which include three new mentors and three new students all committed to becoming fluent.

The next areas of language development involve creating more lessons for HFN employees and increasing the range of lessons for students in the school system and for parents wanting to increase the use of the language in the home.

It is fair to say that our campaign to recover the use of the Huu-ay-aht dialect is well underway and it is because of the vision of the Huu-ay-aht First Nation that has resulted in the commitment of considerable funding to this historic project.

Every step of the way, the Huu-ay-aht Na-naniqsu have provided the encouragement and guidance for this Language and Cultural Recovery through regular meetings involving many of our most knowledgeable and committed Huu-ay-aht.

This past summer the Na-naniqsu Group became incorporated as a Society under the BC Registrar of Societies as the Huu-ay-aht Na-naniqsu (Grandparents) Cultural Society. Now a Registered Society, we can raise external funds to expand our language and cultural programs through fundraising activities – raffles, grant applications, and sales of publications.

Regular language lessons began in November for Huu-ay-aht Band and Treaty Offices in November. Lessons will continue into the new year using a system of incremental learning focusing on continued exposure to the language and lessons that build upon the last session to increase understanding and cultivate active memory.

MENTOR-STUDENT PROGRAM EXPANDS

Three mentors (Clifford Nookemus, Oscar Nookemus and Marie Newfield) and three new students (Patsy Lecoy, Rose Charles and Clara Clappis) have committed themselves to immersion lessons twice a week. Their progress will be charted over the next six months when Stage One will be evaluated by other fluent speakers and members of the Huu-ay-aht Language Recovery Team. Thanks and Congratulations go out to our new mentors and students!
Huu-ay-aht Elders Profile

Oscar and Maxine Nookemus

Here’s a first for our Elder Profile Section: a feature on a Huu-ay-aht couple who have remained inseparable over the past fifty-plus years: Maxine and Oscar Nookemus. (Pictured together at a Na-nansiuq Meeting this past May 08).

Oscar was employed for just about his entire life as a fisherman. He worked deck-handing on BC Packers boats, including several fishing seasons aboard the George Bay, skippered in those days by Herbert Cook in the Tofino Inlet. Other memorable stretches of work include three years as the Skipper of Bill Hap-pynook’s boat, Broad Bill One.

Back in 1957, together with Ralph Johnson and brother Benson, Oscar worked on a charter boat with Louie Smith called Fisher Bay Two.

These were the glory days of Pacific salmon fishing when aboriginal fishing vessels were numerous and among the most productive on the coast.

“Wefno closed down the ‘Big Bank’ [a historic and productive fishing ground off Vancouver Island]; that was the end of fishing for me as well as many of my friends and family members who have fished all our lives remembers Oscar. “They made it so fishing was allowed only in areas closer to shore or beyond the ‘Big Bank’. This meant that our traditional and productive territories were deemed ‘out of bounds’. That’s when I got out. My brother Richard tried to fish for another season but also got out of the fishing business the following year.”

With the end of his fishing career and being used to hard work all his life, Oscar took a position as carver for the HFN working with on larger carving projects with Ed Johnson and Gabe Williams and his late son, Daryl Nookemus. This included work on the poles standing in front of the Tseshaht Administration Building and the Hupache-salt House of Gathering.

Like Oscar, Maxine Nookemus can’t remember a time when she wasn’t working. She met Oscar while working as a young woman in the fishing industry in the mid-fifties. After many bouts of seasickness, she figured that she was cut out for the life fishing at sea.

Maxine remembers helping Oscar’s mother, Mabel Nookemis, with raising eleven kids. She always kept busy. Along the way, she learned much of the Huu-ay-aht language from Mabel and her husband, Edward Nookemus.

She added that she had to use her creativity and resourcefulness to find a wide variety of employment opportunities over the years.

“I loved that job so much”, Maxine says about her time as Band CHR. “Unfortunately, I had to quit that job when I was diagnosed with cancer some ten years ago. Since then I have mostly been staying home, going for treatments, baking bread and welcoming family and friends to my home. “I have always been close to the young people of the community, my home is always full. This has helped to keep me young and active. My husband and I try to keep our doctors puzzled. My advise to young people is to never give up, go back to school and always keep at it.”

Huu-ay-aht Uyaqhmis sends their holiday greetings and a warm message of thanks to Oscar and Maxine Nookemus. They have been a pillar of the community in Anacla for over fifty years. We would like to recognize their contribution to the overall health and happiness of not only their family and the village of Anacla, but also the Huu-ay-aht community as a whole. Kleen, klee!

Huu-ay-aht Youth Profile

Brittany Daniel Marie Johnson

Born on March 24th, 1988 and raised in Port Alberni, Brittany Johnson’s talent for music and acting started to blossom while attending the Alberni District Secondary School. Since graduation, Brittany has been employed as a Customer Service and Sales Representative for Claire’s Accessories for Girls in Victoria.

Although her job is an important part of her life, she makes time for her true passions: music, dancing and acting. She loves stage performance and has accompanied herself on the guitar fearlessly singing her own songs at the BC Elders Conference in Port Alberni in 2005. She proudly admits that one of her great treasures is a vintage black Gretsch guitar that she plays every day.

Brittany is proud of her ancestry and knows that Huu-ay-aht spiritual practices help her understand important life lessons. She works to incorporate Huu-ay-aht words and understandings in to her music and artistic endeavors. In fact, she was strong enough to stand in front of over two hundred Huu-ay-aht people at the Reunion on July 27th, 2007 and proudly deliver a speech about how much her community matters to her.

Brittany is particularly grateful for the role of grandparents in her life. Her grandparents are Joan and Kenny Johnson on her father’s side. She tells how she dearly misses her grandmother on her mother’s side, the late Gordon Cook.

“My year’s years were not the easiest but my grandfather, Gordon, always had time to listen to me in spite of my occasional bad temper. The important lesson that I learned from him is how valuable it is to have people who can really listen to you.”

“I think that the valuable lesson here for parents and grandparents is that they should never give up on angry teenagers. In my experience, kids in their teens are just trying to figure things out. On the other side, my advice to teens is that they should not hold on to grudges and work at not losing control of their tempers.”

Meanwhile, Brittany’s To Do list is constantly growing and includes several items that fit well with her longer-term plans.

Brittany enjoys cooking and is looking forward to trying her cooking skills on some new recipes. Her advice to young people is to test lots of work and life-skills experience before leaving home. To underscore this, she cautioned, “Learn to cook more than Mr. Noodles and Kraft Dinner.”

Brittany’s partner attends the Canadian College of the Performing Arts, together they share a deep commitment to the arts. “I eventually plan to get into stage performance,” Brittany says, “and I’m working hard now to save money to further study more acting, dancing and other performing arts.”

The Huu-ay-aht Uyaqhmis wish Brittany all the best in her chosen career and extend to her the famous stage blessing “Break a leg!” Chuu.
Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Chief Councillor Robert Dennis, Sr.

When I look back at 2008, I remember our trip to Victoria to witness the ratification of the Maa-nulth Treaty by the province of British Columbia and later how we came together as a government to set up the Treaty Implementation Committees to help build the community we will have after the treaty becomes effective.

Looking ahead, I see 2009 being a year in which we complete work on treaty implementation and when our people take up the challenge for the revival of our Huu-ay-aht language.

Connie Waddell, Director of Tribal Operations

One memory that stands out for me this year is the strength of the Nation as a whole. There have been many difficult decisions regarding the fisheries litigation and the treaty process combined. The direction was clear and unanimous from the Huu-ay-aht membership.

The year ahead fills me with anticipation and excitement as we continue down the road to Effective Date. There will be tireless days and endless weeks but the thought of drawing closer to independence is all the motivation one needs.

Derek Peters, Tyee Ha’wilt

Looking back, I am most proud of helping to develop the Communications Department, the creation and distribution of the community newsletter “Uqyaqmis” as well as the creation of the Na-namiqu Cultural Society.

In 2009, I see our nation focusing on our youth and working to provide more tools for them to succeed. I see us focusing on our organization and getting ready for the treaty by building capacity and continue our work on language recovery.

Larry Johnson, Economic Development Manager

When I look back at 2008, I am most proud of all the studies and work done on economic development projects. For example, we have just completed work on a business plan that successfully met the loan requirements of the Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) and we plan on pursuing it by December 31.

Next year, I am looking forward to reactivating the studies being done in regards to a Huu-ay-aht micro-hydroelectric energy project. I am also looking forward to serving as a Commissioner on the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

Kathy Waddell, Pawats Manager

Looking back on 2008, there are so many memories to choose from! But I think most significantly I remember when one of the Pawats children ran up to me saying “Kathy, Kathy, tuink su!” and then she ran to the bathroom to wash. Another favorite moment happens when occasionally an elder speaker is struggling to remember a word, they just can’t remember but then suddenly they do, I enjoy being part of that happiness and pride of remembering.

Looking ahead to 2009, I am looking forward to the Chase Conference and learning new about new ideas and techniques to use to teach the children in the Pawats.

Angela Wesley, Governance Committee Member

In 2008, I am proud that we have honoured our “rich history” and the hard work of our Huu-ay-aht ancestors in securing another step into our “bright future”. We have defined our rights in our treaty and have gained access to the tools we need to build a healthy future for all of our people. We have started to do the work we need to have in place on the Effective Date of our treaty.

In 2009 I am looking forward to an orderly and inclusive transition process into treaty that respects and meets the needs of all Huu-ay-aht and meets our objective of re-invigorating Huu-ay-aht governance in a way that respects our deepest traditional principles and laws (tsuuk). We have the tools and the resources to re-create our world and our government in a way that will provide benefits to our people and will lead us into our bright future where we are healthy as individuals, as families, as a community and as a Nation.

Kristen Young, Receptionist at HFN Band Office

In 2008, the highlight of my year was celebrating the first birthday of my daughter, Vanessa Young.

Next year, I am looking forward to getting my Dogwood Diploma (Senior Secondary Diploma).

Terry Klokeid, PhD, Lingustic Language Recovery Program

Looking back on 2008, I am reminded of the successes of the Huu-ay-aht language recovery program with Pawats, the Mentor-Student fluency program and the beginning of office lessons.

Looking ahead to 2009, I am looking forward to learning more of the language together with office workers and continuing to have a lot of fun along the way.

Molly Clappis, Administrative Assistant to Chief & Council

2008 – Started a challenging job as Assistant to HFN Chief and Council and welcomed a wonderful foster baby – a real blessing to our family.

2009 – Finding balance in our active family life: nutritionally as well as balancing sports, work and school.

Rob Bottomle, Legal Counsel to the Huu-ay-aht First Nations


Rodney Murray, Manager of the Maintenance Department

In 2008, there were many achievements that make me proud: improving the water system in Anacla, maintaining public health by managing waste water systems, keeping our environment clean and beautiful with a landscape program, training staff to ensure that we can meet future demands and providing support to members to improve their living standards.

In 2009, I am looking forward to the development of a community garden in Anacla.

Marleen Nookemus, Band Office Manager

In 2008, I am most proud of helping the Huu-ay-aht First Nations take over management of the West Coast Trail from Parks Canada.

In 2009, I look forward to the birth of my first granddaughter from Tim and Jill and watching my daughter, Eleanor, start her post-secondary education in the field of Early Childhood Education at Vancouver Island University.

Natika Bock, Youth Activities Coordinator and Adult Education Teacher

2008 was a busy year for me. One of the major highlights was being hired by the Huu-ay-aht First Nations to work as the Youth Activities Coordinator. Since my hiring, my position has been continuously evolving, and the outcomes have been exciting. Adult Education and our new Learning Centre have been two key milestones.

In 2009, I look forward to passing our current public school and Choices students into their next grade levels and I am keen to continue to provide support for the adult learners who are wishing to graduate in the near future. Finally, I am energized to get our Active Community up, sweating and moving around!
LEARNING CENTRE NEWS FROM ANACLA

By Natika Bock, HFN Activities Coordinator

A Halloween Story

It really was a dark and stormy night... just asks anyone who attended our recent all-ages Halloween Party at the House of Huu-ay-aht. In fact, this year, the wind was so fierce that the annual fireworks had to be postponed. However, what perfect weather for a scary, spooky night!

This year the Huu-ay-aht After School Club planned and organized the First Annual Kids Halloween Party. After month-long, careful planning combined with last minute by-the-seat-of-our-pants coordination, we pulled off a party that included creepy music, a fog machine, a haunted house, a potluck dinner, and tasty treats. While half of the hall was designated for impromptu soccer, the other was designed with a make-up booth (including glitter spray), a tattoo booth (temporary of course), a homemade monster toss, and several horrifying props: bloodied ghosts, foldout pumpkins, hanging skeletons and other gruesome objects. And because kids dressed up the Most for kids, the chill factor was not so bloodcurdling that the children went home with nightmares in mind, but instead left with laughter and just enough energy for trick-or-treating.

The After School Club thanks the Huu-ay-aht First Nations, the Bamfield School Association, Linda Myers, Shaun and Jackie Mack, Nora Peters, the Bamfield Community School, and all of the families and community members who came to our party. Kleeke, kleeke.

The After School Club is Tiana Peters, Natasha Mack, Justine Mack, Sam John, Dillinger Williams, Sabrina Williams, Megan White and Lindsay White.

Thank You for Doing It the Right Way

Constable Scott McLeod has worked closely with the HFN Human Services Committee over the past several years to help the community deal with important community safety issues.

We'll known to Anacla residents for his periodic visits, Constable McLeod of the Port Alberni RCMP Detachment is starting a new program designed to improve community safety and security.

"The program is called 'Positive Ticketing,'" explained Constable McLeod. "It will acknowledge those positive activities that so often go unnoticed in the community". Recipients of the 'tickets' can redeem them at the Tse-shahrt Market for Port Alberni Bulldogs Hockey tickets.

The kinds of activities that may be acknowledged are many, but may include the kinds of things that promote community well-being or healthy lifestyle - like a youth committed to sports or helping out in the community.

"I feel that this program may help Huu-ay-aht understand that RCMP presence in the community is not just a focus on the more troublesome issues that pose a safety threat. By acknowledging those people and activities in this manner, we are helping strengthen the community."

Above: Children from the Village of Anacla and the Bamfield school roll around in the foam blocks at the Alberni Gymnastics Academy on December 1st, 2008 as part of a Pro-D Day outing. Shown here are Lyndsey and Megan White, Sabrina and Dillenger Williams and their classmates from Bamfield.

One of the biggest safety issues in the Anacla community is people operating vehicles without valid drivers licenses.

This is a problem that will not just go away by offering more drivers education course in the village. Many potential drivers have outstanding fines and are not even eligible to take the drivers test until they pay these fines. ICBC are a part of the drivers license process.

Constable McLeod is hopeful that the community may find a creative solution to this problem. He suggested that one solution might be for the community (or a family member) to advance a personal loan for the person to pay off the outstanding fine. The repayment for this personal loan could be paid back to the lender in community service or a similar kind of in-kind trade.

There is optimism that people can make healthier choices when they are available. In the end, the choice on how to behave is up to the individual community member, but it is more likely to be a healthy one when people consider the costs and benefits of a particular choice.

Meanwhile, the HFN lends its support to the 'Positive Ticketing Program' and looks forward to continued close collaboration with the RCMP on issues of community safety and community justice.
**Huu-ay-aht First Nations Bentwood Box Raffle**

Constructed by Wayne Dick  
Painted by Ki-ke-in (Ron Hamilton)  
**Approx. Value: $5000.00**

Tickets on Sale Now at the Treaty and Band Offices: $5 each  
Proceeds will go to HFN Language and Culture Recovery Efforts  
**Draw Date:** February 14th, 2009

BC Gaming Event License #11950

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The Management and Staff of Chatwin Engineering extends to all Huu-ay-aht our best Holiday Season Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

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Kamatap –hak hit -ii?  
Do you know where this is?  
**Answer:** Clutus Point

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Barbara Johnson  
Cedar Bark Weaver  
Port Alberni  
p. (250) 724-6815

Harry Williams  
Cedar Carver  
Aaaca Village  
p. (250) 728-1290
**Huu-ay-aht Events Calendar**

**Tuesday, December 2nd, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht Implementation Committee Meeting. Chief & Council, Háwilh, consultants and staff meet to discuss implementation of Maa-nulth Treaty.

**Thursday, December 4th, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht Language Lessons at the Treaty Office at 1:00 PM.  
- Song and Dance Practice at the Soomass Hall starting at 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, December 6th, 2008**  
- Day One of the Maa-nulth Treaty Society Annual General Meeting at the Hupacasath House of Gathering.

**Friday, December 5th, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht Language Lessons at 1:00 PM.  
- Song and Dance Practice at the Soomass Hall starting at 7:00 PM.

**Friday, December 19th, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht offices close at 4:00 PM for Christmas Holidays.

**Saturday, December 28th, 2008**  
- Cory and Tammy Howard’s Wedding Reception at the Alberni Howard Hall at 1:00 PM.

**Sunday, December 14th, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht Community Christmas Dinner at the Port Alberni Italian Hall, doors open at 2:00 PM.

**Monday, December 8th, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht Language Lesson Review at Treaty Office at 1:00 PM.

**Tuesday, December 9th, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht Chief & Council Meeting

**Thursday, December 11th, 2008**  
- Song and Dance Practice at the Soomass Hall starting at 7:00 PM.

**Saturday, December 13th, 2008**  
- Cory and Tammy Howard’s Wedding Reception at the Alberni Athletic Hall at 1:00 PM.

**Sunday, December 14th, 2008**  
- Huu-ay-aht Community Christmas Dinner at the Port Alberni Italian Hall, doors open at 2:00 PM.

**Tuesday, January 6th, 2009**  
- Huu-ay-aht Language Lessons at the Treaty Office at 1:00 PM.

**Monday, January 5th, 2009**  
- Huu-ay-aht Language Workshop on Immersion in Port Alberni.

**Monday, January 5th, 2009**  
- Huu-ay-aht Treaty Implementation Committee Meeting.

**Thursday, January 8th, 2009**  
- Huu-ay-aht Language Lessons at the Treaty Office at 1:00 PM.

**February 3rd to 6th, 2009**  
- Community Meetings. No confirmed locations or start times, yet. Watch the website and your mailbox for more details.

**March 5th, 2009**  
- Huu-ay-aht Language Workshop on Immersion in Port Alberni.

**March 17th to 20th, 2009**  
- Aboriginal Youth Conference on Language, Culture and Employment in Kelowna, BC. Contact Natika Bock at the Band Office for information.

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**To Huu-ay-aht Members,**

We would like to extend our warmest holiday wishes and bid you a Happy New Year.

Have fun and be safe during this busy holiday season!

- HFN Chief & Council

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**ATTENTION HUU-AY-AHT!**  
**Community Meetings**  
**February 3rd to 6th, 2009**

Huu-ay-aht Youth Encouraged to Attend

HFN Chief & Council wants **YOU** to participate in making the decisions that will build the future of the Nation.

Venues to be announced in January, 2009.
The new title of the Huu-ay-aht Community Newsletter is Uyaqhmis.

The Huu-ay-aht Nananiiqsu have agreed on a Quuquuca name for this community newsletter. The winner is: uyaqhmis, which can be translated as “news” or “information”. In a broader sense uyaqhmis means any kind of story or history – and there will be lots of stories to tell in future issues of our newsletter. Another way of saying this word is iyaqhmis which means exactly the same thing.

Here are some examples of how this word uyaqhmis comes up in Huu-ay-aht expressions. When somebody wants to write an article like this one, he would have “to ask for information” – uyaqhmii+ – and when this newsletter goes out to our readers, it “brings news to the people” – uyaqm-as. And maybe there is some connection with the words iiq=t+ and iiq=huk, “to tell something” or “to give information”.

In the Nuu-chah-nulth language, different types of stories can be distinguished – just as in English, where there are words like “fable”, “tale”, “legend”, “account” and so on. One of these is himwic`, which are stories that feature characters like K’aiyaat, Raven, Mink and others at a time when animals had a human appearance before they were transformed by K’ik’istupsap, the Transformer. Another type of story is e’ic`a’in, legends of remote ancestors. These histories often belong to families. Now we can see that uyaqhmis is a kind of story that involves eyewitness accounts, stories of the present and the not too distant past. Now with this new name we can proudly say: +u∕naak∕i uyaqhmis – “We have good news”

Words relating to Uyaqhmis, the new name for our monthly newsletter:
• uyaqhmis news, information
• iyaqhmis (means exactly the same)
• iiqh=t+ and iiq=huk tell something, give information
• uyaqhmii+ ask for information
• uyaqm+ deliver news
• himwic`a stories from myth times
• e’ic`a’in legends of remote ancestors
• +u∕naak∕i uyaqhmis we (-in) have (-naak) good (+u∕) news (-uyaqhmis)

Sometimes you might see the word uyaqhmis written in a slightly different way like %uyaqhmis which is another way of writing this and we will explain the special symbol “%” (glottal stop) in an upcoming issue of the Uyaqhmis.