HUU-AY-AHT MAKING HISTORY

Combine the spark provided by a community ready for historic change with strong leadership and it is possible to see how a group of people can overcome fear, take on calculated risks and transform themselves into a people who make their own history.

Community members gathered at numerous community consultation rounds in Anacla, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver prior to and after the Final Agreement Treaty Ratification vote on July 28, 2007.

In the photo above you can see the faces of Huu-ay-aht at one such Community Consultation on November 24, 2007 at the Hupacasath House of Gathering. Pictured below is the Sarita River estuary. Numakamis and Kookwiis on the Sarita estuary were village sites for a large number of Huu-ay-aht who rebuilt their communities during the latter part of the 1800’s and up to the mid 1960’s when many moved back to the village of Anacla.

Thanks to the hundreds of Huu-ay-aht members who participated and voiced their concern and hopes for the future of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Because of them, we achieved a Final Agreement and paved the way for the return of Huu-ay-aht self government. We extend our congratulations and gratitude to everyone who has walked with us on the path to this historic achievement.
NOTES FROM THE CHIEF AND COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 16TH, 2011

At the final regular Chief and Council meeting prior to Effective Date of the Maa-nulth Treaty, the energy and tone was positive and upbeat.

Firstly, the minutes from three February meetings of Chief and Council were reviewed and accepted. The meetings in February addressed some very important issues.

- February 17th: John Rich was appointed as the Interim Chair of the HFN Tribunal, effective April 1st, 2011.
- February 18th: A motion was made and carried to approve the Huu-ay-aht Land Use Plan and Huu-ay-aht Zoning Regulation.
- February 28th: HFN 2011-2012 Budget Draft #1 was approved; an amendment was approved to the Financial Accountability Act that allows for a three-year diminishing grace period on the surplus budget requirement of the Act: deficit caps established of $1 million in the current year, $600 000 next year, and $300 000 in the final year.

Chief Robert Dennis thanked council and senior staff for the additional tasks taken on recently during treaty implementation preparations. He stressed the importance of passing the referendum to amend the HFN Constitution: “Huu-ay-aht people spoke loud and clear that they wanted to see certain things in our laws. We heard their input: to apply ‘made in Huu-ay-aht law’, we need to amend the constitution.”

Chief Dennis reminded government and staff to use the vision statement approved by Council as a guide for completing strategic plans in their departments. He also submitted the Forestry Operational Plan for 2011-12 complete with Sort Flow, Projected Harvest Volume, and Projected Financial estimates. As usual, they will target a net return of 15%; however, he noted that if we log TSL, the net return will be significantly higher, and the government needs to make a strategic policy decision regarding this matter. Chief Dennis recommends that the Finance Committee and the CEO of the HFN Development Corporation meet to explore any potential opportunities that can make significant contributions to our Financial Plan, including logging opportunities on TSL.

Other developments:
- The Government Act, which passes into law on April 1st, 2011, states that the Executive Council must, in consultation with the H’a-wihc Council, appoint a Speaker on April 1st, 2011, and at the first meeting of Executive Council in April each year after that. Tom Happynook was proposed as the interim Speaker. [After the Council meeting, Tom Happynook accepted the appointment, and will serve as the Speaker for the new HFN government.]
- Motion carried to direct Huu-ay-aht Development Corporation to explore the purchase of Lower Sarita River properties after April 1, 2011.

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Huu-ay-aht Uyaqhmis
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“Congratulations Huu-ay-aht on moving forward with your plans for self-government and building new relationships with the governments of Canada and BC. Congratulations also for not waiting until tomorrow to recover your ancestral language and for training a new generation of language teachers.”

“The Tsawassen people recognize the hard work and efforts that the Maa-nulth Nations have done to solidify their vision and to make their Treaty a reality. Congratulations to the Huu-ay-aht First Nations for creating a Governance House that will serve the needs of your people for many years to come.”

“Congratulations to the Maa-nulth Tribes on the occasion of the implementation of your Final Agreement. The Huu-ay-aht community wish you every success as they move into a new era. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate true ownership of your traditional territories and resources. May we find countless ways to continue working together.”

“You can participate in the democratic political decision making process of the Nation: run for political office, vote in elections and referenda and engage in deliberations and debate at Huu-ay-aht People’s Assembly. You can see for yourself that our Nation is stronger when citizens understand that the benefits of membership are directly linked to embracing the responsibilities and obligations of citizens.

You can amend our Constitution through a legitimate democratic process that includes discussion, debate and a final decision of Huu-ay-aht through referendum.

You can enjoy the certainty and knowledge that we have created laws through a process of community consultation that reflects our values and serves the best interests of all Huu-ay-aht.

You have legislative and judicial checks and balances in place that assure that our political leaders are held to the highest standards. These laws include the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Act.

You can state with pride that, with the threat of the extinction of our language and culture, Huu-ay-aht has led the fight to recover the use of our ancestral Nuu-chah-nulth language by spearheading efforts to train a new generation of language teachers.

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We, the Huu-ay-aht people, envision a proud, self-governing, and sovereign nation. Isaak will guide us as we work together to establish a healthy, prosperous and self-sustaining community where our culture, language, spirituality and economy prosper for the benefit of all Huu-ay-aht.
A Story of Responsibility, Transformation and Hope

“We can only keep what we have by passing it along.” - Archie Dennis

When asked about sharing this story, Archie said, “We can only keep what we have by passing it along.” Archie added, “While this saying usually refers to how to hang on to our culture, I am pleased to share our personal story because by sharing, it keeps it alive and may serve to help others. I had been lost in my addictions for many years. Since the birth of my son six years ago, I have been trying to become clean and sober. Some two residential alcohol treatment programs later, and with a lot of difficult personal work, my wife and I have been clean and sober for 19 months. We are firmly committed to the new changes in our lives and particularly the sober lifestyle changes that we have made. Because of these changes, our children who were formerly in the care of the Ministry are now back home with us.”

Here are just a few of the many lessons that we have learned on the way to sobriety: acceptance and willingness. I have learned that while some may say additions are a ‘family disease’, I believe that it is possible for a person to control their personal behaviour and accept responsibility for their own life.

I have also learned that there is no such thing as being sociable and having just one drink. That one drink can lead a person to lose everything. I don’t need to preach to my kids about how they should behave, but I do have the obligation to share with them the knowledge of what I have learned in my life.

As for willingness: we have been willing to do whatever is necessary to achieve our goal of getting our three children from Ministry custody and keeping them with us and maintaining our family. Part of my willingness has included going through two residential treatment programs. The first program didn’t succeed when I failed to learn that I could not go from a treatment program back to my old circle of friends. After the second treatment program I learned to say goodbye to my ‘old friends’ and old lifestyle and find out who my ‘true friends’ really are.

During the treatment program, I participated in 90 meetings in 90 days and the light didn’t click on for me right away. After 30 days and 30 meetings and telling my story many times, something did click on for me. I learned that I could be accepted for who I am and that there are people who really wanted to be my friend. I learned that the changes that I wanted to make are for life and that it was up to me to maintain these changes.

“Something that helps us to support our sober lifestyle is our weekly participation in a sober 24 team, mixed ages, co-ed Slo-Pitch league that operates in the lost city of mainland. The league goes on April - June and then from late June to the end of August. It provides us with a great opportunity to socialize with other sober people who like us are fighting their additions.”

“Fighting additions is hard. I have had to admit that I am an alcoholic and will be one until the day I die. I’ve found that it is possible to maintain my sobriety with the help of others. There are so many people I have to thank. First of all is my wife Jenny Thomas who has accompanied me every step of this journey. I have to thank my real friends, sponsors, family members and others who I have counted on to help me in my sobriety and who supported me in my efforts to get my kids back. Particularly, I want to thank my Aunt Rita and Uncle Norman, who has been sober since he received his ‘wake-up call’ after by-pass surgery three years ago.”

Uyahqmis is grateful to Archie Dennis and wife Jenny Thomas for sharing this remarkable story of transformation and hope.

Tsunami Advisory!

“The Match 11th community emergency response plan worked pretty much as planned with only a few glitches,” said Rodney Murray, HFN Director of Public Works & Community Infrastructure.

Triggered by the massive 9.8 earthquake that hit the northeast coast of Japan the previous evening at 11:46 PM, tsunami waves devastated parts of coastal Japan then traversed the Pacific Ocean hitting Anacla 11 hours later.

The Provincial Emergency Program of BC (PEP-BC/Ministry of Public Safety) authorities in Victoria officially declared a Tsunami Advisory early Friday morning. Rodney was contacted by radio phone by 5:45 a.m. Over the next hour, the emergency plan kicked into gear—people were awakened by community members knocking on their doors, advised of the Tsunami Advisory and told to evacuate the village and assemble at the House of Huu-ay-aht.

By 6:35 a.m., 98% of the village residents had mobilized at the House of Huu-ay-aht where their names were checked off against a list of all Anacla residents. People were offered a cup of hot coffee prepared by members of the Emergency Response Committee. Everyone settled in to listen for emergency news on car radios, and from their vantage point above the bay looked down to the beach and river to await the arrival of the waves that had been travelling across the ocean all night long.

When the expected tsunami predicted to arrive at 7:00 a.m. did not materialize, some of the 100 Anacla residents became restless and wanted to head back to the Village. However, unlike the drill held on January 29th, this wasn’t a practice and this emergency evacuation response was for real.

The emergency preparedness team determined that no one should return to the village until they got the ‘all-clear’ radio confirmation from PEP-BC. This was a wise decision: by 8:00 a.m. the first of a series of tsunami surges began to hit the beach at Anacla and continued throughout the day.

From their spot in Upper Anacla, people saw wave after unnatural wave come up the beach and river, and retreat far back into Pachena Bay. Many residents were genuinely afraid after witnessing what the water was doing to the river alongside the village. The high speed wave would travel up the river when suddenly the middle of the river seemed to fall straight downward leaving the water on the edges to fill in the centre. This repeated process has led to a tremendous erosion of the beach area alongside the Pachena Bay Day Use Campground. Lots of sand was washed up the river as well. The dock on the village side of the river was washed up to the opposite bank.

This tsunami and our community preparedness was a very real reminder of the frightening power of tsunamis and the danger that they present to Huu-ay-aht living at Lower Anacla, scarcely 1 metre above sea level. When residents returned to the village six hours later, they viewed the television coverage of the ten metre tsunami in Japan for the first time, which served as a brutal reminder of the dangers that coastal communities face.

Our emergency evacuation of the Anacla can be considered a success at several levels. However, this experience provides us with many more lessons.

The important lesson is that in the event of an earthquake off the coast of Vancouver Island, we could have as little as ten minutes to evacuate the village to avoid loss of life.

The Huu-ay-aht Emergency Response committee will be evaluating our response efforts. They plan to implement procedures that address how our emergency preparations can be improved for next time. Here are four obvious areas for improvement:

1. Warning signal sirens to advise Anacla residents as soon as earthquake hits
2. Faster mobilization of all residents from their homes to the House of Huu-ay-aht
3. Individual residents have to take responsibility to have their emergency “grab and go bags” ready
4. Evacuated residents must find creative ways to pass the time while waiting for the BC PEP broadcast announcement that the Emergency Advisory is over.

It is worth noting that the CBC had mistakenly reported that the Tsunami Advisory was “lifted” at 8:00 a.m. This information allowed some residents to lower their guard about the ongoing danger to West Coast communities.

Our Community

Young HFN Filmmakers Share Stories and Hopes for the Future of our Nation

Eight Huu-ay-aht youth participated in a “digital story” film project in February. Participants included a mix of young women and men whose personal stories and background are as diverse as where they grew up: Anacla, Port Alberni, Nansamoo and Vancouver.

The participants included Fredrick Cook, Robert Dennis Jr. (Wish-keey), Roger Gallant, Cory Howard Jr., Ed Johnson Jr., Tiana Peters, Justine Mack, and Christopher Williams.

Funding for this project was achieved by Dr. Heather Castleden, a Halifax-based university professor who is well-known to Huu-ay-aht during her work in our community over the past several years.

Naasiasmis (Derek Peters) and Councillor John Jack served as project advisors. Vanessa Sloan Morgan, a graduate student at Dalhousie, and Narika Bock, former HFN Youth Worker, provided additional technical assistance to the young film makers during this project.

With the encouragement of the Huu-ay-aht Council and their family members, the young film makers demonstrated remarkable discipline as they learned the skills that made it possible for them to tell their personal stories through the short film format.

“This project was awesome,” said Tiana Peters. “I learned how to use a Mac computer and video making software. The theme of my video is ‘What I would like to see for the Huu-ay-aht First Nation in the Future.’”

Each of the eight films showcases the personal vision and the remarkable film production values of the young film makers. They will premiere on April 8th at the House of Huu-ay-aht in Anacla at the “Celebrating Huu-ay-aht Success” event.

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Huu-ay-aht Uyahqmis
**Community Calendar**

**ongoing:**

Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Paawats Language Nest,
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,
Anacla Learning Centre

Alternate Thursdays
Strong Start Program
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,
Bamfield Community School
Call 250.728.3083 for more information or check website.

Mon & Fri's
Nayii: FREE Language and Culture Program for Preschoolers
Knee-waas, Port Alberni
Mondays 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Fridays 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Dance Practices

Check HFN Facebook group for updates

Friday, April 8th
Huu-ay-aht Treaty Effective Date Celebration and Official Opening of the Multi-purpose Centre
“Celebrating Huu-ay-aht Success”
Doors open 11 a.m. Contact success@huuayah.org for more information or the Treaty Office at 250.723.0100.

April 13th - 17th
Cowichan Festival of Film and Art http://aff.cowichan.net/?about-us,25

**reuniting family**

Ben and Clara Clappis would like to thank everyone who supported their family in the recent raffles to raise funds to bring a relative home from Europe. Ben did the draw for the generator at the BCSA potluck dinner on March 7th, and David MacFadyen was the grand prize winner.

**Joan Johnson**

passed away on March 11, 2011 surrounded by family members at the West Coast General Hospital in Port Alberni. She will be deeply missed by her family members and friends in Port Alberni, Ucluelet and Anacla.

**Welcome New Huu-ay-aht**

Taylor Kristine Carpenter, born February 6, 2011 to Stephanie Williams and Chad Carpenter

Anthony Seth Wozniak, born March 4, 2011 to Anthony Wozniak and Elisa Jack

**Lost Curtain**

Have you seen this curtain anywhere? It was misplaced after the NTC graduation ceremonies at the House of Huu-ay-aht in June. If you have seen it, or know where it is, please contact the HFN Band Office. Thank you.
Sharing is a core value in Nuu-chah-nulth culture. This is also reflected in the many ways the idea of giving can be expressed in the language. In Part 1 (March 2011 Uyahmis) we started exploring some of the words that Quuquuʔaca uses to describe acts of giving.

The types of giving we covered are a part of everyday language. As a reminder: we mentioned ʔuyii to give, hinii to hand over, qaći to bestow/to present, and hinimcu to give food. This time we will look at the more formalized, ceremonial ways of giving.

This concept of potlatching: pačič, and ʔuʔiip. Pačič refers to the handing out of gifts to individual recipients whose names are called out in acknowledgement of their rank, in appreciation for their support and in accordance with the event-specific protocol. So we have:

- **pačič** give a gift to a high ranking, individually acknowledged guest
- **payaa** giving out gifts to individually named guests
- **paʔpəqayaa** ("repeatedly giving out gifts") the phase of the potlatch for pačič.
- **pač̓ aksmaʔaqa** a special potlatch gift
- **paq̓ aacscim** platform for potlatches, e.g. on the beach

The other potlatch-specific giving is ʔuʔiip. This happens when the helpers hand out big amounts of gifts to the general audience without individual acknowledgement but in appreciation for all the guests who gathered and thus gave support for the hosts.

- **ʔuʔiip** given to (a word that stands directly before the one who receives the gift)
- **-yaa** doing it (cf. p̓ ayaa giving ceremonial gifts)
- **-ʕaqa** several doing it together
- **-sma** defending something
- **-ʔač̓ im** platform for potlatches, e.g. on the beach

Finally, there is a word ʔuʔiip that means something like "given to" and is often used together with other words that already contain the notion of "to give". The primary role of ʔuʔiip is to emphasize the one who is the recipient of the gift.

Let’s have a look at some examples from actual narrative texts. In the first example we find three words that express the act of giving: pačič (ceremonial gift giving), -ayi (= give, a word that attaches to the object that is given, in this case mucmuḥaq, bear skin robe) and the mentioned word ʔuʔiip.

**Example:**

- **ʔuʔiip** to hand over, qaći to present, and hinimcu to give food.

In the story, Č̓ aastimcm̓ it (Son-of-Mink), who was a great liar and trickster, pretends to be a doctor in order to marry the Shark princess. Of course in the end his cover is blown and the sharks get after him. Read the whole entertaining story and many others in the forthcoming book “As I Was Told” by Vernon Ross (2011).

**References**
