

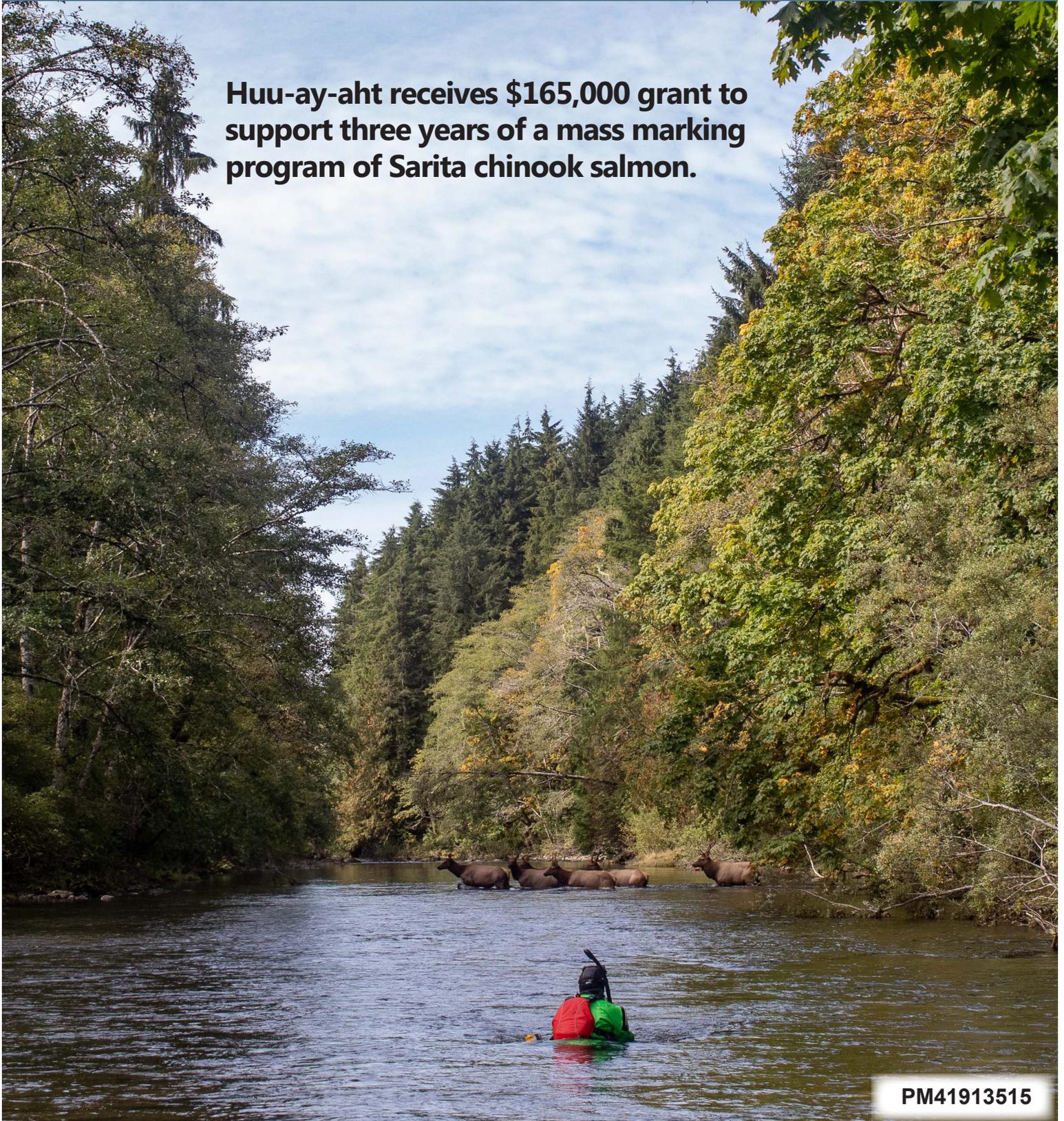


# Uyaqhmis

February 2022

Issue 66

**Huu-ay-aht receives \$165,000 grant to support three years of a mass marking program of Sarita chinook salmon.**



PM41913515

## Huu-ay-aht receives funds for welcome figure replicas



Welcome figures carved by Master Carver Ed Johnson Sr. at House of Huu-ay-aht in Upper Anacla.

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve received \$34,000 from the “Stories of Canada” program to contribute to the making of Huu-ay-aht First Nations welcome figure replica carvings.

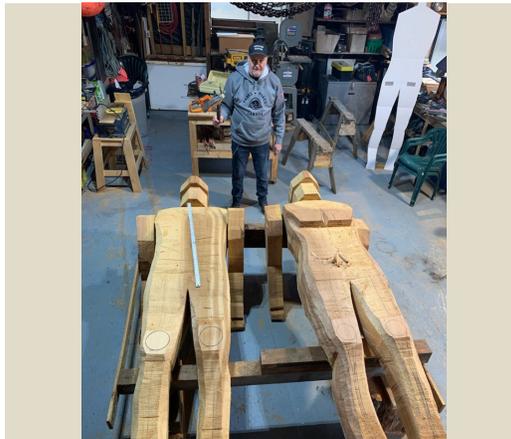
In Huu-ay-aht ḥahuuli (territory), you will find in upper Anacla, the House of Huu-ay-aht. Anyone who enters the House of Huu-ay-aht is welcomed by two tall welcome figures - The first man, Nutchkoa and the first woman, Ho-mini-ki. The modern carved welcome figures are by master carver Ed Johnson Sr. and were raised at House of Huu-ay-aht in 2000.

Read in the ‘Voices of the Elders’ by Kathryn Bridge and Kevin Neray, the man and woman figures represent the first Huu-ay-aht people who originated from the spiritual sky. The first man’s arms are stretched out. One hand gestures the visitors to come, while a pointed finger on the other hand, reminds visitors to respect Huu-ay-aht

laws. The female figure originally carried a cylinder in her hands that represent the inherited rights of the chief.

Carvings of the first ancestors were originally placed in front of a Ḥawil’s house in the ancient village known as Kiiḥin around 1860. The original carvings were taken and displayed at the main entrance to the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria, until as of recently, Huu-ay-aht reclaimed them back. These cultural treasures, among many, are currently in the process of being transferred back to Huu-ay-aht territory.

The new welcome figure replicas, like the ones that currently sit in front of the House of Huu-ay-aht, will be carved by master carver Ed Johnson Sr. The figures will be carved with red cedar and scaled down in size to 8 ft. in height. Work has begun and once completed, the welcome figures will be raised at the Kiiḥin tours trailhead.



Ed Johnson Sr. working on the welcome figure replicas (Photo by Edward R. Johnson).



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envisions a strong, self-determining, self-reliant and sustainable Nation. Ḥiisaak, Ḥišuk ma čawak, and ḤuuḤaḤuk guide us as we work together to foster a safe, healthy, and sustainable Nation, where our culture, language, spirituality, and economy flourish.

Huu-ay-aht UyaḤmīs is printed up to six times a year to foster community engagement among a population of more than 800 citizens. UyaḤmīs promotes the recovery and sharing of the Huu-ay-aht dialect of the Nuuchah-nulth language, as well as knowledge of Huu-ay-aht culture.

Please send all comments and questions to the Huu-ay-aht Communications Department.

communications@huuayaht.org  
Mailing Address:  
Huu-ay-aht First Nations  
4644 Adelaide Street,  
Port Alberni, BC  
V9Y 6N4

[www.huuayaht.org](http://www.huuayaht.org)  
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of UyaḤmīs

Keep up to date with UyaḤmīs on social media:  
@HuuayahtFN



Huu-ay-aht First Nations  
Facebook page



## Housing Department Update

Sheila Charles is no longer the Housing Coordinator.

If you would like to submit a housing application or have questions about housing, please contact the Executive Director at:

executivedirector@huuayaht.org  
250-723-0100

For updates on housing, please visit [www.huuayaht.org](http://www.huuayaht.org)

# Huu-ay-aht awarded Pacific Salmon Commission Grant

By Christine Gruman

The Nation is pleased to have been awarded a \$165,000 grant from the Pacific Salmon Commission to support three years of a mass marking program of Sarita chinook salmon.

The program is part of a joint pilot effort by Huu-ay-aht and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to increase returns of Chinook salmon to the Sarita River by improving success of population enhancement by the Nitinat River Hatchery. Together, we are working to enhance habitat for natural spawners, increase how “wild” the stock is (called proportion natural influence, PNI, in technical lingo) over time to maintain a viable natural spawning population, and to facilitate the development of mark selective fisheries.

The funds will support marking of the Chinook salmon released into Sarita from the Nitinat Hatchery and a portion of our Lands and Natural Resources crew’s time spent on



Lands and Natural Resource team catch underwater image of fish while surveying rivers (photo provided by Amelia Vos).

assisting with broodstock collection and sampling. The “marking” includes clipping adipose fins from all juvenile fish so they can easily be recognized as hatchery fish when they return as adults and inserting tiny internal ID tags called coded wire tags into a portion of the fish that help provide information about their origin, age, growth, run timing, and other characteristics once they are caught.

Through our Watershed Renewal Program, Huu-ay-aht has been

contributing funds to marking in collaboration with DFO since 2017, but these external funds will now cover those costs so we can redirect our watershed renewal budget to other priorities.

The Pacific Salmon Commission is a legal body created by the Treaty between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America concerning pacific salmon. This is the first time this funding has been offered, so we’re leading the way.

## Huu-ay-aht Fisheries Team survey nine salmon bearing streams

The Huu-ay-aht First Nation Natural Resource Department kept afloat through one of the wettest fall seasons in history. Rivers and creeks endured through a 50-year flood record as the salmon returned to their natal streams on Huu-ay-aht Territory. With support from Huu-ay-aht citizen technicians in the watershed renewal program, the fall salmon team surveyed nine salmon bearing streams: Sarita River/South Sarita River, Pachena/ Rousseau River, Frederick Creek, Sugaw Creek, Rithedon Creek, Consinka Creek, and Holford Creek. Despite the difficulty in weather and river conditions the team collected good data on the salmon returns to these systems. See below table for more information.

System	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Sockeye
Sarita	1174	204	1733	4
Frederick	0	13	0	0
Pachena	11	620	2	0
Sugaw	650	0	0	0
Consinka	0	1	0	0
Rithedon	0	4	0	0
Holford	0	0	0	0
Carnation	0	151	0	0
Rating	good	moderate	low	dismal
	species not expected			

# Education Supports are available for all citizens



**Sheila Charles**

Na-a-aqs (Woman who listens), Sheila Charles is Huu-ay-aht's Education Coordinator. Sheila's position is quite different from previous Education Coordinators. This position was designed to offer outreach to all of Huu-ay-aht students, wherever you are located – and to offer supports

during this pandemic to students in a difficult and challenging time. The pandemic has made mental health and wellness extra challenging for everyone. Sheila wants to be there for you in any way she can, to support your success and to know that the nation has your back. Sheila will work closely with Brent Ronning, Huu-ay-aht's Education Manager, to ensure support is available for Huu-ay-aht students grade K-12 and into their post-secondary lives.

## Some of the services we offer are:

- Tutoring support and sponsorship
- Support and sponsorship for extra-curricular activities like sports and in the arts
- Support in counselling or other healing modalities
- Coming Soon: Huu-ay-aht Student Zoom Q & A (info) meetings (with prizes!)

## Please feel free to reach out to Sheila either at:

Email: [sheila\\_c@huyuayaht.org](mailto:sheila_c@huyuayaht.org)  
Phone: 250-723-1000 ext.242  
Cell: 250-731-5676.

*Sometimes asking for help is the bravest move you can make. You don't have to go it alone.*

*~ Anonymous*

### RPAS AND FOREST HEALTH



#### STARTING MARCH 2022

#### Intro to Forest Health Quantification Using RPAS Micro-Credential Program

- Introduction to RPAS Safety & Transport Canada Certification fundamentals of relevant sensors & flight planning
- Cloud-based multi-spectral Image Processing for forest stand health assessment
- Timber Volume Quantification using cloud-based image processing

**INCLUDED: TUITION COSTS, DJI MINI 2 DRONE, AND LIVING ALLOWANCE.**

Course is a combination of online and field-based learning experience in the Alberni Valley.

12 Seats available to Huu-ay-aht citizens and Nuuchahnulth members. Participants should be 18+ and have English 12 or equivalent.

BCIT



For more information or to sign up, please contact Brent Ronning at [education@huyuayaht.org](mailto:education@huyuayaht.org) or 250-723-0100.

# Road project in final approval phase

As of January 21, 2022, the long-awaited permits and design necessary for the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project are in the final reviews of completion. The nation has received three contracts that had been submitted for gravel crushing, and have been put forward with the addition of two gravel pits.

The first week of February 2022, Huu-ay-aht will put forward a public request for three road construction contracts that will close at the end of February. Starting April 2022, road construction will begin, and gravel will soon be seen in large stock piles alongside the Bamfield main.

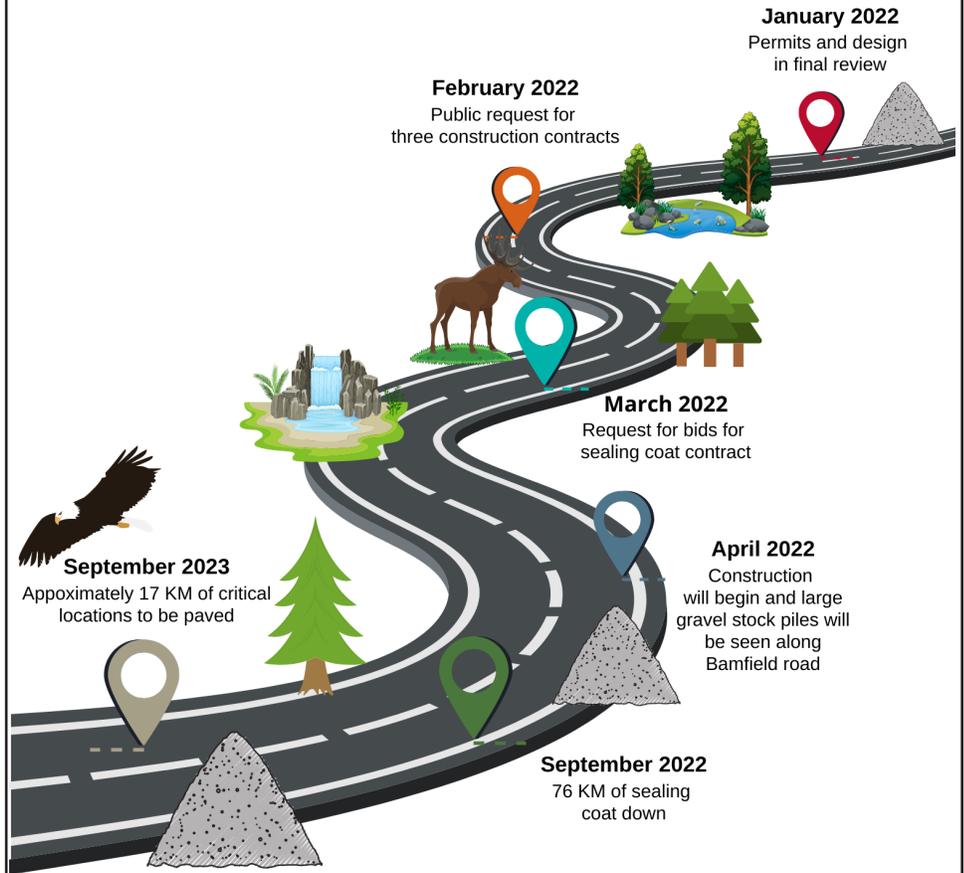
In March 2022, Huu-ay-aht will put forward requests for bids on the Bamfield main roads sealing coat contract and by the end of September 2022, the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project is expected to have 76 KM of the seal coat down.

It has been made aware, approximately 17 KM along the Bamfield main are critical locations, including steep hills, and bridge approaches. Paving in these areas will be completed in Summer of 2023.

Huu-ay-aht is pleased to report that the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project is advancing on schedule and on budget.

If you are interested in working on the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project, please voice your interest by contacting Brent Ronning at [brent.r@huyuayaht.org](mailto:brent.r@huyuayaht.org) or 250-730-0100.

## Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project Timeline Update



huyuayaht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

### Are you an elder interested in joining nananiqsu meetings?

Over the years, our nananiqsu have been providing recommendations, guidance, and a wealth of knowledge to our *hawiih*, executive council, committees, and departments, such as, revitalizing our language, upkeep and upgrades to our cemetery, the naming of many

buildings, recommendations to policies. Nananiqsu provides valuable Huu-ay-aht knowledge on important cultural practices that include traditional customs around death practices and protocols related to the various purposes of the potlatch ceremony.

The next meeting with our Nananiqsu is set for February 22, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact Kristen Young at [kristen.y@huyuayaht.org](mailto:kristen.y@huyuayaht.org) or 250-728-3414 ext 220 and provide your email address or phone number to connect you with the meeting.

# Huu-ay-aht welcomes new government staff to the team



**Victoria Nookemus**

Victoria Nookemus is the new Communications Liaison for the Huu-ay-aht Government Office. Victoria is excited to be starting her new employment opportunity with the Huu-ay-aht First Nations as it has always been a goal of hers.

Victoria has had the opportunity to have grown up in the Anacla Community since she was a toddler being raised by her late maternal grandparents Ethel and Ralph Johnson. Victoria comes from the Nookemus, Johnson, and Peters Family as her father is Rick Nookemus son to Maxine and Oscar Nookemus. Victoria's mother was late Lisa Roseanne Johnson daughter to late Ethel and Ralph Johnson. Her late mother Lisa Johnson had been adopted from late Sharon Peters and late George Price. Victoria has three older brothers who are Rick Parcher, Lonnie Nookemus, Patrick Nookemus, a fraternal twin sister Belinda Nookemus and an older sister Laura Johnson.

You can often find Victoria enjoying different kinds of music, drawing, doodling, coffee, being at Pachena Beach, and sometimes she gets to go look for cool rocks at Pachena Beach, rivers, and lakes when she has the free time.

In the last six months, Victoria has completed and passed the Digital Elevation Expertise Program through North Island College and the Business Communications and Leadership

through Primituive and Tsleil Waututh Nation Skill Centre through Zoom. The first course, Digital Elevation Expertise program, Victoria built an online business of her choice. She decided to create a website called Decolonized Collective to increase the representation of Indigenous people and culture in today's society, to help increase the acceptance of Indigenous People in modern society through art. Victoria's goal is to have various indigenous artist from different nations included, creating a variety of designs and styles available. For now, Victoria is the first artist. You can visit the only business she created here: [www.decolonized-collective.ca](http://www.decolonized-collective.ca)



**Scott Cheyne**

Scott Cheyne has recently been hired as the Natural Resources Field Supervisor with Huu-ay-aht First Nations, based out of the Anacla office. Scott grew up in Cold Lake, Alberta, where he spent time camping, fishing and hiking. He attended university in Kelowna, BC, at the University of British Columbia Okanagan campus, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Ecology. He has worked in provincial fisheries in Alberta, Ecotourism in Jasper National Park, and spent time completing Environmental Management courses after graduation.

Scott has lived in Bamfield for the past 2.5 years, previously working for a shellfish aquaculture company. He enjoys surfing as much as possible, reading, rock climbing and exploring

the mountains around Vancouver Island and BC in his time off. He is excited to learn more about Huu-ay-aht culture and traditional knowledge.

Scott looks forward to contributing to fisheries field work, helping with salmon enhancement programs, working to improve the Sugsaw hatchery and getting to meet more people within the HFN organization and Huu-ay-aht community.



**Daniel Zayonc**

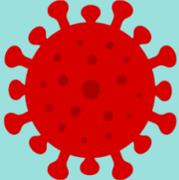
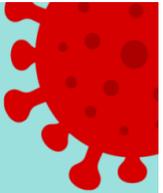
Daniel Zayonc is joining the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Lands and Natural Resources team after one year acting as the Huu-ay-aht Warrior Program Coordinator. He is now the Lands and Natural Resource Associate.

Daniel first moved to Bamfield in 2015 to study marine biology and has been a consistent presence at "Tuesday night basketball" since.

A two-year Master of Science degree at McGill University took him away from Bamfield to study hunter livelihoods in the Peruvian Amazon, but since 2020, he has been building a life in Huu-ay-aht hahuuŕi.

Daniel enjoys fishing for salmon, hunting for chanterelle mushrooms, and cooking meals made with local ingredients.

*Continued on page 7*



# ARE YOU BEING SAFE?

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER THAT COVID-19 IS STILL OUT THERE AND IT IS NOT GOING ANYWHERE ANYTIME SOON**

**BEING FULLY VACCINATED CAN REDUCE THE RISK**  
Those who are unvaccinated as well as those who are vaccinated are getting COVID-19. The Delta and Omicron variants are the most concern at this time as they may be spread more easily and lead to more severe symptoms. However, much higher rates of COVID-19 are happening in unvaccinated people. Those that are vaccinated are less likely to be hospitalized, admitted to intensive care, and to die from the disease.

**COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINE SHOTS ARE AVAILABLE**  
A booster dose is an additional shot of vaccine that helps you maintain and lengthen your protection against COVID-19. It's recommended to get a booster vaccination six months after your second dose.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW PROPER PROTOCOL**  
Wash your hands, wear a mask, practice social distancing (6 ft.), and stay home when sick.

## Huu-ay-aht Youth take opportunity to work for their Nation

Continued from page 6



Leonard Nookemis

Leonard Nookemis is the new Warriors Program Coordinator. Leonard lives in Sarita with his grandparents, Darlene Nookemis and Barry Halverson. Leonard is very excited to be surrounded by the culture again, and he can't wait to see what this year has to bring for him and the Warrior Program.

Leonard Nookemis can be

contacted at  
hfnwarriors@gmail.com

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Hayden Johnson-Turgeon is working out of the Port Alberni Government Office as the Building Service Worker.

You will see Hayden around the office after he is done his school day, cleaning and sanitizing the office.

Hayden is enrolled at ADSS in Grade 11. He first was offered to work as a summer student in 2021. When summer came to an end, Hayden was offered to continue his position part time.

On his spare time, Hayden enjoys skateboarding. He has been skateboarding since he was 11 years old. If he isn't skateboarding you can see him

shooting hoops on the basketball court.



Hayden Johnson-Turgeon

If you are interested in working with the Nation, please visit our website for job postings at:

<https://huuayaht.org/whats-happening/work-with-us/>

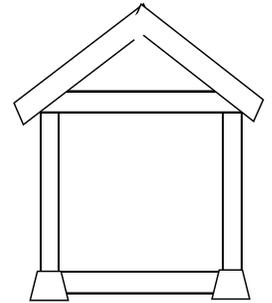
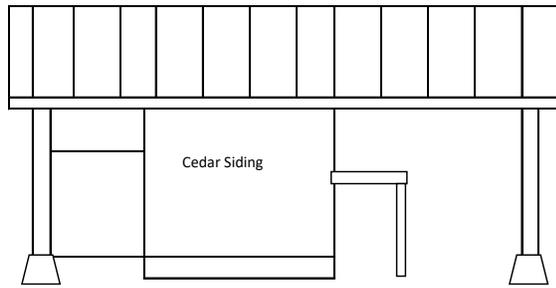
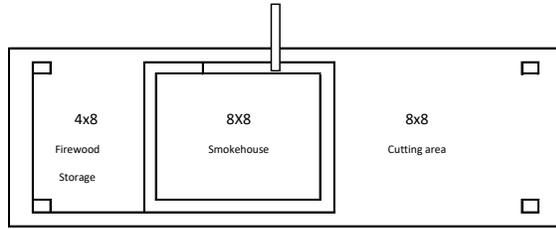
# Anacla community to see community smokehouses

Huu-ay-aht Child and Family Wellness Team continue to add programs and services for Huu-ay-aht citizens.

A few exciting things going on for the community are:

## Anacla Community Smokehouse

Community Smokehouses are coming to Anacla! A total of four smokehouses will be built in lower and upper Anacla with a generous grant from First Nations Well-being funding. Locations are being determined and the Warriors will be involved in the construction which is scheduled to begin spring 2022.



Final design of smokehouse (photo provided by child and family wellness)

## Oomiiqsu (Mother Centre)

BC Housing is working to acquire the necessary permits to break ground and the Huu-ay-aht team continues to lobby provincial and federal governments for long-term operating funds

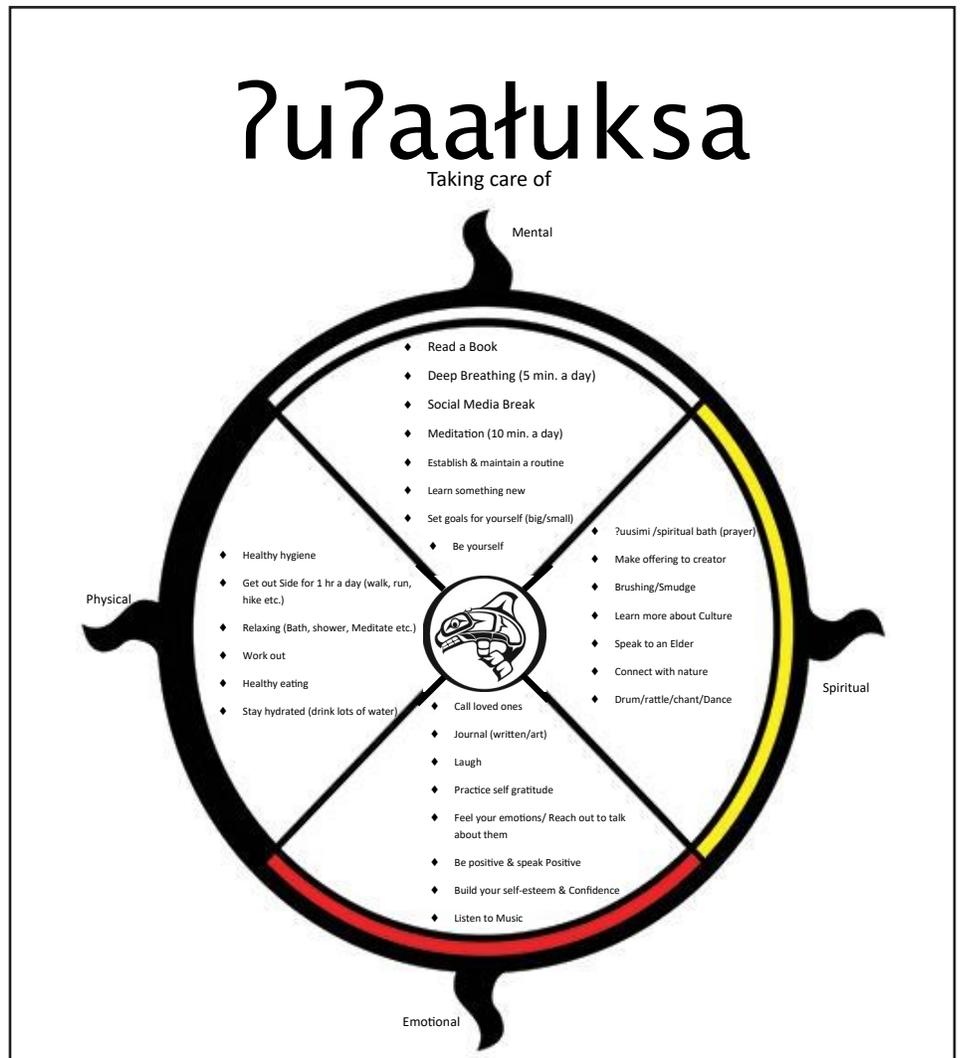
## Virtual Family Craft Night

Cultural crafts for people of all ages. Supply kits will be provided.

Anyone with craft ideas, or interested in facilitating a virtual group, please contact Cory Howard Sr. at [cory.j.h@huyuayht.org](mailto:cory.j.h@huyuayht.org) or [melissa.e@huyuayht.org](mailto:melissa.e@huyuayht.org)

Please contact Melissa (Mel) Edwards, Cultural Wellness Worker, at 778-419-1013 for more info and to register.

For emergency child protection matters outside of office hours, please call 250-731-6999.





## **Miḷinkas - We are next to one another**

*Feelings of shock, anger, and deep sadness have filled our hearts and, as a community, we are grieving. This event is a trigger for Residential School Survivors who experienced the atrocities of Residential School, and it is traumatizing.*

*Support is available for anyone affected by the impact of residential schools and those who are triggered by the latest reports. The Indian Residential School Survivors Society can be contacted toll-free at 1-800-721-0066. A national Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up for emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour national crisis line: 1-866-925-4419.*

### **SUPPORT AVAILABLE**

*Huu-ay-aht Cultural Support*  
Cory Howard Sr. at 250-728-3414  
Mel Edwards at 250-735-7457

Quu'asa Services (Anacla)

Wednesdays David Zryd (Clinical Counsellor)  
250-724-3939 or 250-720-5999

Wednesdays Arianna Clarke-Watts (Part-time Clinical Counsellor) 250-724-3939 or 250-735-7730

Judy North (Crisis Response Clinical Counsellor)  
250-724-3939 or 250-731-8283

Donna Lucas (Child and Youth Counsellor)  
250-724-3939 or 250-731-7671

Resolution Help Support Workers (RHSW) and Indian Day School Support Worker call  
250-724-3939 or Toll Free 1-888-624-393

### **OTHER SUPPORTS**

First Nations Health Authority  
Counsellors – please call Shannon at  
778-419-1013 for contact info for  
counsellors in your area

Vancouver Island Crisis Line  
1-888-494-3888 24 hours/day  
call 250-800-3806 6pm – 10 pm  
text KUU-US Crisis Line Society - 24/7  
at 1-800-588-8717

BC Crisis Line Suicide Prevention 1-  
800-784-2433 24 hours/day

BC Mental Health Support Line 310-  
6789

**WANT TO  
KNOW HOW  
TO PLAN  
FOR THE  
FUTURE?**

# LET'S TALK MONEY



- TRACKING INCOME
- SPENDING AND BILLS
- BUDGETING

- SETTING A SAVINGS GOAL
- PREPARE FOR TAX FILING

## TOOLS AND TIPS TO HELP YOU MEET YOUR GOALS - FOR ADULTS

Come join us and discuss how you can manage your money and future! Dates and times to be determined by participants

**SAVING FOR SOMETHING AWESOME?**



**huu ay aht**

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO REGISTER  
CONTACT BETSY AT  
778-419-1013

## A message from former Communications Manager, Heather Thomson

As someone who has lived across the country from my family for more than 20 years, you would think I would be better at saying goodbye to family. But I am not.

So it is with a heavy heart that I leave Huu-ay-aht First Nations and the family I have built here over the past seven years.

It has been my honour to head up the communications department at Huu-ay-aht. When I first took the job, I had no idea how rich and rewarding it would be. I was newly out of journalism and still mourning the loss of that career. Almost immediately I knew it was the right place for me to land.

When I started out, I was sitting at a table beside the photocopier, as we were quickly outgrowing our little office on Third. The team at the time was me and Annie Merritt. It was so exciting and fun, and I soon came to realize just how lucky I was to land in such a welcoming environment with amazing co-workers, leaders, and citizens. Of course, it helped that I sat in front of Edward R. Johnson. We shared a phone since I didn't have one. His favourite joke was poking me in the back of the head with a tape measure and saying, "the phone is for you." And when I turned around, he would offer me a banana. I knew right away I was going to like working for Huu-ay-aht.

So, when I was offered a new communications job with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, it was a very difficult decision. I shed many tears while I went through my pros and cons list – one side filled with how my heart was feeling, the other what my brain was thinking was the right decision for my future. In

the end, my brain won, and I accepted the job with the ACRD.

I must say, this was one of the most difficult decisions of my life. The main reason is all of you. Almost immediately Huu-ay-aht citizens welcomed me with open arms. You made me feel like family and at home. Working for Huu-ay-aht and telling your stories is the most rewarding part of my career. You welcomed me into your homes, your hearts, and your thoughts. You trusted me to share your stories and witness your celebrations and struggles. Every step in this journey has been an honour for me.

As I think back on the last seven years, tears well in my eyes. The decision has been made, but the memories and people still make it a difficult one.

I will never forget the road trips where I got to meet citizens from all over the province. I can still taste the *tučup* and *ħayišup* that Stella Peters told me was a requirement to be part of the Huu-ay-aht family. I cherish participating in your events and celebrations, including tours of Kiiḡin and the rest of the territory, a hereditary chief's wedding potlatch, coming of age ceremonies, movie debuts, events at the beach, court victories, business transactions... the list goes on and on. I cried with you when we lost citizens, I loved and celebrated when new ones came into the world. It has been a rich and rewarding seven years.

As I leave Huu-ay-aht, I want you to know you have changed my life. I started this job a bit broken after being in a toxic work environment, and you healed me. You gave me back my confidence, and you showed me that anything is possible and



Heather with her dog Quincy at Pachena Beach  
(Photo provided by Heather Thomson).

that I have so much to contribute. There are not enough words in the dictionary to describe how thankful I am for the role each of you played in my journey.

But this is not goodbye. Our paths will cross again. Pachena Beach has become a special place for me, and I will continue to make regular trips there to put my toes in the sand and see the people who feel like family.

I know Huu-ay-aht will continue to be strides ahead of other First Nations as it focuses on its Ancient Spirit and Modern Mind. It has been an exciting journey so far and I am honoured to be part of your modern treaty journey and all the opportunities that presents. I cannot wait to continue to play a small part in this journey through my role with the ACRD. I am excited to celebrate again with you soon. Please reach out any time. I am only a phone call away at the ACRD.



# HFN Group of Businesses

## HGB welcomes new manager to the Motel in Bamfield



**Louella Dennis**

Louella Dennis has returned to her homelands in hope of making a difference for the next generation of HUU-AY-AHT.

Louella lived in Sarita and Port Alberni until she was five and her family moved to Washington State. Louella is the daughter of Clarence Dennis and Myra Mack, and granddaughter to Alice Peters and Simon Dennis on her father's side and Rosemary and Ernest Ruf on her mother's side. She has five children of her own, four daughter and a son, three of which are living with her in Bamfield.

Louella has an extensive background in hospitality having worked in the hotel industry most of her life. After talking to Jackie Dennis in August 2021, she decided to come back when she found out there was an opportunity for her with the HUU-AY-AHT Group of Businesses. She said Jackie is such a dedicated and passionate worker that it

made her decide to apply for the job of manager at the motel.

"Our Nation owns a motel that wasn't getting anywhere, and I thought I could help," she explains. "I was torn about coming back, but I wanted to make a difference to my Nation, so I decided to take a chance."

In mid-January, Louella took over as the manager of the motel in Bamfield. So far, she says she is enjoying the experience and is excited about the changes they are going to implement.

"It's going really well so far," she said. "We are getting ready to do lots of improvements that should make a real difference."

Although she is happy to be close to family and have a rewarding new job, the move comes with some sacrifices. Louella says she grew up in a city, and she misses all that life in a city has to offer. She also believes her son will soon return to San Diego for schooling. She points out, there are also a lot of benefits, like the peace and quiet and reconnecting with her Nation.

She feels excited now when she get ready to work for her Nations and explains that the rewards of working for HGB is what excites her the most.

"I have a chance to make a difference," she says. "I've done this kind of work all my life, but I haven't felt this kind of personal connection before, so I know I can make a difference."



778-421-2663 | [info@hfngroup.ca](mailto:info@hfngroup.ca) | [hfngroup.ca](http://hfngroup.ca)