



Uyaqhmis

August 2022

Issue 67

**Tommy Happynook
Receives a PhD in
Anthropology**



PM41913515

Bamfield Road Surfacing Project is Moving Forward!

Update

If you are travelling the Bamfield Road, you will notice that the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project is well underway. So far, the equipment has been moved to the required locations near Anacla and Sarita, and the tree removal required has been completed alongside the road. The removal of the trees was needed to improve the drainage ditches for the road. Starting at the Anacla end of the road, ditching is being carried out and gravel placement began on July 18, 2022. It is necessary to raise these areas due to flooding. The raised areas will see the sub gravels first, then will be followed by the surfacing gravels as they move along the road.

Gravel production has been progressing at a rapid pace with the majority of the 250,000 cubic metres being produced. It is now being moved to the seven gravel pits along the 76 KM Bamfield Main.

Toad crossing concrete culverts have arrived and are being installed. This has necessitated the detour at "Between the Lakes." The Association of Wetland Stewards are helping install wildlife passages beneath the road at amphibian crossing hotspots. The first culvert is already installed near Frederick Lake. To ensure the toads have easy access through the underground passages, fences are being put in place that will guide them to the entranceways. For more details about the toad tunnel work, visit page 14.

New logo

In 2021, Huu-ay-aht held a logo design contest for the Bamfield Road Kilometre Signs. The winner of the contest is Huu-ay-aht citizen, Christopher Robinson, who submitted a beautiful native art design. The new KM signs have been produced with the winning artwork. This design will be on every KM sign and will be displayed in both directions. The full design of the artwork will be proudly displayed at both the Port Alberni and Anacla Government Offices. It will also be shown on signage at both ends of the road.



Example of the KM road sign (Art work design by Christopher Robinson)

Detours and Delays

As of August 8, a detour was put in effect from 49-66 KM (North Central Junction) and will continue for approximately a month. Also, expect a delay near the end of the detour where there is single lane traffic, and a pilot vehicle will escort you through the construction zone.



Full artwork of road sign by Christopher Robinson

For questions on the Bamfield Main Road Surfacing Project, please contact Amanda-Lee Cunningham, Communications Manager at amanda.c@huuayaht.org or 250-720-7776.

For opportunities to work on the road, please contact Brent Ronning, Education & Employment Manager at brent.r@huuayaht.org or 250-723-0100.



huu ay aht

ANCIENT SPIRIT, MODERN MIND

Huu-ay-aht envisions a strong, self-determining, self-reliant and sustainable Nation. ʔiisaak, Hišuk ma čawak, and ʔuuʔaʔuk 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 Uyaq̓hmis is printed up to six times a year to foster community engagement among a population of more than 800 citizens. Uyaq̓hmis 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.

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www.huuayaht.org
for the latest news and events, job postings, and a digital archive of Uyaq̓hmis

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



Huu-ay-aht First Nations
Facebook page



Huu-ay-aht Executive Council Received Updated Portfolios



From left to right: Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr., Councillor Duane Nookemis, Councillor Edward R. Johnson, Councillor John Jack, Councillor Brad Johnson

Elected Executive Council hold their new portfolios as follows:

1. ACRD – John Jack
2. Finance Committee – John Jack
3. External Affairs – John Jack
4. Citizenship Committee – Edward Johnson
5. Citizen Development and Services – Edward Johnson
6. Language and Culture – Edward Johnson
7. Economic Development Committee – Duane Nookemis
8. Business Development – Duane Nookemis
9. Natural Resources – Duane Nookemis
10. Housing and Infrastructure – Brad Johnson
11. Treaty Implementation Committee - Brad Johnson
12. Lands and Zoning - Brad Johnson
13. Project Green – Robert Dennis
14. Law and Policy – Robert Dennis
15. Specific Claims – Robert J. Dennis Sr.
16. Ḥaw̓iḥ Council - Yał luu a (Jeff Cook)
17. Ḥahuuḥi Committee – Yał luu a (Jeff Cook)
18. Nu-u-chah-nulth Ḥaw̓iḥ Council – Yał luu a (Jeff Cook)

With their new portfolios, the executive council will have priorities and expectations as leaders of their portfolios.

Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr.

Under the Specific Claims Portfolio, Chief Councillor Robert J. Dennis Sr. priorities are:

- To ensure successful completion of IR 9 Timber Claim, which is expected to be completed by March 31, 2023
- Continue working with the Executive Director and legal counsel to finalize the Caaq`sa Specific Claim
- Research any other potential specific claims
- Organize Huu-ay-aht First Nations Community Engagement to inform citizens of these specific claims

Under his Law and Policy Portfolio, Robert will chair the monthly meetings and ensure all law and policy matters

are reviewed and considered by the Law and Policy Committee. He will bring Law and Policy issues to Executive Council for their review and consideration, and all consultation related to Law and Policy development will be attended to.

Under his Project Green Portfolio, Robert will carry out the Executive Council decision to explore and enhance Huu-ay-aht First Nations forestry opportunities.

Councillor John Jack

Councillor John Jack holds the ACRD, Finance, and External Affairs Portfolio.

Councillor Jack will continue to represent the Nation on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District by:

- Attending ACRD meetings on behalf of Huu-ay-aht First Nations
- Acting as Huu-ay-aht representative at ACRD and work with Chief Councillor and Executive Council to determine what ACRD related issues need to be reviewed and considered by Huu-ay-aht First Nations Executive Council

Councillor Jack also holds the Finance Portfolio, which includes the following priorities:

- Pursue federal and provincial funding sources for programs and services
- Implement tax policies that increase Huu-ay-aht revenue
- Provide funds to enhance Huu-ay-aht programs and services where required

With this portfolio, his expectations are to:

- Chair the Finance Committee, ensuring a focus on revenue generation increase of 10% annually and expenses maintained or decreased depending on financial analysis

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Huu-ay-aht Executive Council Portfolios 2022 (cont'd.)

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- Lead on development of a 3-Year Financial Plan
- Develop a 10-Year Financial Sustainability Plan, if necessary
- Representative on Huu-ay-aht First Nations taxation authority
- Work with External Affairs Portfolio and Executive Council to identify political financial issues that require federal or provincial attention
- Submit annual report on committee activities
- Meet regularly with Chief Councillor to report on portfolio mandate

Portfolio priorities for Councillor Jack include:

- Representing Huu-ay-aht Government in relation with other government and Indigenous organizations.
- TFL44
- Bamfield Road
- Housing
- Federal and Provincial Fiscal Financing Agreements
- Huu-ay-aht fishery-related issues
- Ongoing review of the People's Assembly motion regarding Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses Offices

Councillor Edward R. Johnson

Councillor Edward R. Johnson holds the portfolios for Citizenship Committee and Citizen Development.

His expectations for Citizenship and Citizen Development include:

- Chair the Citizenship Committee and the Citizen Development Committee
- Collaborate with Citizen Development Committee to develop government policy that ensures Huu-ay-aht citizens achieve a standard of life equivalent or greater than the average Canadian
- Where possible, enhance programs and services
- Promote self-reliance
- Provide an annual report for each committee

In addition, Councillor Johnson holds the Language and Culture Portfolio with the following priorities for 2022-23.

- Ensure language programs for all age groups
- Host annual Huu-ay-aht Days beginning August 2022
- Participate in future Canoe Journeys
- Host weekly cultural functions in each Huu-ay-aht First Nations community
- Host regular cultural functions that promote and enhance Huu-ay-aht culture and spirituality

Councillor Duane Nookemis

Councillor Duane Nookemis holds the Economic Development Committee, Business Development Portfolio, as well as the Lands & Natural Resources Portfolio.

Under Lands & Natural Resources, he has the following priorities:

- Ensure the development and implementation of Integrated Resource Management Plan honouring Huu-ay-aht First Nations sacred principles, complete with zoning map
- Ensure full implementation of Maa-nulth Final Agreement Chapter 2 Section 10, additions to Maa-nulth First Nations Lands
- Ensure full implementation of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations "Me Too Strategy" and ensure the Huu-ay-aht First Nations "Me Too Strategy" is carried out at the Maa-nulth First Nations table
- Ensure Watershed Renewal and Environment Stewardship goals are met

Councillor Nookemis holds the Business Development Portfolio and the priorities are to ensure Executive Council decisions related to the following are carried out:

- \$25 Million Capital Raise
- Project Green
- Explore the Western Indigenous Pipeline Group opportunity
- Pursue opportunities that arise out of Salish Sea Initiative
- Work with External Affairs to lobby BC to ensure provincial forestry policies do not negatively impact Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Cawak ʔqin Forestry

Councillor Nookemis holds the Economic Development Committee Portfolio and the priorities are:

- Ensure Executive Council and citizens input into the development of each Economic Development Plan
- Generate wealth for the Nation with a goal to increase Huu-ay-aht First Nations funding
- Promote the development of a strong Huu-ay-aht economy
- Work with the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses to ensure job creation and training for Huu-ay-aht citizens
- Work with Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses to provide incentives to attract Huu-ay-aht citizens to work in the ʔahuuli of the Huu-ay-aht ʔawiih
- Develop annual dividend proposals for Executive Council review and consideration by September 30 of each year

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Huu-ay-aht Executive Council Portfolios 2022 (cont'd.)

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- Develop plans that promotes Huu-ay-aht is “open for business”
- Provide an annual report for the Economic Development Committee

Councillor Brad Johnson

As his first time being elected Councillor, Brad Johnson has been given Housing and Infrastructure, the Treaty Implementations Committee, and Lands & Zoning Portfolios.

For Housing and Infrastructure, Councillor Johnson's priorities will be:

- Construction of the Anacla-Bamfield road
- Waste Water Treatment Plant (opening in April 2022)
- 15 Housing units by 2023 and the subdivision in Anacla
- Ensure the development and implementation of Huu-ay-aht Community Comprehensive Plan and Huu-ay-aht Housing Plans, which will consider privately owned, social housing, and/or rent-to-own options
- Ensure the annual maintenance of all Huu-ay-aht assets takes place

Under Treaty Implementation Committee, Councillor Johnson will be expected to:

- Chair the Treaty Implementation Committee
- Lead on all Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Maa-nulth First Nations Treaty implementation issues
- Work with the Executive Director and Huu-ay-aht First Nations lead legal counsel for any Huu-ay-aht First Nations Law and Policy development
- Lead on all treaty implementation briefing notes to be presented to Huu-ay-aht First Nations Executive

Council

- Representative to Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations and Maa-nulth First Nations Treaty table
- Collaborate with Director of Treaty Implementation to ensure full implementation and development of Huu-ay-aht First Nations Treaty Implementation Plan
- Submit annual report on committee activities
- Meet regularly with Chief Councillor to report on portfolio mandate
- Immediate priorities are Me Too Fishing Strategy and income tax extension

Under the Lands & Zoning Portfolio, Councillor Johnson's priorities are:

- Work with Economic Development Committee to develop economic strategies to unlock the wealth in Huu-ay-aht land
- Promote and ensure Huu-ay-aht First Nations citizens take advantage of the \$1.00 per year leasing opportunity that enables citizens to build their own housing in the ḥahuuli
- Review current Land Use Plan to ensure zoning needs of the Nation

Yał luu a (Jeff Cook):

Ḥawiił Yał luu a (Jeff Cook) will chair all Huu-ay-aht ḥawiił Council meetings and all Huu-ay-aht ḥahuuli committee meetings.

In addition, he will attend and participate in the Nuu-chah-nulth ḥawiił Council quarterly meetings.

Ḥawiił Yał luu a (Jeff Cook) will work with Councillor Duane Nookemis to ensure the development, implementation, and oversight of the Integrated Resource Management Plan, and ensure review, development, and oversight of Huu-ay-aht Guiding Principles of Sustainability and Core Values and Principles.

Huu-ay-aht Citizens Celebrate New Babies with a Welcoming Ceremony

Huu-ay-aht First Nations hosted a Baby Welcoming Ceremony on June 17, 2022 at the Alberni Lawn Bowling Club.

The following Huu-ay-aht Citizens welcomed their new babies:

- Danae Bird
- Jamie-Lynn Dennis
- Alexyss Howard
- Jason Jack
- Michelle Mickey
- Shannon Nookemus
- Latisha Seward
- Eric Sport



Huu-ay-aht parents and babies gather at baby welcoming ceremony. (Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Outstanding Achievement for Huu-ay-aht Citizen, Tommy Happynook



Tommy Happynook

By Tommy Happynook

I have always had an interest in anthropology and right out of high school started working towards an undergraduate degree. My post-secondary journey was full of starts and stops. I attended Camosun College for one term before stopping to work as a roofer for about a year before returning to Camosun for another two years. I was able to complete the first two years of my undergraduate degree at Camosun and decided to accept an offer to work in the forest industry. I worked in forestry for about two and a half years before I decided to go back and finish my undergraduate degree at the University of Victoria. Two years later, I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology. That same year, I was accepted into, and started my graduate degree, in anthropology at UVic. After two and half years, I graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Anthropol-

ogy. At this point, I needed a break and was hired to work at Camosun College. I worked for Indigenous Education at Camosun College for about 10 years as a community liaison, advisor, and instructor. In 2017, I applied to UVic's anthropology doctoral program. In 2020, I was hired by the UVic's Anthropology Department and have been working there since June 2021. I completed my doctoral program in April 2022 and now have a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Anthropology.

My research documents the reclamation of knowledge, teachings, culture, language, responsibilities, and identity through my personal (re) connection to my family's ḥaḥuuli and hereditary home, čaačaačiiŋas. In specific and intentional ways my research, fieldwork, and dissertation are part of a story of reconciliation between myself and čaačaačiiŋas, the ḥaḥuuli that my family was dispossessed from because of the impacts of colonization. Despite the near severing of our relationship with čaačaačiiŋas and the near destruction of our ḥaḥuuli, čaačaačiiŋas is thriving, and now is the time to pick up my responsibilities and begin to re-establish a relationship with the natural and spiritual worlds found there. In my research the lands, waters, skies, and natural world are not a place and/or object of inquiry, they are non-human knowledge holders and teachers.

My research draws upon a diverse

set of ethnographic, anthropological, and Indigenous literatures. Emphasis is placed upon the use of nuučaahūt scholarship, theory, and methodologies including muultmuumps (being rooted to the land), ceremony, language, song, and interviews. The research builds on four kinds of knowledge that are expressed as: 1) known knowledge; 2) incomplete knowledge; 3) unaccounted for and/or unknown knowledge; and, 4) ethnographic/anthropological knowledge.

Through this theoretical platform, I explore tangible and intangible cultural and hereditary forms of knowledge production. Importantly, I highlight the role of song and sound as critical vehicles through which contemporary Indigenous peoples can connect to historical places and times. I place equal emphasis on the production of sound through song as I do through the reception of song and sound through a methodology of deep listening. Song and sound play a crucial role in my research and form the basis of knowledge transfer between myself, čaačaačiiŋas, and my yak'wiimit k'wiyiis nananiiqsu (ancestors).

Furthermore, the songs I received during my research are the analysis of my data and how I am choosing to disseminate that data. I argue that these connections provide ways for future agendas and aspirations for cultural resurgence and governance to emerge.

Lands and Natural Resources Welcomes New Team Member



Nicole McCallion

Nicole is the new Lands and Natural Resources Coordinator. She spent her childhood in Ontario before moving around British Columbia. She finally found a permanent home in Port Alberni in 2020. She is so happy to be in a place where she can hike with her dog, surf, or just enjoy her garden at home. She is excited and grateful to be working

with Rita and the rest of the Lands and Natural Resources team. She is looking forward to meeting the rest of you soon!

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Nananiqsu Meetings Information

Nananiqsu meetings will resume in September, 2022.

Huu-ay-aht Government Offices Welcome New Employees

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Angie MacKinnon

Angie is our new Building Service Worker. She graduated from ADSS in 2003. She has been a licensed esthetician since 2004, and has worked in salons, spas and has done home-based esthetician services. Angie was the manager of the beauty department at Shoppers Drug Mart for 8 years. Outside of her Huu-ay-aht position, she runs her own business doing nails, esthetics, and makeup artistry. Some of her favourite hobbies are being in the woods, 4x4'ing, camping, fires, and all the fun things related.



Beverly Jack

Bev is the new Administrative Support Worker and the first friendly face you see when you walk into the Port Alberni Government Office. She also answers the phone, books the boardroom, as well as the vehicles. She will also take care of logging all incoming/outgoing mail and order supplies for staff. In previous years she was the receptionist for Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council and worked with the treaty

team. She was also a housing manager for Ahousaht and has done a lot of work with the youth including 1:1 sessions. She has worked alongside with MCFD in the past supporting families and was the youth counselor at one time. Her education history would include child and youth care, drug and alcohol counselling training, and administration assistant diploma. Bev enjoys participating in Tribal Journey's. Her first journey was in 2003 with her late dad, Jerry Jack. It was an amazing experience. They paddled from Yuquot (Friendly Cove) to Tualip Washington. They spent 21 days in the canoe. When they say, once you participate you will be hooked for life, they mean it and feels it was most definitely life changing. She also enjoys spending quality time with her youngest daughter, Colleen. Bev feels it is an honour to work with such a well-organized group.



Jen Carwithen

Jen Carwithen is the Administrative Support Worker at the Anacla Government Office. Jen grew up in Prince Rupert, BC. After high school graduation, she went to VIU (then Malaspina) for Applied Business Technology, as well as courses in teaching English. When she was 19 years old, she visited Bamfield for a firehall dance and ended up living and working there for three years. It became her heart home. In 2017, she lost her job at the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver and took the opportunity to decide where she really wanted to be. The

answer was easy: come home, her heart home. The years in Anacla have been formative and is grateful to call it home. She is also grateful to work with and for Huu-ay-aht First Nations. To have been welcomed here as family, friend, and a community member is a true gift; one she doesn't take lightly. She tries to live her life guided by the three Sacred Principles, which helps her on her path of recovery and sobriety. Plus, she found the love of her life here, so life is pretty great! Jen enjoys any sort of crafts and is hoping to have more opportunities to practice cedar weaving. She also loves to read and always has at least one book on the go.



Danielle Tramer

Danielle is the new Communications Assistant in the Port Alberni office. She has lived in Port Alberni for almost her whole life. She was born and raised in this beautiful community. She moved to Calgary when she was in her 20s and desperately missed the trees, ocean, and lakes. Her and her boyfriend at the time (husband now) decided to move back to Port Alberni to get married and start a family. They were blessed with two beautiful boys, who are now both graduated from high school and starting their adult lives. She is very excited to work for Huu-ay-aht First Nations, as well as learning more about the culture, as she has heard many wonderful things. She looks forward to meeting everyone in person!

Respected Elder, Marjorie White, Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Marjorie White

In recognition of her lifetime of service to Indigenous peoples, proud Huu-ay-aht elder, Marjorie White, was the 2022 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Indspire. The Indspire Awards honours Inuit, Métis, and First Nations peoples across Canada who are inspiring change and progress in their communities.

Born in Port Alberni in 1936, Marjorie spent her early days with her mother, Alice Peters, and family in Dodger's Cove and Sarita. She also spent her days with her grandmother, Nina Peters [nee Jack/Shewish], on the Somass River in Tseshaht territory.

Marjorie explained she has always been immensely proud to be closely connected to the Barclay Sound *Hawiih* from Huu-ay-aht, Yuułu?iif?ath, Tseshaht, Toquaht, and Hupacasath. It is that connection that always 'tied her canoe at home' and kept her heart close to her people and her homelands. Family connections and her role in it is extremely important to her. Marjorie has held three potlatches in her lifetime. The last potlatch she held was in 2010 with her siblings. She wanted to ensure that all their descendants had traditional names to keep them connected to their homelands.

From 1944 to 1956, Marjorie

attended the Alberni Residential School. Although residential school took her away from her home and her family, she was fortunate to always maintain strong connections with family and culture. After losing her mother to tuberculosis when she was 14, Marjorie spent summers and school breaks with her Uncle Art and Aunt Aggie in the Bamfield area. She also spent time with her grandmother at her home on the Somass River. They would travel and work together in the hop and berry fields in Washington state.

Marjorie's career goal has always been to provide a safe, secure environment for the enhancement and promotion of healthy living for Indigenous people. It was after leaving her community in 1956 to pursue a career as a nurse in Vancouver that she realized there was no place in the city for First Nations people, who were migrating to urban centres, to get support and access resources.

"It was such a culture shock coming from the residential school and a small, remote community on Vancouver Island. I experienced loneliness." Marjorie said in the 2022 Indspire Awards interview. "My distance between my grandmother and me was a reality. That's really what prompted me to do something to change the situation of our young people that were coming into the city for education or jobs."

Her work in those early years in Vancouver led to the formal establishment of the then Vancouver Indian Centre, the first Friendship Centre in BC in 1963. The 'Friendship Centre Movement' quickly expanded within the province and across Canada. In 1972, Marjorie was among the founding members of both the national and provincial Friendship Centre Associations. Because of Marjorie's determina-

tion and beliefs, you can now find 25 Friendship Centres in British Columbia and 125 across Canada.

Marjorie was also the very first Indigenous person to be appointed as a Citizenship Court Judge in 1976, as well as the first woman and Indigenous person ever appointed to the Vancouver Police Commission in 1974.

"When I was Citizenship Court Judge I sometimes spoke about the kinds of things that Canadian citizens enjoy and that as first peoples of this land, that we weren't guaranteed those same rights and privileges that they were getting as new citizens," said Marjorie. "And so, education is really one thing that I believe in, letting people know where we are and who we are."

Marjorie is also recognized for starting other organizations in Vancouver, such as the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society, of which she was recently awarded for 50 years of service, Naa-na-himyis Brothers Healing Lodge (Naa-na-himyis – her traditional name meaning "going from community to community distributing"), and Anderson Healing Centre for Women, along with many others.

Marjorie has filled her life and career helping people and it has not gone unnoticed. She has received a tremendous number of awards, which include:

- Order of Canada
- Order of British Columbia
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal (60th anniversary)
- Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (50th anniversary)
- Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal (25th anniversary)
- Huu-ay-aht Citizen of the year
- Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council Outstanding Citizen Award

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Marjorie White Celebrated for her Longstanding Work Helping Others

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- International Year of the Volunteer Award – Correctional Services Canada
- Naming recognition:
 - Marjorie White Apartment Complex (L'uma Native Housing)
 - Marge (Cantryn) White Room (Administration Office in the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre)
- Gold Feather Award – Professional Native Women's Association
- Surrey Women's Centre recognition for lifetime community involvement
- And many community awards from local organizations

"The most important thing was to make sure that I had some resources for those I was helping. You know, I think it's just believing in yourself, believing that you can make a change," said Marjorie.

In her "retirement," Marjorie continues to volunteer on boards and committees for Huu-ay-aht, the Circle of Eagles Lodge Society, the Vancouver Aboriginal Mother's Centre, L'uma Native Housing (30+ years), the National and Provincial Friendship

Associations, and the Vancouver Indigenous Justice Advisory Committee.

"I have spent my entire life helping those in need to help them provide a better quality of life. I think I was motivated to do this work because I believe in people and know that change can come to them if they are supported," said Marjorie. "I am most honoured and humbled to have received the Lifetime Achievement award from Indspire this year. I am also honoured that I have received so many awards as my only intention of doing this work has been to help make life easier for others."

Composer and Music Director, Andrea Menard, wrote and performed this song for Marjorie's Lifetime Achievement Award:

*Ya weyo heya heyo weyo weya
Ya weyo heya heyo
When you headed for the city,
you launched yourself like a canoe
with nothing more than your
grandmother's prayers
they traveled all the waves with you
through crashing tides in the
Downtown Eastside
with no place to land and no long-
house in view.
Ya weyo heya heyo
When you saw the need for*

*friendship you gathered homes
all across the land.
You paddled through all kinds of
waters with a vision and two help-
ing hands.
On planning crews with opposing
points of view
you led with gentleness with Pot-
latch command.
Ya weyo heya heyo
When you listen to the stories of
urban life failing our men,
You found a path that led them
halfway home with eagles circling
round their heads.
You're a beacon of light.
You leave ribbons of white as a
canoe that's gliding through the
ocean.
Ya weyo heya heyo weyo weya*

You can watch the 2022 Indspire Awards here: <https://gem.cbc.ca/media/indspire-awards-2022/s01e01>



Marjorie White

Congratulations 2022 Huu-ay-aht graduates!



Pam Craig giving her speech
(Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

This year's high school and post-secondary graduates gathered at the Best Western Barclay Hotel for a buffet luncheon to celebrate their achievements. They were joined by Pam Craig, board chair from SD70, respected elder, Benson Nookemis, Chief Robert J. Dennis Sr., and Councillor Edward R. Johnson who all gave congratulatory speeches to the graduates. Brent Ronning,

Huu-ay-aht Manager of Education and Vanessa Sabbas, Huu-ay-aht Education Coordinator presented each graduate with a gift from Huu-ay-aht, which consisted of a red Huu-ay-aht hoodie and a cedar rose. They also watched a video presentation from Tommy Happynook, a Huu-ay-aht citizen who just received a PhD in Anthropology. Congratulations to all the graduates!

2022 High School and Post Secondary Graduates

High School Graduates

- Mary Jane Dennis - Dogwood Diploma, ADSS
- Xavier Dennis - High School Diploma, Helix High School, La Mesa, CA
- Tristan Ginger - Dogwood Diploma, ADSS
- Joycelyn Joe-Lanham McCloud - High School Diploma, Chief Kitsap Academy, Suquamish, WA
- Brayden Johnson - Adult Dogwood Diploma, 8th Avenue Learning Centre
- Isaak Johnson - Dogwood Diploma, Nanaimo District Secondary School
- Jenelle Johnson-Sabbas - Dogwood Diploma, ADSS
- Tyler Lopez - Dogwood Diploma/Health Care Assistant Cert., ADSS/NIC
- Cierra Nookemus - Dogwood Diploma, ADSS
- Jayson Nookemus - Adult Dogwood Diploma, 8th Avenue Learning Centre
- Shannon Thompson - Dogwood Diploma, ADSS
- Jaden Warner - Dogwood Diploma ADSS
- Sean Williams-Kosteniuk - Dogwood Diploma, ADSS

Post Secondary Graduates

- Eileen Taylor Amber-Lynn - Cert. in Indigenous Family Support/Mental Health & Addictions, Camosun College
- Tommy Happynook - PhD Anthropology, UVIC
- Karen Haugen - Master of Arts in Professional Communications, Royal Roads University
- Samantha Haugen - Bachelor of Arts, Tourism Management, VIU
- Petrina Joe-Lanham - Associate in Business, Olympic College, Bremerton, WA
- Alyssa Johnson - Bachelor of Science in Nursing, VIU
- Judith Johnson - Food Processing Fundamentals Cert., NIC
- Jennifer Joseph - Bachelor of Arts, Criminology, VIU
- Mikaela Lopez - Human Services Cert., NIC
- Patricia McCarthy - Health Care Assistant Cert., Sprott Shaw College

Huu-ay-aht Education is Here to Support Citizens

Welcome Vanessa Sabbas to our Education Department! Vanessa has moved from the Deputy Law Clerk position at Huu-ay-aht First Nations to support our K-12 Huu-ay-aht students.

Vanessa's responsibilities include:

- The administration of our education programs for K-12 students, including school supply and scholarship recognition programs.
- Collaborating and working in partnership with the Indigenous Education Teams in our SD70 (Pacific Rim) schools for the success of our Huu-ay-aht students.
- Building relationships with education teams in other school districts to support the success of our Huu-ay-aht students, wherever they may attend school.
- Providing outreach to Huu-ay-aht students, wherever they may attend school, and working with caregivers, school administrators and education teams to identify supports that students may require for success (e.g. tutors, rec-

reation opportunities, counselling, computer hardware/software).

- Supporting educators at the Bamfield Community School, which is now a K-12 school in SD70, to incorporate Huu-ay-aht language and cultural lessons within the curriculum.

Brent's responsibilities continue to include:

- Working with post-secondary students to achieve success. This includes degree programs, diplomas, certificates, trades and apprenticeships, and adult-basic education.
- Overseeing all of Huu-ay-aht First Nation's education and training programs
- Building and fostering Huu-ay-aht First Nation's relationships with North Island College, Vancouver Island University, Camosun College, the University of Victoria, the University of BC, and any other educational institutions that our students may attend.
- Overseeing agreements like the

Local Education Agreement with SD70 for the Bamfield Community School, and working with funding bodies like the First Nations Education Steering Committee.

- Overseeing bus transportation for the Bamfield Community School, as part of our Local Education Agreement with SD70.
- Supporting Huu-ay-aht citizens in their employment initiatives, from resume support to work gear that might be necessary for anyone beginning new employment for the first time.

To contact the HFN Education department: education@huuayaht.org

Manager of Education, Training and Employment: Brent Ronning brent.r@huuayaht.org (Facebook Messenger "Brent Huuayaht," 250.723. 0100 ext 108)

Education Coordinator: Vanessa Sabbas vanessa.s@huuayaht.org (Facebook Messenger "Vanessa Huuayaht," 250.723.0100 ext 103)

Master Carver Nookemus Reveals Totem Pole for Lu'ma House



Marjorie White, Edward R. Johnson, Master Carver Nookemus
(Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Huu-ay-aht First Nations and master carver Nookemus (Ed Johnson Sr.) donated a totem pole to Lu'ma Housing in Colwood, BC. The unveiling took place on June 23, 2022 and Huu-ay-aht First Nations were able to travel to Colwood, BC to attend the celebration.

The beautiful 20-foot yellow cedar totem pole with red cedar eagle wings, was raised in the backyard of Lu'ma housing. From top to bottom, it showcases an eagle, a bear holding a salmon, a beaver, and a whale.

Master carver Nookemus shared what each animal represents; the eagle stands for strength and authority; the bear represents strength and power; the beaver embodies hard work and great artistic values; the whale means a good traveler

and guardian.

Master carver Nookemus also shared a story of the eagle and the bear. He explained that the eagle was flying in the sky and looked down and saw the bear trying to catch fish in the river. To help the bear catch the fish, the eagle gave the bear claws. "If we can help someone, we should," said master carver Nookemus (Ed Johnson). That is what this story is telling, he explained.

Colwood Lu'ma Housing provides 124 affordable housing units for Vancouver Island Indigenous individuals and families and is the first of its kind on Vancouver Island. Residents and representatives involved in the building of Lu'ma Housing, not only gathered to honour the totem pole, but the building itself.

Huu-ay-aht elder and citizen, Marjorie White, is the vice-president of the Lu'ma Group of Companies.

"It is a real honour for Lu'ma to build on Vancouver Island," said Marjorie White. "It's great to be here and be a part of this building and L'uma."



Totem pole at Lu'ma House
(Photo by Amanda-Lee Cunningham)

Citizens to See New Developments in Upper Anacla

Huu-ay-aht First Nation's has been working very hard and has made progress with the many projects on the go. A Huu-ay-aht Culture Centre will be located across from the Anacla Government Office. Huu-ay-aht is also working on a Public Works Yard in upper Anacla with a small building. A new road that will circulate through the newly built community, connecting the Cultural Centre, the new playing field, and more homes. Care has been taken to ensure that the aquatic environment is not impacted in a negative way by this construction.

The community field is in the early stages of construction. Proper drainage is a consideration and is being addressed in the construction so that the field may be used through most weather conditions. The playing field will be five acres in size, and it will have a full soccer field and softball diamond field. There are also plans to have a playground and a court in this area. There will be some planning and discussions on where a dog park can be situated as well.

Another important consideration has been housing for contractors

while on site. Options may include travel trailer sites with hookups provided.

In keeping with our environmental stewardship on our territory, the Nation will minimize negative environmental impacts, including saving the stream and as many trees as possible and leaving the tree barrier as protection from wind and weather.

We continue to work on a plan to repair the leak in the watermain and will update as the project proceeds.

NTC Covid Study Team Wants to Hear From You!

By Denise Titian, Ha-Shilth-sa Reporter

The Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council has hired Dr. Roger Boyer, an Anishinabek man from Mississauga, Ontario, to head up a study looking at the effectiveness and safety of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as gather stories from Nuuchahnulth people about their experiences during the pandemic.

When the pandemic began in 2020, Indigenous villages took the unprecedented step of closing off communities. They followed the provincial health officer's orders, taking extra precautions. Still, many Nuuchahnulth people contracted the virus, suffering serious illness and even death in some cases.

NTC Director of Health, Lynette Lucas said that the directors wanted to know how effective the vaccine has been for Nuuchahnulth people, how many of them were comfortable taking the vac-

cine, and what guided decisions on whether or not to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

According to Lucas, there will be two components to the study. One will be collecting information about COVID-19 infections and immunization experiences for Nuuchahnulth people. The other will be the collection of cultural and community information that supported Nuuchahnulth people and families through the pandemic.

The NTC Vaccine Study team will invite elders, family groups, and community leaders to share their stories about past and present pandemic experiences.

The information gathered during the study will help inform the NTC's Health Services Department on what needs to be done in the future and to support funding applications for health delivery services. Boyer said that the study will allow them to integrate our Indigenous ways of knowledge and bring it into

primary health care.

For the health component of the study, Nuuchahnulth people will be asked to take blood spot tests to identify the number of Nuuchahnulth-aht that had previously had COVID-19. In some cases, people can contract COVID-19 and not develop symptoms.

Lucas and Boyer say that the study will comply with NTC research ethics and OCAP (ownership, control, access, and possession) principals of data sovereignty.

Lucas said that people wanting to share information about how people used culture to get through the pandemic are welcome to speak to the team.

Boyer invites people to contact the team for more information. He can be reached by email at Roger.Boyer@nuuchahnulth.org.

The research team visited Anacla on September 7, 2022 at the Elder's Luncheon. More details will follow.

Six Building Lots Soon to be Available to Huu-ay-aht Citizens

The Huu-ay-aht Executive Council has approved the designation of six building lots in the Anacla subdivision to be made available to citizens to lease a lot and construct and own their home. These lots will be available to citizens at a cost of \$1 per year on a 99-year lease.

The lots are located off Nooke-mus Road, closer to the House of Huu-ay-aht than the existing housing and are all located on a "cul de sac." The road is temporarily called Road B (which will be named appropriately), so that they will be in a separate section of the subdivision. On the building plan, these are identified as lots 3 through 8. The lot plan follows and shows the locations of the lots, the House of

Huu-ay-aht, and the new Cultural Centre. The lot sizes are as follows (all figures in square feet):

- Lot 19 12091 (Southwest corner or west side of Road B)
- Lot 18 12042
- Lot 17 14115
- Lot 16 14155
- Lot 15 12000
- Lot 14 12000 (Southeast corner, or right side of Road B).

All the lots will be connected to services to the lot lines, including sewer and water. These are being constructed currently and the road will be gravel initially. The lots have been cleared and available for construction starting in August 2022. The lots can be viewed now, providing construction activity is not

underway.

Citizens should be aware that they are fully responsible for obtaining their own financing for the construction of homes. The value of the lots will be determined through financing appraisals, but should count as part of the equity in a home.

There will be additional requirements in terms of the time allowance for construction, what types of housing can be constructed, requirements to meet building codes, and uses of buildings. These will be provided at a later date.

The first step in the process is to
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Opportunity for Citizens to Build a Home in Upper Anacla

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prepare and submit an expression of interest. This should include:

- A list of all adults included in the application
- Type of unit interested in constructing
- Plans for financing the construction
- Lot number interested in

Expressions of interest should be submitted by September 30, 2022.

Please contact Jim Lee at jim.l@huuayaht.org for further information and questions.



Map of leased lots colour-coded in red

UVic Students Return to Bamfield for the First Time Since Bus Accident

On Friday, September 13, 2019, a bus containing 45 university students and two teaching assistants had taken a field trip to the Bamfield Marine Science Centre located on the coast of Vancouver Island in beautiful Bamfield, BC.

The drive down the bumpy, gravel Bamfield Main Road quickly escalated to a traumatic event that would devastate the lives of many. The bus moved over for an oncoming vehicle, drove onto a soft shoulder, and rolled over an embankment. This resulted in the loss of the lives of two 18-year-old students.

This devastating accident has made a significant impact on Huu-ay-aht First Nations citizens and local communities. The two lives that were lost that fatal evening, Emma MacIntosh Machado of Winnipeg and John Geerdes of Iowa City, Iowa, will never be forgotten.

To this day, when driving down the Bamfield Main, you will see flowers placed at the spot where those precious lives were lost.

When Huu-ay-aht First Nations

heard that the UVic Students would be returning to the Bamfield Marine Science Centre for the first time since the bus crash, chief and council decided they wanted to honour the students by hosting a dinner and cultural ceremony.

On Monday, May 2, 2022, the Bamfield Marine Science Centre (BMSC) students made their first appearance since the crash and attended a dinner at the House of Huu-ay-aht.



UVic students at the House of Huu-ay-aht (Photo by Victoria Nookemus)

After the dinner, Huu-ay-aht explained to the students and staff that they did not want them to leave for home with any negative feelings inside and wanted to help them on their healing journey. Huu-ay-aht citizens performed a cultural brushing with traditional cedar branches. This was to help alleviate any negative energy, feelings, or hurt that they may have been feeling.



UVic students getting brushed at the House of Huu-ay-aht (Photo by Victoria Nookemus)

After the brushing was finished, Huu-ay-aht citizen, Sarah Dennis, gifted beaded eagle feathers and cedar roses to each one of the students and faculty members. After they received their gifts, Huu-ay-aht singers and dancers performed traditional songs and dances for their UVic and Bamfield Marine Science Centre guests. Before the end of the night, guests were dancing alongside them in good spirits!



UVic student dancing (Photo by Victoria Nookemus)

Toad-ally Protecting the Frederick Lake Habitat

Since 2018, The Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot & Barkley Sound and Huu-ay-aht First Nations have been working together to protect the toad population at Frederick Lake. Over the years, they have taken steps together to protect important toad habitat close to the lake. When Wetland Stewards heard about the Bamfield Main Road Resurfacing Project, they saw another opportunity in protecting connections between habitats, the lake, and surrounding forests by installing wildlife tunnels.

Their first project was installing educational signs and temporary barriers to protect toadlets from being trampled on the north shore of the lake where they emerge in high numbers. Toadlets are baby toads that have just transformed from tadpoles. They come ashore, spend several weeks close to the water, then disperse into the surrounding forest. It is easy to trample them unintentionally because they are so tiny and difficult to see.

Wetland Stewards worked with Huu-ay-aht Lands and Natural Resources staff to design the educational signs for the site. Edward R. Johnson designed a welcoming sign for those visiting Huu-ay-aht traditional territory with encouragement to follow Huu-ay-aht sacred



Frog logo and sign designed by Edward R. Johnson

principles while visiting the site. The sacred principles are ʔiisaak (greater respect), ʔuuʔaʔuk (taking care of), Hišuk ma ʕawak (everything is one).

In 2021, Wetland Stewards and Huu-ay-aht First Nations took further steps together to protect the toadlets by installing permanent barriers, placing logs, and planting native vegetation. This took place at the end of the road that provides access to the water pump that supplies water to Poett Nook Marina and Sarita log sort. Huu-ay-aht First Nations provided a bobcat and operator (Don Prevost) and labourer (Alec Frank) for several days to complete this task. To further support the project, Huu-ay-aht Forestry LP provided concrete blocks, rocks, and gravel for the barriers. Stan Coleman (Forestry Advisor, Rocky Point Forest) provided time to help coordinate the delivery of those materials, and the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure provided the toadlet barrier material.

Planning for the toad tunnels under the Bamfield Main Forest Service Road began in spring of 2021. Toadlets get killed crossing the roads that surround Frederick Lake when they disperse into the surrounding forest. Adult toads get killed crossing the roads when they migrate back and forth to breed at the lake each spring.

To determine where toadlets and toads are in danger, former Huu-ay-aht staff, Katie Turner, conducted surveys to document locations where toads and other amphibians cross the Bamfield Main. Participants in these surveys were The Wetland Stewards trained technicians, the Huu-ay-aht Watershed Renewal Program staff, Huu-ay-aht Lands and Resources Department staff, and several volunteers from the community of Anacla and Bamfield.



Photo Credit: Barb Beasley

The surveys happened during the migration periods in spring 2021 and 2022 and fall 2021. They spent 14 rainy nights doing these surveys per period for a total of 42 nights. Crews walked 2 km on the Bamfield Main Forest Service Road starting at least one hour after sunset on those rainy nights. Each time they found an amphibian, they recorded the species, age, class, and sex. They used a GPS app on their phone to record the location. They also did surveys to find the main shoreline areas around the lake where adults laid eggs and where tadpoles congregated and transformed into toadlets. They did daytime surveys in the summer to find where toadlets crossed the road. They put cameras on the drainage channels at three existing culverts to capture photographs of the toadlets moving toward the road and through one of the existing culverts. They synthesized their findings with maps to pinpoint the best places for installing tunnels under the road. The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation provided partial funding to cover some of the Watershed Renewal Program technicians' time and mileage on the surveys. Most of the cost was covered by Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

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Working Together to Protect Toad Habitation

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Wetland Stewards worked with engineers at Parsons Corporation to design toad tunnels for the road. They investigated existing drainage culverts to see whether they had the potential to serve as passageways for toadlets. They also looked at provincial guidelines for tunnel structures that would work for adult toads. Using the location data collected on the night surveys, they chose the most concentrated locations for adult crossings as places to put two concrete box culverts. Three existing drainage culverts that occur in peak areas for toadlet dispersal were highlighted for repairs so that they can function for wildlife passages when not carrying water. This is usually the case when the toadlets are moving away from the lake in August and September; the driest time of

the year.

In 2021-2022, Huu-ay-aht contributed approximately \$10,000 for road surveys, shoreline surveys, barrier installation, and habitat restoration work.

In 2022-2023, it is estimated that Huu-ay-aht will contribute a similar amount for surveys, building fencing to the new culverts, and monitoring movements of toads through the culverts (approximately \$10,000 to the project). Huu-ay-aht will also make a substantial investment through the funding for resurfacing the road.

The Association of Wetlands Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds welcomes anyone who is keen to come out and volunteer. Please send an email to wetlandstewards@gmail.com.



Toad tunnel being installed (Photo by Barb Beasley)

Community Engagements - Save the Dates!

Huu-ay-aht First Nations staff are planning the upcoming Community Engagements. Please join us for a discussion about the Hišuk ma čawak Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) and amendments to the citizenship act.

We will have more details at a later time, but please save these dates:

- October 6 - Anacla
- October 18 - Port Alberni
- October 19 - Nanaimo
- November 1 - Vancouver
- November 2 - Victoria



House of Huu-ay-aht



HFN Group of Businesses

2022 Pachena Bay Music Festival a Success!



Laser lights in the trees
(Photo by Sarah Johnson)

The weekend of July 15 – 17, Pachena Bay Campground was alive with music, culture, and endless entertainment!

After working on various music festivals and events in the Comox Valley, Ben Howells moved to the Alberni Valley approximately five years ago to buy a home and raise a family with his wife. Ben spends much of his time working in tree planting, but he has a passion creating music festivals that reflect and honour the area where they take place. Ben and his wife were married on Bradey's Beach and fell in love with the area. It was from that personal event, that he had a vision of bringing a music festival to Pachena Bay.

In 2019, he presented the idea to the Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses and Huu-ay-aht's Executive Council. Both groups believed in his vision and supported the idea of a music festival at Pachena Bay

Campground.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 put the brakes on the festival for a couple of years. During that time, Ben turned his attention back to the tree planting industry, but the dream of a music festival in Pachena was never far from his mind.

Ben's dream became a reality this past July. He said this year's event was a good test to see how it worked in the location. He has hopes of making it an annual event and needed to make sure it honours Pachena Beach, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, and Bamfield. It is important to him that the people who live in the area have a say in what the festival looks like now and in the future.

Festival goers experienced a mixture of live music, hip hop, and DJs. Ben stressed that people should not see this as a big party, but as a camping trip with amazing entertainment.

"It's 60 per cent camping and 40 per cent music festival," Ben explained. "We are working with various members of the community to gather insight as to what will work well and what will not in this community."

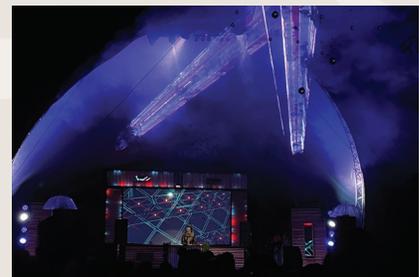
With that in mind, Ben focused on ensuring it was a safe, family-friendly event. JTF Canada Security was onsite all weekend, as well as a multi-layered harm reduction team and strategy. Most importantly an overall ethos that encourages

a balanced approach to celebration. The Bamfield Volunteer Fire Department, the health center, and the RCMP were all notified and invited to consult in any way they felt necessary.

Ben said the Pachena Bay Music festival was a great success. He would like to thank Huu-ay-aht First Nations for hosting the festivities on their land. He has confirmed with Huu-ay-aht Group of Businesses to host the event again in mid July 2023. He said he felt happy and honoured that so many locals came out and enjoyed the event. He hopes to see even more locals getting involved whether as vendors, crew, and/or performers and making it their own next year.

Ben and his crew look forward to refining some of the logistics and services on site and working side by side with the awesome campground staff to make this event something we can all be proud of.

Please feel free to contact Ben Howells at Long Shot Events if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for 2023 at longshoteventsinc@gmail.com or 250-650-5447. He would love to hear them all.



The stage (Photo by Sarah Johnson)

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