



Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation

TSAGA'LAM

December (to'yanx) 2015

News | Events | Updates

Gilakasla!

The Kwikwasut'inuxw
Haxwa'mis Chief and Council
and administration extend a
warm welcome to our fellow
Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis
members and hope that you



enjoy reading this first issue of "Tsaga'lam" our quarterly newsletter.

In this issue...

- Lands and Resources & Upcoming Projects
- Updates from Chief and Council
- Updates from Administration
- Annual Christmas Luncheon

Save the Date

KHFN Annual Christmas Luncheon

Date: Friday, December 18, 2015

Time: 12:00pm

Location: The Legion
@ Alert Bay



Welcome to the home of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis

Gwa'yas'dums

The main village site of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis is located at Gwa'yas'dums (Gilford Island), which is approximately 382 square kilometres (147 sq mi).

Gwa'yas'dums is an island located between Tribune Channel and Knight Inlet.



In addition to Gwa'yas'dums, we have been blessed with a beautiful territory, which includes several other village sites of the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis:

- **Ahta:** located at mouth of the Ohta River, on Bond South, on Tribune Channel, North of Gilford
- **Alalco:** located at the mouth of the Wakeman River at the north end of Wakeman Sound
- **Dakiulis:** at the tip of Islet Point on the Westside of Gilford Island
- **Dug-da-myse:** on the West Shore of Wakeman Sound
- **Kakweken:** at the mouth of the Kakweken River at the head of Thompson Sound off of Tribune Channel

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- **Kye-Yaa-la:** is at Sail Island in Retreat Passage, West of Gilford Island (including the smaller off-shore islands)
- **Kyidagwis:** located on the Westerly shore of Wakeman Sound, Kingcome Inlet
- **Kyimla:** at Trafford Point, East of Gilford Island
- **Meetup:** at the head of Viner Sound, Gilford Island.

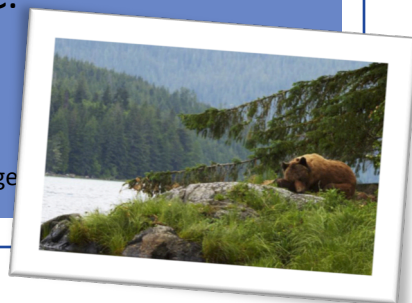


Wakeman Sound & Grizzly Bears

Wakeman Sound is home to our treasured grizzly bears and black bears, which can often be spotted feeding on salmon along the river and deltas. These bears have an important and sacred role in the cultural and spiritual life of the Kwakwaka'wakw peoples.

The estuaries of Wakeman Sound Knight Inlet and Kingcome Inlet have been closed to activities such as Grizzly Bear hunting because of the vulnerability of Grizzly Bears in these largely open estuaries where the bears are exposed to high visibility. Glendale Cove in Knight Inlet is one of the most recognized Grizzly Bear viewing areas in BC.

*Photo credit: Knight Inlet Lodge



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These areas are ideal settings for peaceful, non-intrusive bear viewing opportunities. The Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation is currently exploring options for developing viewing stations up the Wakeman River for the purposes of eco-tourism. This is an exciting economic development opportunity for our Nation to showcase the un-paralleled beauty of our territory and its rich natural resources. More information is provided below in the Forestry Update section. As work progresses on this initiative, Chief and Council will work to keep members informed. If you have any questions or would like to offer input, Please don't hesitate to contact the band office.

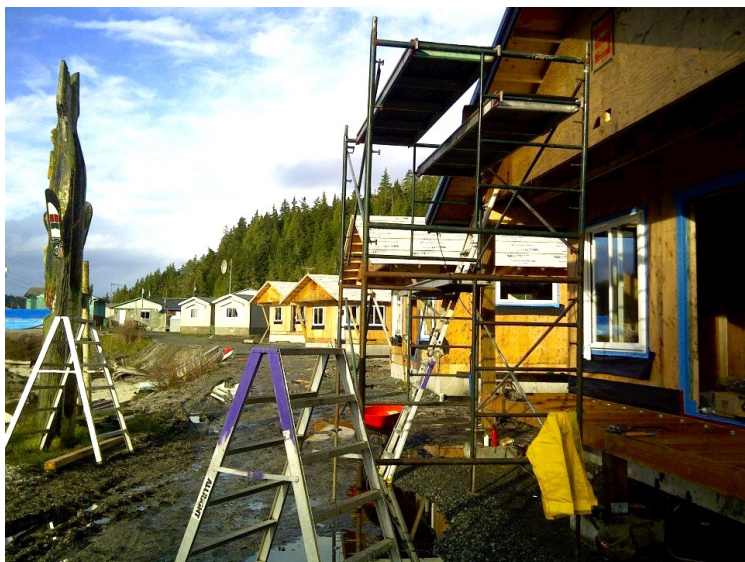
*Grizzly Bears at Knights Inlet
Photo Credit: Knight Inlet Lodge



MAJOR UPCOMING PROJECTS

It has been an exciting and busy time at Gwa-yas-dums!

Over the past five years, the main village has been undergoing significant redevelopment with a number of capital projects on the go.



*Photo of construction of new homes at Gwa-yas-dums.

We have undertaken the construction of new homes, we have a new water treatment facility and most recently, we have completed the restoration of the Gyuwxdzi.

We're excited to provide updates on several new upcoming projects in the village.

A NEW COMMUNITY KITCHEN

In restoring the Bighouse we have received project funding from the Island Coastal Economic Trust.



We undertook work to restore our 100 + year old Bighouse to its original state guided by the goal of preserving its history. The restoration was so extensive that the houseposts were the only original remaining component, with the rest of the Guwk'dzi being completely rebuilt. The hole in the roof and dirt floor have been re-established and traditional design (whales) were painted on the front of the house based on archival photographs of our village.

This restoration project was consistent with our approved Comprehensive Community Plan. We are proud to have this beautiful building restored for the enjoyment of all Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis members and our guests. Our Gyuwxdzi provides a safe and appropriate place for our culture to continue to flourish. The second phase of this work includes the construction of a new community kitchen to be built next to the Gyuwxdzi. Work on initial design exploration of the new kitchen has begun. We are committed to conducting our business in an economically responsible manner. Therefore, we continue to work on securing the required funding to carry out the construction work. We are working hard to secure the funds to begin this



much needed kitchen in late 2016. As work progresses, we will provide updates as available.

This will be an exciting addition to our Gyuwxdzi!

*Photo of rebuilt Gyuwxdzi

NEW HOUSING SUBDIVISION

Currently, Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis is working with a double-subsidy for a total of 26 new homes. To date, we have built 12 new homes and we are seeking to build 8 more in 2016.

Further, Chief and Council are working toward building 4 additional new homes, targeted for 2017. We are also in the process of developing a business plan to provide funding for the remaining 2 homes of the 26 to be constructed in 2018.

Continuing to meet the direction of Community members has been a challenge. We are extremely proud that our First Nations is doing all that it can to ensure a Mortgage payment of \$250 is realized. This has demanded that our First Nation provide a considerable subsidy for the building of each new home. Continuing this form of subsidy will continue to be a major piece of work for leadership.

The demolition of old homes in the village will commence in the new-year and then we can see the realization of 8 more homes. It is truly exciting to know that within a 12-year span that our village will have potentially build 24 new homes.

All of the work to date has been guided by and continues to be guided by the Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP).



UPDATES FROM CHIEF AND COUNCIL

It has been six months since the election of Chief and Council. As a council we have been busy exploring current issues, challenges, work planning and identifying opportunities for progress.

As with any new organizational role, there is a learning curve to overcome and a great deal of information to process. Our Council has been working diligently to develop a collective understanding of existing community, economic and political plans for our Nation. To this end, in October 2015 our Council participated in a weekend team-building retreat at which each member explored and identified individual visions and ideas for moving forward with respective portfolios.

Update from Chief Councillor Robert Chamberlin (Portfolios: Health & Economic Development)

Gilakasla Namwyut and sending you best wishes for this upcoming holiday season.

I am excited to be a part of this first Quarterly Newsletter. I look forward to this continuing as a key means of communication & updates to you our Membership.

I would like to begin by thanking both Sandy Johnson and Herb Chamberlin for their efforts as previous Band Council membership for a good number of years and successes. I must recognize you two for your vision and efforts that has contributed to taking our village to where it is today.

New Band Council

I have been working hard to bring our New Council up to speed on a very wide range of issues & topics. Much of the information was new for all but I remain confident that the key understanding is now firmly in place for the new Band Council to advance our First Nation on many fronts.

Territorial Discussions

As a First Nation we have found ourselves in an exceptionally difficult position with various Government processes and the intrusion of neighbouring First Nations within our territory. The solution is multi-layered and work continues. Areas such as Land Use Planning, Marine Use Planning & Conservancy Management continue to be tables crowded by our neighbours and brings others into our territories. Solutions are complicated and various actions put the Province into question about disregard for us and relying upon those incursions of others & agreements they have signed with them.

Health - Social Determinants

Social Determinants is a regional issue being brought forward by the First Nation Health Council (FNHC) and is nested within the Tripartite Health Agreement. Addressing Social Determinants of Health touches on virtually every level of community wellness, governance for a First Nation, far

beyond health programs. We would do well to approach this collectively as Musgamagw-Dzawadaenuxw peoples and develop our views to be advanced through FNHC processes.

Province & First Nations

The Province of BC hosted a 2nd Annual meeting with First Nations & the BC Caucus. Building on September 11, 2014 meeting, the 4 Commitments tabled were incorporated into a draft “Commitment Document” as a means to advance Reconciliation between First Nations and the Province. This document can be obtained by a quick google-search for First Nation BC Commitment Document. We must also be aware that the Provincial Government has made statements & taken clear steps to engage First Nations with other approaches to advance components of Treaty-process work. These initiatives must be understood & we must be ready to engage our interests. Failing this, we will witness our neighbours making further agreements that affect our position at tables where we seek to speak to our territories.

Federal Government

The early signals from the new Liberal Government (set out in their election platform, various communiqués) are encouraging. This could very well be the opportunity we have sought to seek reconciliation with Canada. For us to be successful we must organize ourselves & commit ourselves to some very serious work as the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis & Musgamagw-Dzawadaenuxw in building our vision of reconciliation for our Nations.

Update from Councillor Rick Johnson

(Portfolio: Fisheries)

Merry Christmas family and friends of beloved Gwa-yas-dums!

Fisheries: Thanks for your support in the last election. I am very honoured and pleased to have your support and confidence. My portfolio is fisheries, as most of you know I have grown-up on the working-side of the fishing industry. I remember when we use to have double-digit boats dock down at wharf. I fished with Uncle Beef back then. We would leave Gwa-yas-dums in June after June sports, of course Go Breakers Go, lol. We would travel to Rivers Inlet to fish sockeye. We all lived in a place called, Goose Bay Cannery for the whole summer. This was the start of my fishing career. I am still doing the same thing today, fished 30 plus years with Bruce Lansdowne on his boat, good partner along with my bro DJ.

PICFI & AFS: now as a Councillor representing KHFN on the political side, it is much different understanding how DFO relates to our people is challenging for all of us. We get funding through PICFI (Pacific Integrated Commercial Fisheries Initiative) prawn licenses, herring license, salmon licenses, etc, all come from PICFI. We also get funding from AFS (Aboriginal Fishing Strategy), which funds clam survey, ooli and herring surveys.

CFE: I believe the funding for AFS is 185k, MDTC handles federal funded fisheries activities. Also, right now we are setting up CFE (Commercial Fishing Enterprise), which funded my PICFI. Our

board should be up and running by the new yr. This board will take care of all the business related to our licenses, potential for gear purchases and boats could be negotiated through this.

PICFI was suppose to end this year, but two more hours of funding has become available, so there is a lot of work for MDTC CFE development. In closing PICFI priorities our fish management and First Nation capacity, before DFO and the federal government our people manage our fisheries for thousands of years, this is nothing new.

Again, Merry Christmas and Happy New Yr. See you all at the X-mas luncheon, Gilakasla! Rick Johnson

Update from Councillor Robert Scow (Portfolios: MDTC, Forestry & Gigame/Hereditary Chiefs)

Warmest holiday wishes extended to all our Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis Members. It is quickly approaching 6 months since our election and I want to extend my sincerest thanks to the support I have received from our members who voted, and not just the members who cast a ballot for me, but for all those who participated, because it is important to vote. I have been given the responsibility to help link our Hereditary leadership with our now newly elected leadership and this task has been daunting, thus far, we have been unable to make much progress in joining the two tables.

Gigame/Hereditary Leadership & Elected Leadership

Developing a framework for hereditary and elected leadership will greatly assist in our ability to deal with land/resource and industry issues. It is in our best interest as a nation to link these two tables to have a strong united front using our best assets in both traditional and contemporary worlds. Our Hereditary Leaders represent families and our lands are tied to our families, this is our ideal goal moving forward. Once we have established our hereditary leaders and help sort out that table, than we feel this type of leadership will be more inclusive of all our peoples. We wish to seek participation of all of our members, including those living in urban centers. We have the *Indian Act* created divide of on reserve / off reserve dilemma. With instilling our Hereditary Leadership, linking our families will hopefully help unite our once proud tribes.

In early October during Thanksgiving long weekend, a meeting of some of our Elders took place in Alert Bay, this was a step in giving our Hereditary Chiefs some direction as to what we the elders who attended wanted to see from our traditional governance. Fellow Councillor Rick Johnson and I sit at both tables, and Rick has done the work to step into his role as a Hereditary Chief, it was identified that other Hereditary Chiefs would help support our up and coming Chiefs to help fill their seats and roles in our traditional governance.

The steps and processes: processes to fulfill the responsibilities of heads of our families have been identified and in the near future with help, support and encouragement, we can re institute our customary leadership to meld with our newly elected leadership. ***This is something that all members of our elected leadership has been working to support (both in public forums and behind the scences).*** Also, many members and families are eager to begin this process and support it, I hope everyone takes the initiative to have their voice and opinion heard, so we can all feel included in this newly instituted process. Our *Indian Act* regulated elected system, only gets about half our membership out to vote, we hope our attempt at a new system incorporating families and our Hereditary system to co exist with our elected system can involve much more membership.

With the world continuing to move on and industry and population growing at rapid rates, we feel it is important to demonstrate that we as Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis are still here, and occupy our lands and territories. More importantly, anyone wishing to do business in our territories must be aware that we have our say with what happens in our 5400 square km of territory. From our perspective, we have clearly heard from membership that no other entity, organization or one single family is authorized to speak on our behalf, or speak to anything concerning what has always collectively belonged to us.

Forestry

I have been given the task of learning about our Forestry. It has been a new endeavor, and I have sought the expertise of our very own Andrea Lyall, who has made a fabulous career in the forestry field. Andrea she is a PHD student at UBC and is an operational professional forester. Her invaluable skills in this field have helped me learn many things about the industry. I had no prior knowledge before taking on this position. Andrea and her husband Keith Atkinson (CEO of First Nations Forestry Council) have also shared with me their experience in the field and background of how industry works. I have been in and around the forestry industry all my life (my dad and older brothers have all spent time in the bush) as have many of our village members. Growing up in CR as I did, many of my friends, families have been involved in Mac and Bloie and other industry names that have logged all around our territories for a century now. So, despite being surrounded by it, I had little knowledge of some of the technicalities of the entire process. Our Chief Bob Chamberlin has also been a valuable resource. He has shared with me many documents and background information as to where we currently situate ourselves as Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis members.

Today, the Province of BC forces us as Indigenous peoples to prove our link to the lands and particularly the forests. Us as KHFN members evolving from Tsekame (our first ancestor, being a transformative Cedar man with supernatural powers), our title and rights stem from our creation story of how we became who we are today.

Incorporating Traditional Knowledge: Through a number of conversations with Andrea and her husband, we have engaged in a running dialogue that joins her knowledge gained from her professional work with my knowledge of our custom and traditions, which has been helpful in forming approaches to forestry issues. Our relationship to the lands would allow the beginning of a culturally relevant framework for forest governance. Our goal has been to join our Hereditary Leadership with our Elected Leadership to form a united team, so we can then find a way to use our knowledge and connection to our land in engaging with forest industry representatives, the government of BC and other stakeholders.

Andrea's idea is to incorporate our own ways of dealing with timber and forestry, and change the paradigm by applying traditional knowledge system paradigm in her own studies in pursuit of her PHD. We engaged in short seasonal jobs in the industry with some financial return to our people, this however used a high amount of resources to negotiate and implement the forest tenure and consultation process.

Lastly, in the early part of the summer we met with some representatives from Interfor, which was coordinated by Sandy Johnson and we are still in the stages of conducting meaningful consultation with them. Our community will be updated as to the latest developments with Interfor as they happen. In addition, we have to deal with a number of forestry and land issues in our territory. Issues arising from dealings of a particular family making assertions in our territory, as well as other overlap concerns that arise from government business. It is pitting us against our neighbours. Ideally, once our HC table is more functional, perhaps this would help rectify these situations.

Great Bear Rainforest: Further, our HC table may assist on other global issues in our Musgamagw Dzawadaneux territories (which are considered to be the southern part of what is now called the Great Bear Rainforest, that comprises close to 6.4 million hectares). Currently, provincial law will significantly influence what occurs in the Great Bear Rainforest and will definitely influence how logging takes place in the area. To enable this process, a law will be passed sometime in the first half of 2016, after some consultation with First Nations, which must include us.

This planning process differs in a negative way for us as Bakwam in an important way; land use planning had previously involved all stakeholders and First Nations. Previously, consensus-based land use plans were developed. The change from the approach of consensus-based planning will affect us. If we organize ourselves and look to utilize key principles from the SCC *Tsilhqot'in* decision (June 2015), we can exercise our inherent Aboriginal rights and title and require recognition in any planning process.

In this context, the need and urgency of work to assist our Hereditary Chiefs table in uniting us and creating a collective approach to decision-making is paramount. It would help if each of us made efforts to better understand the issues we face. If we are changing from elected leadership to a tandem-style leadership with HC 's, we must all understand the implications and collectively have a say on the framework.



I can appreciate that the issues regarding lands, resource decision-making and a blended governing structure may seem overwhelming and confusing, but through a time, commitment and enthusiasm to learn we can get it accomplished. I believe the intended purpose of the GBRO is to have increased parks, less logging to protect old growth and to protect grizzly bears. We as Bakwam might have less say in the various processes. I have been working closely with Bob Chamberlin, Andrea Lyall, Keith Atkinson and Scott Rodger to better understand forestry issues. I will work to keep the membership updated on initiatives and any key decisions that need to be made.

Other Engagements

In my new role as a Councillor, I have attended meetings with Union of BC Indian Chiefs, as well as First Nations Summit. Further, I attended the Premier, Cabinet and First Nations gathering. At these forums, I always try to converse with other nations as much as I can to learn their similar concerns and approaches they have been involved in. I try to keep my communication lines open with the networking I have done because these are learning processes for me.

Any questions about forestry or any other council questions, I am always free for conversation, Gilakasla, Wedlidi (Robert Scow)

Update from Councillor Tamara Alfred

(Portfolios: Sasamans/Children & Families & Education)

Councillor Tamara Alfred has recently been elected to Council. She brings good energy, a strong commitment to learning and starts her term in elected office by taking on two key portfolios, education and children and families. There is a lot of information to absorb and Tamara is working diligently on her portfolios.

Children & Families: Tamara works closely with Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis administration to familiarize herself with program and service issues for our children, young people and families. In particular, she has been focusing on learning about our working partnership with Sasamans Society to address issues impacting children and families that engage with MCFD.

Education: Tamara has also recently become an executive member of the local school district's local education agreement.

UPDATE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Administrative Report



I'm Jeneen Hunt. It has been a busy six months, with Chief and Council, I would like to say a special thank you to our previous Chief and Council for all the work they did in setting out the goals in the areas of Governance, Housing and the plans in the Comprehensive Community Plan that gave direction for our New Chief and Council to continue the great work that they are doing.

Our new Chief and Council that have started their new term, my hands out to each and every one of you in getting in there and setting your goals and portfolios and getting to work in each of your areas. Chief and Council have been very busy these last few months in Council meetings, holding a Governance Session, a two-day strategy session, and then recently having our Community Meeting in Gwa-yas-dums to go over the audit and update the community in what each Chief and Council member have been doing.

Proposal Development: In the New Year, I prepared a number of proposals to support our Nation's activities. In particular, we focused on the areas of Housing, Professional and Institutional Development, NVIATS, and Clean Energy Funds, in addition to our regular annual proposals that submit through NCB, Family Violence and Health proposals. We are also preparing a proposal this year through AANDC for updating our Emergency Management Plan.

We have had a very busy year making best use of our regular funding dollars, along with pursuing a variety of funding proposals, some of which will be finalized by March 2016.

BCCI Initiative – Strategy Development: in addition, we have secured the BCCI initiative. We would like to thank you Dawn Nicholson at the Tribal Council office for your assistance in writing this proposal and to Chief and Council for reviewing, commenting on and supporting the proposal. With this funding, we are working to develop a strategy (the BCCI team and the researchers) on how our elected Chief and Council and our Hereditary Chiefs will work together. We look forward to seeing this initiative develop and productive work that we anticipate to come out of this project.

Staff Training and Education: during September and October 2015 we were very fortunate to engage in staff training on the following issues: Lateral Violence, Confidentiality, and Privacy Training for all staff. Members of the Nation were also invited to participate in these education initiatives. Let's learn "**Lateral Kindness** – Pay It Forward – Just Do it!"

Housing Policy: this year, we have prioritized the development of a Housing Policy for the Nation. A draft housing policy will be posted in December 2015 on our Nation's website and on the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis Facebook site. When it is posted, Members are invited to review the draft policy and provide comments/feedback to the Administration by email by the end of January 2016. Please email comments/input to jhunt@khfn.ca.

Maintenance Workshops: we have been working with CMHC to provide Maintenance Workshops to meet our needs in the Village. We will be setting dates for these workshops in the new year. We will advise as they are available.

It has been a busy year for Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis, but also very exciting. We are growing and building capacity in the Nation and look forward to a promising and productive future.





My name is Sandy Johnson, I am the Forestry Coordinator. In this role I have many activities and tasks that I manage and address. Our Forestry department is consistently busy. As the Forestry Coordinator, I am responsible for monitoring cut block sites and the intake and management of referrals that come to our Nation. I review these referrals and prepare recommendations for Chief and Council to consider. In particular, I review referrals from BC Timber Sales (BCTS) on proposed cutting blocks. Currently, Chief and Council review referrals and related documents and make determinations for actions. However, Chief and Council are looking to revamp the process of referrals to work within the structure of the Hereditary Chiefs. I also work closely with INTERFOR to ensure that our Kwikwasut'inuxw band members are retained to do engineer work.

Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA): In some cases, a group called, SOURCES conducts AIA work in our territory. Further, culturally modified trees (CMTs) are identified and recorded in the various cutting blocks. We prepare reports on CMTs and forward to Chief and Council for review and decision regarding protection measures.

Seawall Project: I work with Blaire Iverson (INTERFOR) to develop a better understanding of the amount of blasted rock that is available for the Seawall project. We are working to develop a plan for placement and length/extension of the Seawall. At some point, we will be retaining the services of an engineer to assist in the design of the seawall, boardwalk and gazebos.

Saw Mill: We have been working with FP INNOVATION'S, Blaire Iverson and Rhiannon Poupard (INTERFOR) to set up a saw mill at Gwa-yas-dums in an attempt to better meet our needs in the village. For example, the mill could provide materials for the boardwalk gazebos, materials for carving of band members' crests to include on the boardwalk and potentially one large gathering space (outdoor gazebo) for community dinners, cultural gatherings. Further, consistent with the CCP and needs of community members, we require materials to build a community smokehouse, new picnic benches.

Community funding: we are also working on identifying and pursuing funding opportunities from INTERFOR for calendars, Little Breakers Soccer Team, drum-making kits. Further, INTERFOR is considering options for members of the Breakers Soccer Club to do small work projects for INTERFOR or BCTS as a fundraising initiative.

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The Haliwud: The Haliwud is our 29-foot 12-passenger Daigle Crew Boat water taxi. It has been a very successful and a welcome addition to our Nation. Recently, we have reached an agreement with INTERFOR that they will retain the services of our water taxi, Haliwud, for some of their business trips and for transporting our band member engineering crews out to work sites. Currently, we are working out the administrative details. If you would like to make a booking or inquire about rates, please call or text (25) 974-8183 or email: jhunt@khfn.ca



Community Education, Jobs & Summer Students: I have been working with Blair Iverson and Rhiannon Poupard to secure summer student employment opportunities at INTERFOR to provide interested students with an opportunity to obtain work experience in the forestry industry. Further, we are working with INTERFOR to explore education-training opportunities for our band members. We will keep you updated as this initiative progresses. Further, we have been speaking with BRINKMAN & ASSOCIATES (Timo Schearber) about the creation of job opportunities for our Nation members.

Grizzly Bear Watching: working with INTERFOR (Blair Iverson & Rhiannon Poupard) to set up Grizzly Bear watching towers in Wakeman Sound as a ecotourism opportunity for the Nation. We have also engaged in discussions on securing funding to secure a Grizzly Bear Design (T-shirts, business cards, etc). Further, we seeking funding for Grizzly Bears guide-training, to understand tour requirements and transportation needs (boats/trucks/bus). Additionally, we are exploring the viability of future sights for more towers in the territory. This is an exciting initiative and we will keep you updated as work progresses.

Cultural Logs: working on securing cultural logs from INTERFOR and BCTS to meet the needs of our comprehensive community plan. Also, we have received YEW wood from BCTS for cultural use.



Shake Blocks: in initial exploratory discussions with Jim Turnbull about the possibility of carrying out shake blocking on Gilford Island.

Operations & Maintenance Report & Administration Assistant Updates

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The Operations and Maintenance Department consists of three staff, me (Herb Chamberlin), Dave Johnson and Chris Johnson.

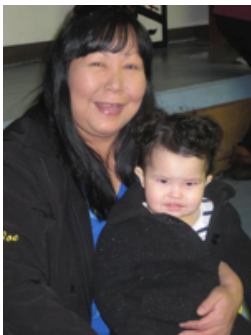


I have been working for the Nation for the past 13 years as the Operations and Maintenance Supervisor. My position has evolved over the years and I also currently serve as the Office Assistant, in addition to my role as the Operation and Maintenance Supervisor.

Dave runs our generators and water treatment building and delivers supplies and groceries. Further, Dave assists with the fuel barge and manages our garbage services. Chris looks after general maintenance on band buildings and homes when needed, and carries out grounds maintenance around the village.

It has been a busy time for the Operations and Maintenance Department. This summer we engaged in training in the village, which included education to obtain our W.H.M.I.S tickets. Chris Johnson is also scheduled to attend upcoming education courses with the aim of becoming certified to operate the water treatment facility, which is up and running. Recently, the band also upgraded the generators to more effectively manage the village's power supply demand. What makes these interesting is that the three new generators are water-cooled engines and equipped with an auto-filling oil system, as well as burning the old used oil in the new system.

Social Development & Community Health Representative Updates



Hello, my name is Jo-Ann Smith and I work for the Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation, as a Social Development worker and as the interim Community Health Representative.

This past year, First Nations Social Development Society funding was cut 100% on September 30, 2015. Just by way of background, for the past 15 years, the FNSDS have been providing support and training services to Band Social Workers for all 203 First Nations, fielding over 6,000 policy clarification questions and 200 training seats. AANDC ended funding, placing first nations staff into the unemployment line. We would like to see funding restored to this much needed organization.

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Turning to my roles and responsibilities, I have been tasked with organization of workshops for the community. In doing so, when possible, I hire our own people to serve as facilitators. Generally, following a workshop we host a potluck meal at the Gyuwxdzi.

Recently, we were fortunate to have Sherry Wadhams facilitate a workshop on traditional medicine and a wonderful workshop on massage. We also had Roberta Wildman carry out a healing massage session, combined with a session on healthy eating. This resulted in dialogue about the possibility of created a fenced-in community garden consisting of raised beds (winter keepers).

Building on traditional approaches, Dawn Cranmer recently facilitated another session on traditional medicines. Participants walked through the village and surrounding areas with Dawn to identify trees and herbal medicines. Participants also learned how to make Devil's Club tea, Spruce Oil, Spruce Balm. Traditional herbal teas are great for the inner body, while spruce is great for all kinds of chronic pain such as arthritis, and all joint pains, skin conditions (e.g. eczema, psoriasis), scrapes, cuts, bug bites, and rashes. These sessions were very informative and it was fun to participate in ongoing learning.

This past summer, we focused on teaching our kids about the territories and surroundings. Our kids travelled to Echo Bay for a summer picnic and an afternoon of swimming. Though it is very different there now without the school, our kids enjoyed their visit.

Upcoming Workshops

Community Garden: Roberta Wildman suggested that Dirk Becker is available to conduct the workshop on starting the community garden, building cold frames and best practices for harvesting and keep vegetables over the winter season. This step will assist us in creating sustainable living.

Healing Massage: Raven Johnson will be conducting another session on healing massage.



Christmas Crafts: Dawn Cranmer again but this time she will teach how to make wreaths.



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Health

We have a number of First Responders available to provide care for emergent community needs. First Responders provide critical and necessary services, as we are an isolated community. Gwa-yas-dums is only accessible by water taxi, plane or Air Ambulance in emergencies and a medical doctor generally comes to the village only twice a month, every two weeks. During the times when the doctor is in the village, we have healthy foods luncheon prepared for the team, as well as the patients.

Further, we also have a Community Health Nurse, John Rushforth who comes into the village at least 3 times through out the month. During his visits, he provides foot care, flu shots, wound dressings and house calls. As has been our practice, a number of our ladies recently travelled to Port McNeill for mammograms, which is an important element of health care and is done every couple of years.

On the training front, during July to September 2015, NVIATS was in the village to provide various training. NVIATS provided Food Safe, Customer Service, Barista, Serving-it-right, WHMIS Complete Food Safe, SIR Exams, Computer Fundamentals, True Colors, Internet/Email Cashier and POS-Employability, Skills/Resume and Computer review training. These sessions were a huge success, with a number of people participating in the training and these opportunities for learning were a lot of fun!

Building on our efforts to make health food choices a priority, our community members receive a healthy food-box in the middle of each month, which consists of fresh fruit & vegetables. This initiative is very beneficial for us, especially in light of the high cost of fresh fruits and vegetables. Our community members appreciate this so much.

Upcoming Health Initiatives

Update of Emergency Plan: during the week of November 23-26th we will receive training provided by Marc D'aquino to assist us in updating our Emergency Plan.

These are just a few activities planned and we welcome community ideas for future workshops!



ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Christmas is around the corner, so it's time to start thinking about our annual Christmas luncheon!

Last year's annual Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis community Christmas luncheon was a great success.

Community members gathered together for a turkey lunch, Santa showed up to hand out presents to our cherished *sasam* and songs were shared.

Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis staff has been working hard to plan this year's Christmas luncheon. There will be presents for the kids, as well as door prizes. Overall, everyone from Gwa-yas-dums looks forward to the Christmas luncheon because it is a nice opportunity to visit with family who live in the Bay. It's a time to rejoice and get into the Christmas spirit. We would like to extend a warm invitation to you to attend this year's luncheon and wish a Merry Christmas every one! The luncheon details are as follows:

Date: Friday, December 18, 2015

Time: 12:00pm

Location: The Legion @ Alert Bay, BC



Wishing you a peaceful, joyful
and safe holiday season.

Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis
Chief and Council and administration



If you would like to contribute an article
for the next quarterly newsletter, please
send your submissions to jhunt@khfn.ca
no later than Monday, February 15,
2016.

