



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 5

WWNI Convocation



The sixteenth convocation of Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a was held on May 31 at the Gitwinksihlkw Tsoohl Tsap Memorial Centre. Twenty-seven students were recognized for their achievements. Attendees were entertained by the Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School Choir and the NESS Senior Band. Guest speakers included Dr. John MacDonald, Chancellor of the University of Northern BC (UNBC), Dr. George Iwama, President of UNBC, Dr. Denise Henning, President of Northwest Community College and Dr. Irving K. Barber of the Irving K. Barber Foundation located on the UBC campus. Photos are available at www.nnkn.ca Those wanting a copy of a portrait photo will be able to get a high resolution file they can use to make prints from the WWNI office starting Monday June 6. Please bring a flash drive with you.

Degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded include:
Master of Arts: Allison Nyce, Master of Business Administration: Alvin Azak, Bachelor of Arts: Marsha Spencer, Bachelor of Education: Kimi Hisanaga, Jill Squires, Bachelor of Science (Nursing): Amy Nyce, Bachelor of Science (Natural Resources Management

– Wildlife and Fisheries) Niva Percival, Degree of Social Work: Rhonda Stephens, First Nations Language – Nisga'a Certificate: Teresa Azak, General First Nations Studies Certificate: Marsha Spencer, Diploma in Business Administration (General Management): Bonita Young-Mercer, Special Education Assistant Certificate: Eleanor Bright, Colleen Davis, Interdisciplinary Access Business Level 1: Duncan Moore, Interdisciplinary Access Careers Level 1: Crystal Collison, Chantelle Stephens, Pauline Stewart, Jessica Watts, Interdisciplinary Access Careers Level 2: Alvin-Lee McKay, Interdisciplinary Access Health Level 1: Micheal Morgan, Interdisciplinary Access Professional Cook: Ivan Moore, Nicole Sampare, Interdisciplinary Access Trades: William Clayton, Colin Moore, Graham Moore, Cheryl Sampare, Jolene Sampare, Trent Stephens

Nisga'a Language Retreat



Elders have always been the custodian of the language & culture on behalf of the Nisga'a Nation. The Heritage and Language Preservation Society hosted an elder's retreat the week of June 7 & 8. I was asked to do a short

Continued on Page 4

Diks'angiik Bridge Replacement



Replacement of Diks'angiik Bridge will begin in early July 2011 revealed Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI). Diks'angiik Bridge lies on village lands. The project is expected to be tendered in June and a detour temporary bridge is scheduled to be in place in July. Construction is scheduled for August and September with de-mobilization expected October. There will be a one-day road closure scheduled in August. Coordination will be done with the Laxgalts'ap Village Government prior to notices going out on the one-day closure. A notice will also be posted on the Drive BC website.

Seabridge Gold Information Sessions

About 30 people attended the Seabridge Gold information session at the Gitlaxt'aamiks Recreation Centre on Monday, June 13, 2011 from 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm. After a presentation by Seabridge Gold on the company profile, the mine location, the transportation route for the extraction, the life of the mine, the environmental impacts of the extraction the rest of the information session was for questions and concerns. There were questions about the size of the tailings pond, the mine's impact on the environment, whether they would come back do an update session and about the short notice given on the information session. Brochures, one page handouts on the different jobs that would be available and numerous floor standing displays were also available for viewing.

From 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, the information session was held in Gitwinksihlkw at the village government chamber.

On Monday, June 20, 2011 an information session will be held at the Laxgalts'ap Village Government Administration Building from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

In Gingolx at the Gingolx Church Army Hall from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm also on Monday, June 20. Refreshments will be provided at both sessions.

Please attend and learn more about Seabridge Gold and to share your interest, expertise and knowledge. If you can't attend, email your questions to community@seabridgegold.net or phone (250) 847-4704.

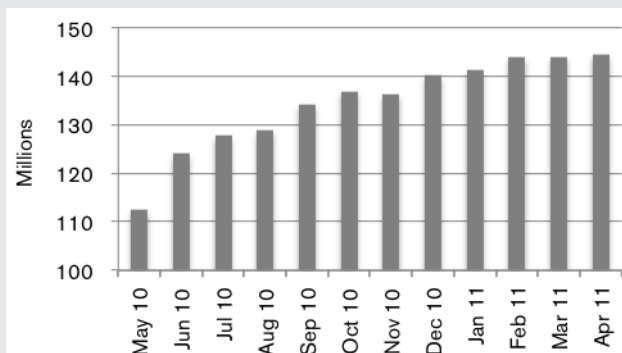


Settlement Trust

The value of the settlement trust at the end of April 2011 was 144,352,937. This is an increase of 392,960 (0.3%) over the month.

Over the past year the trust has earned a total of \$18,538,365 in interest.

An investment of \$13.2 million was made in the trust in June 2010.



Tseax Boat Launch Upgrade



Since spring of this year representatives from NLG, BC Parks, DFO, design/engineering and environmental consultants have been working on plans to upgrade the Tseax boat launch. The boat launch would need to be closed for construction during peak recreation and food fishery season and traffic redirected to Old Aiyansh Launch site. BC Parks plans on putting up signs for bear concerns and public education. BC Parks is funding the whole project and DFO is responsible for permits and regulations. Construction is scheduled for late summer. NLG representatives would also like to see improvements made to the access road.

Electronics Common Core Graduate Adrienne Nisyok Celebrates National Aboriginal Day

June 21st is a special day of acknowledgement for all aboriginal people. For Adrienne Nisyok, it's a celebration of the journey of aboriginal people and efforts to achieve advanced education instrumental to achieving a balanced life. She is a proud member of the Nisga'a Nation from the remote community of Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyansh) located in Northwest BC. Although she has primarily resided in the beautiful community of Gitlaxt'aamiks, her heritage is also rooted with Haisla and Tsimshian ancestry.

Adrienne has worked as a Journeyman Electrician for more than nine years (receiving her credentials from Thompson Rivers University), and from those years she has observed significant changes in her field – one rapidly advancing in electronics and technology. She entered the Electronics Technician Core program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) this year

to expand on her skills and knowledge with the intent to broaden her employment opportunities. Adrienne's decision to attend BCIT was motivated by her father who attended the institute and received his Electrical Journeyman Red Seal ticket in 1978.

Adrienne discovered as a young aboriginal female working in a trade commonly dominated by individuals of the male gender, she is a role model to not only Nisga'a students, but to aboriginal men and women. She has had the most gracious opportunity to address the Nisga'a graduating class of 2003, and more recently an intermediate class in a remote aboriginal community in the north coast, encouraging them to seek advanced education. Like many aboriginal students in remote communities, she graduated from a very small school; this did not however, limit her opportunities, desire and persistence to achieve her goal. She is a testament that

Continued on Page 4

Nisga'a Museum Hours & Fees

June 21 - September 5

Open 7 days a week 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Free for children under 5 & Seniors over 60

Scheduled tours available

Children 6 - 17: \$5.00 Adults: \$8.00 Family: \$22.00

At the Museum Gift Store we accept credit & debit cards. Parking is available.

Contact:

Nisga'a Museum

PO Box 300, 810 Highway Drive, Laxgalts'ap, BC
V0J 1X0

Phone: (250) 633-3050

Email: nisgaamuseum@nisgaa.net

For more information: www.nisgaamuseum.ca

Copper Shield Award Angela Mercer



Nisga'a Language Retreat (continued from Page 1)

presentation on what the importance of the language to the young people. I want to encourage the citizens of the Nisga'a Nation to take their role in continuing the teachings within the homes. Every day our language needs to be a practice within the homes, on the streets, and in the schools. One of the messages that I heard loud and clear was that teachings of the language is not just a school district issue but a nation issue. We need to learn the language so we can follow in the footsteps of our ancestors. Ultimately, learning and understanding the deep rooted meanings inherited by the language & culture. I would like to thank School District for giving me the opportunity to be involved and I would like to express to those who have taken the time to listen, speak and mentor me the gratitude of thanks, I am truly enjoying being a part of the exciting movement that is happening today. Dimsingit daxyukwhl lip wilaa loom'- we maintain our own way of life, nuum k'aylimksit- we the younger generations.

Submitted by Kimberly Azak, Casual, YOY Coordinator

The Northwest Branch of BC Association of Social Workers held its Copper Shield Ceremony at UNBC in Terrace. More than forty social workers were welcomed to Tsimshian territory. Angela Mercer, a social worker with Nisga'a Child and Family Services, as well as a foster parent, is the 2011 recipient of the Copper Shield Award.

"It is difficult to adequately express in words all that Angela's example has meant to me, so it is an honour to be able to present her with this visual symbol of the high esteem in which she is held -the Copper Shield. Angela, thank you so much for your shining example." - Elizabeth Steindel, a clinician with MCFD, Child and Youth Mental Health

The Northwest BC Association of Social Workers is a branch of the Provincial/National organization that promotes good practice and recognizes social workers that have achieved good practice in the northwest.

Angela Mercer is the daughter of Karen Mercer and the Late Willis Mercer

Reprinted with permission of Perspectives

Electronics Graduate (continued from Page 3)

they too can achieve anything they desire through hard work and sacrifice.

Adrienne is happy to spread the message about BCIT and post-secondary education in general. "Education is the key to success for everyone, it embraces no specific race or gender, but benefits all those who aspire and persist". By attending BCIT I have enhanced my skills that will broaden rather than limit my employment opportunities. I would hope that by attending this institute I influence more aboriginal youth, men and women to seek advanced education and employment in the field of trades.

Reprinted with permission of the BCIT website



This newsletter is published by:
Nisga'a Lisims Government
PO Box 231, 2000 Lisims Drive
New Aiyansh, BC V0J 1A0

T 250 633 3000
Toll-free 1 866 633 0888
www.nisgaalisims.ca
www.nnkn.ca

If you have news or a story to tell,
please contact Eric Grandison by
phone or email at:
ericg@nisgaa.net