



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government

Volume 11 Number 9

September 2011 Flooding

A weather system stalled over the North Coast at the start of September. The area drained by the Nass River got a lot of rain over a couple of days. River levels rose dramatically. The amount of water flowing down the Nass was the highest in over 40 years. Water levels at the WD McKay bridge were 0.4 meters higher than in 2007.

A mudslide closed the road to Gingolx from Sep. 6 to Sep 8. Flooding closed the road to Laxgalts'ap from Sep 8 to Sep 11.

There was some damage caused by all this water.



Damage to the foot bridge at Gitwinksihlkw

The shoulder on 3.5 km of the highway between Laxgalts'ap and Gitwinksihlkw was damaged by the flooding. The suspension bridge in Gitwinksihlkw was damaged by trees washing down the river. The amount of water flowing down the Kincolith river, the speed at which the water was moving and the trees it was carrying may have damaged the footings on the bridge to the government dock. The bridge will be inspected by an engineer.

If you do a search on "Gingolx flood" on YouTube you can watch a video of a very large tree coming down the river and going under the bridge.

Thank You

Many people stepped up while the roads were closed to do what needed to get done. There's not enough space to list everyone by name. We do, however, want to acknowledge their efforts. You can pretty much count on people in the Nass Valley helping out their neighbours and community in difficult times. That's one of the things that makes the Nass Valley a special place.

There was a danger that homes would flood in both Gingolx and Laxgalts'ap. Over 100 volunteers worked sandbagging to protect those homes. A little bit of luck and lots of hard work prevented any damage.

When communities are isolated health is always a concern. The CCHR's kept in touch with everyone who needed support and made sure they were well cared for. When prescriptions were running low DFO and the RCMP worked together to deliver medicines.

After 3 or 4 days of being isolated folks start to run low on essentials. On the Friday (Sep 9) plans to get supplies to Gingolx and Laxgalts'ap by boat from Prince Rupert were put into place. Volunteers in both Terrace and Rupert did the shopping, got the supplies to the dock in Rupert and loaded on a couple of boats, one from Nisga'a Fisheries and a second owned by a Gingolx resident. Nisga'a captains piloted the boats from Rupert to Gingolx and then volunteers distributed the supplies in Gingolx and Laxgalts'ap.

The Emergency Operations Centre at Nisga'a Lisims Government was activated. EOC personnel worked with their provincial counterparts, Village Incident Command Centres, Urban Locals, NVHA staff, the Ministry of Transportation, Environment Canada, the River Forecast Centre and Nisga'a Fisheries to achieve the best possible results for Nisga'a citizens during difficult times.

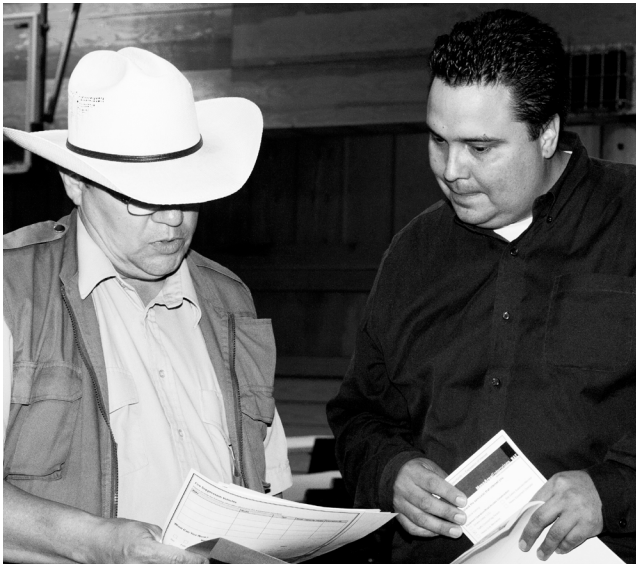
NTL Opportunity Fairs

Opportunity Fairs were hosted in each Nisga'a Village and Urban Local between September 12 to 22nd. Citizens were given information on the upcoming Northwest Transmission Line construction project and employment and small business opportunities that will be available when construction starts.

Attendees offered very valuable feedback on opportunities they would like to see and the support and training they are looking for. They completed Expression of Interest forms which tell NAE what jobs or business opportunities attendees were interested in.

If you didn't attend one of the sessions you can still submit Expression of Interest forms. An information brochure and forms are available at your village government or urban local office, Nisga'a Lisims Government and online at www.nassareaenterprises.com. If you have any questions please contact Chris Young, the NAE Community Coordinator.

Another round of information sessions will be held later in the fall.



Chris Young discusses Northwest Transmission Line opportunities at an Opportunity Fair.

CRA Income Tax Sessions

Canada Revenue Agency will be hosting information sessions throughout the Valley in October. Dates are:

- Laxgalts'ap – October 18;
- Gitwinksihlkw – October 19;
- Gitlaxt'aamix – October 20.

All sessions will be at the Village Government offices from 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

Topics covered include:

- preparing your income tax,
 - filing deadlines, income slips, forms, filing options;
- electronic filing services for individuals;
- Benefit Program Information
 - social assistance, CCTB, GSTC
- the Apprenticeship Credit Program.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Wills and Estates Clinics

A will is a legal document that gives instructions about what happens after your death. With a will you can make sure that the things you own go to the people you want. If you have children under 19 you can specify their guardian. Your will's contents depend on your circumstances.

Provincial laws about wills apply to Nisga'a citizens as of May 11 2000. You don't have to make a will. But if you die without a will the courts decide what happens. This can take a long time and be expensive.

Legal clinics about wills and estates will be held:

- Gitlaxt'aamix - October 13, 2011, 10 am - 4:30 pm
- Gingolx - October 20, 2011, 10 am - 12:30 pm
- Gitwinksihlkw - October 20, 2011, 2 pm - 4:30 pm
- Laxgalts'ap - October 25, 2011, 10 am - 4:30 pm

If you would like further information or have any questions please contact Jean Clayton, Coordinator for the Wills and Estates project at 250 633 2715 or by email at wills_estates@nisgaa.net

Nass Area Enterprises

Nass Area Enterprises is a Nisga'a corporation created by Nisga'a Lisims Government. NAE will promote Nisga'a interests in the Nass Area.

NAE is focused on creating and promoting new, meaningful and sustainable employment and business opportunities for the benefit of the Nisga'a Nation, its citizens, entrepreneurs, and businesses.

The Settlement Trust will be reported quarterly.

Provided that a given project is acceptable to the Nisga'a Nation Nass Area Enterprises will:

- maximize opportunities for Nisga'a citizens, entrepreneurs and businesses;
- promote long-term capacity building in the Nisga'a Nation for major projects

Visit nassareaenterprises.com for more information.

Fisheries Update

Catches at the Grease Harbour fishwheels are about average for adult Sockeye and Summer run Steelhead, below average for Chinook, Coho, and odd year Pink.

	This Year's Catch	Average
Sockeye	38,083	40,600
Chinook	1,795	6,200
Coho	5,752	13,684
Steelhead	976	970
Pink	10,719	31,100
Chum	166	139
Pacific Lamprey	632	470

Counts at Meziadin Fishway are average for adult Sockeye and below average for Chinook and Coho.

	This Year's Catch	Average
Sockeye	165,195	165,300
Chinook	324	458
Coho	2,112	2,947

Sockeye returns at the Kwinagese weir are a big success story this year. A falls over 3 m high was discovered during helicopter surveys at the end of July. Nisga'a Fisheries and DFO raised the water level below the falls which essentially reduced the height of the falls to allow fish to get through.

	This Year's Count	Average
Sockeye	10,097	2,400
Chinook	747	800
Coho	194	1,200
Steelhead	30	200

Run sizes to the Gitwinksihlkw fishwheels were just below average for Nass Sockeye and Summer run Steelhead, and below average for Chinook and Coho in 2011.

	This Year's Run	Average
Sockeye	273,629	277,000
Chinook	13,723	23,000
Coho	57,930	80,700
Steelhead	9,582	9,900

Minimum net escapement goals to the Middle and Upper Nass watershed were met for Sockeye and Summer-run Steelhead, and close to being met for Chinook and Coho when the fishwheels were shutdown.

	Escapement	Target
Sockeye	242,332	200,000
Chinook	12,409	13,000
Coho	56,994	60,000
Steelhead	9,506	4,000

Domestic (FSC) catches in 2011 were above average for Sockeye and Pink and below average for Chinook, Coho, Chum and Steelhead.

	This Year's Catch	Average
Sockeye	42,086	26,700
Chinook	3,656	5,600
Coho	802	2,100
Steelhead	173	300
Pink	5,177	3,200
Chum	210	700

Individual and Communal Sale fisheries are closed by the order of the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. The domestic (food) fishery remains open.

NAE Community Coordinator

As the primary contact for employers and employees the coordinator will:

- promote potential business opportunities;
- support Nisga'a citizens;
- maximize employment and career development opportunities;
- promote hiring of Nisga'a Citizens;
- promote hiring of local equipment;
- facilitate communication between employers, employees and communities.

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Pine Mushroom Season in Full Swing

We would like to remind all Nisga'a citizens that if you have obtained a botanical forest product harvesting permit, you are entitled to pick pine mushrooms anywhere on Nisga'a Lands. You are not limited to the area around your community. No gates are currently closed. No safety issues have required areas to be closed.

Nisga'a Lisims Government protects areas that produce pine mushroom and other valuable botanicals. Significant constraints limit any industrial activity in these areas. NLG is committed to the sustainability of these non-timber forest resources. Proper harvest techniques promote future harvests. Please remove any garbage you may come across.

Please call Warren Fekete (250 633 3000) if you have any questions or to report your concerns.

Bridging the Generations/ Journey Home

Bridging the Generations, a Nisga'a Elders-Youth conference was held October 4 – 6 in Gitlaxt'aamix. The "solution" focused agenda had participants engaging in group discussions to deliberate and propose recommendations on issues like Nisga'a cultural protocols, language preservation, yuuhlimk'askw and the roles and responsibilities of simgigat and sigidimhaanak'.

The 3 day gathering concluded with Hlim-Guwa'a, a traditional welcoming of the Git-Ts'amiks Nisga'a, followed by a welcome feast hosted by Gitlaxt'aamix. The feast was the conclusion of a very intense and emotional week for the approximately 500 Nisga'a citizens who ventured to the Nass Valley from the Greater Vancouver area in the historic Journey Home. Journey Home participants were also warmly welcomed in Terrace, Gingolx, Laxgalts'ap and Gitwinksihlkw.

Photos of the week's events can be found at nnkn.ca. Complete reports will follow in the next newsletter.

NLG Listens to current users of Fishery Bay

In 2001, as part of its jurisdiction over Nisga'a Lands under the Nisga'a Treaty, the Executive of NLG established a moratorium on any further developments at Fishery Bay until a suitable management plan for the site was developed.

In 2002, the Executive adopted the Land Use Plan (LUP) for Nisga'a Lands under its jurisdiction under the Nisga'a Treaty which designated Fishery Bay as a site within the Heritage Preservation Zone.

In the summer of 2011, NLG took its most recent steps toward the development of a management plan for Fishery Bay by listening to current users of Fishery Bay. They were asked: what is the appropriate level of access? What should be the limits to development of the site? Where are the historical campsites along the river and to whom do they belong?

Once completed, these comments will be considered as part of the process for developing an overall long term management plan for the site.

For more information, contact Mansell Griffin at 1(866) 633-0888 or mansellg@niscga.net.



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