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Hear about Ta'an's most recent events in the Chief and Deputy Chief's quarterly letter (p. 2-3)



Read about Dan Adamson, crew leader with FireSmart, and how he's working with Ta'an citizens to help prevent wildfires. (p. 12)

Message from the Chief and Deputy Chief

Danchea!

Winter always seems like it will be a slower time, however the government is getting busier by the day. The last few months have been exciting times for us with the Royal Visit, the Territorial Election, the CANDO Conference and building relationships with other governments in the Yukon and beyond.

Along with Chief Doris Bill of Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Chief Kane welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to the Ta'an Kwäch'än traditional territory. We were honored to follow the tradition of our Elders and ancestors in welcoming people to our land and sharing our stories and culture.

Immediately following this visit, as a host community, we welcomed delegates who are



Chief Kristina Kane and Kwanlin Dün Chief Doris Bill greeted the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as they arrived at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre on Sept. 27.

leaders in Aboriginal Economic Development in Canada, to the Yukon Territory, for the 23rd Cando Annual Conference AGM. Throughout this conference, Ta'an Kwäch'än citizens attended workshops to gain a better understanding of what other communities are doing to grow their economies. We shared information about Ta'an Kwäch'än history and the work we are doing with many interested people. The conference

showcased the success of Yukon First Nations with delegates from across the country, demonstrating how we have been able to be innovative and advance in a very short period of time. As part of the Cando Conference and AGM, Da Daghay Development Corporation hosted a Partnership Celebration at the River Bend housing development in Whistle

Bend. We were pleased to see the progress in the construction at the site. Further, having all the partners together, including the City of Whitehorse, Yukon Government, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and CIBC, we were able to reflect on what progress can be made through working together. Following Cando Conference and the Royal Visit, the Territorial Election began. We are excited about the opportunities that come along with a change in government. The newly sworn in Premier Sandy Silver has promised to honour our Self-Government and Land Claims Agreements and is committed to reconciliation. He has promised to meet with all the Yukon Chiefs within 30 days of forming office. We look forward to seeing the follow-through on these commitments and working together to build a stronger community for the benefit of TKC



Deputy Chief Telep along with Minister of Health Jane Philpott and other members of the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Health.

citizens and First Nations across the Yukon Territory.

We are really excited about the heritage initiatives that are being hosted including the Southern Tutchone Language Classes. Learning our language is the most important part of keeping our identity and truly understanding the stories of our Elders. There are many aboriginal languages that are disappearing in Canada. We all have a responsibility to carrying on our language into the future! 2016 has been a year with many highs and lows for our community. Moving into 2017, we hope to see our community support one another and find ways that we can continue to create a positive momentum forward. We need to value the vision that our Elders and ancestors had for Ta'an Kwäch'än people and carry this into the future, for our youth. This can only be done through building a community based on harmony. This is possible if we find this common vision, together, as one strong nation, ready for the opportunities that are coming our way. We look forward to seeing each of you out at the holiday events this winter and in the New Year.

Respectfully,

Chief Kristina Kane and Deputy Chief Michelle Telep

Health and Education update

Information/Updates

Canada Games Centre passes are available for all citizens. Please contact Roberta (rbehn@taan.ca)

Roberta's **traditional sewing group** continues to meet Wednesday evenings at 5 p.m. This group continues to be as popular as ever.

Foot care is available for Elders and citizens with diabetes – contact Roberta.

Pre/post-natal support – Citizens who are pregnant or have children under the age of one, in Yukon, are eligible for \$75 monthly nutrition support – contact Reanna (rmohamed@taan.ca)

Yukon Mental Wellness Strategy – TKC Health has received some funding under this strategy, which will be used to support community wellness. Watch for events happening in the new year. Ideas are under development. Suggestions from the community will be welcomed.

The **Enhanced Service Delivery Program** – this program will be coming to an end as of March 31, 2017, however Heather will continue to provide employment support to citizens as she will be moving into the Education and Employment Training Coordinator position.

Building employment capacity for TKC citizens – Representatives from all TKC departments continue to work together to develop initiatives that can help all citizens reach their employment and career goals. We have a lot of ideas and a few projects under development.

Post-secondary education – TKC continues to support more than 20 citizens in post-secondary education.

Tutoring services for K-12 students in Yukon – Yukon government Department of Education has provided TKC with generous funding for tutoring support for the current school year. Please contact Jessica (jbryant@taan.ca) for more information.



Education policy – The TKC Education Commission continues to work on revising the Post-Secondary Student Support Program Policy as well as developing new policy covering the education needs of citizens throughout the life cycle. Several new and revised policies and waiting for approval.

Seasonal Affective Disorder

What is Seasonal Affective Disorder? It's a kind of depression that appears at certain times of the year. It usually begins in the fall when the days get shorter and lasts through the winter.



Symptoms of SAD

- I feel like I'm sleeping all the time, or I'm having trouble getting a good night's sleep
- I'm tired all the time, making it hard for me to carry out daily tasks
- My appetite has changed, particularly more cravings for sugary and starchy foods
- I'm gaining weight
- I feel hopeless
- I'm irritable

- I'm avoiding people or activities I used to enjoy
 - I feel tense and stressed
 - I've lost interest in sex and other physical contact
- If some of these feelings seem to happen each year, have a real impact on your life, and increase during certain seasons, talk to your doctor. It's very important not to diagnose yourself without speaking to a doctor because there may be other causes for your symptoms. And even if it does turn out to be depression, it may not be the SAD form of depression. If you think you might have SAD, talk to your doctor. Your doctor can help rule out any other causes for your symptoms, like thyroid problems or other types of depression.

Tips to ease your winter SAD symptoms

- Spend more time outside during the day
- Try to arrange the spaces you spend time in to maximize sunlight exposure
- Keep curtains open during the day
- Trim tree branches or hedges that may be blocking some of the light from getting into your home
- Move furniture so that you sit near a window, or, if you exercise indoors, set up your exercise equipment by a window
- Sit in front of a full spectrum light for 20 minutes a day (light therapy)
- Build physical activity into your lifestyle, preferably before SAD symptoms take hold. Physical activity relieves stress, builds

energy and increases both your physical and mental well-being and resilience.

- Make a habit of taking daily noon-hour walks, particularly if you commute to school or work in the dark hours of the day
- Join a craft class or other type of class that gets you out and socializing
- Try to resist carbohydrates and sleep cravings that come with SAD



Where to reach out for help:

The Ta'an Kwäch'än Family Support Worker, Reanna Mohamed: 867-335-2502 (text or call);



First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help

Line: 1-855-242-3310 (open 24/7);

Yukon Distress and Support Line: 1-844-533-3030 (open daily 7 p.m.-12 a.m.)

Ta'an Family Halloween Party

The Health and Education Department would like to thank everyone who attended the Family Halloween Party at CYO Hall on Saturday October 29th. The event had a variety of fun games, crafts, and pumpkin carving as well as a costume contest and plenty of Halloween-themed food.

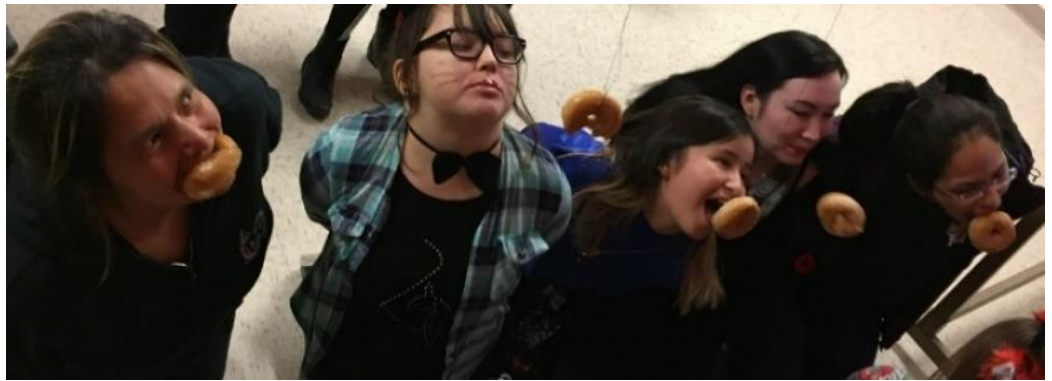
A big huge enormous THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped to make this year's Halloween Party a big success:

- Gail Anderson
- Teresa Jacobs
- Roberta Behn for the fabulous stew and bannock: it was delicious!
- Jaylene Ellard
- Heather Griffiths
- Geraldine Irvine and Dietmar Tramm for being our doughnut-eating contest judges
- Amanda Leas and Lisa Bunbury for being our costume contest judges
- Lara Bode and Emma Burns for running the crafts and games table: awesome job!

Congratulations to our **Costume Contest Winners:**

Oliver Gatensby, Kirsten Bunbury-Isaac and Ciara Shaw and to our many Donut-Eating Winners and Contenders!!!

Reanna (aka Toddler) and Jessica (aka Batgirl)



Lands, Resources and Heritage update

Wildlife Monitors

Monitors Clayton Kane and John Bunbury successfully completed the Fisheries Technician course through Yukon College, with the assistance and support of Monitor Andre Eckert-Maret. In some instances, it was required to work on days off to complete all assignments, research and fieldwork.



On a daily basis, TKC traditional territories are monitored for wood cutters, poaching, the dumping of hazardous materials, vandalism, hunters, dog food stashes, squatters, and anything out of the ordinary. During field visits and monitoring, there has been discovery of stolen/abandoned/burned vehicles. The monitors ensure that all TKC equipment is stocked and

updated. The monitors will document and take pictures of activities related to monitoring. There have been instances where roadkill has been discovered – the monitors work with other governments to report activity and donate salvaged meat to TKC elders.

Pictures of animal tracks and nature are often used on the TKC website.

Monitors installed and replaced the settlement land signs. They will help staff in any department as requested with their projects or tasks. For example, investigating wildlife concerns. Wildlife monitors always participate and assist at TKC spring, winter and culture camps. They have also discovered a large disposal site at the Takhini Hot Springs of decades-old garbage dump and waste. The monitors have attended, investigated and documented site-specific

proposals as per council direction.

They provide recommendations on equipment purchases for project success.

Types of patrol:

backcountry patrols with ATVs and snowmobiles. Highway patrols and side trail roads with truck.

Areas patrolled: R-1A, R2-A, R-9A, R-20A, R-4B, R-5B, R-8B, R-10B, R-11B, R-13B, R-17B, R-18B, R-23B, R-24B, R-25B, R-26B, R-29B. Swan Lake/Old Village, 31 Mile/Dawson Trail, Braeburn/Dawson Trail, Mitchie/McClintock, Policeman's Point, Mudd Lake trails, Grizzly Valley/Pilot Mountain, Horse Creek, Deep Creek, Cantlie Lake.

Please report any suspicious activity to LRH Manager David Irvine at: dirvine@taan.ca.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Water Temperature Monitoring Program (TKC WTMP)



As a graduate student at the University of Alberta enrolled in the NSERC CREATE EI program, one of the neat opportunities I get to experience during my degree is conducting several shortterm internships with different organizations in the Yukon. These internships are related to my own thesis research work – which investigates the impacts of climate change on large lakes in the Yukon.

My internship at Ta'an over the past two months was spent focusing on organizing and analyzing historical water temperature data (collected by TKC) from creeks within the TKC Traditional Territory to determine if and how these creeks may be impacted by climate change. Some graphs and preliminary results from this work are outlined on the next page. While at TKC I also spent time helping with some fieldwork, attending several workshops, and generally learning more about TKC culture and governance! I want to say a VERY big thank you to everyone at TKC for being so welcoming and kind! I've really enjoyed the last two months with TKC and I look forward to keeping in touch!

Project summary

Water temperature in 8 creeks, 6 groundwater, and 6 river sites within TKC Traditional Territory (Figure 1) have been monitored since 2010, with the exception of 2 creeks monitored since 2007 (Fox and Croucher), using Tidbit data loggers (Figure 2). Some data gaps exist.

Why monitor water temperature?

Average air temperatures in Yukon are rising due to climate change (Figure 3). The impacts of these warming temperatures on creeks and rivers is mostly unknown. Considering water temperatures drive the physical, biological, and chemical conditions of aquatic ecosystems, monitoring water temperatures for change is important. The resulting longterm data can then be used to identify how climate change may be impacting these waterbodies.

Who is involved?

TKC has worked with Al vonFinster, the Yukon River Panel, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to implement and maintain this program.

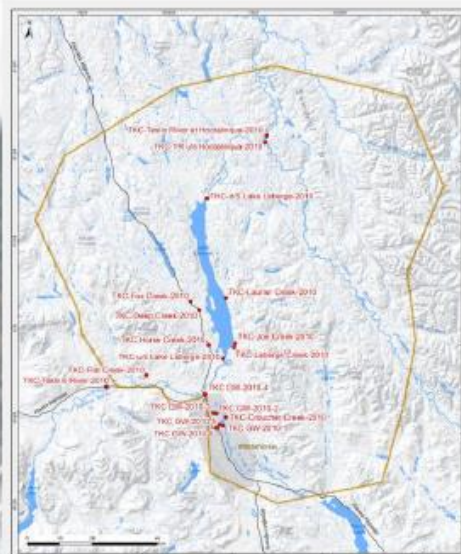


Figure 1. TKC WTMP sites



Figure 2. Dataloggers & casing used at each monitoring site.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year!	2	3 TKC office re-opens	4 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	26	27	28

February

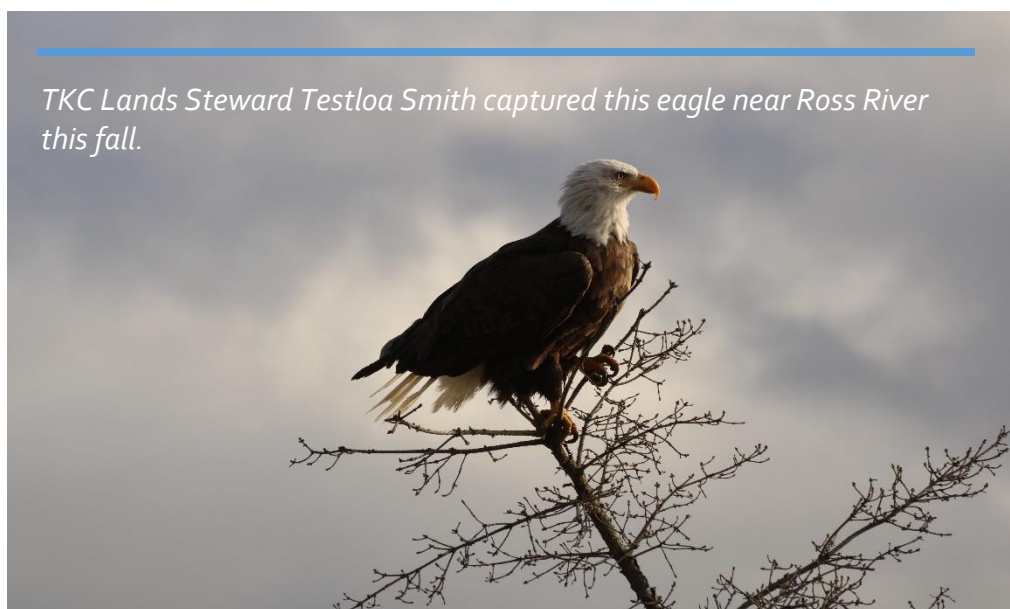
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!	15 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	23	24	25

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Traditional Sewing Group 5 to 9 pm	16	17	18
19	20 Bison camp	21 Bison camp	22 Bison camp	23 Bison camp	24 Bison camp	25 Bison camp



TKC Chief Kristina Kane and Da Daghay Development Corp. CEO Ben Asquith at the groundbreaking ceremony for the River Bend housing development project on Oct. 4th.



TKC Lands Steward Testloa Smith captured this eagle near Ross River this fall.



Star Drynock and her daughter pose with Jessica Bryant at the TKC Halloween party.



Jordan van Heel and Jackie Williams pose after removing some barbed wire on traditional TKC land near the Hot Springs.



This fox was captured near the Takhini Hot Springs Road.

Citizen profile - Dan Adamson, FireSmart Crew Leader

Most Yukoners live in the fire-prone boreal forest and some areas have accumulated elevated levels of deadfall and forest debris over the years.

The Government of Yukon works to reduce wildfire risk near communities by supporting community-led FireSmart programs on public lands and encouraging private property owners to minimize the amount of forest debris on their land.

This is the 18th year Dan Adamson has been involved with FireSmart. The veteran firefighter says he keeps coming back every year because it's a nice change of pace for him.

"It's a lot of physical labour but it's nice to work outside everyday," he said.

"I usually spend my days working in the fire base so this puts me back on a 9-5 schedule. I can plan my evenings and it's a bit of extra money at the end of the year."

Adamson's work is winding down for the year. The objective set in early October was to clear 3.5 hectares of land, which is "pretty much done," he says. Working with four Ta'an citizens for six weeks, Adamson and his crew started by clearing land owned by the Department of National Defense near Mary Lake.

Adamson explained the process. "We go into an area with heavy fuels like large spruce and conifers, we



pick a dominant tree and we cut all the trees around it for 10 feet. We continue moving on until the trees are spaced out about 10 feet. This removes the fuel ladder so the fire can't climb the trees."

"Because we're spacing trees six to 10 feet apart, and we clean them up to above the two-metre part, it's really easy to get fire personnel in those areas and get them out."

The crew mostly use chainsaws and pitchforks to get the job done. Adamson, a chainsaw instructor in 12 countries, helps his crew learn new techniques year after year. More than \$13 million has been invested in 395 FireSmart projects across Yukon over the last 16 years, according to the Yukon government. In 2014/15, 27 organizations – including TKC – were funded to deliver 30 FireSmart projects totaling \$850,000.

Tips on preventing wildfires:

- Stack firewood and other combustibles away from houses and buildings
- Remove lower branches and space trees while maintaining as much of the natural surroundings as possible
- Remove deadfall, and tall grasses and shrubs around houses and buildings
- Keep areas under decks and stairs free of leaves, needles, debris and combustible materials
- Install fire-resistant roofing and siding when carrying out home renovations or repairs
- On larger rural properties, creating openings in forested areas can encourage new growth and maintain fire-resistant species in mixed stands of trees



Da Daghay Development Corp. update

Message from the CEO, Ben Asquith

DDDC is currently four months into construction on the River Bend development. Ninety per cent of the infrastructure is in place, the roof on building #1 will be up before Christmas this year, followed closely by the roof on building #2 and #3. We have maintained a trend of 50% onsite employment for TKC citizens and are still accepting resumes and applications.

We are in the preliminary stages of negotiation with the Yukon Government regarding the past and future use of our Riverdale lot. We are also working closely with Kobayashi + Zedda on options for our site master plan which may include future single family and multi residential homes.

DDDC has also began the permitting process for our gravel quarry located along the Alaska Highway and we are exploring partnership opportunities with fellow businesses and corporations.

If any TKC citizens are interested in employment or youth opportunities, please contact us either by phone at 867-667-6609 or email at admindadaghay@northwestel.net or dadaghay@northwestel.net.



For more information on our developments and business services, please visit us at www.dadaghay.ca. A special thank you to our Board of Directors and Chief and Council for their continued efforts, hard work, and dedication.

Citizen Christmas party - Dec. 15th



Open house & Christmas stocking making

