



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018

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Above: Kashtyn Leas, Ava Gatensby, Alexander LeBarge and Hayley Thompson at Spring Camp 2018, p. 19

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Coralee Johns and graduate Brandon Smith

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF

Dännach'a! Yukon's long days of summer are upon us with warmer temperatures and more opportunities to get out and enjoy our Traditional Territory.

The first part of 2018 has been a busy one. Deputy Chief Telep attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Health Summit, and the Regional Health Survey Conference in February and March. Chief Kane participated in Yukon Region AFN strategic planning sessions (March-April) and attended the AFN

Special Assembly on Federal Legislation in early May. We continue to actively participate in Yukon First Nations leadership meetings. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has been invited to provide opening and welcoming remarks to various events in Whitehorse. Over the last couple of months, this has included the Yukon Quest, F.H. Collins Culture Week, Jane Glassco Fellowship reception, graduation ceremonies and more. On February 27, Chief Kane participated in the Millennial Town Hall Youth Forum, alongside Mayor Dan Curtis, Premier Sandy Silver, Chief Doris Bill and Grand Chief Peter Johnston. Through an afternoon panel session, the leaders responded to some tough questions posed by the youth. We will also continue to do follow-up in order to address outstanding questions that were not brought forward at the event.

In March, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council hosted workshops on lateral kindness and community unity. The staff were encouraged and inspired by a two-day lateral kindness workshop. We are proud to commit that the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council promotes a positive work environment for our staff and visitors. The community unity event was a fun weekend of workshops, language lessons, drumming, singing and laughter. We would like to thank all the participants who attended. We will use your feedback for the planning of future events.

In March, we held a Special General Assembly where we focused on constitutional amendments and resolutions. One outcome from the SGA was a request to hold community meetings with Chief and Council. We will be working over the coming months to start this process. With the new fiscal year upon us, all departments have developed detailed workplans that include moving forward on implementing the Strategic Plan. For leadership, one of our priorities is to continue to strengthen intergovernmental relations with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, City of Whitehorse, and Government of Yukon. In June, we will sign a joint Declaration of Commitment with the City and Kwanlin Dün First Nation. We hope you will join us for many events over the summer.

In unity,

Chief Kristina Kane and Deputy Chief Michelle Telep



Team TKC supported the Humboldt Broncos.

COUNCIL NOTES

Council has a new minute taker whom we would like to welcome, Lucy-Anne Kay. Over the past few months, Council has dealt with several implementation items related to the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Self-governing Agreement Chapter 23, Resource Royalty Sharing. Council passed the 2018–2019 budget, approved the Strategic Plan and purchased a van for the Health and Education Department. In April, Council agreed to funding a Language Coordinator to preserve and revitalize the Southern Tutchone Ta'an dialect in partnership with Council of Yukon First Nations and through the Yukon Native Learning Centre at Yukon College.

In the area of contracts, Council awarded contracts for the Southern Lakes Forest Management Plan and approved a contract for water quality monitoring in Shallow Bay. In addition, Council received an overview of our investment in the Northern Vision Development LP.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Parks Canada to redo the interpretive signage at the *SS Klondike* to include the history of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. Council also brought its full support to the Teslin Tlingit Council for its petition to the Government of Canada regarding its Federal Transfer Agreement. The Elections Act was passed by Council and



The 2016 Dodge Caravan

Elders' Council in May, and work continues towards developing a Lands Act.

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WE CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATES

High School Graduates

Adrianna Smith—Grade 12, Porter Creek Secondary School
 Brandon Smith—Grade 12, Independent Learning Centre

Post-Secondary Graduates

Alysha Kufeldt—Bachelor of Arts Degree: English Literature Major/French Minor, Trinity Western University

Dean Smarch—Business Administration Diploma and Multi-media Certificate, Yukon College

Glenda Jones—Associate of Arts Degree, Okanagan College

Gwendolyn Jones-Gailey—Associate of Applied Science in Web Development, Associate of Arts in Anthropology, Associate of Science, Truckee Meadows Community College

Lori Graham—Employment and Training Management Diploma, Native and Education Training College



Nicole Smith and Adrianna Smith



ELDERS' COUNCIL

Elders consulted Heritage Technician, Derek Cooke, who spoke about the upcoming National Historic Sites and Monument plaque which designates Winter Crossing as a culturally significant site. Additionally, a Heritage and Cultural Committee was struck by the Elders, with three Elders appointed to this committee.

Health and Education Manager, Lynn Sparks, attended Elders' Council for input into different areas, such as an Education policy, as well as the

Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of Yukon's Family and Children's Services and Ta'an Kwäch'än's Health and Education. The March 13, 2018 meeting was attended by members of the Judicial Council to discuss the need for appointments. At a subsequent meeting, Darla Jean Lindstrom was appointed by Elders to sit on the Judicial Council.

Yukon Energy Corporation sent a letter requesting an Elder to be present at its Fish Ladder for its

cultural interpretation program this summer. The letter praised Julia Broeren, and the agreed result was that she will be dishing out her popular soapberry "ice cream" at the Fish Ladder again this summer.



MILLENNIAL TOWN HALL

"There is no doubt the voices of young people have got louder—and a new generation of leaders are coming about." This is how Kara Beth Sweeney opened the February 26–27, 2018, Millennial Town Hall Youth Forum. Just before, Chief Kristina Kane and Chief Doris Bill had given an eagle feather to Ta'an youth Kara Sweeney and Kwanlin Dün youth, Teagyn Vallevand, so that youth might give the welcome to the event. "It was lovely," Sweeney said of the gesture, "and the Chief blessed me with a headband afterwards."

The high school student also felt honoured to have the task of giving an opening speech at another February youth event. A few weeks before, Sweeney gave opening remarks at the Child and Youth Advocate Office and Blue Jay Foundation's Yukon Rookie League event at the Canada Games Centre.

Fortunately, she admits to being "not too shy with public speaking." For the youth-led Town Hall event, Sweeney had put a lot of work into "finding sponsors and trying to get kids involved." The Kwanlin Dün Youth Advisory Committee to Council, Ta'an Kwäch'än, Yukon Government and *Shakaat Journal* all assisted with the preparation of the event where youth met with local dignitaries to ask questions and share concerns. Sweeney was happy with how it turned out and says "all the work was worth it. Kids brought up good ideas and we had a good reaction from leaders"

Youth presented so many questions to leaders and government officials that there was not time to answer them all. The website shakaat.ca carries some of the answers given after the event which addressed homelessness, substance abuse, food security and community wellness.

In the *Whitehorse Star* Chief Kane is quoted as saying there were "some challenging questions, but questions that had to be asked." Chief Kane concluded her thoughts with "I'm looking forward to this [event] becoming a tradition."



Chiefs Kane and Bill

ELDERS' LUNCH

Laughter is the thing Elders remember the most about their luncheon on March 10, 2018. More than a dozen Elders attended the event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hellaby Hall in Whitehorse. While the food was memorable for its delicious taste, the games were remembered for adding merriment.

"I read out a story," Roberta Auston says, "and people had to pass a gift to the left if I said 'left' and to the right if I said 'right.' But it was a long story and people could get mixed up. There were packages going every which way."

Rose Irvine describes a game in which a beachball was passed around. "There was a question on the beachball about Ta'an. 'What is your Indian name?' was one question. 'Who was the original chief?' was another question. It was fun!"

After the food and games were over the Elders settled into visiting as a perfect end to a wonderful day.



Health and Wellness Coordinator, Roberta Auston, leads a game.



Rose Irvine points out whose turn it is.

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For two and a half days, dedicated Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens gathered to talk about matters of government. They met on the evening of Thursday, March 1, 2018, and all day on the Friday and Saturday. The attendees went through constitutional amendments from 2015 to 2017 as per General Assembly Resolution 2017-06 Special General Assembly.

There are several ways in which to change the Constitution. If there are 60 Citizens in attendance, then a three-quarter majority can pass a constitutional amendment. As there were fewer than 60 Citizens in attendance, proposed amendments required consensus to be passed.

Under these voting circumstances, many proposed amendments had fervent discussion but did not go

beyond this step. One resolution that was moved was to proceed with Youth Council appointments and another was to establish a Constitutional Review Committee.

Additionally, an amendment was passed to raise the minimum eligibility age of Chief, Deputy Chief and councillors to 19 years of age. The process of government continues with important Citizen involvement. We thank those who were able to attend. Also, we are grateful for the work of those who prepared and chaired this event.



COMMUNITY UNITY GATHERING

Citizens were invited to a two-day Community Unity Gathering held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre March 17–18, 2018. The workshop resulted from the community gathering held two years ago and was brought to fruition through a working group with assistance from, Barb Joe, Implementation Officer.

In addition to facilitated sessions, there was a lot going on throughout the two days for the 40 attendees. Citizens could take advantage of a photo booth, or engage in crafts, such as sewing or decorating a miniature paddle. The walls bore a timeline of events in Ta'an Kwäch'än's history, as well as pillars from the new Strategic Plan. During breaks, one could nip outside to the fire, or have some of the fabulous food! Most of all, participants appreciated the chance to chat, chuckle and connect.

The workshops were at the heart of the event. The language workshop was highly successful, and people appreciated the fun lesson with Linda Harvey. Another work-



Shawna Tizya helped with the event

shop was the 'Blanket Exercise' led by Aurora Hardy and Teagyn Vallevand of Youth for Lateral Kindness. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Health and Wellness Coordinator, Roberta Auston, explained that the exercise had everyone stand on a blanket with a card that represented "different ways that the government tried to take away the rights of Indigenous people. If you had a white card it meant that you went to residential school and died, so you had to go and sit down." Some of the other effecting governmental factors that were explored were the denial of language, cultural practices, good land, and adequate housing. By the end of the exercise only a few people were left standing. "For some people," Auston explains, "it was a reality check. We already had the information, but through this exercise you could really *see* what happened, how people were being chipped away, bit by bit and helped to understand why it is so difficult to appreciate your identity."

Roberta Auston stressed that all the workshops help Citizens appreciate that "our culture is very rich and thrives." She hopes that there will be more workshops. "Maybe in the future people might learn our customs and laws as they existed and live together peacefully." Community unity will be a topic that Ta'an Kwäch'än Council will continue to promote with more cultural events and activities being planned.

Roberta Auston
Health and Wellness Coordinator
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1. Jackie Bear
2. Rose Irvine
3. Vicki Irvine
4. Tawnya Chambers and Darwin O'Brien

WELCOMING STAFF

Scott Paszkiewicz: Lands, Resources and Heritage Manager

Scott Paszkiewicz comes to Ta'an Kwäch'än Council from Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories. For five and a half years, he served as the Executive Director-Senior Land Use Planner for the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board to coordinate efforts with Sahtu Dene and Metis organizations. As well, he worked with the territorial and federal governments to finalize the settlement area's first land use plan and support its initial implementation activities.

Previously Paszkiewicz worked with local governments on regional watershed planning initiatives in the Kansas City and Chicago metropolitan areas. He also spent several years living abroad engaged in a variety of educational and environmental roles in the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, and Southeast Asia. Our new Lands, Resources and Heritage Manager studied Ecology at the University of Illinois, and Rural and Regional Planning at Western Illinois University.



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Charles MacQueen
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Charles MacQueen: Manager of Housing and Infrastructure

Charles MacQueen has come on board as the Manager of Housing and Infrastructure. He spent 17 years with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in the Whitehorse office where he worked with non-self-governing Yukon First Nations on their housing and infrastructure challenges. He has also worked for the Dease River First Nation in Good Hope Lake, British Columbia for four years. MacQueen occupied the role of Executive Director and Project Manager, spending a lot of time in the area of housing and infrastructure.

Originally from Winnipeg, MacQueen has been in Whitehorse for more than thirty years. We are certain that MacQueen's understanding of First Nation housing supports our goal of establishing a modern housing approach that meets to the needs of the Citizens.

STUDENT! EMPLOYEE! COUNCILLOR! ALISON HARPE TELLS HOW SHE DOES IT

My name is Alison Harpe, and I am currently enrolled in the Northern Justice and Criminology program at Yukon College. I plan to graduate with a diploma in 2019, and then go on to get a degree in Criminology from the University of Lethbridge.

Growing up, my mom always stressed the importance of graduating. At the age of 17, I decided to move out, and live on my own. I was still determined to graduate from high school. I worked at Wal-Mart part-time, went to school, paid rent, and bills—most things 17-year olds can't even imagine. I did it though. After graduation, I became a Supervisor at Shoppers Drug Mart, and then I moved on to be a receptionist at Northern Lights Optometry. It was then, five years after graduating high school, that I realized it was time to go back to school.

I enrolled in the Northern Justice and Criminology program in 2016



Alison Harpe at work at Yukon College

and have been loving it. I recently made the Dean's List for the Winter 2016 semester. The interesting thing about me being enrolled in this course, is that four other members of my family also have their Northern Justice and Criminology diplomas. I am very busy in between class times, as I am an administrative assistant for the Yukon College, and I also sit as a council member for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

I think the most important thing for me to be successful is having my friends and family as support—knowing that I can lean on them when I might be getting over-

whelmed, or when I need a good laugh. I think that students can achieve their goals by embracing any opportunity that comes their way. Whether that be a new job, or some sort of funding, workshops or even committing to a study group. It is important to surround yourself with people who share the same goals as you.

—by Alison Harpe

In future newsletter issues, you will continue to find out how other students aimed to excel in their education.



Chief Kane, Inspector MacKinnon, Deputy Chief Telep, Erin Cote Youth Outreach and Support Worker, Corporal Jill McLaren

RCMP LIAISON

On February 22, 2018, Chief Kane and Deputy Chief Telep met with Inspector Keith MacKinnon and Corporal Jill McLaren of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Corporal Jill McLaren is Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's new RCMP liaison and will be directly available to support Ta'an Kwäch'än Council activities, particularly with youth engagement initiatives. Inspector MacKinnon and Corporal McLaren are excited about starting new youth programs in Whitehorse, so stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

School visioning

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Canada Day	2 Office closure	3 Youth Activity Day Adäka Cultural Festival	4 Traditional Sewing	5 Youth Activity Day Southern Tutchone Cultural Activity	6	7
8	9	10 Youth Activity Day Canoeing	11 Traditional Sewing	12 Youth Activity Day Berry picking, picnic	13 Parent/expectant parent lunch	14
15	16 Culture Camp	17 Culture Camp	18 Culture Camp Traditional Sewing	19 Culture Camp	20	21
22	23	24 Youth Activity Day Kids' Choice	25 Traditional Sewing	26 Youth Activity Day Kids' Choice	27	28
29	30	31	No Youth Activity Days during Culture Camp			

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Check Taan.ca for land-based activity updates or call Roberta Auston, 668.3613 ex. 407.			1 Traditional Sewing	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Traditional Sewing	9	10 Parent/expectant parent lunch	11
12	13	14	15 Traditional Sewing	16	17	18
19	20 Discovery Day Office closure	21	22 Traditional Sewing	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Traditional Sewing	30	31	

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*ESES Elijah Smith Elementary School						1
2	3 Labour Day Office closure	4	5 *ESES lunch and tutoring Traditional Sewing	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 ESES lunch and tutoring Traditional Sewing	13	14 Parent/expectant parent lunch	15
16	17	18	19 ESES lunch and tutoring Traditional Sewing	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26 ESES lunch and tutoring Traditional Sewing	27	28	29

Event contacts—Check our website at taan.ca for updates and more events!

Roberta Behn, rbehn@taan.ca, 668.3613 ex. 403

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Culture Camp, Helen's Fish Camp

5 p.m., Traditional Sewing, 117 Industrial Road, Health and Education Building


Erin Cote, youthsupport@taan.ca, 334.8306

9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Youth Activity Days, 117 Industrial Road, Health and Education Building

Noon, Lunch and Tutoring, Elijah Smith Elementary School, Mrs. Pye's Room

Julie Laliberté, familysupport@taan.ca, 668.3613 ex. 405

Noon, Parent/Expectant Parent Lunch, 117 Industrial Road, Health and Education Building

<p>We LOVE Culture Camp!</p> <p>July 16 to 19, 2018 Ages 8 to 14</p> <p>Register at the office or call Roberta Behn 668.3613 ex. 403</p>		<p>Youth Activity Days! Canoeing! Kids Choice! and more!</p> <p>9am to 3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays June/July</p> <p>Ages 6 and up, must pre-register</p> <p>Erin Cote 334.8306</p>
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STAFF TRAINING

Two training sessions expanded Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's workers' skills. Firstly, over a week in February, some staff members improved their Microsoft Word and Excel knowledge at Yukon College.

Secondly, staff participated in a two-day training in March on the topic of lateral kindness. The workshop led by facilitators Marilyn Jensen and Thomas Shepperd had participants understand that with First Nations, lateral violence is: *a cycle of abuse and its roots lie in factors such as colonization, oppression, intergenerational trauma and the ongoing experiences of racism and discrimination.*



Lateral Kindness Workshop graduates and facilitators

However, Jensen and Shepperd advocate a position of strength, and encouraged staff to recognize and deflect instances of lateral violence through acts of lateral kindness. The workshop laid the ground work for fostering positivity! Thank you to Implementation Officer, Barb Joe, and her helpers for organizing the informative workshop.



Shirley Adamson

Nicole Smith and Linda Harvey



THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF TOGETHER TODAY FOR OUR CHILDREN TOMORROW

Ta'an Citizens were front and centre stage at the celebration to commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary of *Together Today for our Children Tomorrow*. The public day-long event was organized by the Council of Yukon First Nations and held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., February 14, 2018.

Numerous guests enjoyed bannock, tea and coffee while they listened to conversations of participants at the historic event and were entertained by performers. Citizens contributed songs and information to different panels, including Calum Pillai at the afternoon's youth panel. An evening gala dinner gave lawyers, negotiators and Citizens a chance to reminisce, appreciate and discuss the ground-breaking work that was accomplished.





Clockwise from the top right: spruce pitch, lichen, red willow, balsam bark, sage. Center: juniper.

**Interested in gathering, picking or basket weaving?
Have any ideas? Let us know!**

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

Once a week starting in the month of June and going throughout the summer, we will be harvesting medicines to dry and prepare for medicine making workshops. These workshops can include making hand cream and salves, spruce bark pitch medicine, smudges and aerosols. We can gather bark and camden from trees for cough medicine. It's difficult to make a time for gathering as the plants will show themselves when they are ready. So, if you are interested in gathering medicines please indicate your interest. We can also do other things, if you have suggestions let us know.

By press time it is likely that a tool-making workshop will have been held. Further plans for basket weaving, either with spruce roots or willows, is also being contemplated. A harvesting camp for the fall season will be considered and of course, berry picking. There is a whole list of activities that may be accommodated if interest is shown. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in any of these activities.

Roberta Auston
Health and Wellness Coordinator
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EXPECTANT PARENT/PARENT LUNCHES KICK OFF!

Can you say “adorable”? So much cuteness can be found at noon on the second Friday of each month in the Health and Education Building. Parents and children up to age five meet to chat, eat and learn about community resources. Plan to attend!

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council would like to extend our congratulations to the new babies' parents and families!

Julie Laliberté
Family Support Worker
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Left to right: Aberdeen Broeren's children Hazelyn Broeren and Weston Lougheed, born January 18, 2018, and Cassandra Broeren's son, Marcus Broeren, born February 4, 2018.

Congratulations



ARCTIC WINTER GAMES 2018

Athletes from all around the world participating in the 2018 Arctic Winter Games took planes/buses to their competing area which was either Hay River or Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. The flight, since it was my first time, I expected it to be a lot more worse, but it turned out I enjoyed it a lot and it was a super fun and cool experience. The first couple of days were exciting for me 'cause it was my first time being at my home town (Hay River) in four years. I couldn't believe I was there again.



Kiawna Leas in her Team Yukon jacket

I ended up making some friends on my team that were very friendly and fun to be around. I also got to meet tons of new athletes from different places that was also super exciting. I bumped into some close old friends while I was there, and it was super nice seeing them again. All our sports were held at the Reserve Building also known as the Complex. I was competing in Dene Games, which has five sports to compete in.

We have stick pull, snow snake (held outside), hand games, finger pull, and pole push. If I had to pick my favourites they would definitely be hand games and stick pull. I'd choose them cause they both make me happy doing them, whether I win or lose. I did get silver competing with one player short in hand games! Hand games was one of the funnest cause you can let loose, be yourself and cheer on with all your heart even

though you may lose your voice in the process. I guarantee you'll always end up smiling in the end no matter what happens.

There was also food provided for all athletes located at the arena in the cafeteria every day serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. The food wasn't terrible, but I bet a lot of the athletes would prefer their home-cooked meals.

The opening ceremony was fun and exciting at times, but rarely in my opinion. I really enjoyed the very start where the streets were packed with athletes just cheering away with their teams.

All you could hear and see were people yelling and screaming chants and flags waving all over the place. Entering the building wasn't so great because it took forever for all the teams to get in. Team Yukon was

first to enter since we will be hosting the Arctic Winter Games in two years, so we patiently waited while everyone entered the arena. Being in my old home with all these athletes was one of the best things I've ever done.

Showers were interesting. I'll tell you that. If you weren't sure, all athletes were separated into different schools with girls in one and boys in the other. Bonfires and parties happened every now and then so that was pretty cool and fun. As all this fun came down to closing ceremonies, it was definitely hard saying goodbye.

I will miss every single one of them so much but I'm super happy I got to make these memories and this experience with them. It's also very heart-breaking saying goodbye to one of my homes and those people but they will always have a place in my heart. This is something I'm never

ever going to forget and I'm hoping I can make more and better memories with these amazing people.

Thank you to my coaches for teaching me how to compete and having me on your team. And a big thank you to Hay River for helping out so much to make this trip a dream.

—by Kiawna Leas

Editor's note: Kiawna Leas had a very busy winter. She and her brother, Kadin Hare, earned spots on the Whitehorse Dene Games team, and were two of the 2,000 athletes competing in the Arctic Winter Games 2018. Both were on medal-winning hand games teams.

Before leaving for the games, Miss Leas found out that she was the runner up in the national poetry contest by Genworth Canada. The poet won a pizza party for her grade six class and \$1000 for her school, Elijah Smith. Leas' poem also earned a \$5000 grant towards a Habitat for Humanity project. Congratulations!

Home

I am from a medium-sized pink duplex.

Squeaking doors, wide dirt driveway, two trucks and a large, pine tree.

I am from family.

Green and brown eyes like emeralds and crisp bark on the trees.

Light freckled skin, wavy hair,

Dirty mechanics, and First Nations.

From the sweet, loving side of my family and also the chaos-causing cousins.

I am also from annoying brothers who don't act their age

And psychotic pets that scratch, bite, and cry.

I am from the ordinary smell of my kitchen.

Buttery, popped popcorn,

The smell of fresh, spiced soup, baked, salted chicken,

Sweet, baked treat.

I am from countless celebrations and parties.

I am from crying and joy.

From birthdays, anniversaries, and potlatches

Having to suffer through pain,

Sadness, and anger.

I am from a medium-sized pink duplex.

Squeaking doors, wide dirt driveway, two trucks and a large, pine tree.

—by Kiawna Leas

DA DAGHAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

All three buildings at River Bend are completed and fully occupied. Two of the existing buildings will be fitted with solar arrays in the coming months and in the summer, we will begin the landscaping. We are exploring opportunities to develop two additional buildings on site, which will provide more job and contract opportunities for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens.

Once again, we are gearing up for the summer fire season. About 60 people participated in our Beat the Heat

Bootcamp at the end of April. The eight-day Beat the Heat Bootcamp provides the necessary training for new recruits to be certified as initial attack fire fighters. Last year's Beat the Heat Bootcamp provided training and employment opportunities to over 20 new recruits from across the Yukon. Our goal is to be the number one supplier for training and certification within this industry in the North.

We have recently exited the River's Edge Partnership and are now looking at new, more prosperous investment opportunities. As well we are anticipating more contract and

employment opportunities to open in 2018!

For employment or contracts
admindadaghay@northwestel.net

www.dadaghay.com

**Da Daghay and XY Charlie Crew
are on Facebook**



Practice fire safety this summer!

THE FOX CREEK SALMON RESTORATION PROJECT CONTINUES

The Fox Creek Salmon Restoration Project continues despite the loss of most of this year's Chinook salmon fry. The Saturday, March 31, 2018 fire at Yukon College's McIntyre Creek Incubation Facility resulted in the loss of 25,000 Chinook salmon fry.

Chief Kristina Kane says: "We are saddened about the loss of the Chinook salmon. Salmon are crucial in our heritage as Ta'an Kwäch'än, or people of the head of the lake. The Fox Creek Salmon restoration project began in 2007 as a way of re-establishing a self-sustaining population of Chinook salmon in a tributary of Lake Laberge where the fish had been extirpated. We were guided by traditional knowledge that told us the salmon had once existed in these waters of our Traditional Territories. The project— fostered by Elders, supported by Citizens and generous collaborators— is successful in that we have strengthened relationships, provided education and training for youth. In recent years we were happy to see wild hatchlings emerging from the substrate.

There may be lower numbers of adult returns for several years with fewer eggs being naturally deposited. Training youth and staff in tagging in preparation for the fry release will be somewhat diminished this season.

However, this is a well-established and healthy project



dear to the hearts of the Ta'an Mүн. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council will continue to monitor juveniles, flow rates, temperatures, wild fry emergence and the adult returns. While the loss of the Chinook fry in the hatchery is a misfortune, it is heartening that some fry, being raised in schools through the Stream to Sea Program, will be available for release. Additionally, Yukon Energy has offered to give a small amount of fry from the Whitehorse Hatchery and Fish Ladder. Through the interest of youth, the strength of our staff and Citizens, and the continued support of our partners and collaborators, the 10-year-old Fox Creek Restoration Project will continue to meet challenges and thrive.

Deb Fulmer
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AMENDED LEGISLATION

Constitution

As Directed by the Special General Assembly in March 2018, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Constitution has been amended to reflect a change in age of eligibility for Chief, Deputy Chief and Family Councilors. This was changed from 16 years of age for Councilors and 18 years of age for Chief and Deputy Chief, to 19 years of age for both, reflecting the age of majority. The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council voting age remains at 16 years of age.

Elections Act

On May 17, 2018, following final approval by the Elders' Council, Chief Kane signed an amended Elections Act.

The amendments were passed into first reading in 2015, yet the bill encountered numerous difficulties and disagreements along the way that prevented it from being enacted. This is an amended version of the Elections Act that was first passed in 2016.

While many of the amendments were technical in nature, one the most notable changes was the extension of the appeal period from 10 to 30 days. The constitutional amendment regarding age (19) was also amended.

While this was a strenuous process, we are satisfied to be going to the new Elections slated for October 2018 with the new and improved Elections Act. We thank Citizens and staff for their efforts to get this completed.



Robert Vance and the CAIRS model jigger



JIGGING FOR FISH

Nothing, not even -30-degree C weather, was going to stop Robert Vance from trying out his new fish net this winter! Vance took the three-meter (10-foot) wide, 91-meter (300-foot) long nylon net out on Lake Laberge with his home-made jigger. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's Wildlife Monitors, Clayton Kane and Andre Eckert-Maret were on hand to assist and to gather material for the Lake Laberge contaminants study.

Vance has lived on the lake for 34 years and gained knowledge from fishing with Elders. Some other practical tips on creating the jigger, a sort of three-meter (7-foot) long device that helps place the net under the ice, were gained in a Committee on Abuse in Residential Schools (CAIRS) workshop with Vern Swan.

The wooden and metal device is intended to float under the ice to pull the net along. It is equipped with a 'knocker' so if it is lost, the fisher can pull on the rope and hear where the jigger is. When he made his jigger, Vance used a model jigger that the students were given to work with (see photo). However, Vance added his own modifications to the shape and position of the metal 'runners' that help the jigger glide under the ice.

Once over the hurdle of a tangled net, Vance seemed pleased with the first trial. "I really enjoy getting out on the land," Vance shares. Over the week, in three pulls Vance had 36 trout, 12 inconnu plus a few ling cod, whitefish, pike and a sucker. Generously, Vance likes to gift his catch "to Elders who might be sick or who have no one to fish for them." Hopefully Vance will find summer fishing equally as pleasing.

TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL LANDS ACT

How is a piece of legislation created? With Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, community consultation is key when developing the important Lands Act that will provide a structured process for the overall protection of Settlement Lands, penalties for misuse or destruction of land resources, and other related matters that Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens see as necessary. Community engagement over this quarter has given youth, Elders and Citizens a chance to have input and review information. Now at the end of the consultation process, we approach completion and anticipate a Lands Act very soon!

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Lands Act Legislative Process

1. First Reading—Act is introduced to Council without debate
2. Second Reading—Act may be amended by Council only at this stage
3. Elders' Council Review—Elders' Council reviews and may recommend amendments
4. Third Reading—general comments regarding the principles and merits of the Act but no amendments may be made by Council
5. Council Resolution*—approves Act and passes a Resolution enacting the Act
6. Elders' Council Resolution*—approves Act and passes a Resolution
7. Chief signs the Act and brings it into force

*If the Act is not approved and a resolution is defeated, other legislative steps will occur

OUR PLACE NAMES

Naalin Dhä, meaning “flowing around,” is located on the northside of the Takhini River, close to the Thirty Mile. Also referred to as ‘Lookout Mountain’ this well-known landmark has many associated stories for Ta’an Kwäch’än people. Due to its location and height, Naalin Dhä was considered to be a good lookout with an excellent vantage point. From this lookout, one was able to see smoke from as far away as Kusawa Lake, Champagne, Marsh Lake, and the Laberge areas. “Naalin” refers to the way that the Takhini River flows around the base of the mountain.



Naalin Dhä—Lookout Mountain

Nju Shäw translates as “big island.” This island on Lake Laberge was used by many travellers. Elder Johnnie Smith recalls that “Jim Boss had a roadhouse here. Indian people used to come over to the island in the spring by dog team just before the ice went out to hunt blue grouse.” The remains of both the cabin and roadhouse associated with Chief Jim Boss are still located on the island.



Nju Shäw—Richtofen Island

Similar to many other locations along the Yukon River, the English name of Richtofen Island was provided by an American Lieutenant, Frederick Schwatka in 1883 during a scientific exploration. It is curious that this island, in the middle of Lake Laberge, was named by an American for a German. Ferdinand Von Richthofen was born in Germany in 1833. He was best known as a famous geographer and geologist who was also the uncle of the German WWI flying ace, Manfred von Richthofen, also known as the “Red Baron.”



T’äw Tà’är, Winter Crossing, is located on the west bank of the Teslin River and translates to “grayling run up.” The name comes from Open Creek upriver as grayling spawned there. T’äw Tà’är was an important seasonal settlement and meeting place for both Ta’an Kwäch’än and Kwanlin Dün people. Several well-used trails meet there including the trail up the McClintock River to Black Lake and Marsh Lake, as well as the Livingstone Trail.

T’äw Tà’är has been designated as a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada as it is an Aboriginal cultural landscape that represents the interconnected web of seasonal food gathering activities, family relations, and travel and trade of the Southern Tutchone people. Ta’an Kwäch’än Council has been involved with the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to erect a plaque at this culturally significant site and will update Citizens about an upcoming plaque ceremony.



Louie and Fred Smith at Winter Crossing

Derek Cooke
Heritage Technician
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Back: Andre Eckert-Maret and Testloa Smith

Front: Kashtyn Leas, Alexander LeBarge, Ava Gatensby, Kadence Thompson, Hayley Thompson, and Eliza VanBibber

See the camp photo gallery at Taan.ca!

SPRING CAMP 2018

Spring camp was full of attitude—can do attitude! The five campers delved right into full days of activities and everything from crafts to fleshing beavers. Over several days, staff members Testloa Smith and Andre Eckert-Maret took the kids out on snowmobiles to get a taste of ice fishing. By the second day, the super-excited campers had caught a few fish, and it seems the kids had themselves become hooked—on ice fishing! And this summer? More fun at Culture Camp!

Roberta Behn
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ELK TAGS AND FORWARD-LOOKING PLANS

Elk Tag Draw

Get your names into the Renewable Resource Technician, Phil Emerson, for a chance to be entered in the August 1 draw to win Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's 2018/19 elk tag.

Forest Management

The Southern Lakes Forest Resource Management Plan had its public consultation April 16 and 17, 2018 where the public had a chance to give feedback on the draft plan. All feedback was recorded and will be incorporated into the next version of the draft plan. An Elders' gathering, on May 15, 2018, gave Elders from

Carcross-Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council the chance to meet and discuss the plan in a traditional gathering. The Joint Planning Committee anticipates having a final draft available for Chief and Council to review and sign by July 2018.

Horse Creek and Shallow Bay

In 2017, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council staff received external funding to move forward with recommendations made in an earlier report about the culturally important Horse Creek-Shallow Bay wetland complex. The project focuses on in-depth water quality monitoring and is made possible through the National Wet-land Conservation Fund and

Laberge Renewable Resource Council. In the first year of the two-year project, research was carried out, a hydrometric station installed, and plans made for water quality monitoring sites. We would be happy to have Citizens who are interested in learning more about the project accompany us on one of our monthly water quality field trips.

Scrap Vehicle Removal

There is still funding available for the removal of scrap vehicles. Call us!

Phil Emerson
Renewable Resource Technician
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**An election will be held for
Chief and Deputy Chief
Monday, October 15, 2018**



**Voters ages 16 and up
Ensure your name is on
the Voters' List and that your
address is correct!**

Call or use the online form at Taan.ca

**Felicia Gordon
Enrollment Coordinator
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TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL

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Slice into school!

Tutoring begins this fall

Contact Erin Cote

Youth Outreach and Support Worker

youthsupport@taan.ca

334.8306



Post-secondary Funding Deadlines 2018

Fall semester—July 15

Winter semester—November 15

Contact Jessica Bryant

Education Support Worker

jbryant@taan.ca

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