



October 2023 Bulletin

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council - 117 Industrial Road , Whitehorse, YT



Mural Magic!

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EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES



Spook-tacular Event Planned!

TKC Citizens make sure and get your costumes ready and mark October 26 on your calendar for this year's Spooktacular Halloween Party. Set to take place at the Grey Mountain Room at Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre the event will be held between 5 to 8pm. There will be games, prizes for best costumes, and pumpkin carving contests! This year we will have a photo booth too for family photos! Dinner will include pizza and finger foods from Kits Kitchen. For more information contact Natalie Hare at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402.



Family Fun Events

Fun family events continue throughout October sponsored by the Council of Yukon First Nation's Family Preservation Services. On October 15, a special event will be held at the Yukon Beringia Centre (Kilometer 1423 Alaska Highway) between 1pm and 5pm. On October 25, come to Polarettes Gym at 16 Duke Road between 5-7pm. This event is limited to 25 and first-come, first-served. Dinner will be provided. For more information go to culturalconnections@cyfn.ca



Vaccine Clinic Now Operating in New Location

The Whitehorse vaccine clinic has relocated to Northern Vision Development (NVD) Place at the corner of 4th Avenue and Ogilvie. The clinic was previously operating out of the Yukon Convention Centre. This move is part of the Government of Yukon's efforts to integrate COVID-19 supports into ongoing health service operations.

The clinic, a satellite location for the Whitehorse Health Centre, will open at its new location on September 27. The clinic will now operate under the name Whitehorse Health Centre – NVD Place and administer flu, COVID-19, tetanus and shingles vaccines for those aged 5 and older. The clinic will run from 9 am to 4:30 pm Wednesdays and Thursdays. As the demand for vaccines increases this fall and winter the days of operation will also increase. To book a vaccination appointment, go to yukon.ca/en/appointments or call 867-332-6754.



Think Safe, to Be Safe

As fall is now upon us please be aware there bears are transitioning to hibernation mode and will be actively seeking food. Please ensure your pets and children are safe and keep garbage and bear attractants from your yards. If you have concerns about bear behavior contact Environment Yukon's tip line at 1-800-661-0525 or contact TKC's Wildlife Monitors at (867) 668-3613 ext. 611.



The Next Thread: Winter Fashion Lineup

Citizens have been busy with creating their own ribbon skirt designs at the popular Tuesday night sewing group The Next Thread. This fall's sessions next evening will be October 17th and sewing enthusiasts will have a chance to continue current projects or take on new creations. This fall's lineup includes poppy making, handmade dolls, Christmas decorations, and much more. If you have any ideas, please bring them to Tuesday's group and we will try to incorporate it into the schedule.

A lovely ribbon skirt design by Tynyca Tizya. Is one of the many new creations coming to life at Tuesday's sewing group, The Next Thread.





A lovely ribbon skirt design by Tynya Tizya. Is one of the many new creations coming to life at Tuesday's sewing group, The Next Thread.



Dance Group Continues!

Are you interested in becoming part of a Ta'an Kwäch'än Traditional Dance Group? The group meets every Monday at 5:30pm at the office of Da Daghay Development Corporation at 81E Wilson Drive (Granger Mall). Along with dancers we will need sewers and people that know the songs and dances so we can all learn and pass the knowledge on, like our ancestors would want. The dance group is supported by TKC's Heritage Department and supper is provided. For more information contact Nicole Smith at (867) 332-0798.



Training Opportunity for Firearms Acquisition

TKC's Education, Employment and Training Coordinator will be coordinating training for an upcoming Firearms Acquisition course set for October 25-26. Held at the Canada Games Centre there will be 12 seats available for TKC Citizens and Staff. For those who have taken the course before and need renewal certificates there is a process available. To register or for more information please contact Barb Crawford at (867) 668-3613 ext. 410 or email training@taan.ca



TKC Christmas Dates Set!

Citizens can mark December 14, 2023, on your calendars for this year's Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Christmas Party. It will be held at the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre. The menu includes Prime Rib Roast Beef and all the trimmings! TKC is also planning to have our Christmas Open House on December 12. More details will be available in the November Bulletin and on TKC's Facebook page.



Committee Vacancies Available

Interested in taking a more proactive role in TKC's government? TKC has several vacancies on its committees. The following committee vacancies (below) are available. If you are interested, please let your family representative on Council know. More information is also available by contacting Victoria Holmes, Clerk of the Council at (867) 668-3613 ext. 210.

Audit Committee (3-Year Term)

Chief Jim Boss
Jenny Dawson

Investment Committee

Chief Jim Boss
Jenny Dawson
Susie Jim

Health Programs (2-Year Term)

Chief Jim Boss
Maggie Broeren
Susie Jim

Lands Advisory (2-Year Term)

Maggie Broeren
Jenny Lebarge
Susie Jim
Elders Council
Youth Council

Go to www.taan.ca
and TKC's Facebook Page for
regular updates
and events of interest!

NEWS DIGEST



In partnership with Parks Canada, on September 29th, Elder Betsy Jackson was escorted out to Tāw Tā'är (also known as Winter's Crossing). For 10 years, TKC and Parks Canada have been working towards making this site a historic site. When workers began preparing the land for plaque installation, heritage resources were discovered. TKC and Parks Canada staff carefully removed the items and bagged them. The plaque was then installed in another location and Tāw Tā'är is now officially a National Historic Site. From left TKC's Heritage Manager Derek Grouse, TKC Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya, Elder Betsy Jackson, Supervisor, Lands & Resources Natalie Leclerc, and GIS Analyst Allison Gray.

Partners in Preservation

The Lands and Resources and Heritage and Culture departments have been very active on the land this fall. We have been working with several project partners including contractors with the How We Walk with the Land and Water (HWW) project, Parks Canada, and the Culture and Tourism department of the Yukon Government.

On September 22, 2023, at TKC Settlement Land parcel S-29B1, Wildlife Monitor and TKC Citizen, Shawna Tizya noticed a different looking rock that was slightly exposed at the surface. Upon further inspection we quickly realized that we were looking at something unique: a piece of obsidian. Staff collected data and took pictures prior to removing the item and bringing it back to town where the Cultural Services branch of Yukon Government's Department of Tourism and Culture provided us with the information of this find. They informed TKC that the site is currently undocumented, meaning that the resource found will be documented as a new heritage site in Yukon Government's system.

All resources found will be provided to Yukon Government's department of Tourism and Culture for review, and if they qualify will be documented and entered into the system. Under Chapter 13 of TKC Final Agreement, all heritage resources found on TKC Settlement Lands are owned by TKC and can be stored in trust by YG or returned to TKC.



TKC's Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya discovered a unique piece of obsidian rock (volcanic glass) during patrols of TKC Land Parcel S-29B1. This discovery has potential to lead to a new heritage site on TKC Settlement Lands.





Chief Amanda Leas and Wildlife Monitors Shawna Tizya, Kadin Hare, and Andre Eckert-Maret take a break from their interview with film crews on the shores of Lake Laberge at TKC Fish Camp on September 23. Face Mountain and Joe Mountain in the background – an important area for monitoring given the historic and current land use by TKC Citizens in and around the Old Ta'an Village.

Lights, Camera, Action!

Big Time Decent Productions – a film company based out of Vancouver were in Yukon in recent months to film the many landscapes and diverse communities that thrive here. Indigenous film producer Joy Haskell sent her film crew out with a number of governments and organizations across the Yukon that work in land monitoring, search and rescue and other community initiatives. TKC Lands & Resources staff and Chief Leas have had the opportunity to showcase our fish, wildlife and natural resource monitoring programs and discuss the unique opportunities and powers within our Self-Governing First Nation when it comes to monitoring and protecting the vast traditional territory surrounding Whitehorse.

In August, crews joined our Wildlife Monitors and Lands & Resources teams on a handful of site visits around Lake Laberge including Shallow Bay, Fish Camp, the Old Ta'an Village and Fox Creek. Water sampling, salmon passage work and boat patrols have been among the key activities the film crew has been highlighting. Chief Leas and staff also got to sit down and discuss the range of activities that TKC conducts

geared towards conservation. Also, covered was the importance of enjoying the benefits of our natural landscapes for current and future generations of TKC Citizens, while honouring our past and preserving heritage resources and land use.



Roberta's Fall



Clockwise from right: Elder Edythe Maloney, Angela Hare, Councillor Charlotte Kane, Lori Graham, Chief Amanda Leas, Elders Debbie Burns, Rose Irvine, Charlene Burns, Kim Carlick, and Ruth Massie. Missing from photo is Elder Brenda Sam.

This year, TKC's Wellness Coordinator Charlene Burns had no problem filling spots for the annual fall canning get-together held on October 4-5. Charlene renamed the event to 'Roberta's Fall Canning Kitchen' in honour of Roberta Behn, who passed away in October 2021. Roberta's wonderful recipes and lineup of traditional preserves will carry on, thanks

Canning Kitchen



to these lovely ladies who worked so hard for two days carefully canning everyone's long-time favourites. Carrots, raspberry jam, applesauce, crunchy dill pickles and salsa. Delicious and a beautiful tribute! Your families will be happy this fall to share such a wonderful fall harvest.



HR HIGHLIGHTS



Welcome to the Team—John Coyne Manager OHS & EMO

John has lived in Yukon for 10 years where he has worked for the Yukon Government and resided with his family on TKC traditional lands within Whitehorse. John has worked closely with all First Nations in Yukon throughout his time here. This work includes leading Yukon's Emergency Support Service delivery, which involved implementing the COVID-19 Immunization strategy and taking on key roles in the COVID-19 response for Yukon.

John has held varying positions over a 30-year career in frontline health service delivery. He served as a fight paramedic which took him across Canada, throughout Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom. He retired from paramedicine six years ago as the Deputy Chief for Yukon EMS. He transitioned into Health EM and OHS after supporting National/International disasters and

public health emergencies for over 20 years.

John is looking forward to bringing his lived experience and knowledge to the TKC team and continuing his learning journey with our government. The work with OHS and EMO will serve to strengthen safety in the workplace and support Citizens as we navigate the challenges of climate related events and emergencies.

Outside of work, John enjoys spending time on the land and with his family. He will look for any opportunity to practice poking at a campfire, or fly fishing in some stream or river. He is an avid carpenter and boat builder and has made several canoes/kayaks and most recently has enjoyed designing custom truck campers and teardrop trailers.

John will be based out of the Griffiths Building. You can reach him at (867) 668-3613 ext. 213 or email ohsmanager@taan.ca.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...



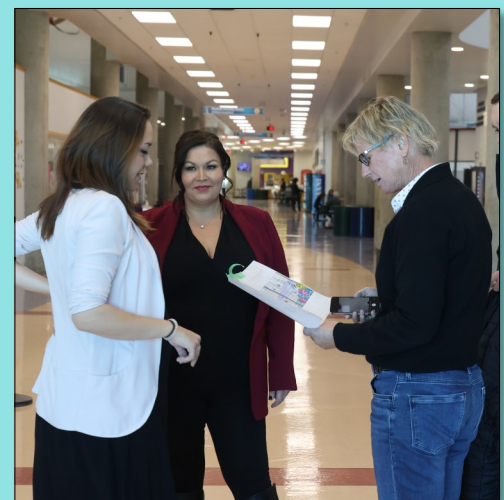
Chief Amanda Leas (right) and Kiawna Leas (centre) joined in to help paint the many components making up the mural.

Mural Magic

TKC's collaboration with the Youth of Today Society, and the City of Whitehorse to produce a beautiful mural on the south end wall of the Canada Games Centre is almost complete! TKC Citizen Kara Sweeney is the team lead for the project and she hosted a tour of the project for Mayor Laura Cabott and Chief Amanda Leas on October 4. Kara describes the mural as: "A celebration of our salmon returning to our significant territory. This project was inspired by our youth and land, bridging together a couple of different components of our past and present."

Kara explains the mural consists of two sections: a large wall that is 40-feet wide by 12-feet tall. There is also a section dedicated to the Lake Laberge Fish Camp, a space that can help youth learn about TKC's history and culture. It's 97-feet long and 12-feet in height, and continues the lake theme but serves as a setting for the salmon in a beautiful flowing body of water flowing along the wall back home.

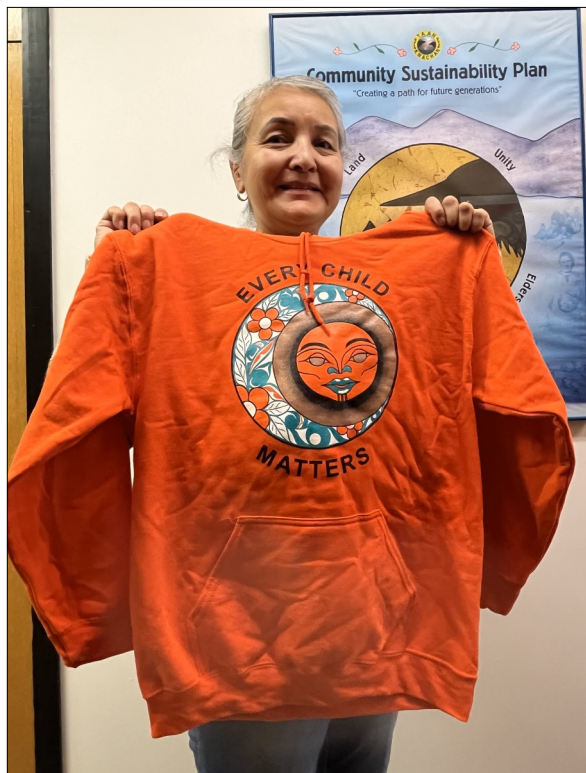
TKC Citizens can expect an invite to a special official unveiling of the mural in December!



Kara Sweeney explains the project and shows the original plan to Mayor Laura Cabott.



TKC Staff standing in solidarity and wearing orange to honour the thousands of survivors of the residential school system in Canada, and to the children who never made it home. Every Child Matters!



Teresa Jacobs shows off one the hoodies TKC purchased in support of non-profit initiatives recognizing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Kwanlin Dün First Nation Chief Sean Smith and TKC Deputy Chief Kristina Kane attended the events on Saturday September 30.

September 30, 2023

A Time to Reflect and Remember



The Walking Warriors for the Lost Children started their journey on September 24 on the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory. On September 30, the Warriors were greeted at TKC's offices before marching to the ceremonies held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. (below)





Do you have a story you would like to see featured in the monthly bulletin? We are looking for stories and photos (new and old) of Citizens to feature!

Contact the Communications Office at 668-3613, ext. 204, or by email at communicationsoffice@taan.ca.