



# December Bulletin 2023

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



## **A SNEAK PEAK**

TKC's long-serving Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya has been spending time with filmmakers who are here in Whitehorse working on a special Yukon-based series of television shows for the History Channel. Here, Shawna shares with the crew TKC's recent find of what could be heritage artifacts buried by Winter Crossing.

**More on this story on Page 7**

## — INSIDE —

Events & Community Notices .....	Page 2
December/January Calendar .....	Page 3
Fish Camp Upgrades a Success .....	Page 4
Remediation Work Wins National Award .....	Page 6
Preserving Our Precious Past .....	Page 7
In the Spotlight .....	Page 8
A Christmas Message from the Chief & Deputy Chief .....	Page 9
Christmas Party & Event Notices .....	Page 10/11



# EVENTS & COMMUNITY NOTICES



## Remembering Our Lost Loved Ones

Citizens are welcome to drop into the Wellness and Development building starting December 1st to put a lost loved one's name on a Wooden Christmas Ornament and hang it on our Christmas tree, or take it home.



## Christmas Lights Tour—TBA

We will be doing an evening Christmas Light Tour and Hot Chocolate at Tim Hortons this season! A date and time will be announced shortly. Check TKC Facebook and our website for more details.



## Open Houses help kick off Christmas Season! December 12, 2023

TKC Government will be hosting its annual Christmas Open House between 11:00am to 3:00pm on Tuesday December 12, 2023 at its Quartz Road office. Delicious food, door prizes for all, plus a Citizen turkey/ham giveaway is planned! For Citizen's convenience, Da Daghay Development Corporation will also be holding its Christmas Open House on Tuesday December 12 between 3:00pm and 6:00pm at 81E Wilson Drive. Lots of wonderful food and door prizes await. You there Santa will also be attending! See you on the 12th!



## Christmas Party all set for December 15, 2023

We're so excited to be offering Citizens a wonderful evening of delicious food and fun for the whole family at TKC's annual Christmas Dinner set for Thursday December 14th at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre. Santa will be attending, and the evening's dinner includes Prime Rib Roast Beef and all the trimmings. For more information contact Aashna Jhunjunwala at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203.



## Christmas Theme Sewing Nights!

Next Thread, TKC's weekly sewing group held each Tuesday at 5:30pm (Quartz Road) will offer upcoming Christmas themed projects including homemade Christmas decorations. On December 19th bring a \$25 gift for Indian Bingo. A delicious turkey dinner will be also provided. Stay tuned to TKC's Facebook page for more details.



## Christmas Hamper Program

TKC will be offering Christmas hampers for Citizens registered in the Income Assistance Program. Details on pick up and/or delivery options will be made available soon.



## Lights, Camera, Movie Time—December 23 at 11:00am

Citizens are invited to a special private showing of Wonka at the Yukon Theatre (304 Wood Street) on Saturday December 23, at 11:00am. A beverage, popcorn or candy is included! See you there!



## Christmas Break Bowling!

Bring the family for an afternoon of mid-holiday fun at Northern Lights Bowling (95 Lewes Blvd) on December 29 between 2pm-5pm. Pizza and snacks provided. Contact Natalie Hare at (867) 668-3613 ext. 402.



## Dance, Dance, Dance

TKC's Dance Group welcomes new faces! Held each Thursday at 5:30pm (TKC Quartz Road Office) the evening includes storytelling, song, and lots of good food! Stay turned to TKC Facebook for holiday times.







# DECEMBER/JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5 The Next Thread Sewing 5:30pm 9042 Quartz Road	6	7 Elders Christmas - Hellaby Hall 11am-3pm ~~~ TKC Dance Group 5:30pm	8	9
10	11	12 TKC's Public Open House 11am-3pm 9042 Quartz Rd. ~~~ DDDC Open House 81E Wilson Dr. 3pm-6pm	13	14 TKC Christmas Party! Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre 5:30pm	15	16
17	18	19 The Next Thread Christmas Dinner 9042 Quartz Road	20	21 Cookie Decorating Canada Games Centre Multi-Use Room 11am-2pm Snacks!	22 TKC Offices Closed	23 Private Showing - Wonka 11:00am at Yukon Theatre
24	25 Christmas Day TKC Offices Closed	26 Boxing Day TKC Offices Closed	27 TKC Offices Closed	28 TKC Offices Closed	29 Bowling for Citizens - 2pm-5pm Northern Lights Bowling TKC Offices Closed	30
31 New Years Eve!	January 01 New Years Day	02 TKC Offices To re-open 8:30am	03	04 	05 	06

*Have a safe and Merry Christmas, everyone!*



*Deputy Chief Kristina Kane, Chief Amanda Leas and Housing Manager Matthew Dickson toured the new commercial kitchen and meeting hall building at TKC's Fish Camp. The new structure will be ready in time for Spring Camp 2024.*

## Fish Camp Upgrades a Success

*Construction of a new commercial kitchen and dining space for up to 50 people is expected to be completed in time for TKC's Spring Camp in March 2024.*

TKC's Department of Housing & Infrastructure Manager Matthew Dickson is pleased to report that construction activity now taking place at TKC's Fish Camp is on-budget and on-time. The construction for a new commercial kitchen space, complete with meeting area started this summer and will be operational in time for March 2024's annual Spring Camp.

On November, 16, Chief Leas and Deputy Chief Kane got a chance to visit the site for a tour led by Matthew and were pleased with the progress being made. Chief Leas explained this new structure at the site will go a long way to ensure Citizens have an all-season facility for regular events, as well as providing new event

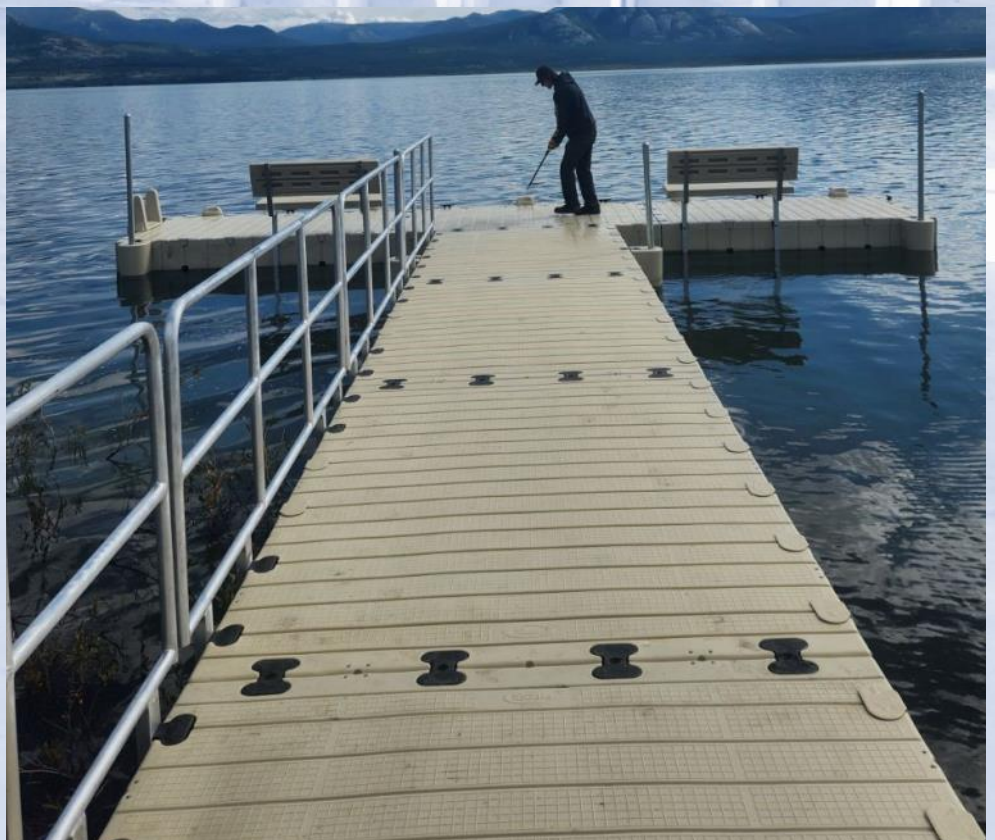
opportunities. Renovations to the historical lakeside parcel of Settlement Land include the installation of a floating dock with handrails, which was completed this summer. There will also be updates to the existing structures, including the gazebo, levelling and establishing an all-season parking area, secure storage, and bearproof garbage barrels.

Work at the site has been largely completed by crews, including workers from TKC Citizen-owned businesses TBL Developments and Little Rivers Construction, have been busy at the site since the summer.





Construction for the new building at TKC's Fish Camp is nearing completion. The 30-ft by 40-ft building will include a new 20-ft by 20-ft commercial kitchen and a dining space for up to 50 people. The design also allows for expansion and future additions out the front which will include a deck area. Above, crew members from TKC-owned business TBL Developments take a break from their activities.



This summer's new floating dock upgrade was installed and has been well received by the community.



## NEWS DIGEST

# Remediation Work Wins National Award

On November 24, 2023, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council's cleanup of an old, abandoned property located on TKC Settlement Land has won the prestigious 2023 Brownie Award in the best small project category. The Brownie Awards recognize builders, innovators and visionaries who are dedicated to the rehabilitation of brownfield sites that were once contaminated, under-utilized and undeveloped into productive residential and commercial projects that contribute to the growth of healthy communities across Canada.

In 2019, in partnership with Yukon Government and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, TKC Lands & Resources Department developed a restoration plan which included demolishing site buildings, removing waste/debris, excavation and removal of shallow contaminated soil, and installation of monitoring wells that contributed to restore the site, as much as possible, back to natural conditions.



Following restoration, an ongoing monitoring program was established that included a training program on the required monitoring works for TKC Citizens. The intention of the training was to provide education and training opportunities to the local community that would ultimately facilitate passing on the long-term monitoring of the site to TKC; however, in 2022, shortly after monitoring was implemented, the site was impacted by the collapse of a beaver dam which released more than a million tonnes of water several kilometers upstream from the site. The resultant flood washed thousands of tonnes of material onto the site, destroying eight of the 14 wells on site, and diverting the course of the creek and washing out the North Klondike highway for a number of days.

On a positive note, the flood transformed the majority of the landscape into what appears to be a more natural habitat, with native plants and berries washed down from upstream now re-establishing what was previously barren ground. Following the flood, it was agreed with TKC and the government that the risk to the environment of ceasing all monitoring on site was low and, thus, TKC decommissioned the remaining wells and the site was considered fully restored.

TKC would like to thank the territorial and federal governments for their commitment in restoring an old placer mining site and returning the land back to the Citizens of TKC.

# Preserving Our Precious Past

*TKC's Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya unearths artifacts that could lead to a special heritage site on TKC Settlement Lands*

It's not every day you come across a site — thanks to the thoughtful foresight of TKC's Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya — that may help preserve Ta'an's heritage and history for generations to come.

Shawna, who was involved in the scouting of the location for the recent plaque recognition of T'äw Tà'är National Historic Site out by Winter Crossing, unearthed what she found to be bones, and other artifacts that are now likely important links to TKC's rich heritage in the area.

Shawna made the discovery on September 22, 2023, at TKC Settlement Land parcel S-29B1 when she noticed a different looking rock that was slightly exposed at the surface. Upon further inspection they quickly realized they 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 TKC

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. Since the find, Shawna has produced a display of what was found at the site and documented everything. The items are now in the hands of Yukon Government who is examining the items.

Indigenous film producer from Vancouver, Joy Haskell with Big Time Decent Productions has been filming across the Yukon for a new series of television shows for the History Channel and has been out with TKC Lands staff in the past few months. When the crews learned about Shawna's discovery, they didn't waste any time in visiting TKC's offices to get a closer look at her display. Great job, Shawna! And don't forget to stay tuned, as we will be updating Citizens when YG's Cultural Services finishes their examination of these important pieces of the past.



*Bone fragments (above right) located by TKC's Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya are now at the Yukon Government's Department of Tourism and Culture. These resources found at the site may lead to a new heritage site being designated, all thanks to the hard work of Shawna and her colleagues at TKC's Lands & Resources. The above wolf skull was discovered by Brandon Crawford and his summer students during water programming at the old village. Shawna, in her role as Wildlife Monitor, continues to play an active role in providing access for the team to these sites.*



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

## **ROCK YOUR MOCS 2023**

*TKC Staff were pleased to take part in this year's commemoration of Rock Your Mocs held the week of November 12-18 in honour of National Native Heritage Month. The event offers everyone a positive opportunity to celebrate tribal individuality by wearing moccasins, as a way to honour our ancestors, and Indigenous Peoples worldwide.*



## **Christmas Canning!**

*On November 18, TKC Citizens enjoyed a special Wellness Department workshop offering everyone a chance to make homemade antipasto and cranberry Sauce.*

*Attending the pre-holiday canning session were from left: Elders Betsy Jackson, Barbara Hare, Debbie Burns, Louise Clethero, Family Support Worker Isabelle Dewhurst and Elder Geraldine Irvine.*





### **Dear Citizens,**

We want to take this time to wish each and every one of you a very safe and Merry Christmas season. We are so very fortunate in our Nation, to have such a strong community of youth, adults and Elders who's resilience and hard work continue to thrive as we build a better tomorrow for our children. We've endured quite the journey, and as we head into our 21st year as a Self-Governing First Nation; let's be proud of our many accomplishments, and never forget our ancestor's vision that leads us ever forward and keeps us strong for the many challenges ahead.

For our families who are struggling with loss or hardship during the holidays, we wish you to be surrounded with love and support at this time. For our young Citizens facing pressures and challenges, please know you are not alone, and never be afraid to reach out to our leadership for support.

Christmas is about giving and sharing and we hope all of you get a chance to celebrate and spend time with those you hold most close. Be kind to those around you that may be downhearted and don't hesitate to offer your love and support to those that might need a helping hand. This time of year it is important no one is forgotten. If you are out celebrating, please enjoy, but also be responsible and be safe. Our community's strength can only shine brightest when we all take care of ourselves and each other.

**Shāw Nithān and Merry Christmas, Everyone!**  
**Chief Amanda Leas and Deputy Chief Kristina Kane**

# TKC Open House



*Tuesday December 12*

**11am-3pm**

**9042 Quartz Road**

~ Citizen Turkey/Ham Giveaway ~  
~ Great Food & Door Prizes ~

# DDDC Open House

*Tuesday December 12*

**3pm-5pm**

**81E Wilson Drive**



~ Delicious Food ~  
~ Door Prizes ~



# TKC Christmas Party

*Thursday December 14, 2023*

**Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre - 5:30pm**

~ Delicious Prime Rib Dinner ~  
~ Children's Gifts w/Santa ~  
~ Special Draws & Door Prizes ~



**Contact: Aasna Jhunjhunwala at (867) 668-3613 ext. 203**







# ***Elder's Christmas Party!***

## **Thursday December 7**

**Who:** All TKC Elders Are Welcome!

**When:** Thursday December 7, 2023 from 10am – 3pm

**Where:** Hellaby Hall

**Activities:**

- Christmas Tree Decorating
- Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest
- Indian Bingo
- Wreath Making
- Gift Exchange

**What to Bring:** Bring a gift (up to \$25 value) and exchange. Wear an Ugly Christmas Sweater and bring any old Christmas tree decorations you would like to donate!

For more information, including rides, contact  
Isabelle Dewhurst at (867) 668-3613 ext. 405.





# HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

**TKC Offices will be closed from  
December 22, 2023, to January 2, 2024.  
We will reopen Tuesday January 2, 2024 at 8:30am.**

**The following services are available on an on-call basis over the Christmas break:**

General Emergencies:	Charles Pugh, Executive Director (867) 335-2504 <a href="mailto:ED@taan.ca">ED@taan.ca</a>
Finance Emergencies:	Andrew Johnston, Senior Manager Finance (867) 334-7360 <a href="mailto:financemanager@taan.ca">financemanager@taan.ca</a>
Housing Emergencies:	Matthew Dickson, Housing Manager (867) 335-1347 <a href="mailto:housingmanager@taan.ca">housingmanager@taan.ca</a>
Elders Services/Income Assistance Emergencies:	Heather Griffiths, Wellness Manager (867) 335-0630 <a href="mailto:wellnessmanager@taan.ca">wellnessmanager@taan.ca</a>

