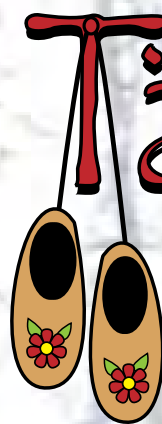


Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Newsletter

Këntra Täy

moccasin trail

Volume 15 Issue 1 Spring 2015





Making bannock



Presentations and workshops



Help with events

Heritage: a job you can really get into!

Proud of your Tr'ondek Hwëch'in heritage
and ready to show it?
Apply for a Heritage Interpreter position
at Dänojà Zho this spring!

***Our job is to share the story of our people.
Our work brings us closer to community, visitors, and kids.
We meet everyone and really get involved.***

We love what we do and you could too!

DZCC summer positions will be posted on the
TH Human Resources job board soon.

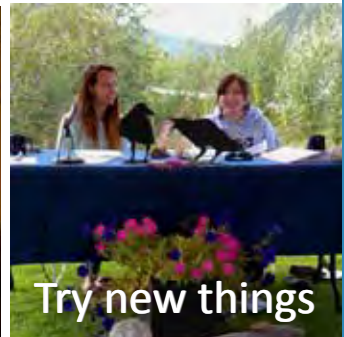
Please contact Kylie or Glenda 993-7100 ext.500 for more information or stop by DZCC.



Work in the
gift shop



Sharing history
Giving tours



Try new things

Chief Joseph's Update

Drin hōzq, citizens. I hope you are all enjoying the spring, wherever it finds you.

A lot has been going on throughout the past few months. Here are a few of the highlights.

I've attended several CYFN Leadership meetings in Whitehorse, where we've addressed a number of issues, including the approval of the 2015–16 budget and work plan for the Self-Government Secretariat. Top of the to-do list for Yukon First Nations Chiefs has been dealing with a response to the federal government's proposed Bill S–6 (changes to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act). First Nations were not consulted on several unilateral changes developed by the Canadian Government—changes we feel will water down the Act and the spirit and intent of Yukon First Nations Final Agreements. I will be making our dissatisfaction known during the Senate Committee Hearing held in Whitehorse regarding the matter.

I was very pleased to be in attendance for the 20-year anniversary celebrations of the first four Yukon First Nations to sign a self-government agreement. It was an inspirational evening of culture and pride. It was truly an honour to represent all Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens at that event. Also joining me were Elder Percy Henry—one of three remaining Chiefs who began the journey of "Together Today For Our Children Tomorrow"—as well as the Hän Singers. Congratulations once again to Na-cho Nyak Dun, Champagne Aishihik, Teslin Tlingit

and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nations for leading the way. You are true trail-breakers.

I spent some time in Ottawa recently, meeting with elected officials and colleagues at the Land Claims Agreement Coalition. The group exists to ensure modern-day treaties are respected and fully implemented. While there are relatively few First Nations with a modern treaty, those that do cover almost half of Canada's land, water, and resources. That is a significant amount of territory and responsibility. It's in everyone's best interests that our concerns and agreements be taken seriously.

It was a pleasure to participate in the recent Aboriginal women's mentorship training in Whitehorse. The program sought to enhance Aboriginal women's strengths and connections. It was great to share my experience with others; hopefully, others will benefit from my experience.

While my duties have taken me out of town from time to time, there has been plenty of work at home to deal with.

Council has begun crafting a multi-year strategic plan. This plan will be developed over the next several months and act as our government's road map. I look forward to sharing the plan once it's complete.

Council has also recently enacted a new policy for our government (the Fleet Vehicle Policy) and amended another (the Finance Policy). In the case of the latter, these new changes heighten financial



vigilance and oblige Council to pass a balanced (or better) budget each year.

Council has also had several meetings to go over the 2015–16 budget and work plans. It is time-consuming work, but we are more than pleased to be doing it on behalf of our citizens.

The recent disclosure that the Yukon Government intends to pursue fracking did not go unnoticed by this Council. We remain firmly behind past resolutions against fracking in our traditional territory. We are also aware that fracking might be considered in the future for natural gas reserves along the Dempster Highway and within TH Traditional Territory. We are keeping our eyes and ears open as this issue evolves and will remain vigilant against any activity that threatens our lifeline: our water.

If you would like to keep tabs on what your Chief and Council are up to, please join me on Facebook by searching for "Chief Roberta Joseph."

Have a great spring and summer!

Mähsi cho!



Chris Clarke, Elders' Support Worker

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Elders' Support Worker

Greetings all! As always, it's been a busy office in Elders' Support, and we are glad to have the support of Bonnie Rear, who is in the Mentorship Program until the end of July.

Krystle Roberts has also been working here on contract. Her assignment this month was to offer all Elders 65 and older the opportunity to have a will and enduring power of attorney in place for themselves. We received funding for a legal firm to assist with this process. Twenty Elders in the community, who didn't already have their wills in place, are participating in the program. Next year, with the optimistic support of the same funding, we will offer the same service to Elders 55 and older. If you have an Elder in your family, please encourage them to have these documents prepared if they haven't already. If you have any questions,

please don't hesitate to call.

We'd also like to see all Elders with a family member having Bank Power of Attorney so, for whatever reason, if an Elder is unable to pay his or her bills, someone can do it for them. Bank authority does not permit that person to move or withdraw any funds from their account, only pay bills. This can be very handy if someone ends up in the hospital for a short time or is not feeling well enough to go to the bank. Many bills can be set up for automatic withdraw, as well. Most Elders have this set up. If you don't and need help, call Elders' Support.

Are you ready for an emergency? What if there is a flood this spring or a fire this summer? Are you ready to go? Having a simple plan in place for everyone is next on our work plans.

Elder Programing continues.
Check out the monthly program

schedule that arrives in the mail. Wellness Week will have passed by the printing of this newsletter but hopefully you were able to attend some of the activities. The Heritage Department is again hosting Elder Spring Camp, April 12–16, at Cache Creek. We will be supporting the event and offering rides. We hope you can come. It is so nice to gather and be on the land in the spring. If you have suggestions for outings or want to participate in any programming, any meeting or community event, please contact us to arrange for a ride.

We continue to offer any assistance filling out forms, subsidies for tax preparation, fuel subsidies, Canada Pension, Old Age Security, Personal Education Credits, or whatever help you need. You know where to find us.

Happy Spring all, and best wishes!



“Like” Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Government on FACEBOOK to receive regular updates on everything that's going on. See you on the web!

Kyrie Nagano, Aboriginal Headstart Coordinator

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Direct Line 993•5927



Aboriginal Headstart



Drin hqzq, citizens.

I'd like to start with a quote from Bill Gates: "The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out."

To kick off Heritage Day, our past, present, and future Aboriginal Head Start students gathered by the ferry landing and went ice fishing. We had about 50 people show up throughout the day, including family, Elders, and other community members. It was an amazing day to spend outside with the children and families as the weather felt like spring. Some of the children went snowshoeing when they weren't ice fishing with their families.

I would like to say mähsi cho to the Elders that showed up; it was wonderful to see you all there.

Our Aboriginal Head Start Graduation date is tentatively set for Thursday, June 4, 2015.

Did you live on C-4B or other Settlement Land on December 31, 2014?

CHECK THE BOX

Don't forget to include the Yukon First Nations Tax form (YT432) on your tax return.

When you tell Revenue Canada you live on Settlement Land, 95% of the federal income taxes you pay come straight back to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government.





Ricky Mawunganidze, Youth Enhancement Coordinator

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Youth Enhancement

It has been quite the winter, and it has gone by incredibly fast. As always, it would not have been possible without the work of our incredible youth leaders (on-call staff) led by our Youth Enhancement Support Worker Alexa Mitchell: Sally DeMerchant, Benoit Labranche, Josh Prothero, Nina Vroemen, Ben Horodyski, Beth Muller, Steph Foster, JT Taylor, Sara Folkins, Ruben Noteboom, Daphnee Chapados and Huey O'Leary-Baikie.

We're always looking for energetic and charismatic youth leaders that want to engage youth in meaningful and culturally appropriate ways. If you think that you can make a real difference in a youth's life, I encourage you to consider joining our team for the spring and summer. I should warn anyone that wishes to apply that the work is not easy; at times it is stressful, other times thankless and often emotionally and physically draining. It is not babysitting; rather, it is developing young minds into healthy and positive adults through engagement. Through all of that, there are so many moments where you get to see youth demonstrate kindness, understanding, growth and maturity that

make it all worthwhile. So, if you're looking for a challenge, looking to rediscover the child in you, willing to learn and desiring to make a difference, then maybe this is the work for you.

Our Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Youth Council members have been finalizing a terms of reference and will now be setting out a strategic plan for 2015 and beyond. Members include Allison Anderson (Chairperson and Chief and Council Ex-officio), Tanis Van Bibber, Kalilah Olson, Jennifer Titus (Elders' Council Ex-officio), Tyler Rear, Marshall Jonas, and Jennifer Mierau. Youth Council members are excited about spending time on the land at Moosehide, R-22 and Cache Creek, with trail walks planned for the summer. The hope is to one day to walk the trail from Moosehide to Tombstone. Youth Council is open to all Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in youth ages 15–25 and meets every second Wednesday of the month, 5:00pm, at the Youth Centre.

Our continued growth as a centre depends on the youth in our care. I would like to thank all the youth that choose to spend time at the youth centre.



We have recently officially revived our Youth Committee and the current members are Jeremy Beausejour, Billy Holmes, Jolie Holmes, Bohdan Sharp-Chan, Joey Lorenz, Rory Duncan and Jaden Anderson. This group will be the voice of all youth that attend the youth centre and work with staff to make sure our space is safe and supportive.

We know you all come for different and similar reasons. Whatever your reason is, this is your space as well. Any space that has a group of people spending time together—whether children, youth or adults—will have challenges. Hurtful things will be said, friendships will be lost and gained, and things will be thrown. Mähsi cho for checking your language, for saying you are sorry when you have caused harm, for hanging out with another youth who's having a bad day, for learning to be your own person, and, mostly, mähsi cho for being you because YOU are awesome.

This year, the Healthy Active Youth (HAY) program moved from the Education team to the Youth Centre team. HAY is an after-school program designed to provide activities and opportunities to empower youth, build valuable life skills, and develop leadership abilities. Alexa organized and planned numerous activities that included ice fishing, beading, tobogganing, skating, spruce-pitch collecting, and fire building, with many more to come in spring. HAY is open to youth ages 11–13 and has a maximum number of 12 participants. The program operates every Wednesday and Friday with some exceptions, and there are still spots available as not all youth show up every week. Please note this is mostly an outdoor program, so youth must always be dressed accordingly.

Happy spring and make sure you check out and like our Facebook page!





Dexter MacRae, H.R. & Community Training Director

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H.R. & Community Training

The HRCT Department is pleased to continue developing effective and long-lasting initiatives for TH Citizen and government capacity development.

Apart from the day-to-day department service offerings, a few of the the HRCT initiatives have included the following:

- **Revised Cultural Orientation Workshop**

Development: A planning team has been working towards the redesign of the staff cultural-orientation workshop with a view to offering it to the greater Dawson City community. We want to provide a clear understanding of the TH Self-Governing Yukon First Nation's heritage and traditions based on the successful YFN 101 course offered through Yukon College but with TH customization. First offerings are anticipated for late 2015, early 2016.

- **Apprentice Indentureship:** After ensuring TH Government can indenture apprentices within the community, the second stage of this project, beginning in 2015, will be assisting TH citizens in being recognized and receiving credit for past work experience. This project encourages new participation in apprenticeship programs, simplifies the indentureship process, supports new apprentices in receiving credit for past work experience, and assists with preparation for challenging apprenticeship examinations. We current have four TH citizens working on individual learning plans at the Dawson Yukon College campus in preparation for challenging apprenticeship exams. As we work with citizens to gather their relevant work history, we expect the project to become even more popular.

- **TH Teaching & Working Farm:** Progress has been made in the development of the TH Teaching and Working Farm project that began in 2014 in partnership with Yukon College. The farm will be referred to as “Nänkāk nishi tr’ēnòshe gha hētr’ohq’h’ay” or “Land where we learn to grow our

food,” as named by Percy Henry working with our TH Hän language staff. The project will start small with the view to building into a self-sustaining entity over time. Project activity and growth will only be limited by funding sources and TH citizen capacity and desire. Preliminary site preparation will occur over 2015, with more significant site development in 2016. Consultation with Steering Committee, Technical Working Group, Chief & Council, Elders, youth and citizens will begin in 2015.

- **TH Home Care Support Staff Training:** HRCT has been working with Yukon College to develop certification for TH Home Care Support (HCS) staff in an effort to improve support to our Elders and infirm TH citizens. After careful planning and curriculum development, six TH citizens completed the HCS basic skills program and are now enrolled in College Prep upgrading and preparing for the YC HCS certificate program. This will be the first time this certificate program will be offered in a community outside of Whitehorse.
- **Trades Exploration and Job Fair:** Our biennial career fair will be held in fall 2015 and staged as a Trades Exploration and Job Fair. The Coordinator for this event will be hired in the spring and working with Yukon College, Skills Canada, and Yukon Women in Trades with the expectation of offering an add-on to that engages female interest and exposure to carpentry, plumbing, auto mechanics, electrical, cooking, oil burner mechanic and technology. The Job Fair will run similarly as to those previous, with workshops available for students and community members.
- **Hän Language Training:** Not enough kudos can be shared with respect to the offering of Hän language over the past few months. Again, bravo to Erika and her commitment to every class. As expected, it was problematic scheduling staff into a succession of 14

classes over an eight-week period, but roughly 40 staff signed up for the first course. Erika is providing make-up classes for those who missed any classes. A new offering will begin in a month or so. Many congrats to Amanda Moffatt for spearheading this initiative; we are looking forward to further Hän language development ahead. All staff are asked to ensure they sign up for classes. Attendance at Hän language classes will be a condition of employment in future, with timelines for completion for new hires and existing staff.

- **Environmental Monitoring Course:** TH, YC, Yukon Research Centre and Kaminak have partnered on an environmental monitoring program that will be deliverable in a modularized method at the community level. The first module, Introduction to Environmental Monitoring, is designed to be a two-week, community-delivered, culturally relevant training program that introduces the fundamental concepts and practical applications of environmental monitoring. Included categories will be environmental essentials; health and safety; environmental tech skills (GPS, Oziexplorer, field notes, journals, reporting); introduction to regulatory requirements; and traditional knowledge collection and reporting.

Environmental monitoring is used in the preparation of land use permits, water licenses, traditional knowledge studies and environmental impact assessments. All monitoring strategies and programs have goals, objectives and reasons, which are designed to establish the current status of an environment or trends in environmental parameters. The initial module, to be held in Dawson City, Apr. 27–May 8, will include design and implementation of a traditional knowledge collection exercise, which will include participation from TH Elders and Heritage and Natural Resources departments.

- **Payroll:** Payroll reporting in conjunction with year-end is never easy; however, Diane's commitment always makes it look easier than it is. Deadlines surrounding payroll are non-negotiable. After all, no staff, Elder or committee member can imagine being advised by payroll that, "Sorry, we just did not get that payroll

completed on time so deposits will be delayed." Payday is payday! Apart from a few extra action items this year, we're on target and feeling in control of this ever important government duty.

- **Other:** Additional files requiring TH action include YG Student Financial Aid policy review, Labour Market Framework and FN interests, SOVA Indigenous First Nations Arts curriculum inclusion/program, Centre for Innovation and Mining initiatives, Kaminak Advisory Committee work and citizen hire, to name a few.

As always, everyone looking for work is urged to watch the TH website, job boards and Facebook to ensure no opportunities are missed. If you're experiencing challenges in being successful with job competitions, please see the HRCT staff who can help identify the barriers you may have and recommend a course of action. Also, don't forget to have your resume updated with your recent employment, including summer seasonal work and contact information.



Chief Roberta Joseph and the graduates of the Home Care Support Staff Training, a program developed by TH HRCT and Yukon College.

LANGUAGE UPDATE

by Georgette McLeod

Drin Hqzq! Nèkhwänjit dàhònch'e?

Good day! How are you (plural)?



The Hän Singers were accepted to the annual Festival of Native Arts at the beginning of March. The group made the long journey along the Alaska Highway and put on three fun-filled and positive performances for the Alaska people. Two were on the mainstage at the University

of Alaska Fairbanks, and one was for a local elementary school. The organizers and audience made us feel so welcome, and we received many positive comments about our performances. Many stated we have to keep singing and dancing to keep our culture alive!

While there, we had a chance to visit with many family and friends who greeted us wholeheartedly and want us to continue coming back. We couldn't have asked for a better experience and hope to make another journey to the Festival of Native Arts in the near future. I want to thank all the people who supported and provided funding to the Hän Singers to make this event possible. Mähsi' cho!

Here are some words and phrases about singing and dancing:



Ètr'udzä ts'ä' shò trulyè'.

Let's dance and be happy.

Ètr'èjüh'ä'.

Let's all sing.

Èdèdhäh'ä'.

You guys sing.

Ètr'èjüh'ä' ts'ä' ètr'udzä.

Let's sing and dance.

Ètr'ètädzä.

We're going to dance.

We continue to receive numerous requests for Hän language translations. Many TH employees in various departments are making best efforts to incorporate the Hän language in their daily work lives through government documents and conversation. Since many of the staff have been taking language lessons with Erika, they have been inspired to make best efforts to incorporate as much Hän language as possible. However, we do ask for your patience when we come upon more difficult translation requests and that you do give us some time to work with speakers and linguists to come up with the best possible translations. Keep the requests coming in!

Some of our citizens are finding ways to use and celebrate the Hän language in their personal lives, and naming a newborn baby is no exception! We welcome Ts'ëlä Rae Owen to the TH family! The proud and happy parents are Rhea Lewthwaite (TH citizen) and Thomas Owen. Rhea worked at TH as a Work Opportunities Mentor

recently, but returned to New Zealand to have Ts'ëlä and be with her family there. We hope they make the journey back to Dawson soon so we may hold Ts'ëlä in our arms! Congratulations to the family!

It's hard to hold back laughter coming from the "Green Room" when you have a group of teachers and language learners working on building their vocabulary and fluency in the Hän language to share in their various capacities at the school, headstart, and TH workplace. At the Friday session, we learn a barrage of new language and the stories that go along

with it. It makes all worthwhile to come back to the sessions time and time again. Our speakers are invaluable and with them comes a body of knowledge so central to our identity and culture. It is good to keep the culture going! Anyone is welcome to join these sessions or stop by for a visit and listen in on some language and stories.

We have been fortunate to have Percy Henry work with us in the Heritage Department over the last two years, but unfortunately his job will be finishing at the end of March. Percy has supported and advised the teachers and language learners in many ways and does his best to help us speak the language and deal with our endless



requests to repeat the words and phrases. He admits quite often that he doesn't know it all and it would be nice to have somebody else that

speaks the language to share ideas with. Regardless, Percy has been a patient teacher when we are learning and has taken the time to share stories and plenty of laughter with us. He has lifted our spirits in times when we struggle with the language. We are truly

grateful to him for allowing us to document most of our conversations and sessions related to the Hän language. Mähsi' cho, Hai' cho for all that you have done for us Percy.

Nähëtr'ëno'ay. We will see each other again.

Cultural Education

By Jen Laliberte

In addition to keeping busy with end of the fiscal year reporting for funding sources and budgets, the Heritage Department is moving forward in planning for our Spring Camp. It's an exciting time of sunshine returning and the promise of warmer weather



and more time on the land. This year's Youth Spring Camp will be hosted at Cache Creek, from Friday, April 10, to Monday, April 13. Open to all youth Grades 7 and up, the camp is an opportunity for youth to visit and share with the Elders, who will arrive for their Spring Camp on Sunday the 12th. Spring Camp is a nice chance for different generations to spend time together and talk about

lives and experiences, old times and contemporary issues, and the value of being on the land.

I'm working with high school CELC Nicole Cook to plan a fun-filled and action-packed weekend, and some of our planned activities involve snowshoe baseball, scavenger hunt, rabbit snaring, sewing, Sasquatch storytelling with Kylie Van Every, Hän language, tire-pull game, first-aid scenarios, bush skill exercises, cooking (including a bannock-making showdown), dry-meat making, and more!

Once the Elders arrive, the youth will have the chance to spend time with Mary Jane Jim and Timothy Cant of Duu Chuu Consulting, who will be at the Elder's Spring Camp to share traditional strategies for dealing with loss and trauma. Nicole and I are focusing the youth portion of camp on Strong Youth and hope to empower the young people as future leaders of their communities.

We know the youth will gain a lot from time spent with Elders in beautiful Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory. We're looking forward to a meaningful, enriching, and fulfilling Youth Spring Camp up at Cache Creek and helping our leaders of tomorrow learn, thrive, and have fun!

EPiKa H:He

Festival of Native Arts in Fairbanks



At the beginning of March, Georgette and I planned a trip to Fairbanks, Alaska, to perform at the Festival of Native Arts with the Hän Singers. We had approximately 19 Hän singers in attendance. We performed three times: twice at the University, where the Festival takes place, and at an elementary school. It was the fastest trip to Fairbanks I've ever done! But it was so worth it.

When we sang the 'łuk Cho Änay' song, we asked the audience to come up and dance with us. It was great to see how many people participated. We received a lot of positive comments from people in the audience about how strong our group sang and how powerful we are. It makes me happy to hear that. We've come a long way, and we're doing such a great job. I am looking forward to our next performances coming up. Mähsi cho to the Elders and youth that attended, and hay cho to our relatives that performed with us from Alaska and Champagne and Aishihik First Nation.

Yukon Native Language Centre Certificate Training

I recently attended the Yukon Native Language Centre's Certificate Teacher Training, in Whitehorse. This is my last training session for the certificate. The languages represented were Southern Tutchone, Northern Tutchone, Gwitch'in, Upper Tanana, and Hän. I know the Hän Language and Gwitch'in Language are very similar, but I've never heard Upper Tanana spoken before—it is also very similar to Hän. In English, we say "Good." In Hän, we say "Hqzo." In Upper Tanana, they say "Hoso." That isn't the only similarity; there are many more.

We learned how to teach "Walking to ... the

store, house, etc." The students demonstrated a full lesson on "walking to" in their own language. We worked on readings from articles related to native languages, and did a group presentation on the article we read. We also did three listening exercises; I was chosen to be the "Hän fluent speaker" and given a hanky and a grandma shawl to wear. Everyone enjoyed my grandma act. We also worked on long-range planning.

I really enjoyed my time in the certificate program. It is a three-year program, during which I attended six teacher-training sessions and several Hän literacy sessions. I started the program when I became the Hän Language Teacher at Robert Service School, in 2012. Since returning to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, I've taught at RSS, teaching Kindergarten and Grade 1. I've also taught Aboriginal Head Start and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in employees. It has been a great three years, and I've learned a lot. I graduate with my certificate from YNLC on May 15, 2015.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Employees' Hän Language Program

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in employees Hän Language Program started in January and the last class was taught at the end of February. It was a seven-week program. I had approximately 40 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in employees participate. I taught my students basic conversational skills and conducted listening exercises on vowels, diphthongs, and glottalized consonants. I received a lot of positive feedback on the classes and enjoyed teaching my fellow co-workers. I'm looking forward to teaching the next set of language lessons.



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

by Jody Beaumont

Greetings citizens.

We're busy getting things together for our annual spring camp for Elders and youth held at Cache Creek. The camp aims to bring Elders from Old Crow, Mayo, Fort McPherson, Dawson and other communities together to discuss issues, weigh in on how the winter was, and participate in a variety of traditional activities. This year we're pleased to host Mary Jane Jim and Timothy



Cant of Duu Chuu Consulting. They'll be leading a two day workshop on community loss and traditional practices for moving through the grieving process. The youth portion of the camp will be held April 10–13 and the Elders' portion of the camp will run April 12–16. Let me know if you'd like more information.

I'm moving ahead with our Tr'ohude Project. This involves the development of an educational,

web-based resource that will communicate Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in heritage and culture to a wide variety of audiences. We're working with Midnight Arts to complete the second phase of the project and will spend the next several months researching content for the project. Mähsi to Kaminak for funding this stage of our work. We've also established a small committee to provide input into the project. Mähsi to Angie Joseph-Rear, Victor Henry, and Nicole Cook who'll be working with us. We still have room for one more committee member, so let me know if you're interested in joining the team.

Our HR Department, along with Kaminak and the College, are offering an environmental monitoring training program in late April, early May. I'm happy to participate by organizing some of our Elders to facilitate traditional knowledge instruction. We'll be camping at the Land of Plenty and discussing traditional values and responsibilities to the land as well as the role traditional knowledge and protocols play in the environmental monitoring world.

One final note ... after many years we're finally submitting the paperwork to officially name Tr'ochëk under the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board. Although we've used the name for quite some time we, need to do this final bit of work so it can be used on official maps.



Got a Big Fish Story To Tell?

by Allie Winton

I've been hired through the Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Nomination project to research the importance of fishing for the Tr'ondëk



Hwëch'in and the community of Dawson—my dream job!

My focus will be on the salmon fishery, but I'll also be collecting information about all kinds of fishing along the Yukon River, including

spring grayling fishing at Ch'ëdä Dëk (Forty Mile).

First, I'll compile historic information about the salmon fishery, focusing on traditional fishing sites such as Tr'ochëk and Ch'ëdä Dëk (Forty Mile), then I'll trace the history of the salmon fishery and how it's changed throughout the years, including changes in fishing sites, techniques, and what fishing has meant to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, both in the past and today.

The history of Hän Fisheries is of particular interest, so I'm eager to speak with anyone who was involved, as well as folks still fishing today.

I'm very excited about this project and invite anyone who has stories to share to please contact the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department and they'll put you in contact with me. Mähsi!

WORLD HERITAGE PROJECT UPDATE

by Paula Hassard

There's a lot of good news! At the GA in November, citizens passed a resolution to keep developing a nomination proposal for a Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage site. We're also very pleased to announce that TH succeeded in acquiring funds from both federal and territorial governments for the project and a legal opinion that designation would have no impact on TH rights, ownership and management of their lands.

We're now gathering information for the nomination proposal. This work includes more drafts of the story and boundary and developing the technical requirements for a World Heritage Site. Local Allie Winton is researching salmon fishing as an example of traditional harvesting, and other Yukoners are involved in researching placer-mining history. Another paper is focused on architecture. We're getting input from TH and the mining industry as we fine-tune the buffer zones. Other familiar faces include Jim Taggart, who is researching current land-use legislation,



regulations, policies and management within Tr'ondëk-Klondike and how these work. We're also bringing up people from other World Heritage sites and experts in Aboriginal Tourism to discuss possible opportunities for Dawson and TH citizens.

The winning photographs from our photo contest will be used on our website in April. Check it out!

For more information please visit our website www.tkwhstatus.ca or feel welcome to drop by and see Paula at Madame Tremblay's.

MOOSEHIDE Community Plan

by Jim Taggart

While I'm no longer working daily in the Heritage Department, I've been hired to help the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in develop the Moosehide Community



Plan. Moosehide is an extremely important and special place for many reasons. It's vital the things that are valued about Moosehide are planned for and considered in all future activities.

Direction and advice will come from a Moosehide Steering Committee,

made up of Moosehide residents, Elders and representatives from various Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Departments. The project is overseen by the Heritage Department, and it's my role to gather and consider all the information and create a suitable plan that enhances and protects what's important. We'll consider Moosehide's culture

and heritage and its buildings and facilities. We'll look at access, economic potential, activities and standards—anything people believe is important.

The first step is identifying what's special about Moosehide and the values citizens associate with it. We'll create a community vision and a series of goals and objectives, and develop the means to achieve them. This will be done through consultation with the Steering Committee, your government departments, Elders, youth and citizens. It's important everyone is heard. Look out for information on public meetings and consultation opportunities. An initial questionnaire was sent out in February.

We'll also be creating a Cultural Resources Management Plan. This will record Moosehide's historic and cultural buildings and resources and recommend a management approach to preserve and develop the site and buildings' values and characteristics.

This work will continue throughout the summer, and we aim to have a completed draft plan by late fall.

This is a very exciting project, and I hope all citizens will wish to be involved. If you'd like to chat about Moosehide, please contact the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department or ask that they put you in contact with me.

Mähsi cho!



got room?

Consider providing a "homestay" for a young Yukon First Nations SOVA student, short-term Yukon College faculty, and other TH service providers.

Please call Human Resources and Community Training (993-7100 ext.112) or e-mail HRjobs@trondek.ca to share rental details and contact information. You will be contacted should a need arise. You may be helping youth meet their education and career goals and TH in meeting locally delivered Citizen training needs that otherwise may not happen.

(Unfortunately, this offer is not available to citizens residing in TH housing.)

CHIN CHIN ZHIT NODRIK INSIDE a BOX IS LIGHT

by Glenda Bolt

At Dänojà Zho we've been experimenting with shadow puppetry with the plan to develop a few short story vignettes for the summer tourism



season. We're calling this project *Chin chin zhit nodrik – Inside a box is light*. Mähsi cho to Elder Edward Roberts for helping us find the Hän words.

Visiting guest artists Tomáš Kubínek and Michelle Olson got us kick-started on the project last August.

In the cold days of February, Tomáš returned to work directly with Dänojà Zho staff, friends and a visiting artist from Toronto. We made headway into the project and had a lot of fun.

Shadow puppetry is an ancient form of storytelling that has a dreamlike quality but can also appear a little like an animated film. It requires very little infrastructure and is a fun way for people to participate in theatre productions. The added bonus is that the puppeteer is in the dark hidden behind a screen. This is perfect for those who may want to be involved in theatre productions but are a bit shy.

Shadow puppets can be made from a variety of materials but we are using simple black card board, flexible plastic (like crazy carpets) acetate and lots of bamboo skewers. Once you have a puppet or scenery shapes completed, you simply hold it between a light source and a white screen, and presto, the magic begins. It's simple to perform and fun to watch.

If you're interested in helping us make puppets or want to get involved, please contact Allison and Glenda 993-7100 ext. 500 or stop by DZCC to take a look at what we are up to. You can also watch some of our shadow puppet videos on the Danoja Zho Cultural Centre Facebook page.



THUNDER IN OUR VOICES



Photo: Tess Macintosh

In the 1970s, a consortium of oil companies proposed the largest pipeline project in North America. Elders and youth from thirty isolated Dene and Inuvialuit villages stopped the project. How did they do it? "With the thunder in our voices."

From 1975–1977, Justice Thomas Berger conducted an inquiry to investigate the social, environmental and economic impacts of the pipeline project and put forward recommendations. The hearings were conducted in communities throughout the MacKenzie Valley and the North. Berger listened and heard what people had to say—with thunder in their voices.

Drew Ann Wake worked as a researcher for a documentary film shot during the inquiry and maintained lifelong relationships with the people she met. Drawing upon her experiences, film footage, photographs and documents, Wake has created an exhibition speaking about this important time in the history of Canada's

relationship with Aboriginal people and a pivotal moment in the story of the North.

Thunder In Our Voices – The Land is Our Voice is currently at the Prince Of Wales Heritage Centre in Yellowknife and will open at Dänoja Zho Cultural Centre in late May.

This exhibition resonates with our community. We see direct links and parallels—as well as good storytelling—that connect with our First Nation and community today, especially with the issues surrounding the Peel Watershed.

As part of this visiting exhibition experience, we are undertaking the research, planning and fabrication of a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in exhibition on the Peel Watershed issues, *The Land is Our Voice*, to complement and stand alongside *Thunder In Our Voices*. This community-based exhibition will share the experience and perspective of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. This community component is supported by Drew Ann Wake, curator of *Thunder In Our Voices*.

WHY ARTIFACTS ARE BETTER THAN MONEY

by Sue Parsons

With the prominence of reality shows like Pawnathon Canada, Pawn Stars, Canadian Pickers, Antiques Roadshow and American Pickers, we see the increasing commodification of families' antique treasures.

Sadly, items that fall into fashion can become worth so much that it's tempting to sell them. As a result, the best of a community's heritage can end up far away from their communities, in the hands of the elite, who have little understanding of the stories the artifact can tell and, more importantly, no intention of keeping the stories, traditions, skills and values alive. The artifact becomes static.

What could be more important than money as the economy threatens to get leaner and certain artifacts increasingly garner a higher market value? Knowing who you are, where you come from, understanding the values encoded in your culture that guide you in life are longer lasting and of deeper value. Being able to pass those values along in the form of a family or community artifact, the physical item that is the portal to teaching all these lessons, helps affirm identity.

The real value is the artifact's ability to tell a story—your story, your family's story, or your community's story. If you have a family treasure—a photograph, an artifact, or something that connects you to your identity—be



sure to record the stories you want it to tell. You will want to share who made it and when, how it's connected to you, and anything else you think that a family or community member coming



along in a few generations who you may never meet might want to, and need to, know in order to understand their heritage and who they are.

If you're interested in finding out the value of your artifact, the best place to look is perhaps not to an appraiser for monetary value but within your heritage for its value at affirming self-identity. Ask your family, the person who made it, the person who used it, and the people who have stories about it. Record its meaning to you, keep track of the item's history, how to make it, whose hands it's passed through and, most importantly, share those stories, skills and values with upcoming generations.

The market value of an artifact will rise and fall with the whims of collectors interested primarily in the aesthetics or craft of an item. The heritage value of an artifact relies on its ability to tell its story and to keep people connected to their identity. That never goes out of fashion.



Ashley Bower-Bramadat, K-Gr. 6
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K-Grade 6 Education



We usually think January and February are slow months of the year, but this year elementary classes were busy with cultural activities throughout the winter months and continuing into the spring.

In January and February, Peggy Kormendy and Rachel Hunt visited Grades 1 and 2 for meat cutting. The kids watched and learned how to cut meat and prepare for drying. The kids had a great time hanging the meat. Once it was dried, they delivered dry meat to others and enjoyed some for themselves.

Peggy and Rachel also visited the Grade 5 class for chum-salmon filleting. The Grade 5s watched and learned how to filet a salmon. They were excited that in a few years they would be able to attend First Fish and learn about salmon fishing and processing. With the salmon strips, we decided to make candied salmon. The class made a candied brine, left the salmon overnight in the brine, and then dehydrated the salmon the next day. The candied salmon turned out great.

Mähsi cho to Peggy and Rachel for coming in. The kids had a great time!

In February, Jody Beaumont, Sue Parsons and Victor Henry visited the Grade 2 class to talk about the invention of the snowshoe. Jody shared a traditional story about how snowshoes helped in the winter when walking in the snow. The class enjoyed the story and later made their own endings to the story and presented them to the Heritage Department. During the visit, Sue and Victor talked about snowshoes Victor had made—how they were constructed and what tools and materials were used. The class had the opportunity to make their own style of snowshoe by using willow and string. The kids learned a lot about snowshoes and snowshoeing. Mähsi cho Jody, Sue and Victor.

In collaboration with the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council, elementary classes will be learning about trapping each year. This year, we had Peggy Kormendy and Rachel Hunt visit Grades 1-6 for

trapping talks, which ranged from what trapping is trapping, the tools used, and the rules and regulations around the activity. The kids learned about the types of animals that can be trapped in the Yukon and the trapping lives. The Grades 5, 3/4, and classes had the opportunity to see Peggy skin a marten. The kids were excited to watch the process of skinning. Kindergarten had a special visit from Shawn Hughes to talk about trapping. The Kindergarten kids had the chance to match the fur and tracks with each animal. They had a great time, and we're looking forward to more trapping talks every year during trapping season.

After the trapping talks, we went ice fishing with the Grades K-6 classes. Before we went, Shawn Hughes talked to the classes about what kinds of fish could be caught in the Yukon River during winter, the tools used for ice fishing, keeping safe, and the rules and regulations around ice fishing.

During the four days of ice fishing we caught five burbot! Shawn Hughes showed the class how to fillet the burbot; it's very different than other common fish, such as grayling. It's almost like skinning a fish. The kids were amazed at how the burbot looked and how they were filleted. The kids had a great time and didn't want to stop! Several kids went home and asked their parents to take them ice fishing. That weekend after classes finished ice fishing, we were happy to hear several families went out. Way to go!

Mähsi cho to the following people who assisted: Lee and Jim (for drilling the holes), Shawn Hughes, Ryan Peterson, Simon Nagano, Natasha Ayub, Melissa Hawkins, Mary Henry, and the several parents who came out.



Julia Milnes, Gr. 7–12 CELC

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Grades 7–12 Education

I write this at the end of February, on my last day before starting a year-long maternity leave. (I'm expecting a baby at the end of March!) I'm delighted to begin this next chapter in my life, but will very much miss working with the wonderful youth of this community, as well as with TH students and their families far and wide. I'm happy Nicole Cook has been hired to fill in as High School CELC in my absence. I have no doubt Nicole will do an excellent job in the role.

Since the last KT ...

Cultural programming was going strong in high school social studies right up until Christmas, with Jody Beaumont as a regular guest teacher. The Grade 9 class had completed their First Nation unit and were happy to try their hands at a Christmas craft project—creating hide and sinew dream catchers in class—with plans for more beading and sewing in the New Year. In the Yukon First Nation Studies 12 class, the students continued their dialogue around contemporary First Nations issues.

The Grade 10 Socials unit on TH Culture wrapped up in January, and was a great success. Jody Beaumont, with the help of Percy Henry and other Elders, helped students gain an understanding of TH culture from long ago until now. Included in the curriculum was a section on the legacy and impacts of residential schools. The material was delivered thoughtfully and with sensitivity by Jody and guests. We were very fortunate to have Lynn Rear and Freda Roberts participate as cultural support

throughout the unit. They helped students grasp the difficult material, encouraged them to ask important questions, and helped guide the class toward the goal of looking forward with hope and understanding. Mähsi cho to Glenda and Kylie at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre for welcoming us throughout the TH cultural unit. Mähsi cho to Sara Stephens, Jody Beaumont, the TH Heritage team and the Elders and citizens who contributed to this meaningful cultural unit.

I was delighted to join Helen Dewell and her Grade 6 class for the ever-popular Winterpalooza trip, which took place at the Rock Creek Campground in February.

It was a treat to spend time with the fun-loving class, playing cooperative games, learning survival techniques, building quinzees, conducting snow and temperature experiments, and booting around on snowshoes.



Tara McCauley's Grade 7 Home Ec class has begun the sewing portion of their course and are lucky to have the chance to try their hand at traditional mitten making. Talented craftsperson Allison Anderson will be working with the students to construct the mittens out of cozy duffle, hide, and fur. Stay tuned for photos of the finished product.

As always, mähsi cho to the TH Elders, staff and citizens for all they do to enhance the education of our youth. And all the very best to the entire TH community. I look forward to my return next year!

Nicole Cook, Gr. K–6 CELC
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993•3753



Grades 7–12 Education

I'm excited to be starting my year's term as the High School CELC. I wish the best of luck to Julia and her new baby on the way!

I've jumped on in and joined Helen Dewell's class at Winterpalooza, in Rock Creek. It was a good opportunity to bond and interact with the Grade 6 class before they enter the new world of high school this fall. Building that relationship is important, while supervising many activities—like building quinzees (which worked out amazingly), cheering them on while they worked together to build a fire, and snowshoeing.

I'm in the process of working in Tara McCauley's Grade 7 Home Ec class to help with traditional making along with Allison Anderson and Dolores Scheffen. So far they are doing an amazing job. I can't wait to see the finished results!

I've been pretty busy since I started, but it's a good thing. Some of things I've helped with include the cross-country-skiing and snowshoeing trip to Tr'ochëk with Steve Laszlo's Grade 7–9 Phys. Ed. class (where we enjoyed a special cultural tour with Allison Anderson and Kylie

VanEvery), preparing for spring camps with the high school students by focusing on specific themes, like harvesting and traditional medicines. It's a time for youth to be on the land learning with Elders, while enjoying different activities and events, like collecting spruce pitch, making snares for rabbits and squirrels, snowshoeing, listening to traditional stories, beading, sewing, and playing traditional games. For more information on the spring camps, feel free to contact me.

It's going to be a fun, full year of programs and events!





Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

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107	Adam Thom Geospatial Technologist		993-6768	Glenda Bolt Dänojà Zho Manager
173	Alex Brook Heritage Sites Manager	Cell: 993-3025	171	Heidi Warren Education Outreach Coordinator
182	Alexa Mitchell Youth Enhancement Support Worker		124	Jackie Olson Executive Director
150	Allison Kormendy Community Health Representative		164	James Titus Elders Driver
146	Amanda Moffatt Staff Training & Development Officer		186	Jason Henry Maintenance Supervisor
134	Amanda Taylor Administration Manager		153	Jen Laliberte Cultural Education Coordinator
140	Andrea Moses Council Administrator		165	Jennifer Nunan Community Counsellor
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106	Bill Kendrick Regional Planning Manager/Senior Land & Res. Officer		143	Lisa Anderson Implementation Officer
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116	Darren Bullen Land & Resources Officer Trainee		105	Nicole Becker Land & Res. Development Assessment Coordinator
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164	Deena Titus Administrative Assistant		129	Ricky Mawunganidze Youth Enhancement Coordinator
133	Dexter MacRae Director HR & Community Training		100	Roberta Joseph Hähkè / Chief
141	Diane Baumgartner Payroll & Benefit Administrator		127	Ryan Peterson Fish & Wildlife Steward
155	Dolores Scheffen Home & Community Care Coordinator		112	Shauna Kormendy Human Resources Manager Trainee
158	Drea Nasager Records & Supplies Officer		122	Shirley Peirson Director of Finance- Capital
121	Erika Scheffen Heritage Assistant		175	Spruce Gerberding Heritage Sites Maintenance Supervisor
109	Frances Aitken Senior Finance Officer		144	Sue Parsons Collections Manager
993-5907	Franny Krivensky Director of Tr'inke Zho (Daycare)	Fax: 993-5497	110	Tim Gerberding Director of Implementation
167	George Filipovic Justice Coordinator		149	Trena Raven Director of Health & Social Development
993-3630	George McLeod Maintenance Assistant		123	Victoria McLeod Finance & Accounts Receivable
139	Georgette McLeod Hän Language Administrator		108	Wayne Potoroka Director of Communication & Policy
993-5927	Aboriginal Head Start	Fax: 993-5497	993-3721	Ben Peirson - Chief Isaac Security (Daytime)
551	Admin Meeting Room		553	Lands Conference Room
555	Community Support Centre - Meeting Room		993-6224	Tr'ondëk Kitchen/Community Hall Fax: 993-5497
164	Community Support Centre - Reception		117	TH Admin Bldg. Lobby Phone
142	Councillor Office/Voicemail		993-5907	Tr'inke Zho Daycare
993-6768	Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre	Fax: 993-6553	129	TH Youth Centre

Chief Isaac Inc. email addresses: firstname.lastname@chiefisaacgroup.ca

Last Updated: Mar 2, 2015

You lookin' for us?

Introducing...

Ts'ëla Rae Owen

*b. 7:55am
14 Feb 2015*

*Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
Pākehā New Zealander
European Canadian*



Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Youth Spring Camp

Friday April 10th-Monday April 13th
Cache Creek (Kilometre 131 Dempster)
For all youth grades 7 and up
Have fun out on the land & visit with Elders!

For more information and registration forms, contact:

Jen Laliberte, Cultural Education Coordinator
993-7100 ext. 153, jen.laliberte@trondek.ca

Nicole Cook, Community Education Liaison Coordinator
993-7100 ext. 180, nicole.cook@trondek.ca



ELDERS' SPRING CAMP

APRIL 12-16, 2015 AT CACHE CREEK

JOIN ELDERS FROM TR'ONDEK HWËCH'IN, VUNTUT GWICH'IN, TETLIT GWICH'IN, NACHO NYAK DUN, AND BEYOND FOR A FEW DAYS OF TRADITIONAL FOODS AND ACTIVITIES, DISCUSSIONS, AND LOTS OF FUN.

CALL 993-7100 (JODY EXT 137 OR JEN EXT 139) FOR MORE INFO. DAY TRIPS AVAILABLE.