

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Newsletter

Këntra Täy

moccasin trail

Spring 2018





2018
July
26-29

Moosehide Village
(DOWNRIVER FROM DAWSON)



2018 Moosehide GATHERING

Moosehide Gathering is a biennial celebration of Indigenous culture.
Tr'ondök Hwöch'in welcomes everyone.

Traditional and Contemporary Performances
Art/Craft Market • Workshops & Cultural Demonstrations
Kidszone • Traditional Knowledge • Nightly Feasts
and more!

(867) 993-7100 ext. 205

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Yukon

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Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
TRUST



Join Us

Reports will be provided by
the Protector, Trustees,
Private Market Businesses,
Investment Manager,
and Auditor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, June 2, 2018
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hall

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department Photo

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER WILL BE SERVED.

For further information please contact: Maureen Birckel, maureen.birckel@thtrust.com, 867-334-5061



Housing

The Housing and Infrastructure and Land and Resources Departments have teamed up to create a new market-based housing policy that will allow citizens to construct and own a home on TH settlement land. The program will be used at the Tr'ondëk Subdivision (commonly referred to as "C-4") and may be implemented in future settlement land projects.

Past practice for buying or building home on TH settlement land has required citizens to submit an expression of interest, in which a citizen goes into the Land and Resources office and records their residential interest in the property. This does not guarantee the citizen will actually get approval, and there is often a long waiting list of interested people. More significantly, this process doesn't give citizens the right to own the home and build equity.

The aim of the new market-based housing program policy, however, is to make sure that citizens have a documented right to use a specific parcel of TH settlement land. This means that citizens interested in home ownership will have the right and support to construct a home on TH-serviced settlement land. According to the latest draft of the policy, eligible applicants will be able to apply for loans to either purchase an existing house, build a house, or renovate a house they own on settlement land.

Another obstacle in securing homeownership on TH settlement land has been a lack of funding, since the self-government agreement prevents seizure of property in case of default. Through the new policy, TH citizens will be able to get help funding their housing projects with the First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF), a program that allows citizens to obtain a loan from participating banks. The FNMHF program gives participating banks the incentive to provide loans to citizens because the fund provides extra guarantee that the bank will receive payment.

Citizens will obtain a lease through TH and apply for a FNMHF credit enhancement. TH will provide the guarantee to the lender (the bank), and if the citizen is unable to make the required payments, TH will take responsibility for the loan. If TH is not able to meet its obligation as the guarantor, the bank will be able to turn to the FNMHF for payment.

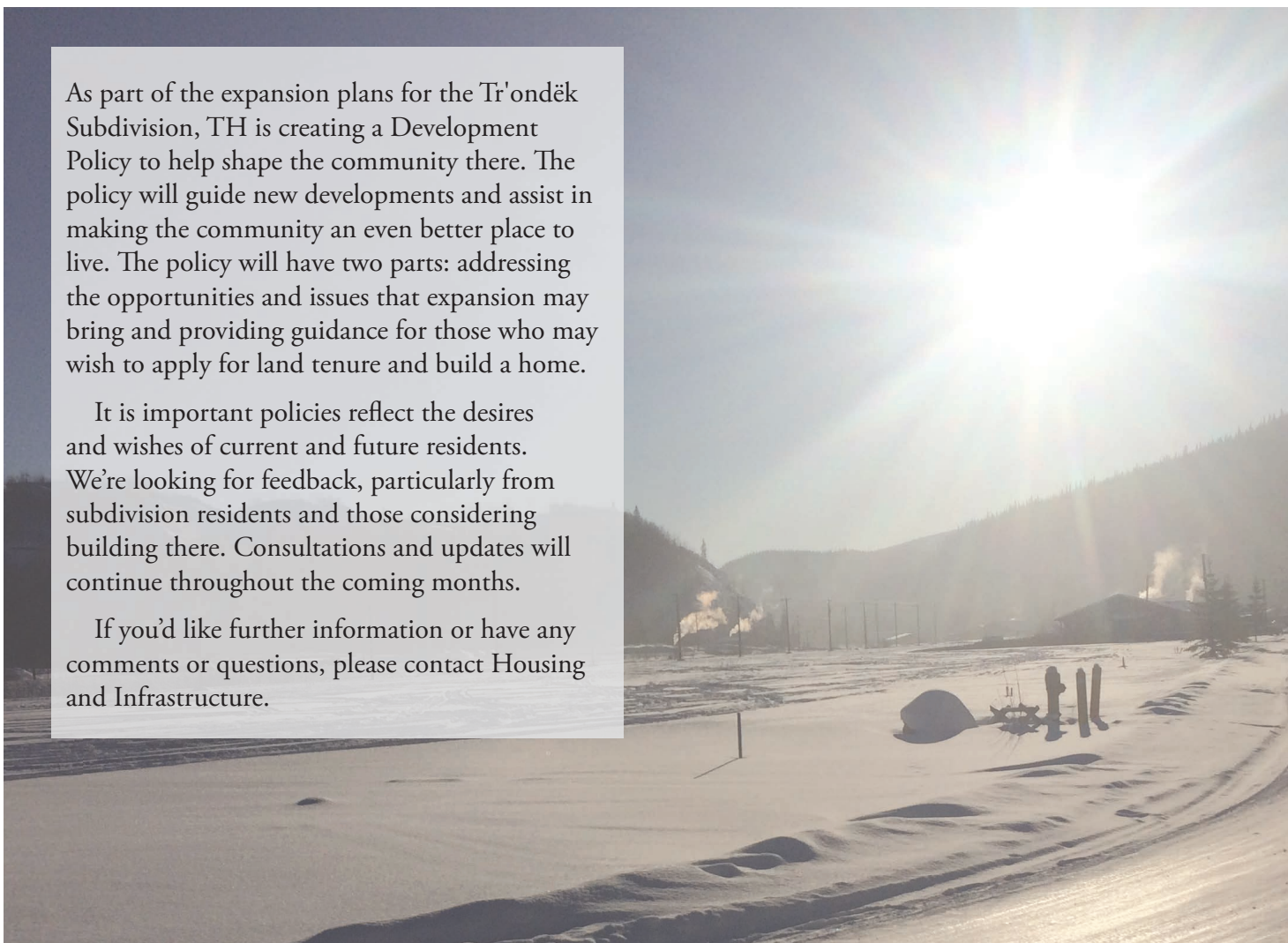
So far, participating banks include the Bank of Montreal, the First Nations Bank of Canada, and Peace Hills Trust.

For more information about this exciting initiative, please contact Housing and Infrastructure.

As part of the expansion plans for the Tr'ondëk Subdivision, TH is creating a Development Policy to help shape the community there. The policy will guide new developments and assist in making the community an even better place to live. The policy will have two parts: addressing the opportunities and issues that expansion may bring and providing guidance for those who may wish to apply for land tenure and build a home.

It is important policies reflect the desires and wishes of current and future residents. We're looking for feedback, particularly from subdivision residents and those considering building there. Consultations and updates will continue throughout the coming months.

If you'd like further information or have any comments or questions, please contact Housing and Infrastructure.



ELDERS PORTRAITS

HELP US FILL THESE FRAMES

We continue filling the community hall with black and white memorial portraits of Elders as we receive them from family. In the absence of good quality images, we've been digging through the TH collection for images, knowing they may simply be placeholders until a better portrait comes to us. If you have a portrait for the gallery, we'd love to make a copy of it and get it up on the wall. We know it's a work in progress at this stage so we welcome additions or replacements. Please contact Sue at sue.parsons@trondek.ca or 993-7100 ext 144.



Harvest Data Gathering

Each year, Fish and Wildlife (F&W) staff collect harvest data information with the hopes of increasing our understanding of the wild and traditional food needs of the community. This sometimes comes in the form of a conversation, a phone call, a house visit, or a survey. This year to thank citizens for the time it takes to provide us with this valuable information, the F&W branch ran a prize draw for citizens. Participants filled out surveys, submitted them to our office, and entered their names to win. Whether you harvest wildlife or not, whether your hunt was successful or not, all entries had a chance to win.

The draw took place in the Admin lobby. The winners were as follows:

**1st Place – 450 Husqvarna chainsaw
Austen Taylor**

**2nd Place – Cabela's butchering kit
Jadaka Nagano**

**3rd Place - \$50 gas
Peter Kormendy**

**4th Place - \$50 gas
Jason Henry**

**5th Place - \$50 gas
Willie Christiansen**

**6th Place - \$50 gas
Simon Nagano**

**7th Place – 20 lbs. propane
Marie Johns**

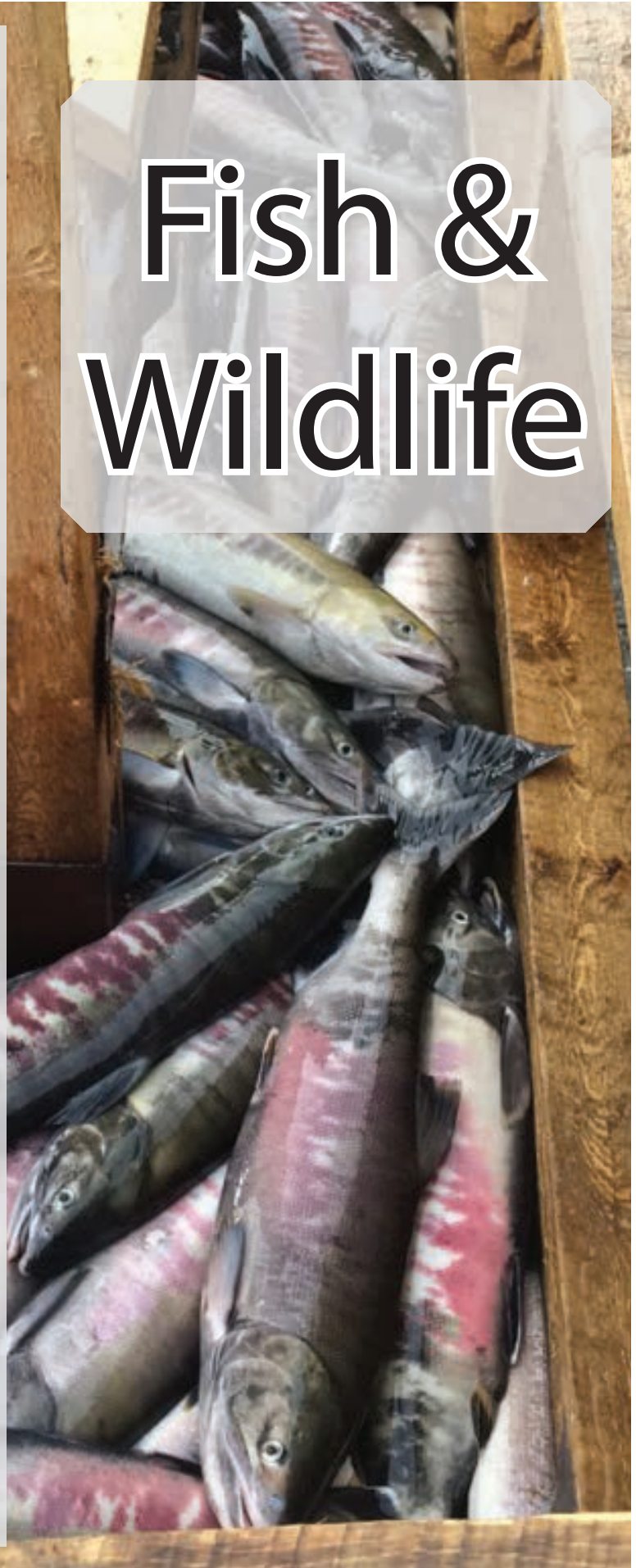
**8th Place – 20 lbs. propane
Thomas Taylor**

**9th Place – 20 lbs. propane
Kyle Isaac**

**10th Place – 20 lbs. propane
Rachel Hunt**

Harvest data is important for TH as a government to exercise rights provided under the Final Agreement and to help us manage fish and wildlife resources in traditional, sustainable ways. Please try to remember to send us your harvest data and include the following information:

Fish & Wildlife



- Number of fish or wildlife harvested
- Gender
- Size, age, and condition
- Gear used
- Hours of effort
- General location

Any information about changes on the land, trends, or anything of concern you'd like to report and have F&W monitor is important to us.

TH-held Registered Trapline Concessions (RTCs)

Trapping season was successful again this past year. We had five TH-held traplines that had TH assistants on them. For those trappers, please report your trapping harvest to Fish and Wildlife so we can keep records of the trapping effort and use for each line. F&W would like to remind all citizens who have an interest in trapping in the upcoming season to come in to our office and see what areas might be available for you to trap. The earlier you express an interest, the more likely you will receive an assistant's licence in an area that works best for you. If you trapped on a TH RTC last year and have an interest in doing so again, please come in and register your name with us.

Cache Creek

A new gate has been constructed at the entrance of Cache Creek to indicate that the TH camp is private land and to control access by the general public. This facility is open for all TH citizens to use for recreational and traditional pursuits. While the cabins are available for use, they will remain locked to maintain their condition.

Additionally, we have installed a wood shed at Cache Creek. This shed will be filled with the firewood that is purchased through funding for programming and will be used for upcoming culture camps. Please make sure when you visit Cache Creek that you either bring a chainsaw or firewood with you, along with all the other supplies you will need.

If you would like to know how to access the new gate or if you would like to book a cabin, please visit Fish and Wildlife.

Fortymile Caribou Herd

The current Fortymile caribou population is estimated at 73,000–75,000 animals. The majority of the herd has now migrated back to Alaska to prepare for spring calving, but they are expected to return late summer. It is important for all citizens to know that the TH resolution and request to voluntarily withdraw from subsistence hunting of this herd has been rescinded. This herd's population has reached sufficient numbers that support sustainable harvest. Once again, your efforts towards conservation and the sacrifice that TH citizens have endured over the years has paid off and resulted in healthy herd numbers that can withstand sustainable harvest.

F&W Seasonal Update Meeting

We will be holding a spring meeting to update citizens on all things related to fish and wildlife. There are a number of different things going on: population estimates, harvest information, management plans, and policies we are working on. Come out and get informed and have your say in future planning. No date has been decided on yet, but we will let you know as soon as there is.



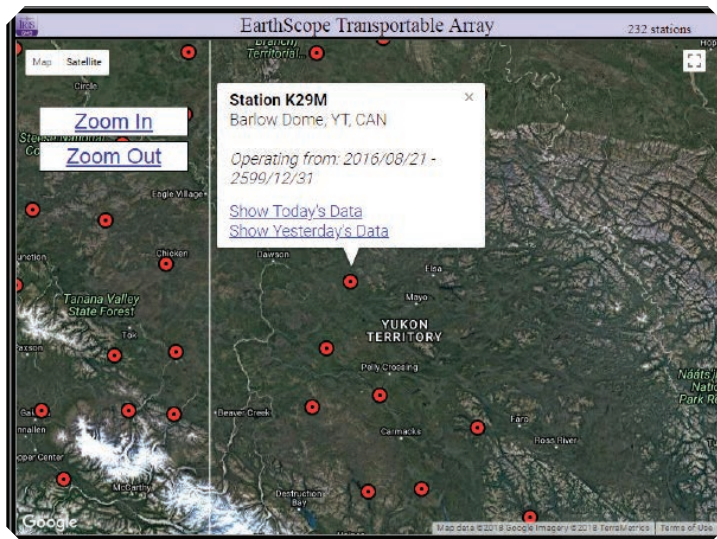
GOT MEAT?

We are looking for donations of wild meat (not fish) for serving at camps and feasts.

Can you help?

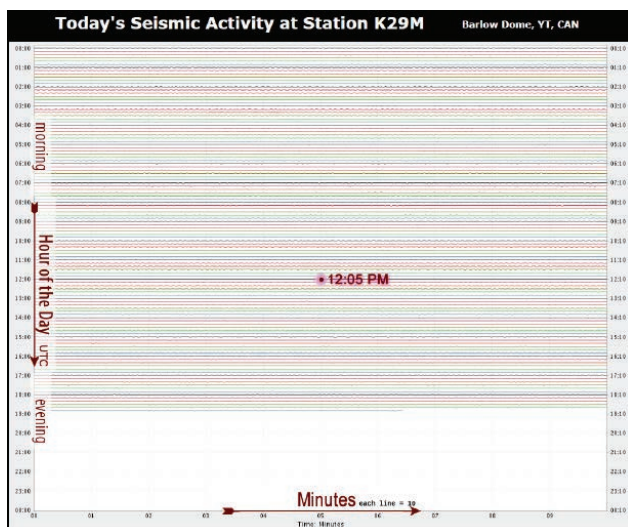
Call Ashley Bower-Bramadat at 993-7100 ext. 185 if you can.

Land & Resources



Above: The location of the Barlow Dome seismic activity station.

Below: A recent seismic activity readout. (All's quiet!)



Earth Scope

The Natural Resources department has been working with US Array's EarthScope: Transportable Array project, a US-based program that monitors seismic activity (earthquakes) by hosting an earthquake monitoring station on the Barlow Dome.

TH's station, named K29M, is one of 2,000 seismic stations installed across the US and northwestern Canada as part of the US National Science Foundation's EarthScope initiative. The transportable arrays installed at each station continuously record ground motion and send data to scientists who use the information for imaging Earth's structure, detecting, and locating regional earthquakes and investigating ruptures of large global earthquakes.

In 2017, K29M detected 601 regional earthquakes and 2,402 distant earthquakes, ranging from magnitudes of less than 2.0 (too small to be felt by humans) to 8.1 (near the coast of Chiapas, Mexico).

View K29M's daily and selected recorded events by heading to www.iris.edu/hq and entering the station code "K29M".

To learn more about US Array and the EarthScope project go to www.usarray.org/Alaska.

Family Services

After a long, cold winter it's wonderful to feel the sun and warmer temperatures again.

Following up on the enthusiasm and great meals from fall 2017, the Healthy Cooking Group roared back to life in January and staged an encore performance in March when our funky lime green aprons arrived. Meat and root veggies from the TH Farm made their appearance in delectable dishes from various culinary traditions, with the group's palate travelling around the world to India, Mexico, the Middle East, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Caribbean.

Late February brought us the long-awaited camp slideshow featuring the beautiful photos taken by Katrina Kocsis at the Hozo Tr'èhudè August 2017 Family Camp. Lots of folks came out to enjoy the slideshow as well as Nora's delicious moose meat spaghetti. Hot on the heels of the slideshow event was the Hozo Tr'èhudè Winter Family Camp at Nänkäk Chèholay in March.

Despite the forecast, we were blessed with beautiful weather and many quinzhees were built by young hands—even a quinzhee condominium—while others worked away at crafting beautiful dreamcatchers and window hangings facilitated by Health and Social's amazing Allison Kormendy. On Saturday afternoon, our skilled and artistic Deputy Chief Babe Titus assisted the group in making beaded key chains inside the cozy cook shack. On Sunday, a scavenger hunt and rousing game of snowshoe baseball brought us back into the sunshine, while we also had the opportunity to learn more about Teas & Tinctures and Natural Energy Sources & Nourishing Plants from the wise and knowledgeable Fran Morberg-Green. A big mähsi cho to all who contributed their skills and knowledge to the camp, as well as to all the families that came out to enjoy the weekend.

Stay tuned for more family camps as we move towards the summer solstice.



Have you moved? We need to know.

Make sure you get important mail from us, including your T-4s, T-4As, and this newsletter.

If you've moved, let us know by emailing reception@trondek.ca or calling 1-844-993-7100.

School Connections



Robert Service School students try their hand at ice fishing on the Yukon River.

by **Community Education Liasion Coordinators Clare Devenish (Gr. 7–12) and Tanya Westland (K–Gr. 6)**

We've had a good winter, with lots of cultural programming for students and professional development for teachers.

The role of CELC focuses largely on cultural programming and supporting teachers in incorporating TH cultural values, worldview, and knowledge into their curriculum and classrooms. To this end, a day of collaborative professional development was held in January. TH Education worked with TH Heritage, Robert Service School (RSS) staff, Yukon Education, TH staff, and TH community members to coordinate

the day. The engagement and contribution of TH community members was crucial to making the day a success.

During the morning sessions, we heard presentations from the First Nations Programs and Partnerships and TH Heritage department before breaking into smaller focus groups, where teachers had the opportunity to connect with and learn from TH community members. Areas covered in these group sessions included sewing and beadwork, salmon, the value of reciprocity in all aspects of life, and the significance and wisdom in storytelling.



Left and below: Fran Morberg-Green teaches salve making to the Robert Service School Grade 10 science class.



Feedback from the day has been positive and we look forward to continuing to work together. Mähsi cho to everyone who was involved on such an enriching day.

Another highlight this winter was First Trapper, which saw a small number of high school students venture out to learn about setting traps, harvesting fur-bearing animals, processing, and the realities of life on a trapline. Mähsi cho to Ashley Bower-Bramadat and the Heritage Department, the Elders, and the trappers who coordinated and contributed to this valuable experience.

In Grade 7, we received a visit from two of our Elders, who reflected on *The Secret Path*, an animated film and graphic novel telling the story of Chanie Wenjack and his quest to return home from residential school. We are fortunate to have Elders who are able and willing to share their insights and experiences, help students understand a challenging topic, and raise awareness of local connections. Mähsi cho to our Elders, DZCC staff for hosting a screening of the film, and RSS staff for their sensitive approach.

Our 2030 graduates have just begun their apprenticeship in attentive listening to the wisdom of TH Elders. Up to this point, we've had three "grammas" sharing stories with our kindergartners at DZCC. As the weather warms up, we hope to continue our storytelling sessions in the RSS Outdoor Classroom and other

meaningful locations around town. If you have stories to share (whether you are a "gramma" or not!) please get in touch and join us.

Other activities within the school and around Dawson continue. We are lucky to have guests visit classes to share their knowledge and humour with students. Students at various grade levels have learned about the power of plants, burbot fishing and filleting, meat-cutting, trapping, sewing, and more. These experiences reinforce important values and attributes such as persistence, perseverance, patience, and respect. Another mähsi cho to our Elders, Knowledge Holders, Heritage team, Natural Resources department, Conservation Officers, and Dawson's Council for Renewable Resources for their continued contributions to our children.

Looking forward, the "Stream of Dreams" salmon project is coming to RSS in May. This is an exciting series of eco-education workshops combining science and art with the aim of promoting responsible stewardship of the land and water so fish can thrive. This initiative supports our traditional knowledge and awareness of issues surrounding fish and especially salmon. Keep your eyes on the fences around the school and watch them transform.

As always, please get in touch if you have suggestions, questions, or comments.



Top left: Liz Patterson reads to the Grade 1 class.



Top right: Victor Henry and Ryan Peterson teach meat cutting during the cultural fair.

Bottom right: Freda Roberts shares stories with the little ones at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.





Left: Lee Whalen lands a big one while ice fishing with the Robert Service School students.
Top right: Deb Nagano shares her knowledge of trapping at the First Trapper camp.

We are excited for the new one-year term Education Support Worker (ESW) position for the 2017–18 school year. The ESW will provide dedicated student academic support for TH students in K–12 and work alongside the elementary and high school CELCs.

Drin hozo! I am the Education Support Worker (ESW) with the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Education department. This is a new position that was added to the department this year to work with the CELCs. My role is to provide support to students and their families to help improve the educational and personal well-being of students. This includes advocating on behalf of students, maintaining regular communication with families, monitoring student progress, informing citizens of educational programs, and coordinating program and service delivery and referrals when needed.

I want to ensure this role meets the needs of students, families, and the community. Please feel free to reach out if you have any suggestions on how I can best work with your family in the school.

E: alexa.mitchell@trondek.ca
Ph: 993-7100 ext. 189
Cell: 993-3723



Melanie's Musings

Drin hozo! Shozrè Melanie Bennett. Dawson City huch'in. Nàts'ay dihch'e. Recently, I was seconded from Yukon Education to the Director of Education and Training position here in TH. Since then, I have been learning the various duties and roles that the position encompasses and am fostering positive relationship building with TH employees. I am more than happy to be back home in Dawson!

I would like to thank everyone in the TH Government and our home community for being so supportive, pulling me in, and making we feel so welcome. I am very excited for the opportunity and will do my best to serve our citizens. My responsibilities include post-secondary education, K-12, and the TH Farm. Education is where I draw most of my experience from and am finding the change in roles a fairly smooth transition.

Look for updates in the newsletter from the RSS team: Tanja, Clare, and Alexa. They are doing wonderful work at the school. Melissa is working hard supporting our post-secondary students. Check out the TH website for post-secondary application deadlines and don't forget to get your applications in on time!

The TH Farm is my "steep learning curve" as I can only consider myself as a backyard gardener. I am working hard to learn all that the TH Farm encompasses and working toward it being a sustainable endeavour.

We will be stepping away from the teaching part of the TH Farm and focusing on the working part of the TH Farm. We recently posted for our summer positions and will begin work in April. Derrick Hastings continues to do great things as the Farm Manager.

Check out our TH Farm website for our 2018 box program, chicken, pork, and egg sales. I am looking forward to summer and all the "busyness" it brings. My door is always open. I am in the main TH Government building; feel free to pop in any time!

Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre



Freda Roberts shares stories with Robert Service School students.

by **Glenda Bolt and Kylie Van Every**

It was great to see so many folks out to the Myth and Medium programs hosted at Dänojà Zho this February. The Zho always looks best when it's full of people. We had an array of international guests during the Yukon Quest Sled Dog race and even a few Trek participants dropping in to see the Hammerstone Gallery and check out the *Welcome* film.

A wide variety of ages groups have been visiting the DZCC. The Kindergarten class enjoyed mornings of storytelling with a couple of Elders, the Grade 6 class finished off their First Nation Film Fridays, and the Students from the Art School (SOVA) were over to meet with Victor Henry and talk about the art of tool making.

We partnered with the Dawson City International Short Film Festival to present a 90-minute screening of First Nation short films. Celebrated Indigenous filmmaker, director, and actor Michelle Latimer was the curator for the film screening.

Dänojà Zho opens Thursday, May 24 and closes September 13. Plans are underway for the exhibit, staffing, and stocking of the gift shop. Kylie was invited to a Gift Shop Trade Mission in Vancouver to investigate opportunities and meet suppliers. She will be joining other cultural centre gift shop managers thanks to the financial support of the Yukon First Nation Culture and Tourism Association. Our hope is to have a Yukon First Nation product line similar to the way coastal First Nation artists' designs are promoted. Kylie will be looking for beadwork for the gift shop. Give her a call at 993-7100 ext. 500 and set up a time to meet.

National Aboriginal Day is only a short time away. We are always looking for volunteers or additional activities if you want to get involved. Get in touch if you would like to play a role in this important event.

Happy spring!



Harnessing the wisdom of the Elders is a key function of the DZCC. Peggy Kormendy and Phyliss Vitrewka (top right) can always be counted on to share their knowledge with young ones.

The winter was brightened by fantastic TH clothing creations (Top left and bottom left) Allison Anderson and Dolores Scheffen model the latest in winter fashion. (Below) Melanie Bennett wears a beautifully beaded neck wrap.



Myth and Medium

Every two years, the TH Heritage department hosts the much anticipated and widely enjoyed Myth and Medium. This five-day event included presentations from heritage professionals, Elders, and enthusiasts and celebrated culture, identity, and food. The following are a few photos of the fun that was had. Congrats to the Heritage department for another successful event!



Top left: Food (and eating it) was a primary focus of this year's Myth and Medium.

Top right: Deb Nagano and Mary Jane Moses prepare ribs.

Bottom left: Jody Beaumont addresses participants at the Myth and Medium opening night.

Bottom right: Sylvia Firsch displays her locally produced food products.





Fran Morberg-Green shares a story (top left). Getting out on the land always plays a role in Myth and Medium. Some participants were fortunate to enjoy a snowshoe to Tr'ochëk (top right).



Left: Bannock on a stick!

Bottom left: Fran Morberg-Green pours a sample of her from-the-land tea concoction.

Bottom right: A favourite evening on the Myth and Medium agenda is the event-ending meal organized, cooked, and served by Victor Henry and his volunteer corp of local men. Here, David Curtis and Victor ready a pot of food for serving.



NEWS



The Health and Social Department's Family Services program has played a key role in bringing together people in the community for healthy activities. Thank you to those responsible for ensuring these activities occur and everyone who makes the time to attend. The fun doesn't happen without you!

Here are a few pictures from recent events.

Top left: Morgan with the dreamcatcher she assembled at the Winter Family Camp at R-22.

Bottom left: Tyson readies to hit one out of the park! camp during a snowshoe baseball game at R-22.



Top right: The effervescent Healthy Cooking Group model their new aprons. The group met over the winter to cook delicious, healthy meals with recipes from around the world. The best thing on the evening's menu, however, was a wonderful evening spent with great people. Thanks all for attending!

Bottom right: No family camp is complete without a round of Denezhu Bingo. There wasn't much room around the table once the game began, but there is always room for one more. Make sure you're there next time to join us!





***Top left:** Victory! The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their partners in the Peel Watershed Plan legal battle were victorious in the Supreme Court of Canada, where the integrity of the Final Agreement and the planning process described therein were confirmed. People assembled from*



all over the territory and beyond to celebrate the win at the TH Hall. Thanks to everyone who attended.

***Top right:** What's a party without cake? Chief Roberta Joseph and former Chief Percy Henry cut the cake celebrating the Peel Watershed Plan win.*

TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN CITIZENS ... ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND POST-SECONDARY STUDIES THIS FALL?

EARLY BIRD FUNDING APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY

JUNE 15

THE FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE IS

JULY 16

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

For more info or to receive an application contact: Melissa Atkinson - 867-993-7100 ext. 111 or melissa.atkinson@trondek.ca



Top left: The First Trapper camp took place at R-22 this winter. Here, Clint Taylor shows participants proper skinning techniques. These camps don't happen without the assistance of volunteers and people eager to share their knowledge. Thank you to everyone who makes it a point to work with our youth.



Top right: Georgette McLeod and Jody Beaumont deliver the latest offering of TH 101. The course teaches area residents about the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in—their traditions, their history, their culture. The program is well received and a must for any newcomer to TH Traditional Territory.

Looking for a job, training opportunities, contracts, or business mentorships?

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's new **Strategic Initiatives Group** is setting up a TH worker and business database to help you out! By filling out a ballot, you can gain access to some of the following:

- Advanced notice to job and contract opportunities with mining and other industries
- Access to mentorship programs for both workers and business owners
- Training and education programs (from GED to management level)
- Career path development planning
- Access and information to pre-qualify your business for upcoming contracts
- Business development workshops
- Apprenticeship opportunities for trades

Fill out an information ballot at the **Human Resources office** or contact **Director of Education Melanie Bennett** at **867-993-7100 ext. 170** for more information about how to get one.



Please help us to help you by getting yourself registered for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in worker database!



YUKON FIRST NATION SELF - GOVERNMENT

mappingtheway.ca

YUKON FIRST NATIONS are at the forefront of Aboriginal land claims and self-government in Canada.

11 First Nations have settled their land claims and are self-governing. This represents approximately half of all such agreements in Canada.

Settling these agreements in Yukon involved decades of hard work, innovation and commitment by leaders and visionaries.



Yukon First Nation delegation in front of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, Ontario, in 1973.

Visit *mappingtheway.ca* to learn about the journey to Yukon First Nation self-government and land claim agreements, and the benefits they bring to all Yukoners.

They like us! They like us!

The Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre was selected as a finalist in the 2017 Canadian Tourism Awards. This is an incredible achievement and is a reflection of the hard work the entire team at the DZCC has put in as frontline ambassadors of the First Nation.

Congratulations, all. This recognition is nothing less than you deserve for the fantastic job you do presenting TH heritage.



Are you a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen interested in sharing and celebrating culture and community? Dänojà Zho will have summer positions open this summer.

Want to learn more about what we do?

Contact Glenda or Kylie at (867) 993 7100 ext. 500 or cultural.centre@trondek.ca





TH Tenants GOING AWAY?

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR RENTAL UNIT!

LET TH HOUSING KNOW:

WHEN you will be away

WHO will be house-sitting or monitoring your home.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN AVOID:

BOILER OR FURNACE TROUBLE

FROZEN AND BURST PIPES

WATER DAMAGE

SAFETY ISSUES (E.G. IN A FIRE, WHO'S INSIDE?)

You are welcome to email your notice of absence to: dalores.roberts@trondek.ca

Questions? Contact the Housing Office during business hours at 993-7100 ext. 119.

~ Mākei cho! ~



A Better Future for all Yukoners

Did you know?

Land claims and self-government agreements contributed to the creation of the Kwanlin Dün and Da Kų Cultural Centres, Tombstone Territorial Park, and made it possible for Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to invest in Air North, Yukon's Airline.

The agreements strengthen our territory, and benefit us all.

Learn more about Yukon First Nation land claims and self-government at www.mappingtheway.ca



**YUKON FIRST NATION
SELF – GOVERNMENT**
mappingtheway.ca

Mapping the Way is an initiative of the 11 Self-Governing Yukon First Nations, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and the governments of Yukon and Canada.