



Yuutu?it?ath

Umacuk

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This publication was written, edited, and prepared for Yuutu?it?ath Government by Melissa Boucha, unless otherwise stated. For questions, submissions, or copies, email melissa.boucha@ufn.ca. We thank all submissions to complete this publication. Photo front and back cover by: Melissa Boucha

Ukee Days Parade

Looking Back - Yuułu?iŋ?ath participate in the Ukee Days Parade!



Photos by: Melissa Boucha

Last summer, Yuułu?iŋ?ath took hold of their traditional territory and danced the streets of Ucluelet for the Ukee Days parade. Youth, elders, citizens (hitaču and urban), and staff donned traditional attire and led the parade, proudly, amongst the residents and visitors. (Yuułu?iŋ?ath led the 2023 Ukee Days parade, marking two consecutive years).

The day was foggy and the Ucluth Peninsula was full. President Charles McCarthy and Lindsay McCarthy Sr. kick started the parade with a loaded canoe in tow. Cheers erupted from the crowd as the parade rolled into the community; the first parade held in two years complimented with excitement to see Yuułu?iŋ?ath leading the way.

Down at the grounds, Jeneva Touchie opened up the weekend with a prayer and a greeting, followed by Lindsay McCarthy Sr. leading song and drum. Dancers gracefully flowed through the ground to compliment the important cultural moment for the crowd.

A table was set up with relics for the local community and visitors to view; including masks, headwear, vests, showcasing cultural beading, weaves, and carvings.

To top off the day, Yuułu?iŋ?ath took home the First Place float award for Community Spirit!



This photo by: Nora O'Malley





Photos by: Melissa Boucha

New Welcome Map unveiled at Pacific Rim Visitor Centre

New visitor map acknowledges six Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations, municipalities, and the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

Written by Nora O'Malley, Westerly News

Tourism Ucluelet unveiled a new regional Welcome Map at the Pacific Rim Visitor Centre [October 2022].

The Welcome Map acknowledges six Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations tribes (Ucluelet First Nation, Toquaht Nation, Tsehaht First Nation, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations, Ahousaht and Hesquiaht First Nation), municipalities and the National Park who collectively make up the West Coast region.

During the Oct. 19 unveiling ceremony, Ucluelet First Nation elder Marjorie Touchie said a prayer and Tsehaht First Nation elected council member Deb Foxcroft acknowledged the hereditary chiefs.

Mayco Noel gave his last public speech as mayor of Ucluelet.

“For me, I think it just really represents the gateway of coming to the West Coast. One of my pet peeves has always been the fact that a lot of our Indigenous communities are not listed on a lot of the maps that we see on the Island. I’m just proud to see this here today with the flag from Yuu-clu-

th-aht behind us. It’s inspiring and long overdue. I’m hoping to see more of these on parts of our Island,” he said.

Tourism Ucluelet’s executive director Denise Stys-Norman said the new map is “more reflective of all the communities that make up this beautiful portion of the West Coast.”

“It provides a first step of many to help educate travellers of where they’re visiting,” she said, noting that the project was made possible thanks to funding from 4VI (formerly Tourism Vancouver Island).

Park Reserve acting superintendent Dave Tovell told the Westerly that Parks helped connect Tourism Ucluelet with key language speakers and knowledge keepers.

“Within the Park we have the trilingual signs now on the ʔapšciik t’ašii (pronounced ‘Ups-cheek ta-shee’) and so much of our cultural interpretation is Nuu-chah-nulth first and then English and French after. That’s how we are moving and we’re hoping that keeps expanding,” said Tovell.

Yuuʷuʷiʔaʔh Government president Charles McCarthy was unable to attend the unveiling in-person, but sent a written statement:

“First, I would like to acknowledge that we are pleased to have representation on the board of directors at Tourism Ucluelet. For the first time, the Yuuʷuʷiʔaʔh Government has a voting seating, which has been appointed to Melissa Boucha, manager of communications and public relations, due to her role and previous experience as a Tourism Ucluelet Board member. With this, we have correspondence, collaboration, and participation in tourism initiatives within our traditional territory of Ucluelet. The Welcome Map displayed at the PRVC, is an overdue and appreciated project. This display gives the opportunity for visitors to acknowledge the communities along the West Coast and the territories they are visiting. We look forward to more collaborative projects, like this, in the future. Kleco, Kleco,” wrote McCarthy.

Barbara Schramm was the main graphic designer on the project. She said she downloaded a Nuuchah-nulth font to help with the characters.

“I think it’s an excellent concept for Tourism Ucluelet to partner with all the Nations on the West Coast to create a welcoming information piece so people know exactly where they are standing,” said Schramm.

She went on to say that the range of Nations included on the map was determined by who uses Highway 4 to access to their community.

“There are no dividing lines between the Nations. That was intentional,” she said.



Japanese Internment Story Telling



Remember. Recount. Reconcile.

It was a typical grey, west coast day, in late October of 2022. The Ucluelet Community Centre main hall was full of local Ucluelet and hitaču families and individuals. A commonality of the room, many were descendants, family, or friends of a war torn community, during the Japanese-Canadian Internment Camps of World War II.

The Government of Canada established Japanese-Canadian Internment Camps after Japan bombed Pearl Harbour during WWII in 1942, impacting Japanese communities nation wide, including quiet, coastal Ucluelet. The Historical Society was host to the days interactive workshop; effects of WWII Internment, affecting the Ucluelet communities.

Workshop Facilitator was Paul Kariya, of the BC Redress Negotiations Committee. Paul, originally from Ucluelet, is the son of Takeo Kariya, one of the first Japanese-Canadians to come to Ucluelet to fish. Paul said his dad, who has now passed, was astute to see what was coming, so he sold his house to a First Nations person, but unfortunately the government did seize his troller, MV Marine K.

Among the speakers was Yuuḷuʔiʔath elder and historical Society Board Member, Vi Mundy.

Vi, recounted stories passed down from her mother Barbara 'Babs' Touchie nee Thompson. Babs had shared with Vi, the once prospering Japanese community and friends of the Ucluelet First Nation families, were torn away from their homes; boats, personal belongings taken away or sold and families separated.

A tearful Vi recounted the fear a young Babs endured, hearing and watching her friends being removed from the community of Haokada Bay (Stewart Bay). Sharing the story of how children (and families) who spoke separate languages were able to move past the language barrier, find their own ways to exchange communication, and become friends.

Vi noted in an email: *Between 1920 and 1941, every summertime, Ucluelet harbour was filled with hundreds of salmon trollers and the majority of them were owned by people of Japanese ancestry.*

Even after the government restricted the number of fishing licences that could be held by people of Japanese ancestry in Ucluelet to 52, the majority of residents in the village were Japanese, followed by white homesteaders and First Nations people.

The Japanese Canadians of Ucluelet lived in 6 settlements around the harbour and had all the institutions of a well-established community: small businesses, services, schools, and places of worship.

About one-half of the total population of Ucluelet disappeared, taken away to internment centers and many fishermen to POW concentration camps. Incomes and livelihood were gone. Education for children stopped.

Very little has been spoken about what the removal of Japanese Canadians meant to the First Nations and white communities. Economically, the dominant fish buyer, the Japanese Fishermen's Coop terminated operations; the Ucluelet school lost one-half of its pupils but most importantly what happened with other aspects of everyday life?

Removal of Japanese Canadians impacted the whole Ucluelet community.

Restrictions were lifted in 1949 and in 1951, slowly, Japanese families returned to Ucluelet, including the families of Kariya, Kimoto, Nakagawa, Nitsui, and more.

The focus of the workshop was to bring together the First Nations, Japanese and European settler communities to reminisce, exchange stories and examine the nature of shared community. That it did.

At the end, elder Richard Mundy, elder Vi Mundy, and Samantha Touchie presented Paul with a gift. Not a dry eye left in the room, a moving day for the community and story tellers.

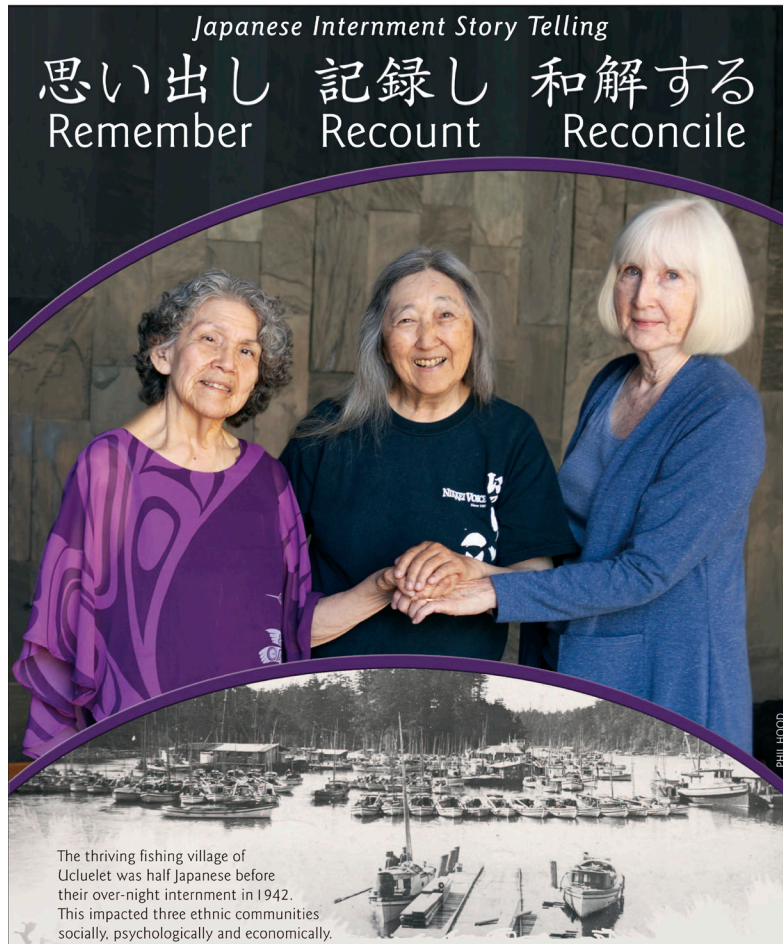




Photo by: Melissa Boucha



Photos by: Melissa Boucha

Ucluelet Installs Nuu-chah-nulth Street Signage

“It feels like home... It feels like it belongs to us in our traditional territory.” No words more truly spoken by Jeneva Touchie at the Unveiling of the Bilingual Street Signs in Ucluelet today. The first street signs out of 54 (more to come), was for the intersection of kʷakʷaʕ təšii (Otter St.) and y'učkwanim təšii (Peninsula Rd.), Peninsula meaning ‘at the point’.

In attendance was the District of Ucluelet, Mayor, Council, and staff. From Yuuʕuʔiʔath, Executive Member Jeneva Touchie, Elders Vi and Bob Mundy.

The project started in 2019 while District Planner Bruce Greig was taking Jeneva’s Language Class and approached her with the idea of translating the community road signs. With that, the story is history. Jeneva and Bob worked with the District over the past few years, translating the signage to Barkley dialect of the Nuu-chah-nulth language.

The Otter, Peninsula cross road is the first sign of many more to be erected by the end of the year (54 total at this time).

Łeekoo to Jeneva Touchie, Bob and Vi Mundy, Bruce Greig, and the District of Ucluelet, Mayor and Council for seeing this project come to fruition.

We all hope this act of reconciliation within the community will lead a path for future communities to see similar projects, recognizing the traditional lands and territories of those who resided for thousands of years, living with the land, as one.





Photos by: Samantha Touchie

Message in a Bottle

Yuufu?if?ath sisters find message in a bottle containing ashes from Washington Coast.

Written by: Nora O'Malley

Sisters Samantha and Kimberly Touchie found a once-in-a-lifetime beach treasure over the May Long weekend.

The sisters were down at Wya Beach when they stumbled across a message in a bottle.

"I kind of saw the little glimmer and I noticed it was glass. My sister ran up to it and noticed that there was a note inside," said Samantha Touchie.

They took the special treasure home and used chopsticks and a svelte straw cleaner tool to retrieve the message within.

"We were the first ones to open it. The cork was in there pretty good," said Touchie.

While the note was extremely faded and hard to read, the Touchie sisters discerned that the treasure came from the Duke Family in Raymond, Washington about 158 nautical miles away. The bottle also contained the ashes of Joyce Duke who was married to Bobby Duke for 42 years.

"It sounds like Bobby passed away in 2002 and then Joyce passed away in 2019, so they took some of her ashes and put it in the bottle. They wanted her to travel the seas and be re-united," Touchie said, adding that a phone number of either the daughter or granddaughter was left at the bottom of the letter.

"I texted a photo of the bottle at Wya. She was so excited." The Touchie sisters said they would return the bottle to the ocean as the message requested that if found, set it back to sea.

"Because the original is so faded, I added another little note that re-iterated what the note said and that it was found in Ucluelet for the first time," she said.

Samantha Touchie, who is the Culture and Heritage Executive Assistant for Yuufu?if?ath Government, says she's been walking down to Wya Beach "forever" and has never found something like this. She wasn't spooked by the ashes.

"The ashes are still in there so she could continue travelling."



Leadership Vancouver Island

Rose Aday graduates from Leadership Vancouver Island, West Coast Chapter

Written by: Mark MacDonald

Rose Aday graduated from the Leadership Vancouver Island program with plenty of valuable information, training, experiences and new relationships.

Rose, the Communications Coordinator for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government based in Port Alberni, recently completed the LVI West Coast Chapter's nine-month course created to prepare the next generation of leadership across the island, which started last fall.

"The program came with some really invaluable experiences, not just in the workshops, but by visiting the communities around the coast, which is where a lot of the real learning was," she observes, adding that the West Coast Chapter is focused on the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Region and its communities. "Seeing our differences, seeing our similarities and the triumphs that people are achieving is amazing. And we made so many connections. I made so many friends in the program, too. Coming from Port Alberni, I am not usually in hitaču for a long time, but now I feel that I have so many people I know in Ucluelet and Tofino, that I can reach out to in person."

LVI is a community-focused, values-based leadership development program designed to inspire and build capacity for outstanding leadership, learning and service. It aims to foster leadership development, raise community awareness and build innovative communities. Applications for the next cohort will open in the summer of 2024.

The leadership team is comprised of Ricardo (Co-chair, Tofino), Abby Fortune (Co-chair, Ucluelet), Anna Atleo (LVI Alumni, Ahousaht), Emily Fulton (LVI Alumni, Ucluelet), Iris Frank (Tla-o-qui-aht Education), Jesse Bateman (LVI Alumni, Tofino), Josie Osborne (MLA Alberni-Clayoquot) and Rebecca Hurwitz (CBT Executive Director).

Rose was encouraged to apply to enter LVI by Melissa Boucha and Suzanne Williams, who graduated from the program themselves. There were close to 20 students, from Port Alberni, Tofino and Ucluelet.

"I had heard some amazing things about the program, how life changing it was, and how people tend to come out of the program completely changed," she states. "I saw all these amazing women around me who had gone through the program and were in strong positions in our Nation, so I could really see the value in doing the program."

Group sessions covered learning about conflict resolution

and project management, amongst other pertinent topics. "For our in person meetings, we met in a different community every time," she explains. "The first one was a two-day retreat held at the Cedar Coast Field School on Vargas Island, and it was amazing. It is absolutely beautiful there, and it was such a great place to meet a new group of people and get comfortable with where the program was going to take us.

"After that we were in Ucluelet, then we visited a variety of different reserves around the coast and different communities."

As she prepared to enter LVI, she expected to receive more clarity on what it meant to be a leader, and push herself to become even better at her job, and grasp new opportunities that come her way.

"I definitely left with more experience in regards to that, but I was very surprised about how much of the program focused on self-reflection and developing yourself as a person," she notes. "That was interesting. The program is sold as you're working with different people from different regions, but the real core message is work on yourself, how to be safe and lead others, as the key messages. That was surprising."

Gord Johns, MP for Courtenay-Alberni, states that "The LVI program is not only a life-changing experience for the participants, but is reshaping our region. It is an opportunity for participants to connect with their community, learn about themselves and strengthen their skills while developing lifelong relationships. This program is building local leaders that will enrich our community in so many important ways." Rose confirms it was challenging, but very rewarding.

"There were a lot of ups and downs, but it was absolutely worth it in the end," she says. "Once our satellite office opens here in Port Alberni, I'll be taking over more of a leadership role, helping run the office and making the space more welcoming and inviting for our urban citizens. This program came at the perfect time to help me step into that new roll."





Photo by: Melissa Boucha

USS čiiñuł (Totem) Unveiling

Ucluelet Secondary School officially opens with the unveiling of čiiñuł.



Photos by: Melissa Boucha

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 marked National Indigenous Peoples Day. West Coast nations and students were brought together to celebrate the grand opening of the newly built and renovated, Ucluelet Secondary School.

The event was co-hosted by Hułtik Jeneva Touchie and speakers included Yuułtułił?atł President Charles McCarthy, Yuułtułił?atł citizen and NTC President Les Doiron (joined by elder Richard Mundy Sr., Tye Wilson Jack, Charles McCarthy) and members of Tla-o-qui-aht and Toquaht.

Song and drum was provided by Lindsay McCarthy Sr. and the crowd of Yuułtułił?atł youth and family he called upon to join.

Among the powerful youth dancers from each nation, the most notable component was the raising of the čiiñuł (Totem) carved by Yuułtułił?atł citizen Clifford George.

A čiiñuł (totem) that once stood in front of the gymnasium, now a welcoming feature of Yuułtułił?atł territory and a reminder of indigenous strength and culture in Ucluelet and along the West Coast.

Hjalmer Wenstob explained the spiritual significance of the čiiñuł to the crowd on behalf of Clifford George.

“The Cixʷatin (eagle) reminds of us our mothers, the one that gives life, the one that wraps their wings around us

whenever we need them.

The čims (black bear) looks after his family. (Noting to the youth) this is your home, your family, look after each other.

The łiitłtuup/kakałwin (whale/orca) signals travel. When you travel or when you go to a new school, when you come to this school, or when you leave home, it’s still here for you when you come back.”

Continuing acknowledgment of Nuuchahnulth artistry present within the new build, former USS student, Yaałal?at Jackelyn Williams of Tseshaht and Yuułtułił?atł, in collaboration with łiitłmqa elder Rose Wilson, were responsible for the art that adorned the front doors and windows of the school.

nučłakałin - We are very proud. Proud to have Yuułtułił?atł artists and territorial recognition flowing through the walls as a reminder of the land we all reside.





Photos by: Melissa Boucha



Jackelyn Williams Designs USS Entrance

The new entry doors at Ucluelet Secondary School, designed by Jackelyn Williams with assistance from elder Rose Wilson.

Written by: Mark MacDonald



Ucluelet Secondary School (USS) has a new way to welcome students, thanks to Jackelyn Williams, with assistance from elder Rose Wilson.

Jackelyn was commissioned to design the front door of USS, as well as some doors inside the building. It was an opportunity that she found very meaningful.

“It was really exciting, especially since one of my former art teachers still teaches there,” notes the USS graduate. “It was really nice to see such transformation in other people as well. It has been an awesome experience to feel that First Nations are celebrated at USS.”

Marika Swan, the Indigenous art coordinator at USS, had taken notice of Jackelyn’s work designing the bright orange, eagle crosswalk next to the school that was completed last year, and reached out to her for the entry way project.

“She just invited me to work with her in any capacity that I wanted,” Jackelyn recalls. “We talked about inviting Ucluelet citizens and our elders to come over and get them involved in the process, to see if they had any ideas. The goal was to be inclusive and respectful to people that are there, as well as to our elders, and to make sure that whatever I created represented the people of the area.”

An open house was held at USS, which was attended by

elders, and the predominant thoughts expressed became central to the designs.

“What came out of that was the recommendation to include the thunderbird and wolves, as they are often represented in Yuuʔuʔiʔath art” she notes. “With that in mind, I began designing. I also included the serpents to honour the tla-o-qui-aht and Toquaht Nations, since their students attend the school as well.

“It was important to me to include the values of inclusion and respect, and loving and supporting one another.”

On a personal note, the interior doors feature two wolves, which could also represent Jackelyn and her sister, YG Director of Operations Suzanne Williams in a previous design. Wolves are really respected in Nuu-chah-nulth culture as they are communal animals and are featured a lot in traditional artwork.”

“The moon and the trees that are surrounding the wolves remind passersbyers that we are connected to the land, and we are to respect the land as we respect each other.”

The designs also include borders inspired by basketry designs provided by Rose Wilson.

“The design and colours were Rose’s. I sat with her to digitize what she has on woven fabric. The colours and designs are all by Rose” she adds. “It was an awesome experience, figuring out how it should be cut. We had to use different techniques to create the designs.”

Jackelyn has been doing art for her whole life, but began to take it more seriously during Covid.

“I had more time on my hands, so I started practicing and studying art more,” she notes. “I was encouraged by my colleagues to start selling my art, so I started doing that.”

Jackelyn has designed logos for clients, and her artwork is featured in an unpublished children’s book for Ucluelet First Nation. She also did the artwork for the little big house in hitaču, has completed a mural in Port Alberni, at Kackaamin Family Development Centre, and is working on an entry way project for the RCMP building in Port Alberni.



Photos by: Jonquil Crosby

Herring Roe Harvesting

Passing traditions to the next generation.

Written by Mark MacDonald

Harvesting herring roe (siih̓muu in West Barkley dialect) is something that Lindsay McCarthy Sr. has looked forward to doing every year since he was a youngster. It is an experience that was passed on to him by elders and family members that he cherishes, and is more than happy to share the knowledge and experience with others.

Joining Lindsay, the lead boat operator, in this year's harvest on March 10-12, were Ron George and Edward Mack. They were joined by interns Waylon McCarthy and Robert Andrew, who participated for the first time, and Lindsay said they did a wonderful job.

Trained eyes keep close watch on the ocean, awaiting the return of multitudes of herring to spawn on Vancouver Island's west coast. It is an amazing visual spectacle when they arrive, as the green sea fills with swirls of white liquid – milt, which fertilizes the eggs – from the herring, resembling a white tide.

Ron George explains that “once the herring gets close to the beach, about full moon or high tide, then we prepare to go out.”

Lindsay says their participation starts with laying tree boughs into the ocean.

“We set the trees in the water and weigh them down with weights, and watch,” he explains. “Once we recognize that the spawning is about to happen, we set the trees and leave them for three or four days, and we won't disturb them while they're sitting there. We won't check it until the third or fourth day.

“We use branches from little hemlock trees. The old-timers used to say that when the roe is cooked with it, it would release some sort of medicine for us.”

Traditionally, once branches are collected and hung up to dry, later the dried spawn is stripped from the branches and stored in baskets or boxes.

Altogether, close to 400 pounds of herring roe was harvested this year, then shared with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ citizens in Port Alberni, and citizens at hitaču.

“It was like Christmas for them,” says Lindsay. “This is the way we were taught, to always give what we were given from the ocean. That's just how we are.”

Harvesting this year was conducted in Ucluelet harbour, Spring Cove, Stuart Bay and at St. Ines in the Broken Group.



Photos by: Jonquil Crosby

Jonquil Crosby, Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife, notes that the Lands Department “was involved with the herring spawn this year from pre-spawning sounding for the herring occurrence and abundance, patrolling for herring spawn via vessel and incidentally by air (during the bi-weekly marine mammal surveys), accessing herring from the test boat, dropping hemlock boughs for traditional use of the herring eggs during spawning events, distribution of herring and eggs to the community.”

Traditional Foods Coordinator Niamh O’Reilly notes that the big spawn began March 6 in Barkley Sound, and she went up on a plane with Jonquil, who took some spectacular aerial photos.

“For the two weeks leading up to the spawn, boats were out with their sonar as they could see the big schools of herring, and lots of birds and whales were out as well,” she recalls.

“Because it was spring break, Ron’s granddaughter went out on the boat to harvest as well. It was a great experience for a young lady.”

Niamh notes the herring eggs take a couple of weeks before they hatch into baby herring.

Pacific herring is considered a keystone species along the coast because they act as the base of a large and complex food web and support a diversity of marine wildlife and historically sustained many Nuuchah-nulth communities. Traditionally they were an important food source as they were the first large-scale resource available after the win-

ter solstice, and appeared just as food stores were nearly depleted.

When herring returned to the coast each year, people would corral the fish into concentrated schools and harvest using herring rakes and dip nets. The herring were eaten raw, broiled on sticks, and boiled in boxes. They were also cleaned, split, and dried for later use.

Curtis Curkan, WCVI Resource Manager for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, notes that the primary objective of the herring test seine vessel program was to collect herring biological samples from within the WCVI major stock assessment area for stock assessment purposes.

This was the sixth West Coast Vancouver Island Herring (WCVI) spawn survey, and commercial seine, gillnet and spawn—on kelp herring fisheries were involved in surveying the region for potential harvest. The program identified thousands of tons of spawn in Barkley and Clayoquot Sound, including at Maggie River, Macoah Passage, Hesquiat Harbour.





Photo by: Nick Meunier

Wildlife Co-Existence

Yuutu?it?ath Youth Video Project



Yuutu?it?ath



British Columbia Conservation Foundation

Yuutu?it?ath Youth Wildlife Coexistence Video Project

Written by: Jonquil Crosby

Under the principles of ?iisaak (utmost respect) and as stewards to the land in which we live, wildlife-coexistence is a priority; we are all connected.

Yuutu?it?ath have long existed alongside, and in relationship to, wildlife such as čims (bears), q?ayačiiik (wolf), k?ayuumin (cougar), qu?ušin (raven), and čix?atin (eagle), to name a few. As we move forward as a community, members may reflect on how their actions affect the wildlife throughout

the ?ahuuti.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2022, four Yuutu?it?ath youth interns (Jada Touchie, Jaysen Touchie, Evan Touchie and Calianna McCarthy) worked with the Lands and Resources Department and videographer / WildSafeBC Coordinator, Sam Rose Philips, to interview and record Yuutu?it?ath and 'Tuk?aa? ath members on living amongst wildlife. The interns worked together to come up with a list of interview



Photo by: Jonquil Crosby



Photo by: Jonquil Crosby

questions, coordinated appointments and interview set-up, as well as conducted the recorded sessions. Mentored by Sam Rose Phillips, the interns shot, composed and edited the one-hour interviews into a 12 minute video featuring traditional insight and present knowledge on community relationships to wildlife and how we can respect this relationship.

The youth interns set up camera traps in different settings throughout the territory to capture wildlife clips (or “B reel”), investigated a bear den close to hitaçu and experienced and discussed the uses of a variety of wildlife habitats and corridors near the community. This included wetland and bog habitat surrounding Ittattsoo lake and Wya wetlands, old growth trees within and around hitaçu, and the connection between forest and inter-tidal areas for forage.

The video is posted online for viewing at www.ufn.ca under media, and on the nation’s Youtube channel @UclueletFirst-Nation. It is encouraged that community members watch the video and apply wildlife stewardship actions such as respectfully managing garbage and attractants around their

households.

This summer YG Lands and Resources will once again be hosting Sam Rose Phillips to mentor a similar youth video composition and editing workshop. More details will be posted online and in the newsletters soon.

A very special thank you to all those involved with teaching and supporting the youth while providing a voice to the greater community on coexisting and respecting wildlife. Grateful to Lindsay McCarthy, Sr., Vi Mundy, Bob Mundy, Brenda Touchie, Bernice Touchie, Jeneva Touchie, Tyson Touchie, Dennis Hetu, and James Walton, as well as Wild-SafeBC Pacific Rim and hitaçu-Macoah Coordinators, Bob Hansen, Marianne Paquette and Sam Rose Phillips, and YG Lands and Resources staff.

Jonquil Crosby is the Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife for the Yuuʔitʔath Government.



Chanterelle. Photo source: Melissa Boucha

Chanterelle harvest. Source: Niamh O'Reilly

Edible Mushrooms

Written by: Niamh O'Reilly

There is an abundance of edible mushrooms in and around Yuułu?iŋaŋ traditional territories. This is an excellent area to learn about edible mushroom picking as fungi thrive in our mild and humid climate. Some of the popular edible mushrooms in this area are chanterelles, hedgehogs, and chicken of the woods. The best season for harvesting edible mushrooms is late summer and early fall.

If you are new to mushroom picking, a good place to start is by learning to confidently identifying one or two edible mushrooms. Do not consume any mushroom that you are unsure about. It is highly recommended to go with an experienced picker for your first time! Harvesting edible mushrooms is a fun and rewarding activity but it is important to be safe and prepared.

Be aware that getting lost and mushroom poisoning can be major risks. Move mindfully through the woods. Avoid trampling mushroom patches and only pick caps larger than a toonie. Take only what you need and what you have time to clean, cook, or preserve. A quick and tasty way to prepare any mushroom is pan-fried with butter and garlic.

What to bring:

- Pocket knife
- Basket, bucket, or bag
- Navigational aids (GPS, cellphone, maps)
- ID book or pamphlet
- Sturdy footwear

Chanterelles



Pacific Golden Chanterelles. Source: Niamh O'Reilly

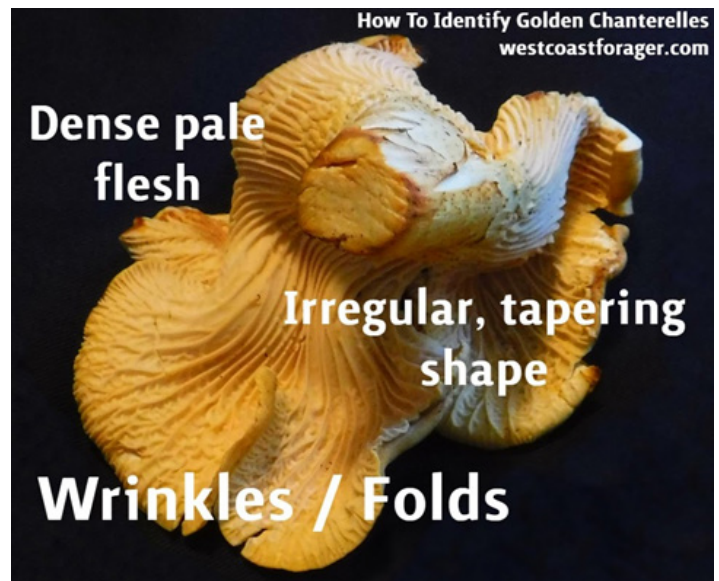
Pacific Golden Chanterelles (*Cantharellus formosus*) are the most harvested edible mushroom in our area. They are easy to identify and delicious. Season starts in mid-August (following the first rain) and can run until mid-October (before the first frost). Like most mushrooms, the chanterelle you see above ground is the fruiting body of a larger fungal network called the mycorrhizae.

This fungal root forms a symbiotic relationship with certain plants to exchange nutrients. Look for chanterelles in mossy areas with sparse ground cover beneath second-growth Douglas fir, Western Hemlock, and Sitka Spruce.

To identify the Pacific Golden Chanterelle, look for these key identifying features:

- Color can range from bright yellow to orange to light brown, and white on the inside
- Texture is soft and velvety on the outside, and the inside is dense and fleshy
- Gills are referred to as “false” gills because they look more like veins or wrinkles
- Mature specimens have concave caps with irregular and wavy edges, while young specimens have convex caps with smooth and regular edges
- Odor is not distinctive but sometimes described as sweet or like apricots

Photo top right: Chanterelle Identification. Source: Vancouver Island Mushrooms (www.westcoastforager.com/wild-edible-mushrooms/Chanterelle-Mushroom-Guide)



Beware of Chanterelle Look-Alikes!

There are a few mushrooms in this area that resemble the chanterelle. These look-alikes share superficial features (color, shape, size) but the gills and texture will help with identification. If there are “true” gills and flesh that is not dense and white, this is not a chanterelle.

If you are unsure about a mushroom, ask an experienced picker to check prior to consumption. Common lookalikes include: the False Chanterelle (*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*) and the Woolly Pine Spike (*Chroogomphus tomentosus*).

Photo right: False Chanterelles. Source: Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hygrophoropsis_aurantiaca)



Spot the difference.

Below are two photos comparing the top and under form of the Pacific Golden Chanterelle (left) and Woolly Pine Spike (right). Note the structural differences of each mushroom to harvest safely.

Photo bottom left and right: A comparison of a Pacific Golden Chanterelle (left) and a Woolly Pine Spike (right). Source: Vancouver Island Mushrooms (<https://www.westcoastforager.com/wild-edible-mushrooms/Chanterelle-Mushroom-Guide>)



Winter Chanterelles

Winter Chanterelles (*Craterellus tubaeformis*) are another common edible. They are identified by their funnel-shaped cap, hollow stem, dark orange color, and wrinkled veins in place of true gills.

They grow in large clusters on rotting wood or moss. As their name suggests, these chanterelles typically pop up later in the season and can be found until as late as December. This particular mushroom is best enjoyed dried and rehydrated to make a delicious soup broth.



Winter Chanterelles. Source: Niamh O'Reilly

Hedgehog

Another tasty edible that is often found with late-season chanterelles are hedgehog mushrooms. There are two common species groups found in our area: Hedgehogs (*Hydnum washingtonianum*) and Bellybutton Hedgehogs (*Hydnum umbilicatum*).

Both are safe to eat and can be identified by their pale color, firm stems, and hundreds of tiny spikes in place of gills. Often Bellybutton Hedgehogs will have a distinctive “bellybutton” dimple on the cap. These mushrooms tend to grow in small quantities, but they can be picked and prepared alongside chanterelles.

Hedgehog mushrooms are part of the “toothed fungi” group. These mushrooms are identified by closely spaced teeth on the underside of their cap. These spikes under the cap replace more commonly found gills, pores, or folds.

Many mushrooms reproduce by releasing spores from these underside structures. Spores are microscopic cells that spread by wind and other disturbances. Under the right conditions, these spores will form new mycelium which are tiny fungal threads that spread underground.



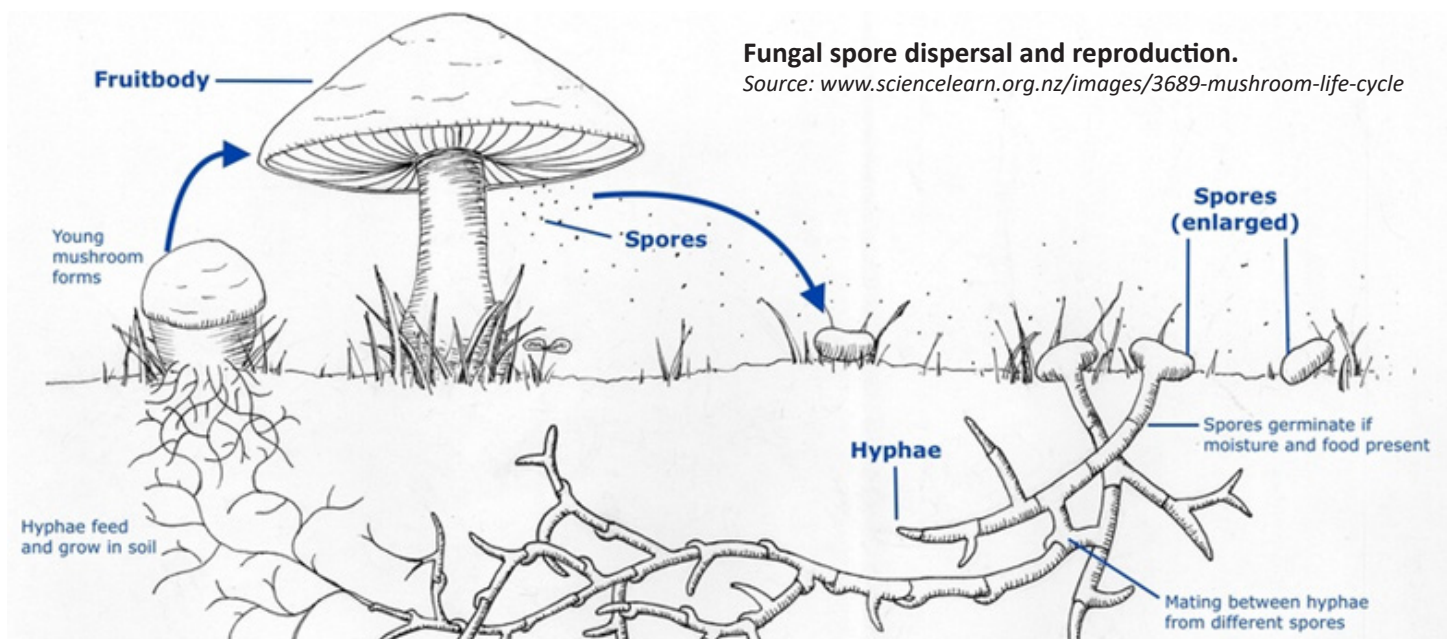
Large hedgehog mushrooms. Source: Niamh O'Reilly



Hedgehog mushroom with teeth exposed. Source: Niamh O'Reilly

Fungal spore dispersal and reproduction.

Source: www.sciencelearn.org.nz/images/3689-mushroom-life-cycle





Chicken of the woods in prime condition. Source: Niamh O'Reilly

Chicken of the Woods

This bright orange edible mushroom is commonly found in our area and is best harvested in late August or early September.

Chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus conifericola*) are tasty when young but become tough and bitter as they age. Some people report having a bad reaction to this mushroom and therefore caution is advised. Only harvest chicken of the woods when it is bright orange and yellow, avoid brown or discolored specimens.

Chicken of the woods can be identified by these key characteristics: bright orange with yellow margins and underside, smooth surface, fan or shelf-life shape, firm texture similar to rubber, no gills, spines, or teeth, and no stem. When harvesting, take the more tender outer margin, it will have a better texture and taste.

A tasty way to prepare these mushrooms is by making chicken of the woods nuggets. Cut the mushrooms into nugget sized pieces, roll them in seasoned flour (salt, pepper, paprika, cayenne), dip them in egg, and then roll in flour again. Once coated, shallow fry the nuggets in oil until they are golden brown (approx 4-5 minutes). Add garlic and/or herbs if desired, and more oil if the pan becomes dry. Once

cooked, blot dry with paper towel to remove excess oil and enjoy with your favorite dipping sauce.

Niamh O'Reilly (pictured) is the Traditional Foods Coordinator for the Yuulu?i?ath Government.





Inside Clarke Island, Broken Group Islands. Photo by: Melissa Boucha



Cultural Canoe Journey



Photos by: Melissa Boucha



to be physically prepared for the journey, and to learn how to deal with emergencies, which can include potential tipping of the canoe. The training included building strength and endurance to further enhance individual and group abilities in the water.

Paddling takes much teamwork and coordinated strength. The group proved to work in unison during training and for the duration of the journey.

It was evident weekly practice paid off as the paddlers took few breaks during their journey, it was a clean ride to their first stop. The group landed safely on the sandy shore of Clarke Island and set up camp for the evening; having the day to relax and soak in the accomplishment of the first leg of their journey.

The group packed up camp on the second day and continued to a sister island within the Broken Group for another overnight camp out; to head back home on the third day.

It was the morning of day three. Out of the fog the paddlers emerged, with the boisterous soothing voice of Evan Touchie singing the tired group back to shore. It was the final day, the journey now successfully complete. The paddles glided to shore with much deserved pride.

The group of traditional canoe paddlers that took part in the initial journey included, Tyson Touchie Jr., Jaida Touchie, Evan Touchie, Carey Cunneyworth (Director of Culture, Language, and Heritage), and Waylon McLeod. Joining in for the final leg of the journey the group welcomed Calianna McCarthy and Jaysen Touchie.

The Yuuʔuʔiʔath Government's Nahmint 5 captained by Lindsay McCarthy Sr., skillfully followed the paddlers on their journey, staying close enough to aid in an emergency, and far enough for the paddlers to concentrate on their expedition. A supply boat led by Melody Charlie and Ron George assisted with the transportation of food (baked and generously packed by Brenda Jack) and equipment.



Last August, of 2022, the open pacific welcomed a group of Yuuʔuʔiʔath traditional canoe paddlers, for a multi-day, cultural canoe journey.

The ocean was calm for a morning start in the warm west coast (summer) sun. The waters glittered while the paddlers carefully launched off Ray Haipee's beach front and settled in for a few hour paddle to their first stop to Clarke Island within the Broken Group Islands.

In the few months leading up to send off, Tyson Touchie Jr. held the reigns in preparing for the multi-day journey, leading weekly practices and enticing community participation for the adventure.

During these practice weeks, the group was joined by skilled guests who offered guidance and preparation tips; expertise included Tla-o-qui-aht members Chris Seitcher and Tsimka Martin. Both providing verbal and practical instruction.

The group learned the value of canoe positioning, with emphasis on the lead, balancing weight, tipping, and generally being at one with your fellow paddlers.

The focus was for paddlers to feel comfortable in the water,



Landing onto Clarke Island. Photo by: Melissa Boucha



Pictured left to right, first two rows: Tipping practice with Tsimka Martin of Tla-o-qui-aht. Pictured left to right, last row: Multi-day journey return on day three, advancing the harbour and returning to shore down by Ray Haipee's house. Photos by: Melissa Boucha





Pictured page 30, top left page 31: Men's Division Final, Tofino and Nanaimo

hitaçu Hoops Championship

hitaçu Hoops Championships Electrifies West Coast

Nanaimo beat Tofino in Men's final, Port Alberni took U17 crown, games played in hitaçu and Ucluelet

Written by Andrew Bailey, for the Westerly News



Excitement bounced across the West Coast over the weekend as the hitaçu Hoops Championships had the basketball community and its fans buzzing.

“The support has been unreal. It’s really cool to see everybody come together, especially after COVID-19. It feels uplifting,” hitaçu resident and event volunteer Savannah Rose told the Westerly News. “It’s been a while since we’ve had something like this happen in Ucluelet and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ territory, so it’s brought a lot of excitement to the community and it really woke everybody up.”

The action was split into four divisions with the Under-17, Adult, Under-13 and Women’s teams filling both hitaçu’s Cixʷatin Centre and Ucluelet Secondary School’s gym.

The women’s division was dominated by Ahousaht’s Maaqtusiis squad and phenom Kanani Coon, 17, who cleaned up the division’s personal awards winning Most Valuable Play-

er, Best Offensive Player and Best Defensive Player.

While presenting Coon with her awards, event MC Tyson Touchie congratulated her and told the cheering crowd that she is heading to the NCAA after being accepted to the University of California Santa Barbara’s Division 1 basketball program.

“In Nuuchahnulth we say ʔisaakcamis, ‘spreading respect.’ When you watch her play, that’s what I think of. She’s really respectful and, in a basketball community like the West Coast, our fans are that way too. So that’s something we want to encourage and we just want to let her know that the West Coast basketball community really supports her and we wish her the best of luck,” Touchie said.

Coon, who attends high school in the Okanagan and was recently named Kelowna’s Female Athlete of the Year, told the Westerly News she was thrilled to visit the West Coast and experience the event.

“It was really fun. The last time I’ve seen this many Nations together was JAN (Junior All-Native Tournament) and I feel like it’s always such a good experience to see all your people come together and support each other no matter what,” she said. “I was excited to come here. It’s a beautiful place and I love the people.”

She added that the tournament’s organizers “did amazing” and that she was touched by Touchie’s words.



nized really well.”

He added the finals was intense with his squad coming from behind in dramatic fashion to defeat Quu?ušinmit 83-80.

“It was a great game. The intensity was really crazy. We all played good and came out with a W,” he said. “Our first three games were nothing like this intensity, so this was our first game like that, but we adjusted well and it worked out.”

Armada player Jaidin Knighton, 15, told the Westerly she loved playing in the Cix“atin Centre, especially in front of such a passionate crowd.

“It was crazy. It was wild and a great experience,” she said. “When the fans are going crazy it gets a little chaotic, but it was really nice. I like this.”

Scott Cisaroski won the final’s Player of the Game award and was named the division’s Most Valuable Player, but told the Westerly the only trophy that mattered to him was the one his Armada won together.

“It feels great, but I’m not really worried about that. I just wanted to win the game,” he said.

“Our shots weren’t falling really in the first-half...We kept playing. We didn’t get discouraged and we slowly came back in the fourth and they couldn’t handle it anymore once our team got going.”

He added he was grateful for the opportunity to travel to

“That was one of the nicest things anyone’s ever done for me...It was just nice to see them bring the people together and say those nice words,” she said, adding she’s excited to be heading to the NCAA.

“It’s definitely one of the best things that’s ever happened to me for sure,” she said, adding she is grateful for the support she’s received throughout her young basketball career.

“My parents are my biggest supporters, they always have been. I feel like friends aren’t talked about enough and I have a couple close friends who definitely mean the world to me and obviously the organizers of these events are the reason that we’re able to come here and play.”

The Men’s division was eight teams deep and Tofino’s team, the Tofino Wednesdays, made it all the way to the finals, but lost out to the Nanaimo Misfits.

Tofino player Bobby Lax told the Westerly the event was amazingly well-organized.

“We’re just so grateful to the community of hitaçu and the Yuu?u?i?ath people for hosting us and getting us all together,” he said, noting the number of divisions and teams required “so much work” involving a colossal amount of details and volunteer hours.

“They really opened it up so that anyone who wanted to come play could and to get the basketball community out here. They made it possible for us all to get engaged...Just ‘hats off’ to them and a huge thank you for the work that went in.”

The U-17 crown went to The Port Alberni Armada, despite them being the only team in their division without a coach.

“We all play on the school team together, but we didn’t find a coach so we just came down by ourselves,” explained team-member Brooklyn Doiron, 17 [pictured right], after a thrilling finals win. “It was a great tournament. It was orga-





hitaçu and the community has a strong parental generation of basketball players ready to share their skills with local youth.

“There is a lot of talent amongst Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ. Since the set-back of sport due to (COVID-19), there was a stall of athletic participation, weekly basketball drop ins have since returned and (Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government) provides programming for youth activities, especially coming into the spring/summer months. This allows the youth to learn team sport participation, nourish and encourage their skills, and incites health and wellness for everyone,” she wrote.

She added she was shocked by the tournament’s rapid interest with 22 teams signing up to compete.

“However, excitement prevailed to have so many teams come together, for the nation to share the community and gymnasium in an impactful way,” she wrote. “Players in the Women’s and Men’s divisions have been playing Basketball together for many years, regardless of their current region, was overall a special reunion for many. Another encouraging factor for youth participation in team sport, building life-long relationships.”

the West Coast and play against athletes his own age outside of school.

Quuʔušinmit had made it through to the U17 finals by besting Ahousaht’s squad in a semi-final matchup.

Ahousaht’s coach Bonita Frank told the Westerly she was happy with her team’s performance and delighted to see such a well-run tournament on the West Coast.

“They played hard, with good heart and sportsmanship,” she said. “It was awesome to bring our youth from Ahousaht, boys and girls. We pulled them out for a good weekend and a sport that they love and they enjoyed it...It was definitely organized well. Props to the hosts.”

The tournament included a U-13 round-robin and Ucluelet Elementary School’s assistant coach Dr. Ron Norman was stoked for the opportunity to get kids on the court together.

“We’re very grateful to be able to have this tournament in hitaçu and appreciate it. It’s been a great comradery with everybody and we just love being here,” he said. “It’s vital to have all these kids playing together, sharing the time and encouraging one another on the West Coast. It’s great to have it.”

In a statement emailed to the Westerly News, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Manager of Communications and Public Relations Melissa Boucha said basketball has a long and respected history in





The hitaçu Hoops Championships was extremely successful for the community and very well needed; to come together in a meaningful way, enjoying sport and connection.

The Yuuŕu?iŕ?ath Government has many people to thank, who put their time and energy into making this event successful. Michelle Touchie, Gloria Valentine, Tyson Touchie Sr., and Anita Charellson-Touchie, were the main drivers to gather interest, organize, schedule, manage the day's events, and spend their time living the hitaçu Hoops.

Many YG staff, citizens, interns, and volunteers lent their time to score/time keep, clean, cook, photograph, and generally be oniste for help and support.

Ĥeekoo to the community for the visual participation and support of all teams. AV guru, Mike Watts, and the four referees who were on the floor game after game.

The hitaçu Hoops Magazine is still under construction and we are excited to release a digital copy for all to view at a later date!

Pictured page 32 and 33: Men's and Women's Division, hitaçu Men's Team

Photos by: Melissa Boucha and Nick Meunier





Memories made at first-ever hitaçu Hoops Championship

Written by Nora O'Malley

The sweet, satisfying sound of a basketball swooshing through the net permeated Cixwatin Centre on April 30, 2023, as players and fans packed the gymnasium for the Finals of the inaugural hitaçu Hoops Championship.

Tournament organizer, player, and basketball mom Michelle Touchie praised the community for pulling together. Over the span of three days, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government and Ucluelet Secondary welcomed 22 teams and hosted 56 games.

“Go big or go home,” she said with a chuckle after the awards ceremony.

The intense game schedule was split between Cixwatin Centre and Ucluelet Secondary School Gym and featured four divisions: Under 13, Under 17, Adult Men’s and Adult Women’s.

“It’s been a long break with COVID and we just wanted to incorporate the youth and focus on that. We got a lot of

interest. I feel bad, we had to turn people away,” Touchie went on to say.

When Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ youth Matthew Jack Jr., 14, got wind of the tournament, he put a team together himself by approaching friends and family. Jack Jr. was awarded ‘Most Inspirational Player’.

“Being at a tournament this age is fun. I hope it happens every year,” he said.

In the Women’s division, two mother-daughter teams led Ahousaht’s Maaqtusiis squad to victory.

Mom Anna Atleo and daughters Janessa and Sunasia Swan partnered up with mom Melanie Coon and daughter Kanani Coon, who is destined for the University of California Santa Barbara’s Division 1 NCAA basketball program.

Kanani, a 6’1” athlete who represents the Kwakwaka’wakw and Cree First Nations, said she travelled with her family

from Kelowna to play in the tournament.

“I haven’t seen this many Nations come together since the Junior All-Natives during spring break. I feel like it’s such a beautiful thing that a lot of people don’t appreciate enough. It’s so nice seeing your people come together from all different parts of Canada and B.C. It’s always a good experience,” said Kanani.

Atleo recalls playing with Melanie Coon as teenagers and well into their thirties.

“We used to run around and sixth-man-it and enter tournaments and kick butt together. It was so fun playing together. It was really good medicine. I really enjoyed connecting again with not only the ones we were playing with, but everyone; the fans, the organizers, the competitors. It was lots fun. I’m done now. I don’t think I’ll play anymore after this because I’ve had so many knee surgeries,” said Atleo.

Melanie said it’s always been a dream of hers to play with her daughter and Atleo and her daughters.

“It’s gone full circle and now it’s on to the next generation. This is what we’ve always wanted,” said Melanie, adding that she was honoured to be named the Women’s division ‘Most Sportsmanlike Player’.

On the Men’s side, Nanaimo’s Brandon Westendorf, 30, dominated the court, scoring over 150 points and earning the title of MVP. The seasoned baller said the hitaçu Hoops Championships was his third tournament of the month.

“It was lovely. I loved the whole environment. It was fun playing with the team and getting a win. If they host it again, we will definitely be back. There was a lot of great energy everyone showed a lot of love to us,” said the towering 6’5” player.

Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Tofino Wednesdays player Leo Torres-Clark was named ‘Player of the Game’ after a well-contested final with Nanaimo.

“Basketball brings people together. I love it,” said Torres-Clark.

Touchie echoes the sentiment.

“Basketball unites. There are a lot of closet basketball players within the Coast and I think we are all interconnected within the province. We have all played with one another at some point or played against each other,” she said.



Pictured: Kanani Coon



Pictured: Matthew Jack Jr.



TAXATION

The Yuułuꞵiꞵaꞵ Government previously released communication that the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement related to re-instatement of the taxation exemption (Section 87), has been amended. This amendment was made effective June 23, 2023.

What does that mean in regard to purchase of goods and services?

- Section 87 Beneficiaries will once again be exempt from all BC consumption taxes, (which includes Provincial sales tax (PST), motor fuel tax, carbon tax and tobacco tax) on purchases on reserves or former reserve lands.
- Section 87 Beneficiaries will not be subject to GST for purchases made on reserves (this does not include where an Indigenous Government, as Yuułuꞵiꞵaꞵ Government, has implemented First Nations GST (“FNGST”).

GST and FNGST Clarified

If a Section 87 Beneficiary purchases an item on a reserve GST-free, and brings the item back to YG’s former reserve lands, that Section 87 Beneficiary needs to self-assess by using the GST 531 Return for Self-Assessment of the First Nations Goods and Services Tax (FNGST) to self-assess (declare and pay) the 5% FNGST on property (goods) brought onto the lands of a First Nation that imposes FNGST.

If an individual lives on hitaꞵu former reserve lands, they need to be aware of the implications of Yuułuꞵiꞵaꞵ FNGST on goods or services that are delivered to/provided on these lands. For example:

- If an individual orders a bicycle by telephone and asks for it to be delivered to their hitaꞵu residence, the 5% FNGST applies and is to be charged by the supplier on the cost of the bicycle.
- If an individual purchases a vehicle from a car dealer off settlement lands, and the dealer delivers it to hitaꞵu former reserve lands, the dealer must charge the 5% FNGST on the cost of the vehicle.

What about Status Cards?

The back of your status cards may have the notation: “Cardholder is not eligible for sales/transaction tax exemption after (a specified date)”.

- This statement will no longer appear on the back of all SCIS (i.e., “status cards”) issued after the effective date of the amendment (June 23, 2023).
- Individuals that would like this statement removed from their existing SCIS will need to submit an application for a replacement SCIS following the amendment.
- Visit www.sac-isc.gc.ca for Status Card applications.

We recognise the inconvenience to have status cards reissued and understand Canada is attempting to address this concern to facilitate affected Citizens in obtaining the exemption.

For immediate support, please contact Michelle Touchie, Citizenship and Enrolment Registrar, Michelle.Touchie@ufn.ca or by calling **1-(778) 942-0563**.



Photo by: Melissa Boucha

In October of 2022, the Maa-nulth First Nations engaged with the Ministers of the Province of British Columbia in Victoria, for their annual Government to Government Leadership Forum. (Pictured left).

The Yuułuꞵiꞵaꞵ Government will be hosting the Maa-nulth First Nations and the Provincial Government Ministers this coming Fall of 2023, in hitaꞵu.

The annual Government to Government forum strengthens the working relationship between governments, ensuring collaborative support from the province to self governing treaty nations.

2019-2023 Legislative Term

End of a term; Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government looks back and towards the future.

Written By: Mark MacDonald

As life continued to return to normal in hitaču following the Covid Pandemic, the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ government was busy, quietly, behind the scenes.

Over a dozen new Acts were passed by the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ government, covering a wide range of important issues aimed at leading the Nation into the future. President Charles McCarthy was re-elected in the May election, and will team up with a new Members of the Legislature that includes Levana Mastrangelo, Asya Touchie, Gert Touchie and incumbent Lorri Touchie. A successful health department was also constructed, and important cultural artifacts were repatriated to the Nation.

President McCarthy reflected on the restrictions instituted by the government that helped guide the Nation through the pandemic.

“It created a certain amount of feeling of security for our citizens here, because at the time, there was a big fear,” he notes. “There were a lot of unknowns. The fear was that the pandemic was reaching us here at home, so those things were able to control that quite a bit. We had systems in place where if anybody got sick, we isolated them in their homes and would supply them with food or water or any other needs there were.”

Director of Operations Suzanne Williams notes that the pandemic, as unpleasant as it was, enabled the Nation to put together a solid Emergency Response plan that will help citizens if other similar situations arise.

“Our goal is to have the plan ready for October, and after that, we’re planning on having regular exercises and drills for the community, and we are working with a company called Holistic Emergency Preparedness and Response,” she says. “They will help us through training and policy developments throughout the year, and perhaps into next year,” There were significant steps made towards more housing and home improvements in hitaču. Negotiations resulted in \$28 million more funding for housing needs in the next term, which includes a new triplex scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

“They’re opening up a quarry so we can actually do some expansions for housing on our land,” President McCarthy states, adding he likes the idea of mobile homes being add-

ed to the housing mix. “We could be able to accommodate perhaps 12 mobile homes and maybe some rapid housing, which could make another 10 lots available over the next year or so.”

The Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ government continued its push to enable citizens to buy their own homes.

“We have a policy that we’re looking at that would allow our citizens to have access to funds from a new program that would help first time homeowners obtain a qualified loan for up to \$25,000,” he explains. “I look at it as an opportunity because not everyone wants to live in a government home or pay rent for the rest of their life. If a person wants to build their own home, whether it’s a stick-frame home or a modular home, these options can be available for them through this program.”

President McCarthy was also pleased to report that employment has increased within the nation.

“The amount of citizens that are working now has risen,” he observes, adding the opening of the new office in Port Alberni will be very helpful. “Our goal is to network out as far as we can and be efficient for our citizens, to communicate with them and see what they need.”

Jenny Touchie, who oversees the Assets Portfolio, says the Port Alberni office will be very helpful “so we can have our Christmas dinners and gatherings. It will be a really great community building.”

Jenny is also pleased that the GAP funding will help citizens with home repairs, and will be available to assist with upgrades that include heat pumps “to better conserve energy and keep their heating costs lower.”

The addition of a fully functional medical clinic in the huuḡatu building is something that Executive Legislative Member Lorri Touchie, who handles the Community Services Portfolio, is very pleased with, noting that includes a general practitioner, Dr. Marshall, and a psychologist, Dr. Ted Alter, two nurses, optometry clinic and multiple counseling services. Plans are underway to have a dental clinic established within the clinic as well.

“It’s just it’s been a huge success,” Lorri says. “I owe my sin-

cere gratitude to Dr. Rohan and his team for making this possible. It's been a long time coming, and I think our citizens really enjoy the fact that we have a medical clinic right here in our community here. And another thing that is in the works with the B.C. Pharmacy Association to establish a pharmacy for over-the-counter drugs.

"We now have a community outreach worker now in our community, which is a really good thing for our citizens that are here or away from our community, suffering from, mental health addictions," she adds. "We hired Kimberly Touchie for this, and I'm ecstatic to have her on staff."

Jeneva Touchie, recently named Manager of Language Services for the Nation, managed the Culture, Language and Heritage Portfolio, and has been teaching the language to young and elder citizens. She is encouraged by the response and enthusiasm of those learning the Nuu-chah-nulth language, and sees it as an important heritage link.

"There's still a lot more work to do, and there's a lot more to come, and I am hopeful," she says. "Culture encompasses everything that we do. It's work, it's play, it's teaching lan-

guage in the home."

Manager of Culture, Language and Heritage Carey Cunneyworth notes that the Mini Big House has become an important meeting place for citizens, and is pleased with the progress that has been made through extensive negotiations with the federal government, resulting in the repatriation of important cultural artifacts, which are now on display at the Cix^watin Centre.

"Within the last four years we have successfully negotiated to bring those Schedule A items home," he says. "There are 15 additional items that are still being held at the Royal B.C. Museum in Victoria and we are negotiating a custodial agreement for them."

Carey is also now managing the very successful Warriors program that teaches young people valuable outdoor and cultural skills, as well as providing a safe place for personal growth and building friendships.

"I think we are moving forward and there is light at the end of the tunnel," says President McCarthy.



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2023-2027 Legislative Term

Yuulu?if?ath Government, Meet the 2023-2027 Executive Members.

Written By: Mark MacDonald



Lorrie Touchie
Finance Portfolio

Lorrie Touchie is very excited about her second term as a member of the Yuulu?if?ath Government and she is overseeing the Finance Portfolio.

“I’ve always been fascinated by accounting and I’m looking forward to working with Tamara and her team over the next four years,” she says.

Lorrie has worked for the federal government since 2015, and is the administrative assistant in the finance department at Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. This is Lorrie’s second term in YG as she was first elected in 2019 and had the community services portfolio.

“I really enjoyed working within the portfolio, and worked hand and hand with the Director of Community Services, Dr. Rohan Ghatak for the past four years,” she says. “The community services department accomplished a lot, but Dr. Rohan and his team are the ones who deserve all the credit because they have worked so hard to get where we are today.”

Lorrie has lived in the community for over 40 years and looking how far the Nation has advanced in terms of health care is astonishing.

“We’ve had medical services in the past but nothing like what we have today,” she says. “We now have a fully functional medical clinic which consists of a GP, nurses, psychia-

trist, dental clinic and vision clinics.

“It’s so amazing how far we’ve come in these past four years, considering two and half years we had a Covid 19 pandemic. I owe this all to Dr. Rohan and his team and I can’t thank them enough,” she adds. “I’m very excited to work with my new coworkers and I’m looking forward to the next four years as a member of the Legislature. I feel very humbled and honored to given the opportunity to work another four years and I just want to say thank you.”



Gertrude Touchie
Community Services Portfolio

Her first term on Yuulu?if?ath Government, Gertrude [Gert] Touchie has one main focus as she oversees the Community Services portfolio: Building a healthy community.

“My goal is to guide the portfolio in the right direction, and listen to what the people that are already involved have to say,” she says. “I’m excited about this position, and to be a part of the community again. I’ve been home several times now and managed to visit people I haven’t seen for a while.”

Gert is currently a Cultural Support Worker and Executive Assistant for Tla-amin Nation north of Qathet (Powell River) on the Sunshine Coast. Gert and partner Kevin Timothy have three girls who live five minutes away from them, and they are new grandparents. Gert likes to cedar weave, fish, hunt, and do bead work.

Born and raised in Ucluelet, Gert left in 2011. She had started working at age 16, became involved in education and

culture at Ucluelet's elementary and high schools before leaving to become an EA and Cultural Support Worker for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government.

Gert's family is well known for their involvement in the hitaču community. "I've always been involved with governance and attended meetings," she recalls. "It's always been a part of our household at our table when our mom was alive. She was always talking about what we could do, what we should be doing with our lives, and how we can help out our community."

She has maintained that interest even while she has lived away from home. "For me, the reason I ran in the election was just so I could get a little more information," she notes. "Sometimes I get frustrated with what's happening, and wonder how I can help."

"Education has always been a passion of mine, and health as well," she says. "I've known what social service operations have been before. I am really looking forward to being involved and helping wherever I can."



Asya Touchie **Culture, Language, and Heritage Portfolio**

Asya Touchie recognizes the importance of her position overseeing the Culture, Language and Heritage portfolio for the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government, knowing it ties the people of the Nation together.

"We exist as a nation and we defended our autonomy through the Maa-nulth Treaty because we are a distinct people," says huupkʷistaʔaqs, whose English name is Asya Touchie.

"Culturally, linguistically, and by virtue of our history with our territory, we are unique, and we need unique gover-

nance structures, laws and policies in order to meet our needs. Finding opportunities to meaningfully integrate our culture, heritage and language into the work that our government does is vital to effectively governing."

Asya adds that as the Nation articulates its unique identity to the world, internally it needs to find more opportunities to engage with its identity, diversity and shared connections with the territory and those who came before.

"It's a responsibility that every Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ has, whether you're an elder in hitaču, a small family in Port Alberni, a young student in Victoria or a citizen from any other walk of life," she says. "We all play a meaningful role in contributing to and strengthening who we are collectively as Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ. And I look forward to working with all of the citizens in the coming years."

Asya served Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ on the Legislature last term and she is looking forward to serving this term on the Executive. She currently lives in Calgary with her husband and daughter, while the rest of her family lives mostly in hitaču, Port Alberni and Nanaimo. Over the last few years Asya has been working in post-secondary institutions in a variety of capacities with a focus on supporting and empowering Indigenous students.

Personally, Asya completed a Master of Public Administration in 2022 and received a Bachelor of Child and Youth Care in 2015, both at the University of Victoria. Asya has also spent time working for the federal government supporting projects with Indigenous communities in B.C., after previously working for a provincial agency in B.C. supporting Indigenous families and youth.

"I was fortunate to have the opportunity several years ago to serve the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government as Manager of Culture and Heritage and as Manager of Social Services," she recalls. "It's been exciting to see so many opportunities for growth in both of these departments as they evolve to meet the changing needs of our citizens."

The Culture and Heritage Department has achieved major progress in recent years, including the repatriation projects and expanded language programs.

"I hope to see us creating more opportunities to integrate the work of the department into work that is being undertaken across our government, find ways to continually increase accessibility to our programs and begin to place more emphasis on documenting our history," she says. "Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ is a unique nation and our story is one that future generations should be able to freely access, engage with, critique, and ultimately, find their place within."

Asya knows the work of the YG is so important and impactful on the lives of the Nation's citizens, and she is excited at the opportunity to work with her colleagues on the Executive to deliver much needed results for everyone.

"As the Culture and Heritage portfolio holder on the Executive, I'm looking forward to working with citizens and staff in order to promote and expand these programs, and others, that enhance our ability to engage with our culture, language and heritage," Asya states. "It's vital that we continue to ensure the Department has the necessary funding to make wide ranging, complex projects a reality. In particular I want to see the Department finding new opportunities to support Yuułu?iif?ath in reconnecting with, or continuing to connect to, traditional, spiritual and cultural practices.

"These practices are important to who we are as Yuułu?iif?ath," she says. "It is important to ensure that these thrive and continue to support our people in healing. But it's also essential that we work to ensure these practices are accessible to all Yuułu?iif?ath so that we can share equally in our culture and heritage."



Levana Mastrangelo Assets Management Portfolio

It was a couple of back-to-back internship contracts established in 2014-2016 through the University of Victoria that helped Levana Mastrangelo connect with Yuułu?iif?ath government, founding her long-term career in Indigenous Relations & Governance. Levana was one of four citizens elected to YG by acclamation this spring, she is looking forward to leading the Asset Management portfolio as an Executive Member of the Legislature. Levana has already served as a Director for each of the Yuułu?iif?ath Holdings Board, the Operating Board overseeing Yuułu?iif?ath businesses, and now acts as Chair for the Economic Development Committee.

As she completed her nine years of post-secondary education at North Island College for an Associate of Science degree and at the University of Victoria in the BCMB program (Biochemistry Microbiology) to obtain a Bachelor of Science with cooperative education (work experience). Through UVic's co-op program Levana focused on Indigenous relations and governance that proposed and secured two study contracts and two placements within Yuułu?iif?ath H̄ahuuli (Hahoulthee).

"When I started doing my internship program, I found another meaningful way to serve our people, I've always been very focused on how to connect with our Nation's traditional territories and community, find ways to give back and support self-determination through self-governance of the Maa-nulth Treaty," she says, adding she assisted the Lands and Resources manager. "I wanted to earn a prestigious degree that no one in my family had ever done. I found that working with my Nation (and other First Nations) provides myself with a selfless motivating career, building meaningful milestones that contribute to our future generations while honoring our past and our ancestors, to stay connected with our lands and act as guardians to our territories. This is what I have found, what I want to do, stay, contribute, connect, and share, this can now happen in a large way through our Legislature".

Levana is an animal lover and dog owner, a hands-on person who loves outdoor activities, landscaping and gardening, and is also playing around with making jewelry with copper and natural stones that are found in and around the Nation's territory. She has always participated in volunteer activities, including serving as a Director for the B.C. Centre of Aquatic Health Sciences and as Director and Vice president for the Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation.

Levana was born and raised in Campbell River and was able to return to Campbell River and stay connected with the West coast, Barkley and Clayoquot Sound, by working with Cermaq Canada for the past five years. Cermaq has offices in Campbell River and Tofino and is building a new office in Ahousaht, where she will be based out of on a more regular basis once established.

As Senior Reconciliation Advisor, she works with Ahousaht Nation on five-year strategy plans, which includes corporate to First Nation relations, one project underway is the building of a new office, a floating reconciliation office that will include office spaces, meeting and boardrooms and living quarters.

"Throughout my time working with Cermaq, the company has been extremely supportive, to help build and maintain a professional and community-based relation with my Nation for my career. This aligns with building on better communi-

ty relations with Nations that the company operates within shared territories, looking for shared value and supporting shared interests with the appropriate Nations, groups and institutions. That which supports commitments to UNDRIP/DRIPA and commitments to Reconciliation with First Nation's" she explains

For her term holding the Portfolio of Asset Management, Levana's immediate goals are to build upon the work and growth that has taken place in the last four years and build on the visions that will protect and enhance our community and TSL's for a sustainable and efficient future.

"There is a strong foundation to create a sustainable economy within our community, which is an exciting development for our Treaty Settlement Lands," she says. "my role will help support certain projects to reach their next phase of development. While also continuing the search for ways to protect, enhance, and provide to our people, whether it be through development of our TSL's or protection of our lands and habitats, while practicing responsible and sustainable leadership for natural resource assets. Expanding on our ways to bring people home, while building and maintaining a flourishing community, is the long-term goal, one that we all share."

"That supports the importance of Job creation and job retention, and hopefully one day a post-secondary education institution that can house all knowledge and education, traditional, cultural, environmental, stewardship and conservation, evolving education in Native Arts."

"We want to encourage people who are interested in coming back and getting educated," she says. "I'd like to use my journey in education and in the legislature as an example of inspiration that others can look at and follow. There are so many opportunities for our youth and adults, and we need to show them everything that can be done for them, and what we are providing for them."

Those next steps include strength building our treaty and what has been implemented that will result in citizens returning home to live, but standing in the way is a lack of housing.

"Housing is one of the biggest issues," she states. "I have been trying to get a place to move back to since I finished university, and I am excited to see how our Nation is tackling housing."



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