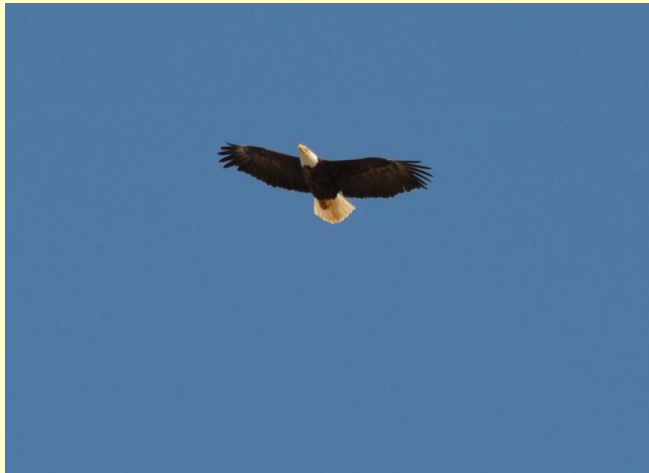


CH'IZHÌN ZRII



Vuntut Gwitchin Government Newsletter



The VGG Heritage department and Parks Canada hosted a snowshoe making workshop in November for 5 days.

Much thank you to Esau Schafer, Vuntut National Park staff, who assisted with the workshop and to everyone that came out to learn the process of snowshoe making.

We will be hosting another one sometime in the near future.

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Esau Schafer & Moses Lord braiding babiche onto a pair of snow shoes. VG photo

Editor's Note:



Hello to everyone.

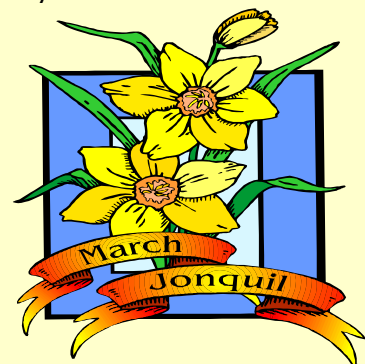
Another winter almost gone and Spring just around the corner. Hope this edition of our VGG newsletter finds you all well and in good spirits.

The winter seemed to have gone by pretty quickly. A number of workshops/events/meetings took place since our last newsletter. Information on these and more are provided here for you

Remember if you have any ideas for the newsletter or its contents please let me know. I would appreciate any feedback, comments or suggestions you may have.

Mahis' choo

Brenda Frost



Health, Social & Recreation



She:kon. Greetings, in the language of my Mohawk ancestors.

I would like to take a moment to say nia:wen, thank you for the warm welcome I have received, coming to Vuntut Gwitchin territory. My name is Nancy Stevens, and I am of Mohawk and European descent. As many of you are aware, I am the new Manager of Mental Health and Social Supports, and stepping in to cover Ted's role while he is off.

I have worked in the field of Aboriginal mental health for several years, with adults, children and youth. Before coming here, I worked at an Aboriginal women's organization, doing long-term counselling and taught at Lakehead University in the social work department. I have moved here from Ontario, and am really enjoying the beautiful land here, and the friendly people!

Since beginning here, just after New Year's, I have been involved in becoming familiar with both my job, the roles of the Health & Social and Youth & Recreation staff, as well as getting to know the community. My responsibilities include providing counselling and support to community members, as well as to supervise two staff (Family Support Worker and Justice Worker), facilitate groups, information sessions and workshops, and so on.

If you have some ideas for groups and workshops, please let me know. It is that time of year when we will be busy planning for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. As we work on the annual work plan, I am interested to hear what the community feels would be helpful to its overall wellness. Over the next two months, we are planning a number of activities. More information will be available as we firm

"I am the new manager of mental health and social support."

things up. Here's a breakdown of what has been happening since January 2013:

In January, Frances Ross, Daryl, the students of the 10-12 class and I met to start working on a project that would have the students talking with the Elders about how people looked after each other in the days before health clinics and counsellors. We had the first tea with the senior students and some of the Elders, and we are looking forward to having more of these.

The Health, Social and Recreation staff have met to plan for a few events for the community.

Family Games night that took place Feb. 11 at the Community Centre. We had about 20 kids, parents and the young at heart join us for a lot of fun and laughter. Community Wellness Week is under way as I write this. We have 3 Lunch'n'Learn dates set for this week with presentations from Agnes Mills, Jeremy and Michelle from Recreation, and Wendy (NIC).

We also have Melissa Fernandez, Traditional Diet Coordinator from First Nations Health Programs at the Yukon Hospital helping us kick off a 6 week long Community Kitchen. As well, foot care and massage therapy are being made available to the community. This week is all about looking after ourselves so we can look after each other!

Con't page 5



Rosie Kaye viewing a display during wellness week in Old Crow. VGG photo

Education



Drin Gwiinzii,

After being away from Old Crow for far too long, I am back living and working at home! I am thankful and grateful to family, friends and the whole community for welcoming me with open arms and such warm heartedness.

I am on a term position in the Education Department filling in for Tracy Rispin who has taken a year off to work with our Heritage Department. I welcome you to drop in to say hello or to have a chat with me should you wish. At VGG, we have an open door policy and we welcome any comments or suggestions regarding any of our programs or services we provide to VGFN citizens, the Education department is no exception.

Currently we are working on items such as new fiscal year budgets and work plans, the Culture Camp and an Education Summit set for April. It is also almost Spring Break for our students and we look forward to having them home for a visit.

Following is an update on some of the tasks we are working on in our department along with reports from staff.

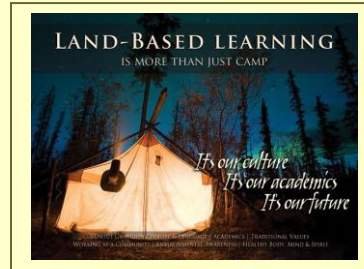
New Fiscal Year Budgets and Workplans

It is that time when we must plan and budget for the programs we want to continue and for anything new we would like to introduce in the new fiscal year starting April 1, 2013. The Education staff will all have input into this and of course we are open to any and all ideas from the community.

2013 Culture Camp

We are in the process of hiring a coordinator for the 2013 Culture Camp and, together with Stan Sr and I, will endeavor to have another successful event for the students. We have many interested people from outside the community that want to visit our Culture Camp as they have heard many good things about it. Our main focus is providing the students with a memorable learning experience and will therefore be selective as to how many guests we will allow from outside of Old Crow. This camp and event belongs to the students and we must respect their time and space.

There will be an agenda circulated which will take into consideration your comments and suggestions. We have a suggestion box at the front lobby of the Administration building and I encourage you to fill in the short questionnaire that is supplied or just write your ideas on a piece of paper.



Culture Camp
March 24- April 13 2013

2013 Education Summit

VGG Education Department will be hosting a 2 day Summit in Old Crow April 9-10, 2013. This will be held at the Community Hall from 9:00 – 4:30pm each day. All staff will participate so the VGG office will be closed for two days. All community members are encouraged to attend. This is your opportunity to discuss education issues, the three year (2011-2013) strategic plan and provide your input on how we could improve and what we might want to see happen in the future.

Education Week

The week of April 15-19 is Education Week; please check the notice boards around town for events that week. This is a time to show case our programs and highlight our children's achievements.

The theme this year is "Honoring the 40th Anniversary of Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow".



Education – con't from previous page

Hot Lunch Program

Hot Lunch Program is still running successfully and the food is amazing! A huge thank you to those parents that come to the lunch to spend time with your child(ren) and to volunteer. It must be mentioned again that parents are required to help supervise the children after lunch whether in the gym or other activities the kids are involved in until class resumes at 1pm.

Educational Tour – NYC

This is an exciting event for some of our high school students, Wow! New York City! I cannot wait to hear the comments and experiences that they will no doubt share on their return, safe travels to Kim Rumley, Mike Rispin and the students.

School Bus

The bus is a service we provide so that our children do not have to walk to school in the cold and it also ensures that they get there safely and on time. Please speak to your children and remind them to respect this service, respect other people that use it and listen to the bus driver. The bus driver's responsibility is to get your children to and from school safely and that is why we have rules that must be adhered to.

Devon Yacura – Whitehorse

Devon grew up in Comox, BC on Vancouver Island. After high school he went to the University of Victoria and took math and science courses. It was his friends at U of Vic that convinced him to visit the Yukon after he finished school. Devon heeded their

advice and in 2009 moved to Whitehorse following completion of an Environmental Science degree from Royal Roads University in 2008. Devon's first job in Whitehorse was working as a math and science tutor for the after school tutoring program at Skookum Jim Friendship Center.

As well as tutoring high school students, Devon works as a biologist with Ecofor Consulting in Whitehorse. Devon is currently working on his master's degree at the University of Alberta in Renewable Resources. Devon enjoys playing hockey, hunting, fishing, canoeing, and camping, pretty much anything outside!

Jenna Dixon – Old Crow

Besides being a tutor, Jenna is also employed by the Child Development Center in the afternoons in the K4/K5 class. Jenna moved to the Yukon in 2009 from Vancouver, BC and has been working as a Paramedic and First Aid instructor for the past 6 years. Her background prior to pre hospital medicine was in mental health and community support services. Jenna, her husband Jon, and their dog Duc relocated to Old Crow in August 2011. Old Crow was their top pick in the Yukon for Jon to be transferred to, and they were lucky to get their first choice. They have a love for the north and the outdoors, and have appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the community. Please feel free to stop by and see her at the library Monday to Thursday after school for any extra help, or just to say hi.

Tutoring

We have Tutors available here in Old Crow and in Whitehorse to assist our students with any school work they may need extra help with. This is an excellent opportunity for students and we strongly encourage them to take advantage of this great opportunity. Here is some information on our tutors.

Tara Fallat – Whitehorse

Tara is originally from Ontario and came up north in 1995 to work for the summer in Dawson City. After many adventures in the beautiful Yukon, she completed a BA in English from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She also has training in Math, Literacy and ESL (English as a Second Language). 18 years later she is still enjoying the Yukon and the many rewards of tutoring.

Devon Yacura – Whitehorse

Devon grew up in Comox, BC on Vancouver Island. After high school he went to the University of Victoria and took math and science courses.

Nicole Muir – Whitehorse

I am so happy to work with students living at Gadzoosda this year. I graduated from Sir Wilfred Laurier University and continued my teaching degree at the University of Glasgow. I moved to the Yukon for 6 months but that was four years ago. Since coming to the Yukon I have spent time as an educational assistant, a substitute teacher and now a teacher at FH Collins. I was fortunate to have an opportunity to travel up to Old Crow last year to work at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School and meet families of the students there. It was very clear when I started tutoring that humor was essential to get through the hour. After spending a few weeks in Old Crow it was evident just how important humor is for life. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with your children and look forward to watching them accomplish amazing things.

Once again, please feel free to drop by my office and chat with me regarding any education ideas or issues you may have. I look forward to a wonderful year in Old Crow and wish you all a wonderful spring season whatever your plans may be.

Mahsi' Karen

Con't on page 6

Health, Social and Recreation con't from page 2

In March, we are planning an “End of Winter” Festival. The Recreation staff will be coordinating a number of outdoor activities for the community to come out and enjoy from March 11 – 15. Stay tuned for more information!

The week of March 11 -15 will also see Health & Social hosting a community consultation regarding the development of a long-range policy for emergency medevac's. We are being assisted in this process by Helen Roos, consultant through the Canadian Executive Services Office (CESO), a non-profit organization that has worked extensively with First Nations across Canada in a number of areas.

April 17 – 19 will be the long-awaited Health, Social & Recreation Summit for the community. We are looking forward to hearing from everyone about how Health, Social & Recreation can be strengthened.

May 6 – 10 is Mental Health Awareness Week. We will be planning for some special events during this week. As I continue to get to know the community, I want to make sure that the culture and traditions of the Vuntut Gwitchin people are the cornerstone of how we provide support and activities to the community.

Mahsi' Choo to all those who have already been sharing their stories of this territory and the people—the love for this land and the pride in

From the Justice Coordinator

Since the last newsletter the Justice Department has been actively trying to recruit new members for the Justice Committee as we are hoping to head into the new fiscal year with at least 7 committee members on board. Existing members are Erika Tiyza, Randall Kendi, Renee Charlie, Robert Bruce Jr. and the standing committee member Margaret Smith. We would like to welcome our newest member Michelle Kendi-Rispin.

Looking forward to a productive Spring!

The Justice Committee will be doing Restorative Justice training in May. RJ conferencing will allow conflicts in the community (between people) to be worked out in a positive way.

The Court Party came up for the first time in about 7months. Judge Cozens expressed interest in being more regular with attending courts in Old Crow. He will be meeting with the Justice Committee to explore diversions for minor crimes after the next court circuit (March 26th). A drug and alcohol presentation has been arranged through Alcohol & Drug Services, from Whitehorse at the school, Feb. 19, and a community-wide presentation and dinner, Feb. 20, as part of Community Wellness Week.

There will be more educational programs/presentations coming out of the Justice Coordinator's office as we develop the annual work plan in the next few weeks. Probation Officer, Alex Campbell, will be visiting Old Crow on a more regular schedule (every three weeks).

Justice will be teaming up with Recreation in the near future to provide recreational programming.

your people is heartwarming to hear. I am honoured and privileged to be here to work with you all. I also want to express my appreciation for the hard working staff at VGG—in the Health, Social and Recreation departments, and throughout the rest of the office—for your help and support.

Mahsi' Choo! Nancy Stevens



Community Kitchen Kick-off at the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School

Overall all clients that I've had to deal with have been doing great with checking in with probation, staying out of trouble, working steadily on their community service hours and getting positive feedback from the community. Great job guys!

Kenji Welch
Justice Coordinator

From the Family Support Worker

I am the part-time Family Support Worker (mornings). Here are some of the activities I have been involved with over the past few months:

start of the community kitchen – Feb.19 at the school. I invite more ladies to this event weekly – 10-1pm (running Feb. 19 to Mar. 26, Tuesdays)

- We are running a sewing circle at the Yukon College – Tuesday – 6:30-9pm. Come and join us!

- Coordinator weekly “Meals On Wheels” – Fridays
Supervise homecare for now, until a homecare worker is hired.

- Mahsi' to Dana for looking after heating fuel for elders for now.

Mahsi' –choo to all the cooks during the Community Wellness Week, Feb.18-21/2013. It wouldn't happen without you. You're all great resource for our community.

Renee Charlie
Family Support Worker

Con't next page

Youth & Recreation Department

Hello everyone! I hope this finds you all healthy, happy and warm. If you haven't met me yet or maybe have only seen me around Old Crow, I'll take this chance to introduce myself. My name is Jeremy McCulloch, and I am the new Community Recreation Coordinator. I made my way up here from Ladysmith, a small town on Vancouver Island.

My education is in recreation; I have a background in professional basketball, and grew up playing all sports. I hope that I can use my experiences to help keep us all smiling, healthy, and improve all of our quality of life.

I also want to say Thank You! All the smiling faces and helpful hands have made my first few weeks in Old Crow Awesome! I appreciate everyone that has helped me or just taken the time to chat. I encourage you all to stop by, say hello, make a suggestion, or ask questions about what we can do for you and the community. I am excited for the upcoming months and all the exciting programs and opportunities we have. We are currently working to heat the ski lodge and groom the trails for the community to use. I have learned that there is a proud and successful skiing history here. We are going to do our best to rebuild those traditions. The Cross Country Yukon Community Coordinator has offered to come here next month and help us with some training and equipment. Look for more info on that in the upcoming weeks.

We are also in the process of planning, with the President of Yukon Soccer to bring up a team and some coaches from Dawson. We will put on some type of clinic, or mini-camp followed by some games, and community events. The youth have been playing soccer and this is an exciting opportunity for some skill building, exposure, and most important FUN!

These are just a few examples of the upcoming recreational activities and events to look out for. We are working on more options including archery, wrestling, walking club, cribbage evenings, cultural events, traditional games, basketball, martial arts, soccer, and floor hockey tournaments. We will post dates and times as soon as all the schedules are finalized.

We are also working on flooding the rink, thanks to some community members who have started to work on it. Hopefully we can get that done soon and get a few good months of skating, hockey and other fun on the ice. The Native Hockey Tournament is also fast approaching. I have spoken to Darius Elias, and we will be sending a few youth to play. Contact us for more information.

Our other regular events will continue to run. The Youth Centre is open after school from 3:30-5pm daily. Recreation assistant Michele Kendi-Rispin does an outstanding job to provide a positive environment, fun activities and healthy snacks for anyone that would like to stop by. She has also been a great help to me, giving me guidance and information on a daily basis. Thanks Michele! We have open gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8, followed by floor hockey from 8-9pm.

On Friday nights, from 7-9pm we have adult floor hockey in the gym and teen movie night at the Youth Centre.



Tuesday nights', join the ladies sewing club at Yukon College from 6:30-9pm.

Thursday nights is poker night at the Youth Centre from 7-10pm, come on down to test your skill, try your luck, and win big!

The Recreation dept. thanks all of you for your participation and support. Let us know if there is anything we can do for you. We look forward to having you all come out, take part and enjoy some of the fun!

Jeremy McCulloch
Recreation Community Coordinator

Education - Con't from page 4

Science and Traditions
Culture Camp
March 24- April 13 2013

ESW1 – Stanley Njootli Sr.

8.30am supervise students outside 9 am. Take students attendance from 9am.to 9.30am.Do PE class with various grades at set times during the day.

During the month of September take students out hunting caribou hunting. We harvested five caribou last fall and the students skinned the caribou which we are now using for the hot lunch program from time to time

In Oct. I set a tent under the mountain for school education during the day. The camp was used by all classes during the months of Oct Nov and early Dec. Jan and Feb was and is a cold months. There were indoor activities and supervising the gym during hot lunch and arrange for elders to talk and spend time with students.

Counseling students is also part of what I do .It is time to start planning for spring culture camp Which will be located at fish lake same as last year from March 24th to April 13th.2013.As usual there are challenges with the students the little tykes need a good boost from time to time.

ESW11 – Kim Rumley

Hello everyone,
Hope all is well and you are all looking forward to spring, which is just around the corner. We are in full swing into second semester here at high school in Whitehorse; everyone is settling into their courses and working hard.

We continue to run a snack program at all three high schools and hot lunch programs. Yesterday we had a hot lunch at F.H. Collins, the lunch was prepared by Jolene Geddes.

We were treated to caribou meat which was donated by Michael Frost and VERY much appreciated b Our tutoring program continues to run and we currently have 10 students being tutored on a weekly basis. Our tutors are Tara Fallat, Nicole Muir and Devon Yacura; please enjoy reading their brief bio's included in this newsletter. For many of our students, regular attendance and tutoring is the key to their successes in high school. y the students. Big Mahsi Cho to Michael for the donation. It was great for the students to have meat from home and they were all very happy.

Con't next page

Education con't from previous page

Our tutoring program continues to run and we currently have 10 students being tutored on a weekly basis. Our tutors are Tara Fallat, Nicole Muir and Devon Yacura; please enjoy reading their brief bio's included in this newsletter.

This year I am really pleased to report an increase in active living activities with our students, many of whom are accessing Martial Arts Training & Snowboarding at Mt. Sima. We will continue to support healthy living activities throughout the year, healthy bodies equal healthy minds. These Healthy Active Living initiatives are being sponsored by the VGG-Education department, through proposal and grant funding from YG.

I continue to work on planning a spring hunt and we are seeking volunteers to assist with the hunt. We are hoping that many of our students will take advantage of this opportunity. The annual hunting program provides traditional skills and training for our young people as well as an opportunity to get out on the land, which many of our VG youth who live in the city don't always get the opportunity to do. The meat we get from this hunt is distributed locally to families, as well it is used for our hot lunch program and carries us through the winter and this is a much loved program with our students. I really want to see it succeed so if you are a parent who is willing to assist and volunteer your time teaching a great bunch of kids out on the land please do not hesitate to contact me.

We have a number of cultural activities going on in our schools including carving programs, residential school teaching, Elders stories, traditional medicines, traditional hand games, language training, traditional craft projects and dene games/arctic sports and archery. In March we will be celebrating Winter Carnival for a week, with a strong focus on First Nation's winter activities. On that note, if anyone is coming to town and has time to come into our high schools to do some traditional teachings or projects we would love to have them. Please call me ahead of time if at all interested.

We leave for New York City on Feb 28th for a 5 day Educational tour, the students have worked extremely hard in fundraising for this trip, you should all be extremely proud of their efforts. We would also like to acknowledge some of our sponsors for the trip, First Nations Program and Partnerships Unit YG, Vuntut Development Corporation, Shaunessy Investment Corporation, and Hugh Monahan are just a few of our sponsors who have come through for us. Without the support of the community of Old Crow, Whitehorse and many businesses in Whitehorse, this amazing dream could never have become a reality, so Mahsi Cho. We wish everyone a happy and healthy spring,

take care all.



Vuntut National Park Update

Staffing news

There has been lots of changes in park staff over the past several months.

We bid farewell to Leila Sumi (Park Resource Management Officer) and Barry Troke (Acting Site Superintendent) who have left Parks Canada this past fall to pursue other opportunities outside the Agency. We would like to extend many thanks to them both for their hard work and contributions to Vuntut over the years.

Before Christmas we ran a competition to fill Leila's Resource Management Officer position but we did not succeed in finding someone right for the job. Many thanks to Erica Tizya from VGG for all her help in this competition as a member on our Hiring Board. We are currently looking at other options now to fill this position.

In November, Ed McLean started as the new Site Superintendent for Vuntut National Park & Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. His job is based out of the Whitehorse office but he will be up in Old Crow on a regular basis to work with the community. Ed is no stranger to the North, with over ten years living and working in the Beaufort Delta and Sahtu Regions of the Northwest Territories. During this time he has worked with land claim co-management boards in the Sahtu and Inuvialuit Settlements. Ed was also the Resource Conservation Manager for Parks Canada, Western Arctic Field Unit based in Inuvik and worked closely with Inuvialuit to take care of Ivvavik, Tuktot Nogait and Aulavik National Parks. In more recent years, Ed worked for Prince Albert National Park in Saskatchewan and at Parks Canada's Western & Northern Service Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

We are very happy to welcome back Esau Schafer to the position of First Nations Liaison Officer and are pleased that we have been able to make this a permanent seasonal position.

Finally as Spring approaches, please keep on the lookout for the poster announcing the competition to fill a vacant Resource Management Technician position.

Work to monitor the health of the park continues

An important part of our work in Vuntut National Park is collecting information about the land. Like a doctor's appointment where a few tests tell you about your health, this work checks if the park's lands, waters and wildlife are in good shape. This program, called ecological monitoring, was developed in cooperation with the North Yukon Renewable Resources Council and the Vuntut Gwitchin Government in 2008. The program has 14 projects, and includes measuring changes in lakes, permafrost, snow, tundra plants, forests, and wildlife such as the Porcupine Caribou Herd and peregrine falcons.

Last summer we continued to measure changes in lake water levels and aquatic life at 14 lakes in the Flats. We also looked at tundra plants in the Dog Creek area and visited three permafrost monitoring sites. The work was conducted by Parks Canada with help from Malinda Bruce and Erin Linklater of the Vuntut Gwitchin Government, and Robert Kaye. This summer our goal is to continue the lake monitoring and to finish setting up permafrost monitoring equipment at five locations in the Flats.

Con't on page 11

Chief and Council



Brandon Kyikavichik, Councilor

November 12th to 15th – “Change starts with me”: emerging leaders national forum

I took part in the language revitalization workshop for the full three days. We learned techniques for gauging fluency. They also covered a wide range of techniques for learning how to use the full range of words as they change with the context that you’re speaking in. It was a lot to cover in three days and I feel a refresher is not only needed for better retention, a refresher is also necessary and relevant because of the effectiveness of the techniques. Luckily I was able to make some contacts and I would be happy to see the workshop facilitators come up and run the workshop here. Language is one of my skills and I want to be more involved with language revitalization in the future.

November 16th to December 4th – preplanned vacation

December 11th to 14th – Helped with the language project “Our World” which showed students from CZGS how to make short still-films. Most of the films are done in the Gwich’in language (dinjii zhuu k’yu). Joel Peter, Mary Jane Moses and Brenda Kyikavichik did the translations. I took part in transcribing some of the stories into the gwich’in language. Joel and I then helped the students to pronounce the words and speak the sentences correctly as I recorded them.

December 14th – Did an interview with Shirley Roburn who is doing her doctoral thesis on the “Being Caribou” book and movie, as well as the Gwich’in and environmental group’s efforts to save the Porcupine Caribou Herd. She focused mainly on how first nations people tell stories to communicate our plight.

December 29th to January 1st – helped prepare for C&C New Years’ dinner.

January 9th – took part in a meeting to discuss amendments to the wildlife act. Helped Joel take the YG representatives out to his trapline to see what different types of traps look like and how to interpret and document them.

January 15th – First Men’s club meeting. For the time being, the men’s club will focus on trying to raise money to help the church society build a new church. There is much to be clarified as to who manages what aspect of the project. A lot has been done at this point and it has all been volunteer. The men’s club will be doing things like refining down the schematic design until we have a workable blueprint, as well as making decisions on how and what type of church is built. This is something that the men’s club participants would like to see more men take part in. We are working closely with the woman in the church society and we are all going to have to give support if we want to get a new church built in the near future.

January 21st – initial meeting with Caelob Behn. Caelob is Dene/Cree from northern B.C. He is getting his law degree and does presentations around Canada on the effects of natural gas development. This initial meeting was with NR managers and Nick Grey from the RRC.

January 25th – Caelob Behn does a presentation on the effects of natural gas development. Because Caelob couldn’t make it up, we had to skype him in at the college. It was an informative presentation and a good number of people that should have been there made it to the presentation. A very good discussion followed and we made some good contacts there as well.

January 29th – Men’s club meeting

I discussed the follow up work that I did from the last meeting. Still needs to be some clarification on where everyone fits in this project.

February 4th – Diamond Jubilee Award Ceremony

I helped with the planning for the ceremony. I also got some gas and went hunting with Robert Kyikavichik. We were successful in getting meat for the ceremony. Thank you to the Natural Resources department for lending me a ski-doo. At the ceremony I did the opening speech and introductions of the award recipients. The event went very well and I would like to thank Florence Netro for coordinating such a successful event.

February 12th - Men’s Club Meeting

There wasn’t too much to follow up on in this meeting. Bobby Netro has been talking with Rob Mason and they have been volunteering their time to do a schematic design for us. Sheenjit hai’ nihthan. It was announced to the club that the bishop will be coming up and the men’s club will be meeting with the church society as well. This will be a good time to get everyone on the same page.

February 19th – Meeting with VGG Trust

The VGG trust updated Chief and Council on their finances. They talked about what’s been good so far what has posed some challenges for them in a volatile market. There was a lot of good news in that meeting and things are really looking up for our investments. I would like to send a pat on the back to our investment group Shaunessy, and of course, our capable trustees.

February 19th – Porcupine Drainage Meeting

The Yukon River Panel and the salmon subcommittee updated us on projects that took place in VGFN traditional territory over the past year. They also talked about potential upcoming projects. They reiterated the importance of conservation of the salmon. Old Crow has failed to reach its escapement goal in the last few years. They also talked about the potential for regulations if the pulses continue to reduce and be less frequent. The sonar project has been fairly successful and may replace the fishing branch project in the future. Fishing Branch doesn’t seem to be in the best shape ecologically these days. Some research may have to be done there in the future, especially if we get the money to continue the sonar project, which is in its final year.

It will be up to the panel whether or not to continue funding the project. They have very little money when you consider the amount of applications they get.

February 20th Meeting with Reps from Alcohol and Drug Services

Alcohol and Drug Services is hoping to get funding from YG to expand and renovate their building. In regards to the expansion, they wanted to get from us some recommendations on how they can enhance programming that is delivered to First Nation communities as well as people in the city with alcohol and drug addictions that are from the communities. Chief Joe suggested looking into an on land treatment facility possibly here or in other communities. We also discussed the possibility of collaborating with other First Nations on such a project

Paul Josie – Councilor

It's been a year now that I've been a Councilor, looking back over my first year I think about the experience and the knowledge that I have gained. It's been a cold winter and spring is just around the corner. We're beginning a new year filled with possibilities from what I witness from the community is that everyone's positive and enthusiastic for this year.

Since the last newsletter I've been busy, starting with the Emerging Young Leaders Conference that was held in Squamish-Whistler B.C. During the conference there were workshops that gave tools to bring positive change to the community, I attended "Bring Your Community Together: The Art of Hosting". What I took from the workshop was skills on how to facilitate meeting efficiently. I am grateful for that opportunity to meet and share ideas with young leaders from across Canada.

Recently there was a English course put on by the collaboration of the Information Systems Department and Yukon College on the Vuntut Gwitchin Style Guide which I attended. The course stretched over four weeks and touched on the importance of writing well and having the writing style consistent though out the administration building. The volunteer firefighters are currently in the process of recruiting and getting updated by the Yukon Fire Marshall. I am the main contact person, and the information that I receive will be distributed to the other volunteer firefighters.

In December there was a meeting in Whitehorse for the Vuntut Gwitchin beneficiaries where we had a chance to update the people, and answer any questions personally. On January 15th beginning this year the Men's Club has started again, currently we are meeting regularly on Tuesday every two weeks. At the moment the main focus of the Men's Club is dedicated to the building of a new church. During the first week of February Joseph Fred visited Old Crow; he works with Emergency Measures Organizations (EMO) in Community Services as the First Nations Emergency Preparedness Planner. Joseph came here with templates on emergency plans from other communities in the Yukon to compare and revise an emergency plan that suits our unique community.

The highlight to date of this year was attending the Jokkmokk Winter Conference in Sweden the theme was climate change. It was an experience of a lifetime, I met people from across the northern regions around the world. The conference offers opportunity to network and share ideas to move forward from non-reusable resources. The keynote speakers have the same general presentation about ways to reduce the impact on the earth, whether it is wind, sun, water, bio-fuel etc.

After my return from overseas I received the Radio Society file. I started the process in acquiring the application of the broadcasting license though Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), next step is building the Radio Society within the community to complete the application. Once the license is approved the community can start broadcasting with Crow. FM.

Well with the darkest part of winter over and more sunlight during the day should see more activity in the community. My door is always open to everyone, so don't be a stranger. I am very honored to represent Old Crow. Together we will make this a great year for Old Crow.

Mahsi' Choo

Deputy Chief Margaret Smith

From the last newsletter Deputy Chief has been busy with Committee meetings monthly with Justice, Interagency, Youth Enhancement Fund and Yukon College and with the RCMP monthly meetings.

It has been busy as well with the housing Committee. C&C has to sit in to meet quorum, I encourage anyone of our community members to sit on this important file, to meet and decide the needs of housing for our members.

In December prior to spending time with my boys and grandchildren for the Christmas holidays, I had a couple of meetings that I attended. One is sitting on the Blood Ties committee and the other is Bonnee and I met on the Daycare needs and this is still in progress.

January has been a busy month after the three week Christmas break. C&C continue to meet on the political issues, projects, negotiations with our perspective colleagues Pauline Frost and Hugh Monahan. At times if we are in Whitehorse for other matters we meet, if not we are on teleconference regularly. If you have any questions at this level please don't hesitate to come into the office, we are available to share any information which involves you as members in our community.

Other agencies who came to Old Crow and met with C&C and/or the public were:

- Child and Family Services
- Peel Water Shed

I am quite pleased to hear that Men's Club has started up and C&C did meet with Joseph Kaye who came and shared his ideas and what he would like to do, again I encourage the young men in our community to get involve, this is one way for you to learn from the elders and contribute to the community as well.

The first two weeks of February I have been out attending meetings, first my own personal time to meet with a counselor, I have started this in Jan. to overcome some of the stress and to release this. This is one way for me to keep up my own strengths so that I am able to keep on doing a good job. I encourage all staff to find someone to talk to when things seem to get suppressed. We need to take care of ourselves as well. We've got to stay healthy in order to keep moving forward. I am thankful for this time when I do go.

First Nations Governance conference which I found quite informative to being a leader and it is not only for leaders but for others who work in the communities.

Land Claims Agreement Coalition also was quite informative, all FN leaders and the Coalition committee and researchers in academics from across Canada.

I would also like to share that when I am out of town it may at times be for meetings that pertain to being a leader or my own personal time for Dr. etc. I also take my sister Irene out for her Dr. appts, as I am her spokesperson for her medical issues.

VGG Trust came to update C&C on Investment etc. and I am sure a lot of you got out for their public presentation as well.

Thanks to Health and Social department for a wonderful week of wellness. I saw a lot of people out for those events and that is great to see, again it is all about taking care of ourselves so that we continue to do a good job and to plant the seed in our own lives to better and healthier lives. Mahsi' to all staff for a great job well done.

We all have an open door policy here at our Government, I encourage you to stop by and have coffee and share any ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. Remember C&C is here for you and you are important.

I would like to take this opportunity to Welcome Karen MacArthur back home to work for us and I am sure she has many to contribute as well, Welcome to Jeremy and Nancy to the H&S Dept.

As Deputy Chief, my portfolio is the Education and Health and Social departments so I look forward to working with you all. We are also coming to do a Summit for these two depts. sometime in April so watch for postings on those. I say to all Directors and staff keep up the great work you are doing.

Spring is around the corner and I look forward to that. To everyone out there continue to stay safe on your travels. I have some family birthdays: To my son Warren Happy Birthday for March 31st, my grandson Kadynce for April 23, my son Wes for May 24th and also to Pam for May 3rd. Have a great Spring break to all the students!

Mahsi' Choo,

Call for Artists, Crafters, & Performers

Are you interested in being part of the Adäka Cultural Festival?

We are still accepting artist applications until April 19th. If you are an artist, crafter, or performer who is interested in participating, please fill out an artist application form available on our website or from your local First Nation office.

We are also seeking items to be showcased in our Fashion Show. If you or anyone you know is interested in submitting pieces or being a model, please contact us at 667.7698 or via email at programs@adakafestival.ca

Keep in mind that we'll also be looking for volunteers to help out during the week of the Festival! Come be a part of the action and celebrate with family and friends on the banks of the Yukon River!

For more information:
www.adakafestival.ca
 867.667.7698
info@adakafestival.ca



Con't from page 7

Annual park meeting proposed in Spring 2013

We are currently working to set a date for our annual meeting in Old Crow between the North Yukon Renewable Resources Council, the Vuntut Gwitchin Government and Parks Canada. We are looking at possible meeting dates sometime after Easter in April 2013. At this annual meeting we will share with local leadership how things went in Vuntut over the past year. We will also discuss proposed plans for management, operations and monitoring for the coming year. In addition to this meeting with local leadership, while we are in town we also hope to host a public open house for community members to drop by, learn more about what is going on in Vuntut and share with us any thoughts about the park they may have. Stay tuned for future announcements on community bulletin boards and radio with date, time and locations of this open house.

Need to reach us?

Please drop by our office in the John Tizya Centre OR call us (Vuntut National Park Office in Old Crow - 867-966-3626 Yukon Field Unit, Whitehorse - CALL COLLECT - 867.667-3910). On behalf of the staff of Vuntut National Park and the Yukon Field Unit we wish you a safe and enjoyable Spring!



Esau and Ed



Jeffery Peter, Robert Kaye & David Frost

Government Services

The Government Services department has a mandate to develop and implement programs and services in the areas of housing and local services. The highlight for the department is the housing summit held in November 2013.

VGFN leaders, citizens, staff and general community members came together to work on the direction for housing in a summit dubbed "Housing for Ourselves and Our Grandchildren"

The product was some well debated and prepared recommendations for guiding the leadership and staff on what to work on.

Primary recommendations from the housing summit can be summarized as:

1. VGFN Leadership proceed with the next steps to participate in the First Nation Market Housing Fund
2. Review options for a revised well supported Sweat Equity Program with clear guidelines, procedures and policies.
3. Government Services to conduct an inventory of current ownership of vacant houses with an aim to remove and replacing old vacant houses and replace with newly constructed homes.
4. Establish and fund a Housing Authority with necessary financial resources, staff and procedures and policy framework.
5. Construct Elders Complex with Supported Living Program that allows Elders to age with support in Old Crow.
6. Pursue options to seek compensation for location of Airport lands on community lot
7. Pursue airport relocation and start planning for that process.
8. Construct Rental Units for Singles.
9. Identify new areas for subdivision development.
10. Identify opportunities for VGFN Red Seal members to become Housing Inspectors and develop other training opportunities.

Additional Recommendations included:

Build pads at least two years in advance and explore alternative methods for housing foundations, (i.e. pilings) to reduce effects of ground shifting.

Complete land registry system

Bring current housing units up to building standards.

Develop "Rent to Own" program options.

Construct new "Green" housing with attention to capture of passive solar (sun) energy and to wind orientation.

Obtain and make available Log Home construction kits

Capital projects for the near future will include a new fuel storage facility that will greatly improve the capacity that the VGFN can hold at any one time. The first nation is also in a position to acquire the gravel crusher located at the Crow Mountain quarry site.

The winter road will remain a project that could offer many benefits to the residents, and the department will continue to advocate for the periodic construction of one.

We look forward to another productive year!



Robert Bruce Jr, Jane Montgomery, Marion Schafer and Renee Frost accept the Diamond Jubilee Award from Commissioner of Yukon, Doug Phillips
Missing is Chief Joe Linklater
Elder Stephen Frost Sr. received his award in Whitehorse



Ice sculpture of reindeer



Paul with reindeer (tied up)



Outdoor market

Councilor Paul Josie attends a Youth climate change workshop in Sweden



Congratulations to Josh Tetlich (goalie, bottom left) on the second gold win for his team this year
January 2-7, 2013
Port Alberni, BC

Finance and Human Resources Department

Submitted by: Catherine Marangu

We continue to be a busy support department; the workload does not ease up even in the fall and winter months. After a busy summer season, we move to interim reporting with funding agencies, getting ready for CRA December year end, upcoming fiscal year budgeting process (2013-2014 budgets) and finally the year end work for the current fiscal year (2012-2013). I would like to acknowledge the contribution of each of my staff members to the smooth operation of the department.

Thank you to all who attended the staff party on December 6, 2012, it was a very well attended party that was fun and had excellent food. Congratulations to those staff members who received the 3 years, 5 years, 10 years and 15 years long service awards.

Staffing update:

Pierre Comeau- Human Resources Manager. He started working with VGG on October 29, 2012. Pierre came to Old Crow from Edmonton, Alberta. Prior to joining VGG, he worked with the Canadian Armed Forces as a legal Advisor. His Wife Dia relocated to Old Crow end of December 2012 to join him.

Nancy Stevens- Manager, Mental Health and Support Programs. She started working with VGG on January 3rd 2013. Nancy came to Old Crow from South River, Ontario where she worked as a wellness counselor and also a lecturer. Her youngest child, Morning Star relocated with her. Nancy is currently Acting Director for Health, Social and Recreation Department while Ted Howes is away on Medical leave.

Karen MacArthur- Education Manager. Karen started working with VGG on January 22, 2013. Karen is from Old Crow and has worked for VGG in the past, she moved from Yellowknife, NWT for this current assignment. Karen has vast administrative experience and has worked for companies like BHP Billiton Canada Inc.

Jeremy McCulloch- Recreation Coordinator. Jeremy started working with VGG on January 28, 2013. He came to Old Crow from Lady Smith, BC. He has worked as Recreation Coordinator, Youth Camp Coach and played basketball professionally in Europe.

Camisha Tizya- Part time Human Resources Assistant from February 28, 2013

Kathie Charlie- Part time Education Assistant from March 1, 2013

Brenda Frost has accepted on a part time basis (mornings) a mentorship opportunity for the position of the Human Resources Manager. She will mentor under Pierre and myself till her training plan is completed. Brenda will continue to do her substantive job as the Communication Officer in the afternoons.

Marla Charlie has left her employment with VGG finance, she has worked with the department for over five years and I thank Marla for her contribution during her employment and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Positions under recruitment

- Coordinator –Easter Carnival
- Youth Assistants- Easter Carnival

Anticipated positions to be posted in the next few weeks

- School Culture camp attendants and cooks.

Please continue to check our job bulletin board at the VGG administration building on any new job positions as this is updated frequently.

Leave your name also with the Human Resources Assistant if you are looking for a job. We keep a list of persons looking for work which we use when short notice opportunities arise for instance back up janitor, back up receptionist, homecare workers, back up recreation workers and back up drivers.

Staff Training

Administrative Assistants Enrichment Certificate:

This is a certificate course offered by the Yukon College in Whitehorse. This certificate has 6 courses. One of the courses (minute taking) was offered in Old Crow in the summer of 2012 and three courses were offered in November 2012 and the last two courses will be offered on February 28th and March 1st 2013. Once a staff member completes the six courses they will be awarded a Yukon College Certificate.

Dana Lord, Lulu Tizya, Frances Bruce, Florence Netro, Dorothy Frost took part in the courses that were offered in November 2012 and covered the following courses:

Nov 14	Strategic Writing for Business Professionals
Nov 15	Managing Time & Priorities
Nov 16	Professional Relations I: Managing Yourself & Your Environment

Dana Lord, Lulu Tizya, Frances Bruce, Florence Netro, Dorothy Frost, Ida Tizya and Cheyanne Charlie are scheduled to take the courses offered on February 28th and March 1st, 2013. The courses to be covered are:

Feb 28	Professional Relations 2: Employeeeeship
Mar 1	Client Services: Customer Conflict and Difficult Clients

Employment and Training update

The fall deadline for application for funding saw a number of students apply for the winter semester that started in January 2013. We currently have 27 students receiving funding. 21 students are supported under the Post Secondary Education Funding and 6 students under the ASETS funding.

ASETS funding is also supporting other clients who need short courses in trades to be able to re-enter the work force.

The 4-month course on small Engine Repairs and life skills that is being offered through Yukon College here in Old Crow is also supported by the ASETS funding, Yukon College and College campus committee. We have 10 students enrolled in this program that will run from February 2013 to May 2013. Give an encouraging word to the students when you see them. Once they complete the course, they will have hands-on-training to repair many of the engines for snow machines, ATVS, Chain Saws, Lawn Mowers etc that are used daily in Old Crow as well as new life skills.

Finance Update:

The 2012 T4s, T4As, T5007 were mailed out mid February 2013. Those requiring residency letters, please contact Kelly Ollett in the Finance office in person or on the phone 966-3261 Ext. 242.

Departmental Budget review meetings are scheduled the week of March 4th to review departmental expenditures for 2012-2013 against budgets and work plans. This is the final review for the current fiscal year. At this meeting, department priorities for 2013-2014 fiscal will also be discussed.

The First reading for the 2013-2014 Appropriation Act is expected to be scheduled the week starting March 11, 2013. Please watch out for postings and plan to attend.

2012-2013 fiscal year Pre- audit with the external auditors has been scheduled for April 17, 2013 to April 22, 2013.

Other Projects under way

Occupation Health and Safety draft policy has been completed and is currently under review before being approved. We hope to have the Occupational Health and Safety Committee up and running in late spring 2013. We will be looking for representation in the Occupational Health and Safety Committee from all departments.

Review of the VGG Administrative policy will start in April 2013.

Important dates

April 30, 2013 - 2012 Tax filing Deadline

Department Staff contact:

Tel: 867-966-3261, Direct Fax: 867-966-3719

Catherine Marangu -Director, Finance and Human Resources Ext 240

Bev Cameron- Finance Manager Ext 238

Pierre Comeau- Human Resources Manager Ext 258

Ida Tizya- Payables/Payroll Clerk Ext 241

Kelly Ollett- Accounts Receivable Clerk Ext 242

Loretta Itsi- Employment and Training Officer Ext 223

Randall Kendi- Receptionist Ext 221

Camisha Tizya- Human Resources Assistant

Best wishes for spring!



Sunrise January 2013 VG photo

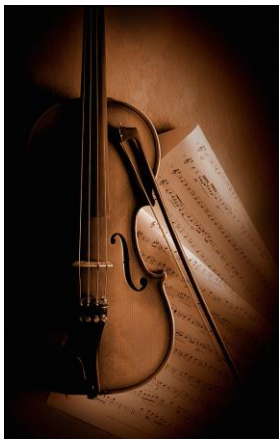


A very Happy Birthday to Amanda Frost for March 23rd, have an awesome day!

Happy 84th Birthday to our dad/grandpa Donald Frost
WE LOVE YOU DAD! From all you children/grandchildren



A Special "Happy 1st Birthday" to my 1st grandchild Ryder Wolfe-Frost, born March 15, 2012.
With lots of LOVE from Grandma <3 Brenda



Congratulations to Allan Benjamin on your recent Lifetime Music Award, We are Proud of you!!

The Youth & Recreation department will be hosting "End of Winter" festival.
March 13-16, 2013

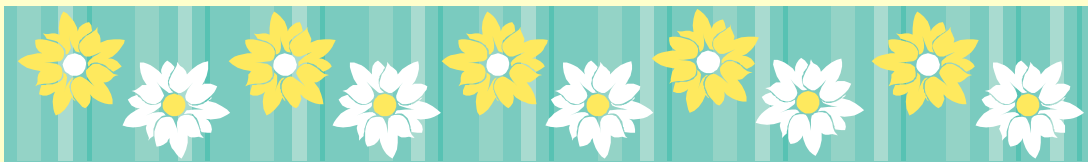
Mar 13th 3-5pm - snowshoe baseball at the baseball diamond, bring your snowshoes.

Mar 14th 4-6pm - snacks at the ski-lodge

Mar 16th 12-4:30pm - floor hockey tourney, sign up your team with Michelle.

Dinner will served 5pm Saturday at the gym with door prizes & awards to be given out.





Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

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Fax: (867)-966-3800
Email: info@vgfn.net

Do you have any announcements, jokes, stories, poems, photos, greetings that you would like advertised in our newsletter?

Please contact Brenda Frost, Communications Officer
(867) 966-3261 ext 256
Or email bfrost@vgfn.net

Newsletter of the Vuntut Gwitchin Government in Old Crow, Yukon Canada

We're on the Web!

www.oldcrow.ca
www.facebook.com/vuntut
www.vgfn.ca

VGFN Chief & Council

Chief
Deputy Chief:
Councilors:

Joe Linklater
Margaret Smith
Brandon Kyikavikchik
Paul Josie
Bonnee Bingham

