

GWILUU ZRII

“Hard Packed Snow Month”



May 18-21st was the 12th year for Vadzaih Choo Drin – Big Caribou Days.

Some caribou were migrating through, birds of all kinds flying about and the Porcupine River went out good!

A huge big Thank you to Theresa Frost, who always steps forward and coordinates different community events. Also Mashi to Randall Kendi, Paige Tizya, Natasha Frost and everyone else who helped with the weekend events.

Everyone had fun, the weather was perfect, great food, laughter and prizes. **Mashi choo!**

Editor's Note:

Hello and Happy Spring to everyone!!

Welcome to the spring edition of the VGG newsletter. I hope you will find the following reports informative.

I recently started my position with the IS Dept. as the Communications

Vuntut Gwitchin Government Newsletter

Fun was had by all.....

Gunny sack race.



Images by Mike Peter

MAY 2012

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Officer. Our goal is to provide a quarterly newsletter to the community as well as VG members living elsewhere so that information on programs and services and other important matters is provided to you on a regular basis.

Our community is starting to become busy with hunting, work and summer activities. Enjoy the summer season. I wish you all well. Until next time, stay safe.

Brenda Frost



Natural Resources Department

We have had a great spring in the Natural Resources Department with many successful projects and files moving forward. Our Director Lance Nagwan has been away for a much needed time on the land and will be back to the office in June. In the meantime, here are updates from Lands and Fish and Wildlife and Heritage Departments'.

Van Tat Gwich'in Navigation Systems Project

This four year project is focused on researching and marking trails and burial sites and recording background information about place names. Each year will focus on a different section of the VG

traditional territory and will depend on the amount of outside funding we are able to obtain. Last summer the focus area was south of Old Crow in the Ch'ijuhdìäii (Porcupine Lake) area including the Chuu Tl'it (Whitestone Village) route, the summer route from Chuu Tl'it to Zeh Gwatsàl (LaPierre House) and other routes in the area. The research team also visited the Summit Lake - Bell River area to gather information from there in preparation for the new proposal Park. We always try to include an archaeology component in our research and this year community members visited sites in the Rock River area with Dr. Ray LeBlanc. In

addition to this, 20 Gwich'in place name signs were produced and the majority of them installed along Choodeenjik (Porcupine River). This summer our focus area is Crow Flats. The research team will travel up the Crow River by boat to install Gwich'in place name signs and collect information about trails and grave sites in the area.

Con't on Page 5

"This four year project is focused on researching and marking trails and burial sites and....."

Educational Material

Educational booklets are developed about each research area and other topics including: Van Tat; What Was Life Like At Käachik; How Did the Shanaghàn Help Her People; Who Were Shahvyah, Cheewalti', Shahnuti'; Who Were the Dagoo; and Ch'ijuhdìäii. These are used in the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School, the John Tizya Centre and as part of summer field camps.

Vuntut National Park

Heritage staff will be working with Vuntut National Park staff and the

North Yukon RCC to develop a cultural resources values statement for the Park. This statement will guide management of cultural resources in the Vuntut National Park area.

Gwich'in Language

Language activities are an important part of our work in Heritage and we are currently seeking additional funding to hire a Language Coordinator and focus more attention on language while there are still fluent speakers. Our initiatives will only work with the

support of the community and we welcome your input. Gwich'in phrase books have been re-printed and are available at the John Tizya Centre. Gwich'in Chilik CD recorded in St. Luke's Church is now available in limited quantities. Work continues on a list of over 100 Gwich'in bird names recorded by Big Joe Kyikavichik and will be compiled into a bird handbook, in tandem with Dave Mossop's bird population work in Crow Flats over the next two years.

Research and Media

Research projects concerning community members and media projects are reviewed by the VGG Heritage Committee. Researchers work with community members as necessary and there are many opportunities for people to assist the researchers and also to contribute to the design of various research projects. Some research projects include: Jeremy Bramer's muskrat research, Duane Froese studying geology in the Crow Flats area, Parks Canada continues the hydrology monitoring program set

up by Jana Tondu, Dave Mossop will conduct a bird population survey in Crow Flats with local assistants and the H.pylori crew continued their testing. Media also benefit from community involvement.

Rampart House and LaPierre House

The Rampart House historic site is jointly managed by Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments. Work this year will focus on completing some parts of the east

side of Rampart House and starting reconstruction of the Rectory on the west side in addition to installing visitor elements such as benches and a fire ring at the camp site. During the winter an Operations Manual was developed for the site and will be tested this season to ensure knowledge about how to run the Rampart House site can be passed along.

Con't Page 5

Erika Tizya, Lands Manager

I started the Lands Manager position in March. My educational background is in the natural resource sciences, so I am pleased to be applying my skills in this field. After familiarizing myself with the diverse Lands Manager files I am thoroughly immersed in my duties. To date I have worked on files such as Oil and Gas, Land Use Planning, Land Applications, Research Applications, Fish and Wildlife, Alternative Energy, Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA), Caribou Days, Land Registry, and Waste

Management. In particular, I am on the Northern Cross Technical Working Group in which I am responsible for ensuring the Benefits Agreement is fulfilled. I have also been active in the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan in which VGFN has traditional territory overlap interests. I have had a good overview of the YESAA process by attending their 5-year review meetings, I managed the Caribou Days events that were coordinated by Teresa Frost and Paige Tizya, and I have been researching potential alternative wind energy technology that will suit the needs of Old Crow.

I am also working with the Community Services branch of the Yukon Government to determine waste management needs of Old Crow, in particular recycling. Finally, I have been working with a consultant who is developing a Lands Registry system for our community. On this matter I will be requiring the full cooperation of the community when I collect signatures to determine lot lines. The purpose of this registry is to not only facilitate land designation, but to ensure proper distances between houses and to aid in municipal services such as road work/development. **Con't Page 8**

William Josie, Fish and Wildlife Manager

First of all I would like to thank Theresa Frost for another successful "Caribou Days". I hope everyone enjoyed the warm weather. Well the ice is out, and the caribou are here. According to the Harvest Management Plan we are in the "Green Zone" so there are no restrictions on harvest. VGG Natural Resources Dept. still encourages our hunters to harvest bulls only. If you are going out on the river make sure everyone is wearing a life jacket and if you are going up the mountain think safety and pick up an orange "Safety

Vest" from our Game Guardian Stan Jr. Stan will be out there so if you need assistance getting in or out on the land please contact him at 966-3261 ext 245. The Chinook salmon outlook for the 2012-fishing season looks from below average to poor. We will have a better understanding of the run estimates by mid-June. We have been asked to take a precautionary approach going into this year's Chinook salmon fishing season. All

"If you are going out on the river, make sure everyone is wearing a life jacket."

management plans relating to Natural Resources were updated by late winter of 2012. If you would like to see the documents or if you have any questions relating to fish and wildlife or their habitat don't hesitate to call or drop by. The muskrat trapping this season was not very good both for our trappers and researchers due to overflow and deep snow. The aerial push-ups survey done this spring looks encouraging.

Mahsi'

**Stanley Grafton Njootli, Game Guardian**

May 22, 2012: It is spring, the Porcupine River is out, the Crow River is going, and everything is awesome.

Here are the dates when I will be collecting caribou and moose harvest data:

Data collection: June 15th – June 30th

Here are the dates for black ducks / geese harvest data reporting:

Data collection begins: June

15th – June 30th

I have had the opportunity to work with many people this spring, going to Crow Flats and I look forward to working with people this spring on the river collecting harvest data and doing patrols. I will also be able to lend a helping hand if anyone needs assistance on the river this spring.

Upcoming Game Guardian projects include assisting in making a dry meat cache and salmon smoking cache for community demonstrations in front of the John

Tizya Center and acquiring materials for the caches. Another project will be setting up a fish camp for Chinook salmon down river and in town for fish cutting and packaging. We encourage all youth and people of all ages to come out and learn or teach how to cut fish. I look forward to seeing everyone on the land this spring and summer. Remember to wear your life jackets in the boat: Safety First. Have a fun and safe spring and summer. See you on the river.



Do you have any Announcements, Jokes, Stories, Poems, Photos', items for sale that you would like advertised in our next Newsletter? Questions? Suggestions? Comments?

Please contact Brenda Frost, Communications Officer

867.966.3261 ext 256

Or email bfrost@vgfn.net

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We're on the Web!
www.oldcrow.ca
www.facebook.com/vuntut
www.vgfn.ca

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

Contributions to VGG Newsletter are by the employees.

VGFn Chief & Council

Chief:	Joe Linklater
Deputy Chief:	Margaret Smith
Councilors:	Brandon Kyikavikchik Paul Josie Bonnee Bingham

Health, Social and Recreation

Driin Gwiinzii ,

Allow me to introduce the current staff of Vuntut Gwitchin Government Health, Social and Recreation Departments

Standing Committee Member
Deputy Chief, Margaret Smith

A/Director - Ted Howes

Social Administrator/ Income Assistance - Dana Lord

A/Home and Community Care coordinator - Adeline Charlie

Recreation Coordinator - John Burrows

Recreation Assistant - Michelle Kendi- Rispin

Home and Community Driver - Earl Benjamin

Manager Health, Social and Recreation - Ted Howes

Later this month Susan Holmes will be Director of Health, Social and Recreation. She has many years experience and is a most welcome addition to our department.

In the office Dana is keeping up with her daily tasks and being helpful where she's needed. All Income assistance recipients are under her program and she does administration duties for the department.

In recreation watch for the bi-monthly brochure that will show you what is scheduled and when. Also the monthly Youth Centre calendar is posted which hi-lites the daily activities in the YC. Continue to watch for Recreation Updates that are posted throughout the community. Here are a few upcoming plans:

Floor hockey wrap-up tournament and BBQ for all spectators and players

The basics of baseball come and learn to throw, catch and take ground balls. We will be scheduling weekly baseball games.

Archery, learn the basics or sharpen your skills

Walking clubs any one interested????

Jam Sessions: Bring your instruments and your voices as we gather around the Community Hall for an evening of fun and music. All musical instruments are welcomed. We will be resurfacing the arena floor and many hands will be needed to help with taking down the boards and leveling out the gravel as well as resetting the boards. Watch for the postings. **Can't on Page 6**

Con't from Page 2***Van Tat Gwich'in navigation systems Project***

The second part of the field research will be by helicopter in early July when more place name signs will be installed and routes documented. We hope to add a winter component again after the success of the February trail breaking trip from Old Crow to Ch'iidrii Ddhaa (Heart Mountain). This project will include archaeological excursions to Salmon Fork and other sites.

**Con't from Page 2*****Rampart & Lappier House***

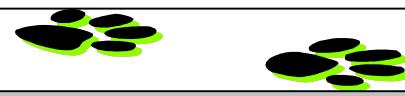
There will be some work done at LaPierre House this summer by helicopter. The main objective for LaPierre House under the Management Plan is not to reconstruct the buildings but to install a boardwalk around the site with interpretive signage and a camping area.

Collections

Heritage Branch manages an archival collection of interviews, transcripts, indexes, photos, video footage, cultural items and now paleontological items.

**The new Arctic Research Facility**

has enabled us to bring back all the fossils collected by Yukon Government from the traditional territory. The Arctic Research Facility is equipped to handle fossils but not most artifacts due to the special conditions required for certain items. Vuntut National Park staff collected fossils from the Crow River this summer to add to the collection. Some collections added this year include photos from Corporal May's daughter (1930s) and the addition of textual records such as many archival letters, Old Crow Women's Auxiliary meeting minutes and Men's Club meeting minutes.

**Mary Jane Moses, Heritage Researcher**

Drin gwiinzii. Sreendit nakhwah gwidaadhal. Chiitaii gwiiniidhaa, gwiinzii. Dzhii agaadan'uu. Mahsi' Cho chan vadzaih naa'in, nilii aak'ii ee'daa'aa. Good day. Spring is upon us. The weather is nice outside, great! The birds are noisy. Thank you very much we see the caribou again. We eat good fat meat. mahsi'. Welcome spring, to the north country; we've had a long winter. It's nice to have warm weather again. Last month April, I had an opportunity to visit with Tröndek Hwëchin, Mayo Gwich'in, and Teet'l'it Gwich'in kat at Hyssop Creek [Cache Creek] 2 hours north on the Dempster Highway out of Dawson. It was an "Elder's passing of spring camp". It was nice setting up in the Blackstone area surrounded by mountains. The weather was just nice.

We had many activities going on, movie night of films by elder Jimmy Johnny of Mayo of the 3 rivers in the Peel River Watershed, an area he is familiar with as he travels in there most every year and also I showed 3 of my own films, translated into Gwich'in.

Other activities included drymeat making, itsuh making, storytelling, talks on roles of elders, traditional laws and the Peel River Watershed. It was a good camp, good cabin set-up, lots of traditional foods, fresh boiled caribou meat, fry meat, fried whitefish, grease bannock. I had lots of fun meeting up with my people from back home, meeting new people from Mayo and Dawson, I have relatives in both of these communities also.

May 22-27 -I'll be going back to Dawson to attend at a hide tanning bush camp with a traditional teacher from Teet'l'it, one of my older sisters. I'm grateful to Tröndëk Hwechin for the invite. I'll be demonstrating caribou legskin tanning and other things.

In Heritage, ongoing planning for this summer's oral history project has been underway and is in almost the final stages. Our trip this summer is planned for on the Crow River, we will be posting up place name signs along the river where people used to come to river from their spring camps. There are still a few families who do this, spring out in Crow Flats then move to river and come down by boat. Good for them, they keep up the traditions.

Later on in July, we fly by chopper to the inland place names along the main trail to Crow Flats and put down the signage there and fly to other sites in the traditional territory for documenting valuable information. Mahsi' always to the Heritage Committee team members who have been together now for well over 11 years, planning year after year, projects that are important to Vuntut Gwitchin history documentation, important to undertake and how we always end up with great end products.

Con't next Page.....

Thank you for their dedication and commitment. Hai' goovałnuu - Jane, Marion, Robert, Megan. Shik nakhwagwitr'it nizii.

Landscaping around the John Tizya Center is well underway now on the riverbank front of the building. Many wonderful things are planned for the landscaping phase. Some of the structures that will be built are a, meat/fish cache with a tarped seating area at one end, benches, picnic tables, shah, (long ago cache that was used by the caribou fences for meat storage) a high covered stage for storing the canvas boat and Crow Flats sleigh, hide tanning area with beamers, willow house for smoking hides,

hide scraping pole area, flower beds, fences, trees, shrubs, local plants, berries, moss etc. It will be super when it's completed. Mahsi' at this time to Parks Canada staff who will be assisting us with the landscaping plans and also to community people who will be helping us out with building the structures. I wish everyone a happy spring, a time of renewal and rejuvenation.

Stay Safe



Con't from Page 4

Health, Social & Recreation

Summer program planning is in the works and we are hoping for a nice summer so that we can be outside as much as possible and keeping you as active as possible.

Our A/Home and Community care coordinator, Adeline Charlie is supplying home care to 13 Elders and supervising the Home Care workers who do cleaning and assorted chores for Elders. Adeline is a Certified Health Care Assistant and graduated from Northern Lakes College in Dawson Creek BC after studying for 7 months. If interested in employment doing relief home care for Elders you can apply to Brenda Kaye in the HR. department.

All ideas are welcome from the community to help us provide quality programs and services so please share these ideas with the staff.

Mahsi cho.....Ted Howes

VGG Education Department

Drin Gwinzii everyone! I am happy to see the Newsletter up for another run to provide information to our People. It is a good communication tool. It has been a very good spring for us in Old Crow with the Porcupine River breakup and the return of the caribou. Mahsi cho for that!

As this school year closes for post-secondary, we would like to congratulate the following students: Katherine Peter, Tracy Bruce and Jeneen Frei-Njootli. As well to our high school graduates: Matthew Keaton, Daniel Frost-Hanberg, Jordan Charlie and Briana Tetlchi. Congrats on achieving your goals and best wishes on your future endeavors. Our office has also been very busy working with the Alice Frost Community Campus

to deliver oil and gas courses for potential employment at Eagle Plains, with Northern Cross. Most clients have been successful with their employment gain there. More partnership with the Campus will commence through the year.

At the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School, our wrap up celebration of Culture Camp was very successful and we will continue to do this each year. It is good to have the support of the community. Next year's theme has already been set: **Traditions & Science 2013**

Dates are as follows:

March 24 – 29th > Grade 4 to 6

April 2 – 5th > Grade 1 to 3

April 4th > Kindergarten

*NEW * K4 & K5s will be given the option to overnight.

April 7 – 13th > Grade 7 to 9

At this year's Culture Camp, a cook was hired at the end of Camp. This was done to teach the students Food Safety. It turned out great and the camp even made a game out of it; the "Iron Chef Competition". Read more about the adventures at Camp in this year's Push Up Press, to be released in June 2012 at the Chief Zzeh Gittlit School Awards Night. Last day of school is June 14th, then it's SUMMER VACATION! Have a great summer students!

Con't on Page 8

GS Department Newsletter

It is a privilege to provide news on behalf of the Government Services Department. At the moment we have over twenty staff members working for the department in various projects and programs. During the peak times in the summer we expect up to forty workers.

The department also liaises with other orders of government, mostly the Yukon government on other initiatives.

In the area of housing, the department will be putting up two timber frame housing units this summer. These are 10x10 timbers that include arctic upgrade for better insulation. They are expected to be mold free and very long lasting. The success of these units will further guide the selection for suitable housing in Old Crow.



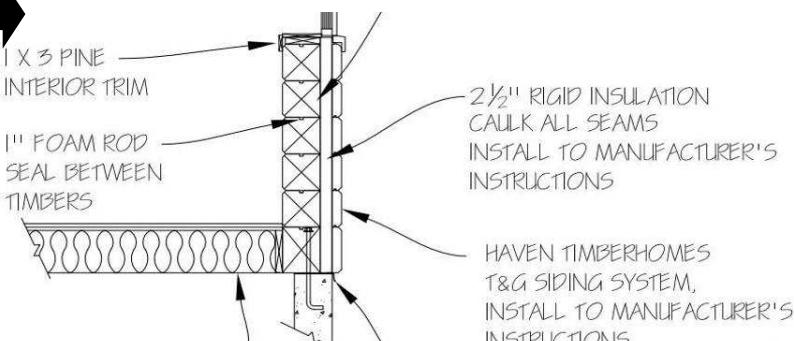
Two more new housing units funded through CMHC will also be built along the North Airport bypass road. These are also new designs for Old Crow with 2x8 walls and horizontal strapping for additional insulation. Renovations and repairs for rental housing will continue, and this year three sweat equity renovations are expected to take place. Water tank alerts for warning of full tanks during water delivery, some repairs to sloughing foundations and cleaning of domestic water tanks is also scheduled for the summer.

An additional warehouse bay is currently being insulated. This will allow service vehicles to last longer by starting them at a warmer temperature. A waste oil burner will be installed in the bay to take advantage of used oil available for heating.

Completion of the work at Tlo Kut meeting and "on the land" healing facility will take place in the summer and the remaining labour work will be contracted locally.

Other areas that have been included in the strategic planning for the department include playgrounds and cemeteries for which the department is working on immediate requirements. Projects funded through Yukon government include the solid waste oxidation system expected to be installed in June. Training for operators will take place when the manufacturer is in Old Crow in early or mid June. Contract for operation of the facility may be arranged through the GS department. The construction of the new water treatment plant is also in progress and expected to be in use before the end of September 2012.

We look forward to a busy summer and work with the summer students.



Con't from Page 6**VGG Education**

In the last couple of months, you may have heard that Old Crow will be getting an extra teacher to teach grade 10, 11 and 12 courses. This comes from the request of the community to give our young students the option of staying home and completing their studies for graduation. Pat Joe spoke to many young people and parents about this NEW program and received positive feedback. She will be sending a report to the Department of Education and the VGG Education Department. This is a very exciting time for Old Crow and to make this successful, we will need the commitment from the students and parents, so this can continue into the following years.

Late this Fall, a NEW school bus will be on our roads picking up the students. This will be an actual yellow school bus with all the flashing red lights. We are very excited to see the arrival of the bus. It will be coming up on one of the Hercules flights.

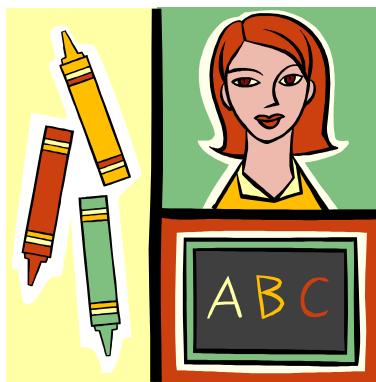
This June we also bid farewell to Principal Climie, who is taking a year off and to Mr. Peter Cassidy, headmaster of Gadzoosdaa Residence who is retiring. VGG Education would like to acknowledge their hard work that they have done for our students. We wish them well on their journeys. Mahsi cho.

The Education Support Workers in Old Crow and Whitehorse have been busy doing programming with the students. In Old Crow the students, along with Parks employee, Esau Schafer is building a boat for the School. Anyone is welcome to help out. Just give Stanley a call at 966-3261, ext. 279. It's a project for our children. In Whitehorse, Kim continues to work hard with our young people pursuing their high school education.

A lot of different programming is being organized to motivate the students to complete their schooling. In the coming months a field trip to the University of Saskatchewan and New York City are being planned. Support from relatives is needed to help with fundraising. These trips are going to be worthwhile experiences for our youth. More information about these field trips will be given in the next VGG newsletter. Homework tutors have helped many of our students in Whitehorse and the students have been most appreciative of this support. Students also attended a 2-day Goal Setting and Achieving workshop in April. This workshop taught them how to identify short and long term goals in their personal lives and how to actively pursue those goals.

"It's the little things that matter", like a simple pat on the shoulder to say "keep up the great work in your studies" and "you can do it". These words can lift up a person and make them try harder to achieve their goals.

In closing, if you have any questions of what VGG Education is doing, please feel free to drop by and we will do our best to answer your questions. Mahsi cho.

***Con't from Page 3*****Erica Tizya – Lands Manager**

If you have any questions or suggestions relating to my position, please stop by the office for a chat or give me a call. I look forward to working towards the lands and resources vision of the community.

Mahsi'

Congratulations!

Our newest spring babies & Vuntut members.

Kristen Frost & Tyson Wolfe on the birth of your precious son Ryder Patrick McArthur Gordon Wolfe-Frost born March 15, 2012

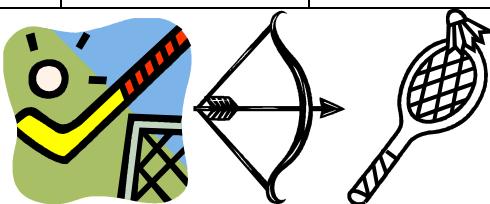
Anna Taureau & Joseph Bruce on the birth of your darling daughter Ashlynn Marie Ellen Bruce born April 5, 2012

Kathy Marie Charlie on the birth of your sweet daughter Sadie Sunsnow Charlie-Cardinal born May 12, 2012



Recreation June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 3-5 YC open 7-9 Youth movie	2
3	4 3-5 YC open Gym 7-7:55 open 8-9 Floor hockey	5 3-5 YC open 7-9 Baseball	6 3-5 YC open 7-9 Youth/Adult Volleyball	7 3-5 YC open 7-9 Youth Gym 7-10 Adults night Texas Hold'em	8 3-5 YC open 7-9 Youth movie 7-9 Adult Gym	9
10	11 3-5 YC open Gym 7-7:55 open 8-9 Floor hockey	12 3-5 YC open 7-9 Baseball	13 3-5 YC open 7-9 Youth/Adult Badminton	14 Last day of School No events scheduled	15 1-5 YC open 7-9 Youth movie 7-9 Adult Gym	16
17	18 1-5 YC open Gym 7-7:55 open 8-9 Floor hockey	19 1-5 YC open 7-9 Baseball	20 1-5 YC open 7-9 Youth/Adult Volleyball	21 Aboriginal Day Events	22 1-5 YC open 7-9 Youth movie 7-9 Adult Gym	23
24	25 YC open Gym 7-7:55 open 8-9 Floor hockey	26 YC open 7-9 Baseball	27 1-5 YC open 7-9 Youth/Adult Badminton	28 1-5 YC open 7-9 Youth Gym 7-10 Adults night Texas Hold'em	29 1-5 YC open 7-9 Youth movie 7-9 Adult Gym	30



Finance and Human Resources Department

Submitted by Catherine Marangu

The last few months have been busy with 2011-2012 fiscal year-end related work and preparing for the new (2012-2013) fiscal year. With budget allocations and warmer spring weather many of the new fiscal year projects are currently under way. We have been busy recruiting for the construction projects staff and also filling vacant positions within the government.

Please join me in welcoming all the new staff to the VGG team

Filled positions from March 1, 2012 to date

Construction Crews – Carpenters and Laborers- VGG construction season is well under way and we have about 14 seasonal staff working on various projects as of PP#10-2012

We have 2 young people currently in the Mentorship program funded under ASETS program with Yukon Government- learning to do bulk water delivery

A/Home and Community Care Coordinator- Adeline Charlie

Communications Officer- Brenda Frost

Heritage Interpreter- Malinda Bruce

Land Manager- Erika Tizya-Tramm

A/Government Services Administration Assistant- Paige Tizya-Tramm

Health, Social and Recreation Director- Susan Holmes. Susan will start work in Mid June 2012.

Positions under recruitment or offer

Justice Coordinator/Native Court Worker- Under offer

Human Resources Manager- Under recruitment

Family Support Worker- Under recruitment

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 Administration Assistant- Brenda Kaye at 966-3261 ext. 253 or via email at bkaye@vgfn.net 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 or back up receptionist.

I would like to welcome Jenna Lord, VGG Administration Building Janitor back to work after over 6 months maternity leave.

Thank you for your participation in the retirement party for Peter Josie on May 10, 2012, it is a truly special event to celebrate years of hard work and contribution to the community by Peter. We wish him a happy retirement.



Peter with his certificate

Peter with his niece Lena Josie



Staff Development

May 23-25th there was scheduled staff development courses at the Yukon college, minute taking course on May 23rd and Mastery of Meetings Course (May 24-25th). Both meetings were well attended and provided staff with new skills. ***Con't next Page***



Con't from previous Page**Finance/Human Resources**

The first Appropriation ACT for 2012-2013 was passed on March 30th, 2012 at a public meeting. Information about the budgets was shared at this meeting, with meeting handouts and discussions. The ACT is posted on <http://www.vgfn.ca>

On May 3rd, 2012 the Controlled Subsidiary Loan Act was passed. A copy of the ACT is posted on <http://www.vgfn.ca>

Important dates

VGG Annual Audit- June 3rd to June 8th, 2012

Department Retreat- Tentatively scheduled for June 8th – June 9th, 2012

Summer Students employment Season- July 3rd – August 17, 2012

Best wishes for the summer.

IS Department

Welcome all to our new quarterly newsletter.

Staff

On April of this year Brenda Frost joined us in the IS department as our new Communications Officer. Brenda will be publishing our newsletter, updating our websites, administrating our government Face book account and performing other communication tasks.

Michael Peter continues to provide computer support for VG staff. Michael is also studying how to perform various computer-networking tasks.

Communications

The Information Systems department is tasked with providing VG Citizens with information on department programs and activities. It is our goal to contribute to a more transparent and accountable government.



More information will be forthcoming via:

- Community Website – oldcrow.ca
- Government Website – vgfn.ca – we will be making major updates to all the department sections of our government website. These updates will begin immediately.
- Radio Station – CROW FM – we hope to have the radio station up and running within the next 2-4 months.
- Whitehorse Office – Dorothy Frost, VG Citizen Advocate / Administrative Assistant. Telephone: 867-633-2911
- Facebook - facebook.com/vuntut

View from Old Crow looking across the river May18th

Image by Mike Peter

Chief and Council



Drin Gwinzii Shilak Kat,

The Chief and Council have been keeping busy since our nominations. The following is a list of meetings attended, projects and working groups, ceremonies and carnivals we took part in. In the future, we will be submitting more detailed submissions to the newsletter, however due to the number of meetings and events we've attended over the past three months, we thought it would be best to summarize our activities for this newsletter.

February 23 - Acclamation into office

With just enough people being nominated to fill the positions vacant, the electoral process was waved and all Nominees were appointed to office by Acclamation

February 28-March 16 Transition with Chief Norma Kassi

Subjects covered: Constitution, Governance Act, Northern Cross, Peel, Caribou Issue, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Act, Fiscal Harmonization, Department Overview and updates.

March 20 - Swearing in Ceremony

March 21 - Reviewed the Operating Budget

March 22 - PM meeting with Elder's Council

Got permission from Elder's Council to waive the 15 day lapse between 1st and 2nd readings of the budget due to time constraints to meet March 31 deadline.

AM VGG Staff meeting

March 26- 29 - Leadership Orientation with Pauline and Stewart in Whse:

Project development in partnership with Yukon Government Governance Liaison and Capacity Development

March 27 - AM Fiscal Harmonization

Meeting with Government of Canada, Yukon Government and Yukon Self Governing First Nations on future funding processes. Formula versus Negotiation

PM Whitehorse Beneficiary Meet and Greet

March 30.- Final Budget Reading and Passing of 2012-13 Appropriations Act-

April 3 & 4 - Council Visits to Chief Zzeh Gittlit School Culture Camp. Councilors Kyikavichik and Josie visited by dog team April 3 and presented to Cando Community School students on the history of Self Government and Traditions and Culture.

Councilors Smith and Bingham went out with the Kindergarten class for the afternoon.

April 5 - Monthly RCMP Update

April 6-9 – Easter Carnival, Chief and Council sponsored event.

April 10 - Health and Social Standing Committee Meeting

Initial Introductory Standing Committee Meetings

April 11 - Education Standing Committee Meeting

Initial Introductory Standing Committee Meetings

April 12 - Information Systems Standing Committee Meeting

Initial Introductory Standing Committee Meetings

April 17 - AM Capital Projects Working Group Meeting

Discussions of Winter Road, Crow Mountain Subdivision Land Survey, Fuel Storage, Water and Sewer Truck Replacement, North Road Completion

PM Government Services Standing Committee Meeting

Initial Introductory Standing Committee Meetings

PM First Reading Subsidiary Loans Act

Mandatory Legislation to transfer non governance funds to the Vuntut Development Corporation

April 20 - Flood Preparedness Interagency Meeting

RCMP, Nurses, School Principal, VG Health and Social, Government Services and Emergency Measures Coordinator were in attendance.

Brandon appointed as Acting Deputy Chief

April 27 - Elder's Council Meeting

Chief and Council and Standing Committee updates

May 2 - Public Notice Flood Preparedness

Flood Procedure presentation and Information distribution

PM Education Meeting

Meeting with Pat Joe Department of Education Community Consultant and John MacDonald of Old Crow Campus

May 3 - Second Reading Subsidiary Loans Act

Old Crow Secondary Education Public Meeting

Community Consultation on High School education with Northern Schools Superintendant and Yukon College Program Director

May 4 - Flood Preparedness Interagency Meeting

May 7 - Health and Social Meeting

May 8 - Yukon College Strategic Planning

May 9 - Meet new RCMP

Meet with Constable Tabernac who is replacing Constable Louis Allain

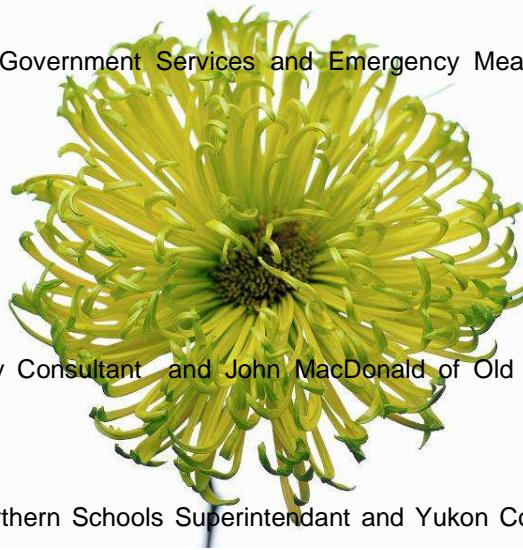
May 10 - Monthly RCMP Update

May 11 - Natural Resources Standing Committee

May 14 - RCMP Review Services Meeting

May 15 - Housing Committee Meeting with Council

May 19-21 - Caribou Days - Natural Resources and Heritage sponsored event



Chief's Meetings

March 29 - Peel Meeting (Whitehorse)

Met with Nacho Nyak Dun, Trondek Hwech'in & Gwich'in Tribal Council to discuss collective next steps for Northern First Nations.

April 6 - Yukon First Nations Chiefs Meeting

Prepare agenda items for Yukon Forum

April 12 - Yukon First Nation Caucus

April 13 - Yukon Forum -Meeting with Premier Pasloski, YFN Chiefs to discuss Resource Revenue Sharing, Fiscal Harmonization, wellness facility near Whse, Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.

May 2 - AM Yukon First Nations Caucus (Ottawa)

Vuntut Gwitchin lunch with Yukon Member of Parliament Ryan Leef

PM Land Claims Agreement Coalition Caucus

May 3 - Land Claims Agreement Coalition meeting with federal government to discuss Fiscal Harmonization Initiative

May 15 - Arctic Council Meeting with Deputy Ministers (Stockholm)

Breakfast meeting with Canadian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Morris Rosenberg.

9AM Arctic Council of Deputy Ministers meeting.. This meeting marks the half way point of the Swedish Chair of the Arctic Council. Next year Canada will take over the Chair of the Arctic Council followed by the United States.

Bonnee Bingham meetings

April 19-20 - Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards, and Committees Conference

April 20 - Tour of Independent Learning Centre Facilities

February- May - Completed the Excellence Series: Pursuit of Excellence, The Wall, Advancement of Excellence Graduation on June 2

Margaret Smith

April 23- May 22 - Vacation

After a year of hard work, Margaret took a well deserved vacation to spend time with her new Grandson and family.

The river went out good, people got some fresh meat and we are hoping for a safe, warm, busy and plentiful summer for all our friends and family!



"The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today; Let us move forward with strong and active faith."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

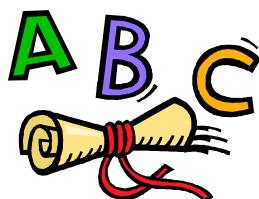
Chief Zzeh Gittlit School Awards Night

June 14, 2012

Supper Provided

Please bring your dishes

5pm School Gym



Appendix A – Appropriation Act 2012-2012 Vuntut Gwitchin Government