

# Vadzaih Zrii

## “Caribou month”



### Vuntut Gwitchin Government Newsletter

## Summer students visit Rampart House

The summer students were fortunate enough to make a trip to Rampart House in August with summer student coordinator, Tracy Bruce, Chief Linklater, Councilor Brandon Kyikavichik, Elders Stephen Frost and Robert Bruce Jr, Vuntut National Park staff Esau Schafer, and others.

The buildings at this historic site have been restored over the last few years. The summer students were given a bit of history of Rampart House and were able to view the monument that divides the US and Canada.



**Dakota, Jamie, Dustin, Clayton and elder Stephen Frost at the border monument**

## Fall 2012

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### Editor's Note:

#### **Hello to everyone.**

We hope this edition of the VGGs newsletter finds you all well and settling in for the fall and winter ahead.

As usual it's been a busy summer with many different activities and events

happening along with summer work for students. Now its fall and everyone is busy getting ready for a long winter ahead.

Best wishes to all the students that have returned to school.

Work in the IS

department has been a great learning experience. I can say I know a bit about the technology of computers now and how our system works. I am still learning every day. Enjoy the following departmental reports. Mahsi'

**Brenda Frost**



## Natural Resources Department

### Lance Nagwan, Director

Well another fall is gone and winter is around the corner, and Natural Resources would like to remind everyone to be aware and cautious of thin ice during the time when the Porcupine River is not entirely frozen. It was a bountiful season for harvesters on the land this fall and hopefully everyone has gathered enough food for the winter months ahead.

### Porcupine Caribou Management Board

Old Crow hosted a Board meeting Oct 23-25<sup>th</sup> at the community hall,

### Megan Williams Heritage Manager

Fall is passing into winter and we're settled in for our office work at the John Tizya Centre during this time. Here are some of the high lights:

### 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

### Educational Material

Educational booklets are developed about each research area and other topics including: Van Tat; What Was Life Like At Kâachik; How Did the Shanaghàn Help Her People; Who Were Shahvyah, Cheewalti', Shahnuti'; Who Were the Dagoo; and Ch'ijuhdlàii. 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

thank you to all those in attendance.

Although the Porcupine Caribou Herd is currently in the Green Zone of the Harvest Management Plan, please remember the importance of submitting your harvest numbers.

The Canadian harvest data helps make informed decisions that guide management actions for the upcoming year.

Management Actions are made with the long term preservation and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou in mind while acknowledging the need for a sustainable human harvest.

traditional territory and will depend on the amount of outside funding we are able to obtain. This summer the focus area was Crow Flats. The research team traveled up the Crow River by boat to prepare sites for Gwich'in place name signs and collected information about trails and grave sites in the area. The second part of the field research was by helicopter in early July when more place name signs were installed and routes documented. In addition, there were archaeological excursions to Salmon Fork and the head of the

The NR department would like to encourage both hunters and young children to stop by the NYRRC building to pick up a free BLAZE ORANGE toque to increase visibility when on the Mountain. Practice Safety if hunting on Crow Mountain this fall. During the past year we have had a number of instances related to wounded caribou found both on the mountain and the river.

Con't on Page 5

**"Fact: Caribou cannot see orange, humans can....."**

Driftwood area to locate places for further archaeological investigations. We hope to add another winter component after the success of the February trail breaking trip from Old Crow to Ch'idrii Ddhaa (Heart Mountain) but this will depend on funding and worker availability and weather. Planning for the third year of this project will take place before Christmas.



Vuntut National Park staff and the North Yukon RRC to develop a cultural resources values statement for the Park. This statement will guide management of cultural resources in the Vuntut National Park area. We also collaborate with Vuntut National Park on projects such as trail breaking and workshops.

### John Tizya Centre

The John Tizya Centre has welcomed many visitors over the past year – locals, family, friends

and tourists. The Heritage Interpreter helps with the research, collection, preservation and interpretation of Vuntut Gwitchin heritage and culture and is a shared position with Parks Canada. This summer we were fortunate to have Malynda Bruce in the position as she also assisted with filming on the Crow River navigation systems trip and travelled to Rampart House to gain familiarity with the site

Con't page 6...

**Erika Tizya, Lands Manager**

Drin gwiinzii shalak. I am happy to see vadzaih again and glad people are getting their meat and wood for the winter. It was a busy season in the Natural Resources department. Land use applications (LUA) continue to come in. I am encouraged to see community members contribute to the process as it truly helps guide land management decisions. It is also important to note that when citizens submit their LUA that they respect the process to avoid complications. The office can get really busy at times, but I do my best to get

applications processed. The public can pick up LUAs from Frances Bruce, NR Administrative Assistant. Public comments regarding specific applications can be made to me in person or via correspondence.

Jordan Benjamin was my summer student this year. He helped with recycling and the spring mosquito control program. I want to thank Jordan because he did an *amazing* job at getting recycling organized and braving the clouds of mosquitoes with me. We had many laughs through our work together, so thank you Jordan. Good luck with your work in Eagle Plains and

I look forward to working with you in the future. Yukon Government Community Services Branch is working together with NR to significantly improve recycling in our community. While very much in the early stages of planning, we may see a new depot that is fully equipped to manage recycling. Again, the success of waste diversion starts within each household, so I will work at getting the necessary equipment and information to facilitate the process.

**Con't on page 9**

**William Josie, Fish and Wildlife Manager**

Drin gwiinzii shalak kut. A lot has happened since our General Assembly in early August, it was a very busy summer. For this installment my report will be brief.

Chinook-salmon.

As I mentioned at the G.A, there was a lot of king salmon that came through the Porcupine River, but we still do not have a program to measure how much. Ben Snow from EDI, and Keith Rispin did reconnaissance up the miner river in mid-August. They counted 74

spawning redds, and 60 Chinook salmon.

Chum-salmon.

We also had a very good Chum Salmon run all things considered. The final count for the Porcupine River fall Chum sonar project is 29,500 Chum Salmon. For the fishing branch weir project, as of October 18 2012, the count was approximately 22,400.

Water Temperature Monitoring Project.

We completed our first season of

**“We also had a very good chum salmon run all things considered.”**

the project. We removed the thermometer from the river, and will analyze the data. Harvest Data Collection. Stan Njootli Jr. will be coming around to gather numbers from your salmon, caribou, and moose harvest. These numbers are very important to us in regards to management, so thank you very much for participating. In closing, I would like to thank you all for your continued support, and I hope you all had a good fall harvest.

Mahsi'

**Stanley Grafton Njootli, Game Guardian**

Hello! I hope everyone is having a great fall and getting lots of caribou for the winter. I will be working on many things this upcoming fall and winter. One project I think will be of interesting value is the Stream to Sea program. The 4-5-6 grades will be incubating chum salmon eggs in the classroom this fall, they will learn about salmon lifecycles and all about Porcupine River Salmon.

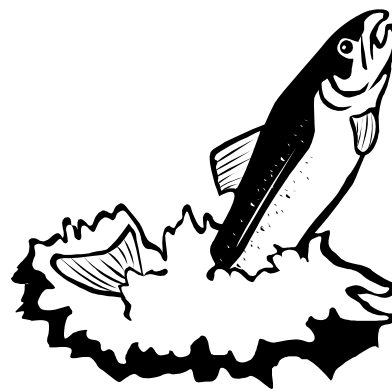
In February, I will be getting winter harvest numbers from citizens for

caribou and moose. The dates for winter harvest are Nov 1<sup>st</sup> –Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and the data collection starts February 1<sup>st</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to add that all harvest information for any species is very important to managing and keeping our land healthy and full of wildlife.

I look forward to working with our village of Old Crow throughout the winter months. If you need a hand on the land call Stan.

Mahsi'



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



**Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**

PO Box 94  
Old Crow, YT  
Y0B 1N0  
**Phone:** 867.966.3261  
**Fax:** 867.966.3800  
**E-mail:** [info@vgfn.net](mailto:info@vgfn.net)

Please contact Brenda Frost, Communications Officer  
867.966.3261 ext 256  
Or email [bfrost@vgfn.net](mailto:bfrost@vgfn.net)

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

We're on the Web!  
[www.oldcrow.ca](http://www.oldcrow.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/vuntut](http://www.facebook.com/vuntut)  
[www.vgfn.ca](http://www.vgfn.ca)

**Health, Social and Recreation**

Drin tt'an gwiinzii (good afternoon)

At this time of year Health, Social and Recreation departments are busy with many day to day issues of this thriving community as well as planning for educational programs offered to interested community members of Old Crow. These programs are either one's that have been budgeted for earlier or those recently recommended by community members.

The staff that are planning and scheduling these events are:

Deputy Chief Margaret Smith – Standing Committee Member  
Ted Howes – Director  
Dana Lord – Administrator / Income Assistance  
Adeline Charlie – Home and Community Care

Michelle Kendi- Rispin – Recreation Assistant  
Earl Benjamin – Elder Community Van Driver  
Kenji Welch – Native Court Worker / Justice Coordinator (Hired September 4, 2012)  
Renee Charlie – Family Support Worker (Hired September 24, 2012)  
Nancy Stevens – Manager Mental Health and Support Programs (January 5, 2013)  
Vacant – Recreation Coordinator

Margaret Smith is our connection to Chief and Council as well as a valuable resource in our decision making

As Director of Health, Social and Recreation I have been busy; Designing a policy for medical support outside of NIHB and ensuring a fair and equitable distribution

of support services to citizens requiring long term medical care

Arranging Agnes Mills to spend a couple of weeks in Old Crow connecting with interested people requiring counselling for personal issues

Approving all necessary data to upgrade sports facilities

Involved in hiring Justice Coordinator/ Aboriginal courtworker / Kenji Welch

Arranging a 4 day workshop called "Managing your Power" October 1 – 4 in Old Crow facilitated by Leslie Williamson and supported by Agnes Mills.

**Con't on page 12...**



**Con't from Page 2  
Lance Nagwan, NR Director**

VGG Natural Resources department will now be promoting and encouraging the use of scoped rifles that allows the hunter to have greater accuracy at distances and provides better visibility of the desired target.  
Remember to Practice Ethical Hunting.

- Take Only What You Need And Use All That You Take.
- Respect Wildlife. Do Not Harass or Chase Caribou.
- Ensure Accurate Placement Of Your Shots.

**Set Your Rifle Before Hunting.**  
-Never Shoot Into A Herd. Wait until the animal is by itself.  
-All Efforts Must Be Made to Retrieve A Wounded Animal.

Trapper Assistance Program  
The trapping season is fast approaching and I would like to thank all those that attended the Pelt Handling workshop held in Old Crow mid Oct.  
Natural Resources department is looking forward again this season to working with local trappers and the local North Yukon Renewable Resources council to administer the Trappers Assistance Program.

Traditional Territory Overlap Area

Negotiations continue for the Traditional Territory Overlap between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin governments using the height of land as a continuous boundary that will include all water flowing past Old Crow including certain settlement land sharing agreements.



**Mary Jane Moses, Heritage Researcher**

I'm grateful for having had a good harvest season of caribou, fish, berries from the land some of which I have shared with others. Mahsi'

**Navigation Systems Project**

The summer oral history projects went over really well once again. I'm so happy for another good summer of well-organized projects with good weather. Mahsi' to all the community members who came with us on the boat and chopper trips to the land to place down the place name signs, you have helped enormously.  
We were into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 4 year Navigation Systems project. Now comes the time for me to transcribe all the information you gave us in your interviews, type all that information out and place into the databases.  
In October 2012, planning will resume for next summer's projects on the land.

During winter months, Shirleen Smith and Megan Williams will be putting out proposals to access funding sources outside of VGFN for our next project for the upcoming summer months.

We have been doing these different oral history projects since 2000 and each year we have been successful in accessing necessary funding to follow through with what we had planned out and it really helps us here to have a consistent team of people who know the land, who know how to plan out these activities and we're successful 100% of the time. I thank the members of the Heritage team who have been together for many years now. Mahsi' for your vision, your dedication and commitment for heritage work.

**Gwich'in Language**

During October we will be looking at Gwich'in language planning for the year and new this year, we will be having our own Language Coordinator, excellent, long time coming but its here and I'm happy to be working alongside a coordinator, to see more activities and focus on language.

The Gwich'in language focus will be more towards the youth of the school/community. The Gwich'in language challenge that happened most of last year that has now come to an end. We had good results on that. There will be however, a Gwich'in language logo contest going on at the school for all grades but with only one chosen logo at the end. Encourage your child/grandchild to enter the logo contest. Encourage your child/grandchild to talk Gwich'in every day. Support your local Gwich'in teachers at the school, they do good work with the students at school, support them!

**Tr'ahtsii Manuals – Funeral Protocol**

The Heritage Branch along with the Heritage committee is coming close to the final stages of putting together a Funeral Protocol Handbook for the community. This handbook is a tool for members to access and to use.

**Con't next page...**

Many of our Gwich'in traditions around funerals are quickly fading and we need to hang onto our traditions and values as handed down by our parents, grandparents, ancestors and pass them onto our children/grandchildren.

Today, we tend to forget our traditions and values and this is where this handbook will help.

**Hide Tanning with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in**

Sept 17-25, I attended a hide tanning camp at R22 outside of Dawson where I learnt about the steps to hide tanning under the direction of my older sister Dorothy Alexie of Teet'it

I'm thankful to Tr'ondëk for the invite once again. The setting was absolutely beautiful and in the end we smoke tanned 2 caribou hides and left 2 white.

Mahsi' everyone who helped with this past season's projects, it is greatly appreciated and we look forward to your help when we call upon you soon for Heritage related projects.

May you all have a good fall season. We have a late fall upon us however it's been good harvest season. Take care of each other.

Gwiinzii adik'aanootii.

**Con't from page 2**

**Megan Williams, Heritage**

Malynda administers the Yukon Passport Program which includes a final draw for an ounce of gold for one visitor. This year Boyd Benjamin was the lucky winner.

We have also continued working on landscaping outside the JTC with the solid construction of a smoke cache and outside seating area by Stringer Charlie.

Please feel free to drop by the John Tizya Centre any time to view the exhibits, use the public computers or browse the library and give us your suggestions.

**Arctic Research Facility**

The new Arctic Research facility has enabled us to bring back all the fossils collected by Yukon Government from the VG traditional territory. The Arctic Research Facility is equipped to handle fossils but not most artifacts due to the special conditions required for certain items.

We are looking forward to a visit from Gordon Howel, the contractor who installed the solar PV systems on the Arctic Research Facility and the John Tizya Centre. Gordon will be installing a monitoring system for both buildings that can be viewed online. This will track the power generated by the solar PV systems in order to better inform future solar installations in Old Crow. The current results are that the ARF is performing 22% better than estimated.

**Researchers 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 this year 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 conducted a bird population survey in Crow Flats with local assistants and the H.pylori crew continued their testing.

**Con't on page 8...**

**VGG Education Department**

**Tracy Rispin, Director of Education**

Hope everyone has had a good Fall preparing for the winter ahead and that your freezers are plentiful with caribou/moose meat, fish, Lidii and berries.

In June, the students of Chief Zzeh Gittlit School, Stanley Njootli Sr., Esau Schafer and Vernon Kyikavichik completed the construction of the new School boat. Later named by the students as "Blue Rock". Blue Rock took its first journey down to Rampart House with the grades 1, 5 & 6 classes, along with their teacher. The boat travelled well and the students learnt a bit more of our Vuntut Gwitchin history. This is the purpose of constructing this boat, so our students can travel out

on the Porcupine River.

June also brought award recognition to many of our students at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School. Photos of each recipient can be seen outside the Education office at the Sarah Abel-Chitze building.

In August, the Herc brought in the new School bus from Fairbanks, Alaska. It was an exciting event at the airport to see a real yellow school bus get loaded off the Herc. So far, everything has been working well and Jimmy is familiar with all the new systems. Please talk to your children about safety on the bus and about being respectful to each other and the bus driver. Mahsi' choo



**Con't on page 8...**

## GS Department Newsletter

The Government Services department has a mandate to develop and implement programs and services in the areas of housing and local services.

### **Housing**

The proposed housing summit is scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. The agenda for the 3 days is as follows.

Some of the highlights include

#### **Presentation by First Nation Housing Market Fund:**

This fund allows first nation members to obtain loans from commercial banks for construction, purchase or renovation of houses. For communal land, banks are reluctant to arrange loans as there are fewer opportunities to find potential buyers in the event of a default. For the FNMHF, the first nation can be the guarantor, and thus allow an individual to manage his repayments directly with the bank.

#### **Application for land use permit, gravel pad and community zoning.**

The summit aims at finding answers to various community housing needs and requirements. The questions how, when, where, who for important areas of housing including cost, responsibility for construction and quality, locations, services, maintenance etc. need continuous review.

Housing construction has gone on quite well considering the shortage of skilled workers we have had this season. Numerous projects and mining activities around the Yukon and beyond have provided a lot of alternatives for some of our regular workers.

A special mention and awards for production were made to **Lawrence Lord** and **Trevor Thomas** for exceeding 1400 hours each during last year's construction season.

Two houses funded by CMHC are under construction along the new airport bypass road. Two new infill 10x10 'log' houses are also under construction.

Three of the family units are available for allocation on completion. The housing committee will recommend the applicants after they are complete and inspected.

The need for a subdivision that also allows and is supported by programs for private home owners is due. Layout for a sub division that allows citizens to enjoy the available settlement land, build quality appropriate houses and receive local services is underway.

### **Capital Projects**

The various capital projects that were taking place are quite advanced or complete. The North Bypass road is complete and in use. In order to use a longer part of the current runway, the road around the end will officially be closed for motorized traffic.



*North bypass road completed*

**Con't on page 15**

*One bedroom 10 x 10 timber frame house*





**Con't from page 6  
Megan Williams, Heritage**

The work with Dave Mossop was developed from community concerns about fluctuating bird populations in the Flats. Dave's initial results confirm this concern and we will be looking for additional funding to continue the bird survey and training of local assistants in coming years. Media also benefit from community involvement and this year we saw a photographer from National Geographic on the river to photograph the fall harvesting season.

**Rampart House and LaPierre House**

The Rampart House historic site is jointly managed by the Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments. When funding is available, a work crew is set up at Rampart House to reconstruct the buildings in a manner consistent with the historical construction. Work this year focused on completing some parts of the east side of Rampart House and starting reconstruction of the Rectory on the west side. An additional contract to install visitor elements such as benches and a fire ring at the camp site was not completed due to crew availability and low water. In July staff from VGG Heritage and YG Historic Sites visited LaPierre House by helicopter to check the site and plan for installation of a boardwalk and signage to educate about this important historical site. Reconstruction work will not take place at LaPierre House due to the fact that there are very few buildings still standing as most of the buildings were deconstructed and moved to Old Crow.

**Collections**

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

There are many binders with great historical photos available for viewing at the John Tizya Centre.

We received a photo book from a private collector of photos from Lillian Harper who travelled the Porcupine River in 1933. There are photos in the book that require identification and we rely on community members to assist with this. We also recently completed a collection of photos from Bob Sharpe who recorded community photos in the 1960s. Previously our collection included 40 photos from this collection and it has now increased to over 100. We will be asking community members to view the photos and assist with identification of people in the photos.

**Chapter 13 Heritage Definitions Manual**

Collaborative work between Yukon First Nations and Yukon Government continues on the development under the UFA Chapter 13 of a Heritage Manual including the definitions of archaeological, ethnographical, palaeontological and historic. There are issues of management and ownership that continue to be addressed. Currently the YFN caucus is developing a joint position document on heritage management that will support the process.

Image by MJMoses



**Tracy Rispin, Education con't  
from page 6**

The new school year at CZGS brought in our new Principal, Mrs. Anne Landey and her family, Grade 7, 8 & 9 teacher, Ms. Selena Burton, and the new high school teacher, Frances Ross. Welcome to Old Crow! We hope you enjoy your stay with us in the community. YES, we have a high school program in Old Crow! Seven youth have registered in the program and it is REALLY important that attendance is daily. The attendance will help the school continue with this program, so I encourage the students to attend daily and think about the younger ones following behind you. Mahsi'

To date we have approximately 43 students enrolled at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School, an increase of 10 students from last year. There is also a good group of educators at our school assisting our students in their daily work. This Fall we will acknowledge the departure of our Gwich'in Language teacher, Jane Montgomery who will be retiring after 20+ years of service in education. Mahsi' choo for your work and best wishes in the future. Marion Schafer will be the next Gwich'in Language teacher. On October 25th, VGG Education & the Department of Education (YG) will celebrate the completion of the Old Crow Experiential Education Project. This 3-year project has brought many positives to our academic teachings at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School during our annual Culture Camps. This Project has been recognized nationally. Mahsi' choo to the working group committee, Robert Bruce, Erika Tizya and Lance Nagwan who worked alongside Kerri Ceretzke

Con't on next page...



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Who tirelessly work over the 3 years creating our teacher & student guidebooks, as well as documenting areas within our traditional territory where students can travel for field trips. Mahsi' choo!



Stanley Njootli Sr. is back as the Education Support Worker at CZGS. He has had a very busy start of the school year. Most of his time has been spent with the teachers in the classroom, as teachers have been dealing with behaviors & attitudes of students. Some ways we have been trying to intervene on these issues is by having resource people come into the classroom, and doing field trips or walks. Involvement of the community is always welcomed. Recently the high school students went on a field trip up the Porcupine River and harvested 3 caribou for the hot lunch program. The students also prepared the meat for storage and made hamburger. High school student, Sheila Kyikavichik's photo was recently published in the Yukon News. Congratulations, Sheila! Exciting things are happening at the school this year and that is very rewarding to see. This month the students will have a tent up below the mountain to work on different projects. Elders will be invited to participate.

Just last week a community member heard the sounds of guitar playing in the school. To their curiosity it was the grades 4, 5 & 6 students practicing for the upcoming Christmas concert.

Next they are focusing on the fiddle lessons too. Principal Landey is also a music instructor.

VGG Education recently delivered 22 pizzas for its Attendance Bingo initiative at the school. Keep up the great work! Devyn Kassi was also awarded the Student of the Month in Whitehorse. The next Student of the Month award will go to one of our high school students in Old Crow.

Kim Rumley is back at her office at F.H. Collins. This will be her ninth year as the Education Support Worker in Whitehorse. You've been a great asset to our students throughout the years. Mahsi' choo for your dedication & compassion in your job.

This year there are 27 students actively attending high school in Whitehorse. Throughout the school year, there are hosted monthly hot lunches at F.H. Collins, Vanier Catholic School and Porter Creek. VGG Education also coordinates tutors for the students under the Homework Tutor Program. In mid-October, students will be asked to select a vendor to purchase their winter clothing, a purchase order will then be sent to that business. The total amount of the purchase order will be four hundred dollars. This distribution of POs will end in November.

For the high school students in Old Crow, the High School program has been revised to include these students. Upcoming events: Standard First Aid, Fall Hunt, ongoing New York fundraising, and carving & beading projects with the Gwichin class.

A Thanksgiving dinner was a great success with 40 people in attendance. Mahsi cho to our wonderful cook, Jolene Geddes and to the families that came out.

Plans are ongoing for the Educational tour of New York City in March 2013.

Mashi' choo

**Con't from page 3  
Erika Tizya**

Another consideration on the horizon is composting as a further level of waste diversion that addresses waste organic material that can be used to create fertile garden soil. If you have any suggestions or comments, please let me know as my goal is to have a system that works best for everyone.

Northern Cross Yukon (NCY) submitted a proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) to expand their current oil and gas activities at Eagle Plains. YESAB is not only important for assessing the environmental and socio-economic impacts of projects, but it also serves as a platform for Yukon citizens to contribute their knowledge and views on specific projects. NCY is currently awaiting the decision from YESAB on their proposed expansion. If you have any questions regarding this project, please come by the office and we can chat.

To close the season off, Land Registry work will conclude with community lot line development. I partnered up with John Taft from Cairnstone Planning to go door-to-door in the community to collect signatures for residence lot lines. The system NR is proceeding with is a design that best suits our community. It will better coordinate information about parcels of land within our community – like how they will be used and what restrictions are necessary to facilitate activities like identifying areas of industrial and residential development, improving municipal services and reducing fire hazards by properly spacing houses, for example. Following this stage in the process would be surveying the lots and passing a bylaw that sets out the terms and conditions to follow when developing land.

**Con't on page 14**

## Finance and Human Resources Department

**Submitted by Catherine Marangu**

Our department continues to be a very busy support department for other government departments. The summer months were very busy as many of the summer projects were underway in construction, fieldwork for many projects in natural resources and heritage and our summer students' employment program also started. In the summer we have over 110 employees on payroll.

Our summer student employment program ran from July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 to August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and we had about 20 students working for part or whole of the summer. Summer student employment is funded by VGG, AANDC, Yukon Step Program and Yukon Youth Leadership Program. The students participated in a variety of events every Friday afternoon with each department including a trip to Rampart house with Chief and Council.



*Summer students having lunch*

This current school year we have about 20 students in Post-Secondary Education and a number doing short trades courses with the ASETS funding. Some courses under planning right now including Wilderness First Aid and Standard First Aid. Please contact Loretta Itsi if you are interested in any of the courses or would like to see some courses offered at the college.

**Staffing update:**

- Kelly Ollett- Accounts Receivable Clerk-Returning to work after a year off from Maternity Leave
- Kenji Welch- Justice Coordinator and Native Court Worker
- Lulu Tizya- Administrative Assistant-Government Services and Housing
- Renee Charlie- Family Support Worker
- Pierre Comeau joins VGG as the Human Resources Manager on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. He comes to VGG after recently leaving the Canadian Armed Forces.
- Brenda Kaye is moving to heritage as the language coordinator effective November 1, 2012 for a year's secondment. We wish Brenda good luck with this new position.
- Tracy Rispin will be moving to heritage as the John Tizya Centre Interpreter effective January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 for a year's secondment. We wish Tracy good luck with her new position.

We just finished interviewing process for the mental health and support programs manager and we are hoping she starts in January 2013.

The following positions are currently posted:

- Recreation Coordinator – This position has been re-posted and we are looking for a candidate that has experience with team sport coaching to be able to offer coaching to the youth/adults for competitive sports like the Native hockey tournament, Dene games and other tournaments and games.

- Education Director- 14 month term position
- Education Administration Assistant- part time- 12 month term position

Malinda Bruce's final day of work is November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012; we thank Malinda for her work as the John Tizya Centre Interpreter and wish her well in her future endeavors. Marla Charlie is currently on leave of absence till January 2013.

Other projects under way:

We are currently working with a consultant to review our recruitment process practices which include a review of our job advertising formats, selection criteria, interview questions, reference check and credentials verification process, job offers and orientation manual. This review will include training supervisors on doing interviews as they form part of interview panels for employee hired in their respective programs and departments.

In the next month we also expect to have the Occupational Health and Safety Committee up and running.

Finance Update:

Midyear department budget reviews were done from October 17- 19, 2012 for Education Department, Health, Social and Recreation Department and Natural Resources. The remaining departments review will be done the first week in November 2012.

This review is a detailed review of expenditures to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 including review of work plans for the year and progress made...

**Don't next page...**

**Finance & HR con't...**

of those work plans and is a time to close off many of the summer projects. Department directors, program managers have access to the financial information on a daily basis through the ACCPAC financial reporting system and monitor expenses on a continuing basis.

The 2011-2012 unconsolidated financial statements are now posted on [www.vgfn.ca](http://www.vgfn.ca). We are in the process of finalizing the consolidated financial statements for 2011-2012 with the auditors and this will be presented to the public at the special general assembly sometime in January 2013. Unconsolidated financial statements cover only the Vuntut Gwitchin Government operations, while the Consolidated financial statements cover the Government operations and also all the other VGFN owned businesses and trusts.

I wish you all a good winter.

**IS Department**

Welcome all to our 2nd quarterly newsletter.

The IS department continues to be busy with ongoing tasks. Our Communications Officer Brenda Frost has put together a VGG style guide, "standards to follow when writing for the government." This document was adopted from YGs style guide. Employees will be engaging in an English writing course starting on October 30<sup>th</sup> at the Alice Frost community campus using this document as a guide.

Update to our websites is ongoing. Michael continues to provide ongoing support for staff. Mike is also currently working with a technician regarding the solar panels at the John Tizya Centre, so that it can be monitored from Edmonton. This will assist VGG and monitor the usage of the solar panels.

The newsletters will also be posted on oldcrow.ca for the public to view.

Mashi' choo



Vegetables grow well at the Old Crow community garden

VGG photo, image by Saniz Catholique



**Con't from page 6 Health Social and Recreation**

1. Arranging an ASIST 2 day workshop November 16 and 17 through Yukon College
2. Monitored the community garden project
3. Working with Child Welfare issues with Ian MacDonald from Dawson
4. Involved in filling the Family Support Worker position
5. Visited Klo Kut to see when it may be ready
6. Counselling as needed to community members, 30 clients ongoing
7. Sent 4 people to attend Alcohol and Drug Treatment Facilities
8. Involved in 3 sessions of Residential School Applications involving lawyers and counsellor's visiting Old Crow
9. Monitoring court issues and probation order requirements
10. Attend workshops with CYFN regarding Health Commission in Whitehorse
11. Attending numerous teleconferences regarding child welfare issues
12. Making myself available as back up driver for Earl when needed
13. Making necessary arrangements for a specialist to visit Old Crow regarding foot care in October
14. Applied to take a course offered by CYFN regarding data base training commencing October.

**Con't on next page...**



**Con't from previous page  
Health Social and Recreation**

15. General supervising of /Income Assistance / Community Care Worker/ Justice coordinator issues / Family Support Worker responsibilities / Recreation issues / Community Van

**Administration / Income Assistance**

In the office Dana is responsible for most of the administrative duties for seventeen programs that are in this department as well as intake for Income Assistance. When a community member applies they need to have all documents that prove they qualify for assistance. This allows their application to progress and for them to receive a quicker response.

**Recreation**

Michelle is the recreation assistant and is responsible for the after school program and the evening events. Supporting her are other members of this department depending on the need although mostly Kenji as he has extensive knowledge of sports.

The bi-monthly brochure shows the schedules for youth and adult events and is posted...

**Community Elder Van – Earl Benjamin**

**Kindly be advised**

The community van is to be used Monday to Friday between 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM for the following; medical appointments, Elders grocery shopping, banking to pay bills, once per day, single parents with groceries who do not have a ride home, airport pick-up, VGG food mail to be delivered to various departments, VGG transportation needs and for Weekends; medical emergencies, bringing elders to public events

Regarding medical emergencies after hours  
Contact Old Crow Health Centre @ 966-4444  
Regarding all other after hours emergencies  
Call RCMP @ 966-5555

throughout the community. A few of the fall events are: arts and crafts, gym nights with floor hockey, baseball, kickball and soccer as well as Halloween events such as pumpkin carving and assorted activities with Halloween themes. The winter skating is soon upon us and volunteers are required to keep the arena open. Kindly see Michelle if you're interested in supporting winter programming in Old Crow.

**Home and Community Care**

Adeline is responsible for home and community care and is currently supplying 22 elders with meals on wheels. This program started October 5<sup>th</sup> and continues until the end of April, 2013. There are 13 elders who require home care that is supplied three times a week to help with housekeeping chores and Adeline will receive more training to assist elders with the more personal needs they may require. At this time there are sufficient home care workers although relief workers are usually in demand so if interested in relief work see Brenda Kaye with your criminal record check and TB test results and then Adeline for relief work opportunities.

A few of the programs Adeline has planned are:

Dietician to address OC Diabetes  
HIV- Aids  
Elders birthday parties  
prenatal programs  
HPV information  
Health fair  
Family tree programs  
adult care worker training.



**Family Support Worker**

Renee is the family support worker and is responsible for activities at the Safe House as well as education and support for families in Old Crow. She also is the liaison member for other health care providers who visit Old Crow and are involved with families. As this is a part-time position her hours are varied depending on the need and circumstances that require her attention. She is involved with cooking for meals on wheels and available to deliver educational programs to families. These programs cover all areas from before birth education to elders' issues. Renee and Adeline work closely together to maintain a healthy level of life for all citizens in Old Crow.

**Aboriginal Courtworker / Justice Coordinator**

Kenji as the aboriginal court worker represents clients in court and answers questions for clients in the legal system. If you need to talk to a lawyer, find out information about your charge or just to get clarification he can help. He keeps track of community hours and accepts money for fines and then presents this information to the court. As the justice coordinator he is involved with the justice committee and restorative justice issues. The Justice Committee is in the process of coming out with its mandate, 'hiring' policy, and terms of reference.

**Con't next page...**





**Con't from previous page...Health, Social and Recreation**

The committee members will be doing extensive training over the next few months to facilitate restorative justice conferences, suicide interventions and conflict resolutions. Another role that the Justice Committee has recently been tasked with is to research the existing Administration of Justice Agreement between the Government of Canada and Teslin Tlingit Council to find what is working and what areas could be addressed with regard to our own negotiations. The Justice Committee will also be responsible to gather and process the data and input from the community and passing this information to Matt Mehaffey, a negotiator for VGFN



**Con't from page 9 Erika Tizya**

The community door-to-door visits proved to be very helpful and I am pleased to report that there is wide support for this effort. I thank the community for your cooperation and understanding. This exercise reinforced in me just how special and close knit our community is. Hai', I raise my hands to you all.



**"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."**

-Cesar Chavez

**VGG/IS Snack Day  
Wednesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012  
@ 3PM  
Sarah Abel-Chitze building**



**Con't from page 7... Government Services**



*Road around the west end of the runway will be closed to motor vehicles*

The gasification unit at the garbage dump is in use now and the water treatment plant is expected to be commissioned in November this year from the most recent progress reviews.

The capacity of the fuel storage facility is not sufficient and the government is negotiating location and other requirements for a new storage facility.

The funding partnerships in for a road between the Dempster Highway and Old Crow are still under negotiation. The largest potential partners are the Yukon government and Northern Cross. As of October 2012, Northern Cross Yukon has set aside resources for construction of the first 63km which they will need between December and March.

The successful construction of this road is also dependent on conditions such as amount of snow.

A recommendation is expected from YESAB on 25<sup>th</sup> of October, and thereafter decision from VGFN and Yukon government. The first nation government is committed to building the road this winter. A large number of Old Crow residents have launched an appeal to the Yukon government for a commitment to the construction of the road. Developments will be communicated as they unfold.

Two new custom trucks for water and sewer services have been acquired by the first nation. The ones purchased in 2004 have exceeded what is expected for government vehicles. This is commendable for Old Crow extreme conditions and thanks to the operators – Yukon government water and sewer service crew!

The department continues to maintain a safety first approach for the construction and other works. This year, **Karl Foster** and **Marvin Frost** received the safety steward's award for maintaining visibility, orderly work sites and other safe practices.

We have recently benefitted from hiring three permanent workers. Miranda Charlie is the custodian for the community hall, Alana Benjamin is now the delivery truck driver and Lulu Tizya has joined as the administrative assistant.



*Arrival of the water delivery truck in Aug 2012*

An exercise to review the 10 year capital plan will begin in December this year. Current and future priorities will be handled at this time.

In closing, warm greetings and a message from our newest and energetic staff member, Lulu Tizya:

Mahsi' Shilak – for the warm welcome, the gifts of laughter, teasing, food, stories, and life's lessons, since I came home for the first time.

I feel privileged to participate and work with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government Services team since mid-September, and can fully appreciate the numerous levels of challenge before this department in particular, and of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in general. My duties are mainly administrative, but a highlight for me is interaction, and assisting clients of our department as promptly and efficiently as possible. As I wade through the paper maze that tracks the activities of Government Services, it is clear that the varied and numerous demands on very limited resources is a test the department strives to overcome with tact, sound planning, and respect for the needs of our citizens.

Although I am relatively new to this vibrant little community, and new to local issues, I expect with existing political will, a strong and dedicated Housing Committee, a streamlined administrative arm, and the patience and understanding of Vuntut Gwitchin citizenry, that the goals and objectives of the Government Services Department can be a reality sooner, rather than later.

I am truly grateful for the beauty and bounty of our homeland, our ancestors and our heritage – my relatives! May your freezers and caches be full, health and happiness to you and yours, and love and generosity in your hearts for those less fortunate. Mahsi' choo.

# Chief and Council

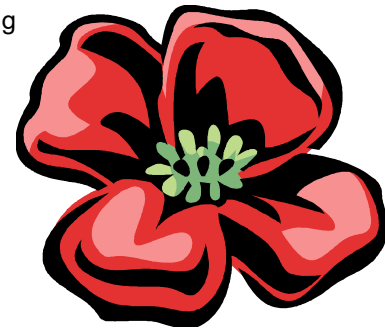


**Drin Gwinzii Shilak Kat,**

The Chief and Council have been busy over the summer. The following is a list of meetings attended, projects and working groups, ceremonies and carnivals we took part in.

- May 24-25           Mastery of Meeting Course
- June 4-6            Gwitchin Tribal Council Governmental Exchange
- June 7               Housing Committee Meeting
- June 10-11         Australian Minister of Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin: River Tour, Community Dinner and Meetings with Housing and Health and Social
- June 14             RCMP Commanding Officer Peter Clark Visit
- June 20             Northwest Company Meeting
- June 21             Aboriginal Day Chief and Council BBQ
- June 29-
- July 2                Gwitchin Days / Canada Day
- July 3                Member Of Parliament Ryan Leef visits
- July 16              Chief and Council Meeting
- July 17              Chief and Council Meeting
- July 19              Resource Revenue Sharing Teleconference
- Meeting with Northern Manager John
- RCMP Monthly update
- Arena restoration meeting
- July 24              Chief and Council
- July 26              Lands Claims Agreement Coalition (LCAC) Teleconference
- August 2-4         Vuntut Gwitchin General Assembly
- August 9            SeaBreeze: Alternate Energy
- August 10          Chief and Council trip to Rampart House with summer students
- August 27          Capital Projects
- August 29          Northern Cross Tour of Drilling Rig
- August 30          Northern Cross Presentation to Chief and Council
- September 6        Minister Scott Kent and Stacy Hazzard Oil Fired Appliance
- Community consultation
- September 13      RCMP Monthly update
- September 14      Housing Committee Meeting
- September 15      Ski Trail Clean up
- September 17      Hugh Pre-conference Call Re: Peel Watershed
- Peel Watershed Conference Call
- Rod Daub – VGLP
- Community Public Meeting – Northern Store
- September 19      Peel Watershed Conference Call
- September 20      Government Services Staff Meeting
- Capital Projects Meeting
- September 24      Housing Committee Meeting
- September 25      Peel Watershed Meeting
- September 28      Northwest Company Meeting (Vancouver) Joe Linklater, Margaret Smith, Bonnie Bingham
- October 1            Housing Committee Meeting
- October 11          RCMP update
- October 17          Community Public Meeting: Administration of Justice
- Negotiations update- Matthew Mehaffey
- October 18          Administration of Justice Meeting

October 19 Housing Committee Meeting  
 October 22-24 Elders' Meeting  
 October 24 Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) Meeting  
 October 25 Whitehorse Beneficiary Meeting  
 October 25 Interagency Meeting



**Chief's Meetings**

May 10- 20 Stockholm, Sweden: Arctic Council Meeting  
 June 31-3 Whitehorse: Native Graduation  
 June 19-29 Iqaluit: Arctic Fellowship meeting  
 August 14-16 Inuvik: Gwitchin Tribal Council General Assembly  
 August 17-21 Whitehorse: Meet with Senior Liaison Team  
 August 22-26 Vancouver: Time Off  
 August 27-31 North Yukon Tour with Hugh Monahan and MLA Darius Elias  
 September 17-21 Iceland: Arctic Council Meeting  
 October 23- November 2 Whitehorse: Resource Revenue Sharing  
 Public Beneficiary Meeting  
 Old Crow Experiential Project Celebration

**Margaret Smith**

July 23-27 Biennial Gwitchin Gathering at Fort McPherson  
 September 25-27 Health Commission Whitehorse  
 October 25-26 Yukon College Forum

Deputy Chief meets regularly with RCMP monthly.  
 C&C every two weeks or when necessary and conference calls w/negotiators.  
 Management Committee  
 Elder's Monthly Meeting.  
 Justice Committee meets bi-weekly.  
 Yukon College Committee monthly.  
 Youth Enhancement Fund, when necessary.  
 Department of Health and Social, and Department of Education meet regularly.  
 Day to Day business and w/ Community members.  
 Interagency meeting commencing monthly.

**Bonnie Bingham**

May 31 Attended Retirement BBQ for Headmaster of Gadzooza Residence  
 June 2 Graduation Ceremony of Pursuit of Excellence Series  
 June 22-July 15 Summer Family Vacation  
 September 21 Teacher's Professional Development- Cultural Orientation  
 September 25 Flight to Whitehorse  
 September 26 Capital Projects  
 Tour of Rivers Edge Building  
 Northern Cross  
 September 27 Flight to Vancouver  
 September 28 Northwest Company Meeting  
 October 1 Return to Old Crow  
 October 4 School Council Meeting  
 October 10 First Girl Guide Meeting: Weekly meeting to be held  
 October 15 First Dance Class: Weekly classes to be held

**Paul Josie** Vacation August 5-26





A Big Hello to Ellie, Love from your Dad David <3



**OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**




Happy Birthday to my sister Shirlee Frost for November 01<sup>st</sup>  
Wishing you the best always! Much love: Brenda and Family

Happy Birthday to my niece Sherrie Lynn Frost for November 02<sup>nd</sup>  
Best wishes to you on your special day, Love auntie Brenda and Family


Happy Birthday to my friend Rita Josie for November 03<sup>rd</sup>  
Have an awesome day shijyàa, thinking of you!

Happy Birthday to  
Paul Josie for  
November 5, 2012  
Wishing you a great day and  
many more

Love from Mom & Dad



A very special Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday Aidan  
Kyikavichik  
For November 15<sup>th</sup>!!  
Love from your family



**Snow shoe making demonstration** will take place  
At the Arctic Research facility, Bay #2  
November 1 & 2 – 10:30am – 3:30pm  
November 5-9 – 10:30am – 3:30pm  
Come and observe!



***Congratulations!***

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**Ida Tizya Nov 17, 2012**  
**Paul Doehle August 9, 2012**  
**15 years of service to VGFN**

***Congratulations!!***

**Briana Tetlich** on receiving the Audrey McLaughlin Award for being an excellent role model, community member and academic student.  
**Trey Charlie** - Award for Carpentry 11  
**April Kassi** – Award for Gwitchin 11  
**Nicholas Netro-Hendrie** – Award for Social Studies 8



**Happy Birthday to Mom Bella** for November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Have a good day Momma, Love Malyn, Fran & Kayden.

Also **Happy Birthday to Debra** for November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Love Fran & Malyn

Happy Birthday to Sis Debra Frost for November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Enjoy your special day, Love Brenda & Family

Happy Birthday to my niece Melissa Frost for November 25<sup>th</sup>, have a great day! Love auntie Brenda & Family



**Please read**

RE: Eagle Plains Oil and Gas Information

- Current activity is in the *exploration phase* only, which will include drilling and testing two well
- The Final YESAB Designated Office Evaluation Report has approved Northern Cross' proposed project with 29 specific terms & conditions – *please see NR department to view this document*
- Any new major proposed activity not outlined in Northern Cross' current project proposal will trigger another assessment
- Under Northern Cross' YESAB approved project proposal *there will be NO hydraulic fracturing* without further consultation. However, another well stimulation technique called *acidization* remains in the approved project proposal
- Hydraulic Fracturing is a technique used for well stimulation in the production phase only, and this proposed activity was withdrawn from Northern Cross' project application
- YESAB public notices were posted around the community AUGUST 17, 2012 and were open for public comment – *no comments were received*
- Northern Cross has committed to holding a public consultation regarding hydraulic fracturing

NR continues to closely monitor oil and gas activities in Eagle Plains and will perform its due diligence with the community should sensitive issues arise

