



# VGN NEWS

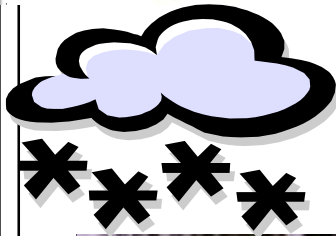
NEWSLETTER  
of the  
VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT



Issue #03, Volume #03

March 2004

Last RCMP Patrol by Dog team 35 years ago in 1969  
Special Constable Peter Benjamin



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**VGFN  
NEWS**  
NEWSLETTER  
of the  
**VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT**

VGFN News is the monthly Newsletter of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Self-Government in Old Crow, Yukon, Canada.

Contributions to VGFN News are by the employees of VGFN.

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**VGFN Chief & Council**

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**Deputy Chief:** Roger Kyikavichik  
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William Josie  
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**Catherine Mbae**  
*Finance Director*



Greetings from the finance department! I hope you are all enjoying the daylight, though it has been cold, but spring seems to be around the corner!

**Staff**

We have new staff in the department, Barbara Callihoo who is the finance manager. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Marla has gone back to school and we are expecting Edna back next month from her maternity leave. We are looking forward to having her back.

**Work**

It has been a very busy month for all of us in finance as we approach the year-end. The next two months will also be extremely busy as we learn to use the new accounting system we are putting in place

from April 1, 2004, so if there any delays in serving you, please bear with us.

With this new system there will be a number of changes in the way finance department delivers services and also the documents we use. These changes will include:

**Payments to suppliers**

- Cheques for Old Crow residents will be done once a week and will be distributed on Tuesday afternoons. Please pick up cheques from the Receptionist in the Administration Building.

- Cheques for suppliers outside Old Crow will be mailed out on Wednesday morning each week.

**Invoices and statements:**

- We will start to send account statements each month that will show the

amounts owing on your account with us. If you have any questions on this, please do come to finance department and we will assist you.

**Other**

I will be going away on holidays to Kenya from Mid April 2004 and I will be back Mid June 2004. I will take with me greetings from Old Crow to my family.

During my absence, Maureen Gagnier (our former Finance Director) will be here in Old Crow working in the Finance Department as the acting Finance Director.

I wish to take this time to wish each of you a wonderful spring and summer, take good care of yourselves when out of the land and while in town and we will see you all again in June!!

Mahsi

**Mary Jane Moses**  
*Heritage Researcher*

I returned from an educational trip in Dawson City with the Trondek Hwechin hosting; their Myth and Medium cultural event. They were very interesting workshops. It was presented by knowledgeable speakers. The cultural week ended with a community feast. A lot of good ideas were shared.

Tracy and I received confirmation from the Dawson City International Short Film Festivals. Part 2 of Imprints of Our Ancestors – Stories of the Land – Nanh Kak Gwa'an Googwandak has been accepted for inclusion in their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Film Festival. The screening for this international event is on the Easter weekend of April 9, 10, and 11th. We will be eligible for the professional MITY (Made in the Yukon) Award. I am deeply honored that our film was selected, and for the opportunity to showcase to an international audience.

I am also in the process of sending an entry form off to the Dreamspeakers Film Festival. Whenever the opportunity arises we send out our videos to film festivals to give ourselves exposure and to learn more about the film industry. We pick up useful tips at these film festivals

and meet contact people in the industry. Filmmaking in the north is becoming more popular.

Among other duties, I have been busy typing edits into the oral history transcripts. Thank you to our Language Specialist, Jane for helping in that area. More of the oral history transcripts are now complete as I double-check back to the transcripts.

I assisted Tracy on March 21<sup>st</sup> as she shot footage of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Expedition, of the Herschel Island Memorial Patrol 2004 skidoo trip. It was a nice, beautiful, sunny day. Our elder Andrew Tizya was filmed that day, as he was one of the patrol guides to go on the last Herschel Island Patrol. David Lord, a dog musher, rode Andrew up the Crow

Mountain road in his toboggan. The patrol skidoos of; Dennis Frost, Corporal Kim McKellar, youth Kibbe Tetlich, Constable Brian Lasson, Elder Stephen Frost and Auxiliary Constable Danny Kassi, followed behind. Just before they left on the trail, one by one the men shook hands with Andrew as he stood off to the side of the trail. Afterwards Andrew spoke briefly on camera and shared his experience of the 1969 Herschel Island trip. It was very emotional for me to see them paying respects to Andrew like that. Back in his house that day, Andrew told me he was happy to be part of the event. He did not fully understand his part in the whole event until it was over. He felt good, I could see it on his face. Mahsi! to the organizers for including Andrew, it was a special added touch. Good luck to the patroller. May you have good weather, a positive experience and return home safely. Your experiences will be added to our history books. Thank you also to Tammy for the great camera shots so others can see on the website and follow along on the historic journey from Old Crow to Herschel Island.



**Graham Baird**  
*Natural Resources Planner*



**Ni'iinlii' Njik Management Committee**

The Committee of Managing Agencies for the Ni'iinlii' Njik protected areas (Ecological Reserve and Settlement Land, Wilderness Preserve and Habitat Protection Area) met in Whitehorse on March 9 2004. This was the first official meeting of this Committee and included representatives from VGFN, Yukon Parks and DFO. (Representatives from Yukon Heritage Branch and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Branch were absent). A terms of reference for the committee had been prepared by Yukon Parks and was presented to the committee for review. The Committee agreed on changes to the terms of reference. A revised document will be circulated to member agencies.

Yukon Parks is planning to build a cabin in the Ecological Reserve on the Fishing Branch River. This would be used for the bear viewing/guiding program and accommodation for the Park Ranger. Changes will have to be made to the management plan for the Ecological Reserve and Settlement Land to allow for construction of the cabin within the Ecological Reserve. The plan intended that a designated campsite on Settlement Land would be used for this, however we have been advised that there are problems with that location and have decided to use a

site in the Ecological Reserve instead. We hope to make the required changes to the management plan in time to build the cabin this summer.

The Committee is preparing a response to a request from a professional guide, seeking permission to bring a client into the Fishing Branch River, to film bears.

**Sheep Management**

The North Yukon Renewable Resource Council had been asked by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to make a recommendation to the Yukon Minister of Environment on the sheep hunting proposal that was prepared by VGFN, Yukon Environment and Yukon Fish and Game Association. The proposal is for 2 permits each year to be issued to Yukon resident licensed hunters to hunt sheep in the north Richardson Mountains. The NYRRC consulted with the people of Old Crow on this proposal and did make a recommendation to the Minister. Recently Chief and Council met with the Minister in Old Crow and raised concerns with him regarding the process of public review that was followed in this case. In the management of large mammal species there must be fair consideration given to interests of Yukon residents living outside of VG Traditional Territory. The proposal will be sent back to the YFWMB for their recommendation.

**Trapping Concession**

Yukon Environment has advised us that a trapping concession cannot be held

by a First Nation Government or by a public body such as a Renewable Resource Council. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Act states that a trapping concession can be held by a natural person or group of persons. Yukon Environment has suggested that a Trappers Association be formed in Old Crow. This Association could then apply to be the holder of the concession for the Old Crow Group Trapping Area. All members of the trappers association must be qualified to hold a trapping concession. This means that members must have completed the Trapper Education Workshop. The trappers association would have the authority to give consent to those applying for Assistant Trapping Licences in the concession.

**Climate Change**

I attended a retreat on climate change held at Marsh Lake in February. The purpose of the retreat was to bring communities and researchers together to discuss research needs. I met with Chris Burn, a professor from Carleton University in Ottawa, who has research projects designed to measure changes to permafrost at Mayo, in the Mackenzie Delta and on Herschel Island. We have invited him to come to Old Crow to set up a project to monitor changes to permafrost on the Old Crow Flats. Chris plans to visit Old Crow in June to discuss the project. Monitoring stations could be set up in the summer of 2005.

**Carl Charlie**  
*Land and Resources Manager*

**Meetings**

I attended a Yukon Land Use Planning Workshop in Whitehorse on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was very interesting. There were guest speakers from B.C. and NWT. They discussed the issues that they faced and everything that worked in their favor. They talked of how they had to work with industries, (tourism, oil & gas, forestry, mining etc.) Governments, and relationships with First Nations and other Non Governmental Organizations. There were other First Nations

in the Yukon who have taken steps towards their Regional Planning and there are others who were in the learning process of setting theirs up. All in all it sounded as though it was very important to have a Land Use plan for the benefit of everyone involved.



**Office**

I have been mostly reading materials that have to do with land and our traditional territory and going through some old maps and sorting them out.

**Winter Road**

The winter road is officially closed as of March 12<sup>th</sup>. There is no traffic coming or going.

**Porcupine Caribou Management Board**

I have sent in my resignation to the board members. My resignation was for the middle of February. Dennis Frost is the contact person for the board. If you have suggestions, comments please call them or forward to him.

**Kathie Nukon**  
**Social Administrator**



### **Social Assistance**

For the month of March 2004, a number of clients were issued SA. Heads of households are assisted for food, clothing, incidentals, utilities, fuel and rent. The assistance covers dependants that are under the age of nineteen. Clients over the age of nineteen may independently apply for SA.

Your income from the month before must be reported at the time of application. Please also bring in any receipts of bills you may have paid along with your water/sewer, electrical and rental invoices.

We continue to encourage clients to attend the college. This will help you further your education to help you to find employment.

Appointments for SA in April will be taken beginning March 29th.

### **Adult Care**

At present nine elders receive homecare. These elders are ones that have been receiving homecare on a continual basis. We have eight elders that are in need of homecare services.

Duties for homecare services include: sweeping and mopping of floors, washing and drying of dishes and pots and pans, dusting, cleaning of bathroom, taking out of garbage and doing laundry once a week.

Spring-cleaning is done separately and will begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in spring-cleaning, or doing homecare for elders, please call me at the office.

### **Elders Wood and Fuel**

April 2004 is the last month for the delivery of wood and fuel. The wood/fuel season is over October 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you should run out, you are encouraged to buy your own wood and fuel.

It has been difficult in meeting Elder's needs as far as the wood. Most of the woodcutters have not been selling wood. When wood is purchased on a contractual basis, deductions for income tax purposes are not made. This could mean individuals would have to pay back at tax time.

Those of you with monitor heaters in

your homes received mostly fuel for most of the winter. Those with no monitor heaters in their homes were given wood.

### **Aboriginal Healing Foundation Project**

Since I've been given the duties of the community coordinator for this project a lot has taken place.

More recently, I've attended the Residential School workshop for Yukon First Nations on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Nakwataku Potlatch House in Whitehorse. This workshop, the first of its kind, was free and open to First Nations people. During peak periods, it was reported that, 350 people attended.

Some history on how such a workshop was initiated. In February 2004 the planning for the workshop was started. Bonnie Harpe from Ta'an Kwachan asked the Yukon Regional Chief, Rick O'Brien, to find out if there were monies to invite representatives from the Assembly of First Nations. The AFN would provide Yukon survivors with information. There was money available, so the forum took place.

There were survivors and representatives that came from most of the fourteen First Nations and Northern BC. Some people did not have funding to bring as many participants to the workshop as they would have liked. Some spent their own money to attend the meeting.

People traveled far and at their own expense. It was important for them to hear what Indian Residential Schools Canada, Health Canada, Fellow Survivors, Lawyers, CAIRS and our Leadership had to say about the on-going challenges, frustrations, and services.

There is a new process in place for claimants, a package called *Alternate Dispute Resolution*. This is a 52-page document. As a result of being a long and drawn-out document there has not been one case that has completed the process. Concerned participants at the workshop expressed that this process is too long and have identified there are many questions that are not applicable to the claim.

People from the grassroots put forward thirty recommendations to improve the ADR process. Continued on page 6

### **William Josie**

**Director of Natural Resources**

Hello everyone, I hope all is well. I thought spring was here but with all this blizzard happening we have to wait.

Vuntut Gwitchin representatives, Stan Njootli Sr., Vicky Josie, John Joe Kaye Sr., Irwin Linklater, and myself attended the "Yukon Panel" meeting during the week of March 8 - 12 at Westmark Whitehorse. Our three cycle rebuilding plan for the Porcupine River states that we should put 18 thousand chum salmon on the spawning grounds at Nii'ilii' Njik (Spawning River), to meet our minimum escapement of 50 thousand chum salmon by the year 2012. We agreed to 13 thousand with the assistance of the Alaskans. The Alaskan Salmon Managers agreed to reduce the chum fishery on the Porcupine River. It gets very complicated at the mouth of Porcupine River, because not all Fort Yukon people fish on the Porcupine River. The concern this year is that in the year 2000, only 5100 Chum Salmon made it to the spawning ground. This is the lowest on record, the most was in the early 70's with chum salmon numbers around the 370,000 area. Our escapement goal for the Nii'ilii' Njik is from 50,000 to 120,000 but we haven't reached this goal since 1996. The Yukon Panel directed the Joint Technical Committee to have a rebuilding plan for the Porcupine River next year. Also, the Panel told us that Porcupine River will have priority in the Restoration and Enhancement projects for the 2005 season. If you have any questions please call or come in to see me. We tentatively set a public meeting and open house of the Porcupine River Working Group for April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

David Henry along with Dennis Frost from Parks Canada conducted an Aerial Wolverine Survey in Old Crow Flats area. What Dave found was that there were twice as many wolverines in Crow Flats than any other place in North America.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the Herschel Island Memorial Patrol crew on their successful trip to the coast. Great work guys!

Mahsi cho.

Kathie Nukon Cont...

Appreciation was shown to the people involved in getting such an information forum to take place.

It was suggested by a representative of AFN, that AFN provide, as a next step another workshop. This workshop will focus on traditional healing for survivors. This one-week workshop is tentatively scheduled for August.

Many vocal survivors contributed. The atmosphere at the workshop was emotional. There are many people who are hurt and need help.

It was stressed that the leaders of each First Nations community get more involved in the healing process of its people. One community had its leadership present. They were given special recognition for being at the workshop.

### **Leaders are encouraged to write letters to the Minister of Indian Affairs and to the Minister responsible for Residential Schools.**

If anyone would like to see more recommendations that came out of the Yukon Residential Schools Workshop on March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, please let me know.

### **Traditional Parenting Workshop**

This workshop was slated for March 22, 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. On the first morning, two elders, the facilitator, the co-facilitator and the coordinator were at the Community Center at nine o'clock to begin the workshop.

Since no one came, it was decided that we would come back in the afternoon. No one came so we decided to come back on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The senior students came and took

part for a day and a half. They could not stay the three days. It was rewarding to have worked with the students from our school. **Mussi to the students for making this workshop happen.** The participants had a choice of either doing one of two projects. The projects were canvas-top wrap-around moccasins and canvas gun cases.

Exercises that were presented were, Gwitchin traditional ways, values and beliefs, relationships, (whether, it is intimate), with friends or family. All relationships must be healthy.

The Father's role in the home and in rearing a child/children was discussed.

The Traditional Parenting workshop is recommended for anyone, in particular, the younger people, who plan to have families someday.

Mussi and have a great Easter!



**Leigh Hunsinger**  
*Youth Health and Fitness Project Manager*

It's been a busy month for the Old Crow Youth Health and Fitness Project. We just returned from Whitehorse on March 15<sup>th</sup> where we traveled for the Northwestel Ski Loppet. The kids skied really well and we should all be very proud of them. The kids that went were: Jamie Tetlich, Briana Tetlich, Liannah Tizya-Charlie, and Devyn Kassi. Everyone skied the 7.5km course and did their best! We also had a visit from Father Mouchet and got to meet the Kwanlin Dun Koyotes and other young First Nation Skiers. Mahsi Cho to everyone who helped make the trip to Whitehorse possible. The fundraising, bake sale, pizza sales, and radio auction were a success and the trip would not have been possible without your support.

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Ski practice has also seen a great turnout lately so keep it up kids! Parents keep on encouraging them to come! We had some fun events over Spring Break and everyone has been working really hard. There has also been an increasingly good turnout to Sunday Ski Day. Wendy reported that there were 15 people who came out last weekend while the kids and I were in Whitehorse, so keep up the good work everyone. As the weather warms up we hope to see lots more people out on Sundays, so don't be shy. Skiing is a great way to get some exercise and catch up with friends and family.

**The Health and Fitness Radio Program is still going so make sure you tune in on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00am for energizing health information and fun fitness music!! Tune into the Crow 105.5FM!**

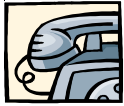
April is going to be a busy month for the Youth Health and Fitness project as we have many guests coming up from Whitehorse to help us out. Father



Mouchet has arrived in Old Crow and is staying for the entire month so expect to see him around town and on the trails. We are also lucky enough to have the National Film Board of Canada come to visit us this April. Many of you may know Georges Payrastré and Allan Code who were here filming the kids last November.

Finally we have a very special event planned for the entire community in late April. There is going to be an Old Crow Ski Loppet this year. I have been told that there has not been an Old Crow Loppet since Dave Brooks worked up here, so it's time! The Loppet will be held the weekend after Easter and will include a feast and other special events. We are working with Gary Bailie at Kwanlin Dun to bring some of the Koyotes up for the Old Crow Loppet. We have also invited two specialists from Whitehorse to come up for that week. They will help us run the Loppet and administer Health and Fitness Assessment Testing for the kids in the program and for everyone else that is interested. This is an excellent opportunity to flex your muscles and get some great advice on how to improve your overall health and fitness. We hope to see everyone out at these events so let's get the whole community involved and active! **See you on the trails!**

**Glenna Tetlich**  
**Councilor**



It has been a very hectic month in the Social Department. The new structure of our department is taking longer than anticipated. I am very happy to announce that Wade Meszaros has been hired as the Community Wellness Worker. He comes with a great wealth of knowledge that we will all come to appreciate, I'm sure. You will learn more about his background in this newsletter.

The next position posted will be the Director of Social Programs. Watch for postings in the near future. As I had mentioned in previous reports, the direction from VGFN citizens is for elected mem-

**Wade Meszaros**  
**Community Wellness Worker**

Greetings to everyone here in Old Crow!

I want to introduce myself to you. I am the new Community Wellness Worker/Counselor for Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. My name is Wade Meszaros. I will be living up here hopefully for a long time. I have two teenage boys who want to stay in Whitehorse to finish their school. My wife Susan will stay with them and they all will come up for visits and spend some time with me and you during the summer.

**Sandra Newman**  
**Caribou Coordination**

Happy spring to everyone! I am sure it will be here soon!

The early part of February, Lee Anne and Carston Hewer were here in Old Crow. They shared their story of following the Porcupine Caribou Herd with our community. The "Being Caribou" presentation was delivered at the community hall. This presentation was



the only one that I had ever seen in which the true spiritual connection was captured. Both Lee Anne and Carston did a great job!

bers not to hold the position of a Director. I respect this and I am taking the necessary steps to fill the positions with qualified people. I expect the position of Director of Social Programs to be filled within the next few weeks.

I would like to acknowledge Kathie Nukon and Marion Schafer for doing a great job in coordinating the workshops for our community. The Traditional Parenting, Diabetes and Traditional Medicine workshops were well attended and received.

I would also like to welcome Pat Joe (primary teacher) to our community. On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> some parents had the opportunity to meet with her and discuss our children's education, I'm very impressed with the work she is doing and

I have spent over thirty years preparing myself to come here, to help people who are hurting, lonely, angry, frustrated, struggling with alcohol and drugs. I would like to offer my training and experience to you. Everything that is shared with me is kept in confidence and nothing is shared without your permission.

I have worked with parents helping them with positive ways of teaching and raising their children. I have helped teenagers with low self-esteem, deep hurts and career counseling. I have helped adults who have had difficulty getting over losing a loved one, difficulty in marriage or in work. I am trained in Suicide

Daryl Charlie spent two weeks in Oregon. He was on an educational tour with Jeff Berry. Daryl visited over ten communities.

From Oregon, Daryl went on to Washington, D.C. Melissa Frost joined him in Washington. Daryl and Melissa took part in the Annual Alaskan Wilderness Week. Melissa took a few days off from her University studies to go to D.C. Thank you to both Daryl and Melissa for their hard work and effort in protecting the Calving Grounds.

I spent two weeks in Hawaii also on an educational tour. This tour was basically to touch base with the people of Hawaii to educate them on the potential of oil drilling in the Arctic National Wild-

grateful that she is here to help our children.

Welcome to Connie (RRC), Daughter, and Husband Steve. I hope that you will enjoy your stay here in Old Crow.

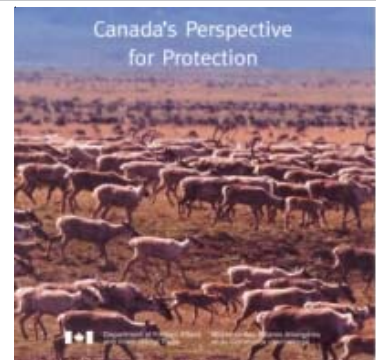
There is a Ski Loppet in Old Crow on March 17<sup>th</sup>, I would like to encourage you all to get out there and snowshoe or ski. The purpose of the Loppet is to have fun and enjoy the event with your family. There will be some Youths coming from Kwanlin Dun and couple other members from Whitehorse to participate. A banquet is scheduled that evening for the participants. This is an opportunity to come out with your children and enjoy a healthy fun-filled day and evening.

Thank to everyone for your prayers and support for my dad, it is very much appreciated by the family.

Prevention and skills training; I have facilitated women's abuse groups, anger management, male support groups and addiction groups. This hopefully gives you some ideas of what I can do to help. There will be a meeting on Wellness and support for individuals and families age 16 and older April 6<sup>th</sup> for men and April 7<sup>th</sup> for women at the Community Hall @ 6:30 p.m.

Please come in and visit with me I would like to get to know all of you. My office is in the Health and Social Services Department at VGFN. Phone number is 966-3418

Mahsi Cho



life Refuge. Senator Akaka of Hawaii used to vote to protect the Refuge. However, within the past few years he changed his vote to allow drilling. I found that a lot of Hawaiians did not know that Senator Akaka voted to allow drilling in the Refuge. Over all this was a successful tour.

**Tracy Kassi**  
**Enrolment/Membership Officer**

As usual, I have been more than busy with various projects within the First Nation organization. Projects such as Education, Recreation, the Youth Health & Fitness Project and managing the books of the Recreation Society, as well the roles of my job as the Enrolment Officer.

At the beginning of February, I corresponded with Ms. Lena Gruben of Edmonton, Alberta. She has helped me add more people to the Kyikavichik family tree! In this family tree alone, I have a little over 900 listed! It is so rewarding to



add people who I have missed because of no prior communication. Ms. Gruben was also overwhelmed with the size of her family roots to the Kyikavichiks. I've always said, "If I moved to another department, those family trees are coming with me!" It is a project I hold dear to my heart and I would

hate to see it neglected again before I took it on in 1996.

In February we also welcomed Wendy McGill to the Youth Health & Fitness Project as the Assistant to Leigh. Wendy comes to us from Northern BC. Welcome to Old Crow, Wendy! Wendy will be helping Leigh throughout the Project until the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. At the time the Project ends for the spring. The Youth Health & Fitness Project runs on funding from three major funding resources. They are the Community Development



Fund with YTG, the Victim Services Trust Fund and the



Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. Recently we got news that YTG will fund the Project for three years! The Project has people in Whitehorse who are fully in support of this for Old Crow. Everyone seems to want to help one way or another. It's very uplifting for all of us involved.

Recently through the work of Leigh, four skiers attended the Whitehorse Loppet. Through feedback from the kids, it seems they were the **stars** of the event! Keep up the good work Leigh and kids!

This brings me to another group of youth, who represented our community at the Arctic Winter Games in Fort McMurray, Alberta! Ida and I had the opportunity to fly down to support Miranda, Kyle, Kecia, Natasha, Travis & Darius! What an unforgettable experience. Ida went to all of Miranda's games, I went to one. I went to all the Dene Games venues which Natasha, Kecia, Kyle & Darius participated in. They also met up with Donna Marie's brother Don.



He was on the Yukon Open Mens team with Darius! Of course, the day that highlighted my trip to Fort McMurray was Kecia's GOLD medal win in Stick Pull. This venue was done in the community of Javier, a Dene community. What a day that was! I had everyone pumped up in that gym and my arm was sore after the event! Having Darius & Kecia win their Gold medals that day was very special. This was the one day Miranda didn't play hockey so Ida, Old Crow's cheering fan, was there to witness their winnings also. Some day I'll try to set up the camera at the community center where you can

watch some of my 10 tapes I recorded! I'm sure the youth came back with lots of new friends to e-mail to and wonderful memories.



Next Arctic Winter Games will be in Alaska, in 2006. At the Easter Carnival Darius will try to coordinate with Stan Jr. the Snowsnake &

Pole Push events and Stick Pull. Watch out for postings.

After returning from my two weeks away from my desk it was back to working on the various projects and Income Tax time! I have received my software to do the Elders returns and then maybe take on those who haven't submitted their returns yet. I've had a couple of requests to do the Wills project again. I will keep you up dated on this.

Mary Jane and I submitted "Imprints Of Our Ancestors, Part 2" to the Dawson Film Festival at the beginning of February. It has been selected!! Unfortunately, the Festival runs during the Easter weekend and we have decided it's important to be with family then, so we won't be attending. It's unfortunate that the festival is held during this weekend. However, Part 2 has been requested by another film festival for selection. This call came from Nova Scotia! And we are now in the process of submitting Part 2 to the Dreamspeakers

Film Festival. This is where Part 1 was screened in Edmonton last November. So we'll keep you informed as to what your "Vuntut" film Makers are up to!



Once again, thank you all for your support.

In conclusion, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter and have fun at the Carnival!



**Mabel Tetlich.**  
**CELC Area 1**

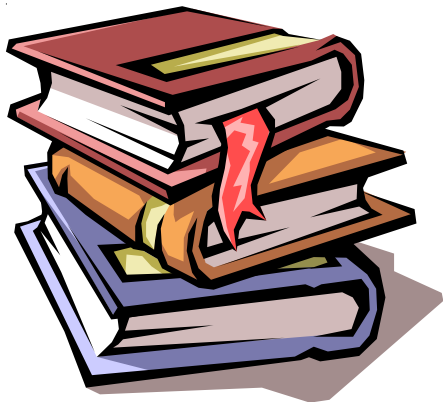
Good day everyone.

School, began on March 9/04 after a week of Spring Break.

The Community Health Representative, educated the students on Diabetes and Healthy Living. Marion Schafer brought resource people into the school with information and shared their experiences on diabetes.

The ongoing projects, such as the Traditional Cooking, Arts and Crafts takes place every Wednesday and Friday.

I would like to welcome James Itsi to the Elder position. The children are enjoying their time with James and like to go out on day field trips to the School



Cabin.

The Crow Flats camp will take place from April 16 – 30<sup>th</sup>, at King Edward creek, same place as last year. The grade 7 & 8 students from Carmacks, Tanalus School and the CELC, as well as two other adults are interested in coming to Crow Flats with us. In total there will be 20 people possibly arriving. I will keep you updated on this.

Parents are welcome to visit the school between 8:45 and 3:15 form Monday to Friday.

Thought for the day, There is a saying; “By living with a child your hands will stretch into the future.”

For the grandparents it ensures that their knowledge, skills, and values will live on with the new generations. For the youngsters the nurturing and loving relationship will give them a strong sense of identity and self worth.

**Karen Rinker**  
**Homework Tutor**

Greetings,

Yesterday was a cold, snowy and windy day. Today it is beautiful and sunny. I love Old Crow! The weather has not bothered what is going on in the tutoring program.

My month of February was busy helping Patti as she tried to plan lessons for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classroom. Mr. Heather was too sick to teach. We are really happy to welcome Pat Joe, the new teacher.

Then the month of March has been a time of helping the new teacher find resource materials and adding new students to our tutoring schedule.

This month also we have been testing students in Math and English. The results have been given to the parents. Some parents have already acted on the results and are working with their children at home on their learning gaps.

It is exciting for me to see posters of multiplication tables, and Gwitchin words and phrases taped to refrigerators. This is what the tutoring program is all about, getting the home involved in each child's education. Please keep praying about the new tutor for next year. You as a community always encourage me!



**Barbara Abel**  
**Housing Assistant**

Hello everyone

Just to let everyone know I've been hired as the Government Services/Housing Assistant, full time. We are in the process of ordering material for eight new washroom add-ons. Dorothy Frost, our proposal writer, produced money for these projects through I.N.A.C. Great job Dorothy!

That is all for now and hope everyone has a great spring!

## Announcements

### *Easter Schedule*

*Thursday, April 8 2004 – 7pm Church*

*Good Friday April 10, 2004 – 3pm*

*Church*

*Saturday April 11, 2004 – 7pm Church*

*Easter Sunday 12 2004 – 11am Church*

*Easter Monday 13, 2004 Church Feast*

### **Film News!!!**

**Imprints Of Our Ancestors – Part 1, has been selected for a screening at another Film Festival!!! This time it is the Rim Shots Media Arts Festival in Vancouver, BC!! The festival will be in early June. We just received word today, March 29<sup>th</sup> and are very excited!**

**We have also submitted Part 2 of Imprints Of Our Ancestors to an Aboriginal Film Festival called Dreamspeakers. We'll know of their decision in May. We will keep you posted!**

**MaryJane & Tracy**

*We would like to wish our daughters:*

**April Danielle**, a very happy 9<sup>th</sup> birthday for April 8<sup>th</sup> AND To **Kecia Marie**, a very happy 13<sup>th</sup> birthday for April 13<sup>th</sup>. May you dance with joy and feel the spirit of happiness and love on this, your special day. Happy Birthday Girls. We love you!! Lots of love from: Mom, Dad and little brother Tyrel

Happy Birthday to Godfather, Stephen Frost Sr. for April 5<sup>th</sup>. Have a nice day and thank you for being such a good God Father to me. Love from: Tyrel Kassi

Happy Birthday to our Faye Elias for April 25<sup>th</sup>. We remembered your birthday! May your day be as special as you are to us. Love from all of us! Tracy, Danny, Kecia, April & Tyrel

Happy Birthday to Sis Norma Kassi. If you see this greeting you will know that you are thought of on your special day as it approaches on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Have a great day and remember we love you!

Love from: Bro Danny, Sis-in-law Tracy, Nieces: Kecia, April and Tyrel and Nephew, “John Elias”

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**Tammy Josie**  
**Computer Support Technician**

Hello Hello, good day to you all!  
**Workshops**

On March 2, 2004 I went to Whitehorse to attend a two-day workshop called "The Hitchhiker's Guide to Youth Business Opportunities". This was beneficial. I was hoping one day to present it to the community to further our business ideas and needs. Keeping in mind that the workshop focused on self-employed people and individuals who would like to start their own business in your own community.

Also, Paul and I attended a CYFN Information Sharing Session on March 23-25, 2004. We left town on March 22 and returned on the 26<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting all First Nations with a computer-initiated departments had a chance to come together to discuss what they have been doing with their technology and skills. VGFN had the privilege of doing a presentation on the formation of an IS Department. I made a Power Point Presentation to the participants, with Paul doing my slide show! We both talked on

the VGFN's local Intranet sight, vgfnet and how we have it programmed to suite all our basic needs. At the meeting we had some requests to visit some First Nations Communities and brief them on Intranet sites. This was a big step for me and I welcome more of them. I have greatly increased my level of skill in this department and I am proud to provide each and every one of you with the information and support you need. With this I would like to thank Paul for putting me in the spotlight, Mahsi Cho!

**Motor Vehicle registration**

If any of you out there didn't know, I do Motor Vehicle Registration for Old Crow! This has been going on for at least five months now and I am thrilled to assist you in your registration needs! Just a note that fees have gone up in all fields, if you have any questions please contact me at the office 966-3261 ext. 247.

**Newsletter**

The newsletter has been going good. I'm getting the hang of things here. It took awhile but it's all sinking in quickly. This

month's newsletter is full of good news, accomplishments and newly learned skills. I sincerely hope you all enjoy this and have yourselves a glorious day!

**Equipment**

During this month, one of our printers in the west-end broke down and was shipped out to Whitehorse. We have it back in the office along with a brand new laserjet printer.

**Photography**

This month was the RCMP Memorial Patrol. As the VGFN IS Photographer, I was assigned to follow the team out to Crow Flats and take pictures along the way. As most of you already have seen, the pictures are on Old Crow's Official website. It was a beautiful day trip out on the land. I took about 96 pictures. Some are in this issue and others on the website.

All in all, it has been a very busy month here at the Sarah Abel Chitze Building. I wish you all a wonderful month to start off spring and hope that the winds stay down and the sunshines bright.  
Mahsi Cho

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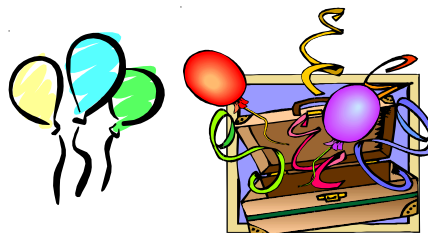
\* Happy Birthday to our two beautiful, sweet cousins, April Kassi for April 8, and Kecia Kassi for April 13, may your day be filled with peace, happiness and laughter....oh yea, and lots of presents and cake too! Lots of love from your cousins, Darius, Tina, Rachael, Heather, Bohdi and Johnny Elias.

\* Birthday wishes going out on April 25, to the mother of our God-Daughter, Faye Elias, we hope nothing but the best for you and your family today and

always...Love from Tina, Darius and kids.

\*Happy Birthday Grama! Happy Birthday wishes going out to our Grama, Norma Kassi, for April 10, lots of kisses and hugs to you! Love always, Little Johnny, Bohdi, Rachael and Heather.

Love from Tina, Darius and kids.



The RCMP Herschel Island Memorial Patrol set off on March 21, 2004 and returned to town on March 28, 2004 to some hot tea and soup at the Community Hall that evening!

# April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Easter arts and crafts @ Youth Center 3:30pm	8	9 @ youth center 11am-2:30pm Weiner Roast & pizza & games 5pm-7pm Basketball Clinic	10 Breakfast @ hall 9am-10:30am Activities all day Gym open at 8pm
11 Brunch after Church Games with follow 6pm-FH Collins & Watson Lake @ Gym	12 2pm-5pm games 6pm-Easter Feast	13 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	14 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	15 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	16 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	17
18	19 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	20 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	21 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	22 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	23 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	24
25	26 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	27 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	28 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	29 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	30 Youth Center Open 3:30pm-4:30pm	