

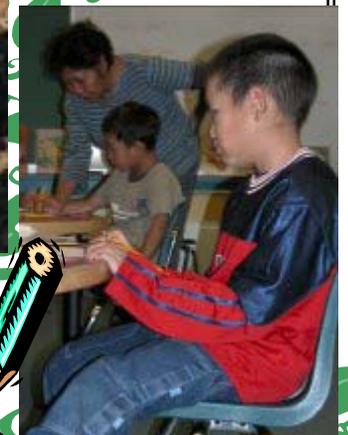
VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER
of the
VUNTUT GWITCHIN
GOVERNMENT



Issue #08, Volume #03

September 2004



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**VGFN
NEWS**
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of the
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GOVERNMENT

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

VGFN Chief & Council

Chief: Joe Linklater
Deputy Chief: Roger Kyikavichik
Councilors: Glenna Tetlichik
William Josie
Esau Schafer

VGFN News Editor: Tammy Josie
tjosie@vgfn.net



Glenna Tetlich
Acting Director Social Programs / Councilor

September has certainly been a time of change in the Social Department. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Loretta Itsi to the Social Team, Loretta will be working as the Home & Community Care Coordinator for a one year term.

Wade Meszaros is now assisting me with the Health & Social Programs Director's duties, in addition he continues to work as the Community Wellness Worker.

On September 9th 2004, Minister John Edzerdsa, Roxanne (his assistant) and the Deputy Minister for Advance Education (Gordon Dewitt) visited Old Crow to meet with various groups. Chief and Council met with the group to discuss issues regarding Education, I did a short presentation on the Old Crow Youth Health & Fitness Project and how this can be supported by the education system.

The Old Crow Youth Health & Fitness is taking a different approach this year with new Managers who will be arriving on September 27th. I met with Father Mouchet, Archie Lang, Don Roberts and Minister Edzersa's assistant (Roxanne) in Whitehorse to discuss the new strategy and future plans of the project. To start off the next phase of the project, there will be a lot of in-depth discussions with the Managers as well as the Old Crow Committee and the school staff before delivery, we are looking at mid-October before the Project begins again for another year.

Heather Finton is a consultant from Whitehorse that has been helping us with some programs in our Department, she was here September 13-16th to orientate Loretta Itsi with her new position as well as Gladys Netro with the Aboriginal Healing Foundation Project and SA. Heather will visit occasionally to connect with staff and programs that are being worked on.

The CYFN General Assembly was

held September 14th-16th in Whitehorse, we had a strong group of delegates this year that attended on behalf of VGFN. This was my first CYFN GA and I was honored to be a part of this year's GA to witness the joining of the four NWT Gwitchin Communities. The NWT Gwitchin hosted a supper followed by an old time dance, a great time was had by all!

The interagency meeting will continue to meet the third Thursday of every month at the Gathering Place. This meeting is for all resource people in the community to come together to look at ways that we can work together for the betterment of our community.

If you are interested in participating in these meetings give me a call or come see me at the Social Office.

This concludes my report for this month. Good luck to all the students attending high school and post secondary institutions. For those that are out harvesting this fall I wish you all a safe and prosperous hunting season.



Wade Meszaros
Community Wellness Worker



Greetings dear Citizens; Time seems to be flying by, here we are heading into October already. What a gentle reminder that winter was fast approaching with the one inch of snow we got on September 21st! I think by late afternoon it was mostly gone.

September 7th saw our second pre-treatment kick off. So far we have a dedicated group looking forward to going to treatment November 1st. September 24th two of our citizens graduated from treatment at ADS in Whitehorse. Way to go Men!!

Now we have two aftercare groups going – one for women and now one for men. The group for men will start the week of October 12th.

The women's group has been doing really well! It is so encouraging to see these women making good decisions one day at a time. They are truly committed to living a clean and sober life. Way to go women!!



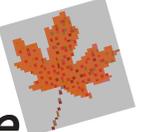
Depending on the Community hall, and other bookings we are looking at holding a three day parenting workshop – keep your eyes open for posters announcing dates and times of this important workshop.

I will be out of town for awhile going to a leadership conference and another one called "Restoring our lives" I'm looking forward to giving an update when I get back. I will also spend Thanksgiving with my family in Whitehorse. So I will see you all on October 12th.

I leave you with this thought... "How we think determines how we behave" when things get stressful or when your feeling anxiety remember to change your thinking pattern – do it by going for a walk and enjoying God's creation, pick up a phone and call someone you can trust to share your thoughts and feelings with or get involved with a hobby or craft. Stay positive, for there is much to be Thankful for.

I pray that you all have a good harvest and share with those who are less fortunate.

WELCOME...
Trevor, Jane



Pelly and Nora



Joe Tetlich
Justice Coordinator



In order for community members to be accepted into the Old Crow Diversion Program they must sign an agreement with the Old Crow Justice Committee. Basically the agreement reinforces that the Client will plead guilty to the charge, take ownership, and abide by the conditions that are set out by the Old Crow Justice Committee. The Diversion process is very unique in that the conditions are set out by the Client and the Committee. In that way they are obligated to cooperate with the terms of the agree-

ment. Failure to cooperate will result in the file returned to the Territorial Court.

In the next few months we will be having consultations on the topic of Justice. Through your self government agreements we have to develop and have a vision as to how you see justice working in the community. This is a very broad issue and we need the communities input to implement what we foresee.

There is already an agreement for the process to start and we need to look at the first phase, which is consulting with the community. We will be having community meetings to get your concerns and questions. In order to meet with Gov-

ernment we need to have a committee structure so that they can take the lead role. Having said that we are going to be host to a community meeting sometime in November. There will also be meetings in other communities that could help us develop what we want. If you are interested in being involved then give me a call; 699-3261 ext.259.

Over the next couple of months we will be kept quite busy with the consultation process and also promotional events. Keep in mind that in November we have Restorative Justice week and also Alcohol Awareness week.

All have an enjoyable and safe harvest season.

Gladys Netro
Social Administrator

I've been in this position since mid-August and I am enjoying the new challenge. I will be filling in for Kathie, while she is on educational leave for the year. I enjoy working with the team in Department of Health and Social a lot. Glenna is great Director, she has a great team and is a joy to work with. I have totally enjoyed talking to those that have come into the office or called. The goal of my position is to administer the social assistance for those that require help with the basic needs and to administer the Elders care and wood program. These programs have been made available for many years with the same policies or rules as the Department of Indian Affairs. We will begin to change the requirements, with an emphasis on encouraging individuals not to become to dependent on social assistance.

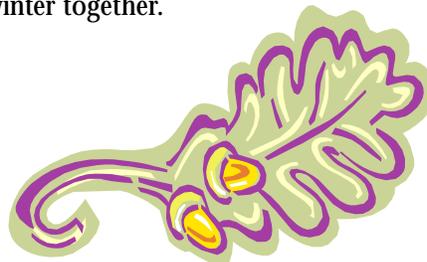
Its that time of year again, where heat will become more important each day. The wood and/or fuel program is available as a subsidy for Elders. The budget must last until April, so we have to be clear on who are priorities for the subsidy. There are Elders who live alone; there are Elders who have a family member living with them, who are able to go out and haul wood; and there are the younger Elders who are still employed and are able to haul their own wood. Each month wood or fuel will be made available to each Elder based on those

criteria's listed above. We do have some Elders who are above seventy-five years old, who don't need to worry about how they will keep warm. In September we had Phillip Frost deliver 400 liters of oil to each of the Elders and for October we had a cord of wood delivered early. That will be it until November. I know most family members of our Elders, will help out to be sure they always have wood. There will be a meeting arranged by mid-October to discuss and explain our Elders care program.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation has provided funds to our community to do a series of workshop or awareness on the effects of residential school. Even though residential school happened many years ago, the effects are still with most communities across Canada and are now effecting the third generation. There is a committee who administers this funding. I am gathering information on options for an extended healing type workshop to be made available to the community. We are aiming for January.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to stop in or call.

Mahsi cho, it is so nice to be among my people again. I hope we can enjoy the winter together.



Loretta Itsi
Home & Community Care Coordinator



Good day to you all.
I have been hired on as the Home & Community Care Coordinator with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Department of Health and Social Programs as of September 13, 2004. I look forward to my new position with good feelings, home visits and learning new skills that will be beneficial to my position.

Thanks to Heather Finton (our consultant) who is more familiar with this program and did a very informative orientation with myself, which helped out a lot.

As you are all aware the green van comes under the Home & Community Care Program. The van is only to be used to drive clients who are unable to walk to and from health appointments, health events and community meals that is put on by the Home & Community Care Program. The van will also deliver meals to those who are unable to attend due to health reasons. You may contact me if you are in need of a ride to one of the above mentioned however we do encourage people to walk if you can.

In closing, if you have any questions or concerns, you are more than welcome to drop by the Health & Social Department or call me @ 966-3261 ext 249, e-mail: litsi@vgnfn.net.

Mabel Tetlich
CELC Area 1



August 23 to Sept 30th /04

As the CELC Area 1, I started back to work on August 23, 2004. During this time I was preparing school supplies fee for students grade 9 and under for VGFN beneficiaries who reside outside of Old Crow.

August 31/04

School started, students were very excited to be back. The new teachers are April Myles (k-4 to grade 3 students), Fred Shirley (resource center), Elsie Hume (Grades 6 to 9 students), and the new Education Assistance teacher is Vaughan Slade. Welcome to our special Community. Teachers from last year are Gary Vokey, who is our new principal this year and Pat Joe (grades 4 & 5 students). Our Gwitchin teacher, Jane Montgomery and her assistant Randall Kendi, Patti Tetlich (reading recovery teacher) and

Remedial Tutor and C.D.C. is Florence Netro. Let's welcome all teachers and staff to Chief Zzeh Gittlit School for another school year. For the first week of school, teachers and there students were getting to know each other and settling into their classroom.

Sept 1 - 10/04

Orientation took place with the new teachers, students had the honor to introduce their community and resource people.

Sept 10/04

Cranberry picking with all students and staff took place across from the school. School cabin camp took place September 13 - 17/04. At this camp the workers were James Itsi, Richard Kendi, Peter Josie, Florence Netro, Mary Tizya and CELC Area 1 - Mabel Tetlich. A big thank you goes out to Marico for your time and volunteering with the students.

During the camp old stories were shared by elders, hiking took place and at

the same time we hunted. Setting snares was the highlight because Albert Lord caught a rabbit and everyone had their share of rabbit soup. Thank You, Albert.

At the present time the grades 7 - 9 students are working hard and fundraising to attend the Dreamscatchers Conference in Edmonton, Alberta. At this conference, there are 4000 to 5000 first nation youth from across Canada and international as well. Workshops are offered on different topics that educate the various youth.

Sept 24, 27, 28, 29 & 30th/04

The canvas boat project will take place behind Mary Tizya's house with each class in the afternoons. The instructors are Peter Josie and Joel Peter. Students from grade 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 will participate in the afternoons.

Until the next newsletter, here's a thought for the day: As a family, we listen to our parents and our elders. Mahsi Cho for your time!



Kim-Marie Rumley
CELC - Area II



Good Day All,

Well we have started the 2004/2005 school year in Whitehorse with lots of activity. Currently we have Twenty-Seven students enrolled in High School, twenty-four at F.H. Collins and three at Porter Creek Senior High. **WOW** that is a lot of students, the community should be proud to have so many of our Vuntut Gwitchin youth pursuing their education.

In addition to this the majority of our students are boarding in homes here in Whitehorse, with family or friends. We have four youth residing at Gadzoosdaa residence.

I am very happy to report that the Gwitchin Language class was set up here at F.H. Collins and we have seven students attending this class. Gwitchin Lan-



guage class is considered an accredited course by the Department of Education and students will receive credits towards graduation for this class. Students will receive instruction in Gwitchin; participate in cultural activities and field trips. At this time I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Ruth Carroll to the staff and wish her well in teaching Gwitchin. To date all the students have reported that they are really enjoying the Gwitchin class.

We have sixteen students interested in attending the Dreamcatchers conference in Edmonton, Alberta. Unfortunately, not all sixteen students will be able to attend. The criterion for attending the conference is, attendance, grades and fundraising efforts. The group of students will be leaving Whitehorse on October 13th, 2004 on the Air North evening flight to Edmonton and will be returning on the evening of October 17th, 2004. The students will miss two full days of



classes, so please encourage your youth to attend all classes and work hard until we go.

In closing I would like to add that it is an honor to be working with your children and I am thoroughly enjoying my position as CELC - Area 2 for VGFN. I encourage all students, parents and guardians to contact myself with any questions, concerns or ideas you may have. Also community members if you are in Whitehorse for a visit, please feel free to drop by my office. I am located in F.H. Collins (near the math wing) and my office hours are 8:30am-3:00pm Monday - Friday. I can be contacted at 867-668-8665 ext 248 or on my cell 333-6301. Remember you can always call on the 1-800-661-0408 and asked to be transferred to F.H. Collins, this is a free call.

Until next time, good luck with your fall Harvest, and Massi Cho for all your support and kind words.

Megan Williams
Heritage Manager

After a busy summer with many projects running at once we are now settling into winter and working with material gathered over the summer.

Land Use Planning Heritage Synthesis

The Heritage Department is summarizing all the oral history materials to be used to assist the development of the North Yukon Land Use Plan. The heritage information will be represented on a map with an associated database and text information. There is a wealth of land use information in the collection which will be very useful in making planning decisions. Mary Jane Moses is using her in-depth knowledge of the oral history interviews to produce the summary. This information will be reviewed and edited by heritage workers and Elders at the end of October.

Transcribing data from the summer

Over the past summer the Heritage Department research team conducted place name and oral history research by helicopter all over the traditional territory. We were restricted by the smoke and weather conditions but did manage to verify a number of place names, document some new places and travel to locations we do not have much information about such as Bluefish.

The focus of our recent research is on the “younger” Elders who have spent much of their lives living on the land but have been missed in past interview. Many thanks go to the Elders, young Elders and the research team for assisting with this

Carl Charlie

Land and Resources Manager

This is my last newsletter report as Lands Manager. I have resigned from my position as of September 30, 2004. It was a great experience for me to work for you and the leadership. I learned a lot through people sharing their knowledge and wisdom of our lands. Our leaders gave me the knowledge and experience in dealing with Governments and non governmental organizations. I believe that we should all work

6

interesting work.

Place Names

The slow process of documenting place names is continuing. The place name map is ready to be printed again. This draft will display one place name per location on the map. Secondary place names for the same place will still be documented and the information stays in the database. Robert Bruce assisted this project with John Joe Kaye, Charlie Thomas and Jane Montgomery. These resource people have a good knowledge of the whole traditional territory so were able to verify place names and locations.

Funding
We have been successful in securing enough funding to continue with our heritage programs for the 2004-05 fiscal year. Proposal writing is an on-going task. We are working to obtain funding for more film productions, training and other projects.

VRC
Planning the Old Crow Visitor Reception Centre continues. We are working on this project with the territorial and federal governments. The exhibit design contractors have been selected – Midnight Arts from Whitehorse will be working on the concept design and the test while a small company called Penn&Gunn will be working on the detailed design of the actual exhibits.

The Vuntut Development Corp has contracted a Project Manager to oversee the VRC building construction. The Project Manager visited Old Crow in mid-September with the architect. As the exhibits are being developed at the same time as the building is being designed, it together and in unity with one another. There are ways in which we can help each other to manage what is ours and our children's. That is working together.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy fall harvesting season. When you are cutting wood this winter do not leave the branches on lakes or creeks. Do not leave any garbage out on the land.

Always take care of your children because it is extremely dangerous for them to be near the river and water bodies now. Until we get back home, all the best to all of you from my family and I.

is very important for all parties to communicate. Our next meeting is on October 19th.

Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act

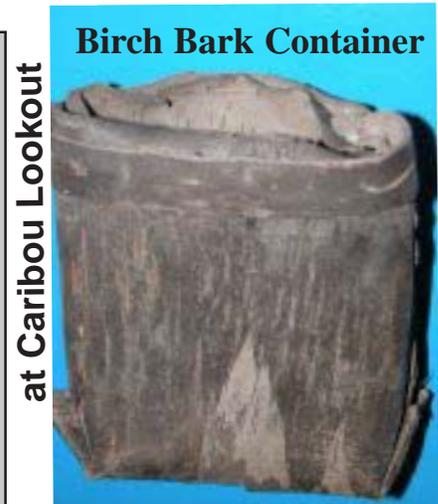
The VGFN Heritage Department is collaborating with other First Nations to pool our resources and hire consultants to develop a Traditional Knowledge Policy framework. Once the framework is developed we will be able to tailor it to each First Nations unique situation. The development of this policy will assist VGFN to be prepared when YESAA comes into effect.

Rampart House

The Rampart House reconstruction project has had another successful season. We had a minor set back due to the low water levels but were able to take advantage of a helicopter in town to get the gear and most of the crew to the site. The work this year and for future years focuses on reconstructing Cadzow's House. We had a small crew this year with the majority returning from past years – thanks for the great work Freddy Frost, Wilfred Josie, Moses Lord, Kibbe Tetlich, Tyler Lord and Daryl Charlie.

Media/Research/Filmmakers Applications

Fall time is always a busy time with reporters and filmmakers coming to Old Crow. We processed applications from an Australian travel reporter, a reporter from the National Post, a free lance reporter from New York and a Dutch film maker. We are also continuing to work with the National Film Board as they develop a production about Father Mouchet.



Birch Bark Container

Found By: Harvey Kassi

William Josie
Director, Natural Resources

Hello everyone, I hope you enjoyed your summer, because the snow and ice are coming now.

I see that the caribou has arrived on the Old Crow Mountain. Please be careful and think safety when hunting.

As of September 28th, 15,200 Chum Salmon have passed through our wier at Fishing Branch River. Our escapement goal for this year is 13,000 chum salmon to the spawning grounds. In the mark / recapture project we tagged 1,277 chum salmon 20 miles down Porcupine river. The Salmon Research Crew recovered thirty-four tags one mile down from Old Crow. Along with this and the Fishing Branch wier numbers, we estimate that 25,000 chum will come up Porcupine River this 2004 season.

The second sheep hunt by Haines

Mary Jane Moses
Heritage Researcher

After arriving back from a well-rested, 2-week holiday, I was ready to go back to work. First of all, met with Megan Williams, my supervisor for the Heritage Department to go over my work plan for the upcoming fall months.

I am in the process of researching and retrieving land use information from our database to synthesize for the Land Use Planning Commission. I understand this will be a huge task but it's do-able. Megan Williams, Heritage Officer and I met with Shawn Francis of LUPC the week of Sept 22/23 2004 to go over the work plan for these tasks.

On September 14-23, the National Film Board team arrived to work with Tracy Kassi and myself in camera and sound techniques. The objective/goal of the NFB trainings is so that Tracy and I can upgrade our skills and do the actual filming of important events that the Health and Fitness pilot project will be undertaking in the upcoming year/s. I am very grateful for this opportunity and challenge. Thank you to Chantal, George, Allan and Jay for helping us out and encouraging us on.

Junction resident Terry Skjonberg in the Richardson Mountains area was unsuccessful.

Graham Baird, our former N.R. Planner has moved on to other challenges in Malawi, Africa. So I would like to introduce you to Melissa Valja, our new Natural Resources Planner, so please join me in welcoming to our community and also our Government. Also with regret I would like to inform you that Carl Charlie resigned his position as Lands Manager, effective September 30, 2004. Carl will join his family at Edmonton and we wish him all the best.

In regards to the implementation of the Ni'iinlii Njik Ecological Reserve & Settlement Land R-SA & S-3A1, and Wilderness Preserve & habitat Protection Area Management Plans, the Committee of Managing Agencies has decided to take the "go slow" approach. Out of concerns

Gwitchin language activities/lessons will again be offered this fall/winter. Jane Montgomery, Gwitchin Language Specialist will be offering adult evening classes through the Heritage Department. So watch for the postings soon and sign yourself up for a great fun/learning experience with the Gwitchin language. Anyone is most welcomed to attend.

Another upcoming project that the Heritage Committee is embarking on, is the traditional snowshoe making, hide preparation, and knitting babiche onto the frame. Again watch for the postings where you can sign up with Megan, Jane or myself for this unique workshop, it will be in a tent setting. We are in the process of gathering the necessary tools for this project workshop. Thank you to the people for caribou hide donations and to all the people we have asked to make knives/tools for this project, Mahsi'. Your help is greatly appreciated to get this project going.

Everyone, have a great fall season and stay safe. The weather is beautiful, enjoy all that you can.



for people and grizzly bears we postponed our program for one year.

Porcupine Ent. Has completed their work at the quarry for this season. They are presently hauling 9,600 cubic meters of river bed gravel, this is the last of the river gravel to be hauled. YTG Highways gave VGFN their permit to use gravel.

On the afternoon of September 28th, 2004 our NR Department along with NYRRC met with Devon Canada regarding their drilling program at Eagle Plains this winter. Devon plans to build a 6km winter road on an existing seismic line, and another 4km off to the side to their drilling site. To get the various licenses and permits under YEAA, to conduct this drilling program, there must be a public consultation process. I will keep you posted on the dates of these meetings.

With that, I want to wish you all good luck in this harvesting season, and remember to be careful out there.



Paul Doehle
*Director / Systems Administrator,
Information Systems*

New (AIS) Software

We are installing new Aboriginal Information Systems (AIS) software on VGFN's computers. This software is comprised of modules, which connects various VGG departments to a central Vuntut Gwitchin Citizen database and our AccPac accounting software.

The first set of modules we will be installing are the Citizenship Database, the Social Assistant, and the Post Secondary Education modules. Installation and training will begin October 12, 2004 thru to October 22, 2004. A Housing module is scheduled for installation in the first part of 2005.

Old Crow's Website

We have changed the URL address of Old Crow's website on the Internet. The new address is: www.oldcrow.ca

Catherine Mbae
Director of Finance

I was away for two weeks in September to visit with my uncle and his family in Texas and also to do some shopping for an upcoming major event in my life. As many of you already know, I will be getting married in December 2004 in Kenya and am starting to prepare for the big event.



Work

As always it is busy in the finance office. I am currently doing the final paper work for various projects that run during the summer month. In addition I am preparing to do a detailed review budgets and Expenditures with each department in mid October 2004.

As requested in the last General Assembly I will be including in the next month issue an Income statement for expenditures to September 30, 2004.

The second phase of the ACCPAC/AIS project will start on October 12, 2004 with the installation and training of staff to use AIS (Aboriginal Information System). The installation and training will run for two weeks.

Review of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Administration policy and related issues is ongoing, with Dorothy Frost and myself being actively involved.

Meetings

The SFAC (Senior Financial Arrangements Committee) had a meeting on 25 September 2004 and Norman McIntyre represents VGFN on this table.

Various other meetings will start in the coming months as we prepare for our 10 year-Financial Transfer Agreements reviews that will be completed early next year.

Staff

We in the process of hiring a Accounts Receivable clerk and I hope to be able to introduce her or him to you in the next newsletter.

It seems winter is here with us, keep warm!



Barbara Callihoo
Manager of Finance and Administration

The Account Receivable Clerk position was posted and we should know shortly when our new A/R clerk will be starting. I look forward to training the person for this position. I will be taking on more of the duties that I was hired to do as Manager of Finance once this position is filled.

I have been Acting Accounts Receivable clerk with some overlap of my duties as Manger by assisting Ida with Accounts Payable and Payroll.

When I took my Accpac Accounts Receivable training in Whitehorse in June, I was able to solve a problem we thought we had. EasyPay (our payroll software) requires a couple steps to get the data into our Accpac (our accounting software) data. The data has to be exported from Easypay and imported into Accpac. We were told that Easypay had a limit of 12 digits for the account codes. Our new account codes are 14 digits. So, I spent one month and about a day and a half changing the account codes from the data exported from EasyPay and getting the data correct in order to import into Accpac. At the A/R training in Whitehorse my first question was why can't EasyPay work with Accpac for Windows. The trainer was able to



show me in 5 minutes how to set up Easypay so that it is compatible with Accpac for Windows. That one question saved hours and hours of work, not to mention the accuracy in question whenever data is manipulated and changed (which we thought we had to do).

The last few weeks I have read most of the funding agreements we have. Dorothy's new position required that she have copies of the funding agreements and also the departments require a copy of their funding agreements for decision-making and reporting requirements.

I was also able to develop a workable financial statement format for internal use. That was an exercise in itself. In Accpac every financial statement format requires what is called a specification. It is like a shorthand notation whereby one letter tells the Financial Reporter in Accpac how to show the data on the financial statement. The format should be helpful to the departments for ease of interpreting the data and using it for decisions, such as budget tracking and planning.

One of the requirements of CMHC is that we have current rental agreements in place. Barry Drury, Director of Government Services, is working on this so that we have those in place. Thank you, Barry.

Have a good Thanksgiving, everyone.

Ida Tizya
Finance Payroll Clerk



Hello to Everyone

I hope that everyone is enjoying the snow and got their harvest for the long winter months.

The Finance Department was very busy for the summer months, we had 99 people on payroll, that was quite a job but I enjoy all the work that I do in Finance. Because it is a good learning experience for me, and I sure get to meet a lot of people that comes in and work with VGFN.

To the students who are going to school in Whitehorse and the post secondary in the surrounding areas, I hope

that everything is going well for you all. You're always in my thoughts and prayers.

At this time I would like to say thank-you to the Social Department for giving me the opportunity to take this program at Alcohol and Drug Services, back in July. Its helps me and with in my job to stay positive. Also I will be attending the follow-up at ADS from October 4-8,2004

This is all until the next report.

Have yourself a nice day.



Barry Drury

Director, Government Services

My best wishes to everyone in Old Crow. I am very pleased to have been offered the position of Director of Government Services, with VGFN. I am looking forward to serving the community.

Before I write my first newsletter submission, I would like to tell you a little about myself, and my family. We have lived in Whitehorse, for 20 years. My wife Susan has been employed at Yukon College for 18 years in the Developmental Studies department. She has been to Old Crow once, a few years ago when she taught a secretarial course to all the community campuses in the Yukon.

I managed a building supply store in

Whitehorse, for 14 years.

We have two grown children, Caroline and Jason.

The fall has been very busy for the GS Department. We have begun renovations to the Community Hall, which will include leveling the floor as best we can, a new furnace system, and other improve-



ments which we hope will be a benefit for all users.

We are putting a strong effort into getting the roofs completed on the four homes we have under construction, and

we are scheduled to begin construction on one more home very soon.

We have also scheduled a community housing symposium for November 9 & 10, I hope you have received a copy of the draft policy, along with requests for community members to sit on the VGFN Housing Advisory Board/Committee. As well Government Services would like to hear from you with suggestions to be considered for inclusion with our new housing policy.

Air North has just completed a fuel haul, and we are preparing now for our winter housing maintenance.

I would like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome in Old Crow. Special thanks to the staff at VGFN for your assistance during my first two weeks.

Mahsi Cho

Tracy Marie Bruce

Administrative Assistant

Good day to all;

Just to let everyone know that I got back from Whitehorse on the 17th from a training I have been doing for 5 days while out in Whitehorse. The training as I have mentioned before was for Microsoft Excel Level II. This course has taught me a lot and I hope it will help me in this position I have here in the Sarah-Chitze Building. I now have two certificates from Dana Naye Ventures for these courses I have been trained in. So far I am enjoying my position and it has been very busy for me this past summer, as of all the new houses being built and the five washrooms. It has been very hard for me

VUNTUT GWITCHIN FIRST NATION

GOVERNMENT SERVICES & HOUSING DEPARTMENT

HOUSING POLICY & PROGRAMS

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as I was just training, and that I did not know too much about housing. But as long as I have been here in the office, I have learned a few things and am enjoying it.

You should have got an envelope in the mail recently that was sent out from this department concerning the Housing Policy. Please feel free to contact me in any way before October 11th. We would like to hear your suggestions! There will also be a Housing Symposium on November 9th and 10th in the community hall. Just like to say Welcome to our new director Barry Drury!

That is all I have for this report. Hope you all have a very nice long winter!

Thank you

Roger Kyikavichik

Deputy Chief

With the fall season well on it's way, and hunting season is here, where are the caribou? This seems to be the question for this fall's hunt. Wishing all the hunters good luck!

Education

I would like to welcome Kim Rumley who has been hired to work as the CELC Area II. Kim will be working with the Vuntut Gwitchin students in Whitehorse.

Education Coordinator

Tracy has been busy making sure that

our high school students are well settled in for first semester. Tracy also sits on the newly appointed Education Committee as the chair for post secondary funding. As Education Coordinator she maintains communication in all areas related to the Department of Education. Monitoring Post- Secondary students attending institutions outside of Old Crow.

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group is tentatively schedule their meetings for the third week of October, please watch for posting.

We are still in the process of hiring a

Homework Tutor and a Physical Education Teacher.

Recreation

At the present we have no one working for the Recreation Department. We are still seeking a Recreation Coordinator. Tracy Kassi also assist the Department with projects and with the budgets. Volunteers are welcome if you are interested in doing gyms nights or programming for the youth. Please drop by the office and see me.

With that I like to thank you for your time and be careful when out on the land.

Tammy Lee Josie
Computer Support Technician

Newsletter

In the beginning of September I was finalizing the August issue of the VGFN Newsletter. Distribution was done on September 7th, 2004!

I'm still learning all the features on Adobe Page Maker Pro, and am getting to know the program very well. Every Newsletter is and has been a learning experience. Thank you for all your wonderful comments and concerns regarding this matter.

Office

This month I have been putting together a few proposals for our Government. This includes reception training, to better our professional image, and our new Government website which is still under construction.

CYFN GA

I attended the Council of Yukon First

Nations General Assembly in Whitehorse during the week of September 13-17, 2004. I was the Youth Delegate for VGFN and it was a privilege to attend this GA once again. I would like to thank C&C for allowing me to go.

Photography

C B C requested images of the low river for their website. These will go with their interview with one of our councilors.



Also, I thought it would be a good idea to have a back-to-school theme for this months cover page. I visited the Chief Zzeh Gittlet School and was very surprised at how photogenic the children are. They smiled and looked at the camera, which was very helpful for me. I had also attended the Canvas Boat project located

just behind Mary Tizya's house. Students are learning to make a Canvas Boat. Instructors are Joel Peter, and Peter Josie.

The teachers were very cooperative and I would like to thank them for the time they took away from class. Mahsi Cho to all staff at Chief Zzeh Gittlet Elementary School.

Conclusion

If anyone has any theme ideas for the cover page I welcome you into my office for discussion.

With that being said, I would like to announce my candidacy for the School Council. Polls will be held on Monday October 4th and I hope that you would consider me for school council. I believe that I can do this, being a recent student and offer new ideas to encourage your children to do the best that they can. I will speak their thoughts and ideas and make it known, while teaching then to speak up for themselves. Mahsi Cho for you time and have a wonderful month.

Melissa Valja
Natural Resources Planner

I started Tuesday September 7 2004 in the position that Graham Baird held within the Natural Resources Department for a few years. As many of you know, I have been in Old Crow all summer working at the Daycare Centre.

My education background is in Environmental Studies from school and through my parents who often took me out moose hunting, fishing or berry picking where I was raised in Northern Ontario.

Arctic Council SDWG

The second week on the job I attended meetings in Whitehorse for Gwich'in Council International. They were for the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) of the Arctic Council, which is made up of the eight Arctic countries. There are six permanent participants who are the indigenous peoples in the north and many observers to the meetings. Among other things, the SDWG looked over project reports that will be presented at the Senior Arctic Officials Meeting in Iceland in November. I was very lucky to go to the meetings in

Whitehorse, and learned a lot about what happens at that level.

Peel River Watershed Planning Commission (PRWPC)

On Tuesday Sept. 28 I attended a meeting in Eagle Plains for the PWPC. The various parties involved met once more before the start up of the commission. We outlined suggestions for the new commission to help their orientation and the planning process of the Peel Watershed. If all goes well, the nominations for members will soon be finalized and the initial meeting of the commission will take place in December. I enjoyed meeting the Natural Resource workers from the other first nations, and others I will be working with, as well as the drive up the Dempster!

By reading and talking to people I am slowly learning the background information for the various groups, councils, and commissions that the Natural Resources Department deals with. Personally, I think this area is quite beautiful. I enjoyed several outings on the river, as well as walking up and around Crow Mountain this summer. I look forward to experiencing the respect that the people of Old Crow have for the land.

Mahsi!

Donna Frost
Employment and Training Officer

Good day to one and all; well now that all the students are back to school, it seems pretty quiet around here.

This month we hired a Janitorial Supervisor for the Administration Building, so lets welcome Florence to her position. Also we hired Phillip Frost as the Fuel Delivery and Maintenance Worker for Government Services. Harvey Kassi is the temporary Gas Attendant until Lawrence returns on the 27th of September.

We have sent one person down to Nisku for the PITS Floorhand Training. There also is another fellow that will be traveling down in October for the same training. Wish them the best of luck to the both of them.

The Human Resource Department sponsored a citizen to take the Life Skills Training in Edmonton and also sponsored a beneficiary to take his Class 1 Driver training down in Grande Prairie. The best of luck to them both.

Other than that it has been quiet around the Human Resource Department.

Mahsi and enjoy the nice weather.