



VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER
of the
VUNTUT GWITCHIN
GOVERNMENT

May
Crust on the Snow
Month



Gwiluu

Issue #05, Volume #03

May 2004

2004 Native Graduates



Tracy
Bruce
Winner of
Dana
Naye
Ventures
Award



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**VGFN
NEWS**
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**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.

VGFN Chief & Council

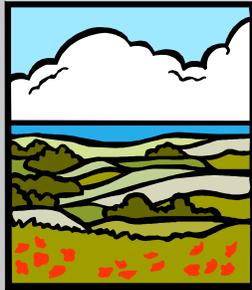
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Mary Jane Moses
Heritage Researcher

During the first week of May, I did research on legends and a game called "you-you" with help from Jane Montgomery for the Vuntut Gwitchin Oral History Project book. I have also been busy with dubbing tape cassette copies and working on filling in blanks in the transcripts with outstanding issues with Jane Montgomery. This is an ongoing task to ensure that our transcripts are complete and accurate. I have been in communication back and forth a lot with Shirleen Smith, who is writing the book on Vuntut Gwitchin Oral History. Jane Montgomery and I are kept very busy ensuring that the book is accurate and interesting.

The following week I left to attend the Aboriginal Language Services two-day meeting in Whitehorse. This meeting was very informative and helpful to the VGFN Heritage Department and Heritage Committee. The Aboriginal Language Community Initiative Programs, ALCIP funding for community projects



that have clearly stated objectives and deliverables, that present a realistic and balanced budget, that indicate an achievable project timetable/timeline and that will have a measurable language impact and outcome. We also receive funding from the Aboriginal Language Initiative. ALI is a federal fund that funded such projects and activities in Old Crow such as Elders interviews, wages for transcribing native languages and filmmaking.

While I was in Whitehorse I dropped off a copy of Imprints of Our Ancestors to Eclectic Video Productions. We will be getting a large quantity of VHS and DVD's dubbed and they will be on sale soon. Imprints of Our Ancestors, Parts 1 & 2 will be going on a Yukon Film

in Old Crow is administered by the VGFN Heritage Department. YTG-ALCIP funds projects and activities that have language as the primary focus,

Series Tour with other Yukon made films from June to September in the communities of Watson Lake, Haines Junction, Dawson City and Whitehorse. This is provided on behalf of the Yukon Film Society. People will have to watch for the announcements of when it will be screened in their communities. This is a great honor for both Tracy and I to have our films shown to the people of the Yukon. Still on the subject of films, Imprints of Our Ancestors - Part 1 was screened at the Pacific Cinematheque at 1131 Howe Street in Vancouver, BC on Thursday June 3, 2004 as part of the Rim Shots Media Festival.

The Heritage Department is again gearing up for a summer filled with great activities with the Elders, gathering interviews out on the land and verifying place-name mapping.

Happy Spring to everyone out there! Spring is such a happy rejuvenating time: it's a rebirth of all living things. I hope that you all have an enjoyable spring and summer with family and friends and take care of each other out there.

Graham Baird
Natural Resources Planner



Wetlands Mapping Workshop

Ducks Unlimited and the North Yukon Planning Commission held a mapping workshop in Old Crow in late May to record information about wetlands in VG Traditional Territory. Many Old Crow residents provided information about wildlife, hunting and trapping and their experiences and uses on the land. The information was recorded on maps and will be kept by VGFN. The maps will be used by Ducks Unlimited to consider options for management and conservation of wetlands. The North Yukon Planning Commission will use it in the land use planning process.

Sheep Management

Yukon Environment will issue two permits to resident Yukon hunters to hunt Dall Sheep in the North Richardson

Mountains this year. This permit hunt is being done on a trial basis for two years. We hope to begin work on a management plan for the sheep population. There is strong interest from the Gwich'in Tribal Council to develop a joint management plan for the entire sheep population involving people from Yukon and N.W.T. **Peel River Watershed**

The General Terms of Reference for the Peel River Watershed Planning Commission has been accepted by the Yukon and First Nation governments. Nominations for appointments to the Commission by the parties are now being accepted. Following appointments of Commission members the Planning Commission will be established and could possibly begin work this year.

Trapping Issues

Yukon Environment Minister had met with Chief and Council and told them that the permit for the group trapline could not be renewed. At the time he had explained that the permit for a trapline concession could not be issued to a First

Nation government. The permit could only be issued to a group of trappers all of whom must meet Yukon Government requirements for a trapping license. This appears to be in violation of the Final Agreement, which states that VGFN shall retain the group trapline. Discussions with Yukon Environment staff have led to further confusion. A meeting with several Yukon Environment people has been scheduled for June 24 in Old Crow.

Ni' iinlii' Njik

Yukon Parks is planning to build a cabin on the Fishing Branch River this year. Materials were flown into a site along the river last fall. The bear viewing project will use this cabin and it will also serve as accommodation for the Park Ranger. The Management Committee for the area has recommended changes to the management plan for the Ecological Reserve to allow construction of the cabin in the re-

serve and use of the site for the bear viewing project.



Wade Maszaros
Community Wellness Worker



The month of May has been a busy month, setting up the office, going through tons of material, keeping what is relevant and

archiving what is not.

My counseling load is increasing each week. The pre-treatment sessions are going well.

Over the next few weeks we will be talking about Depression, Loneliness and Grief.

I attended a couple of conferences in Whitehorse between May 19 – 23rd. The first one had to do with the new “Consent Act and Adult Protection Act” it was a great time to give input and network with other FN representatives.

The second conference was the A.A. Yukon Roundup. Ivy Chelsea and her Mom and Dad gave presentations about their experiences in Alkaline Lake. The stories demonstrated great courage and strength to take a stand against drugs and alcohol.

There were presentations of what A.A. meetings looked like and how they operated. It strengthened my belief that Alcohol Anonymous is continuing to do good work in communities. It was great during “Sobriety Countdown” the number of people who stood up proclaiming sobriety for 30,20,10, 5 and 1 year! Taking it one day at a time.

A quick note to let everyone know that I will be utilizing the “Gathering House/ Safe house” as an alternative for counseling sessions. If you would like to see me for counseling but feel uncomfortable meeting me at the office then we can set up a time to meet at the gathering house. Call me and we can set up a time to meet either here at the office or at the gathering place.

It finally feels like summer is here, I hope you get outside, exercise, visit and do your very best at loving and taking care of yourself.

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Maureen Gagnier
Acting Director of Finance

Today everyone is talking about the ice. It is spectacular and mesmerizing to watch, but a little concerning when one thinks about the possibility of flooding in the community. It makes one feel better to know all the volunteers of the Emergency Response team are out there watching and ready to take action to make sure the community is safe. Thank you all.



I have had much e-mail from Catherine. She is enjoying being home with her family and sends a hello to her co-workers and friends here.

We are continuing to be busy in finance filing the year-end reports and completing the setup of the new accounting software and ongoing training of staff. Edna has returned from parental leave and we look forward to having her return when her leave is over, sometime the end of June.

As some of you may have noticed, our new accounts receivable system is producing new invoices. Some changes will be made for the June Water & Sewage billing. The invoice will now reference the month for which the invoice is being issued, something that was missing from the May invoices. You may also receive along with your invoice, a statement of your account. In order to save paper, only those accounts that have an outstanding balance from previous months will receive a statement. If you have any questions regarding this new system or something that concerns you about your account, please call or drop by the office and talk to either Barb Callihoo or myself.

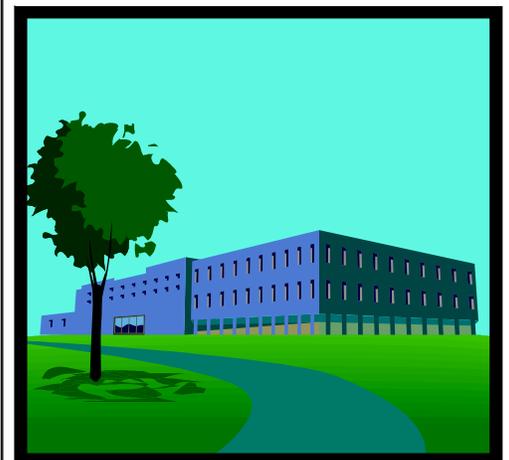
Mahsi!

Harold Frost
Housing Manager

Hello everyone, well spring is pretty much here, it's good to hear the birds again and soon enough we'll be on the river again! Here's what's been happening for the month of May in the Housing Department. Project #375 has started up again, the roof is on etc... This unit was started in Feb/04 and was put on hold until spring! Since it started back up it should not take long to finish.

The other project that's in progress and is in its final stages of finishing is #540. This project also started in Feb/04 and is on-going and should be finished soon! The other projects that happened throughout March/04-April/04 was the INAC Water & Sewer additions, there were four washrooms allocated and finished. There will be five more washrooms coming up soon. After these additions are finished we will be applying for more funding for the same program! We know that there's a lot of people that need their washrooms replaced. We could only do with what funding is available to us.

We are anticipating a busy summer with five new washroom, two renovations, and four new houses. Some will start sooner than others. There's some details to be worked out yet with some houses. We are acquiring two summer students in the Government Services and Housing Department. These will be posted through the Human Resources Department. Any questions or concerns, you can stop by my office. Take care until next time!



Barb Callihoo
Finance Manager

I moved to Old Crow from Atlin, BC in March 2004. I have seen many changes in the short time I have been here. From the last of the winter weather to the nice spring weather we are getting now.

Our Finance department has undergone a lot of changes in a short time as well. Every day is a learning experience with our accounting software upgrade. I have been very busy setting up the Accounts Receivable area and getting things streamlined.

I want to thank the First Nation for welcoming me to your land and for the opportunity to work with you. I thank you for helping make my stay here very comfortable.

If you have any questions about our new invoices or the statements that will be coming out shortly please call me.

Mahsi!

Sandra Newman
Caribou Coordinator

Good Day to Everyone,

I would like to congratulate Deanna Moses and Vernon Kaye on the birth of their baby Girl. I wish them the best wishes for the future.



As most of you know I am no longer working in the Government Services Department. It has been about two weeks now. I am working a bit with the Chief and also continuing to work with the Caribou Issue. My work area is just around the corner from the front reception.

Because the Refuge was not in the spring Senate session in D.C., there have not been as many tours this summer. This is a good thing. Gives us a little break. There is a tour coming up in late August in Arizona and Colorado. As usual, if you are interested, please submit your names with me.

I will be attending University this fall in Lethbridge. I am excited about this. I should leave around the second week of August. Have a great summer!

Roger Kyikavichik
Deputy Chief

Hello everyone, hope you all having a great spring, it's great to look back at work after taking a month break.

I am now responsible for the Departments of Education & Recreation. At the present I'm doing orientation with these two Departments. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please drop by. I'm in the Chief & Council Office.

I have been responsible for the Social Department for the past four years and I must say that it has been a great experience, as well as, challenging. I truly learned a lot working in this field and will bring with me to my new responsibilities.

At this time, I would like to thank all of the people for your support in making my job a great place to work while in the Social Department. For all of your phone calls just to say hello and your encouragement. As for the staff at Social Department, your willingness to listen, help and care, always wanting to know if I'm doing ok, willing to lend a hand, your laughter and sadness you bring to the office helps each one of us to grow and care for each other. I will surely miss working in this field, but with new challenges always make your job exciting and to work with young people it is a challenge in it's self. I encourage you all continue your support, after all it's for our future generation. Mahsi Cho!

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group was formed in the beginning of this year, and comprises members from YTG, VGFN and the School Council. We just finished a two day workshop May 27th & 28th to revisit the 1999 strategic plan, with the working group going over this plan. We will investigate what is working, not working and what needs to be done. The strategic plan document is in our office if you want to look at it and share your ideas with the working group.



I will have further up-dates as to the working group in our next newsletter.

Ida Tizya
Finance Payroll Clerk



Hello to all

Spring is finally here and the ice is gone. The caribou are here and the birds are singing. Hope everyone enjoys the outdoors.

To the people that are out on the land, hope you're enjoying yourselves and the nice warm weather. You're in my prayers.

Finance Department is back to the routine again after the year-end business. April 30-May 4, 2004 I was to Whitehorse for Accpac training. We have a different system in Accpac now.

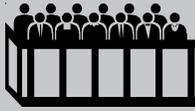
I would like to take this time to say Massi-choo to C.E.L.C. Mabel Tetlichy for organizing different activities for the students, Derrick Kapuschuck for the arts and woodcarving programs, Maureen Vittrekwa for the nice sewing she has done with the girls in senior class, and Mary Tizya for teaching the students traditional cooking. I also would like to Massi-cho to Elsie Hume for doing such a good job with the students in Whitehorse.

This is all until the next report.

Have yourself a nice day.



Joe Tetlich
Justice Coordinator



Aboriginal Justice Strategy

One of the main objectives of the Aboriginal Justice Strategy (AJS) is:

- to assist Aboriginal people to assume greater responsibility for the administration of justice in their communities.

- To reflect and include Aboriginal values within the justice system, and

- Over the long term, along with other justice programs, contribute to a decrease in the rate of victimization, crime and incarceration among Aboriginal people in communities operating community-based programs with funding from the AJS.

In order to fulfill our mandate as a Justice committee and as a community we

need the support of all. The Justice Committee has taken the responsibility to partake in the Territorial Court proceedings. We do this by way of diverting Clients into our Old Crow Diversion Program, (OCDP). We also take the liberty of supporting Clients that are going up for criminal charges. In order for us to assist clients we stress that most of the responsibility rest on the shoulders of the Client. Once a condition is set by the Courts or the Diversion program the Client has to be accountable that the terms are carried out.

Over the past two years we have had less than five Youth Clients on the Court docket. This is a very positive message. More of our students are getting summer employment which makes them feel good. Thanks to the Human Resource Department for working in getting those opportunities out.

There are more activities happening for the children also:

The Health and Fitness program has been active for a couple of years now and we see results happening. More youths are interested in joining. Good work!

The Tae Kwon Do instructed by Derrick Kapuschuck was a huge success with a graduation ceremony happening last Friday for their yellow belt. At this time I would like to congratulate Derrick for his patients and commitment to the children. You are a role model that the children look up to. Hopefully this will be ongoing next fall. Congrats!

Our office is always open if you have any legal issues or have a question or concern feel free to drop by. We may not know the answer however we sure can direct you to the appropriate authorities. Mahsi Cho! Until next time keep safe.

Tracy Kassi
Enrolment/Membership Officer

Crow Flats

After spending a week in Crowflats, I came back to

work more refreshed and eager. Spending "just one week" in Crowflats was wonderful and something

that my family needed to do, in memory of our mother & grandmother. In our grieving, we realized that the cycle of teaching must continue. This is how she would want it. Crowflats is such a sacred place to be for anyone and the ideal place for healing. It is the land that heals us, as Vuntut Gwitchin, I believe. There is no other place in the world where you can feel so grounded and at peace with yourself, than on the land!

Office

For the months that I have missed my submissions to the Newsletter, I apologize. My work can get very busy and there are deadlines to meet, in particular, funding contribution agreements.

These are very important to meet to have good standing



with our funding agencies out there. So we can apply year after year.

Graduation

This Graduation year, VGFN is very proud of their eight graduates. They are: Frances Bruce, Tracy Bruce, Michael Peter, Lyle Charlie, Paul Josie, Cassandra Warville, Jessica Frost-Lindstorm and Caleigh MacArthur in Nova Scotia. Great job, students! Hope everyone had a great time at the Native Grad, on May 21. I think this may be the highest number of high school graduates we have ever seen?! Each graduate received a gift from the First Nation.

ID Cards

VGFN enrolment ID cards, well, Kia was working on this and now I have asked Tammy to look into it. Hopefully we'll be able to pick this up again. The camera to take the photos is set up in my office. Tammy does great work, so I'm sure to have something from her soon!

Spring

The spring has been great. It's my first spring in Old Crow in two years, as I have been in Crowflats during those years. Spring is my favorite season, as it is wonderful to see the trees blooming green leaves again and to hear the sounds of all the birds returning and who can-

not forget the Caribou! Massi Cho!

Summer

To everyone out there have a great summer. I am working on a proposal to hire youth with Crime Prevention Yukon and I just made the deadline! Hopefully this will go through for \$13,300.00 towards wages. Keep your fingers crossed! Also from JULY 5 to the 16th, there will be an all girls camp being held here in Old Crow. The camp will be for girls entering Grade 4 to 9 in the next school year! If you're interested, keep your eyes and ears open for posters. You can also sign up with me, that way I will have an idea for who is interested.

Mahsi



William Josie
Director of Natural Resources

Hello everyone, well I hope that every family had time to put away fresh meat for the summer.

On the morning of May 3rd, representatives from VGFN, NYRRC and Parks Canada sat down to review the Vuntut National Park Co-operation Agreement. This document is something like a work plan, it lays out a schedule and tasks for each of the partners.

On the evening of May 6th VGFN Natural Resources and Porcupine Enterprises hosted a public meeting on the Quarry Project, as called for in Porcupine's Land Use Permit. To date the slashing has been completed, and heavy equipment activities should begin on June 1st.

At 12:00 noon on May 11th I attended a meeting regarding the airport and related projects. Esau Schafer at Government Services has the details on all the related projects.

On Sunday, May 16th Chief and Council hosted a meeting and lunch with thirty Canadians from around Canada who are training to be perspective leaders.

From May 17th to May 19th, VGFN and DFO conducted a community survey/questionnaire as requested at the April 21st Salmon public meeting. The results were unanimous that Old Crow should voluntarily not fish Chum salmon in the 2004 fall fishing season. The second part to that is we accept the dog food substitution program offered by the Yukon Panel. We will work on where to buy the dog food, and a criteria and timing for distribution.

I would like to thank everyone that helped Brenda Frost at our Annual "Caribou days" on the Victoria day long weekend. Mahsi cho.

On May 26 and 27th, VGFN, NYRRC, NYPC, CWS, YTG and Ducks Unlimited hosted a Wetland Workshop to gather information on people and animal use of wetlands. At this time I would like to thank everyone who shared information with us, especially the young people who shared what they remembered from their parents and grandparents. Again thank you.

And remember if you have any questions you can reach me at (867) 966-3261 ext. 237 or wjosie@vgfn.net



Dorothy Frost
Government Services

History & Expectations

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation is self-governing and has had community involvement in management of our housing programs since the early 1980s when the Zzeh Khut Housing society managed the housing portfolio. We have built on our housing policies since that time using community input from a variety of sources including General Assemblies since 1995.

We have submitted a variety of housing-related proposals to INAC and CMHC over the past decade, including unsuccessful submissions to the New Housing Initiative in 1999 and 2000.

In the fall of 2003 we had a very productive meeting in Old Crow with INAC representatives and followed this visit with phone and email communications.

The latest round of proposal development and follow-up commu-



nications with the department has lead to successful funding arrangements that enable us to begin implementation of our work plan starting in April 2004, with the end result of greatly improved housing options for Vuntut Gwitchin people.

We acknowledge and believe that our housing proposal reflects the stated INAC principles of community control and decision-making; capacity development and self-sufficiency; shared responsibility and improving access to investment.

Our proposal reflects our intention to: protect and extend the life of existing houses and ensure housing meets minimum national standards, through maintenance, insurance and renovation programs; construct quality, affordable new housing designed to respond to the variety of housing needs within our community; support individual pride and responsibility through community involvement, home ownership incentives and private market investment; and link housing activities to training, job creation and business development.

Work Plan

Our five year work plan describes tasks around the areas of maintenance, renovations, insurance, new construction & infrastructure, housing program manage-

ment and training. It is linked to our resource plan

Increase in life expectancy of existing homes (Maintenance & Insurance)

Maintenance

The maintenance of all our community houses is covered by rental agreements that include VGFN provision of basic maintenance including winterizing, plumbing, chimney cleaning and levelling of all houses.

It is an understanding that under the home ownership program and stated in the agreement that is signed between VGFN and the homeowner that all repairs to individually-owned homes are to be the responsibility of the homeowner. Rehabilitation of existing, substandard houses

Per our work plan, we intend to upgrade washrooms in our existing units beginning in 2004-5. This funding comes from INAC's "Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Upgrades".

VGFN was successful in receiving extra surplus funding in the amount of \$176,249.00 for this phase of five new washroom add-ons. In addition to this funding, we have applied for Year Two in the amount of \$300,000.00 for eight new washroom add-ons under the Water and Waste

Water Management strategy.

We have identified that fourteen houses need to be replaced. These houses were built in the late 60's to early 70's. Of these fourteen units, four units were built at ground level. These units are not insulated and have a cellar, which increases the cold factor of the house. There are also old washrooms built in to the house having only a basic shower stalls that are 2x4 feet in length. It is in our best interest to replace these units using the existing pads for new construction.

The remaining ten units are in desperate need of major renovations and would also require the usage of existing pads for construction.

Two-to-three houses will be replaced per year, with new washroom additions included in the new housing plans.

Minor renovations: We anticipate that minor renovations such as windows will be conducted on approximately ten houses per year for five years.

Per our resource plan, funding for renovations and replacements comes from a variety of sources including the VGFN capital budget.

Reduction in overcrowding (Additions to Existing Houses & New Construction)

We have a mix of housing sizes, number of bedrooms and designs including single family units and duplexes. Our renovations and new construction plans take into account the needs of new families, single parents, single adults and large families. Apartments are not appropriate in our community.

Since our 1999 NHI proposal, community members have decided that it is in no longer in our best interest to build an Elder's multiplex, due to the nature of our Elders and their priorities, and the availability of lots located in the community. Our Elders are more comfortable living in their own homes and the ones that may require in-home care will access the Home and Community Care Program run under the Social Programs Department.

Our minor renovations plans include safety and accessibility upgrades for Elders and special needs members as required,

and in consultation with the Home and Community Care Program.

Linkages to Job Creation, Training/Skills Development and Economic/Business Development

Job Creation
Our Housing department currently employs five staff including eight general labourers. We plan to increase the number of local labourers to fifteen during the construction season for each of the next five fiscal years.

Training/Skills Development



There are about one dozen people in Old Crow who have taken some carpentry or building-related training and we intend to work closely with Yukon College to ensure that our training needs are met during the next five years.

We have provided some training to our staff in the area of Funding and Reporting but intend to provide additional training over the next five years. We also need to provide additional Supervisory and Policy/Program Administration training for our Director and Housing Manager.

Economic/Business Development

Economic development is a priority for our First Nation and we have undertaken some innovative partnerships such as our part-ownership of Air North. We intend to make sure that new construction maximizes our people's ability to take on self-employment roles (eg. by ensuring good internet access in private residences) and that new investments in larger buildings consider a range of community needs from residential to retail.

Management of Local Housing Program

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation has been involved with the design and management of our own housing programs since the 1980s. We will continue to improve the management of our housing program and increase our stock of community owned houses with the continued implementation of our Housing Policy.

The Housing Policy, like all VGFN policies, is reviewed and revised through ongoing annual General Assembly processes.

Planning and Implementation of Renovation and Construction Plans

Per our Work Plan, we will begin renovations and replacement/new house construction this year. Our Housing department has prepared estimates for initial washroom upgrade work and initial home replacement projects. Our planning priorities include: importance of local hire and local job creation, effective use of ordering and transportation opportunities to keep shipping costs as low as possible, and efficient timing to make the most of our limited construction season.

Innovation and Cost Efficiency

The resource plan includes innovative building techniques, and we have two local journeymen trained to R2000 standards and new energy efficiency models. Oil monitor heating is used to maximize efficiency, and cost-saving measures such as energy efficient windows will be used for all renovations and new construction. Specific perma-frost-related components include all houses built on wood cribbing on gravel pads, and all houses insulated underneath to prevent melting

Linkages to Infrastructure (access to basic services such as water and sewer)

The Housing Proposal is linked to our infrastructure plans for the community. Water delivery is trucked from our community well and capacity will meet planned activities. Sewage is trucked to our community lagoon and meets existing and projected capacities.

VGFN Government Services

Department proposes to develop a new sub-division under the Crow Mountain in the valley. The Physical Development Plan was

provided to INAC staff during fall 2003 meetings – additional copies can be provided on request.

We have entered into an agreement to develop this subdivision and will stock pile the gravel and build house lots with the existing gravel on hand.

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation has entered to an agreement with YTG and has secured funding to complete capital projects in Old Crow. VGFN has identified a quarry site on Crow Mountain and completed the required assessments and consultations in accordance with the Vuntut Gwitchin Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Process. The First Nation has issued a Land Use Permit for the quarry development and an access road. This will develop a long-term rock and gravel supply, which is essential for the community's infrastructure development.

VGFN pays for the labour, and equipment rental from YTG to stockpile the gravel and build housing pads. This funding comes from our annual capital budget.

Year 1- 4 Washroom Add-on projects

The New Washroom addition's project went very well considering the elements that had to be contended with. The four units were completed on schedule and the final inspection has been completed by YTG, Kevin Hewar, on April 21, 2004.

Obstacles and Solutions applied:

Frozen ground: Gravel was laid by YTG, a small loader was used to rake up the frozen ground and then thawed by a Herman Nelson fuel generated heater, then this area was dug up with an axe and shovel. The area was then leveled off for the wastewater holding tank.

Existing House designs: The project became difficult at times due to the nature of our housing designs. Please note that in Old Crow, we build our homes with the kitchen sinks and drain pipes attached to the washroom, back to back, i.e.: water and waste water pipes for the simple reason, cost per feet of pipes. This also elevates the problem of freezing pipes and cuts the cost down on the

plumbing materials and labor costs. (Note) We have electric heaters installed in our washrooms to keep the pipes from freezing and also in the wastewater holding tank, a forced air vent is also installed for extra insurance to keep the unit warm.

Obstacles: Kitchen walls, cupboards, wiring had to be removed and relocated. In some cases the electrical panel box had to be dismantled and rewired. We also had to bring in a Yukon Electric Lines Man to transfer the same line onto a newly located meter mast that was installed by an electrician. This person also had to add slack to the line on another house unit slated for new washroom addition, as this was too tight and could pose a very serious threat. The rewiring was a considerable cost to this project. It had to be done for safety reasons.

Materials: Passengers, food mail and Canada Post mail is the first priority and the Hawker the larger of the planes comes in to Old Crow three times per week. For the most part we had to rely on the materials we had in stock, this had to be replaced once the materials came in for the original houses slated for the W&S add-ons.

Electrical works: Due to the high cost of electricity, it is an understanding that the VGFN government pay this bill as we use this service.

Trades people: We originally thought we could have these people come in once during this project, however they had to travel several times. This is due to the fact that the first phase is to rough in, meaning getting all the strapping done, ceiling, horizontal strapping on the walls, patriotic, blocking, etc.



Electrical rough in, running all the wires to the junction box, electrical outlets,

Plumbing,

all the ABS pipes are set in place, traps, drain pipes, pump outs, fill in pipes, vent pipe, also tests the water lines for air leakage. Water pumps have to be examined and ensured there is no leakage.

Finishing work comprises of paneling, ceiling, molding, walls, floor, painting the mechanical room where the water holding tank is set. Base board trim inside and outside

Electrical, receptacle, template, light switches, light fixtures, hook up the hot water tank, water pump, fans, receptacle covers,

Plumbing finishing work comprises of these, toilets hook up, shower, tub, vanity, and washer, kitchen sink

We are grateful for this opportunity to have worked with the Department Of Indian Affairs and thank them very much for their assistance in this worthwhile initiative.

Briefing note on workshops, meetings with CMHC and INAC developments

Meeting with George Richardson. To recap, we talked about George visiting Old Crow and having inspections done by Kevin Hewar for both the VGFN houses, which receive CMHC assistance, and for RRAP.

We also talked about what the key things are to have in place in order to have the program working smoothly (which could lead to Additional Financial Contribution and to the longer term possibility of VGFN to apply for homes under the new S. 95 Housing Program. Key areas are:

Replacement Reserve:

This account must be fully funded. As of March 31, 2003, VGFN Housing is required to have a separate bank account for its Replacement Reserve. Lease Agreements in Tenant Files:

There must be a lease agreement for all homes signed by adult occupants and naming minors as well. These agreements should be resigned each year (usually clients use Addendums rather than having the entire Lease Agreement redone every year).

Rents Geared to Income in Tenant Files:

All tenant files for households who are not paying the maximum rents (LEM rents) must have income verification and Rent Geared to Income (RGI) calculated for them. CMHC assumes maxi-

imum rent is being charged to any household, which has not provided Income Verification on which to base their RGI calculations.

Rent Collection:

The full rent for each year should be collected before the end of the fiscal year, if the tenants are not paying, then the funds need to be secured from other sources by the VGFN leadership.

Financial Statement Reviews:

MHC records show a deficit of \$43,941, which is \$49,824 less than the \$93,765 shown by the VGFN audited statements last year. Prior to the next audit, which will be done very soon we will either by matching the CMHC figure or by letting them know where we feel their records should be adjusted.

If these key goals can be met, then George thinks VGFN would be in a good position to apply to CMHC for Additional Financial Contribution, which in turn would supply funds to assist with meeting the ongoing financial needs for the homes.

INAC, Water and Waste Water Initiative year 2

Meeting with INAC representatives Bill Johnston and Keith Butler

Discussions were based on securing future funding for the next 5 years. As per the new criteria we are to submit a 5-year capital plan to be included in our Year 2 proposal. I indicated that this was done including all relevant data related to this project. They were quite surprised and said that it was almost too easy to work with us.

Since last summer both Harold and I have worked extensively updating the file on all VGFN owned housing units and the criteria they fall under, in regards to housing conditions, these include adaptations for the new washroom additions.

Much to my surprise, Bill Johnston relayed the message that the First Nation Management Review Committee approved \$176,249.000 to purchase additional material for our Water and Sewer add-ons. This will not affect our new proposal for year 2 funding for the Water and Waste Water Initiative.

We discussed the new

proposal and reporting criteria, set out by INAC. I assured Bill Johnston that the reporting and tracking of these projects to ensure that the contribution agreements would be strictly adhered to thereby leaving no room for anything falling thru the cracks, so to speak.

Also discussed was the blue print of the washroom and sewer additions and this is one area they indicated was the key reason they've allocated us the funding for year 1 and the surplus dollars. The plan for the washroom and wastewater holding tanks are exactly what Gov't is looking for in regards to the health issues they are trying to address across Canada. This blueprint addresses the safety issue in regards to cross contamination, accessibility and maintenance.

As excited as we are to work along side of these representatives from INAC, I must say that they are also very impressed with all the hard work we are accomplishing here in Old Crow and are more then willing to work with us as apposed to working against us in this new venture.

Five year Housing Development Plan

Dan and I met in Whitehorse after attending the CMHC Technical Housing workshop held in the West Mark Hotel.

We discussed the real need to develop this plan for Chief and Council to take back to the community for approval. We are requesting additional funds to construct, renovate and replace additional housing for our community members.

We've also included in the plan an addition to the garage/shop. The development of the wood shop would see improvements to the existing structure to maximize production, develop employment opportunities and increase self-sufficiency. This would maximize our construction timeline, especially in the cold winter months; prefab house components would be constructed along with truss construction.

Included in these discussions were the



development of an in-depth Government Services and Housing data base for employees to have immediate access to the following information on all VGFN owned and community owned buildings as well as contracted work. By a stroke of a key we would be able to pull all necessary information related to a particular project or an on going maintenance plan for all housing and VGFN community owned buildings.

This database would comprise of all of our material costs, cabinets, appliances, and furniture etc. per housing unit;

Freight cost

Labor cost, who, when and where, dates, cost

Contractors, who, when and where, dates, cost

Electrical and plumbing, last date, where, what brands of parts,

Maintenance plan

Map of all buildings in Old Crow,

Survey of all structures

Structural details, including dimensions, electrical, plumbing, doors and windows

Estimated costs for, contractors and labor

Priority list of renovations in regards to health and safety

Capital Plan:

Future Housing needs

Demographics

Economic development

New subdivision

Staff housing

New construction planned

All areas would be entered and this would be updated as needed. We believe this would only benefit the department, thereby alleviating the need to look for files and back dating with Finance

Summer projects

Mosquito control

Aquabac to be applied to all standing water, puddles, drainage systems, etc..

Dust Control

We will enter into an agreement with Porcupine Enterprises, who will be already watering down the roads. Calcium will be added to the mix and applied to the roads in the late evening.

Maintenance and preventative measures for all VGFN buildings

Community Hall Needs

To be assessed by a Structural Engineer

Steps to be repaired

Stain to be reapplied

Furnace to be maintained

VGFN Administration Building,

Light sanding, then stain and paint to be re-applied

Cracks filled and staples pulled out

Furnace to be maintained

3 Staff Housing Units (trailers) needs

Furnaces maintained

Air ducts to be looked at and maintained

Leveled

Minor repairs, windows, doors etc.

Safe House needs,

Staining to be done

VGFN Housing Units needs,

Water holding tanks to be cleaned

Windows & doors to be maintained

Stairs, ramps to be repaired and/or replaced

Monitor's to be cleaned and serviced

Leveled on some units

Chimneys to be maintained

Plumbing/electrical works

Chinking, staining and painting

VGFN Shop and materials yard

Storage facilities to be built, using recycled materials as per Chief's direction.

Yard to be extended on the East side of the shop, gravel to be applied and a covered storage facility built.

All used materials will be stored centrally, thereby alleviating the need to go through other storage bays.

Complete inventory of new (old) materials, windows, etc., this list will be handed in to Barbara for pricing and kept in stock for maintenance repairs

Community members housing requests

These files are to be reviewed, decisions made and response letters written to members.

Ongoing projects

INAC Water and Waste Water management strategy.

Community members to receive wash-room add-ons as per the criteria set out by INAC;

four completed 2003

five this fiscal year additional 300K applied for, INAC is presently reviewing the application, VGFN will more than likely have to contribute some of their own funds towards this venture

Wind Monitor

Peter Frost has the contract with Yukon Energy and maintains the equipment.

Oil and gas

GS Department oversees the measurements (dipping) and ordering this supply

Oil/Gas Spills, due to the potential environmental damage that could happen, not to mention health issues related to this, the GS Department has been overseeing this area. Harold has ordered containment kits for potential spills and has been documenting accidental spills that have already occurred in Old Crow.

CMHC Internship (three year program).

We have applied for year two to sponsor the one remaining student who completed his training and also to fund one more student as the other applicant left us early in the program.

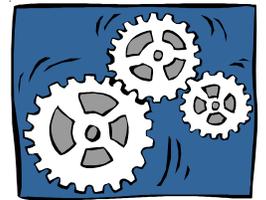
VGFN will contribute funds to top off the wages.



Summer Students

We have re-applied for funding to sponsor students who will be working on maintenance this summer. The agencies comprise of the Yukon Government, INAC and Federal Government programs. These agencies fund the bare minimum towards wages, which will mean VGFN will have to top off their wages.

The successful applicants will repair steps/ramps, railings, sand, stain/paint and chink buildings that are slated this year for minor work.



Donna Frost

Employment and Training Officer



Well, May has been a pretty busy month, trying to get ready for the summer students. There were a couple of job opportunities for this month. They were to hire a couple of people for the cleanup crew at the VGFN Shop. We hired two people for this position, to do inventory and the cleaning and organizing of the shop. It took them about a week and a half. A job well done to the two of them.

Just another reminder that summer positions are coming up for the students. We would really like to see them all em-

ployed for the summer so they have funds when they leave back to wherever their destinations are after the summer

A big CONGRADULATIONS to all the Graduates. I attended the Native Graduation on the 21st of May. It was so beautiful to see them in their native dresses and the guys in their beaded vests. So "congratulations" to Frances & Tracy Bruce, Paul Josie, Lyle Charlie, Jessica Frost-Lindstrom and Michael Peter. I was so proud to be part of your special day.

I attended a Guiding Circles Workshop on the 26 & 27 of May. It was to do with Aboriginal Employment for the youth. It showed how to encourage the youth to

pursue their dreams and goals and how to go about finding their career paths. The course covers issues of how to maintain connections to yourself, family, community, culture, natural and spiritual world. It was a very interesting Workshop, and I would strongly encourage people to take it if it ever comes your way.

Well I hope everyone enjoys the nice weather we are having up here. It is nice to be out in a boat, FINALLY. So to one and all until next month have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Love Peace & Bonegrease

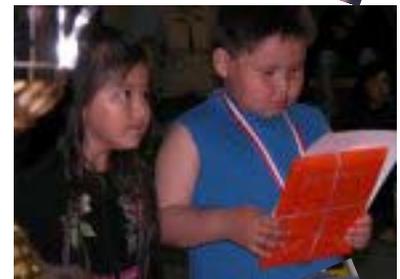




Tammy Josie
Computer Support Technician

For the month of May, IS has done Windows Upgrade on the computer work stations throughout the building. This will go on after each Newsletter has been published and distributed.

Also, Donna and I did this years Ice Pool. Winner's guess was May 17 at 8:30pm, to Tracy Kassi. Good Guess!



On Wednesday May 19, 2004 I traveled to Whitehorse to do the 2004 Native Graduation pictures for this years Graduates. The ceremonies were beautiful and even more stunning were the graduates all dressed in native wear! Very exciting to see and be able to be their for our future leaders. Tracy Bruce was awarded the Dana Naye Ventures Award, made us very proud! I took over 180 pictures that day, group shots, family pictures, friends and teachers. The ceremony was a huge success and I thank God that I had the opportunity to see our youth excel in so many ways, Mahsi!

As well, I was asked to go to Fairbanks on Tuesday May 25-27, 2004 for Sustainability of Arctic Communities Meeting at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Institution. I learned quite a bit about planning and addressing all factors of things that may be happening in the next 40 years or so! Also, I got to see the University that I have always wanted to attend, and now it's official. When I leave to school it will be UAF! I can't wait till I'm academically ready and will be pursuing a major in Information Technology.

On June 2, Cheif Zzeh Gittlet School Awards' pictures were a complete success! With an Academic Trophy given out, the All-Around Academic Student Award, was donated by Parks Canada!

