



# VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER  
of the  
VUNTUT GWITCHIN  
GOVERNMENT

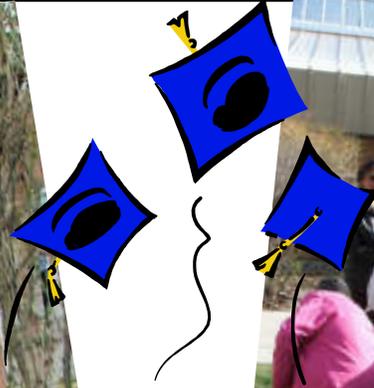
May  
"Crust on the Snow"



Gwíluu Zrú

Issue #05, Volume #04

May 2005



2005 Native  
Graduation



All Photo Credit: Tracy Rispin-Kassi

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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  
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**Kim Rumley**  
**CELA Area-II**

Good Day Everyone,

We are coming to the close of another school year for the High School Students here in Whitehorse. Most of the students will be returning home to Old Crow during the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005. They are all very excited to be coming home for the summer months and are looking forward to working and being at home.

It has been a wonderful year here in Whitehorse, getting to know all the students again and working with them and their families. Although there have been difficult days, when we all miss home and want to be there, the students continue to attend school and keep their spirits up while pursuing their educations. When you see them please take some time out to wish them congratulations on yet another successful school year out in Whitehorse. As many of you know it is not easy being away from your home, community, family, friends and culture. The students and their families make many sacrifices in the name of education, and we need to continue to support them as a community so that they can be successful.

Things have been extremely busy (as usual) since April when I was in Old Crow for the Education Fair. Upon my return from Old Crow, I immediately began working with CYFN Native Grad Committee and organizing the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Graduation Ceremony. The Native Grad was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 2pm at Yukon College. CONGRATULATIONS goes out to our grads, Gordon Frost, Chandel Frost, Myranda Tizya-Charlie, Dale Kakfwi and Joey Clements. I would like to thank the families for taking time off work and coming out to Whitehorse to



support their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Many families worked hard on completing Traditional Regalia for the students, they all looked so wonderful and proud on their big day. Our students marched into that gymnasium as proud young Aboriginal youth carry the Gwitchin Nation flag. It was an incredible day and enjoyed by all. Thank you to Chief Joe Linklater for being there to present our youth with their diplomas and also to my Director, Tracy Rispin-Kassi, for being present to take photos.

For those of you who did not know, Dale Kakfwi was one of the Valedictorians. Dale gave an incredible speech filled with emotion and advice for his fellow schoolmates. Dale received two standing ovations, and paid a very moving tribute to his brother and thanked his mother for supporting him in not only his educational journey but on his pathway through life. Dale is an excellent role model for our youth; I would like to congratulate him on his dedication to his dreams, his sobriety and being true to himself. It has been a pleasure working with you Dale and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Myranda Tizya-Charlie received the F.H. Collins award for First Nations Athlete of the year. Myranda is also an incredible young woman, who continues to be an excellent role model to our youth. She does so much for the community, and is very strong in her culture and traditions. Way to go Myranda!

To all the grads: we wish you all much success and hope you continue on your educational journey. Good Luck.

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the students and I will be canoeing down the Yukon River on a day trip. The fund-



ing for this trip was secured through Crime Prevention Yukon. We have two volunteers accompanying us; one of the staff from the Gadzoosdaa Student Residence, and one community volunteer. We will put our canoes in at The Yukon River Bridge and paddle down to Schwatka Lake. This should take about 6 hours in total.

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 is the last day of classes prior to exams starting. We have rented the Takhini Hot Springs for a year-end barbeque where we will eat, swim, horse-back ride and just generally celebrate a successful year. If anyone will be in Whitehorse during this time, please feel free to come out and join us!

Exams run from June 15<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This is always a stressful and tiring time, so please encourage your child to get lots of rest, eat well and stay positive.

School resumes in Whitehorse, on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, and students will fly out of Old Crow on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. If your child needs accommodations, and is not registered for the dorm please contact myself before June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Well, everyone have a great summer, this will be my last submission until August. I will see you all in August as the boys and I will be up for the General Assembly and to spend some time out on the land during the month. It was great to be in Old Crow, and spend time with friends and family. Take Care all, and have a safe and happy summer. Until next time...

**Mabel Tetlich**  
**CELC Area-1**



Happy Spring Everyone.

At Chief Zzeh Gittlit School; various sessions, activities, workshops and personal development had taken place this month.

The highlight of this month was the H.E.E.D course the week of May 16 – 20, 2005. The rate was a success, 66% of students participated and are working towards the bison hunt in March 2006.

A Recycling workshop with the community steward, Jennifer Smith, was held on May 26 in the afternoon with miss. Joe and Mrs. Hume's classes. Miss Myles' class theme for the month of May was bears. Thank you to the community members, Darius Elias, Brenda Frost and Lance Nukon from Parks for coming in and sharing information on bears. Also

to Roger Kaye, VGFN Deputy Chief for the stories he shared. A big thank you to all parents for your help and support with the kindergarten activities.

Miss Joe's class studied Yukon history on the Klondike gold rush and also traveled to Dawson to visit the gold mining places. Earlier in the spring the grades 4 & 5 students dug for bugs under ponds of ice and found all kinds of invertebrates/insects. According to the students, Miss Joe ran out of her class screaming, insisting that there will be no more bug science in her class. The grades 6 – 9 students in Mrs. Montgomery and Mr. Kendi Gwitchin class completed an altar set for the church.

June 9, 2005 – There will be no school in the afternoon due to awards night. This will take place @ 4:30 pm.

June 14, 2005 – A picnic for the community and C.Z.G students, the picnic will

start at 10:00am to 12:00pm. Parents are encouraged to pick up report cards at this time. Students will be dismissed for the summer holidays.

Mrs. Tetlich and Mr. Slade traveled to Whitehorse with six students from the grades 4 & 5 class. Kenneth, Jamie, Taraz and Briana attended a Historic Fair that was well received by the people who were there. Kenneth Tetlich's display was chosen to attend the National Historic Fair in Saskatoon. Congratulations Kenneth.

The Reading Recovery is again a success this year. This is to help improve reading methods in the school.

A farewell goes out to the teachers, Miss Joe, Miss Myles and Mr. Slade, who will be leaving our community after the school year is over.

School will begin next fall on August 30, 2005. Mahsi Cho

**Donna Frost**  
**Employment and Training Officer**

It has been a busy month, once again. I was away from the 2-6<sup>th</sup> of May for surgery on my knee. All went well and I took a couple extra days off to fully re-cooperate, but it feels better than it did.

I was supposed to attend the ETO Meeting in Whitehorse at the same time as the Administrative Training. I decided to attend the Administrative Training at the Sundog Retreat and Tracy Kassi attended the ETO Meetings for me. The Sundog Retreat is located about 25 minutes outside of Whitehorse, and is operated by Heather Finton. I truly enjoyed the training. It taught me how to handle conflict in the workplace and how to handle some situations professionally. I am glad that I went to the training rather than the ETO meetings. I learned a great deal about professionalism and different ways to deal with workplace conflicts and harassments.

They also had Team Building skills, personal empowerment, minute taking and so much more. They have three cabins around the meeting place and that was where we stayed. The cabin had everything, it was

nice, cozy and quiet. Ida, Brenda and I even went horseback riding. It was great. I haven't been on a horse in about four years, but I still remembered how. I had so much fun and I would do it again in a heartbeat. The cooking was absolutely amazing, we had everything you could think of.

I left the training on Thursday night and attended the Cap and Gown at F.H.



Collins, they all looked so grown up. I bumped into everybody else, it was good to see some old faces again. I returned to Old Crow on Friday, it was sure good to be home again.

For the first time I went way up Crow River. It was a long way up and I enjoyed

the trip. I didn't want to come back down late Sunday. It was the first time I had seen so many species of ducks, I didn't know there were that many. I even shot my first black duck. It was almost like Rambo, I ended up having a big bruise on my arm from the shotgun. I had so much fun and I would love to go back up, hopefully very soon.

Phillip and I are attending his cousin Kim McLeod's wedding this weekend, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Can't wait to meet everyone over there, it will be an interesting weekend.

I wanted to wish a very Happy Birthday to a few people for the month of June:

- Verna Nukon – June 3 – Have a blast!!!!!!**
- Edna Kaye – June 5 – Hope you enjoy yourself girl, you deserve it.**
- Lisa Linklater – June 6 – Happy 19<sup>th</sup> Lisa, hope you have a blast.**
- Auntie Louise Frost – June 11**
- Uncle Dennis Frost – June 12**
- Ashlynn Frost – June 15**
- David & Dakota Frost-Liddle – June 22 – Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday**
- Douglas Frost & Malinda Bruce- June 23 – Hope the 2 of you have the best day ever!!!**
- Robert Kaye – June 25**

So to one and all have a good summer and talk to you next month.

**Tracy Rispin-Kassi**  
**Director, Education**

Hello everyone. I apologize for not submitting my newsletter reports on a monthly basis. When traveling, work tends to grow into piles on my desk.

Bob Sharp arrived last month as part of his contract with the Education Working Group to do community interviews and go into the school. His trips have been very successful and I would like to thank the community for providing him with important feedback regarding Education in Old Crow.

Mr. Sharp and Tina Jules are looking at the 1999 Strategic Plan and looking at ways of implementing what Old Crow members want to see in Education. One thing that they are looking at is collecting credits while at the Crowflat Cultural Camps, as well with other field trips the school does. Presently, our students are marked absent from school when attending the Crowflat cultural camp. In our eyes this is not right, as the children are gaining important skills on survival. Mr. Sharp is well aware of this, as he was once a teacher here in Old Crow. I'm sure a lot of you are having a few chuckles with him while he's here. His next trip to Old Crow will be on June 8<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup>.

On May 18<sup>th</sup> I had the privilege of attending the 30<sup>th</sup> Native Grad ceremonies in Whitehorse, on May 20<sup>th</sup>. I arrived a day early but made up my time by meeting with Kim Rumley, our CELC Area II worker, and helping decorate the Yukon College gym for the grad ceremonies. I was also appointed by the VGFN IS department to be the photographer for the 2005 Grad. The ceremony started at 2pm and ended at 7 pm. All of the 14 First Nations Chiefs were in attendance, as well the many, many friends and relatives of the 77 Native graduates! Our graduates from Old Crow, of course, looked very proud as they walked into the gymnasium. Myranda looked beautiful in her beaded moose hide dress and her hair done up by Natasha. Gordon wore a unique skin and seal skin vest with his mother's clan logo on his back. Chandel wore a beautiful white skin dress with a velvet-beaded bid. Also, both Dale and Joey looked very

dashing in their beaded vests that their mothers made.

I would like to commend graduate Dale Kakfwi for making such a powerful speech at the ceremony. This young man received 3 standing ovations from the crowd. Presently, we are trying to have Dale send a copy of this speech to us so that we may have it on the website. Tammy just updated the photos on the Main page of oldcrow.ca with the graduation photos. By the time I finished taking the photos there must have been 150!

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, I was out in Whitehorse again to attend an Employment & Training Officer meeting. Donna was away attending the First Nation Administration training at Sundog, so I represented on her behalf and it was a good choice for both of us. I learned a lot about the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement that VGFN holds as a sub-agreement from CYFN. This was a two-day meeting and on day one, there were presentations from the Unemployment Insurance people. Information I gathered from this presentation, is that I found out that VGFN can submit your Record Of Employment forms online, you don't have to wait for the paper form. This means that you don't have to wait for your ROE from VGFN anymore but apply immediately for EI benefits. If EI hasn't received your ROE by the time they receive your application for benefits, THEY will call VGFN for your ROE!

I still have my file from this meeting to process yet upon my return, but it's been busy due to catching up on paperwork during my absence. Since my arrival I have been involved with Budget review meetings with the other Directors of VGFN and members of Council. Our budgets are very tight this year and will have to be monitored very carefully. This also applies to the Post Secondary funding we received for this school year. Deadline for applications is on June 15<sup>th</sup> and these can be picked up at the office from Donna or downloaded from oldcrow.ca in a PDF file.

**Good luck to all our students for the next upcoming year and congratulations to all our graduates. A job well**

**done, graduates!**

In closing, I hope everyone's freezers are full with the abundance of traditional foods for the summer. Summer, I'm sure is around the corner, don't give up hope! It's good to see Cheryl Itsi-Charlie back at work and diving into Recreational planning for the community! Looking forward to attending all the community events planned.

Please drop by or call for any information regarding Training and Education from Donna or myself.

**Massi Cho** to Mabel, Kim, Donna, Meagan, Vaughn & Jimmy for running effective jobs within VGFN Education Department. It takes enormous dedication from this staff to assist our children in achieving their education and dreams. Massi Cho! Good luck to Vaughn Slate as he leaves his position of Homework Tutor for 2004/05. Thank you Vaughn for all your assistance in this program.

I'd just like to wish my mother a very Happy Birthday for June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Love you always, your daughter!



**Mary Jane Moses**  
*Heritage Researcher*

I attended a Community Access Program [CAP] meeting in Whitehorse. The first part of the week I was asked to present and screen “Imprints of Our Ancestors, parts 1 & 2” to CAP site staff. I thank Alistair Smith and Amanda Leslie for the invitation. It was very interesting to learn about this computer accessibility program for Yukon communities.

The second week of May and throughout the month, I have been busy with editing and indexing transcripts from the Cultural Geography Project from last summer. This is an ongoing process and an important step in the documenting process of the oral history stories into our database.

One of my many tasks in my job description is to assist media people arriving in Old Crow. A newspaper reporter arrived from the Chicago Tribune, so I contacted people for possible interviews prior to his visit and provided liaison services while he was here.

I’m busy with many different tasks on a daily basis, from scanning photo images, to researching questions for the oral history book, transcribing, inserting counter numbers, indexing, and editing Gwich’in language words for the calendar with the help and guidance of Brenda Kay and Jane Montgomery. This is a time consuming process to ensure everything is in order. Mahsi for your help and patience!

During the third week of May, I at-

tended an open house at the community hall put on by the North Yukon Land Use Planning Commission. The VGFN Heritage Department played an important role and will continue to do so in documenting the cultural land use information for this process.

I received a phone call from Ottawa on May 16 from the Canada Council for



the Arts, where we had received our film funding to produce “Imprints of Our Ancestors.” The representative from CCA wanted either Tracy Kassi or myself to be a representative and to sit on a Peer Committee to represent the Yukon. This means going to Ottawa around June 23rd along with other Peer Committee representatives who are film producers and other artists in various arts fields. This Peer Committee would come together, go over all the applications that came in around the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline and do the selection process of who gets the

arts grants for their projects throughout Canada. Again, this is another huge honor for us to represent the Yukon region. Safe journeys to Tracy Kassi as she makes her way to Ottawa in late June.

I had an information booth set up at the community hall during the caribou lobby information days about the Heritage Department. It was great to see all other community Departments there with important information for community people to see and read about. There were excellent information booths set up by all.

I’d like to welcome Melissa Frost to the VGFN Heritage Department for the summer months. She’s a post secondary First Nations/Film Studies student and she will be helping us out a lot in the edit suite and Heritage Department. Welcome aboard!

It was another beautiful spring in Old Crow. I’m happy for the many people who had the opportunity to spend time on the land. The people who spent time on the land from Crow Point right up to Blue Bluff, and also in Crow Flats, good for you, I’m happy you all had the opportunity of being on the land at this wonderful time of year, taking in nature and all its wonders. I’m sure you all have many stories to share.

It was so great to see the caribou and eat good again. I’m very grateful for the resources in the lives of the Vuntut Gwitchin. Mahsi Cho! Safe travels, happy camping, fishing and berry picking to everyone for the summer. Don’t let the ‘mosquitoes’ prevent you from doing all the fun stuff. Stay safe and wear life jackets when out boating.

**Erika Tizya-Tramm**  
*Natural Resources Assistant*

Greetings everyone! I am looking forward to an exciting, eventful summer at VGFN as the Natural Resources Assistant.

My first project in this position involved a subject I am very committed to and that is looking at how humans impact the environment and how that impact can be lessened. Jennifer Smith, the Community

Steward, and I went into the school to talk to the youth about the effects of littering, the methods of waste reduction and the significance of climate change. I feel this discussion went well, and the youth were very receptive; however, in order for waste reduction to become a reality entrenched in the youth, support at the community level is crucial. This means parents starting a recycling box at home, teachers teaching the youth about the environment, adults setting examples in the community and the First Nation

starting a collection program. Together this initiates a shift in attitude about how we treat our home, Old Crow.

Aside from this issue, I am eager to tackle the other projects the NR Department has planned for me this summer.

Cheers!





## RECYCLING INFORMATION & UPDATE



Greetings everyone,

Thank you for patiently waiting while recycling gets established in Old Crow. Here is some information on what has been done and what will be done:

- **Community pick-up will occur monthly**, and the first spring pick-up is underway.
- The small shed next to the Youth Centre has been cleaned up – feel free to drop off recyclables there anytime
- Garbage containers will soon be set up around town to combat litter issues
- A new recycling depot will be set-up behind the college
- What is Recyclable?
  - ✓ **Hard Plastic Containers:** marked  to  plastics mixed (no need to sort); however,
    - ✗ no Styrofoam
    - ✗ no motor oil containers
    - ✗ no plastic bags (use canvas bags!) or wrappers
    - ✗ no milk jugs (under this category only)
  - ✓ **Plastic Milk Jugs:** marked . Please rinse and flatten  
HDPE
  - ✓ **Tin Cans:** Rinse and remove labels
  - ✓ **Glass Jars:** Rinse and remove labels
  - ✓ **Tetra Paks:** Rinse and flatten
  - ✓ **Waxed Milk Cartons:** Rinse and flatten
- Remember, what is not recyclable should be reused. If items are not reusable, try to reduce such items.

Let's all support the health of our community and the environment by taking these small steps to reduce waste levels.

### Barb Callihoo Government Services

There has been staff changeover in GS which is keeping us very busy in here.

I have been assisting GS for about 3 months. Tracy Bruce took time off and Brenda is filling in for her. Tracy will also be leaving GS in a couple months to return to school. Douglas Charlie is the temporary Building Project Manager. Lawrence Lord is looking after our building materials inventory. And Alvie Josie has taken Lawrence's old position as fuel tank attendant.

Just a reminder to the people in Old Crow that a fuel slip receipt has to be purchased at the Northern Store in order to get fuel at the tanks. And also that no person will get fuel at the tanks without a fuel slip.

There is a Housing Symposium scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Community Hall. We will post this as the date gets nearer.

A reminder to all that to use a VGG purchase order the freight has to be paid upfront and also make the request to Finance.

The Community Hall is scheduled for repairs June 9 to 11 and is not available at that time.



**There is a Housing Symposium scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Community Hall.**

**Melissa Valja**  
**Natural Resource Planner**

**Sheep Meeting**

I want to announce that NR will host a dinner on June 8. (Dinner is at 5:30 and Meeting is at 6pm). **We'd like to invite the elders and anyone concerned with the Dall Sheep in the North Richardsons to get community direction on a management plan.** The Natural Resources Director, William Josie and I will be meeting with other plan partners in Dawson on June 14<sup>th</sup> to start the planning process.

**STEP Student**

Erika Tizya-Tramm has been hired as the Natural Resources Assistant. She started May 20<sup>th</sup> and is set to have a full summer with the Natural Resources Department. I've directed her to focus on

**Megan Williams**  
**Heritage Manager**

**Vuntut Gwich'in Cultural Geography Project**

Planning continues for the summer's research and educational activities. Our helicopter time will be during the second week of July. Training and coordination will take place the two weeks prior to the helicopter's arrival. Focus areas this year will be place name verification and visiting the locations we missed last year due to the reduced visibility during the forest fires.

**Visitor Reception Centre**

The funding and workplan for the VRC exhibits are being developed. The architect and project manager for the building will be in Old Crow on June 8<sup>th</sup> to review the building design. Details for the exhibit contracts are currently being worked out and we hope to have the contracts running later in June.

**Yukon First Nations Heritage Group**

The Yukon First Nations Heritage Group (YFNHG) will be administered by VGG this fiscal year. The office in Whitehorse has been set up at CYFN and is staffed by Executive Director Alison Blackduck. Our next quarterly

working with youth and environmental activities. She will also learn about planning processes, as well as experience some of the activities Heritage has planned.

**Ni'iinlii'Njik Committee Meeting**

We met on May 12<sup>th</sup> in Whitehorse and discussed 2005 operation plans, reviewed the park permit applications, among some other topics.

**North Yukon Planning Commission (NYPC)**

An open house was held in Old Crow on May 16<sup>th</sup> with the NYPC. All the information that has been collected up to date was presented on posters, and Shawn Francis gave a short presentation at the community dinner. Not many people attended, which is unfortunate because this open house signals the end of the information collection stage. However, you can tell that many people have

meeting will be in the fall. The quarterly meeting in May was preceded by a Chapter 13 training session called "Building Bridges" with other government agencies and individuals in the heritage field.

**Rampart House**

This summer the reconstruction work at Rampart House will continue. We will be hiring log workers for 30 days in July



and August. There is also a training opportunity at Fort Selkirk for one or two of the more experienced log workers who have worked at Rampart House. The training will be an opportunity to prac-

worked very hard, including people from Old Crow in order to help make this a successful planning exercise. We give Shawn many congratulations on his dedication and hard work!

**Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC)**

The PWPC came to Old Crow on May 26<sup>th</sup> and held an Issues and Interest Session. The commission wanted to learn what people in Old Crow had to say about the Peel Watershed. If you are interested please see me for forms, as they are still accepting submissions. William and I will attend the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting in Dawson on June 16-17. All the technical people will prioritize the planning issues based on each community's response to their issues and interests sessions.

Thank you and take care.

tice restoration log working skills at another historic site on the Yukon River.

**Researchers**

We have a complete list of researchers planning to do field work in the traditional territory this summer. Of special note are the archaeologist Ray LeBlanc, palaeontologist Paul Matheus and geologist Duane Froese.

**Media**

With the recent vote in the US this has been a busy season for the media in Old Crow. We can anticipate visits from a German film crew during the Salmon Gathering, The Nature of Things later in June and possibly a French film crew. If you have any questions or concerns about the media in Old Crow please see Mary Jane Moses or myself.

**Summer Students**

We would like to welcome Melissa Matheson to the Heritage Office. Melissa will be working as the

Heritage Assistant for the summer. Melissa has completed her third year of First Nations Studies at Malaspina University-College in Nanimo. She will be assisting with most of the heritage projects this summer.

**Susan Drury**  
**Acting Director, Human Resources**

May has been a month of meeting folks who have returned to Old Crow for the spring and summer or talking to those who are planning to return for the summer. I've enjoyed meeting these folks and feeling the increase of energy in the community.

Seasonal carpentry work and community clean up has generated more short-term hiring, and HR is still gathering names of carpenter helpers and labourers. If interested contact HR to leave your name and a resume if possible.



**Esau Schafer**  
**Councilor**

Good day to all, I hope everyone is doing good and I hope you are all settled in for the spring. Spring time is a very busy time for us all, most of all is the enjoyment of the change in weather.

As you are all aware, each dept. is busy on year budgets and the priorities of our community. Summer is here and the community clean-up has started around the community and along the river banks.

The Department of Government Services and Housing are doing their best in serving you all. There are projects under way and we hope to get a few more going as business progresses.

One of the important issues is that we are working on is the Housing Policy and we will have it ready for this year's General Assembly. The employees in GS are working very hard to meet their goals this year.

We had our symposium beginning of the new year and we really had a good discussion with the community. Now we're looking at a Housing Gathering for June 23 /05 in the Community Hall. At this time we will be giving out reports on the progress of all projects.

I wish you all a safe summer and lots of fun with your family and friends out on the land.

The new Lands Manager was finalized, and Sonja Foss, a recent grad of the Renewable Resources Program at Yukon College, will be moving to Old Crow in late June. Douglas Charlie was hired for the short term Building Project Manager position. The Operations Officer position in GS wasn't filled thus will be reposted in late June. Kayne Geddes is the on-call Community Van Driver. Interviews for the Receptionist position will take place in early June. Recruitment for the Community Wellness Counsellor is still underway as we review the interviews we had with two candidates.

Summer student employment posi-

tions are now being filled. Pick up the job details at the VGG main reception desk, or check the Old Crow website. Students born in 1990 or before are eligible.

The HR office receives numerous job postings from other employers, and we file them in binders that can be found on the counter outside the HR office. Positions that are in Old Crow or that are asking for Vuntut Gwitchin citizens are posted around the community.

I invite you to drop by the office to look at our binders and the bulletin board, or chat with me about employment opportunities in Old Crow.



**VGFN Health & Social Staff**  
**Health & Social Symposium**

The symposium is to give us (HS) a chance to hear from Community members on Justice, Home & Community Care, Elders Care, Alcohol & Drug – Land Base Treatment Program, and Social Assistance Programs.

At the Symposium we have reviewed great feedback for future direction and implementation. There will be a follow up forum and series of smaller workshops to address these important issues. A draft report will be reviewed with community at the follow up forum next month.



**William Josie**  
**Director, Natural Resources**

On the evening of April 4, 2005 the Porcupine River Working Group and the Yukon Salmon Committee hosted a public meeting on the Porcupine River Integrated Fishery Management Plan. We gave a postseason report on the 2004 season, and a pre season report on the 2005 fishing season. The bottom line is that we will be fishing for chum this fall. Also I would like to remind you of the Salmon Gathering we are hosting this weekend June 4-6 with Fort Yukon. It will be good to see our relatives from Fort Yukon.

During the week of April 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>, everyone in our government participated in 'Budget Training', how to develop and monitor a budget. This initiative is to further build capacity in our government.

On the evening of April 7<sup>th</sup> the Natural Resources Department and Porcupine Enterprises held a public update meeting on the Crow Mountain Quarry to report on last year's activities, and also plans for the up coming season. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call. Robert Kaye and his crew are doing really good on the reclamation work around the quarry.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005, our 'North Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management

Plan' expired, so, on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, my department, the NYRRC, and YTG's Environment Department met via conference call to update the Plan for another five years. The final document should be out soon.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, I participated on a panel discussion on climate change at Igaluit, Nunavut. The Inuit are looking for support across the Arctic to bring awareness about climate change.

We have a new Community Steward in town, and I'm sure most of you met her already, her name is Jennifer Smith. So please join me in welcoming Jennifer to Old Crow.

On the evening of May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council hosted an open house to gather information on waste site on our traditional territory. If you know of any waste site in our traditional territory, please come in, and I will add it to our map for documentation.

On the evening of May 12<sup>th</sup>, along with YTG's Parks, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Vuntut Development Corporation, North Yukon Renewable Resources Council and Phil Timpany, we held our second Nii'inlii' Njik Management Committee meeting in Whitehorse. The Committee went over

the Bear Risk Management Plan, Wildlife Viewing Plan, and the Monitoring Plan.

During the afternoon of May 16 the North Yukon Planning Council held an open house in Old Crow to update residents on the resource assessment work they've been gathering for the past year.

Amy Leach from Ducks Unlimited just left our community, she just completed a waterfowl survey from Whitestone River to the Alaskan Border. I have results to last year's survey at my office.

The 'Muskrat Push-Up survey' that Dorothy Cooley was planning for the week of May 16<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled because of unexpected warm weather. All the muskrat push ups fell in and so could not be counted. We will try again next year.

The Peel Watershed Planning Commission held its first public consultation session in Old Crow on May 26<sup>th</sup>. We should have their draft issues paper by late summer.

At this time I would like to thank Renee Frost, Brenda Frost, and all the volunteers that help them at this year's annual 'Big Caribou Days'. A job well done, and thank you.

Also it's good to see the recycling team up and going again, good work. With that, I wish you a happy and safe summer.

**April Myles**  
**CZGS Teacher**

Dear Parents

Thank you for the welcome you have extended to me this year. I want you to know that I enjoyed my year in Old Crow, getting to know you, your children, and your culture. This was a big change for me this year and I learned a lot. It was quite educational for me to come here and my mind has grown as a result of my time in your community.

Please read to your child each day, and talk with him/her. Listen to your child and hear what she/he is saying. Your kids are so precious, and they will only be little like this once. This is the age to help them build behaviors, attitudes, and habits that will foster life-long learning.



**Cheryl Itsi-Charlie**  
**Recreation Coordinator**

It's been a few weeks since I began working as the recreation coordinator and I am keeping busy. I called VGFN about a month before I finished school to inquire about any job openings and that I would be interested in helping wherever I could. I specifically was interested in recreation and when I found out that I would be working in this department, I was quite thrilled. For some reason coordinating events seems to be an area of interest. I will be working in this position until May 31<sup>st</sup> and then back to Human Resource as Susan will be on holidays. The plan is to have me coordinates events for the summer months. So far it's been quite busy. Below are some projects that have started:

Women's Sewing Class-Mondays 7-9pm @ Youth Centre

Educational Computer Classes-Ages 5-10-Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:30-5:30 @ AFCC

Floor Hockey-Men's-Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8-10pm @CZGS

We submitted a proposal to Crime Prevention to hire again this year 1 coordinator, 1 youth leader and 5 youth trainees to work in recreation. Will Jones has been hired to take Gord Kurzinski's place, that is a bonus for us because Will lived here before and knows Old Crow.

We are also putting together a number of pictures of people in Old Crow that depict the Vuntut Gwitchin culture. These pictures will be pulled together to make a mural for the backdrop of the stage at the community hall. It will be unveiled for National Aboriginal Day, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004. Thank you to all the participants for their contribution to this worthwhile project.

**Projects that are in the discussion & planning stages:**

·Pick & Process Traditional Medicines

·Rhubarb Picking & cooking  
 ·Art/Mural Project for Youth Centre

- Fishing w/rod
  - Canoe Lessons & Trip
  - Hiking
  - Berry picking & baking
  - Baseball
  - Soccer
  - Volleyball
  - Ball Hockey
  - Kite Flying
  - Youth Cultural Summer Camp
  - Fitness Centre
- Library with Mellissa Valja @ the school

Art with Megan Garrett @ the school  
 Basketball with Susan Drury & Mellissa Valja @ the school

Tak Won Do with Derek Kapuschak @ the school

Drumming with Jayne Taylor @ the safehouse

Gardening with Pat Arey @ the health centre

On June 24-27<sup>th</sup>, the recreation department is organizing a huge community baseball tournament. We have ordered equipment for this event, which will stay in the community for your use. The baseball field will be renovated; we have 3 guys that will be repairing the bleachers, dug-outs, canteen, and playground. We cur-



rently have 7 teams registered. Thank you to everyone that agreed to put his or her name forward to go out there and make this a fun event. We have a number of organizations that have agreed to sponsor a team and provide hats for each participant. A BBQ and dance will be organized throughout the weekend. Childcare supervision at the playground will be provided for any parents that would like to play. Participation prizes for everyone that plays. Canteen will be open in case you get the munchies. For anyone that is unable to take part please come out and cheer on the players.

A calendar has been put together of activities that are taking place monthly, please check out this calendar at the front doors of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation office.

Our focus in recreation is to use the resources that we have in the community and on our land. So if there is anyway that you can help with recreation please call me at the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation office, 966-3261.

Mussi Cho to everyone that offered their services to recreation. Your contribution to the community is valued. Thanks to everyone that took the time to offer suggestions.

Watch the signs for updates & events!

