



VGEN NEWS

NEWSLETTER
of the
VUNTUT GWITCHIN
GOVERNMENT



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August 2004



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

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

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Education

With the school year starting, the Education Working Group will soon start meeting on issues surrounding education in our community. The Education Working Group members are from VG Government and Department of Education.

The working group held a two-day meeting in Old Crow to update the 1999 Old Crow School strategic plan. The meeting was held May 27 & 28, 2004 here in the Sarah Abel Chitze Building. The Department of Education brought in the author of the 1999 strategic plan to facilitate the process of updating the plan

for 2004. We discussed all issues and laid out a plan of action for this school year because of new staff coming to Old Crow. This will give the new staff an opportunity to provide their comments on how we all can implement the plan.

The working document, for the 1999 strategic plan is in my office. If you would like a copy please drop by and I can copy one for you. Your comments are important for the future of our children.

The working group understands that we will have to make small changes as we go forward with education in Old Crow. However, it will be the priority for VG Government and Department of Education to follow through in resolving the issues.

Back to school

Well, it's that time again for another season of school. Wishing all the best to our students attending school in Whitehorse and else where, best of luck.. At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to say **Mahsi Cho** to all the summer students, it has been nice working with all of you. The experience that you learned from your positions will help you in all your future endeavors, good luck to all and see you at Christmas!.

If you require any information or have a concern on education, please contract Tracy Kassi (ext. 255) or myself, Roger Kyikavichik (ext. 230) @ (867) 966-3261.

I hope everyone had a enjoyable summer, and good luck to all for the fall hunt.

Donna Frost
Employment and Training Officer

Drin Gwiinzii

Well, this month in the Human Resources Department, it has been very hectic. Since Cheryl's departure from the office, to further her education in the Human Resource

Field, I have been very busy. Best of luck to her in her training. I now know how important this position is here at the Sarah Abel Chitze Building. Strong

Mahsi for everything you have taught me. It sure has helped me out with my position.

We had a great summer with students working for most departments. There were a few who did not receive employment, however we tried to do the best we could. There were several students working in Government Services on houses and also the Administration building. Our Community shows the excellent job that they have done and it is noticeable. Everyone of the students has done a great job this summer. I would sincerely like to thank the students for the awesome work they have done.

As of today there are several different positions posted for job opportunities.

We encourage our First Nation people residing in Old Crow to apply for these opportunities. There are always new options for anyone and everyone. I would strongly encourage you to apply for a position. Never be afraid to further your employment skills.

Winter is slowly approaching; the best

**“Life is what you make it,
And nowhere is it written
That there are limits to
What we can achieve as
FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE”!!**

of luck to all the students who are returning to FH Collins and the ones who are there for their first time. Each day of your life

is a new beginning..... take your life as a precious gift from the CREATOR and build a better future HERE AND NOW! It takes courage to follow your dreams. Never give in. Never give up. Also to the students going back to college, the best of luck in your future accomplishments.

So with that I hope everyone a safe and enjoyable fall harvest, and to Rachael Blake, Happy Birthday to you and I wish you Love, Peace and Bonegrease!

To Kecia, April and Tyrell thank you so much for the awesome weekend. I had so much fun and haven't laughed so much in a long time. Danny and Tracy I would be more than happy to do this again for you.



RESPECT
*IT MUST COME FROM WITHIN
IT IS NOT TO BE DEMANDED,
IT IS TO BE EARNED
AND GIVEN
FREELY FROM THE
GOODNESS
OF YOUR HEART*

Esau Schafer
Councilor

Hello to all, it is that time again to keep intouch with you. July 20th 2004, I was asked to go down to Ft. Yukon AK. to observe the Natural Resources of Ft Yukon Tribal Council. This was a great opportunity to start a relationship amongst each other on communication with the fishing issues; to start working together and having meetings, etc. All the travel was paid for by the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

The concern of fall chum fishing on the Yukon River is not helping us in our conservation efforts. We are trying to preserve the salmon stock by volunteering to not fish. During my visit to Ft. Yukon, I went to fish camps along the Yukon river. Most of the fishing activity was done on the south side on the main channel. On the north side from the Porcupine river down the Yukon river there

were no fishing nets or fish wheels. Looking along the river bank, there was no camp sites from past years. This tells me Gwich'in people of Ft. Yukon are not doing any fishing within the area of the Porcupine river. There was only one person, not far from the border who still had his nets in. The YR DFA has talked with him in Fairbanks and told him what Old Crow was doing on a volunteer bases, of not fishing. What they told me was he was very understanding of the point and will do what he can, in respect of our decisions. For my visit, we have made positive grounds for communication.

As most of you are aware, we as leaders were very busy getting ready for our annual General Assembly at Tlo-Kut. There was a good turn out, lots of good reports and feedback from the community. This shows good support. I will continue to do the best of my ability in this position for you.

The community Hall is in the planning

stage of where we can fine some funding under the Community Development Program.

The Fuel Tank farm is still under discussion on the location. I hope this will fall into play very soon, and I will be informing you as things progress.

In regards to the fire alarm pull station in the ski lodge area, I have talk to the Fire Marshal in Whitehorse explaining to them about the resolution put forward at Tlo-Kut on the safety issues. They will get back to me in dealing with this matter.

Now that school has started I hope that all the young students had a great summer even though they were kept busy working in and around the community. I wish you all a great year of schooling in Whitehorse, also the children going to school here in Old Crow.

Until next time, God Bless.



*SET NO LIMITS TO YOUR GOALS.....
PURSUE THEM WITH THE
ENDLESS SPIRIT OF
DETERMINATION AND COURAGE*



Tracy Marie Bruce
Administrative Assistant

Hello to everyone;

On August 10th I went to Whitehorse to take a course at Dana Naye Ventures. The training I went through was Microsoft Excel Level 1, working with Spreadsheets. I enjoyed the course and learned a lot from it. I will also be heading out on September 12, 2004 for another week of training at Dana Naye Ventures. This course is Level 11 of Microsoft Excel. I hope to learn a lot from these courses, so it can help me with the position I have here at the Sarah Abel Chitze Building.

I have been helping around

the office with filing, letter writing, and computer entries such as, Spreadsheets. I have been

doing a lot of document copying and work related administration on the my workstation. At times, I sit at the front for the receptionist when she is on her

building and am looking forward to the rest of the year.

While in Whitehorse I saw Barbara. I just like to say good luck while attending college in Victoria, B.C. Hope you have a good year in school. Also to all the summer students! Going to miss you all so much when you go back to Whitehorse, I won't be there on the plane with you but I hope you all have a nice school year and see you back during Christmas. It was very nice working along side you! Keep in touch! As for Frances, Sandra and Cheyenne down in Lethbridge, Alberta, its good to know that you're all doing great



break or when she goes for mail. Its been a busy summer for me, but am enjoying my position here in the administration

and settling into your new home. Have a good year!

That is all for now. Everyone have a good summer!



Paul Doehle

*Director / Systems Administrator,
Information Systems*

New VG Government Website

We are currently in the process of designing a new Vuntut Gwitchin Government website. This new website will contain information on all VG Government Departments. VG Government information, which is currently available on Old Crow's website, will be moved over to the new VG Government site.

Youth Center

RCMP Cst. Bryan Lasson took the lead in securing funding for the installation of a Home Theatre system at the Youth Center. The system is now in place and will be maintained by the VG Information Systems Department. We still need to purchase a second set of surround speakers to make the system complete. Thanks Bryan for your help with this and good luck in your new posting.

Staff / Tammy Josie

Tammy has been promoted to Computer Support Technician after achieved a mark of 82% on her networking exam. Congratulations Tammy, you have shown what can be attained with hard work and dedication.

Kimberley Blake

Kim has left the IS department to return to school in Whitehorse. Thanks Kim for the HTML work you did for Old Crow's website; most notable your story on the late Peter Benjamin. Thanks and good luck with your studies.

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William Josie *Director, Natural Resources*

Well, it looks like we are going to have a late fall. First time in a long time, we haven't seen much rain this month.

First, of all, I would like to thank the community for your support in our community initiated fall chum fishing closure. Old Crow is again taking the lead on another conservation issue.

The first sheep hunt on the Richardson is complete, Carmacks resident George Klien was successful on August 7th in the Mt. Millen area. I am waiting for YTG's Environments report on Terry Skjonberg's hunt. Terry is a National Park warden from Haines Junction.

We had another very successful General Assembly from Aug 05 to Aug 07, 2004. If you have any questions regard-

ing Natural Resources or Information Systems please contact me at 966-3261 ext. 237 or e-mail at wjosie@vgfn.net.

Isaac Thomas and Gerald Nukon went into the Fishing Branch River Wier Camp for the next two months. They will be counting chum salmon, and taking some small samples from the salmon as well. DFO and VGFN have been doing this project since 1970.

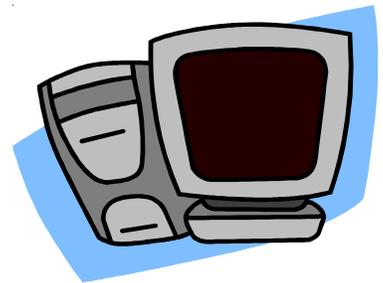
On the week of August 23, the Chum Mark/Recapture project got underway. This project is administered by Environmental Dynamics. The purpose of this project is to eventually estimate how much salmon is coming up the river during the fishing season.

With that I like to thank you for your time, and remember if you go out on the land, please be careful.

Kim Blake *Web Page Design Trainee*

First of all, I would like to say "thank you from the bottom of my heart"!! To Paul Doehle for taking me as a summer student in the IS Department, it has truly been a wonderful and knowledgeable experience. Paul knew that I wanted a summer job that was going to be challenging and that I wanted to learn new things to leave with more knowledge of computers than before.

My first project was to learn how to make web pages. Altogether, I made four web pages. My first and favorite, being on Special Constable Peter Benjamin which is on the Old Crow's website. I now know the hard work that is put into Old Crow's website and the Tlo-Kut booklets. Working with Paul on these has opened my eyes as of how much work is done by the IS Department. The techni-

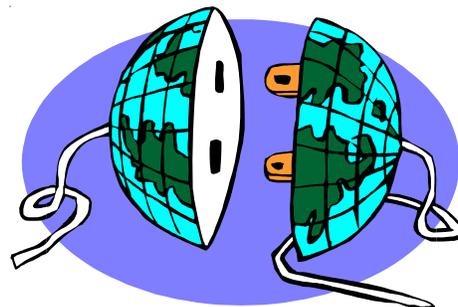


cal support that Paul and Tammy provide the government is essential and leaves no room for forgetfulness.

Paul explained and showed me how he connects new employees work stations to the network system in the building, this is a very high tech office!! He gave me the job of taking care of the back-up system each morning while here for the summer. I can't say that I didn't forget and was reminded!! Each time Paul had something new to do, I would watch and he would explain to me what it is he was doing and the reasons behind it all.

Paul kept me very busy for the time that I worked with him this summer and I can say that I did learn more about computers. There is always room to learn more about the technology of computers today and I will need every bit in my courses at the college.

Take care all and I wish you good health and stay warm this coming winter!



Tammy Josie
Computer Support Technician

Drin Gwiinzii to all!

For the month of July, I have been away on special leave. Prior to my leave I attended a ten-week pre-treatment program through our Health and Social Programs Department. Afterwards, on July 5, 2004 I attended a program in Whitehorse through ADS for 28 days. It was very challenging and a eye-opener for me. I would like to Thank our Department of Health and Social Programs for the wonderful opportunities that they are providing for the people of Old Crow. I really enjoyed my time there and would recommend the program to anyone who is thinking about it (thinking about it is your first step). There is also an aftercare program for when you graduate from treatment.

Upon arrival home, preparation for the 2004 Vuntut Gwitchin General Assembly was getting underway. The VG IS Department supplied a notebook computer and printer for the assembly. I went up a day before to get an early start on



Mary Jane Moses
Heritage Researcher

Mahsi' Choo we had a good summer despite the smoky haze and low water conditions however there was great berry picking! A lot of people were out harvesting the salmon and blueberries. A lot of people now have their winter's supply of berries.

It is busy as usual working as the Heritage Researcher. I am grateful that we had Frances Bruce and Brenda Kyikavichik working in the Heritage Department this past summer. They did good work. I am proud of them. They were assets to the Department.

On July 22 we had the Vuntut Gwitchin Cultural Geography Project underway and ending July 29. We had

set-up and ran a few tests to see if everything was in good working order. The General Assembly was a great success. Everything went according to plan and I managed to get over four hundred pictures this year. I sat in on a few of the meetings and enjoyed the updates. I spent most of my time gathering pictures of the leisure activities and boats coming and going.

I had a lot of clients with motor vehicles on my return and glad everyone is on track and registered with insurance.

During the month of August I completed my Computer Networking training, and passed the exam. I would like to take this opportunity to Thank (Mahsi Cho) Director Paul Doehle for his dedication to his staff and the great training program he has designed for our computer system.

Also this month, we have a couple of new employees here at the Sarah Abel Chitze Building. The IS Department will be doing computer orientation training soon with the new staff members.

Thursday August 26, 2004 Yukon Elec-



tric announced another power outage for Old Crow. All power was set to go out at 8pm through to 10pm. Prior to a power outage the IS Department has to power down all computers in our administration building. Yukon Electric's planned power outage after work hours ensures non-interference with our staff's work day. Thanks to Jimmy Linklater for always ensuring plenty of lead time prior to a power outage.

On Saturday August 28, 2004 there was a Youth Back to School supper at the Youth Center. Donna Frost and I coordinated the event. Meat donations were from Debra and Marvin Frost, Brenda and Roger Kyikavichik, and Jane Montgomery. Cooks were Donna Frost, Jane Montgomery, Elizabeth Kaye, Debra and Marvin Frost, Ethel Frost, Edith Josie, and myself. Various youth helped in set-up and transportation for the elderly.

I will be staying for another year and look forward to working with everyone again, Mahsi for all your support and comments and I'll be seeing you.

I wish you all the best in Harvest!



weather and smoky haze against us, however, again we did the best with what we had to work with. I went with the Elders to places like Caribou Mountain, Bluefish Lake and Moses Hill overlooking LaChute to name a few. Again I saw beautiful country. I am so grateful to have been a part of this project, documenting valuable information from our Elders on the places they once depended on for survival and subsistence. For another successful project, Mahsi' Choo goes to the Heritage Committee, filmmakers, Elders, and interviewees also to Megan Williams and Shirleen Smith.

During the Tl'oo K'at General Assembly 2004, Tracy Kassi and I, as VGFN Filmmakers, worked with Allan Code, training with the National Film Board (NFB) on camera and sound techniques.

It was worthwhile training and I enjoyed working with a professional camera and sound person. We covered a lot of material in a few days. The next training internship begins about September 14 with NFB. We ask the community for their continued support.

Work continues on updating the Accession Records. These records are a list of all projects, tape cassettes interviews, videotapes, photos etc. held by the Heritage Department. We keep a record in the database and update them accordingly.

I will be on holidays from August 20 – September 10. I hope everyone enjoys the last few days of summer going into fall and have successful harvesting of caribou and cranberries.

Wade Meszaros
Community Wellness Worker

Drin Gwiinzii!

August has been a wonderful month of sunshine and warm weather.

It was such a treat to watch the children swimming and enjoying the water. I know we all wished the river was a bit higher for traveling.

August saw the beginning of the Aftercare program and this program is for those who have recently come back from treatment. We will meet every week and build towards a long sustainable recovery.

The youth camp we hoped to run through July did not happen because of the smoke and low water in the river. I know it was disappointing for the kids not being able to go. Hopefully next year we can plan it ahead when the river is high enough.

My client load was not as busy as it has been in earlier months. We have a couple of men going out for treatment at the end of August and they are both looking forward to it. They have worked hard during the 10 week pre-treatment program.

I will be holding another information meeting for those who are interested in the "Fall" pre-treatment program starting in September. The Information meeting will be September 7th at the Gathering house starting at 7 p.m. Please encourage any of your friends or family members to attend. We will go over the importance of confidentiality and some of the basic ground rules for the group.

It will also be about gathering what people would like to have happen during those 10 weeks.

It came to my attention this month that there were young people drinking "Hair Spray" and other chemicals. It is a rela-

tively cheap way to get high and a way for some people to make money off children and others who are addicted. The problem is that the toxins and chemicals in the hair spray are poisonous and dangerous to different parts of the body. They are known to damage liver, kidneys, nervous central system and brain cells. It will also damage the developmental growth of children and can cause them to become violent, abusive and suicidal. We need to come together as a community and stop this from continuing.

Some things we are hoping to plan for in the coming months are; parenting workshop, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder awareness and drug awareness. If you have any ideas or topics that you would like to see covered please contact me and let me know.

I wish you all a safe harvest and may your cupboards and fridges be filled.

Mahsi Cho.



Glenna Tetlich
Councilor

Drin Gwiinzii! I hope that everyone enjoyed the summer season.

Departmental

I would like to welcome Gladys Netro who was hired on for a one year term as the Social Programs Administrator.

This summer season has been very hectic. There are changes in the department with employees leaving for school and new employees coming on board. With all the changes that have been happening we seem to be functioning quite effectively. Thanks to Wade Meszaros for taking the position of Acting Director by overseeing the employees during my holidays.

Being in the position as Director for a few months I see that it is a very demanding job. An important mandate is that we be fair to everyone and that the ultimate goal is to help where we can. At times we have to take a hard stand, however, when

we have good communication and clarity then everything works well. Social Programs will

be developing a policy that will assist SA clients to seek employment through training. We will be working with the College in getting this off the ground. We have heard that we need to empower our people, this is one way to help people become self sufficient.

Home and Community Care Program

The Coordinator has been vacant for a couple of months, the committee is in the process of doing the interviews this week. We hope that we can get the program functioning, as it is a very important position.

The General Assembly has come and gone. We have individuals that came forward and voiced their concerns and we really appreciate that. I would like to say that all concerns are taken very seriously and that we try to resolve the concerns that are brought to our attention.

I would like to close, saying that we are always open for suggestions. We all need to work together for the benefit of our children. I hope you all have success in your fall harvesting.

Mahsi Cho!

Vision Statement

"Old Crow ought to offer Citizens of the Vuntut Gwitchin a place that is safe and secure, where children can grow up feeling good about themselves. Old Crow should offer a healthy environment that encourages healthy individuals and families and produces healthy leaders."

Our children are our most vital and meaningful resource for the future.

We must see the importance of being attentive to their needs and investing in them. By doing this, we all reap the benefits, because we will be investing, not only in our own future, but in the future success of our people.