



GITMAXMAK'AY NEWS

Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Prince Rupert/Port Edward Society Newsletter

September 2013

Upcoming Events:

September 8th @ 1pm-4pm

Nisga'a Hall Public Open House

Free food, free bouncy castle, and more!
Open to everyone!

September 19th @ 5pm (Nisga'a Hall)

Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society

Annual General Meeting

Our auditing firm, Carlyle Shepard & Co., will be presenting the Society's audited financials

September 20th

Walk for Justice Arrival

Started in Nova Scotia in June, a cross-Canada walk will end at the Nisga'a Hall. The Walk for Justice is to raise awareness about the Highway of Tears tragedies.

Sept 20th @ 5-9pm (Nisga'a Hall)

Raven/Frog Tribal Challenge

September 26th @ 5pm (Nisga'a Hall)

Thanksgiving Feast Loonie Auction

October 3rd @ 1-5pm (Nisga'a Hall)

Elders Hawaiian Luau

All Nisga'a elders are invited!

October 13th @ 5pm

Canoe Journey Thanksgiving Feast

Jim Ciccone Civic Centre



Community Announcements:

*Introducing monthly newsletters! Look for new ones near the first business day of every month!

*Introducing the new Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Society Facebook page! To serve you better, we are converting our Facebook group into a page. Like us on Facebook now! Please note the existing Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a PR/PE Society Facebook Group will now be closed.

*Education gift applications are now available for the 2013/2014 school year! This year we are providing a \$100 cheque for every eligible Nisga'a student in Kindergarten to Grade 12, as well as GED/upgrading students. You can get the gift application in the office, by email, or by fax.

From the Gitmaxmak'ay Elders:

Elders meetings are on the second Wednesday of every month at 1pm in the Hall or Multipurpose Room

Points of Interest:

*Thanksgiving offer at the Nisga'a Hall!: Book the Hall between October 9th and 16th and we will toss in the kitchen free! (That's a 25% discount!)

You must book before Friday the 13th of September by quoting "Thanksgiving special" when you want to make your booking.



*We are currently looking for volunteers to run our bouncy castle, face paint, and other children's games at the Nisga'a Hall Open House on Sept 8th. Please call the office if you are interested in helping out!

*Check out the new Nisga'a Hall website at www.nisgaahall.ca for cheaper hall rental rates and more rental options!

*New Horizons committee meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month at 1pm in the Multipurpose Room

*Reminder: the Community Preventative Services (CPS) Sports grants are available for youth recreational activities and related travel. The grant has been changed to two (2) \$100 sports grants per child, per year, and one (1) \$50 or \$100 travel grant, depending on how far.

*Weekly gift making is happening every Thursday at 6:30-9pm in the Multipurpose Room to prepare for the Canoe Journey Thanksgiving Feast.

From the Gitmaxmak'ay Nisga'a Dancers:

We have dance practice every Monday from 6:30pm - 8pm in the Nisga'a Hall (except holidays). We encourage all ages and family members to attend. Our group is in need of more presence from our respected elders in our community.

Our next practice is Monday, September 9th!

Welcome to the **NISGA'A HALL**
Your Community Gathering Place

250.627.1595
1.866.627.1590
nisgaahall.ca

LIKE US ON facebook
check-in @ Nisga'a Hall

Our new welcome banner in the Hall!

Is there anything you want to include in the next newsletter?
Email: blair@gitmaxmakay.ca

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or call us toll-free at 1.866.627.1590



GATHERING STRENGTH CANOE JOURNEY 2013



*Above: all Canoe Journey paddlers arriving to be greeted by hundreds of people in Metlakatla, AK—August 7th 2013
Photo credit: Katie LaRone*

July 31st, 2013: the Canoe Journey leaves from Rushbrook floats in Prince Rupert to paddle for Metlakatla, B.C.

August 1st: onward to Lax Kw'alaams to meet Dayna McKay, the woman who swam from Lax Kw'alaams to Prince Rupert in 2012/2013 for the "Into the Sea Cancer Free" swim to raise money for cancer research.

August 2nd: heading towards Summerville, the Canoe Journey family truly learned patience in the big waves as the canoe capsized. Thankfully, there were no major injuries and many people came to the support of the group. All the training with Peter Loy taught everyone what to do in that situation. The Canoe Journey family found the determination and "strength within ourselves to keep calm and paddle on".

(A thanksgiving feast is being held - see page 1 for details)

August 3rd: Arrival in Kincolith! Nearly 30 people had to jump in the water for calling the canoe a boat!

August 4th: the longest paddling day—7 hours of paddling switching shifts to get to Winter Inlet

August 5th: rest day—camping and no paddling was meant for healing and bonding time

August 6th: the canoe (not the boat) was towed over the open waters of Alaska. As the canoe was pulling onto Sand Dollar beach, an elder whispered "awesome". It had been 126 years since a canoe had landed on Alaskan lands.

August 7th: hundreds of people lined the beach when the Canoe Journey was arriving in Metlakatla, AK. There was lots of emotion and celebration, a big feast with delicious foods, and Tsimshian dancers performed. All participants were welcomed with open arms and open hearts. Founder's Day was the celebration that everyone was taking part in, and the Canoe Journey won the walker's category of the parade.

August 8th: the Canoe Journey family paddled on to Saxon, just outside of Ketchikan and had the first rain of the journey. From Ketchikan, the Canoe Journey family hopped on the Alaskan ferry back to Prince Rupert. Everyone is already getting excited for Canoe Journey 2014 to Bella Bella!



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SUMMER SNAPSHOT EDITION

GATHERING OUR NATIONS 2013



Our youth and chaperones departed for Haida Gwaii to be welcomed by Haida singers, drummers, and dancers for the annual Gathering Our Nations Youth Conference August 22nd-25th.

NEW HORIZONS SALMON SALTING

On August 15th, 2 elders and 8 volunteers came to the Nisga'a Hall to salt salmon in the kitchen. By the end of it all, there were 22 full ice cream buckets full of salted salmon! It will all be distributed to elders in a lottery style.

A big thanks to all who helped out!

NEW HORIZONS SOAPBERRY PICKING

On June 14th, eight elders went to pick soapberries near Kitwanga and then came back to the Nisga'a Hall to jar it all. The goal of the New Horizons program is to "Teach Harvesting through Traditional Methods".

NEW HORIZONS RED CEDAR STRIPPING

5 elder ladies and volunteers helped strip red cedar for cultural purposes. The next day they got together to clear the outer bark and how have 2 full boxes! It sounds like most are still undecided on what they want to do with all they brought back!

HEALTH FORUM/HEALTH FAIR SUCCESS!

The Society held a health forum/health fair on June 26th-27th. Both events were well attended by members of all ages. In total, 90 people participated throughout both days.

At the health forum, participants played a role in planning and visioning for their health. At the health fair, members were able to connect with the different health-related programs and services provided in the region. There were guest speakers, info booths, refreshments and door prizes.

Many community service providers joined such as Northern Health, Nisga'a Valley Health Authority - Community Engagement Hub, and so many others.

A report will be made available to inform health programs and services for members well into the future.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the two-day event a success!

KITIMAT CHILDREN'S SWIM TRIP



Thank you to our volunteer chaperones for watching over our children! The Society bus took 17 children ages 7-12 to the Kitimat public pool for a day on August 15th. Everyone had a great time!

Is there anything you want to include in the next newsletter?
Email: blair@gitmaxmakay.ca

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SALMON HARVEST 2013



This year the Society distributed approximately 2400 salmon to Gitmaxmak'ay members. We made sure our respected elders received their salmon first. There were about 1800 sockeye (1200 from the Nass River, 600 from the Pacific), 400 coho and 200 chum.

At the start of the season, the Society was being quoted \$8 per fish.

At the end, the Society ended up paying \$5.50 per fish! *Many thanks to all the volunteers!*

Non-NLG Director By-Election is Now Underway!

The nomination meeting was held on Wednesday, August 21st at 6:00pm at the Nisga'a Hall.

There are two (2) candidates registered:

Dellavina Gibson

Darlene Harris-Wolfe

The by-election is being administered by Nisga'a Elections Office, an independent office of Nisga'a Lisims Government. If you would like any information about the by-election, please call Jean Clayton at 250.633.2715, toll-free at 1.866.633.2715 or email at jeanc@nsgaelections.ca



Call us: 250.627.1595

Toll-free: 1.866.627.1590

Fax: 250.627.1575

Where to find us:

(Above the Nisga'a Hall)

#301 - 860 3rd Avenue West
Prince Rupert, B.C. V8J 1M6

Upcoming Website:

www.gitmaxmakay.ca

**Do you need to contact us?
We want to hear from you!**

Email us:

Jacob McKay, Board Chair: jacob@gitmaxmakay.ca

Farley Stewart, Board Treasurer: farley@gitmaxmakay.ca

Juanita Parnell, NLG Representative: juanita@gitmaxmakay.ca

Cliff Morgan, NLG Representative: cliff@gitmaxmakay.ca

Greg Grayson, Chief Executive Officer: greg@gitmaxmakay.ca

Zora McMillan, Chief Operating Officer: zora@gitmaxmakay.ca

Russel Adams, Administrative Assistant: russel@gitmaxmakay.ca

Tenille Spencer, Programs & Services Coordinator: tenille@gitmaxmakay.ca

Sabrina Clifton, Administrative Coordinator: sabrina@gitmaxmakay.ca

Blair Mirau, Economic Development Officer: blair@gitmaxmakay.ca

Christian Lincoln, Hall Maintenance: christian@gitmaxmakay.ca

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