

# The Teslin Post

## National Day of Action

On June 11, Chief Peter Johnston, members of his executive, and TTC citizens stopped traffic on the Alaska Highway for several hours and handed out pamphlets calling for the recognition and understanding of First Nation issues. The political action was seen as low key and friendly. It was noted that the First Nation received a positive reception from all motorists



Chief Peter Johnston (above) explains First Nation concerns to first time visitors to the Yukon. Elder, John Peters, (right) hops aboard a big rig and hands out a pamphlet.



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## Volume 1 Number 6

A big thank you to Gord Curran, Hart Bezner, Jana Swales, and Kerry Patterson for supplying some great photos. A special thank you goes to Margaret Garolitz and her Canada shot from the 70's. By the next edition Teslin will have experienced at least three weddings. The Post needs photos! In honour of Dick and Lorraine's recent betrothal ... I will publish "My Best Story Ever" in the next edition of the Post. It involves three children, hamburgers, the old Taku Hotel, and an excruciatingly embarrassing situation.

Any suggestions, ideas, photos, or comments are always welcome. Drop off a note at the Village office or email me at: [mhodgson@northwestel.net](mailto:mhodgson@northwestel.net)

Regards,  
Mike Hodgson  
The Collator



## The George Johnston Museum is open for the Season

by  
Jana Swales



The swallows are nesting and the George Johnston Museum is open--both are sure signs of summer.

We are looking forward to a busy season of visitors and historical projects. Work continues on the radio repeater station, and sharp eyes will have noticed the radio tower that has arrived on the back lawn of the museum. This 125 foot tall tower has been partly submerged in Teslin Lake for many decades but shows little sign of rust and decay. We are gearing up for a festive Canada Day, Teslin's 25th Birthday on July 5, and the Ha Kus Teyea Celebration starting on July 22.

**FREE ADMISSION TO LOCALS on Canada Day!**

Please come and see us any day of the week between 9 and 5.  
Only \$3 for local admission. Educational and cheap!

# Our Juneau Adventure

by  
Hart Bezner

At eight o'clock in the morning of May 26, seven Teslin seniors boarded the catamaran Fiordland at Skagway, bound for Juneau. All 70 seats on the boat were occupied, and the captain and his crew of two young women succeeded in making the trip memorable. Wildlife in the water, on the water, and on the shore were pointed out, and often the boat would slow down, or even stop completely to allow the passengers to savor the sights and to snap pictures. There was an exceptionally pleasant and relaxed atmosphere on board, and hunger was kept at bay with coffee, muffins, and a delicious salmon chowder,

The Fiordland docked near Auke Bay, several miles west of Juneau, and the passengers continued on to the city by bus. After an ample Chinese lunch, they fanned out in all directions to explore the city.

Many of our Teslin people have Juneau connections, and the ancestors of several were baptized in St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox church, the exterior a rather unassuming structure dating back to 1894.

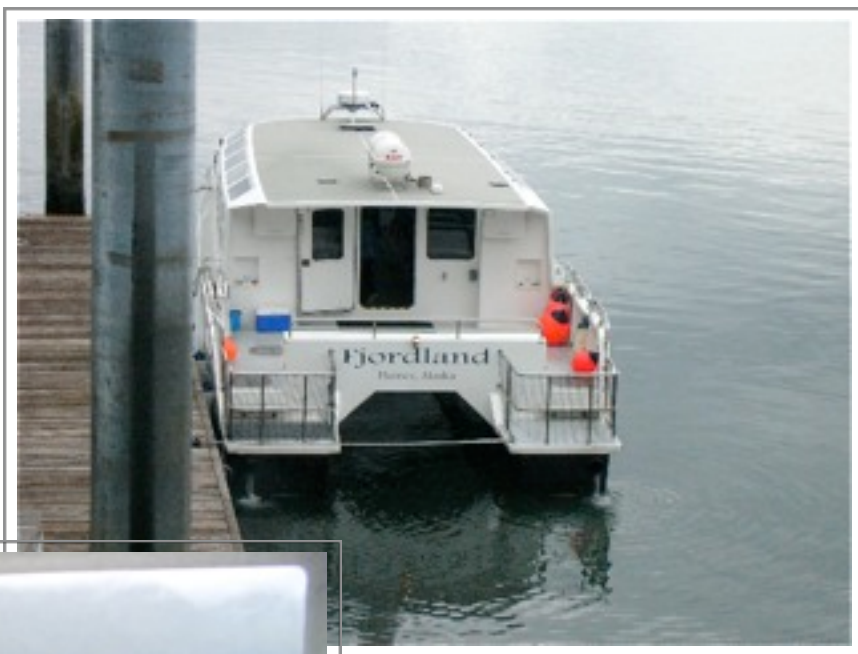
Visitors to Juneau are always impressed by several daunting stairways leading to houses high up on the mountain side, wondering how the owners can possibly manage the hundreds of steps, coming and going. You then picture what things must be like after a sleet storm. The thought of falling downstairs, unappealing at any time, makes you shudder.

At the agreed-upon hour of 5:00 pm, we all climbed back on the bus. On the way back to the dock, we stopped off at the famous Mendenhall glacier for an hour-long visit. The return trip to Skagway was punctuated by the sightings of several whales.

The catamaran was impressive. It was fast and smooth. It brought us back to Skagway by about 9:00 p.m. All in all, it was a wonderful outing, highly recommended!

For those who are interested, a catamaran is a boat with twin hulls in parallel. The word comes from the Tamil "kattumaram" which literally means "tied wood."

Teslin Seniors Visit Juneau



## RECREATION UPDATE WITH NATASCHAA CHATTERTON & KEVIN CAMERON

The longest day has come and gone, which means we need to remember to show gratitude each day for the light and warmth. There is no better time than right now to get outside and be active. Get out your paddles, put on your walking shoes, throw some balls, and most of all have fun with those you love!

Speaking of having fun get ready for a month of excitement: Canada Day, Concert in the Park and the Celebration all in one month! We are blessed!



Canada Day will kick off with a pancake breakfast at the Rec Plex from 8am to 11am. The Parade starts at 11am in the Town Square and finishes in the Village for opening ceremonies. Games will be held in Friendship Park and include archery, bike relay, axe throwing, canoe races and kids games. An evening supper will be held again.

Concert in the Park will be another amazing event on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Leela Gilday and Derek Miller, both Juno Award Winners for Aboriginal Performing Artist of the year, will be playing. There will be 8 hours of music; something for everyone. A barbecue, artist vendors and beer gardens will also be part of the event.

Finally, we all know about the Ha Kus Teyea Celebration from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. What an event this will be! Getting ready to be inspired and feel connected.

So there is no reason to stay indoors this month. Get out and get involved. Enjoy the incredible spirit of our community. Help the huge number of dedicated individuals to make each event a success or come out and play. We have a great home and a community to be proud of and it is because of each one of us!

Parents and kids remember the upcoming camps still to come this month: Soccer Camp, Science Camp, 24 Hour Challenge and Youth Leadership Training Camp. Sign up soon as spaces are limited.

## Grade 6/7 trip to Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands)

by  
Kerrie Paterson

The grade 6/7 class set off for a week long trip on May 24<sup>th</sup> from Teslin School bound for the beautiful Queen Charlotte Islands. In all, there were 18 of us; 14 students, Eric Morris, Lisa Dewhurst, Denise Johnston, and myself (Kerrie Paterson). As we drove away waving to the worried parents, I wondered if I would get any sleep over the following 6 nights...

The trip was a raging success! The Queen Charlotte Islands, known as Haida Gwaii in the Haida language, are a group of some 150 islands off the northwest coast of British Columbia. The islands consist of old-growth, lush rain forests, hundreds of kilometers of untouched beaches thriving with marine life, black bear and deer galore, and one of the richest, most preserved First Nations groups in Canada, the Haida.

Our students hiked, explored, swam, listened, asked, felt, and related. Our hosts on the Islands taught, explained, showed, shared, and connected. We were very lucky to meet some very kind and interesting people. We hiked amongst breathtaking nature and were shown the flora that has been vital to the Haida for medicine for centuries. We learned plenty about marine life as we explored North Beach at low tide with a fisheries staff member (Jocina), who donated her time to be with us. Schools opened their doors to us, allowing us to sleep in their gyms, feed us, drum for us, sign to us, and teach us their language. We even got to stick gamble in the Haida Heritage Centre (Teslin style).

By immersing themselves in the experience and having open minds, our students learned so much. The richness of this experience was fantastic. This trip took plenty of planning on my part, but I never doubted its purpose. The grade 6/7 students behaved very well and I was extraordinarily proud of them.

I would like to thank the following people:

- The chaperones Lisa, Eric, & Denise, for their watchful eyes and companionship on this trip.
- Teslin Tlingit Council, for their generous donation (we couldn't have done this without you).
- The Village of Teslin, for allowing us to fundraise by sorting the recycling.
- All of you who attended our spaghetti dinners and bake sales. Your support is very much appreciated.
- The parents of the students, for trusting me with your children and allowing me the opportunity to show them such a phenomenal place.



**Highlights of the Village of Teslin Council Meeting  
Meeting # 11-09 June 8, 2009**

**Members Present:** Mayor Robin Smarch, Councillor Margaret Douville, Councillor Sandy Smarch and Councillor Stacey Hassard

**Public Present:** Sharron Anderson

**Consideration of Items of Correspondence**

7.1 Yukon Learn Society

**# 84-11-09**

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor Douville;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves a donation of \$100 to Yukon Learn Society. **~carried~**

7.2 A theme for AYC AGM 2010

7.3 Todd Smarch & Connie Jules Dog Infractions

Council recommended that a reminder letter be sent and that it be hand delivered.

7.4 Funding Request - Mary Bob

Council does not fund individual requests for donations.

7.5 Community Climate Change Adaptation Project

Council is not interested in participating in this project at this time.

7.6 Road Conditions in Teslin - Response from Minister Lang

Send response letter under the Mayor's signature indicating that there was a commitment from the minister.

7.7 Recplex Donation - Commencement June 13, 2009

Letter of response that regular charges as laid out in the bylaw apply.

7.8 Letter from Museum

**# 85-11-09**

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor S. Smarch;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves supplying water to the museum for a monthly cost of \$50 per month during the summer season.

**~carried~**

**Consideration of Items of Accounts Payable by Village**

8.1 Accounts Payable May 2009

**# 86-11-09**

Moved by Councillor Douville; Seconded by Councillor S. Smarch;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Council approves the Accounts Payable for the month of May in the amount of \$195,444.08. **~carried~**

Councillor Hassard suggested that if work on the water truck was not being covered by warranty that was a number of other mechanics in Whitehorse who could work on the water truck.

**New and Unfinished Business**

10.1 Landfill Pit Reclamation & Compost Pit Construction Tender

# 87-11-09

Moved by Councillor S. Smarch; Seconded by Councillor Douville;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council awards the contract for Pit Reclamation and Compost Pit construction to Deadman Creek Enterprises Inc. for the sum of \$16,327.50. **~carried - Councillor Hassard abstained from the vote~**

10.3 Yukon Inter-Municipal Business License Agreement 2009

# 88-11-09

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor S. Smarch;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Council agrees to enter into a new inter municipal business license agreement effective July 1, 2009 as presented. **~carried~**

10.4 Quotes Received for Installation of Swings/Supply of Sand

# 89-11-09

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor Douville;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves the awarding of a contract to Son Rise General Contracting based on their quote in the amount of \$16,170.00 for the installation of the swings and associated groundwork as defined under the scope of the project in the original tender document. **~carried~**

10.5 Teslin Water System - Upgrades Contribution Agreement

# 90-11-09

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor S. Smarch;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves the contribution agreement in the amount of \$958,000 as received in draft form subject to any changes that may be proposed by YG Justice Department. **~carried~**

10.6 25th Anniversary Celebration

Council has requested that the event start at 2:30 PM on July 5 and that there would be no defined break for supper but that they would serve burgers/hotdogs from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The bar would run from 5 PM - 11 PM. Mayor and Deputy Mayor will look after the cake for the celebration.

10.7 Water Project Tenders

# 91-11-09

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor S. Smarch;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves the issuance of a tender for the supply and installation of a water pump house filtration system as presented. **~carried~**

# 92-11-09

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor S. Smarch;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves the issuance of a tender for well monitoring and assessment as presented.

**~carried~**

**# 93-11-09**

Moved by Councillor Hassard; Seconded by Councillor Douville;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves the issuance of a tender for Water Pump house Protection as presented. **~carried~**

**# 94-11-09**

Moved by Councillor Douville; Seconded by Councillor Hassard;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Village Council approves the issuance of a tender for Wellhead Protection as presented. **~carried~**

**Scheduled meetings and other important dates for Council**

## 13.1 Scheduled Meetings

Mayor to advise on next meeting date as we may not have a quorum.

Congratulations to all who successfully completed the Hunter Education & Ethics Development course held in April!

To: Stephen Ball, Karl Blattmann, Dakota Hogan, Thomas Hycha, Wilma Magill, Kit Martens, Roxanne Peters, and Terry Porter.

Safe & Responsible Hunting!  
Kim Melton  
Fish & Wildlife Officer  
Teslin Tlingit Council



## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER UPDATE

### **Community Events**

Planning for the July 1 and July 5 celebrations are underway. The only community event in May was held in conjunction with the OCP planning.

### **Sustainability Planning**

The revised Sustainability Plan has been reviewed and approved by Gas Tax Committee. Economic Development Plan contract has been awarded to North Sky Consulting Group



### **Projects**

#### **Marina**

The privacy wall and handicap ramp at the marina has been completed. Breakwater repairs have been completed.

#### **Community Infrastructure**

##### **Community Recreation Complex**

Presently working on scope of work for recreation complex roof repair contract. Waiting on information to apply for gas tax funding.

Entrance to Curling Rink and for steps to water fill station for the Recreation Complex have been completed.

We are presently working on the tender for the exercise room which has been approved by CDF and this should be out shortly.

Toilets and Urinals have been received and will be working on installation shortly.

#### **Old Community Hall**

Council has postponed any action pending further debate.

#### **Municipal Centre**

Project has been completed with the exception of the new doors and the privacy screen.

#### **Park**

Sawmill Road park is on back burner pending transfer of land.

We are still looking to get someone to install park benches and swings in the friendship park – two contractors have submitted price quotes

#### **Landfill**

Phase 1 of the composting project has been approved for Gas Tax funding. Tender has been issued for the capping of the existing burn pits, composting program and final items on the transfer station setup. Chipper and operator lease has been approved by gas tax.

**CAO Update (continued)****Water System**

We now have a copy of a draft contribution agreement and are working on tenders pending receipt of final contribution agreement.

**Sewer System/Lagoon**

Tender request will be submitted shortly for sewer line flushing and cameraing.

**Other Activities****Land Issues**

OCP review occurred the last week of May – draft report will be issued by the end of June for Council review further discussions and consultations will occur in September. We had reasonable participation at all sessions.

**Staffing**

Staffing seems to have stabilized for the summer. We will advertise for a casual for July – September to cover vacations and LWOP situations.

**Yukon Communities Insurance Association**

I will be meeting with YG on June 11 to discuss liability reciprocal.

**Teslin Tlingit Council**

CAO Attended their council meeting on May 19. They acknowledged their appreciation for us donating the recreation complex for their celebration.



Chillin' at the Youth Centre

## Foreman's Report May 2009



### **Landfill**

The transfer station has been operating very effectively, with one load per week going into Whitehorse. We have the second bin in place now and we are still hauling one bin per week into town.

The tenders are now closed for the work at the Landfill so we look forward to getting it all complete so we can do what we hope is our last clean up of wind blown debris.

The relocation and installation of the electric fence has started but can not be completed until the contractor moves the cattle guard.

The kids are done sorting the non-refundables for the season.

We are working hard to divert a large percentage of waste, but there is still room for improvement through public education.

We are currently taking one load per week to Raven Recycling split between refundables and non-refundables.

### **Lagoon and Force Main**

The lift stations have been receiving there cleaning and degreasing, all of the lift stations have had the enzyme added and all appear to be staying cleaner and working well.

We are currently working on plans for a discharge to the wetlands this summer.

### **Arena & Curling Rink**

The arena has seen a lot more use this season so far now that the youth center is open. We are still working on the tender for the weight room we hope to have it complete soon.

The new water system and generator building is complete and working very well.

**Foreman's Report (Continued)****Water Quality / Water Delivery**

We have a few issues with the water truck it has to go to Whitehorse for repairs, fuel and computer problems.

We are still sending in three samples, twice a month to Environmental Health and Insect Control

The hand application of the pesticide has started and the aerial Application took place. We applied 20 bags of Vectobac.

We have a second applicator that has been out applying to the surrounding wet land areas.

**Other Activities**

Road patching is underway and will be ongoing for the entire summer.

The parks and trails have been getting regularly checked and cleaned.

The prices for the new apparatus in the friendship park are now in for Councils consideration.



Bonar Cooley repaired, refurbished, cleaned, and painted the cenotaph for Corporal Max Richardson on the Alaska Highway just south of Teslin. Richardson was with the American 340th Engineers when he was killed on October 17, 1942. Bonar donated his time and expertise. The Teslin Historical and Museum Society found the money for the materials. Volunteerism at its best!

## **Teslin Renewable Resources Council Annual BBQ**

By  
Bernice Schonewille

The Teslin Renewable Resources Council (TRRC) hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Information Session and Community BBQ on June 9<sup>th</sup> in the Teslin Friendship Park. The turnout was great and many community members took advantage of the nice weather and came down to the park for burgers and hotdogs being cooked up by the Council members.

Corporal Shaun Pike did a presentation on boating and water safety with the school children and other interested members of the public. The TRRC donated a lifejacket to the school to present to a student on their awards day.

The TRRC recently ran a poster contest looking for artwork depicting different aspects of activities with renewable resources in the traditional territory. The posters were put on display in the park for the public to view. In all, there were 17 entries and each participant was awarded a prize for their efforts. Some of the posters submitted may be used in a community calendar that the TRRC plans to put together.

Thanks go out to Corporal Pike for his talk with the students, to the Village of Teslin staff for their assistance and use of the park, to Mike Hodgson for taking the photographs and to all the Council members who helped feed the masses.



# RCMP Update



## Happy Thoughts for a Summers' Day

RCMP is reminding drivers about drinking and driving as for open liquor in a vehicle are \$575.00 and RCMP are still targeting Drunk drivers.

A new member, CST. Michael MULLER, is to arrive in August.

With the advent of summer boating season the RCMP reminds all boaters to wear their life jackets and have the standard equipment of a bailing devise (bucket), sound emitting devise (whistle), an approved life jacket for everyone on board the boat and an alternate source of propulsion (oars). Also if fishing to have your fishing license with you as it is a Wildlife Act infraction if you don't.

All boat operators are reminded they must be licensed to operator a boat come September 1



Proudly Present

# Teslin Concert in the Park

Celebrating Aboriginal & Territorial Artists

July 5<sup>th</sup> • 2:30-11:00 pm

@ Friendship Park, Teslin

Featuring Juno Award Winners for Aboriginal Performing Artist of the Year - Leela Gilday (2007), Derek Miller (2008). Also with Geordie Tentrees, Fishhead Stew, Yukon Women in Music, Ryan McNally, Nicole Smith and more.

Admission is FREE!



- Free Barbecue to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Village of Teslin!
- Artist & Food Vendors

Proud Sponsors:

For more details go to [www.teslin.ca](http://www.teslin.ca)

or phone 390-2530



# Closing Shot



Canada Day  
197?