

Community Economic Development Coordinator
Rhonda Shackelly

August already if you can believe it! How time flies. Summer is already half way over! Actually the year is already over half!!! Anyway, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer thus far! I was on vacation from July 12-22, 2007, and had an extraordinary time. Traveled to the Merritt Fest, over to Bella Coola, and up to Quesnel, so got to see some of the country!

Xats'ull Traditional Powwow – 2007






First of all, I thought the powwow went great this year. I had some great help! Marnie and I were running around, making sure everything worked out the way it should, and I have to say I was quite impressed with how it did! Our community really pulled together for this event. There is just so many people to thank! The summer students (Tamara, Jordell, Stephanie, Lance, Aaron, David) did a great job, along with Marnie, Trina, Lenny, Gig, Renegade, Larry Woods, Eddy Samson for getting the arbor up in time! It looked great! If I forgot anyone, please know that I am grateful!

<p><u>Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Chief Lenny Sellars ☞ Councillors: ☞ Thomas Phillips ☞ Gig Sellars ☞ Donna Dixon <p><u>Staff Volunteers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Trina Setah ☞ Marnie Sellars ☞ Edie Woods ☞ Noella William ☞ Jacqui Lowry ☞ Nola McDonald & her husband Mike & mom! ☞ Kelly Quon ☞ Debbie Phillips ☞ Brenda Phillips 	<p><u>Summer Students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Tamara Williams ☞ Stephanie Phillips ☞ Jordell Sellars ☞ Lance William ☞ Aaron Quon ☞ David Morin <p><u>Community Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Larry Woods ☞ Renegade ☞ Eddie Samson ☞ Agnes William ☞ Jessie Hunlin ☞ Minnie Phillips ☞ Fallon William ☞ Wanda Snow ☞ David Pop ☞ Joan Charleyboy ☞ Dorothy Phillips ☞ Yvonne Sellars ☞ Bernice Saunders ☞ Aaron Sparks 	<p><u>Community Members Cont'd</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Laurie Woods ☞ Darren Russel ☞ Glen Russel ☞ Gord Mitchell ☞ Derek Mitchell ☞ Tony Mack ☞ Johnnie Phillips ☞ Trevor Bose <p><u>Youth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Mikayla Phillips ☞ Rylee Mitchell ☞ Brianne Mitchell ☞ Shania Phillips ☞ Nikki Sparks ☞ Dian Phillips ☞ Tyrell Setah ☞ Skemcis Phillips ☞ Virginia Fiesta ☞ Anita Fiesta ☞ ☞ Once again sorry if I missed anyone!
--	---	---

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to our many cooks this year! The meals were great! It can only get bigger from here! I think the highlight of the powwow was crowning the princesses! Xats'ull Jr. Princess 2007 – Stephanie Phillips, Runner-up – Anita Fiesta Tiny Tot Princess 2007 – Phoenix Phillips-Sparks!! Thank-you to these wonderful girls, for wanting to represent our community on the Powwow trail for 2007! Congratulations! All of the girls who ran did a beautiful job! They all carried that Xats'ull pride! It was wonderful to see, especially to watch these girls dance in the regalia that they proudly made by their own 2 hands, with the help of Debbie of course! It was great! I am happy to see that these youth are showing pride in their culture, and that they have such a willingness to learn! Never give up; you can only go up from here. Our Brave this year is _____ . Congratulations to him and his family! I am happy to see that we have a young warrior who wants to proudly represent the Xats'ull community on the powwow trail for 2007!

Qwatna Mountain was a great help this year! I am so grateful for everything that they have done, for their guiding hands, and support!

Our sponsors for this year were:

-  Cariboo Friendship Society
-  Three Corners Health Services Society
-  Peter Grant & Associates
-  Ronald Rasmussen Inc.
-  Soda Creek Band

Thank-you kindly to these organizations for making this event happen, without the financial support, we would not be able to hold such community events.

Next year will be different. I would like the community to take over the planning and execution of this event. So for those interested in starting a “Powwow Committee”, contact me. I will be able to assist in anyway for the first couple of meetings. Fundraising should start right away, so that next year it will be bigger and better!

Xats'ull Heritage Village

Well I was away for a week and half, and have been trying to catch up on things, but everything ran smoothly well I was gone. Debbie Phillips was looking after the village while I was gone, just booking tours for me, and accepting calls on my behalf. It all worked out good.

Ralph Phillips started at the Village on July 9, 2007, and I believe he will be a great asset to the village. He is very knowledgeable about our community, and our culture.

I had a table at the street party this year, and handed out a few brochures. We were not at a very good location this year, so we did not get very many visitors. But I handed out some magnets and postcards to try and promote the village as well. I ordered some t-shirts for the street party, and I believe we would have sold a lot of shirts, but they

weren't ready! GRR!!! Anyway, we do have t-shirts for sale at the village for \$25.00 if anyone is interested. They are all tan colored, with the logo on the front left breast pocket, and a drawing on the back. I think they turned out very nice!

We have a group of youth coming through the village on August 6, 2007. They will be spending the night. They would like to meet community members and learn from you about our own community. Their program teaches them about eco-tourism, leadership skills & sustainability. So if you have any thoughts on these issues come on down and share your story with them!

We also have another group of 40 youth coming from Vancouver on August 18, 2007 and will be at the Village until the morning of August 20, 2007. It would be nice for community members to stop on down there and share stories!

Well, we have had some incidents at the village, where people have been using the wood. If you are going to be down at the fishing site, please bring your own wood. The Heritage Village does have a limited budget, and the wood that it does get needs to last the village and their visitors for the season. So please refrain from using the wood. Also, there has been some empty beer cans/bottles found at the end of the village. We ask that community members please not drink around the Heritage Village, it is considered a sacred area. Staff members have had to clean up the mess afterwards. We ask that all visitors to the village leave the site the way that they found out; clean. The Xats'ull Heritage Staff thank-you for your help in regards to this matter.

The summer students have been helping out a lot at the village so far since they have started, they have done a tremendous job.

Whispering Willows Campsite

We have quite a few visitors this year! The summer students have been doing a great job with the landscaping. We have a family reunion that has rented out the campsite for the August long weekend, so I am asking community members not to enter the site while they are there, (August 2-6, 2007) because they did rent out the whole campsite for the weekend. Thank-you!

Community Garden & Workshops

We will be breaking the ground this year, just to ensure that it is prepped for the 2008 season. I will also start booking workshops and we would like to have elders help and their knowledge on the following workshop ideas. If you interested in taking part and sharing your knowledge please get a hold of me as soon as possible. These workshops are geared for elders to teach community members about what they know, and traditional gathering methods. SO PLEASE GET A HOLD OF ME ASAP!

Workshops

👉 Basic Principles of horticulture & greenhouse gardening

- 👤 Land Preparation, crop selection, crop management
- 👤 Composting
- 👤 Food Processing, canning/bottling, freezing, drying, storage & food safety
- 👤 Marketing produce at local & regional market outlets
- 👤 Indigenous foods gathering & preservation
- 👤 Design and construction of green houses and green house crop production
- 👤 Root cellar construction
- 👤 Nutrition & healthy living
- 👤 Food Safety Certification

On a personal note:

I would like to wish Thomas Phillips a Happy Birthday on August 3, 2007, my little sister Geri-lynn Phillips on August 5, 2007, and a Happy 28th Anniversary to my parents on August 8, 2007.

My condolences to Mary George's family, my prayers are with you at this time. I have to share this little story of Mary. I was standing at the entrance of the arbor at the Powwow on Saturday, when Mary looked over at me with a big smile, she asked me if I was Rhonda, I told her yes, I was. She then mentioned that it was probably the first time she really got to meet me, and introduced herself. I smiled, told her it was nice to finally meet her. She then told me that she read my article in the newsletter each month. I then told her "oh so you're the one person who does", which she reacted with a smile, and then she proceeded to tell me that she recently became a band member, as she was registered with Alkali Lake. She was quite proud to become a Xats'ull member, because she was living here for several years. I told her that I was happy for her. When you look into the eyes of an elder and see how much community means to them, it warms the heart. She was proud to be from Xats'ull, and that is what we need to instill in our youth!

Putucw. Kukstemc.