



**Special points of interest:**

- Tracy has started a Community Calendar so that all the upcoming events are on one page!
- All sorts of Employment Opportunities coming up so have your resumes ready!
- Congratulations 2007 Graduates!!
- We hope to see everyone out on Aboriginal Day!

June 2007



SODA CREEK FIRST NATION

# Fraser River Run

## Treaty Administrator

By Trina Phillips

Hi everyone, May has been busy with activities. I am glad to have had at least a week to slow down and catch up on everything. Next month is looking pretty busy as well.

The first week of May was hectic, as there were three meetings that were back to back. I barely survived that as we had an excellent number of people for attendance for all three. I am glad to see that so many people are taking an interest in the meetings now. I hope to start seeing more people. Thank you everyone for being so patient with me and see you next time.

The Treaty Team had a week to sit and plan as well as go over what our next six months are going to look like. I feel that we have a pretty good platform to go by. As a team, we went through all of the chapters, and gave helpful information that was needed for negotiations. It was a lot of information to absorb all at once. I felt like my head was throbbing by the end of the day metaphorically speaking.

A few activities are planned for June.

The Aboriginal Day activities on June 21, 2007: You have your pick for events to attend on that day.

-Unity Ride to the St. Joseph's Mission

-Wildwood School: hosting mini powwow along with a bunch of other activities. No transportation is available.

Those are the two that I do know that

are happening. Since St. Joseph's is further, the van will be available for this event. I have been assisting with the planning and preparing for both activities.

Treaty Meetings:

-Tuesday June 5, 2007 (catered) Treaty Working Group Meeting: 5PM-8PM @ the Deep Creek Hall

-Tuesday June 19, 2007 (catered) Governance Workshop, 5PM-8PM @ the Deep Creek Hall  
At the moment, these are the main things happening for June.

There is no Side Table Meeting for the month of June. Will resume again with it in July at Canim Lake.

We will be hiring a couple of summer students. Please hand your resumes in to me (Trina Phillips) along with a cover letter.

The deadline is Friday June 15, 2007 @ 3PM. I will set up a time and date for the interviews.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to call me at the office.



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## Post Secondary Success Stories

Gerl Lynn Phillips recently graduated from the Social Work degree program at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology she received the Karen Oppenheim Memorial Award for Good Academic Standing and Citizenship. Gerl has recently moved to Edmonton Alberta with her fiancée



Debbie Phillips got her certificate for the Business Administration Program at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and continuing on to her degree in the fall. More information will be forthcoming on her 2 awards.

## Letter from Post Secondary Graduate

By Gerl Phillips

I encourage all other youth to further their education. I have learned so much and have changed for the better.

Weytk, Everyone! I hope everyone is doing great. Congratulations to all the other grads from Soda Creek and other communities as well. It's always good to see First Nations people getting their schooling done and moving forward.

I just recently graduated with my Bachelor of Social Work Degree from Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Thompson Rivers University. I received the Karen Oppenheim Memorial Award for Good Academic Standing and Citizenship.

A big Thank You to the Band for supporting my schooling all these years. It helped me keep going and get my schooling done. I also would like to thank my family for being there for me through it all and helping me when times were tough. They were always there for me no matter what. Every time I needed a paper proof-read my sisters and my mom, were always there to help. My family taught me so much in my life by just showing me love and respect. I am the person I am today because of how they raised me.

Thank you Cici Sterritt as well for being there for me. Whenever I had a concern she was always willing to help and find solutions.

Another person that was a big help to me is my boyfriend Riley. He helped me out with all of my bills even though he was living in Edmonton and paying his own bills. I went through a lot of tough times and obstacles

while going through school. But since I had such a great support system in place I was able to keep going. There were times when I felt like quitting but I knew that that was never the answer. I was determined to finish what I started and I did.

It was the best feeling in the world to stand up there in front of family, friends and classmates and receive my degree. I encourage all other youth to further their education. I have learned so much and have changed for the better. I have so much insight from my life. I want to go out there and make a difference even if it's only for one person.

I know that my education doesn't end here. I will go back to school to obtain my Masters Degree and then who knows from there, maybe even a PHd...I just know that there is so much more learning out there and I want to soak it all in.

I am living in Edmonton, Alberta now with Riley. I just got here so I'm looking for a job. There seems to be a lot here for social workers so I'm hoping to start working soon. Take care everyone and have a great summer!!! And for the children "KEEP ON DRUMMING AND SINGING~you all have such beautiful voices as well as spirit. I will miss YOU... You are all such an inspiration to me.

Gerl Phillips

## Community Programs

By Marion Chelsea

How beautiful the weather is getting! I was starting to think that winter might never end. Things are definitely gearing up for the summer here. We have had BJ and Adele Edgar come here every Thursday from 4PM-5PM to drum with the After School Program. This has just been amazing. I finally figured out to work the audio recorder last week and we recorded the youth singing. From these recordings I am going to make CDs so that they can listen to it and practice better.

We are calling out again for anyone interested in Reception and Residential Building Maintenance. Barb is retiring this year (what are we going to do without her?), and a need has been recognized for ongoing building maintenance.

We also have five summer student openings this year. They are

- Treaty Assistant
- Natural Resources Mapping Assistant
- 2 Maintenance Workers and
- Heritage Village Assistant

So students, bring your resumes on by!

Things have been going very well for the After School Program. Our attendance numbers have been steady. We have started a Reading Club there as well. The youth that sit down and read, we record their reading times and send it off to their teachers. These reading times count towards benefits such as free

lunch for the children.

For those parents that are wondering what goes on at the Program, we have all sorts of programs and crafts. We did try having weekly themes, but this proved difficult. Youth have homework and so were not able to participate, or when they didn't have homework they wanted last week's activities.

A system has been established where a set number of activities are available. Youth can work on whichever they choose and then check off their name when they have completed each one. When they finish the set of activities they can move onto the next set. This way there is no frustration over missing days or certain themes.

We are also going to be having a dinner June 12, 2007 from 5PM-6PM. This is going to be an After School Program Accomplishment Dinner where our youth are going to bring their parents in and show off all the work they've done in the Program. The youth will be preparing the dinner and they will be the tour guides.

We are looking into having Foodsafe and First Aid training here in Deep Creek. Anyone interested please let me know!

I am always happy to answer any questions you might have, so please stop on by!

Until next time, Me7wiktsen.

**The Sewing Group  
has been completed.**

## Family Support

By Edie Woods

Hi everyone,

The Sewing Group have finished their projects. I would like to acknowledge the youth, elders and parents who participated. Especially Tamara William who went on and completed her hoodie and two p.j. bottoms, Brianne Mitchell our youngest participant, and Reg Michel our lone male participant. He too did an awesome job. So thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules and making this project a success.

Thank you facilitators Joanne Moiese and Frances Supernault for your patience, dedica-

tion and expertise, and for keeping us on our toes but making it fun.

Thursday June 7, 2007 at noon we will be out with Cecilia DeRose root picking. Contact me at the Health Clinic. If there is enough interest I will have the van go around.

Later this month we are planning a trip out to Horsefly to pick Birch bark. I will be notifying you when we set a date for that.

Thank you once again.

Until next time!

Edie Woods

## Community Economic Development

By Rhonda Shackelly

June is upon us! My niece will be 13 on June 23! So happy birthday my dear girl!! Also my brother in-law will be 31 this June as well, so Happy B-day Air-in...oops Aaron!

This week I will be pretty busy ensuring that everything is running smoothly at the Heritage Village. We have Minnie down there teaching how to tan deer hide, so if anyone is interested please don't hesitate to check it out. On Wednesday afternoon we have Celia down there teaching the traditional pit-cook. We are unable to provide any lunches or anything, so come prepared! Bring water, bring a snack, and bring an open learning mind!

Yes, we have had some difficulties with the campsite already! Some one broke into the bathrooms and wrecked the door frames. Also there has been some trouble with people entering the restaurant. We were having difficulties finding the appropriate doors for the restaurant, but I think we found some. I know several people have been wondering what's going on with these businesses. At the moment I am trying to get the Heritage Village back on its feet. As I have mentioned in almost every newsletter submission, do not be shy, come on down and share your ideas.

I am looking for arts & crafts to sell at the Heritage Village this year. We have a few people who are interested, so that is cool!!!

I would like to get the garden rotor tilled this week and possibly start planting. It's just finding the right spot for the garden!

We will be putting a table into the street party for the stampede, anyone interested in selling their crafts and such??? The only hitch is to help sell the Heritage Village!! Just bugging, phone me for details!

Well, I am in search of anyone who can drum and sing for our guests, who have an abundance of stories to share, who like to meet new people, laugh and have a good time visiting...it would be nice to have more community involvement when we have groups at the Heritage village.

Also looking for volunteers to put some time in at the Campsite, there is some extra dollars for those who are on Social assistance, and would like to volunteer time. I need people who can clean the bathrooms, showers, and

mow the lawns. I can be found at the office, if not then at the Heritage Village.

We have the Heritage Site ready, of course there is a few things that we could get... However, our budget is limited this year. So far we have had Trevor Bose, Ken Michel, Glen Dixon, Chiwaya, Jim Michel, John Phillips, & Johnnie Phillips volunteer with the teepees. As well as John Phillips, Bruce K, and Crystal K who volunteered their time in putting up the sweat-lodge. Kristen was right there learning with them, which was good. It's great to have people volunteer their time it makes it so much easier! So a great big THANK-YOU to all those who helped out! As well as the Heritage Village staff.

On a personal note, I am selling OV steak dinner tickets for \$15.00. The proceeds are going to the Central BC Aboriginal Youth Hockey Tournament. So don't hesitate to stop by the office!! We are also still looking for volunteers!

I am looking for powwow volunteers!! It is just around the corner!!!! I would like to hold it at the campground this year, its closer to town, and closer to the hall if we need to move it!

Oh yeah, before I forget, I am looking for donations of blankets !!! Our sweat-lodges are in desperate need of more blankets. So if you have any old ones laying around that you want to get rid of, please send it our way! Thank-you!!!!

Until next time, have a great one! Also, we will be busy this week with APTN at the Heritage Site. So once we know when the TV series will air, I will post it! Take it easy!!!



**I need people who can clean the bathrooms, showers and mow the lawns at the Heritage Village. I can be found at the office!**

## Alcohol and Drug Program

By Pam McGuinness

Willie Alphonse Sr. came out on May 9 and facilitated a sweat at the campsite. We had a number of kids attend and by the sounds of it everyone really enjoyed themselves. We send a big thank you out to Willie and we hope he can attend again. I would also like to thank Reg and Jim Michel for their help. Jim and I cleaned up the area from last year and cut fresh fir bows and readied the area before everyone arrived. Thanks for all your hard work Jim.

With mixed feelings I would like to inform the community that I will be leaving my position as counselor for Soda Cr. Initially when I accepted the position it was going to be temporary until Bruce K. was able to return from medical leave. As many of you know my husband and I ranch out in Beaver Valley and be-

cause the estimated return date for Bruce was the end of Sept. I felt that I could meet the needs of the community during that time and still fulfill my obligations at home.

When the position became permanent the Chief and Council and Band Manager were gracious enough to accommodate my commitments at home and allowed me to adapt my schedule accordingly. I realize with regret that I have taken on too much and feel that the community deserves to have someone that can be more committed to the position.

I will stay until the position is filled and assist with the transition which will hopefully make things somewhat easier.

I hope everyone welcomes the new counselor as I was welcomed so warmly last year.



## Education Department

By Cici Sterritt

Hi everyone, we are now heading into June and we are now planning for the Education Banquet. We recognize all students so we hope you'll come to congratulate our graduates and cheer our students on. **Please let us know of any graduates from our community for this year - just to make sure we have everyone on our list - thanks!**

We have kept busy this past month with the Community Consultations with NSTC and the Human Resource Project. These sessions were successful and there will be a report outlining the information received. The information gathered will be used to outline a future governance structure for NSTQ; which will then be presented to communities for additional feedback. This will assist community members, in particular, students to see where we need to build capacity and areas they can pursue for educational and career goals.

We have many things happening in our after-school program; make sure to read Marion's report. I'd like to thank Stephanie Tweedie for coming in and volunteering her time with the youth and for helping out when we need her

most.

Post-Secondary interviews have been completed with our new applicants and the Education Committee; a waitlist has been started. The Education Committee meets at least 1/ year to conduct interviews and may have additional meetings when necessary (ie. Review or amend current policy). We are applying to INAC for additional funds as ours has been allocated for 2007/08. Interviews will be conducted again in August after we hear if additional funds have been received. The proposal process will assist INAC in building a business case plan to request additional funds from Ottawa; this can take up to 4-5 years. We are now into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this type of process.

We have recently posted the summer employment opportunities and you'll find the information in the newsletter, on our website, or at the Band office and the Education Department. We were able to secure funding for the 2 post-secondary students we have returning to the community; the positions were directly awarded. Our other sponsored post-secondary students are either continuing with their educa-



**Pam McGuinness is resigning and will stay on until her replacement is settled in.**



## Education Department Continued

tion or already had acquired jobs. Please forward your resumes to the office as there are 7 positions available depending on funding approval as we still haven't heard if our proposal submission has been approved.

**Planning for the Education Banquet has started, if you would like to volunteer and provide input, please call Marion or me. We need your help!**

### MEETING/WORKSHOP SUMMARY

#### Human Resource Project Advisory Committee

##### Community Consultation – Williams Lake

May 2, 3 and 4th

- I co-facilitated the consultation sessions for these 3 days and Marion was one of the Note Takers
- May 2 – presentations on Social & Community Services; very information and had presenters from all 4 communities, Three Corners, K-Society and NSTC
- May 3 – consisted of presentations for Corporate and Administrative Services
- May 4 – was Culture and Heritage; consistently heard the need to have an outing which includes the Elders from all communities

##### Committee Meeting – Sugar Cane

May 11

- Received training on the database which was developed specifically for the NSTQ communities
- Discussed training options for staff
- Discussions regarding the database as an excellent resource for storing information and the importance of utilizing this tool

##### FNEC – SD27

May 2, 2007

- Luncheon meeting with the Minister of Education, Honourable Shirley Bond with the other representatives of SD27
- Discussed the importance of improving education amongst First Nations students within the District

- Talked about how the Board needs to be more inclusive; allow the First Nations of the area to participate on their Board Committees
- Encourage the District to hire a District Principal to assist with the Enhancement Agreement which was recently signed

May 9, 2007

- Budget was approved by Board
- Robert Matthews has been conducting the Language Review; please send all survey forms to him or return to District Office to be forwarded
- External Review being conducted; would like to meet with members of FNEC on May 14
- Update regarding the TRU conference

##### External District Review

May 14, 2007

- Discussed the difficulties First Nation students face; lack of success
- Brief discussion of Residential School and the effects it has on parents/students
- Is there a strategy or policy in place to deal with racism
- The importance of the 'Courageous Conversation' program and Shared Learning
- Please see me if you would like to discuss this meeting further.

Everyone is welcome to come by the office or give me a call; especially if you have some additional information you'd like to contribute.

Thank-you.



#### Soda Creek First Nation

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*Education is the key to success*



**Please see attached  
flyers for  
Employment  
Opportunities that  
are opening up!**