



**gitlaxt'aamiks**  
GITMIDIİK: PEOPLE OF THE GRIZZLY

# Mahla'asgum Sawinsk

Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government

February 2016

## Hobiye 2016 - February 26 & 27, 2016



For 2 days it was standing room only at Hobiye 2016 recently held at the Gitlaxt'aamiks Recreation Centre in New Aiyansh on February 26 & 27, 2016.

There was a total of 16 drum & dance groups from the Nass Valley and surrounding areas that participated in the event.

They came from as far away as Smithers and Babine Lake to sing, drum & dance.

A proposal of marriage highlighted the day's event of February 26, 2016 before a capacity crowd.

Sandwiches & coffee, continental breakfast, lunch and supper were provided by the Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government over the two days at the Gitmidiik Auditorium. A shuttle bus service was available to and from the rec centre and the auditorium.

An abundance of Nisga'a foods including fresh Dungeness crab caught by Steven Doolan, Jr. from Gingolx the day before fed the capacity crowd at the Tribal Picnic on Saturday at the rec centre.

Notable attendees were the Nathan Cullen, Member of Parliament and Robin Austin, MLA both representing this area.

Passing of the moon to the Nisga'a community of Gitwinksihlkw signified where Hobiye 2017 will be held next year.

A goodtime was had by all in attendance. Hobiye!!!

## Provisional Budget April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

A provisional budget is a financial forecast of all of the planned spending that Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government (GVG) will do in 24 different departments from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) Fiscal Financial Agreement (FFA) has asked GVG to reduce annual spending for the coming year but GVG has been advised to expect nothing to change.

What that means for GVG is that their annual budgets have not increased or decreased.

NLG has advised that they will find extra monies that will cover any shortfalls.

The largest budget item is GVG Programs & Services and the second largest budget item is GVG Operations & Maintenance.

Social Development budget covers 10 Social Development programs and totals \$1,183,821.00.

For education which covers Headstart and Nurs-

ery along with Post-Secondary GVG plans on spending \$1,725,364.00 and most of it is for Post-Secondary.

GVG Operations & Maintenance have budgeted for \$820,000.00 and that's to cover GVG fire department, roads & bridges, street lighting, sanitation systems, water systems, landfills and our community buildings.

On top of GVG Social Development programs GVG also has a budget for Social Assistance for our community and that alone will require \$1,139,020.00 for next year.

The total funding that GVG will require for next year is \$7,870,175.00 and that includes \$70,000.00 for landfill management program.

Included in the total provisional budget is the NLG Special Assembly budget of \$80,000.00 that will be held in this community in May of this year.

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# Welding Students



On January 22, 2016 we went to visit Austin Percival, Paul Tait, Mitchell Bryant, Drew Gonu and Brent Adams at UAPIC Terrace Satellite Campus at the former Thornhill School.

The 5 students were leaving for Vancouver and would begin the Welding Foundation Program for the Welding C ticket on February 1, 2016 to August 12, 2016.

It has now been over a month since they started their training and everything seems to be going well for them. They have adjusted to living in the city and for most of them, living on their own.

We are advising that they continue right on with the Welding B from August 22, 2016 to December 16, 2016. The instructors are telling them that they have a better chance enrolling in the Welding B program because they are sponsored by Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government.

To give you an update on the two other UAPIC programs at the Terrace Campus, the Piping Foundation Program, an 18 week program which includes Jeremy Johnson-Nisyok, Keane Tait and Adam Tait started on November 16, 2015 is finished on April 1, 2016.

Aboriginal Opportunities for Trades Upgrading (AOTU) a 10 week program which started on February 29, 2016 and finishes on May 6, 2016 includes Bertram Adams, Jr., Sterling Tait, Tim Moraes, Edward McMillan, Danny Barton, Steven Eli, Jr., Curtis Johnson and Gary Gonu.

# Important Dates

Special Assembly of the Nisga'a Nation  
Gitlaxt'aamiks, BC  
May 2 - 6, 2016

# Elders Package Public Meeting

A total of 209 Gitlaxt'aamiks residents attended the Public Meeting regarding the \$15,000.00 Elders Package at the Gitmidiik Auditorium on February 17, 2016.

The largest ever turnout for a public meeting to date Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government (GVG) was seeking input from community members about how future monies should be given out and where the money should come from.

As of April 2015 there have been a total of 230 Nisga'a elders aged 60 years old that have received an Elders Package of \$15,000.00 since May 2000. The total payout was  $230 \times \$15,000.00 = \$3,450,000.00$  for that time period.

There was a general agreement that we don't want to bankrupt our nation.

It was also suggested that the Elders Package be continued for future generations.

GVG will compile the information and then present it too Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) for their consideration.

It was reported that all other Nisga'a communities and urban locals would be holding a similar meeting in the near future.

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For all the Programs & Services programs it would require a provisional budget of well over \$3,000,000.00.

GVG Economic Development programs have basically remained the same since 2000.

GVG Housing dollars have remained the same since 2000.

Programs & Services plans on keeping the GVG Smoke House project going every year.

GVG also has a budget for the Interpretive Centre (Old Community Hall) \$140,000.00 for that project alone.

GVG Youth Training programs also require a budget allocation and internal professional training programs for GVG staff annually.

GVG Annual Beautification Program and \$25,000.00 is going towards the GVG Sewing Centre.

Animal Control will benefit from additional spending next year.

The main goal for all those added programs is to build capacity within the GVG community.

For instance the ball field project in 2014 employed 8 to 10 Heavy Equipment Operators to get that

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# GVG New Hire



Mary Grandison was the successful applicant for the Sewing Centre Manager position.

She started work for Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government on January 4, 2016.

Mary comes from the house of Sim'oogit W'ii N'aa buxw of the Laxgibuu clan and her Nisga'a name is Ni'tsiits' Txahuwoks.

She finds the job very enjoyable. It's her passion to sew she's been doing it all her life.

The sewing centre was very busy with Hobiye 2016 on February 26 & 27, 2016 and everybody coming in to do regalia.

The sewing centre is open from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm daily from Sunday to Thursday of every week.

After Hobiye is over Mary is going to develop programs that will attract younger kids into the sewing centre to learn how to sew. There will be simple projects that they can do.

She says that the job has been a learning experience for her in that she was so used to working for someone else and now she's managing the whole operation.

Please join us in welcoming Mary to her new job.

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project started and it's still GVG's plan to finish that project.

GVG does not rely on FFA or Nisga'a Treaty money to fund projects such as this. They form partnerships such as the UA Piping Industry College of BC out in Terrace. That has been very beneficial for GVG with the cost sharing agreement to fund the trades students that GVG puts through every year.

Nothing happens without the GVG Chief Administrative Officer or the Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government's approval. It all starts with resolutions from GVG.

The GVG staff will be working on their budgets on March 21 & 22, 2016.

## Smokehouse Crew

The Smokehouse Crew got an unexpected early start this year because of the unusually large amount of first run oolicans they were catching down at Fishery Bay.

By Sunday, March 6, 2016 the fisherman had pretty much filled all their bins for making grease and were now food fishing.

They were pretty big oolicans and a lot of them were female with eggs in them. The New Aiyansh community smokehouses got about twice the amount of oolicans than previous years. And that is just the first run.

The Smokehouse Crew was supposed to start on March 21, 2016 but 4 of them got called to work to start washing oolicans on March 9, 2016. Leslie Clayton, Lyndon Davies, Cody Alexcee and Bertram Gonu, Jr. and Henry Adams will start on March 10, 2016. Three more will be hired to round out the crew.

They will be putting the oolicans in a salt brine for about an hour and then putting them on sticks on March 10 and smoking them.

When they first received the oolicans they distributed a feed of oolicans to about 35 to 40 households in New Aiyansh and that barely put a dent in the supply that they received.



## GVG New Hire



Tabitha Munroe is the new hire as Employment Readiness Coordinator for Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government.

She started work on January 4, 2016. She is a Laxsgiik and belongs to Sim'oogit Hleek's house and her Nisga'a name is Noxs Galdix Mak.

Since Tabitha started work she has taken in 26 interested applicants for the Aboriginal Opportunities for Trades Upgrading (AOTU).

Twelve people brought their completed applications back. She really enjoys helping people find training for themselves.

Please join us in welcoming Tabitha to her new job.

## Oolicans Are Here - March 4, 2016



Almost to the day, the oolichan arrived a day late this year at Fishery Bay. Russell Morven from New Aiyansh brought a fish tote load to give away to anybody that wanted it.

The smell of fried oolichan could be detected throughout the village on the weeked. Si'aamhl Wilin Russell

## Quote Of The Month

Don't limit your challenges - challenge your limits.

Jerry Dunn

## 2016 Junior All Native Basketball Tournament - Williams Lake, BC - March 13 - 18, 2016

### *Gitmidiik Storm - Boys*

Samuel Dyer  
Nathan Temple  
Lucas Temple  
Aiden Clayton  
Skyler Guno  
Keaton Fisher  
Donny Stevens  
Branden Azak

### Quinton Nisyok

Matthew Clayton  
Isiah Guno  
Arthur Alexcee  
Branden Eli  
Ethan Clayton  
Coach: Phillip Clayton  
Manager: Tanya Clayton

### *Gitmidiik Thunder - Girls*

Emma Robinson  
Shanika Tait  
Sabrina Stevens  
Seirra Ousey  
Cynthia Derrick  
Zariah Munroe  
Eva Stewart  
Reagan Dyer

### Mallory Gosnell

Alyssa Brown  
Kiara Stewart  
Sonita McKay  
Jaylene Scott  
Sydney Eli  
Laney Munroe  
Coach: Chester Munroe  
Manager: Lori Nisyok