

Mahla'asgum Saw'insk



X̄maay' / July 2023 | Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government

Lip gil' ja x̄maayinhl.

July is the month we go out and unfriend the last person we took out berry picking. We go out early in the morning to avoid the harsh summer sun. With our hearts full of optimism and dreams of blueberry pie, we return home with empty buckets and a hole in our heart (and our friends list). Our decision to make our social circle smaller has nothing to do with the thirty-degree weather or the amount of fly bites on our arms, it's the principle of the matter! In good faith we share the bounty of the land, in our unlimited kindness and benevolence we grace our friends with the ultimate secret picking spot and this – this is how they repay us. We ring them up just to give them a piece of our mind – and – find out that they were just about to call us to see if we were heading out to the patch anytime soon, they were craving some blueberry pie.

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Ts'amiks Homecoming

Front Page Photo: Carmen Percival, Dalena Gosnell, Lily Jorgensen, Christina Hamilton, Cindy Stephens, Irene Shaw, Lynn Clayton, Sabrina Stephens, Debbie Lincoln, Kaisha Woods, Mallory Gosnell.

After touring several projects in Gitlaxt'aamiks, such as the greenhouse, smokehouse program, interpretive center, elder's center, and water park, the visitors from Ts'amiks were treated to a tribal picnic. Potatoes, herring eggs, and ts'al were provided by the Gitlaxt'aamiks smokehouse crew and members from each tribe were asked to provide homecooked meals.

After dinner several prominent members addressed our visitors and many expressed hope that these trips back to Nisga'a lands would continue on an annual basis, and that it might be beneficial to Nisga'a who may be struggling in Vancouver.



Kathleen Clayton was one of many speakers at the Tribal Picnic hosted at the Gitmidiik Auditorium. She suggested that ten community members should be sent on a trip "to see how the Vancouver people lived."



Sherry Wright and Debbie Lincoln. Debbie donated \$500 to the Elder's Center



After members from the community addressed the Ts'amiks visitors, each lady was invited to share their thoughts about their experience on Nisga'a Lands.

Everyone expressed their gratitude for the hospitality they were shown. Lynne Clayton who is an outreach worker for the Ts'amiks Society said the experience would be brought back to Vancouver with them and that the knowledge and protocols of our culture will be practiced in her work.

The following is taken from the Ts'amiks Society Mandate: *"Our mandate is to provide liaison and contact between the Nisga'a Lisims Government, along with other Nisga'a locals and Village Governments, and Nisga'a citizens ordinarily residing in the Greater Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo regions of British Columbia, as well as to deliver social services and promote individual, family and community wellness for Nisga'a citizens living within our boundary."*

Waterpark Landscaping

Uplands Nursery has begun landscaping at the waterpark, this includes a fence that will be installed around the perimeter of the park. Greenroots Play Equipment Inc. is the company forming the rubber surfacing for the splashpad. The process of surfacing the rubber splashpad will take a couple of days. The landscaping crew has a target completion date of two weeks.

Once the project is complete, Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government will host a grand opening.



Landscaping begins at the water park near the Rec Centre.



One of the six buildings that will comprise the Tiny Town Project.

Tiny Town Update

Two of the proposed six structures that will populate the newly rezoned properties situated between the streets of St. Peter's, Mercer, and McCullagh will have their exteriors' complete by the end of July. The water and sewage services have been connected and the remaining work is all interior work.

Both homes are 700sq. ft. and the remaining four homes that will be built will be 600sq. ft.

The project is one of several housing strategies that the Village of Gitlaxt'aamiks is employing to meet the growing demand for housing. The smaller footprint of these buildings mean that they will be more cost efficient to heat and cool and are perfect for single people.



Mankind Project

Brushing and tree removal has begun near Nass Camp. The area being cleared has been selected as the future site of the Mankind Project. The ManKind Project (MKP) is a non-profit that supports a global network of over 1,000 peer-facilitated men's groups serving close to 10,000 men each week. There are over a dozen men's groups across British Columbia. The MKP offers training such as the NWTA.

From the MKP Website: *“The New Warrior Training Adventure is a modern male initiation and self-examination. It is a REAL TIME hero's journey. It is the challenge of a lifetime for many men. It's safe, supportive and cutting edge. It is NOT a retreat, a conference or a workshop. It is NOT like anything you've done before. Many men rank this among the most powerful experiences of their lives.”*

Proposed structures at the Nass Camp site are a log cabin, a sweatlodge, two tepees, and an area for tents. The project completion timeframe provided was the end of August.



The stimulus program's brushing and weeding crew begins clearing an area for the next Mankind Project campsite.

Sidewalk Project

Installation of the storm drain for the Skateen Avenue Sidewalk is set to begin July 28th 2023. Allnorth has provided the planning and will oversee quality control for the project. BTN Excavation is the company contracted to install the 600m of HDPE (high-density polyethylene) storm pipe. BTN has over a century of combined experience in Civil Excavation and anticipates that the installation process will take two weeks.

The installation will begin at the entrance to the village, and end at the stop sign near the school. Traffic will be affected and GVG anticipates single lane traffic on Skateen for 12hrs a day until the project is completed.

Public notices will be issued door-to-door and on social media on possible street shutdowns and changes to traffic flow.

Gwich'in Tribal Council and Tlicho Government Delegation

Twenty-one delegates from the Northwest Territories attended the July 26th 2023 Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a sitting and toured the Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government Smokehouse program before they made their way to NLG workshops at the Gitmidiik Auditorium.

Laxgalts'ap will be hosting the delegates and each nation will perform traditional songs and dances.

Initially there had been over fifty visitors anticipated but a wildfire threatening the community of Behchoko caused over half of the delegates to return home.

Overnight, the fire burned into part of Behchokò and consumed three homes. The community of about 2,000 people remains under an evacuation order, with many residents fleeing to Yellowknife's Multiplex.



The visitors from the Northwest Territories were treated to a tour of the smokehouse program and community garden.

Each visitor received a gift bag of traditionally prepared foods.

Community Smokehouse Program

The Gitlaxt'aamiks Smokehouse Crew is led by Jacki Tait who has nothing but good things to say about work ethic of this year's crew. Jaylene Scott, Keshia Moore, Leslie Clayton, Cora Adams, Lyle Benson, John Moore, Henry Adams, and Eddie Guno have processed and distributed traditional foods such as ts'al, k'yuukws, smoked t'ibin, herring eggs, halibut, seaweed, and k'almoos for elders and the rest of the community.

On top of that, the smokehouse crew have led tours of the smokehouse to over 90 guests this year. The program is all about knowledge sharing and anyone willing to learn can apply.

Jacki Tait shows a lot of pride when talking about the efficiency of the crew this year, but she also credits the infrastructure and equipment improvements that have been made by the Operations and Maintenance Department.



AUG 2023

Upcoming Events

Soccer Camp. Monday-Thursday

Basketball Camp. Sunday- Thursday

Haisla Elder's Meet and Greet. Date
TBA

Youth Soccer Tournament. Date TBA

Waterpark Grand Opening. Date
TBA

Robotics Camp. Date TBA

Treaty Trivia

How many laws were enacted on May 11th 2000?

How many children born since May 11th 2000?

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gitlaxt'aamiks
GITMIDIİK: PEOPLE OF THE GRIZZLY

