

Mahla'asgum

Saw'insk

Mmaal



GITLA'X'T'AAMIKS
GITMIDIK: PEOPLE OF THE GRIZZLY

April 2025
EDITION



Trades AwareNESS

A total of twenty students from Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School (NESS) successfully completed the 5-week Trades Awareness Program offered by the UA Piping Industry College of BC. The program was hosted at NESS and led by Kevin Jeffery who is the Special Projects Coordinator. The program introduced the student participants to various trades available on campus providing a comprehensive overview and practical experience. From January 20-March 14, 2025, the student participants engaged in hands-on activities covering multiple trades disciplines including the following: Electrical, Hair Dressing, Carpentry and Welding, Culinary Arts and Piping. The immersive experience allowed the students to gain valuable insights and practical skills in each field that broadened their understanding and appreciation of the diverse career opportunities within trades. This was a collaborative effort between Ursula Azak, GVG Employment Coordinator, NESS and UAPICBC.



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Smokehouse Crew Collaborates with Diane Smith on Traditional Si'u Preparation

In a meaningful collaboration celebrating traditional practices, the Smokehouse Crew recently partnered with Diane Smith to prepare Si'u, or oolichan, using time-honored methods. Oolichan, a culturally significant fish, was carefully strung together on cedar ropes to be sun-dried, preserving an age-old tradition vital to Nisga'a heritage. Under Diane Smith's expert guidance, participants learned and practiced the meticulous art of threading these small, oil-rich fish onto cedar ropes—a process demanding precision, patience, and respect for tradition. The strung oolichan were then arranged outdoors to dry naturally in the sun, a process that enhances their flavor and nutritional value, while also connecting participants deeply to ancestral practices. This event not only highlighted the community's commitment to cultural preservation but also fostered intergenerational learning, as knowledge and stories were exchanged among elders and younger members alike. The Smokehouse Crew continues to inspire by nurturing these critical links to the past, ensuring traditional Nisga'a knowledge thrives in contemporary life.



Easter Egg Hunt A Sweet Success

On April 20, 2025, the Gitlaxt'aamiks Fire Department teamed up with our enthusiastic U17 Gitmidiik Thunder and Lightning teams to host an exciting Easter Egg Hunt for the local community youth ages 4-12 years which included the easter egg hunt and inflatables. Prior to the event the U17 teams gathered at the Fire Hall guided by William Clayton Jr., EMR to assemble and stuff hundreds of plastic eggs with delicious candy. The Easter Egg Hunt preparations showcased community spirit, teamwork and plenty of smiles making the event enjoyable for both participants and organizers alike. This was a collaborative effort between the Fire Hall, GVG Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Department and the U17 Gitmidiik Thunder and Lightning teams.

T'ipyees on the Lava Beds – A Journey of Taste, Patience, and Place

Wednesdays are our fully immersed outdoor learning days, and today we spent it out on the lava beds, learning about t'ipyees. These small berries, nestled in the cracks of the volcanic rock, carry more than just flavor, they carry teachings, memories, and deep cultural meaning.

We began by talking with the children about what t'ipyees are. These berries are traditionally eaten after smoked fish or oolichans, used as a dessert to cleanse the palate. As we explored the land together, we noticed the different stages of the berries: some still green, some just flowering, and others ripe and red, ready to be picked. The children searched with care, harvesting only what was ready. They tasted the berries right from the ground, and while most weren't fans of the flavor, it sparked a great conversation about how they're sometimes sweetened with sugar or served with other traditional foods.

Throughout our outing, we were so lucky and grateful to have our Ye'e Gerry as our guide. He shared stories and teachings that brought the land to life. One story he passed on was from Joe, about the man whose figure is still seen pointing on the lava beds, and about when families first moved across from the old village. Back then, there were no trees around the lava beds. The small ones we see today only began growing after all the logging was done. We also heard about Late Grandfather George, the first bus driver, who drove people up from the old village to the new one along a muddy road.

One of the teachings that stuck with us most was how our ancestors knew what was safe to eat. They would watch the bears, observing what they picked and ate, learning from the land and from the animals who live with it. These are the kinds of lessons you don't learn from a textbook, but through story, time, and connection.

Today wasn't just about picking berries. It was about remembering. About learning through place, listening with our whole selves, and carrying forward the knowledge passed down to us. The children didn't just pick t'ipyees, they picked up stories, teachings, and a sense of belonging to this land and its history.



Welcome Our New Animal Control Worker!

Hello everyone! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Dawid Andreas Janse van Rensburg, However, since I share the same name as my dad, my mum decided I would go by Andre. My family is from South Africa, immigrating to Canada in 2001 just before I was born. I was born in Dauphin, Manitoba, and we only lived there for a few years before moving to Terrace. I grew up there, then went to boarding school in Shawnigan Lake, where I fell in love with rugby. I moved back to Terrace to be with my family when the pandemic started to get scary, which led to me meeting Emma Robinson. We got engaged, then decided to move down to Victoria for a few years before returning to the Nass so we could settle down. I'm excited about my new position here at Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government and look forward to giving back to the community that accepted me with open arms.

Written by: Andreas Janse van Rensburg



Important Dates



Social Assistance Intake May 3rd-4th



Foodshare Grand Opening May 12th - Giwinksihlkw 4PM Start 5PM Dinner



Council Meetings May 12th-13th, 15th



Victoria Day May 19th (Stat)



NLG Executive May 22nd, 23rd



Elder's Pension Run May 28th

APRIL 2025

TREATY TRIVIA

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD

The Nisga'a Final Agreement grants the Nisga'a Nation ownership of approximately how many square kilometers of land within their traditional territory?

To submit your answer, please call (250) 633-3100 and ask for Stirling or you can e-mail it to stirling@peopleofthegrizzly.com



Call for Submissions

If you would like to submit a story please call (250)633-3100 or e-mail: Marianne.Guno@peopleofthegrizzly.com or Stirling@peopleofthegrizzly.com

| HANIISGWAAYTKW - SUNDAY | KSGOOGAM SA - MONDAY | HANTIILP'ILHL SA - TUESDAY | HANTIIGWILALHL SA - WEDNESDAY | HANIITXALP'XHL SA - THURSDAY | HANIUKWSDINSHL SA - FRIDAY | HANIYEK - SATURDAY |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | Closed - Business Run 1 | Charlene away 2 | 3 |
| 4 | Movement is Medicine - Rec Centre 1:30pm 5 | Monthly Lunch: No Purchase Necessary 6 | Movement is Medicine - Rec Centre 1:30pm Sim'algaax with Ts'aa Gabin 6pm 7 | Hair By Pearl \$40 Short \$55 Long 8 | Charlene away 9 | 10 |
| 11 | Sarah away HeadStart/ Nursery Visit 10am 12 | Sarah away Lunch Sale: Curried Bologna 13 | Sarah away 14 | Sarah away Beginner Knitting Circle 2-5pm 15 | Sarah away Just Baked 1-4pm 16 | 17 |
| 18 | Closed - Victoria Day 19 | Lunch Sale: Sushi Bake/ Sushi Bowl 20 | Movement is Medicine - Rec Centre 1:30pm Sim'algaax with Ts'aa Gabin 6pm 21 | Beginner Crochet Circle 2-5pm 22 | Just Baked 1-4pm 23 | 24 |
| 25 | Charlene away Movement is Medicine - Rec Centre 1:30pm 26 | Lunch Sale: Nisga'a Tacos 27 | Movement is Medicine - Rec Centre 1:30pm Sim'algaax with Ts'aa Gabin 6pm 28 | Beginner Knitting Circle 2-5pm 29 | Closed - Deep Cleaning 30 | 31 |
| | | | | | | |

Yansa'alt 2025

| "MAY - TO EAT BERRIES" | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| APRIL 2025 | | | | | | JUNE 2025 | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 29 | 30 | | | | |

Simdaala'am Nagats'e

GITLAXT'AAMIKS ELDERS CENTRE - PHONE: (250) 633 2067

Hours, Closed 1h Lunch on non-sale days.

Monday - Friday 9am-4pm

Drop-in always welcome

Reflexology by Appointment

Elders Walk @ Rec - M & W @ 1pm

Just Baked - Bake Sale, pop up sales occasionally

Leaves Blooming

Yansa’alt means the time when leaves begin to bloom. Spring is in the air, everything is waking up again, and it’s the season to start fishing. We’ll be spending more time outside as the land comes to life around us!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| | | | | 1 Gym 9:30am | 2 Am outing Pm no session | 3 |
| 4 | 5 Pm outing | 6 Gym 9:30am | 7 Outing around community | 8 NO session | 9 NO session | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Elders visit am Pm outing | 13 Gym 9:30am | 14 Am outing Family Night 5pm-8pm | 15 Gym 9:30am | 16 Am outing Pm no session | 17 |
| 18 | 19 HOLIDAY | 20 Gym 9:30am | 21 Outing around community | 22 Gym 9:30am | 23 Am outing Pm no session | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Am daycare visit Pm outing | 27 Gym 9:30am | 28 Outing around community | 29 Gym 9:30am | 30 Am outing Pm no session | 31 |

–Outings around the village (where we will be going will be posted on our weekly activity plan)

–Gym days

–Elders Visit

–On family nights there will be no afternoon session

MEMO

To: Community of Gitlaxt'aamiks
From: Darlene Morgan, Chief Administrative Officer
CC: Chief and Council, Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government
Date: April 22, 2025
Re: Animal Control Worker – Andreas Janse van Rensburg

Welcome Our New Animal Control Worker

The Gitlaxt'aamiks Village Government is committed to keeping our community safe, especially for our children. We're pleased to welcome Andreas Janse van Rensburg (Andre) as our new Animal Control Worker for New Aiyansh.

We've heard concerns about dogs running at large, particularly around the school and public areas. To help address this, Andre will be doing a door-to-door campaign to ensure all dogs are:

- Properly licensed
- Within the household limit
- Not running at large

Andre may also take a moment to meet your dog as we build a complete Dog Database for the village.

Please remember:

- All dogs must be kept under control on village lands
- Dogs found loose, unlicensed, or exceeding the allowed number may be impounded
- Dogs that bite (without provocation) can be seized under the Animal Control Act

Our goal isn't to take pets away, it is to promote responsible pet ownership and keep our sidewalks, schools, and public spaces safe for everyone.

A copy of the New Aiyansh Village Government Animal Control Act can be picked up at the office, or you may contact sherry@peopleofthegrizzly.com to receive an electronic copy.

Contact Andre at 250-633-3100 if you have questions or need help.

Let's all work together to keep New Aiyansh safe and welcoming—for people and pets!