



# Soowahlie Times



September 3, 2002

## ELDER'S CORNER

**Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>** Next Elder's monthly meeting: *10:00 AM - 12:00 noon, elder's lounge*

**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>** next elder's & Chief & Council meeting, at the admin office, 9:00 AM

**Victor Bisailon** will be filling in for Rose Kelly until further notice.  
Contact: Victor @ 604-858--4603

## YOUTH'S CORNER

Thanks to Brenda Wallace drove some youth to the new Chillwack Leisure Centre on August 22<sup>nd</sup> there was 2 hours of free time to check out the new facility.

Check with Victor on the youth schedule of events.

## TH'EWALI RESOURCES LTD.

**Campsite** - call Tara or Ron for more information @ **604-824-4023. Gate opens from 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM. Unregistered guests required to leave by 11:00 PM.**

The past week-end the campsite was full again and some campers stayed during the week. Surrey Aboriginal Centre enjoyed a second week at the site.

**Summer Students** - August 23<sup>rd</sup> was the last day for the Post-Secondary students. This session ran for 14 weeks. Thanks to: Brad Mussell, Brenda Jasper, Theresa Beaton,

Shiela Quock, Brenda Wallace & Tanya Douglas. Good luck to all the students who will be attending UCFV, Quesnel College and Sprott Shaw College. High-school students last day was August 30<sup>th</sup> This session ran for 8 weeks. Thanks to: Ken Commodore, Kurt Commodore, Lawrence Commodore, Brandon Sam, Brianne Severn, Miranda Kelly, Sandra Commodore, Patricia Orgill and Crystal Backman.

These students worked at the campsite, admin. office, and the health services office. On August



23<sup>rd</sup> a luncheon was held to thank all the students for the great jobs they did. On behalf of Chief & Council, Bruce Sam spoke of the good changes in the community and campsite and also how it was great to see the 15 jobs filled by

Soowahlie members. Myra Sam and Marge Kelly were able to join in. Also thanks going out to Victor the chef! The Best of Luck to all the students in seeking their education goals and we hope to see you next year!!!

# 2002 Summer Students



Brenda Jasper, Brad Mussell, Brenda Wallace, Tanya Douglas, Theresa Beaton, Sheila Quock, Sandy Commodore, Lawrence Commodore, Kurt Commodore, Brandon Sam, Miranda Kelly, Ken Commodore, Patricia Orgill, (Missing) Brianne Severn and Crystal Backman

## SOOWAHLIE HEALTH SERVICES

Check with Marg for baby clinics, elders check ups etc. if you have an appointment, please call in if you need to cancel or re-schedule.

**Woman's Health Conference** Sept. 18-20 Contact Marg to register - only 12 seats available

**First Nations Crisis Line -**  
Ph: 1-866-904-1257

*F.Y.I. F.Y.I.* FOR YOUR INFORMATION *F.Y.I. F.Y.I.*

Beware & use caution





For emergency's call: Conservation Officer @ 604-795-8422

### CHIEF & COUNCIL

› Meet Tuesdays 2:30 PM—5:30 PM, **September 10<sup>th</sup>**

### REGIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

In September I will be preparing for the Regional Health Survey by attending a 3-day training session in Vancouver. I will commence survey interviews shortly after the training. I will be responsible for conducting 24 interviews on Soowahlie (16 child and youth and 8 adults). The names have been randomly selected. I am looking forward to seeing the chosen ones.

This is completely owned by First Nations people so it is important that we support this initiative. \* For more info see brochure

Reported by Jean Charters

#### **NOTICE - 50/50 TICKETS SALES WINNER**

**Harry Kelly \$152.50**

**Proceeds towards CFB Court Case expenses..**

**Congratulations!!! - Drawn on August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

The next fundraiser will be a raffle drawn on October 11<sup>th</sup> Prizes to include a food hamper, hand-made clock, first nation print, gift certificates and more!!! Stay tuned for more information, donations greatly appreciated.





### BIRTHDAYS!!!! AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2002

Rob Sam 08/20	Shirley John 08/20
Clint Kelly 08/21	Marjorie Kelly 08/25
Christine Wallace 08/27	Kelly Sam 08/28
Walter John 08/29	Charles Bisailon 08/29
Rozelda Mussell 08/29	Shannon
Commodore 09/01	
Gina Kelly 09/01	Margaret Kelly 09/02
Eric Joseph Bisailon 09/03	Charlotte Kahama 09/09
Bradley Commodore 09/09	David Bage 09/09
Erin Kelly 09/10	Marcella Commodore
09/11	
John Sam 09/11	Garrett Wallace 09/13
Percy Commodore 09/15	Rosalind Commodore
09/16	
Gay Kelly-Archie 09/17	Leondard Price 09/17
Brandon Sam 09/18	Kevin Kelly 09/19
Megan Kelly 09/19	Denise Kelly 09/22

### OTHER DATES TO NOTE

#### XOLHEMET SOCIETY - REMINDER

The Xolhemet Society will be holding it's **2nd Annual Golf Fun Fest** at the Kinkora Golf Course in Sardis on Higginson Road on **Saturday, September 13, 2002**. 4-player texas scramble, shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Registration fee \$50 per person, includes a barbecue hamburger lunch; minimum of 2 K.P's for \$150 per hole, hole in one prizes, trophies, gifts and a whole lot of fun. Posters will follow at a later date. Any inquiries, please **call Susanne (Sue-Bonnie) at Second Stage 604-824-0939**. We are looking for donations for prizes and hole sponsors for \$100 a hole. All donations greatly appreciated. Come join us for fun, food and lots of laughs.

Contact **Susanne Point**, Executive Director, 604-824-0939 or e-mail, [xolhemet@uniserve.com](mailto:xolhemet@uniserve.com).

**Emergency Phone Number: 604-858-0468 or Toll Free: 1-888-558-0468**

All my relations, Susanne (Sue-Bonnie) Point



## **Peters' Memorial 2 – Pitch Tourney**

Sept 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002 @ Schkam Field, Hope, BC **\$200.00 Entry Fee** plus a ball \$177

Prizes: \$600.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$400.00 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$200.00 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Also: Allstars M.V.P.S Batboy/girls, Sportsmanlike Team & Players

Contact: **Monica Florence @ (604) 869-7316 w: (604)869-9994 OR  
Rhonda Bobb @ (604) 869-9624**

**Notice** : Brigade Days Weekend also! Fireworks Demo Derby Carnival Rides

**\*\* Send in off-reserve contact information- e-mail, address, phone # \*\***

**\*\* Send in birthdays, anniversaries, articles, etc. to the admin office by Friday.**

**\*\***

## **Manager's Report: September 3, 2002**

### **Housing**

We must always keep in mind that current members and our future generations need housing, and we must provide them with homes. Overall the housing department is operating well but the issue that remains a huge problem is the rental arrears. Tenants have been sent notices which resulted in a few arrears decreasing. In the various meetings I had with CMHC and the auditor, they gave two options to resolve the rental arrears. One involved immediate evictions, and the other was to go to a collection agency. But upon my presentation to Chief & Council this option was clearly rejected – so there will be no evictions; eviction has not and will not be considered. A joint meeting with elder's identified how serious the situation is and the result was the same, no evictions and another meeting will be scheduled to come up with other options.

### **Audit - March 31, 2002**

Our new auditor, Teresa Vaugeois, CGA has completed the audit for the fiscal year 2001-2002. Packages have been sent to Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) and to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for a final review.

### **Administration**

Staff appreciated the extra help from the summer students over the past months. Filing can become over-whelming at times but with the student help, things went well. I wish to thank



the students again. Dave and I are working on further proposals to get more staff training and to bring more Administration trainees into the office. We will keep you posted.

### **Council:**

Council meetings are ongoing, on a bi-weekly basis, and Council is constantly working on many items, their report is attached. I also meet with our management team (Dave, Ernie, and Marg) on a regular basis. We have been and will continue to make community plans, and carry out our annual workplans. I will report more on the Council and Management work in the next Newsletter.

### **CFB Court Case**

Last March, we filed our claim against Canada, BC, City of Chilliwack, and Canada Lands Company Ltd. in the BC Supreme Court. We want the court to declare that the Crown, in 1864, established or clearly intended to create I.R. #14 for the Soowahlie Indian Band. This ruling will recognize our title to most of former CFB Chilliwack, Cultus Lake Park Board, and a portion of the Cultus Lake Provincial Park. We want our Colonial reserve lands returned to Soowahlie. For those lands not returned, we want compensation.

We went to court because we ran out of options. On December 14, 2001, Canada transferred 153 acres of former CFB Chilliwack to the Canada Lands Company Ltd. Canada made this transfer before the *Larry Commodore Case* went to trial at the Federal Court. We asked for an injunction, appealed and lost. At the Stó:lô Treaty Table, Canada refuses to negotiate with Soowahlie. INAC wants to use our land at former CFB Chilliwack to settle the Stó:lô Nation treaty.

In 1975, B.C. passed a law setting a 30-year statute of limitations. Canada and BC are relying on this law for their defence. Later this month, Council is meeting with our lawyer to plan the next steps of our case. We will put together legal, political and media strategies to build support for our case.



Funding our case is a major challenge and we need everyone's help. Our Elders and Staff are fund-raising. Our Council is working on business projects to increase revenue. We are also submitting applications for government funding – but our lawyer tells us that INAC will only fund the costs of appeals.

### **Soowahlie v. Stó:lô Nation**

On August 28, 2002, we went to court against the Stó:lô Nation. We agreed to adjourn until we can get a full day for a trial. Last week, Bob Hall Sr. told Stó:lô elders and the Chilliwack Progress that he won the case. This is sad, either Bob's lawyer is that bad, or Bob simply does not get it.

We want a ruling that the Stó:lô Nation Society did not properly remove Lester Ned as a Director in May 2001. If we get this ruling, then both Bruce Sam and Wayne Bobb will be able to seek similar rulings and compensation.

We want the court to rule that both Bob Hall Sr. and Ken Malloway are not eligible to serve as Directors because the 1995 Stó:lô Nation Constitution requires that Directors be a Chief or a Chiefs' Nominee.

Finally, we will ask the court to interpret the bylaw concerning members benefiting from income of the Society. The judge will review the wording of the bylaw and then the intent of the Chiefs when the lawyer wrote the bylaw. This ruling will address our concerns about both Joe Hall and Willy Hall serving as both chiefs and executive directors at the same time.

The Stó:lô Nation receives funding on behalf of the Soowahlie Indian Band. During the past year or more, many members told Council about their concerns about Stó:lô Nation financial management. At our band meetings, you demanded that Stó:lô Nation complete their special audits for all SN departments. We pushed this position but the Stó:lô Nation decided to



complete only the fisheries special audit. Council shares your concern about how Stó:lô Nation manages your money.

## **BC Parks Management Opportunity**

In February, we learned about the BC government plan to invite bids for management contracts for Provincial Parks. As you know, campers travel through Soowahlie to get to both Cultus Lake and Chilliwack Lake Parks. For this reason, we decided to go after this opportunity.

Soowahlie put together a project team and funding proposals. Later this month, we will submit a proposal to meet the Request for Qualifications. Later, we are going to put together a business plan and proposal to manage both Cultus Lake and Chilliwack Lake Provincial Parks for April 1, 2003.

\* We will keep you posted on this exciting opportunity.

***Soowahlie Indian Band - Resource Management Department***  
*4172 Soowahlie Rd. Cultus Lake B.C. V2R 4Y2*  
*Ph. 604-858-4631 Fax 604-824-4630*



## **What's happening in the Resource Department?**

*By Ernie Crey*

### **Fisheries:**

Last week, Chief Doug Kelly signed this year's Escapement Surplus to Spawning Requirements (ESSR) agreement. The Department of Fisheries & Oceans allows the Soowahlie Band to take the surplus Coho and Chum from the Chilliwack River Hatchery. Under this agreement, we sell a majority of the fish and give some salmon away for food and ceremonial purposes. Like last year, Soowahlie will partner with a fish marketing company to sell the surplus fish. Last year, we employed four band members from September to December 2001. We expect to begin harvesting this year's hatchery surplus in mid-September. Hiring for this project should get underway within the next 10 days.



Last year, we submitted a proposal to the Department of Fisheries to develop a new Aboriginal fishery organization for the Lower Fraser River. The department reviewed the proposal and they want to talk with Soowahlie Band and other interested bands to explore the Soowahlie proposal. If we reach agreement, then this project could very likely get underway in the next few months.

### **Gravel:**

In May, Th'ewali Gravel Ltd. signed an agreement with Twin Creeks Aggregates. This deal provided for a royalty of 70 cents per cubic yard of gravel. Twin Creeks agreed to supply equipment, pay wages and all other costs for mining gravel from Soowahlie. Twin Creeks was to put in a Weigh scale and, sign a lease with the band. We asked Twin Creeks to grade Soowahlie roads and dust abatement.

In late June and then again in July, Twin Creeks fired two Th'ewali Gravel crew. Despite repeated request, Twin Creeks did not negotiate a lease, install a weigh scale, maintain roads and pay for dust control. On July 31, the council served 30 days notice to cancel the agreement. Instead of settling up with the band's company, Twin Creeks went to the BC Supreme Court on August 12, 2002.

### **Resources Report:**

#### **Gravel: cont'd**

Twin Creeks got a court order to allow them to remove their equipment. However, the judge ordered Twin Creeks to take steps to settle with Th'ewali Gravel within 30 days. Now, Th'ewali Gravel has prepared a final bill for Twin Creeks. We are ready to begin the talks as ordered by the BC Supreme Court.

During July and August, we talked with Valley Gravel about mining gravel from Soowahlie. Last week, Barry McLean told us that he is not interested at this time. Th'ewali Gravel is actively looking for another partner to begin mining the band's gravel. The band's company has already received expressions of interest from at least two local gravel operators.

Yours Truly,  
Ernie Crey and Bruce Sam

### **Projects Report – September 3, 2002**

*By Dave Sepass*

Our main Project tasks and accomplishments for the month of August are as follows:



1. Chilliwack River Hatchery:

- Negotiated an agreement with DFO. to carry out a Hatchery Fish Surplus Sales Project again this year. We will start working in the hatchery in late September or early October. We have renewed our partnership agreement with Cormorant Fisheries Ltd., and have negotiated with them to give us bigger share of the profits this year. A notice will go out prior to starting work there, and I will be supervising and organizing any workers on site as I did last year.

2. Forestry Project:

- This Program was successfully completed by the crew, and we will be obtaining a logging permit in Sept/October this year, to log out and market some of the old Maples, Cedars, and Cottonwoods down by the river. I am waiting for the final approvals from Indian Affairs.

3. Fisheries Proposals:

- Ernie Crey and I have been working on some Fisheries Funding Proposals which will involve training & hiring Band Members to work in the Sweltzer Creek, and Cultus Lake Area. We are looking into other ways to market our hatchery fish, and hope to do a trial run with some smoked fish this year. We will keep you informed on all proposals that we submit for funding. We expect to carry out the community canning project again this year.

***Projects Report – September 3, 2002***

4. Sweltzer Creek Campground:

- The campsite rentals this past summer have increased tremendously. We have made around 4 times more profit than in previous years. This summer we contracted with a tourism consulting company, and through this contract we managed to get a lot of help in the areas of marketing, advertising, and promoting. There was a lot more group effort put into the campground from our new managers, staff, and Council. This increased effort really helped us pick up business. I would also like to thank the summer students who really had to pitch in with more effort this year when the campground filled up.

I am also still involved in some of the Band Administration work, such as finances, Housing, and supervising crews within all of our programs. Ernie and I are also still negotiating with potential business investors and partners. Negotiating with new partners and investors will be an ongoing activity if we wish to develop businesses, and that's what our job is about. In the future we hope to be developing Soowahlie businesses off reserve too.

Other proposals and activities that we are working on are:

- Mining of gravel in the river by the old rocket range.



- Expansion of the Soowahlie Campground (with Sto:lo Development Corporation), and writing a business plan for the bank.
- Selling angular rock from the old Rock Quarry.
- Carrying out some consulting work for other Bands in the area of Native Policies and Organizational Planning. Health Services knowledge is also being offered.
- Obtaining Silviculture contracts with various logging companies.
- Carrying out selective harvesting activities on the reserve.
- Taking training in Economic Development.
- Ongoing Community Human Resource Planning.

I will be reporting to you in future newsletters. You can also see our new website that we have been building at – [www.soowahlie.ca](http://www.soowahlie.ca)

Dave Sepass  
Project Administrator

