

NNTC NEWSLETTER



Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC)'s quarterly news, announcements, and cultural and historical pieces



Pictured above is Lytton, BC approximately 1905.

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Nlaka'pamux Land Stewardship

Experts address land care, invasive species at Kumsheen ShchEma-meet School's April 4th nkshAytkn event. (pg. 2)

lhQUOOpen (bitter root) Digging

May 4, Venables Valley: Over 100 joined the nkshAytkn bitter root digging on a beautiful day. (pg. 2)

Chief Janet Celebration

NNTC honors retired Chief Janet Webster, emphasizing her spirit, dedication, and leadership. (pg. 3)

June nkshAytkn Food Systems

Engaging discussions on traditional, local, and urban food systems hosted at Kumsheen ShchEma-meet School. (pg. 3)

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The rejuvenated educational initiative reached 600 participants in a community-wide salmon lifecycle event. (pg. 4)

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Nlaka'pamux Cultural Survey: Team honors heritage with Skagit Ross Lake expedition, uncovering ancestral trails and archaeological sites amid challenging terrain. (pg. 8, 9, 10)

NNTC Website and Newsletter Sign-up

Discover NNTC's revamped website and sign up to receive newsletters directly in your inbox. (pg. 12)

CONTACT US!

Nlaka'pamux Land Stewardship

April 4, 2023, nkshAytkn held at Kumsheen ShchEma-meet School. Sharing knowledge on stewardship and looking after our lands for plants, animals and water presentation by Dr Nancy Turner. Also, Dr Jennifer Grenz, focused on invasive plants and animals.



IhQUOOpen (bitter root) Digging

May 4, 2023, nkshaytkn
It was a beautiful day in the Venables Valley for digging with over 100 children and adults attending!
And thank you Kevin for being the barbecue master!



Chief Janet Celebration



Chief Janet Webster “retired” from being Chief in April. We welcome Chief Niakia Hanna as the Chief of LFN. On May 25th, NNTC held a celebration for Chief Janet to say thank you and to recognize her for her many years of service to the Nlaka’pamux and NNTC.

Stories were shared, photos from years past brought out, gifts given and a good time had by all.

The stories and shared words, told of Chief Janet’s strength of spirit, determined nature, her direct approach, her dedication to the protection and advancement of Nlaka’pamux title and rights and her belief in a positive Nlaka’pamux future. Chief Janet spoke of the importance of working collectively to get to where we want to be. Thanks Chief Janet!

June nkshAytkn Food Systems

June 4, 2023, nkshAytkn at Kumsheen ShchEma-meet School.

Topic: Food Systems: Traditional, Local and Urban. Hosted by Patashi Pimms. Such a wealth of information shared! Presentations by local growers, and a great workshop on traditional foods by Jen Brown!! Thank you!



Coho in the Classroom



Coho in the Classroom 2022 - 2023

With pandemic restrictions easing, we had started up the educational program for the 2022-2023

The program began with aquarium setups in School District 74 schools and School District 78 in Cascades District. As well as the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux School, Fountain View Academy and a few Headstart programs around the Lillooet area. A total of 16 aquariums were set up.

The program covers a vast area covering communities from Boston Bar, Lytton, Clinton, Lillooet, Xaxli'p, Xwiste'n, Seton Portage and D'arcy.

We had two Fisheries Technicians working with the program this year.

Thomas Brown, Nlaka'pamux Resources

Rebecca Riley, Lillooet Tribal Council

Brood for the program was from Spius Hatchery- Merrit BC.

The two individuals were responsible for egg deliveries to all facilities, aquarium maintenance, Classroom talks with the youth about Salmon life cycles and booking of salmon dissection classes and tank cleanouts and storage. We had a few planning sessions for the Walking with the Smolts event to be held Wednesday June 14, 2023 in Lillooet BC. Rebecca and Thomas conducted 24 in classroom dissection presentations. Friday June 2, 2023 - we attended the Spius Hatchery to assist with the Merrit area fry release, the facility had about 140 students attend.



Walking with the Smolts in Lillooet British Columbia-
Wednesday June 14, 2023

This event was Hosted by SPLITROCK ENVIRONMENTAL, Cayoose Creek Indian Band, Stati'mc Governance Services, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council / A.E.W.L.P and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

We had many organizations come out and support the program, Lillooet Tribal Police, Splitrock, H.U.B., BC Trappers Association, Nlaka'pamux Tribal Council, Lillooet Naturalist Society, Lillooet Invasive Species Society, Lillooet Library, Lillooet Secondary School, Squamish - Lillooet Regional District, Miss Dhillons and Miss Bryson - Lillooet school supports and Stati'mc Outreach Health Services. We had roughly 600 hundred youth and the general public come through the venue sites, there was lots to see and do.

The youth were very well engaged and excited for this event, in all we had 30 stations setup around the Lower spawning channel, learning about traditions, salmon habitats and everything connected to a Watershed. It was great to see everyone having a great time, and the weather was great.

Thanks to all who came and volunteered their time for this event, Thanks to the Event coordinators for helping make this program a success.

This will be a yearly event.

Thanks,

Kevin Duncan

Nlaka'pamux Fisheries Operations Manager



Update Recent Archeological Endeavors

This year we have hired an additional five Heritage field technicians from the community. We have a total of twenty-six community members working on various projects throughout the NNTC Homeland.

Archaeological works within the Village of Lytton and on Reserve started shortly after new years. Crews worked on remediation and utility related scopes. On any given day, we had an average of 18 people working in Lytton. Works within the Village have reduced to only utilities since end of April, but we anticipate fieldwork will ramp up again within the next few months.

We began the HVC field program on April 12th, that's approximately 4 weeks in advance of our regular start to the HVC field season. This was due to the project components that required priority archaeology work completed in advance of HVC's mine upgrades.

We continue to conduct Heritage Field Reconnaissance (HFRs) in mining and forestry projects and provide that information on areas of interest (AOIs) and archaeological concerns to NNTC and our clients.



Village of Lytton - Crew shovel testing post remediation (Spring 2023)



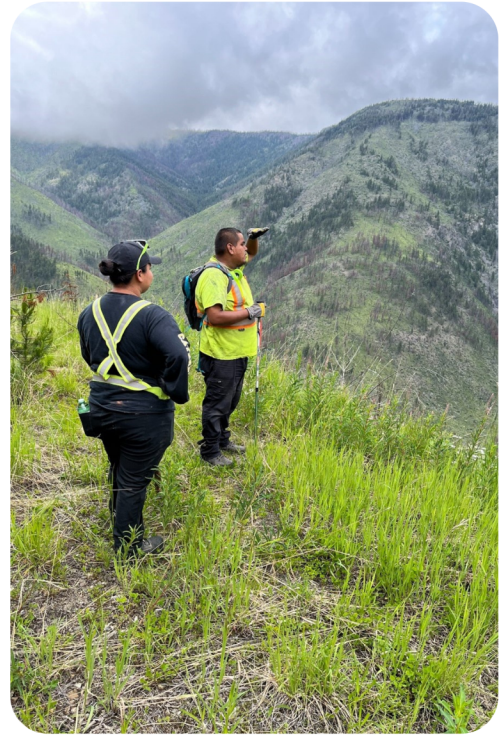
Village of Lytton Surface inspection—inspecting cutbank (Spring 2023)



Dennis Spinks monitoring at Nuuautin 2B for Uniwide Drilling (summer 2023)



Arch crew discussing potential archaeological area of interest (AOI) the landscape below (Skoonka Creek, summer 2023)



Arch crew discussing potential archaeological area of interest (AOI) the landscape across ridge (Skoonka Creek, summer 2023)



Miranda Sam flagging off an AOI



Eddy Peters examining a tree to verify if it is a CMT

Aboriginal Day Celebrations



June 21, 2023, Aboriginal Day Celebrations at Battlefield Community Hall.

NNTC Staff joined in the celebrations with a few activities that were enjoyed by all!

Including the shwuhOOshem Whip Off with Buster Adams winning first place, Darlene Raphael in second and Jody Cleighorn won third! Congrats to them!

Also, we had a Fish Painting activity where youth and adults participated in painting plywood cut out salmon. In doing so they were eligible to win a door prize.

Also, Indian Bingo!!!! with 40 participants where everyone was a winner and a good time had by all!

NNTC also set up for viewing the 2010 Aboriginal Day Celebrations in Lytton!!



Here's one of our younger ones ready to participate in his first Pow Wow in Williams Lake on Fathers Day weekend. (Tucker Ty)

Spring Survey in the Skagit Ross Lake

April 24, 2023, was the first day for me in the northern part of the Canada/USA border in the Skagit Valley, to participate in the NNTC Cultural Survey. I have heard of the previous cultural survey work that was done, when I was employed with Lytton First Nation, as I was asked to identify community members to be part of the crew. I never expected that one day I would be apart of this team, doing this important work.

Being Nlaka'pamux, a daughter of a strong women warrior, Dr. Ruby Dunstan, who stood up for Title & Rights, a mother and a grandmother, I felt honored to be asked to be a part of this crew, in the Skagit Valley. I felt a great sense of pride to experience this magnificent part of our Territory, all the while thinking of my grandchildren, future great grandchildren and future generations of the Nlaka'pamux.

Walking the land of our ancestors



We would walk for km's through thick brush, thick underbrush of maple vine, devil's club taller than me, deadfall, uprooted trees, veteran trees, the terrain was difficult to explore, you had to be sure of every step, one wrong step, and you could slide down steep rock to the high-water mark of Ross Lake, which was at drawdown. (Skagit Valley is drained, no water) We located a segment of a Nlaka'pamux Trail on the east bank of the reservoir and then it just disappeared. There were some areas where erosion is changing the landscape drastically in some areas. We hiked 8-9 km south on the eastern side of Skagit Valley, Ross Lake. We covered a lot of ground, my hips and feet were sore already, but we had to turn around and head back to base camp, I wanted to carry on but, I knew it would be a long way back.

All the while exploring, I was thinking of how our ancestors walked on these same trails, where they hunted, camped and gathered, made tools, had ceremonies, sought shelter, making firepits and food shelters for centuries. They were strong, resilient, determined and knowledgeable of where to hunt, gather and to have ceremony. That is what gave me the strength to carry on out there.

While walking on National Park Service trails, like the Centennial trail, thinking how this was probably a trail our ancestors used 1000's of years ago.

Shawatum Trail



We had special guests come in for a day hike on the Shawatum Trail, the weather was great, it got warm with the sun shining. Our special guests were Pauline Douglas, Kelly Bush, Jack McIntyre, Jim F. Brown, John Haugen and Karl StrombQuist. (Missing in photo)

We hiked for 5-6km on this overgrown trail, lots of deadfall, crossed two washed out creeks, walked across logs 5ft in air to cross the creek, (I would not normally do this) to visit an archeological site that was discovered by Kelly Bush, Archeologist, this Arch site, we called it "Kelly Bush Site". There were numerous cultural depressions, and you could spot some Hozomeen Chert poking out of the ground.



Camp Cook

We put in long days hiking and exploring the area, the camp cook was Kevin Duncan, he always prepared an awesome meal for us at the end of the day, to replenish our bodies after a hard day's work. Nathan Edwards always fixed us some great sandwiches for our lunch too!

We work together as a great team!

Hozomeen Lake



May 7, 2023, Kevin Duncan, Nathan Edwards and I went back for our second week of survey work. We set up base camp and the following day, we hiked up to Hozomeen Lake to do some survey work around the lake. We planned on camping here for two nights, we tried to pack light! We had instant Starbucks coffee, dehydrated meal in a bag, snacks, Gatorade, some bottled water, water tablets & small burner stove.

This was an experience I will not forget! The last time I backpacked with a heavy load on my back was many years ago in the Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park. I barely made it to 2 km's on the trail!

So I was very proud of myself for surviving this hike and hiking and surveying around the Hozomeen Lake, and hiking back to base camp!



I would like to share my experiences when we go for hikes in the beautiful Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park, we have been doing this forever, I can say every time we hike this trail, we see something new every time.

So, I would expect to do the same in the Skagit Valley Ross Lake area. Sometimes, it is meant to be seen, and by a certain few would be able to see/find it.

Until next time.

Humelth

Karen Dunstan

Lytton Past and Present



Lytton, BC approximately 1905



Lytton, BC June 2023

NNTC Website and Newsletter Sign-up

Exciting News: Our New Website is Live!

Hello Wonderful Community,

We are thrilled to announce that our brand-new website is now live! After months of hard work and dedication, we have created a digital space that is intuitive, user-friendly, and filled with all the resources and information you've come to love from us.

To ensure you never miss an update, we have introduced a feature allowing you to have our newsletter delivered straight to your email inbox. Here's how you can set it up:

Visit Our New Website

Take a moment to explore our new website at nntc.ca

Newsletter Sign-Up

On our homepage, you'll find a 'Newsletter Sign-Up' section. Simply enter your email address to subscribe.

Stay Updated

Be the first to receive all our latest news, updates, and exclusive content, all conveniently in your email.

Connect With Us on Facebook

If you haven't already, follow us on Facebook to join in the conversation and to stay updated with all our latest posts and announcements. Share the news about our new website with your friends and family to help us grow our vibrant community.

We thank you for your continued support and are excited to welcome you to our new online home. We have many exciting things in store for you, and by signing up for our newsletter, you'll ensure you won't miss a thing.

Visit Our New Website & Sign-Up for the Newsletter <https://nntc.ca/news/>

Thank you for being a vital part of our community. We look forward to sharing this new chapter with you!

Warm regards,
The NNTC Team

NNTC leadership and staff are here to answer your questions, provide updates, and support our community in any way we can. We're always eager to share more of our heritage, including Nlaka'pamux cultural and historical pieces.

- Do you have any Nlaka'pamux stories that you'd like to have featured in our next quarterly newsletter?
- Are there any specific updates that you'd like us to highlight next quarter?

We want your feedback!

Send us an email at Nlakapamux@nntc.ca for any ideas or suggestions for next quarter's newsletter!



**Nlaka'pamux Nation
Tribal Council**