

TSAWOUT FIRST NATION

NEWSLETTER

www.tsawout.ca

SEPTEMBER 2023

SIDNEY WHALE WATCHING



Tsawout First Nation has purchased a local whale watching business and now owns Sidney Whale Watching.

Please join us on Friday September 22, 2023 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, in Sidney at the Beacon Park amphitheater to celebrate this exciting new venture.

More info on page 02.

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SIDNEY WHALE WATCHING



PLEASE JOIN US! FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2023.

Tsawout First Nation invites you all to participate and attend the inaugural transfer of ownership from the past owner to Tsawout First Nation as the new owners of Sidney Whale Watching.

Please join us on Friday September 22, 2023 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, in Sidney at the Beacon Park (amphitheater).

If any Tsawout members want to share input into how the event can incorporate cultural elements, please contact Conrad R. Young (Tsawout Ec-Dev Director) at 236-882-1474.

This is an opportunity to have your ideas incorporated into this wonderful celebration, including any sharing on the cultural alignments for our rebranding strategies.

For any questions, please contact:
Conrad R. Young, Economic Development Director
landsmanager@tsawout.ca
236-882-1474



JESURUN & FAMILY TRAGIC HOUSE FIRE

Jesurun Marks and his family, recently lost all of their belongings and their home in a fire earlier this week in Port Hardy. Jesurun and his family were fast asleep when a house fire started at 3 am. Jesurun, Kristy and their children: Gregory & Isabella, his sister Annette & her child Jared were all in the home when the fire happened. It's a miracle they all woke up and made it out, but with only the clothes on their backs. Everything else was destroyed.

Their personal belongings, all of their identification, hunting gear, logging gear, fishing equipment, household possessions, phones, car keys and irreplaceable memories, were all completely destroyed. Their faithful dog also perished in the fire.

We are raising money on **GoFundMe** for their family to get started again and get back on their feet. Every cent we raise will go to help Jesurun, Kristy and their family reestablish what was lost. ***Search for Jesurun and Kristy on GoFundMe if you would like to donate.***



**SCAN TO
DONATE
NOW**

HOUSING NEWS

NEW HOUSING COMMITTEE - APPLY NOW TO JOIN!

We are excited to announce that we are forming a new Housing Committee and we want anyone interested to apply! We are seeking representatives from various families and Departments: Elders, youth, CP, Health, Social Development and Housing Department representatives.

It's all about working together towards our housing goals and making decisions that benefit us all. If you are interested in making a difference, please reach out to:

Will Wieler, Housing Manager
housingmanager@tsawout.ca



HOUSING ARREARS LETTER

The Housing Department would like to thank people for their response to our Arrears Letter. We appreciate the clarification any missing information that we had on file.

We will continue to update our information as people provide it to us. And thank you to those that have started to pay off their arrears!

NEW FISHERIES STAFF

CASSANDRA RAINES, Executive Assistant

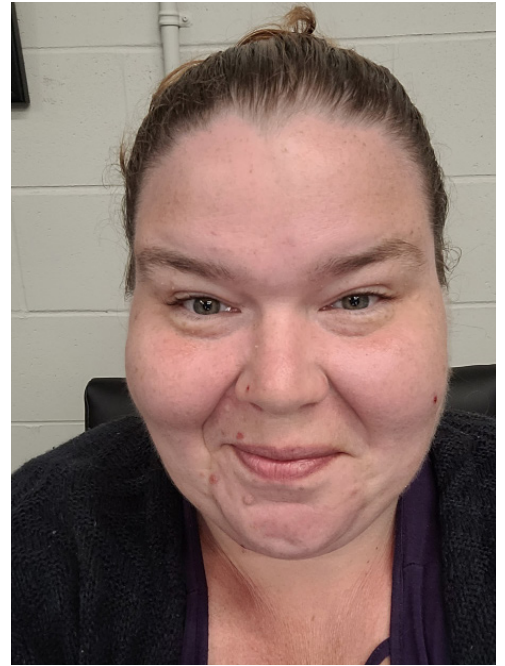
Hello Tsawout Community! I am Cassandra Raines, the new Fisheries Executive Assistant.

Before beginning this position in July 2023, I was a paralegal for 20 years on the mainland. I have knowledge in the legal areas of Real Estate, Wills and Estates, Corporate and Litigation, with an emphasis on Real Estate.

I am happily married to my husband Rob, and we have 3 beautiful kids: Nathan aged 12, Noah aged 11, and Emma aged 10. We also have a 4-year-old rescue dog named Olaf. In my spare time I enjoy reading, spending time with my family and friends, swimming, writing and spending time outdoors. moved to the island in 2019 and couldn't be happier with it. Those who know me will say I am kind, caring and like to talk a lot and that I succeed at anything I put my mind to.

I am originally from the lower mainland and grew up on the Fraser River, spending my childhood fishing and swimming in its waters. My father's family is originally from the island, so I remember getting to spend all my summer breaks here. We moved to the island in 2019 and couldn't be happier with it. Those who know me will say I am kind, caring and like to talk a lot and that I succeed at anything I put my mind to.

I am very excited to be a new asset for the Fisheries Department to utilize and I look forward meeting and getting to know all the members of Tsawout First Nation.



NEIL FOWLER, Fisheries Technician

My name is Neil Fowler and I am a white settler of European descent. I grew up on the Shuswap River, in BC's interior, in close community with the Spltasin peoples. I am now fortunate to live, work, play and fish on the ancestral lands of the Lkwungen peoples.

I completed my Bachelor of Science in Biology and Oceanography at University of British Columbia. I have worked in various research labs studying Salmon and fish and most of my experience is adult Salmon stock assessment on the tributaries of the Fraser River. I love fishing camping and hiking and being out in nature. I live in Colwood with my wife, 1-year-old, and cat.

I am excited to learn about Tsawout's marine environment and play a small part in preserving it for generations to come.



FISHERIES UPDATE

Hi there this is Dion Joseph fisheries Tech 02 dropping a little update as to what I have been up to .

As of recent we have been doing some boating training for the programs we will be running such as:

- The Marine Guardian Watchmen program
- The whale watching tour business.
- Running the commercial vessel

We have started some search and rescue training on the boat and will be doing some more in the fall.

We have organic vegetable delivery to the band office every second Tuesday of the month. Our crew goes and picks up the fresh picked veggies the morning of.



We have been doing some crabbing and distribution of the crabs when it's good numbers.

We will continue to do so and it should be picking up as the season starts to change. We have done an off reserve distribution recently. As I have mentioned to everyone it will be in the notice as soon as there is any distributions coming up.

We will also be assisting with the new Flap gate being put in down at the bridge near the saltwater marsh.

I will keep doing the best I can to support our Tsawout Fisheries, working for THE PEOPLE

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

SOIL SAMPLING FOR SEWER PROJECT

Tsawout will be having soil samples done as part of our sewer Inflow and infiltration project. The main focus of this project is to take strain off of the wwtp during heavy rains.

The first step will be doing a quick 2-day utility survey (call before you dig). The second step will be to run a small auger down about 36" and take a soil core sample.

The purpose of the samples is to determine if any contaminants are being released from the sewer line and if contamination is detected we can then plan on sewer line replacement.



Utilities Locates will be carried out as follows (see maps on next page for locations):

September 6th: CO-5, L-03, L-04, L-05, L-06, LO-7

September 7th: LO-8, CA-2, L-12, Additional KWL hole, L-13, L-14

Proposed Drilling Schedule:

September 8th: CO-5, L-03, L-04, L-05, L-06, LO-7.

If testing progress permits, drilling at LO-8 may be completed on this day as well.

September 14th: LO-8, CA-2, L-12, Additional KWL hole, L-13, L-14

The approximate drill locations are shown on the attached plans. The actual locations may need to be adjusted in the field based on the utility locates.

PUBLIC WORKS - DRILL LOCATION MAPS



PUBLIC WORKS - DRILL LOCATION MAPS



NOTICE TO ALL CLIENTS ON INCOME ASSISTANCE

Please ensure that declarations and all supporting documents are in by the 15th of every month. All declarations require applicant signature and, if applicable, it must include spouse signature, job search form, hydro and phone bill (if eligible), most recent paystubs and bank statements, if required.

**** NO DECLARATION (paystubs, job search) = NO CHEQUE ****

Cheque issue is the last Wednesday of every month. Cheques are available for pick up between 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm. No calls are taken on cheque day and no one can pick up someone else's S/A cheque unless that person is seriously ill, has mobility barriers or other extenuating circumstances.

Clients who submit their documents AFTER the deadline date can pick up their cheque on the following Friday.

Clients who need to update their file or apply for S/A need to book an appointment between Tues. to Thurs.

NOTICE TO ALL EMPLOYABLE CLIENTS

It is **MANDATORY** that all employable people seek employment. According to Social Development Policy 2.2: Termination of Benefits – Refusal or abandonment of employment opportunities, refusal to participate in an appropriate training or education opportunity or rehabilitation program will result in Social Development closing your file.

Failure to show any effort in seeking employment or education opportunities such as job searching, employment workshops or upgrading - will result with your SA file being closed. Whenever a decision is made to terminate client benefits, the client has a right to appeal the decision to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada by picking up an administrative review form from Social Development. Thank you.

Tsawout Social Development (SD) – Income Assistance Application Process

STEP 1 – OBTAIN APPLICATION FROM TSAWOUT RECEPTION TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE MADE A WEEK PRIOR TO OR DURING THE WEEK OF CHEQUE ISSUE.

- Complete Social Assistance Application Package
- Identification – Adults – 2 each (1 must be a photo)
- Identification – Children - 1 each
- Verification of Income – 60 day bank statements, pay stubs, 2 most recent pay stubs, EI Income and Spousal Support
- Utility Bills – BC Hydro, phone bill, gas or oil bill
- Tenancy Agreement – Tsawout Social Housing, CMHC documents or mortgage documents
- Privately Owned Homes – proof of ownership documentation
- Tax Forms – Canada Child Benefit, Notice of Assessment
- Other Supporting Documents

STEP 2 – INTAKE APPOINTMENT

- Bring all supporting documents to your appointment
- If you have a spouse, he/she needs to be present to sign all documentation
- Employable clients are required to discuss a plan to obtain employment or have an education plan to attain further skills that will help you gain employment.
- If you are unable to seek employment, the worker will need a medical note that will temporarily excuse you from seeking employment or until you are eligible to apply for PPMB (Person with Persistent Multiple Barriers) or PWD (Person with Disability) designation.

STEP 3 – PROCESSING











- Allow up to 5-7 business days for application approval.
- Worker will notify you of your eligibility for Income Assistance.
- We understand that you are in need of help and your matters are important to us. We are doing due diligence to ensure that the process is completed in a timely manner. We appreciate your patience.

STEP 4 – YOU HAVE BEEN CONTACTED TO INFORM YOU OF YOUR ELIBILITY STATUS

- **Approved Applicants** – Will now have the responsibility to assure that all documentation (Declaration, utility bills, pay stubs, job search or any other required documents) is submitted by the 15th of each month to ensure they receive their entitlement on time. ALL clients have a responsibility.
- **Ineligible Applicants** – Varies on the situation.
- Will have an opportunity to gather missing or additional supporting documents.
- If you are eligible for EI or in receipt of EI, you will not be eligible for Income Assistance.
- You have earned income that is more than what you are eligible to receive, then you have to wait 30 days to reapply.
- If applicant does not agree with the decision, the applicant can appeal the decision – Inquire about this process with the Social Development Worker.

**** Thank you for reviewing this information. It helps the review and assessment process. Social Development can be contacted at 250-652-9101 (ext. 306).**

SEPTEMBER - GARBAGE, COMPOST & RECYCLING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6  	7	8	9
10	11	12 	13  	14	15	16
17	18	19	20  	21	22	23
24	25	26 	27  	28	29	30

Garbage pick-up (once/week) If your garbage is missed or not picked up, call BFI directly at 250-652-4414.

Compost (once/week) If your compost is missed or not picked up, call Refuse at 250-381-6007. If called the same day or early the next day, it is possible to have it picked up the same week if they are in the area and they will ask you to have it at the end of the driveway by 7 am on whichever date they advise. If not, it will have to wait until the next regular pick-up date.

Recycle (Bi-weekly) If your recycle is missed or not picked up, call Emterra at 250-385-4399. Call by 11:00 am the next day and they can probably do a pick-up. If any later, it would have to wait until the next pick-up date.

Reminder that the Heavy Garbage Program has ended. Please do not leave heavy garbage on the side of the road. We continue to clean up the dumpsite on Longhouse Road from the previous years programs. Please discard your heavy garbage at local metal recycle or Hartland landfill.