

TSAWOUT FIRST NATION

NEWSLETTER

www.tsawout.ca

APRIL 2021

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

STÁUTW Road is the primary access road for our Tsawout community and safety along this road is a priority.

Proposed improvements to this road are expected to begin in Spring 2021 and completion is scheduled for Fall of 2021.

Read more on page 04.



REMOTE SPRING BREAK AT TLH



TLH staff and volunteers prepared lunches and crafts for their students. Take a look at more pictures on page 08.

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IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT YOUR CONTACT INFO

Please make sure that your contact information is up-to-date with our admin office. We will be sending out important information regarding voter registration in the near future, and it's very important that we have accurate records. Thank you!

LONGHOUSE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



A Note Regarding Visiting the Site

Please remember that if you would like to visit the construction site to view the progress of the project, please go to the construction trailer at the entrance and check-in with the site manager or Project Coordinator Renee Robinson. Thank you for helping to keep our worksite safe!

CALLOUT FOR ARTISTS

Callout for Regional Indigenous Artists: Salt Spring Arts Council's Artcraft 2021



This call is open to artists and makers for whom the Southern Gulf islands are ancestral territories. We are seeking:

- Artists for the Artcraft 2021 season
- Showcase proposals for the 2022 exhibition
- An Indigenous artist/curator/art expert who can jury Indigenous works for Artcraft 2021

Artcraft Shop + Gallery

Artcraft is BC's longest running and largest juried exhibit of its kind, featuring works by local artists and makers. It is operated by the Salt Spring Art Council at the historic Mahon Hall, from mid-June until mid-September. During the summer months Artcraft welcomes 14,000 visitors and generates approximately \$130,000 in revenues for artists.

Up until now, Artcraft's criteria has been limited to people who live on the Southern Gulf Islands. We recognize that this residential criteria excludes Indigenous peoples for whom the Gulf Islands are their traditional territories and who may live elsewhere. Artcraft 2021 seeks submissions from Indigenous artists / craftspeople living in the Southern Vancouver Island and for whom this is their traditional lands.

We seek entries from artists working in various media in either traditional or contemporary forms. We exhibit textiles, furniture, woodwork, ceramics, jewellery, cards, photography, prints and paintings, sculpture, apothecary products and more. Participation in Artcraft is subject to a jurying process to ensure quality, presentation and craftsmanship. Our regular commission rate on sales is 65% to artists; for the first year of this pilot we offer new, regional Indigenous artists 100% of sales. This is the beginning of a 3 year pilot project with the aim of having a greater Indigenous presence on Salt Spring Island. We look forward to building relationships with Indigenous artists of this region.

Artcraft Jury Deadline: April 23, 2021. Details: ssartscouncil.com/artcraft-submissions/

Call for Juror

We seek an Indigenous artist/curator or art expert who can jury Indigenous works for Artcraft 2021. If interested, please contact Sarah using the details below.

Artcraft Showcases

Summer Showcases, which happen in parallel to Artcraft, are a 3-4 week opportunity for artists, curators or groups wishing to exhibit a cohesive collection in a gallery style setting. Showcases offer a format suited to larger themed or curated exhibits. We are currently seeking artists or curators for Showcases 2022 and are keen to include regional Indigenous artists.

Showcase Deadline: June 30, 2021. Information: ssartscouncil.com/showcase-exhibitions-3/

Sarah Hyams, Artcraft Manager, Salt Spring Arts Council
artcraft@ssartscouncil.com, 250.537.0899

We work and create on the unceded territories of the Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

Fish Talk by Chrissy Chen Tsawout Fisheries Manager

Hello Tsawout First Nation members and administration staff,

A short note to introduce myself. I am honoured that I was selected for the new Fisheries Program Manager for the Tsawout First Nation. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this beautiful community.

I have dedicated twenty years of my career in fisheries management and have enjoyed all aspects of my fisheries work throughout the years.

We need to prepare for the future and manage our own traditional lands. As First Nations stewards and as Indigenous peoples, we need to pass on our rich traditional ecological knowledge and traditional use studies of our ancestors to ensure that economic activities taking place in our traditional marine environment are sustainable. This includes the protection and regulation of food, social and ceremonial purposes and benefits.

This can be done through community vision and with the guidance from your hereditary, elected leadership and its membership as well as with my passion in many fishery areas, including economic opportunities.

There are so many natural resources and aquaculture of all stationary products and all living resources that lie in Tsawout territories, and business opportunities must be sustainable for the future of all Tsawout membership.

I look forward to having discussions with community members and hearing your ideas and concerns. There will be an update on numerous activities and events in the next newsletter.

I will have a newsletter on the many programs the Tsawout fisheries can offer to anyone with interest in Salmon Enhancement, Shellfish harvesting, food fish delivery, food processing and fisheries guardian programs and most importantly Traditional use studies to name a few.

I look forward to working collaboratively with you all and to meeting you and hearing some ideas, concerns and or issues.

Gilakasla, Chrissy
Tsawout Fisheries Manager
Phone: 250 652 9101 ext. 319
Email: fisheries@tsawout.ca

LANDS DEPARTMENT - ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Stautw Road Safety Improvements Construction Project

Stautw Road is the primary access road for our Tsawout community, the emphasis for community safety along this road is an important matter that will be addressed by this project. This corridor provides linkage for the community to the regional transit system on Mt. Newton Cross Road and is the main pedestrian corridor to the community facilities including the Long House currently under construction. The existing road consists of an average 6.0 m wide paved asphalt surface. With no sidewalk or gravel shoulder and streetlights located at the intersections only, pedestrian safety along this corridor is of serious concern, especially during the dark and rainy winter months.

Upgrades to Stautw Road are proposed to improve the safety of all road users. The proposed improvements include construction of concrete sidewalk on the north side of the road and installation of streetlighting. Road improvements will include speed reduction elements with speed humps installed along Stautw Road. All construction will occur within the current road right of way and not within any CP lands. The road width will be increased to 6.6 m. The project will extend from the west boundary of the cemetery to Jimmy Road as shown in Figure A.



Figure A: Proposed Stautw Road Safety Improvements Site Plan

The proposed road upgrades are shown in Figure B.

The construction is expected to start in spring 2021. Construction completion is scheduled for fall of 2021.

For further information of this project, please contact the Lands Manager @ 250-652-9101



Figure B: Proposed Stautw Road Cross Section

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - HEALTH MANAGER UPDATE

Good afternoon, how is everyone? I am doing well. The cherry blossoms are beautiful and I have noticed more people are being active outdoors.

New Business

Community Health and Wellness Planning Funding and Partnership - The First Nations Health Authority has given us a one-time funding to support health and wellness planning since our health plan will expire within a year. We are at year 10 of our block funding agreement and we would like to implement a community-driven health and wellness process. We will need to create a planning committee for the health planning management. The timelines and deliverables will be discussed with the First Nations Health Authority as we were in the middle of a COVID-19 outbreak. The great news is that we do not have any new cases of COVID-19 and I pray that we are able to keep it that way.

Showers & Bathrooms - The Tsawout showers and bathrooms will be upgraded to accommodate elders from our Home and Community Care program. The upgrade should start once we get three quotes and it has been reviewed by myself and the Band Manager.

Home Community Care Program - This program has been without a Licensed Practical Nurse for nearly a year and we received a resignation letter from the previous Licensed Practical Nurse a week ago. We will be posting a $\frac{3}{4}$ position for a Registered Nurse once we review with the Band Manager and the Health Portfolio holders.

The Primary Care Circle - Meetings are done on a monthly basis and I have been attending the meetings. I would like to set up a meeting with the Band Manager and Portfolio holders for Health to plan a committee for these meetings. We have received funds to pay an honorarium for committee members to attend the meetings when I am unable to attend. We will be getting a Physiotherapist working with us in Tsawout, Tsartlip, Pauquachin and Tseycum.

We have space here in Tsawout and we need to discuss how the clients from the other communities can access Physiotherapy if they do not have a space. This is something I can talk to the Interim Band Manager and health Portfolio holders about.

COVID-19 Self Isolation Trailer - We received the trailer recently and I need to buy bedding, towels and kitchen stuff for it. The trailer is for community members to self-isolate if they have nowhere to go due to COVID-19 self-isolation requirements. Thank you to the Interim Band Manager, Wayne Helgason, for helping me make it happen.

COVID-19 Vaccines - The Community Health Nurse Mandy Stobbe, Nurse Practitioner Kelly Sharp, Edget Wattola (Nursing Student), Emily Doehnel (Tsartlip Nurse), and other volunteer Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and Doctors were able to give out 548 vaccines. Thank you, health team and volunteers! Thank you to all the Tsawout First Nation staff for a successful vaccine week in Tsawout. We wouldn't have been able to do everything without everyone's capacity and great work ethics.

Enjoy the rest of March 2021 and I will be doing another report in April or May 2021.

Kind Regards,

Lois Williams,
Tsawout First Nation Health Manager

HEALTH DEPARTMENT - CHN UPDATE

COVID-19 Vaccines

During our vaccine clinics we administered 548 Pfizer vaccines. We prioritized elders and those with underlying health conditions on the first day. After that, it was up to all those 18+ years to book an appointment and come down.

We had to use all the vaccines that were given to us in the shortest amount of time as possible. The vaccine is delicate and has very strict storage and handling rules. Each vial we prepared had to be used in 6 hours. With that in mind, when phone calls by on-reserve members had slowed down, we opened the clinic for a short time for off-reserve and services that work directly in the community. All those decisions were made after listening to the community members supporting the clinics and chief and council.

Please continue to follow the health guidelines of physical distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing until Dr. Bonnie Henry says to stop. For those who got the vaccine, you will be 90% less likely to get Covid-19! Thank you for protecting yourself and your community. You are saving lives!

For those of you who did not get a vaccine this time for whatever reason, the opportunity is not over. You are still eligible to call Island Health to book an appointment: **1-833-348-4787**.

I would like to thank everyone who helped at the clinics! Staff from all departments put their work on hold to help run and organize the event. Thank you for making this impossible nursing task a successful community led event!

What does the Health Centre know about your medical information?

Information is only given to us with your consent. If you are in the hospital, we don't automatically know. The hospital will only tell us if you give them your permission.

Sometimes the hospital will ask you if you want us know you were there so we can follow it up with you. That way you control who knows what. Unless you say yes when asked by the hospital OR tell them you want us to know, we will not know.

If you have given the hospital permission for us to know you were there and would like us to call you, we still will not know everything. The Community Health Nurse cannot see any tests or lab work or any details. If you give permission for us to know what's going on while you are in the hospital, we can work with the hospital team to set up supports at home.

Sometimes, the supports people need are more than what Tsawout can offer. If that is case, we work with other organizations. We can only reach out to other organizations with your permission. You are the boss of what we know and what we share about you.

Mandy Stobbe,
Community Health Nurse

MEALS ON WHEELS

The Meals on Wheels program provides meals on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

Please keep your soft cooler bag hanging on your door or provide a small cooler by your front door. We would like to continue keeping the food delivery as contactless as possible. The delivery person will put your meals in the soft cooler bag and they will hang it on your door or put it in your cooler.

Thank you,
Lois Williams

MEALS ON WHEELS APRIL SCHEDULE

Please be advised that with the holiday long weekend, there will be some temporary changes to the Meals on Wheels Program. After the long weekend, we will return to the regular delivery schedule. Thank you in advance.

MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.
Mar 29 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	Mar 30	Mar 31 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 1 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 2 STAT HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED
APRIL 5 STAT HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	APRIL 6 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 7 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 8	APRIL 9 Meals on Wheels Drop Off
APRIL 12 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 13	APRIL 14 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 15	APRIL 16 Meals on Wheels Drop Off
APRIL 19 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 20	APRIL 21 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 22	APRIL 23 Meals on Wheels Drop Off
APRIL 26 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 27	APRIL 28 Meals on Wheels Drop Off	APRIL 29	APRIL 30 Meals on Wheels Drop Off

LEARNING HOUSE COORDINATOR UPDATE

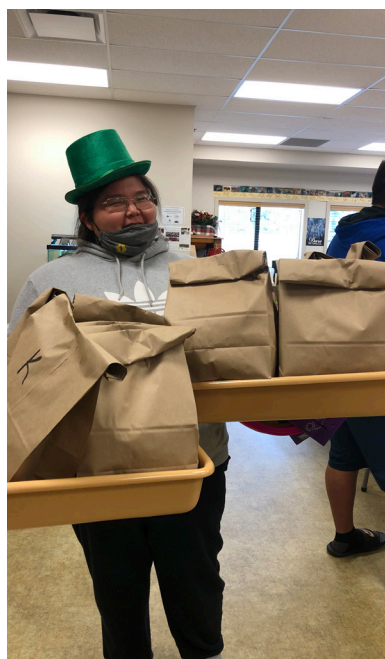
Remote Spring Break Camp 2021

With an open registration, a total of 67 participants were registered. Tsawout Learning House Staff & helpers are grateful to C.S.E.T.S. for helping Tsawout Education with funds and providing a generous grant. This permitted T.L.H. to register twice as many participants than we anticipated.

We look forward to seeing the students return to T.L.H. After-school Program and we will contact parents & guardians once we are given the go ahead.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Tanya Henry, T.L.H. Coordinator Trainee if you would like to register your child/ren in the after-school Program or to utilize the support of one of our Tutors:

Kirk Clarke - Science & Math
Kindergarten to University
Chantu William - Math & Literacy
Sene Underwood - Math & Literacy



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).**

APRIL - 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	
						

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

Compost (Bi-weekly) 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.