

# Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation Skawahlook



## CONTACTS

### Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation

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## A message from the Chief: Maureen Chapman

### Happy Holidays to you and your family!

It has been an eventful year that has shown growth and strides forward in Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation.

We have been blessed with new babies, prayers answered in health challenges and, protection from all things that are not part of the Creator's plan for our community. Family members are reconnecting at birthday parties, family gatherings and, generally, to celebrate life together.

Enjoy the holidays with your family, the break from work and, celebrate the Creator's blessings that we enjoy each and every day.



## HOUSING COMMITTEE UPDATE

On October 3rd, Sq'ewá:lxw held an annual gathering which was attended by approximately 20 members. The Housing and Lands Committees provided updates; Charles and Gladys presented an article about Residential Schools which showed a connection between Spuzzum and Sq'ewá:lxw, Chief and Council answered questions, and a meal was shared. Thank you to all who attended this gathering.



## BIKES AGAINST BULLIES

In November, members from the Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation team met with Carol Todd to present a \$5,000 cheque to the Amanda Todd Legacy Society for the 2015 Annual Bikes Against Bullies Event that took place on July 26, 2015.



Left to right: Carol Todd, Alyssa Conkin, Sharron Young, Chief Maureen Chapman, Tneesa Tyerman, Mike Bellegarde, Tracy Tyerman





## A message from Councillor

### Debra Schneider

My favourite time of year is upon us once again. In October, Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation had their community gathering where our Land Use Plan was brought forward. It was accepted with a few minor edits to be made.

In 2016, the Lands Advisory Committee (LAC) will get busy on the policies for the Expropriation Law that we completed this year. Both documents will be sent out to all members to review later in the New Year, and we hope for feedback before our next community gathering in 2016.

We welcome Shannon Chapman and Julie Lungal to the Lands Advisory Committee.

Everyone please enjoy this festive season with your families.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

## THE SECOND ANNUAL RUBY CREEK ART GALLERY GALA ANOTHER SUCCESS!

The second annual Ruby Creek Art Gallery Open House and #NativeArt Gala was held on Friday, October 16th. The Gala featured two special guests: Tlingit artist Blake Shaá'koon Lepine and Shane Bellegarde, a Cree musician and story teller. Blake displayed many of his beautiful original paintings and he released four new sets of prints at the Gala. Shane entertained the crowd with his original music and played some songs of his upcoming CD that will be released in 2016.

Also present was our friend, Métis carver Pascal Pelletier. He conducted a live carving demo, showing our guests how he begins making a mask out of yellow cedar. Pascal's

demonstration was very popular, with some guests staying to watch him carve until long after the event was officially over.

In addition to the outstanding art and music, our guests were treated to wine from Nk'Mip Cellars and amazing appetizers. The guest feedback was fantastic and we look forward to hosting this annual event again next fall.

To make sure you don't miss future Ruby Creek Art Gallery events, please follow us on FaceBook at:

[www.facebook.com/RubyCreekArtGallery](http://www.facebook.com/RubyCreekArtGallery) or contact Mike Bellegarde by email to be added to our eNewsletter list. [mike@skawahlook.com](mailto:mike@skawahlook.com)

## HOUSING COMMITTEE UPDATE

With it's first year under it's belt, the Housing Committee is on a roll and is making tremendous progress. The huge project involving two rounds of surveys to the membership have been completed and the data is now being analyzed. At the recent Community Gathering, Committee Chair Sharron Young gave a presentation highlighting some interesting facts and data taken from the surveys. This presentation can be found at: [www.skawahlook.com/members-area/](http://www.skawahlook.com/members-area/)

Once the analysis is complete, the committee will move into the funding options and policy development stage. They aim to complete the next phase by April 2017.

Committee member, Julie Lungal, contributes:

*"I am very honoured to be a member of the Housing Committee. It is a unique opportunity to contribute towards the planning and future development of Sq'ewá:lxw First Nation.*

*The phrase 'you can't go home again' may be true. Circumstances scattered this family all over the place. Our vision for the future is that there can be a home here for you, or your children or grandchildren, or maybe even just a beautiful place to visit and reconnect with the past.*

*I thank you Chief and Council, Sharron, and Emily, as well as the rest of the staff for your dedication and hard work for all of us."*

Miss Mia Carman was very excited to begin at A:imelhawtxw Early Education Centre Head Start Preschool (at Sto:lo) in the fall!

