



Welcome to Chapman Family Reunion 2003



Elder Minnie Peters

The Gathering of the Chapman Clan

Family, Food and Fun are the three F's to describe the Chapman Reunion. It took place on October 18, 2003 at Tzeachten First Nation and there was approximately 115 people in attendance. Many people met family members for the first time and visited family they had not seen in decades. There

was a wonderful dinner provided, a song from some Shaker members, an honouring of the Elders and live music for everyone to enjoy. The next reunion is tentatively booked for October 2004. Hope to see you there!

About this Update Newsletter

This Update Newsletter was completed by Juan C. Cereño and Associates as part of the management support services offered to the Skawahlook First Nation under a contractual service agreement.

Band Administrator Trainee.

We offer our sincere apologies for any potential errors and/or omissions.

Respectfully,

Juan C. Cereño , Social Planner

Please submit comments, questions and/or suggestions to the Skawahlook First Nation, attention of John Iannone,



Juan Cereño and Associates
Health and Social Planning Services

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SKAWAHLLOOK FIRST NATION

UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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Message From the Chief

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

The Skawahlook staff, council, and contractors have been very active this past year. Much of my time has been spent in meetings with several departments within Indian Affairs negotiating on initiatives for economic development, social development, forestry, job creation projects, and specialty programs for our community. A lot of time and energy has been spent on acquiring funding for a multi-purpose community facility. Linked to this work are the land issues of free title, flood-plain location, and environmental considerations with regard to the proposed site. Prospects are looking favourable and we hope to announce

early in the new year some positive results.

I am also involved in negotiations with our lawyers regarding rights of way for highways, railways, BC Hydro, Westcoast Energy, Teresan Gas, and all other services that trespass our community boundaries. Consulting with neighbouring First Nations, as well as First Nations outside of the Sto:lo territory with experience in these matters, has been helpful to our cause. Revenues from these sources will provide much-needed support to our community administration and membership.

Other work that occupies my time includes a provincial appointment as co-chair to

the transfer of care of our children and families to Aboriginal Authorities. I also hold the Vice-Chair position for the National Aboriginal Health Organization which plans to transfer health care to Aboriginal authority as well.

Our commitment remains strong to our community membership in all of the work we do and we continue to appreciate your support and involvement.

God bless and keep each and everyone safe and healthy.



"Our commitment remains strong to our community membership in all of the work we do and we continue to appreciate your support and involvement"



Update Report on Housing Projects - Debra Schneider

During the past few months, Brett Chapman and David Schneider have been busy completing renovations to our Band homes. This dynamic duo completely finished the basement in two Band homes and built a beautiful deck and balcony in one of the homes.

There is still some painting and finishing work left in some of the Band homes, which Brett and David have left to complete during the winter months.

We are still working hard to obtain funding to build new homes for community members. One of

the difficulties we are trying to resolve is the issue of encumbered lands on IR # 1. This issue must be resolved prior to accessing funding from the Department of Indian Affairs to allow community members to build new homes.



Department of Lands and Natural Resources - Debra Schneider

It has been an interesting few months in the Lands Department. We started a First Nations Forestry project in August 2003 and hired *Himark Forest Consultants* to complete a biophysical inventory of our lands.

John Cookman from Himark Forest Consultants worked closely with Brett Chapman and David Schneider in this project. Brett and David guided the forester throughout the reserve lands, pointed to forest areas that have been harvested in the past.

John accessed new aerial photos and updated

Skawahlook First Nation maps.

John, Brett and David completed a timber evaluation of both Skawahlook IR # 1 and IR# 2. A Land Usage Report Inventory was compiled with all the information collected. The report contains climatic information, a floodplain grid and an inventory of tree species that can be used by Skawahlook First Nation in future planning of our reserves.

Ida John, Chris Jackson and Bobbi Peters from Chawathil First Nation collected information



Left: David Schneider Right: Brett Chapman

regarding different plant species with particular emphasis on documenting the cultural and medicinal plants available in our reserves.

As this forestry project is now completed, we are developing a power-point presentation to share with all community members.