



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.

Young, Acting Band Administrator.

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 *Sharron*



Juan Cereño and Associates
Health and Social Planning Services

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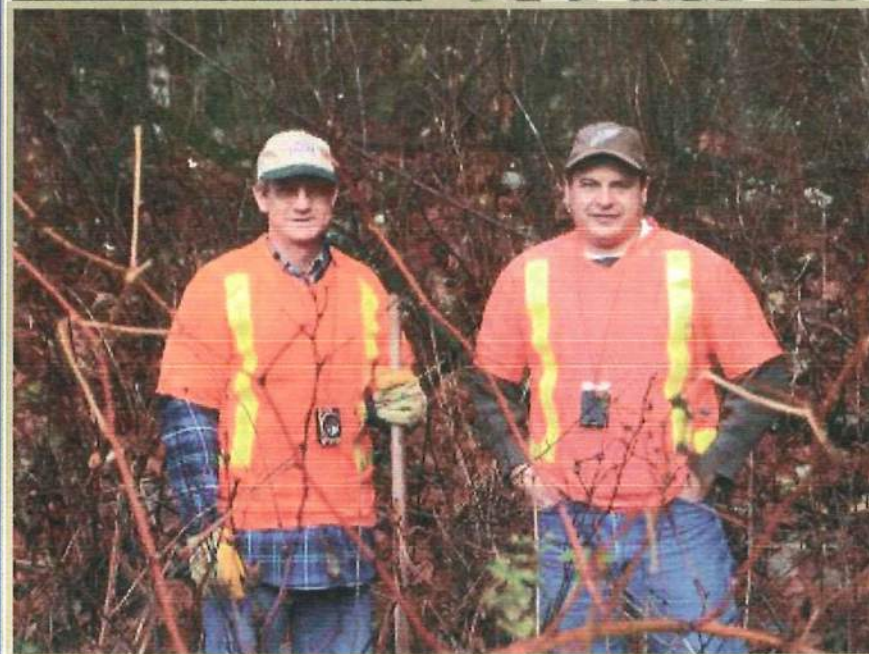
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SKAWAHLLOOK FIRST NATION
UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Special Update Report to the Skawahlook Membership

Sustainable Forest-Based Business Project COMPLETED



Project Background



PROJECT IDEA

The project idea is the result of the Skawahlook First Nation's 5-Year Strategic Planning sessions. At the first strategic planning session conducted in January 2001, community leaders identified the need to better understand the land and its resources. Specifically, the leaders wanted to know what natural resources were available within the Skawahlook reserves # 1 and # 2.

In addition, based on community input and directions, community leaders wanted to establish local business that could employ the community's human

expertise and natural resources.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Skawahlook First Nation's Sustainable Forest-Based Business Project had two main objectives:

1. Complete an inven-

tory of timber and non-timber resources within IR 1 and 2; and

2. Establish businesses within the Skawahlook First Nation.

PROJECT FUNDERS

The project was financially supported by the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) and the Skawahlook First Nation. The FNFP extended a \$ 25,000 grant contribution to the Nation. Band contributions were made in cash accessed from our Band revenue and in-kind contributions in the form of office space, materials and administrative costs.

PROJECT TEAM

The land inventory phase of the project was completed by HiMark Forest Consultants while the business planning component was completed by Juan C. Cereño and Associates.

David Schneider, Brett Chapman, Debra Schneider, Sharron Young and Ida John assisted HiMark Consultants in the completion of the lands inventory.

Chief Maureen Chapman, Debra Schneider and Sharron Young were instrumental in the completion and negotiation of business proposals.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Presently, the Skawahlook First Nation is exploring the possibilities of planting a small amount of land in cottonwood trees.

As the funding negotiations for the Administrative and Business Development Centre are concluding, the Skawahlook First Nation is proceeding with the design of the new building.



What Has Been Accomplished?

Two primary objectives were accomplished as a result of the Sustainable Forest Based Business Project. First, the community developed a clear understanding of the resources available within IR # 1 and 2. We know for example that there are no timber values within the commu-

nity, past logging practices have left only residual timber standing on the reserves. We also know that the community is rich in medicinal plants, herbs and berries. In terms of land use, the logging road located left to the main entrance to Ruby Creek appear to be located on

reserve lands.

Secondly, the project allowed the community to pursue the planning phase of business development.

Funding negotiations for a \$ 1.5 million Administration and Business Development Centre are almost completed.



Proposed Building—A Description

The proposed Band Administration and Business Development Centre will house 3 different but interconnected businesses: a Coffee Shop, an Arts and Crafts Store and a Fish Tackle Shop.

The coffee shop will cater to local residents and travelers using Lougheed Highway. Although the menu will be limited to a few specialty items, the atmosphere of the coffee shop will set it apart from neighbouring businesses. Skawahlook First Nation's coffee shop will provide a comfortable relaxing atmosphere offering quality coffee , tea, soups and

homemade sandwiches and pastries.

The Arts and Craft Store will bring crafts produced overseas specially for Skawahlook First Nation. A portion of the imports will be sold locally while the bulk of the items will be sold wholesale to Vancouver and Ottawa arts and crafts stores. Importing arts and crafts will provide a higher profit margin. Most importantly, the arts and crafts store will sell the work of local First Nation artists under consignment thereby promoting the art produced by Aboriginal people.



The Fish Tackle Shop, will cater to the seasonal anglers in the form of a one stop centre. The business will include the sale of fishing tackle, fishing licenses, and specially processed fish bait. A fish exchange program will be operated through the shop allowing anglers to trade freshly caught salmon for frozen, vacuum-packed salmon.