

Uchucklesaht Times

ʔiyaqhmisuk
Huuč uqłisʔath

July 2025

Uchucklesaht Tribe
Government

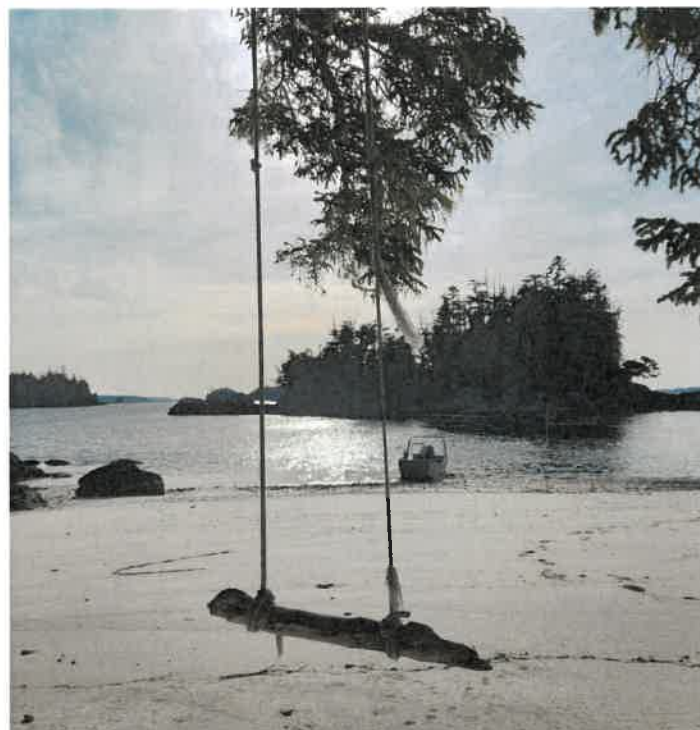
Road Closures: Latest Update	PAGE 3
Lands and Resources: Sockeye Monitoring	PAGE 6
Special Event: Graduates 2025	PAGE 8
Cultural Highlights: Making of Salve	PAGE 12
Contributor of the Month: Andrew Silver	PAGE 14



Newsletter of the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government
Contact us at communications@uchucklesaht.ca

Inside this issue

IMPORTANT NOTICES	3
EVENTS	4
TALENT SPOTLIGHT	5
LANDS AND RESOURCES	6
SPECIAL EVENT	8
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	10
WHAT'S NEW	11
CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS	12
HEALTH AND WELLNESS	13
CONTRIBUTOR	14
PHOTO GALLERY	15



Stud Islets, Barkley Sound

Nuu Chah Nulth



In the Nuu-chah-nulth language, "tlu-peetch ma" (łupiič̓ma) translates to "it's summer" or "summer time."

Important Notices



Summer Road Closures

Transportation - Summer 2025

As the province continues its upgrades to the road to Ehtlateese, there will be several road closures during the summer season. The closures will be significant and will make driving in and from Ehtlateese quite difficult. We will be able to support travel with more boat shuttles as needed.

1. Canal Main 34km - CLOSED from AUGUST 10 - SEPTEMBER 30 - the detour route of Kous/Kanyon will be in effect and should not cause any major issues. This closure also won't affect Ehtlateese travel as the main concern will be the closure on Hucuktis Lake Main happening concurrently.

2. Canal Main 40-43km (Old Lake Main section) - OPEN

3. Hucuktis Lake Main (formerly Henderson Main) - CLOSED from JULY 9 - SEPTEMBER 30 - full closure of this section of road cuts off any access to Ehtlateese and will require boat access.

These are active logging roads, therefore, the Department of Lands and Resources has a couple handheld radios that can be signed out at the Thunderbird and returned to our maintenance team in the village or back to the Thunderbird building's admin office for use when traveling the road.

To help reduce inconvenience during this time, boat shuttle services have been increased. Shuttles will now run to and from Ehtlateese every Wednesday (morning and afternoon/evening) and Sunday (afternoon/evening). We will keep everyone up-to-date as the situations potentially change. Please plan ahead for any trips to and from Ehtlateese this summer.

If you require a detour map or more information on the closures, please email
Moses Towell - moses.towell@uchucklesaht.ca

If you require a shuttle, please email
Lysa Ray - lysa.ray@uchucklesaht.ca
with your requested dates. A minimum of two business days notice is required for booking.



July Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 Woman's Group 10 - 2 Education dinner 4 - 6 PM	3 Parents Group 11 - 1	4 Water Aerobics 9:00 - 9:45	5
6	7 Meal Prep 10 - 2	8 Outreach 10 - 12	9 Nucii Gym Field 9:00 - 2:00	10 Walk at Bob Dailey 9:00 - 9:45	11 Water Aerobics 9:00 - 9:45	12
13	14 <u>Tea at the Garden</u> 10 - 12	15 Blood Pressure - 9:00 - 4:00 Outreach 10 - 12	16 <u>Rathenev Beach</u> 10 - 3 Island Elder's Luncheon - Songhees	17 Garlic Harvesting - Garden 4:30 - 7:30	18 Water Aerobics 9:00 - 9:45	19
20	21 <u>Biking - Quay-to-Quay</u> 9 - 11 Language - In Person 12 - 2	22 Outreach 10 - 12	23 Language - Zoom 7 - 8 <u>Transfer Beach</u> 9:30 - 3:30	24 Hike - Location TBA 9 - 11	25 Water Aerobics 9:00 - 9:45	26
27	28 SCIENCE CAMP <u>Tea at the Garden</u> 10 - 12	29 SCIENCE CAMP Outreach 10 - 12	30 SCIENCE CAMP	31 SCIENCE CAMP		

Note: Blood Pressure w/Nurse - By Appointment

Pick up a copy of the July calendar at the Nucii or Thunderbird front desk.



Talent Spotlight



Uk̓l̓ahmah Carla Halvorsen

First Nation Name: Hoolth Upii

Meaning: Calm before the Storm

Carla Halvorsen — A Force Behind Local Business and Community Growth

Carla Halvorsen has worked with the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government for over 20 years and holds deep roots in the Village of Ehtlateese, where she grew up. Her love for the land and waters has guided her not only in her work with the Tribe but also in her entrepreneurial journey.

In 2016, Carla launched Action Packed Charters, a fishing and water taxi company born out of her passion for the ocean and a vision to connect people to the land and one another. Her largest vessel is the 12-passenger water taxi, "Quassin", which means Raven in Nuuchahnulth as the raven is known as the master of time. The other two boats, the Raider and the Champion, can each accommodate up to five passengers. Action Packed Charters has not only provided an essential service to the community but also created employment for skilled locals, including Carla's sister Tina, who is one of the most experienced captains on the coast.

In September 2024, Carla and her husband Mike



expanded their entrepreneurial journey by starting Action Packed Excavating. The company has quickly gained traction. She started up with the purchase of a 1.8-ton excavator, a dump truck, compactor, track dumper and all sorts of other attachments and now has a 3.8-ton excavator. This company builds fences, site prep, demos, landscaping, gravel deliveries, trailer pads, trails, dog runs, driveways and more.

Carla proudly leads a team of talented family members and friends who bring expertise in heavy-duty machinery, carpentry, road and trail construction. Their work not only helps build the local infrastructure but also continues to create meaningful employment within the community.

Whether on land or at sea, Carla's commitment to service, connection, and community reflects through everything she does. Her businesses stand as powerful examples of how local entrepreneurship can support economic development while staying rooted in culture and community.



Lands and Resources



Monitoring Sockeye Salmon Returns at the Hucuktlis River Fish Fence

The Uchucklesaht Tribe operates a fish fence, located 600 meters from the mouth of the Hucuktlis River, to determine in-season estimates of escapement of the returning sockeye salmon. The fence operations give an indication of in-season abundance and run-timing of the Hucuktlis sockeye returning to the lake. This fence has been in operation annually for the late 1990s. Tina Halvorsen, the UTG technician, has been installing and operating the fence since many years now. It is installed each year by Tina with the assistance of the Department of Lands and Resources team during the early summer and removed during the early fall, overlapping with the sockeye salmon migration timing. Uu-a-thluk Fisheries has also assisted with fence operations and data analysis. A series of three sets of tunnel boxes are set up with magnetic counters that are integrated within the fence to count upstream migrating fish. The enumeration of adult salmon is shared with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and provides critical data for in-season management to the Uchucklesaht Tribe and DFO. This allows us to monitor escapement of the salmon population to Hucuktlis Lake during the fishing season in order to ensure enough make it to the spawning grounds in the Clemens and Hucuktlis lake systems.

Lands and Resources



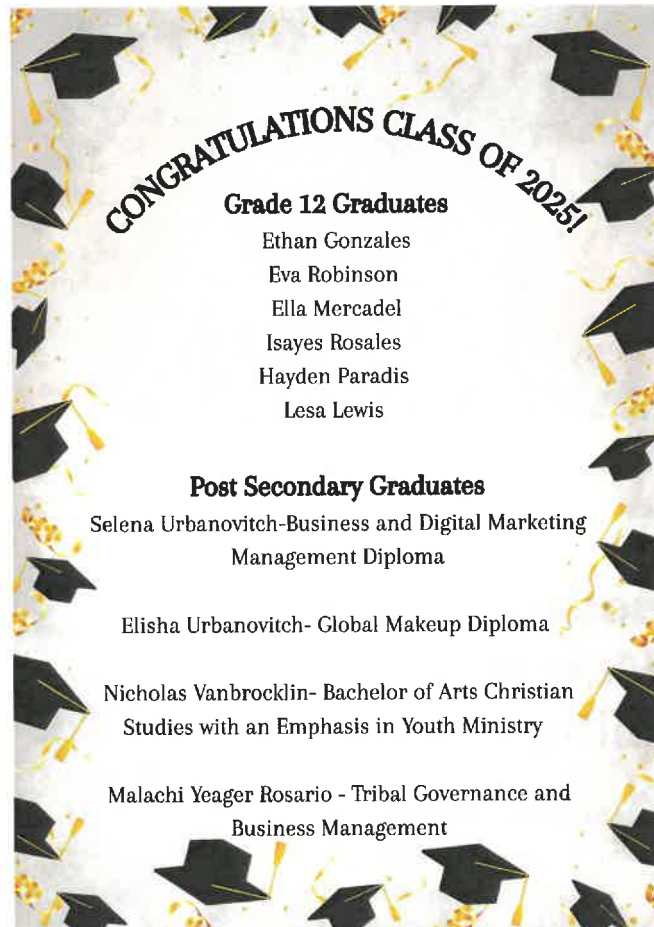
Lands and Resources Team Joins Marine Mammal Response Training

The Department of Lands and Resources participated in Marine Mammal Response training conducted by DFO and hosted by the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government. Participants also included representatives from Toquaht Nation, Huu-ay-aht First Nation, and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. The three-day course covered satellite tag attachment to trailing gear for an entangled large whale, cetacean oil spill acoustic mitigation, marine mammal necropsy, and live cetacean re-floatation training. The training offered a great opportunity to build relationships between DFO and nations, as well as to have trained staff throughout Barkley Sound to support the response to any marine mammal incident.



Special Event

Congratulations Class of 2025



Wishing you a heartfelt congratulations on your graduation! Your hard work, dedication, and perseverance have led you to this proud moment. As you close this chapter and step into the next, may your future be filled with endless opportunities, meaningful adventures, and continued success.

We're all so proud of you—way to go, graduates!



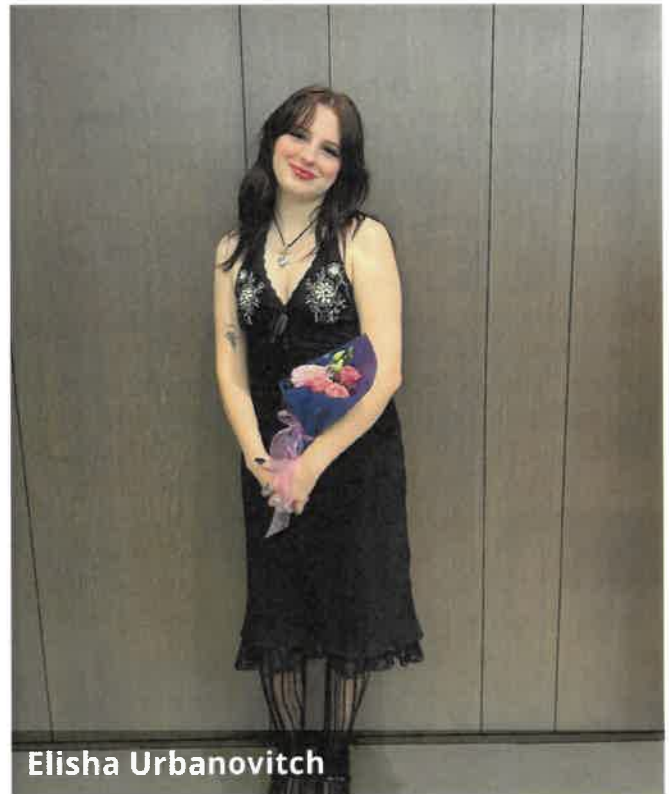
Selena Urbanovitch



Isayes Rosales

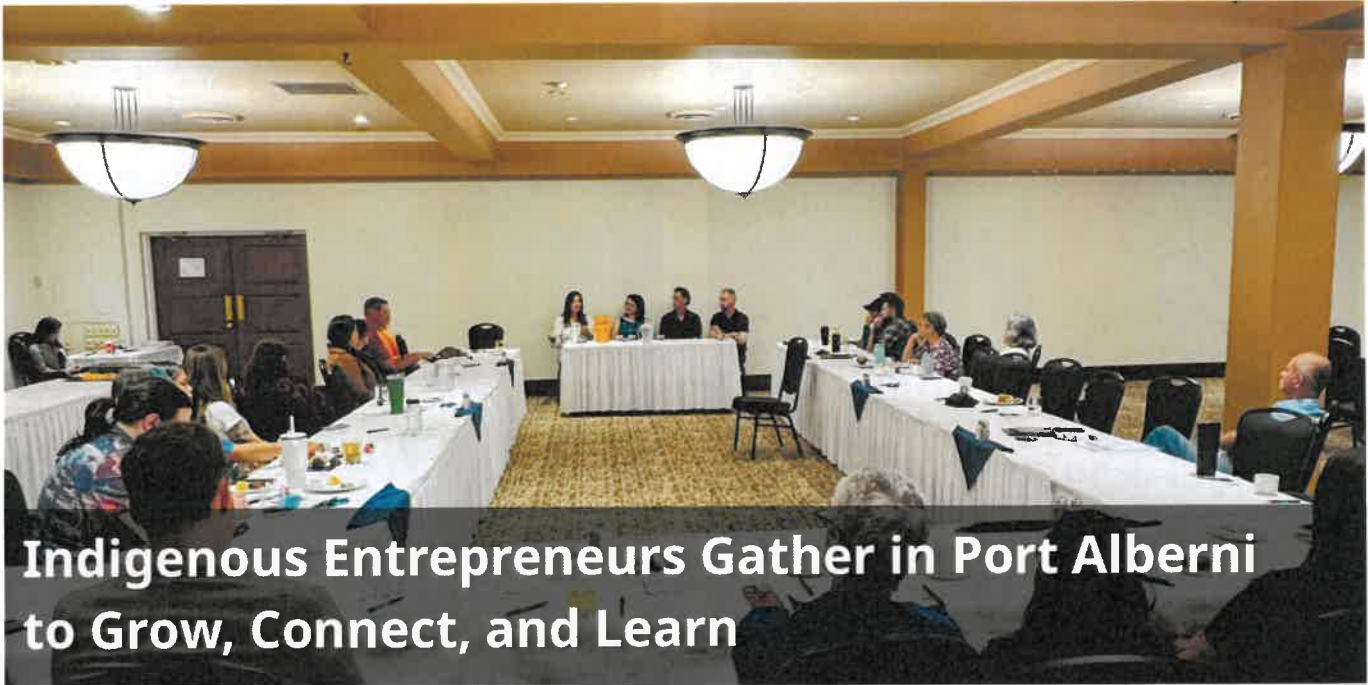


Ethan Gonzales



Elisha Urbanovitch

Economic Development



Indigenous Entrepreneurs Gather in Port Alberni to Grow, Connect, and Learn

Experienced, new and interested Indigenous entrepreneurs from Vancouver Island and the lower mainland gathered on June 24th in Port Alberni to learn from each other about what it takes to start and operate a business as well as the business support services available. The “Grow, Connect, Thrive” 1-day entrepreneurship workshop was organized and co-hosted by NEDC, Huu-ay-aht First Nation, Yuutu?it?ath First Nation, and Uchucklesaht Tribe Government to encourage and empower people to share their business stories and knowledge with each other. A variety of topics, including business planning, financing, management support, marketing, opportunities and challenges, etc., were covered by the presenters.

The highlight of the workshop was the open and genuine stories shared by the entrepreneur panelists Tamara

Wensley (Primal Sisters/Louis Pasture Snacks), Johnathon Byrne (Nootka Media), and Naomi Nicholson (Chims Motel & Cabins). Each shared their special stories about their entrepreneurship journey and were encouraging for others to share and connect with them. The presentations led to much conversation and meaningful connections among all attendees in support of starting or growing their businesses, including for Uchucklesaht's Thunderbird Spirit Water!

The collaboration among the co-hosts and feedback from all participants was so positive and inspiring that we plan to organize more business workshops this coming fall and winter. Stay tuned! And, in the meantime, if anyone has any questions or interests about starting a business, you are encouraged to reach out to our Economic Development Manager, Dave McCormick.

For more information contact David McCormick
david.mccormick@uchucklesaht.ca

What's New

Planning for Future Generations



Uchucklesaht has received grant funding from the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society to complete an early learning and childcare needs assessment and to learn more about the community's vision and priorities for the future of our children and families. The insights gained through this project could lead to future funding for our community.

Led by a consulting team from Transformative Community Planning and Policy, the project will review current programs and explore if any programs and/or services may be needed in the future for early learning and child care and the overall well-being of our children, families, and community. The project will also seek to

gain a better understanding of barriers that may exist that prevent current participation in early learning and/or child care, and how well our services and programs reflect our cultural values, teachings, and traditions.

Citizen engagement will be held in Fall 2025, including an interactive workshop where citizens can share their ideas for the future of our children and families. Engagement details and registration will be communicated in August.

For more information contact Ryan Anaka
ryan.anaka@uchucklesaht.ca or 250-724-1832

Cultural Highlights

Honouring the Gifts of Mother Nature: Making of the Salve

Over the past month, the Warrior Group have come together to harvest powerful medicinal plants that grow abundantly in Uchucklesaht's traditional territory such as cedar bark, devil's club, and narrow leaf plantain. These experiences were more than just gathering, they were opportunities to share knowledge, language, and culture.

Following the teachings passed down through generations, the Warrior Group are taught to use only what is needed, to honour the Creator's gifts, and to remember that nature provides for our needs, not our greed.

The plants they gathered are used to make sacred medicine like healing salves that continue to support our physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. Creating healing salve is a multi-step, sacred process that requires patience and knowledge. First, the harvested plants are cleaned and dried. The active healing components from the plant material are then infused into a natural carrier oil, often through slow, low-heat infusion that can take days. This step draws out the healing properties of each plant:

Cedar bark is known for its antibacterial and antifungal properties and is often used in salves for cleansing and protecting the skin.

Devil's club is a powerful traditional medicine used to support the immune system, ease inflammation, and heal wounds.



Narrow leaf plantain helps with skin regeneration, soothing bug bites, minor burns, and cuts.

Once the oil is infused, it is strained and combined with natural beeswax to give it a smooth, balm-like consistency. As the mixture is blended, songs may be sung, prayers spoken, and blessings offered.



Health and Wellness



SUNNY DAYS AHEAD

Enjoy the outdoors safely by protecting your skin



BC CANCER
Provincial Health Services Authority

SUN SAFETY TIPS

1



CHECK UV INDEX DAILY

When the index is 3 or higher, protect your eyes and skin as much as possible.

2



Try to seek shade under an umbrella or tree, especially between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., when UV is the strongest.

SEEK SHADE

3



COVER UP

Wear loose clothing with a tight weave and dark/bright colours, and a wide-brimmed hat that covers as much skin as possible.

4



For maximum protection, look for sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays.

WEAR SUNGLASSES

5



SLOP ON SUNSCREEN

Choose 'broad spectrum' with 30+ SPF on the label. Re-apply every 2 hours, including your neck, ears and lips!

bccancer.bc.ca/prevent/sun-safety

Contributor of the Month

Andrew Silver visited the source of Thunderbird Spirit Water, filled his own bottle, and snapped an awesome pic.



Contributed by Andrew Silver | andrew.silver@uchucklesaht.ca

Become a Contributor

Would you like to see your creative media featured in **?iyaq̓h̓misuk H̓uuč̓uq̓is̓ath̓**? Send your contribution to **communications@uchucklesaht.ca** with the subject "Contribution" and you could be featured in next month's issue.

Photography

We are looking for citizen submissions of landscape photography, events (yes, your campfire party can count!), pictures of arts and crafts you are working on, or even scans of historical photography you may have of friends and family over the years.

Stories, Photos and Opinions

We are looking for citizen submissions of short stories, opinion articles, news stories, Elder bios, recipes and more. If you are a talented writer or even an amateur who wants to share your experience and knowledge, consider being published in **?iyaq̓h̓misuk H̓uuč̓uq̓is̓ath̓**!



Photo Gallery



Phyllis Halvorsen and Helen Lauder making the most of cedar harvesting season, embracing traditional practices with pride and joy.



Warrior Program participant Koen Cartlidge trying his hand at shooting.



Wilfred and Thomas at the Premier's Forum on Nisga'a Lands with BC Modern Treaty Nations, Premier Eby, and several ministers.



Kassah Wutke and Griffin Breuker team up to make delicious pierogi during the Meal Prep Workshop.



Marie Samuel and Matt Titian basking in the sun with beautifully hand-crafted drums, celebrating culture and art.



Moses Towell welcoming the sockeye season!



Uchucklesaht Tribe Government

The Uchucklesaht Government blends hereditary and modern governance to ensure responsible, transparent, and accountable leadership. It upholds the Uchucklesaht Tribe's political, social, and cultural strength while exercising law-making authority under the Maa-nulth Treaty. Governed by a legislative, executive, and People's Assembly structure, it remains committed to honouring the past while embracing the future.

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