

Uchucklesaht Times

ʔiyaqhmisuk Huuč uqłisʔath

October 2025



Uchucklesaht Tribe
Government

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Spooktacular halloween decor by Phyllis Halvorsen!

Nuu-Chah-Nulth



The Nuu-chah-nulth word for "fall" or "autumn" is ʕayiič̓.

Pronunciation: "Aḥ-iich"

Special Event



On September 29, the Uchucklesaht community gathered at Nucii to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The event brought together Elders, youth, community members and the Uchucklesaht staff in a ceremony of remembrance, healing, and unity.

The gathering opened with a prayer by Elder Marie Samuel, followed by a warm welcome from Regina Frank. Cultural Coordinator, Joshua Shaw shared the story and meaning behind Orange Shirt Day, reminding everyone that "Every Child Matters." Joshua also told a true story, a piece of history, in the Nuu-chah-nulth language. The message was about perseverance. We must value these ancient teachings by learning them and using them, sometimes one little piece at a time.

Survivors were acknowledged for their courage and strength, and heartfelt words were shared by Executive Councillor Thomas Rush, Elder Gloria Rush and Elder Marie Samuel.

At noon, participants shared a community lunch, fostering togetherness and connection. The afternoon featured drumming, song, and a cultural presentation

by Cooper Styan, who also carved beautiful necklaces gifted to the Survivors in a touching gesture of respect and honour. Brushing was offered throughout the day by cultural support teams from Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) and Tsow-tun-le-lum for those seeking spiritual cleansing and healing.

Among the Survivors present were:

Retired Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes Sr., Executive Councillor Thomas Rush, and Elders - Marie Samuel, Gloria Rush, Dorothy Cootes, Matt Titian, and Ralph Titian.

Guests included Lyle Billy, Qaamina Sam, Tim Paul, Beulah Howard, and Bill Howard.

A highlight of the gathering was when Regina proudly introduced her granddaughter, Taylor Elissa Dawn Johnson, by her traditional name - čaškuk, pronounced as chashkak, meaning "active" in the Ahousaht dialect, a name that carries strength and vitality.

It was a day of remembrance and resilience, a time for reflection, healing, and honouring the Survivors and generations impacted by residential schools.

October Events

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | 1 Parent Group 11 - 1 | 2 Woman's Group 11 - 1 | 3 Denturist - Nucii | 4 Mental Health Workshop 10:30 -12 |
| 5 | 6 Language 12 - 1 | 7 Warrior Group 4:30 - 9-ish Outreach 10 - 12 | 8 Meal Prep 10 - 2 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 OFFICE CLOSED | 14 Drum Stick Making 12 - 3 Outreach 10 - 12 | 15 | 16 Elder's Breakfast 10 - 12 | 17 PAL Course Physio - Ehthlateese | 18 PAL Course |
| 19 | 20 Language 12 - 1 | 21 Warrior Group 4:30 - 9-ish Outreach 10 - 12 | 22 Career Workshop 4-6 | 23 | 24 Pro-D Day Story Walk - Ehthlateese | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 Warrior Group 4:30 - 9-ish Outreach 10 - 12 | 29 Halloween Dance 4 - 7 | 30 | 31 | |
| NOTES Oct 14 - Warrior's Group 4:30 - 9ish Language - Zoom Oct 8 & 22 - 7-8pm PAL Course - Registration Required Water Aerobics Restarts every Friday, starting Oct 3rd Oct 4 Mental Health Workshop - Mental Health Day Recognition Oct 17 - Men's Group 11 - 1 | | | | | | |

In memory of

Dallas Joseph Yeager



January 14, 1982 – August 21, 2025

Dallas Joseph Yeager was the great-grandson of Leslie Sam, grandson of Alice Sam, and son of Joeline Wells and Danny Yeager. Born and raised in Washington State, Dallas was in the process of obtaining his Status card so he could return home to Canada.

He is lovingly remembered by his son Dylan (10 years old) and his cat, Somebody. Dallas had a deep love for cars, music, spending time outdoors, and connecting with his many friends.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Health and Wellness

Staying active in Fall weather

Now that we are into the fall season, the weather is changing quickly. It can be hard to predict how to dress for the outdoors with chilly mornings and warm afternoons, but it is a great season to be outdoors. Some ideas to keep active in the colder months are to;

- Dress in layers, it is easier to warm up or cool down with a light jacket etc
- Go for a walk or hike. The cooler temperatures are more comfortable, and the changing scenery is a nice way to add enjoyment to the hike
- Yard work. Perhaps not the most fun form of exercise, but raking leaves is great for strength and endurance
- Home workouts can be done with body weight or minimal equipment, and are great for those that may not have time to drive to the gym, or are at home with children
- Bike rides are great as you can go solo, or make it social with family or friends
- Swimming at the pool can be done in all weather. Laps, water aerobics, playing around with your kids are all excellent ways to get some movement in

Have fun, bring water, and enjoy the sunshine!



Lands & Resources

Uchucklesaht Tribe Monitors Salmon Return in the Hucuktlis Watershed



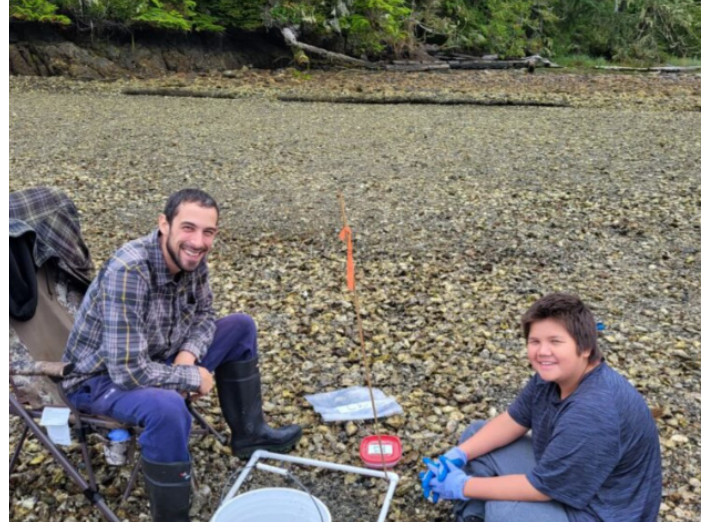
Fall is here, and the cooler temperatures and heavy precipitation mean that salmon are making their final journey to their spawning grounds. Sockeye salmon have been migrating up the Hucuktlis River through the summer months and have been holding in the lake, waiting for the rain so that they can migrate up Clemens Creek and begin building their redds. Chinook, coho, and chum salmon enter the watershed beginning in August and will also wait at the mouth of Clemens Creek for higher flows. During this time of year, the Uchucklesaht Tribe and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) conduct spawner surveys to count the number of returning salmon and get a better understanding of the status of each salmon species in the Hucuktlis watershed.

The surveys are done by snorkeling down Clemens Creek and estimating the number of fish that are seen. Teams of two to four swimmers will begin 1 km above the Clemens Creek bridge and end at the mouth of Clemens Creek in Hucuktlis Lake (about 4.5 km in total). This is done weekly between late August and mid-November, when most salmon have finished spawning. On a recent swim, thousands of sockeye and hundreds of coho were observed, in addition to Chinook, chum, and pink salmon. As fall progresses, more fish will enter Clemens Creek, and some sockeye will remain in the lake and spawn along the beach between the Thunderbird lodge and the mouth of Clemens Creek.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about these surveys, please contact Nathan Bendriem (*Nathan.bendriem@uchucklesaht.ca*)

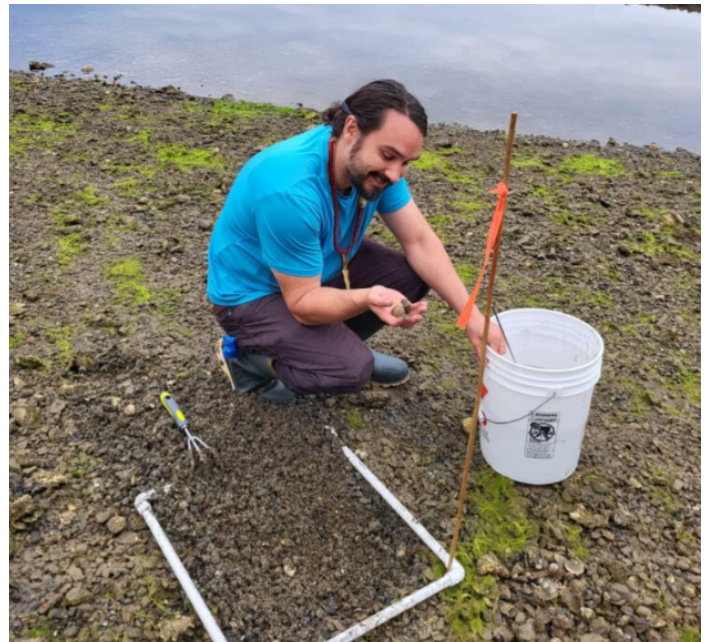
Lands & Resources

Useless Inlet Clam Survey – Year Four



Last month, a clam survey was completed within Useless Inlet. This marks the fourth year that this beach has been surveyed by the Department of Lands and Resources. Following the same protocol as the Geer Islet survey, 20 sites were randomly selected across the beach. At each site, all clams were identified by species, and their weight and length were recorded. This project is part of the larger Marine Stewardship and Monitoring Program and serves as a tool to monitor population trends in key harvesting areas.

A special thank you to the Warrior Program, including Cooper Styan, Joshua Shaw, and Ryder Fregin for taking part in the survey! Without their assistance, the Department of Lands and Resources would not have been able to complete all 20 sites.



Staff Highlight



Danica Rice - Director, Department of Lands & Resources

I am a registered professional planner with over 25 years of experience, having worked in the private sector as well as municipal, regional, and First Nation governments. I am passionate about community engagement, climate mitigation, environmental management, and balancing the protection of critical ecosystems with human settlement. Married with three teenaged children, I live on a small farm with sheep, horses, and chickens in the Cowichan Valley.

I am extremely honoured to step into this role and am looking forward to supporting the community in any way I can. I'm also excited to meet each of you and welcome thoughts and ideas any time.

Huy ch q'u siiems



Jessica Schultz - Senior Biologist, Department of Lands & Resources

I am excited to be joining the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government as senior biologist in the Department of Lands and Resources. I bring over a decade of experience in ecology, habitat restoration, and Indigenous-led conservation, and I recently completed a PhD focused on coastal habitats in BC.

Much of my work has been at the intersection of science, community, and Indigenous knowledge, whether co-developing restoration strategies with Nations, leading marine research teams, or supporting long-term conservation planning. I'm passionate about working collaboratively to protect lands and waters in ways that honour culture, resilience, and long-term stewardship.

Outside of work, I try to show up with curiosity and consistency, and I'm really looking forward to learning from and alongside this community. I feel privileged to be part of UTG's vision for thriving, self-determined lands and waters, and I'm excited to contribute my energy and skills to this important work.

Climate Action

Uchucklesaht Honoured for Climate Leadership



The Uchucklesaht Tribe Government has been recognized for its bold and visionary approach to climate and energy action through the Uchucklesaht Climate Action Plan, earning a 2025 Climate & Energy Action Award at the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in Victoria. Out of numerous applicants across the province, the Uchucklesaht Tribe was selected as one of only seven communities to receive this prestigious award.

The Uchucklesaht Climate Action Plan was praised as “an outstanding example of a community-led project that works especially well for the context of an Indigenous community and can be replicated by others.”

The plan reflects deep community collaboration, guided by a 20-person working group, including the Uchucklesaht citizens that met regularly over 14 months, presented at five community events, and gathered valuable input from 20% of residents. The resulting plan includes 50 short- and long-term recommended actions, shared through a detailed report and an inspiring short film.

The Community Energy Association highlighted that the plan “shows other communities how this work can be done with strong community involvement.”

The Climate and Energy Action Awards, presented by the Community Energy Association, celebrate BC’s municipalities, regional districts, and Indigenous communities that demonstrate leadership in climate action and sustainability.

Heartfelt thanks to all citizens who participated in the working group, attended events, and completed the Climate Action Survey. Your engagement and ideas were vital in shaping this award-winning plan and advancing our shared vision for a sustainable future.

Contributor of the Month



It was a fun time had by all at the 2025 Elders Gathering this year. We were pampered like kings and queens, it truly was special! It was so amazing to meet so many Elders from around BC.

I think there was about 1800 of us there the first day. I met an Elder who went to both the Christie School and Kamloops School with my father Billy Ginger, crazy, what a small world!

Dennis Thomas and Ina Dick were amazing as our chaperones. They were always there for us, taking us where we needed to go. You guys rock!

Thank you to the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government for sending us to the gathering in Vancouver.

It was an amazing time and felt like all our ancestors who walked before us were there too. My dad Billy Ginger would be so proud of me.

Chuu

Cheryl Ginger

To all at the UTG!

Thank you so much for your continued support over the last 5 years! You've helped our family so much with the quarterly cheques, the monthly money for children, and the latest gift cards help us even more. Thank you for everything that you're doing! All of this is appreciated more than you can ever know!

Many thanks, Natasha
Lucas

Appreciation letter received from Natasha Siezen. Her Grade three son Lucas was the artist! Thank you, Lucas!

Become a Contributor

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

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 **?iyagħmisuk Ĥuučũqłis?atħ!**



Photo Gallery



Needs assessment engagement session for early learning and childcare organised at Nucii



Needs assessment engagement session for early learning and childcare organised at Nucii



Warrior Group visiting the Stamp Falls to see spawning salmon



Ryder Fregin and Joshua Shaw carving the arrow heads



Suicide Prevention Workshop held at Nucii



Vigil organised at Nucii on World Suicide Prevention Day



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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