



# Skawahlook News

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2009

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## Message from the Chief

What a beautiful summer! It's now time to prepare our homes and vehicles for the fall and winter months.

All members of the Council and administration are continually seeking funds to provide opportunities to Skawahlook members. Funding has been extremely limited due to the economic downturn, as well as the new rules prescribed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and other funders. We press on with the future generation in mind.

I continue working with the Sto:lo Hydro Ad-Hoc Committee regarding the trespass issues of the hydro-electric lines, as well as the consultation requirements for additional lines they plan to install.

Skawahlook participates with the Fish Management Board at Sto:lo and have experienced tragic declines in stocks. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans oppose First Nations every step of the way and make progress in negotiations very difficult.

As a member of the Sto:lo Nation Board of Directors, I am responsible for Health, Housing, and Economic Development. Sto:lo Nation is establishing their own Health Hub and negotiating the transfer from Health Canada to an Aboriginal authority to oversee health services and programs.

I chair the Aboriginal Children and Families Chiefs Coalition who are working on the transfer of programs and services from



the Ministry of Children and Family Development. The Chiefs will meet with the new Minister Mary Polak, in November to advise her of their directives.

National Chief Shawn (A-in-chut) Atleo from Ahousat, B.C., was elected in July of this year, after a 24-hour marathon of eight ballots. B.C. is often ignored by Ottawa and having a National Chief from the west will work to our advantage.

Thank you to all members who continue to support the Council and administration in our efforts to create a healthy, progressive environment for our future generations. All the best during the holidays and into 2010!

## Audit Information Available

This year we were able to obtain past audits for our information and archives. Since there has been a number of requests for audit information we wanted to inform the members that the information is available at the

office by appointment, for review. We have acquired audits 1980-1996. Also available to all members, is a meeting with the auditor, Lori Falys, who conducts and signs off on the audits, to answer questions and clarify

the reports.



# Art Gallery Update



**Jerry Chapman doing a drum demonstration**

On November 28th the Gallery hosted its Fourth Annual Open House. The event was from 3-5 p.m. We had great attendance and we had the pleasure of welcoming artist Jerry Chapman. Jerry did a wonderful job of demonstrating how he makes his hand drums and singing songs for everyone to enjoy. This year we also had live entertainment by pianist,

Christine Millar.

This past summer the gallery had many opportunities to be a vendor at various festivals and conferences. We attended Harrison Festival of the arts, In-SHUCK-ch Days, Spirit of the People Pow Wow, Canim Lake Pow Wow and the ICAB conference in Harrison. It was one of the busiest years for bringing the gal-



**Fourth Annual Open House**

lery on the road. We recently said good bye to Judah Vickers, who operated the gallery the past 16 months. We would like to extend our best wishes as she attends school in Williams Lake.

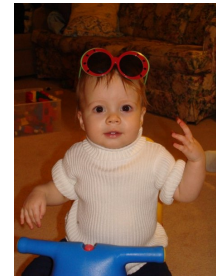
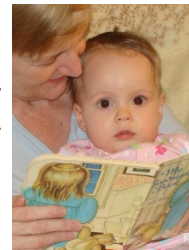


**Grace & Sharron Young**

# Sharron Young returns from maternity leave

Sharron Young has returned to work after a year of maternity leave. Sharron has enjoyed her year off; however, she is excited about returning to work as the Band Administrator. She has been busy working from the office and her home. Sharron's daughter, Grace Debra Young, was

born on November 12, 2008 at 8 lbs, 1 oz at the Chilliwack General Hospital. Grace has been a blessing to her family and anyone who has the opportunity to meet her.



**Skawahlook's Next Generation**

# Band Membership Meeting

On March 28, 2009 a Band Membership meeting was held at the Community Hall. There was a small turn out from the membership. What was discussed was:

- ◆ Treaty—by Cathy Hall- Regular mailouts sent to

members individually


- ◆ Land Code—Debra Schneider
- ◆ Housing—members were advised that until land becomes available housing is not possible.
- ◆ Education—Samantha

Kaji is now the contact at Sto:lo Nation.

We will inform the members when the next band meeting is scheduled. If you would like specific items on the next agenda please contact Sharron or Carly at the office.

# Community Updates

**Welcome**  
**Ava Ann Chapman**



Ava Ann Chapman was born July 3, 2009 to Kenny and Hollie Davis. She was born in Vancouver, Washington at 7 lbs 6 oz and was 20.5 inches long.


**Welcome**  
**Baby Boy Sjovold**



Leah and Simon Sjovold are expecting their 3rd baby boy. Leah is due March 27, 2010. The baby and family are doing well in their new home in Ohio and are very excited about their new addition to the family.

**Welcome**  
**Darlene Mary Chapman**

Darlene Mary Chapman was born April 12, 2009 to Valerie Pettis and Vincent Chapman. She was born in Chilliwack at 6 lbs, 14 oz.



**“The Lands Committee is working towards the final stages of the land code and Individual Agreement.”**

**Congrats to Natalie & Nate**  
**December 31, 2008**

Skawahlook First Nation would like to congratulate Natalie and Nate Tallbut on their marriage on December 31, 2008. The newlyweds were




married in Kelso, WA. at the beautiful Empress Palace and honeymooned in Seattle.

**Congrats to Crystal & Lee**  
**May 9, 2009**

Skawahlook First Nation would like to congratulate Crystal and Lee Prevost on their marriage on May 9, 2009. The newlyweds were married in Chilliwack, B.C. at Minter Gardens

with the reception at Tzeachten First Nation. They honeymooned at “Rowenas Inn on the River” in Harrison Mills.



*If you have an announcement of this nature, please submit them to the attention of Sharron Young or Carly Britton*

# Land Code Development

The Skawahlook Lands Committee has been working hard developing our Land Code. The Land Code Agreement is a government to government agreement with Canada that allows First Nations to resume and exercise their own jurisdiction, control and decision making over their lands and re-

sources. The Lands Committee is working towards the final stages of the land code and Individual Agreement due by the end of December, 2009. INAC still needs to address any outstanding land issues and we are hoping to obtain funding to be able to meet one on one with members to discuss any

questions or concerns.

The vote for Land Code will take place on **May 29, 2010**. Advanced polling and mail in ballots will be available. Additional information will also be provided through mail outs in the future. If you have any further questions please contact the office.



**Lands Coordinator,  
 Debra Schneider**



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## About this Newsletter

This Update Newsletter was completed by the Skawahlook First Nation Administration Office.

Please submit comments, questions and/or suggestions to the Skawahlook First Nation, attention of Sharron Young or Carly Britton.

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



# Status Cards

## Information Update:

### STATUS OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE *NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION ON HOLD*

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has reviewed all applications received to date and will be contacting those applicants directly to inform them of the status of their application.

INAC is in the process of resolving technical and operational issues. Updates on timelines for processing of all other applications and card production will be available on our website shortly.

More information is available at [Secure Certificate of Indian Status FAQ's](#)

If you urgently require documentation for visiting the United States, please contact [Passport Canada](#).

For information on documentation requirements for visiting the United States, please visit the [Border Crossing](#) information section (see below).

## The extended use of Paper Laminate Status Cards for United States Border Crossing

Customs and Border Protection will be flexible with the traveling public until further guidance is issued, which Customs Border Protection believe will be after the Winter Olympics.

Regarding the INAC status card, Customs Border Protection will continue again to be flexible until the new secure certificate Indian status card is issued, and officially designated as WHTI (Western Hemisphere Traveler's Initiative)-compliant. Customs Border Protection would encourage the traveling public to consider other WHTI-compliant documents such as the Enhanced Driver's Licence, Enhanced BC Identification or Passport