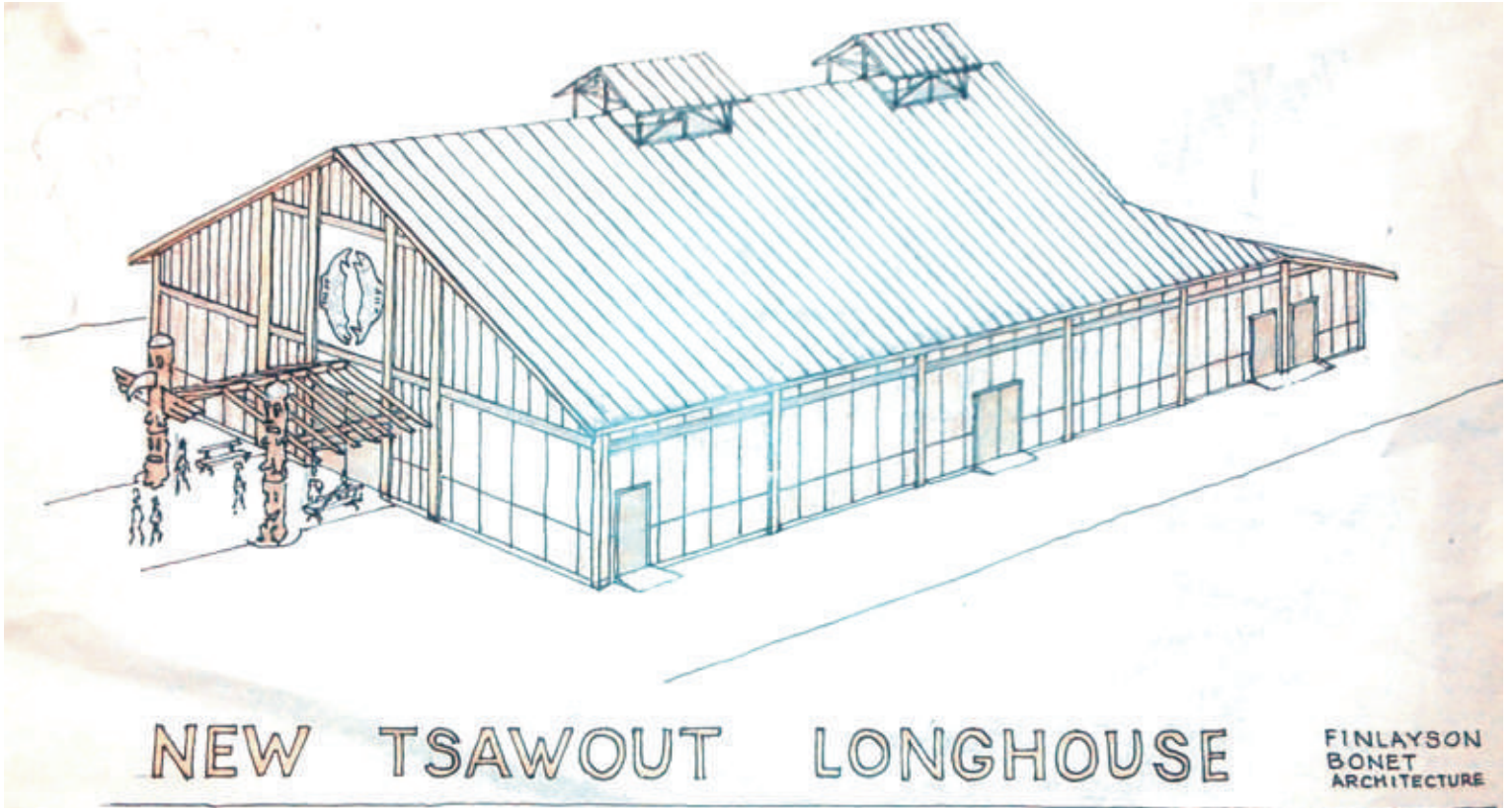




Newsletter

Tsawout First Nation



NEW TSAWOUT LONGHOUSE

FINLAYSON
BONET
ARCHITECTURE

REBUILDING THE LONGHOUSE Construction starting soon

We are happy to announce the funding is secured with the Bank of Montreal. The architect has finalized construction drawings, and a construction timeline will be complete and posted very soon. We are very excited and looking forward to the completion and grand opening.

Chief & Council Elections

A reminder that elections for Chief and Council will be held July 5, 2017. The poll will be held at the Tsawout First Nation Gym located at 7728 Tetayut Road, Saanichton, B.C. from 9:00 am until 8:00 pm.

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CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATES

Acting Band Manager/Administrator

We hope community members have had an opportunity to meet Eva Wilson the acting band manager/administrator. Eva brings years of experience and she has been given a comprehensive task list and to date she has been very busy.



Eva Wilson, Acting Band Manager

Finance

The finance committee has met several times the past few months. Our pre-audit work is well underway. Our goal is to submit an annual audit by the July 31, 2017 deadline. Rob Mortin is contracted in Finance and is working extensive hours to keep things up-to-date and reporting regularly to council. We truly appreciate his work to date.

Economic Development

Regarding the highway access application, several meetings have occurred these past months, and the governments remain optimistic to the funding application submitted by Tsawout. We will provide updates once progress is made. We continue to work on an internal financial plan in case the funding application is approved. The band will be required to assume a loan until funding flows to the community.

Community meetings

Thank you to those who have attended the past few community meetings. We appreciate all the feedback and there were a number of recommendations made to improve services and infrastructure in the community. The recommendations have been noted and will require ongoing review and planning.

Playgrounds

The community playgrounds have been very busy (rain or shine) with a number of children enjoying the great outdoors. UNFORTUNATELY the playground in the subdivision has had a couple of incidents where the RCMP were called to remove intoxicated people who scared the children. There is also concerns of adults drinking and smoking at the basketball court. The RCMP will continue to monitor these behaviors and there is zero-tolerance for danger to the children. Please let the RCMP know if there are concerns at the playgrounds. We will be putting up some encouragement signs for the kids to continue playing safe and keeping healthy in the play areas.

Youth

Youth Wellness Strategy was accepted in principle by Chief and Council and we are happy to report progress for the youth. Youthworker Dan has a strong core group of youth that are keeping busy and we have been supporting youth representing Tsawout in local and provincial sports at a high level of competition. Most recently supporting the Tsawout NAIG participants travelling to Toronto in July.

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATES

George Horne & International Outrigger Competition TEAM CANADA Geronimo Canoe Club

We are very proud to have George Horne represent Tsawout as he prepares to travel to Tahiti to compete in the World Outrigger Championships. Its been a very long haul for the canoe club to qualify, and George is a strong athlete who will represent us well. We wish you the best George.

If you would like to contribute to the canoe club's last fundraiser please join us at the Tsawout Gym Friday June 16th for Polynesian night which includes a feast and entertainment. Every dollar helps.



George Horne, Geronimo Canoe Club

Tsawout Fisheries

2017/18 AFS agreement and activities and planning continue. Plans continue for food fish to the community and using the Tsawout boat for fishing activities. Any questions feel free to email Eva or Chief and Council.

Road Maintenance and Repair

A few of the paving repairs have been completed, planning continues for ongoing road maintenance and grass cutting throughout the summer months. We hope to have the proper roadside cutting equipment soon to keep our roads clean and safe. A funding application is being considered by INAC to improve Stautw Rd we will keep you posted of any progress.

Tsawout Housing

Our mandate is building towards safe, adequate, affordable housing, and encouraging homeowners and tenants to be self-reliant, empowered individuals who secure homes for their families.

We are happy to announce construction is underway for three CMHC houses and we will be applying for another four this year. The construction is expected to be complete by August 31, 2017. We are also underway with eight more major renovations in the community, focusing on Elders and disabilities. Applications for more renovations will be ongoing and it is important for homeowners and tenants to keep your requests current.

There continues to be concerns of tenants not paying rent. It was a very tough decision to apply for new housing when we know some tenants refuse to pay rents. We have kept the rents very minimal and hope tenants will appreciate the fact that off-reserve, large families would be paying \$1200 or more for rent. Please keep up your monthly rent payments.

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATES

Community Policing

Tsawout has a tripartite agreement with the Sidney RCMP. We will continue to work closely with the RCMP to INCREASE safety and DECREASE crime. There are a number of ongoing investigations for known drug dealers, bootleggers, trespassers, and reviews of property crime. A list of names is submitted to the RCMP and charges are pending, it's important to be a part of the solution and report illegal behaviors in the community. In one week there were two charges of impaired driving in our community, and the vehicles were impounded and luckily nobody was hurt. We continue to work on strategies, working with CRIMETSTOPPERS to decrease the number of criminals who enter Tsawout. Your support is appreciated, and with the summer months fast approaching we want our beaches to be safe for children and families.