

HFN GROUP OF BUSINESSES

OUR VISION

Together, the Huu-ay-aht Economic Development Committee and group of businesses strive to achieve a flourishing Huu-ay-aht economy through initiatives that provide sustainable benefits for all.

DID YOU KNOW?

Once approved, the Sarita River hydropower project will be under construction for 1.5 to 2 years. Work will include updating access roads, clearing the penstock and intake sites and around access points, and building the facilities.



Sarita River Hydropower Project

Accepting nature's gifts is nothing new to Huu-ay-aht citizens, but this year the Huu-ay-aht group of businesses plans to take that one step further. Working with The Barkley Project Group Ltd., a consulting firm specializing in small hydropower projects, the Huu-ay-aht group of businesses plans to complete designs for a hydropower project that will harness nature's energy on the Sarita River.

The project, which has been in the works for several years, will eventually see a weir, powerhouse, and penstock installed downstream of Sarita Lake and approximately five kilometres upstream of Numukamis Bay. Unlike traditional hydro projects, which often rely on storing large amounts of water, this "run-of-river" project uses the natural elevation and flow of the stream to create power.

The project, which has been in the works for several years, will eventually see a weir, powerhouse, and penstock installed downstream of Sarita Lake.

"The Sarita River hydropower project is a 'low head, high volume' hydropower project," says Brian Hanson, Senior Project Manager for The Barkley Project Group. *Low head* refers to the height of falling water that will power the turbine. *High volume* refers to the amount of water making the drop.

Although relatively small when compared with other run-of-river projects in the province, the Sarita River hydropower project has a large catchment area (91 km²) blessed with abundant rainfall and



Forestry Crew Active During Winter

Cold temperatures and winter rains may keep many of us indoors this season, but the HFN forestry crew has work to do. Assisting forestry companies currently active on HFN lands, crewmembers completed roadwork for Probyn Logging Ltd. and shake cutting for Ben Bozak earlier this winter. Working with Western Forest Products, two crewmembers banded cedar in the Sugsaw cutblock. Crew members also built trails for Huu-ay-aht First Nations and cut firewood for citizens. Despite some lost-time incidents, the crew completed their tasks and are on track for a productive 2014. The forestry crew includes Andy Clappis, Duane Nookemis Jr, Duane Nookemis Sr., Patrick Nookemus, John Young, and Cory Howard.

Communications:

Staff and board members from the Huu-ay-aht group of businesses presented to citizens in early February during the community rounds in Vancouver, Port Alberni, and Anacla. Chief Executive Officer Stan Coleman, Operating Board Chair Angela Wesley, and Campground Supervisor Trevor Cootes took part in the presentations along with other staff. "We updated citizens on proposed business plans for the Pachena Bay campground and the Sarita River hydro project," says Coleman, noting that both projects require various approvals before proceeding. The community rounds provide citizens with the chance to hear about developments and ask questions about HFN group of business operations.

winter storms. Project partners expect this combination to produce winter power that will fetch a premium price from BC Hydro.

"Flow data and profiles tell us roughly how much power the project will generate," Hanson says, adding, "This will be mainly winter power, 13.5 gigawatt hours per year on average."

That power will flow to Anacla/Bamfield homes and businesses via BC Hydro's connection system. Any extra will go to Port Alberni.

But how will a hydropower project affect the river in the long run? According to Hanson, water running through the completed system will not gain temperature or contaminants, ensuring no harm to fish. The weir and intake intended in the design are also "fish friendly."

Prior to completing a rough design for the project, Hanson and biologists studied both the species living in the stream and their habitat. "Studies have been done at all times of year, including electroshocking, netting, and measuring small fry," Hanson says.

This information enables project partners to design a facility that protects natural habitat. Maintaining a minimum water flow in the stream is also key to a healthy river system. "There's a certain amount of water required to be left in the stream at all times," Hanson says.

Yet despite these precautions, hydropower projects do have some impact on the ecosystem. "The project will have a footprint in the stream," Hanson points out, "but compensation will be based on that footprint."

In this case, 'compensation' refers to mitigation activities required by government agencies after the project's construction. The Huu-ay-aht group of businesses will be responsible for these activities, and they could include creating enhanced spawning areas, planting areas along the river's edge or returning formerly disturbed areas back to their natural state. Specific activities for the Sarita River hydropower project are still to be determined.

Currently the HFN group of businesses is working with the Barkley Project Group to prepare development plans and acquire a water licence from the province. The hydropower facility is also moving into a detailed design phase. When construction eventually begins, there will be work for citizens updating access roads, clearing the penstock and intake sites and around access points, and building the facilities. Expected jobs include heavy equipment operation, construction, engineering, and reclamation work.

When the facility is up and running, there will be long-term jobs for one to two people, along with routine maintenance activities.

The HFN group of businesses will share more information about the project this March with the Huu-ay-aht community. To ask questions about the project in the meantime, please contact the Huu-ay-aht group of businesses at 250-728-3080.



Changes for Pachena Bay Campground.

Change is afoot for the Pachena Bay Campground, and with change comes opportunity. Following a successful 2013 summer season, Campground Supervisor Trevor Cootes began developing a business plan to explore campground expansion and other possibilities for the site.

The plan, currently in draft form, looks carefully at the missions of both Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) and the HFN group of businesses. It also explores changes that could be made to increase revenue.

These changes include beautifying the campground, improving roads and sites, and adding RV sites and rental yurts. The concept also includes renting out kayaks, bikes, and surfboards, and providing food, beverage and laundry services.

“The campground is our first and best opportunity for ongoing business development,” says Cootes, who returned home to work at the campground in 2012 after more than a decade in the Tofino tourism industry. “We are currently only using about 75 percent of the space. There is definitely room to expand that.”

Following on the heels of campground upgrades such as additional washrooms, picnic tables, and a newly located washhouse, the business plan takes a long-term view of success. Investments in infrastructure lead to happier guests, who in turn, stay longer and spend more money while enjoying the spectacular surroundings.

Creating a more functional website—one that can take reservations—is another of the business plan’s recommendations. “If guests can reserve online at the beginning of the season, staff won’t need to spend so much time taking reservations during peak periods,” Cootes says. “This frees up their time to improve our guests’ experience while they are here.”

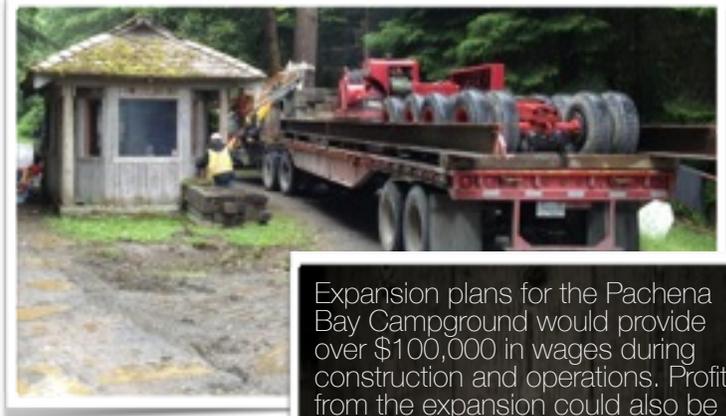
Prior to 2012, private operators leased and managed Pachena Bay Campground. Now in the hands of the HFN group of businesses, the campground will benefit from an increased marketing budget. Advertisements in print and online will attract new clients and let the old ones know about the improvements at Pachena Bay. So crucial is the marketing budget, that it is expected to triple campground revenues.

Advertising is especially important in the Vancouver Island tourism market, where places like Pachena Bay compete for guests with other west coast locales. But while Tofino, Ucluelet and Sooke may have paved roads, Cootes thinks Pachena Bay offers something completely different.

“Pachena Bay is the place for people looking for a beautiful spot at a nice price,” says Cootes. “When compared to other west coast locations, we are a very economical alternative.”

Value may be the reason more and more people are choosing Pachena Bay for special events such as weddings. The magnificent sand beaches and views to the open Pacific might also have something to do with it. Whatever the case, Cootes sees campground improvements already paying off. “We saw a huge change in the last two years, both in the number of visitors and in their satisfaction while here.”

With added products, services, and events, the guest experience at Pachena Bay will continue to improve—and that’s exactly what Cootes and the HFN group of businesses is aiming for.



Expansion plans for the Pachena Bay Campground would provide over \$100,000 in wages during construction and operations. Profits from the expansion could also be leveraged to create additional businesses within the community, adding future jobs for citizens.

Stay up to date with Pachena Bay Campground by liking us on Facebook.

Kelp Harvest a Success

The 2013 harvest partnership between Canadian Kelp and the HFN Fisheries LP was a success. Several Huu-ay-aht citizens assisted with the half-day harvest in September, gathering kelp from the cold waters of Huu-ay-aht territory. Harvesting by hand from herring skiffs, workers gathered more than 15 wet tonnes of kelp between Execution Rock and Brady's Beach. After expenses, the partnership brought in a profit of \$4,800. Louis Druehl of Canadian Kelp coordinated the day and sees potential expansion ahead. "The same client is looking for different seaweeds for different products. I sent them some samples of what's available in the area and if it meets their needs, there may be more opportunities like this one in the future," Druehl says.

Training for Huu-ay-aht Citizens

The HFN group of businesses is partnering with the forest industry to train young citizens interested in working in forest-related jobs. After hosting a selection process, Kechika Contracting Ltd. selected Patrick Nookemus to shadow a grapple yarding crew and learn forest industry skills. Patrick started his orientation on February 12 and will spend several months working with the contract team. Mark Goddard, manager of environment and safety services for the HFN group of businesses, expects more training partnerships like this one in the future. "If this partnership is successful, we will try and continue to offer these opportunities to anyone that wants to work in forestry."

Forestry Update from Treaty Lands

The HFN Forestry LP manages operations on several forestry tenures in Huu-ay-aht territory. This year, a partnership with Western Forest Products is seeing three cut blocks from the treaty lands carefully harvested and prepared for re-planting. So far, one cut block is complete and scheduled for planting this fall. A second, located close to Sarita Lake, is nearing completion. "We use an extensive monitoring checklist to oversee work done by our forestry contractors," says Mark Goddard, manager of environment and safety services. "They are doing an excellent job of protecting cultural assets, along with the soils, water, and fisheries concerns in the blocks where they are logging."

To date contractors have discovered eight culturally modified trees once used by Huu-ay-aht ancestors. Western Forest Products will airlift one of these trees to roadside and land it on a flat deck then transport it to Anacla for use in Huu-ay-aht educational programs for children. They will transport the remaining seven to the carving yard for use by Huu-ay-aht citizens. Goddard, who visited the cut blocks earlier this season, was very pleased with the care taken by contractors. "My observations were of natural drainage being maintained, soils protected, and resources, such as the culturally modified trees removed and protected very well... All safety systems were in place in both areas and the work was very well organized."

Contact Us:

For more information about Huu-ay-aht businesses, please contact Sarah Johnson (Anacla Administration) at 250-728-3080 or Martha Johnson (Port Alberni Accounting) at 778-421-3577.

HFN group of businesses
2533 Port Alberni Highway
Port Alberni, British Columbia
V9Y 8P2

Port Alberni Accounting: 778-421-3577

Anacla Administration: 250-728-3080

Fax: 778-421-2664

Email: info@huuayaht.com

www.hfndevelopmentlp.org