

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.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

The HFN group of businesses maintains a website (www.hfndevelopmentlp.org) where we post quarterly newsletters for citizens, annual reports, and stories concerning our activities. (Just look under the "Publications" tab.) If there is an HFN citizen who doesn't currently receive copies of our newsletters but who would like to, they can contact us by phone (250-728-3080) or email (sarah.j@huuayaht.com) to share an email and/or mailing address. We will be happy to send copies of our newsletters and other publications to them directly.



News from the Market, Bamfield East Dock and Fisheries LP (Float House)

After more than a year under HUU-AY-AHT ownership, The Market is entering its second busy season on solid ground. With sales up almost every month of the year, The Market is becoming a hub of activity. "We have an experienced team going into the summer, and that's an improvement over last year when we started from scratch with a new business and new employees," says Sheryl Ferguson, who co-manages The Market with her husband, John Mass.

"We have an experienced team going into the summer."
—Sheryl Ferguson

Thirteen employees keep the business rolling. Two of those employees (Craig Charleson and Loretta Sirois) are currently apprenticing under Mass, a journeyman chef, to earn their Red Seal certification. The Red Seal program represents



Pachena Bay Campground Private Sites

The Pachena Bay Campground features private sites along the Pachena River, located on the right as you drive into the campground. These sites are available for HUU-ay-aht citizens and are administered through the campground kiosk. Reservations are accepted and the cost for HUU-ay-aht citizens is by donation.

Citizens can also reserve sites today through the website at www.hfndevelopmentlp.org.

Facebook

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<https://www.facebook.com/PachenaBayCampground>



a standard of excellence for the industry, acknowledging competence and ensuring recognition throughout Canada.

In addition to a solid staff, The Market has also been forging new partnerships to take it into the summer. Now fulfilling the wharfinger function for HFN Fisheries LP, The Market recently relocated a float home from Grappler Inlet to the Bamfield East Dock. Soon after, market management secured Great Pacific Ocean Charters as a tenant in one of the home's four rooms. The local kayaking company also rents space for its boats adjacent to the float home.

"In the future we would like to see more activity down there," says Ferguson, referring to the float home and the East Dock. "One idea is to bring a carver onsite for people to observe, but there aren't definite plans yet. We just want to make use of the wonderful space. If citizens have ideas about what they would like to see, we would love to hear from them."

One partnership that is in the works is with the Bamfield Historical Society. Ferguson explains that, come summer, the Society will display banners containing historical information in the float home. These banners will be accessible to the public. "The Society has done all sorts of things in the past—from displays on fishing to women's roles in Bamfield," Ferguson says. "Bringing those displays back to life in the float home will give people something else to see when they are visiting."



With plans still in the works, results are down the road, but positive feedback is already coming in. Residents have described the float home's presence at the East Dock as giving the area a "good vibe" and creating a "boardwalk of Bamfield East."

Additionally, the four-way stop fronting The Market is now viewed as somewhat of a "hub" in the town. The plan to get the HUU-ay-aht owned businesses working together is off and running—just in time for summer.

Pachena Bay Campground Continues Improving Guest Experience

If you live in Anacla, you may have witnessed some of the campground updates that have improved the guest experience and offered added value to their stay. Last year those improvements included relocating the washhouse and adding new washroom facilities and picnic tables. This year, improvements include installing new water, sewer, and hydro infrastructure to improve access for campground guests.

“We are always striving to make the camping experience better,” says Campground Manager Trevor Cootes. “This year we’re concentrating on infrastructure. Returning customers will notice the changes right away, starting with the campground access road. There won’t be as much dust or mud, depending on the season, which makes camping that much more comfortable.”

In addition, visitors will now have laundry services at their disposal, which will save a trip to Bamfield for those opting for longer stays. “Our hard-working staff will do laundry for those who need the service, and guests can spend more time enjoying themselves,” says Cootes, who adds that the laundry services will support the washing of linen if and when the campground installs yurts. “We want to add one more element of convenience to people’s experience when they stay with us.”

The addition of yurts and other, more permanent investments can proceed once a long-term lease is secured from the Huu-ay-aht government. This November, during the People’s Assembly, the HFN group of businesses will seek citizen support for that lease.

In the meantime, Cootes and other campground staff will continue to offer what campground guests have come to appreciate about The Pachena Bay Campground: a fantastic experience at an affordable price. This season will also see the launch of an annual sandcastle event in August featuring sand sculptor, Craig Mutch.

“Craig will create a sculpture for the campground and three sponsors,” says Cootes. “There will also be workshops for kids and adults interested in learning the art of sand sculpting.”

With this and other opportunities in the works, Cootes looks forward to a fabulous season filled with memorable experiences. “It’s going to be a great summer,” he says, noting that the Pachena Bay Campground began taking reservations for the 2014 season on April 1. For more information about the campground, call 250-728-1287.



“We are always striving to make the camping experience better.”
–Pachena Bay Campground Manager, Trevor Cootes

West Coast Trail Crew Ready:

Another season is fast approaching, and the West Coast Trail crew is on the job preparing the first 25 kilometres of the West Coast Trail for summer visitors. Supervising the five-person crew is Duane Nookemis, returning for another year on the trail. Joining him are returning crew members Kevin Peters, Cory Howard, and Brian Lucas, along with new crew member Duane Nookemis Jr., who previously worked on the trail as a summer student. During the month of April, the crew cleared windfall from the trail and campsites and assessed any problems that occurred over the winter. At the beginning of May, the crew split into two-person teams to begin the six-day rotating schedule that remains in place for the rest of the season. Work to date includes brushing, bridge and trail upgrades, outhouse maintenance, and drainage work. The crew looks forward to a busy year welcoming visitors to Huu-ay-aht territory.

Forestry Update

Mentorship is key in the forest industry, and the HFN Forestry LP has established several partnerships to ensure on-the-job training for Huu-ay-aht citizens. In the past three months, Crystal Clappis started her training with Western Forest Products as an off-highway logging truck driver. Patrick Nookemus reached the three-month mark in his training as a grapple yarder hook-tender. Both Clappis and Nookemus are doing well addressing the challenges of their chosen positions.

A third mentorship is also taking place: since April of 2014, crews planted 12,000 deer resistant cedar trees as a trial in the First Nations Woodlands Licence. Taking part in the planting and monitoring set-up was George Johnson, a grade 11 student who the HFN group of businesses has been mentoring through a forestry consultant. Paul Dagg, Planning Forester with the forestry business, sees these mentorships as a great success. "Young people such as George are ensuring a continued bright future for Huu-ay-aht, which is the real reason I am proud to work for the HFN Forestry LP." In addition to mentoring young workers, the HFN Forestry LP has sponsored three tours of the operations to highlight forestry operations and promote awareness. The business also sent out a 40,000 cubic meter package of timber from the First Nations Woodland Licence for bids and will award this within the next few weeks. The Spencer Dryland Sort has also been very busy. So far this fiscal year, the average daily production was 700 cubic meters a day in April and 800 cubic meters a day in May.



Help Wanted

The HFN group of businesses is hiring three summer students: one for the West Coast Trail and two for The Market. If you are a student with a passion for service, contact us today. Find out more on our website (www.hfndevelopmentlp.org) or by calling our office at 250-728-3080.

Did you know?

This spring the HFN group of businesses is providing work for 52 people, including 36 Huu-ay-aht citizens.



New Faces:

The HFN group of businesses welcomed a new Financial Controller to the management team in April of 2014. Denise Hollinger spent the last 30 years working in finance for the mining, forestry, and retail industries along with public accounting. Although most of that work was on Vancouver Island, Denise also spent some time working in Manitoba, Alaska, and Africa. With strong ties to First Nations communities through friends and clients, Denise also traces her own First Nations ancestry through her mother. She has two sons and one grandson and currently works from the HFN group of business office in Port Alberni.



In other news, the group of businesses received funding from the Nuu-chah-nulth Employment and Training Program (NETP) for three summer students. The funding will support one West Coast Trail guardian, one store clerk, and one café assistant. Watch for job postings on www.hfndevelopmentlp.org and help us spread the word.

Training for Employees

The HFN group of businesses also received funding from NETP to enhance the skills of 20 HFN Management staff and employees through certified training certificates in First Aid, WHIMIS, Serving it Right, First Host and Representation/Culture Awareness. Over at the Spencer Dryland Sort, the crew will soon be recertified in S100 Fire Safety. Weather experts across the province predict dry conditions this summer. Those conditions can often lead to forest fires, so the crew will be prepared to prevent fires while working in these potentially high-risk conditions.

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.

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