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NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

1. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES

As this will be last edition prior to the Christmas holidays, it gives our members the opportunity to wish all of our readers and their loved ones a very merry Christmas holiday season as well as a very happy New Year. It has been a challenging year for you all, and we can only hope that each of you has made the best possible recovery from the difficulties you faced. This is also a time for us to express our thanks to all those who have supported our Society and its ambitious project over so many years. First and foremost among those are our five member Bands and all those who have served on their Band Councils. Beyond them there are far too many to whom we owe our debt of gratitude, and the time will come when we can mention you all by name. In the meantime you will know who you are, and we thank you so much.

2. OUR CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

This phase of our overall project continues on schedule notwithstanding the delays caused by the recent fire season, and we continue to anticipate receiving a final report by the end of January or early February 2018.

3. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

We reported in our last issue that we had applied unsuccessfully in late Spring of this year for a grant from the B.C. Gaming Commission in order to cover the cost of engaging David Jensen & Associates to renew the task of working with specialists in each of our five member Bands who would continue the work of identifying the artifacts, documents, photographs and stories that each community will be willing to share with the Society in order to include them in the Centre.

We also reported that we intended to reapply at the next opportunity with a view to making further progress on this important step.

We haven't waited long to renew our search, and by its December 15th deadline we will have submitted an application to the BC Rural Dividend program for a grant of \$100,000. By its February 9, 2018 deadline we will also be applying to the Northern Development Initiative Trust for a grant of \$30,000 to accompany what we hope will be the BC Rural Dividend grant.

In anticipation of the success of those two applications, but needing in any event to lay the groundwork for this work to be undertaken in due course, we have asked each of our members to identify one or more of their Band members who would be willing and able to act as their community representatives and to liaise with the consulting team.

We are still awaiting a decision on the \$20,000 grant application we made to INAC in October that, if successful, would enable McFarland Marceau to expand the work of the Construction Documentation phase.

4. OUR INTERACTION WITH THE SODA CREEK BAND

It is with great pleasure that we are able to report that we were given a really warm reception by the full membership of the Soda Creek Band Council on November 28th, along with a great opportunity to bring Band Council up to date with the progress of our project. The Band has had its hands full during the past two years with its own demanding projects, among which is the fantastic new building that houses its administration offices. It is our hope that with many of its challenges behind it or on their way to being overcome, the Band Council will feel comfortable in re-engaging with its four sister Bands as a full participant in the ongoing work of the Society where the Band's input will be an invaluable contributor to our future success.

5. INTRODUCING OUR MEMBERS

The two remaining Society members to whom you have not yet been introduced, are both Band Administrators. Their excuses for being slow to provide your editor with their photographs and biographical materials have rested on the claim that their duties are so onerous that they haven't been able to find the time to compile them. Closer to the truth is that they are both shy individuals who were reluctant to be featured, but the first of them – Alana Dixon – has finally relented, and here she is.



Alana Dixon : Canim Lake Band Administrator

Alana Dixon has been employed as the Canim Lake Band Administrator for the past 34 years, which speaks volumes about her abilities and overall competence. Like many other Canim Lake Band members who were inspired by the late Sister Mary Danahue, Alana earned her B.A. degree in Education, Native Leadership from Gonzaga University. Alana is a standing member of the Aboriginal Finance Officers Associations of B.C. and Canada, and in 2013 was awarded the AFOA Canada Leadership award and the AFOA BC Administrators recognition award. Evidently with very considerable success, Alana strives for excellence in all aspects of her management with ethical decision making.

Alana is a long-standing member of our Society, and served as its President for a number of years. She has been an integral and extremely valued member throughout the Society's long journey to its present state, and believes that our proposed Centre will greatly assist with the preservation of our five member Bands' archived materials and language. Alana also looks forward to the Centre becoming a teaching facility for all people.

Alana is married to Martin and they have three children, Brent, Jolee & Lexus.

NOTES TO THE READER

1. If you would prefer not to receive future monthly Newsletters, please notify us by email addressed to grahamleslie@shaw.ca.
2. If you are not on our direct emailing list, but would like to be added to it, please notify us by email addressed to grahamleslie@shaw.ca