

2019 Culture Camp



PADDLING TOGETHER

following the path of our ancestors

Nedusneke-ne BuK'oh Nuts'oodilh

Nak'al Bun Elementary School
July 21—25, 2019

Opening Ceremonies

Opening Ceremonies for 2019 Culture Camp included Welcoming and Drumming from Staff and Community. Duneza' and Ts'ekesa' (Hereditary Chiefs) were in attendance representing the Clans in the area. Duneza' and Ts'ekesa' of Clans are advisors for members of the clan. In attendance for each clan were:

Lhts'umusyoo/Beaver Clan: Kenneth Martin, Peter Bird, Peter Erickson, Doreen Austin; Dayi' Alec McKinnon

Lusilyoo/Frog Clan: Marvin Martin, June Hanson

Granton/Caribou Clan: James Simpson and Representing her mother; Amelia Stark,

Lohjabou/Bear Clan: Charlene Webb



Moose Prep with Vince Prince:

Kids and their families gathered in the smokehouse to learn how to cut up moose meat to prepare dry meat for the potlatch for caregivers, children and guests to take home. It is a very easy process to cut up moose meat. The parents watched as the children did hands on learning how to cut the meat.

Vince has grown up learning to hunt for moose since he was a child.

Most of the moose is harvested from the meat, organs, bone marrow—it is very healthy for you. The skin of the moose is made into a hide to make; moccasins, vests, jackets, gloves etc.



Bannock Making with Terry Eastman:

Bannock is a traditional treat that is very easy and enjoyable to make. You can cook bannock many different ways; oven baked, fried bannock, campfire bannock etc. Terry learned at a very young age and enjoys sharing her teachings on how to make Fried Bannock. Her station is always booked throughout the week of culture camp with youth learning how to cook it themselves over the campfire.



Preschool Tent with Anne and Dallas:

The preschool tent was a great area for parents to relax and for the children to play and learn how to learn to drum & sing with Carla, Anne and Dallas.



Tl'azt'en Nation/Binche Whut'en

Community:

Binche Whut'en was known as one of the gathering areas for the Dakelh people; an area where surrounding communities would meet in Binche (the middle of Stuart lake).

Maggie Morris, is a member of Tl'azt'en Nation and is a traditional medicine woman. Members know they can go to her when looking for medication or natural remedies for illness, pain, or any other ailments.

Maggie brought devils club and showed children how to make necklaces from the devils club stems. You can also use Devils club to make medicine for migraines, eczema, joint or muscle pain and skin irritation.

In Tl'azt'en the children played Dakelh Animal Bingo with Olivia. Parents participated in learning how to make bannock and preserve huckleberry jam in the canning process.

Thank you to Binche Whut'en & Tl'azt'en Nation for a fun afternoon!



Drumming & Singing with Jolene Prince:

THE CHILDREN ARE OUR DRUM

The drum is the heart beat of Mother Earth and it is considered to be very sacred. The way you treat and handle your drum is the way you handle yourself. So please treat yourself with respect and handle yourself with care when lifting your heart beat up to sing, dance and tell stories of our ancestors through this beautiful animal skin (skin of drum) and tree of life (frame).

This is one of Jolene's many teachings that each child, parent or caregiver received when they entered the Pit House for drumming and singing. The families walked out with two songs to share with their home, community and the potlatch. They listened to the stories told by Jolene and told stories and shared stories themselves. It was light, love and laughter when it came time to hearing the heartbeat of the drum. Each beat you heard showed how families, community and potlatch can all work together in a good way and if one should go off beat that we bring them back in with gentleness until we are all in harmony once again.



Little Mudders: Evening Activity

Children took part in an adventure course filled with obstacles such as; Tug-o-war, army crawl, hula-hoops, potato sack races, tire jump, beam walk and many other activities. This is always such a fun event for the little campers.



Paddle Painting:

The theme for the 2019 Culture Camp was “*Paddling Together*”. Children and youth used their creativity and imagination to personalize their own paddle to take home.



Clan Vests with Yvonne Pierreroy:

Each year, youth get to learn how to sew their own Clan Vest with Yvonne. Clan vests represent who you are, where you are from, what clan you belong to. Traditionally, vests are made from moose hide decorated with a clan symbol, and beadwork. Youth can wear their clan vest to the Demonstration Balhats (Potlatch) held on the last day of camp. Returning campers bring theirs from previous years to wear as well.



Round Dance & Rock Painting with Kym Gouchie:

Kym Gouchie does a wonderful job teaching participants in her workshop; first she asks the participants to go out on a walk to look for a stone that resembles them personally, once they have found their stone she speaks about the history of stones and how stones came to be. Children and caregivers then paint their own story while bringing their very own stone to life. A round dance is a way for community members to share food, stories, and song.



Medicine Walk with Clara Jack:

Clara's workshop would start off with a visual and face to face learning utilizing her display. The display consisted of many different items including bear claws, bear teeth, pelts, beading, porcupine quills, fish scales, scrapers made from bones, beaver teeth, deer hooves etc. Clara thoroughly explained each item that was displayed and answered all questions that were asked by children and caregivers. Clara also took participants outdoors for a walk around the Nak'al Bun (Stuart lake) property showing them various plants and berries explaining what each can be used for. Each group had a teaching on how to make Devils Club medicine and allowed them to take what they had made home.



Movie Night—Wonder Park

Children and families watched the movie "Wonder Park". The movie entails a young girl named June with a big imagination who makes an incredible discovery—the amusement park of her dreams has come to life! The movie was held at the Fort St. James Community Centre.



Canning with Anna, Carla and Treena

Traditionally Dakelh people prepared food for the winter food during the summer time. During Culture Camp, the families prepared canned moose meat and made 52 cases of raspberry, strawberry and blueberry jam. Caregivers and children helped distribute canned goods and perishable foods at the potlatch.



Historical Tour with Dennis Cumberland:

During the Culture camp historical tour paddle it was originally planned to paddle to the Historic Park. Because of wind and waves the group paddled to the Government Wharf, so this gave a bit of a wind break. The whole area of Nak'azdli and Nak'al bun is a living museum being the homeland of Chief Kw'eh (Kwah) and the Dakelh people. Stories of Chief Kw'eh, the fur traders, and the importance of salmon were told. Some stories shared went further back before Chief Kw'eh and the fur traders to when the Dakelh people encountered the little people and the war that broke out. This tour had 17 kayakers on the water at a time and it brought to mind a time when dugout canoes were many and the Ancestors paddled these waters. All ages participated and seemed to totally enjoy the water and the history of the Dakelh people.



Balhats/Potlatch:

Each year at Culture Camp Nezul Be Hunuyeh hosts a demonstration Balhats (Potlatch) to teach children and their families a type of ceremony that Tl'azt'en & Nak'azdli still do to this day in order to conduct business. There are many types of Balhats such as:

- Naming Ceremony: hereditary chief passing on their name to another member
- Death Ceremony: normally done after a year of a members passing, haircutting ceremony
- Shaming Ceremony
- Celebration/Honoring Ceremony

The Nezul Be Hunuyeh staff drummed to welcomed each clan as they were being seated by Elder Doreen Austin. Parents, Caregivers, Children, Community Members and staff all gathered in the gymnasium of Nak'al Bun Elementary School.

This year's potlatch was a full house. Each clan had the opportunity to be the hosting clan and to distribute food to the other three clans.



Hereditary Chiefs: June Hanson, Marvin Martin, Peter Erickson, Doreen Austin, Representing her mother; Amelia Stark.

Chiefs: Beverly John (Tl'azt'en) & Alec McKinnon (Nak'azdli)

Big Bar Landslide—Salmon

In late June, a landslide in a remote, rugged canyon along the Fraser River north of Lillooet was reported to authorities. Huge pieces of rock from a 125-metre cliff had sheered off and crashed in to the river, creating a five-metre waterfall. Due to the magnitude of the obstruction, salmon migrating upstream have been impeded from naturally proceeding beyond the landslide. If these salmon cannot reach their natural spawning grounds there is potential for significant ecological, food security, cultural, and economic impacts.

Learn to Pronounce:

Following the Path of Our Ancestors Nedusneke-ne BuK'oh Nuts'oodilh

(Ne dus ne ke ne bu k'oh nu ts'oo dilh)

COME BACK NEXT YEAR AND PRONOUNCE THE CARRIER VERSION
TO OUR CULTURAL TEACHERS!



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