

Ditidaht Heritage Project – Newsletter #3 – August/September 2015

Spotlight on susi?dquuws

As late August arrives, the spring salmon are making their way up Nitinaht Lake back to their spawning rivers. One place that they pass on this annual migration is susi?dquuws, commonly known today as Cannery Bay.



susi?dquuws is located on the eastern side of Nitinaht Narrows, just north of waayaa village. A trail connected the village and the bay. Ditidaht Elders have given several translations of susi?dquuws, including “place to swim ashore,” “swimming place,” and “swimming things along the beach.” A warm creek that flows into the southern corner of this bay was a popular swimming spot, protected from the big eddies found in the Narrows. The name susi?dquuws may refer specifically to this creek. Today, the name is usually applied to the entire bay.

This bay is home to a crab nursery. Mature crabs are also harvested in the bay and surrounding waters, using pots, dip net, and diving. In the past, hemlock boughs were also placed in the waters of susi?dquuws, from the center of the bay north to Crabapple Point, to collect herring roe. susi?dquuws is also part of a duck hunting area stretching through the Narrows. Black ducks, buffleheads, golden eye, mallards, mergansers, and Canada geese have all been harvested here.



The riches of Ditidaht lands and waters have attracted outsiders as well. In 1917, the Lummi Bay Packing Company established a salmon cannery at susi?dquuws. The cannery remained, in several different forms, into the 1930s. A number of Ditidaht people worked at the cannery and in the associated industrial fishery. Several families also lived at susi?dquuws in this period.



Lummi Bay Packing Company Cannery, ca. 1920 (Alberni Valley Museum, PN13549)

Millions of pounds of salmon were removed from Ditidaht waters during the first few years of cannery operations. Much of this fish was wasted. Elders have reported that salmon were stacked several feet deep. Any fish that spoiled before it could be canned was pushed back into the waters of susi?dquuws through a hole in the cannery floor. This intensive fishing greatly reduced salmon stocks in Nitinaht Lake.

Despite this, Ditidaht people continue to fish and harvest in the area of susi?dquuws. A float located at the southern end of the bay is also the base for a ferry service, used by summer hikers on the West Coast Trail. susi?dquuws is also a stopover point used by Ditidaht members during travel between Malachan and the outside coastline and offshore fishing banks such as ʔuʂii?aa?aq (Swiftsure Bank).



Ditidaht Development Corporation

The **Ditidaht Development Corporation (DDC)** was established in 2010 and operates under a Board of Directors appointed by Chief and Council. The purpose of the DDC is to generate revenue for the Ditidaht Nation, to create employment opportunity for Ditidaht members and to actively assert Ditidaht rights within Ditidaht Territory.

Members of the Ditidaht Development Corporation Board of Directors are:
G. Jack Thompson, Robert Joseph, Carl Edgar Jr., Terry Edgar and Jack K. Thompson

The DDC has been very active since it has been established. Business areas DDC is involved in include:

- Doobah Lands – land development and tourism
- Forestry
- Cedar salvage
- West Coast Trail – 3rd entrance, guardians, boardwalk reconstruction, ferry service
- Comfort Camping – tent rentals on West Coast Trail
- Windsurfer Park – management and maintenance
- Aquaculture – development plans with Ditidaht Fisheries
- Retail Services – Motel, Store, Fuel Station, kayak and paddle board rentals
- Review of referrals for development proposals within Ditidaht Territory

These activities generate revenue for DDC and create employment and contract opportunities for Ditidaht members. By actively engaging in business activity within Ditidaht territory, including within provincial and federal parks, Ditidaht strongly asserts the community interest on lands and waters within Ditidaht Territory.

Doobah Lands – Through Treaty negotiations lands around Doobah Lake have been transferred from the province to Ditidaht as an Interim Treaty Agreement. These lands are now fully owned by Ditidaht. An economic development plan called the Doobah Tourism Study has been completed with funds negotiated from Canada through Treaty discussions. The study includes recommendations for development of the Doobah campground on Nitinat Lake, and for promoting tourism on the Malachan reserve and Windsurfer Park. The Study is posted on the www.Ditidaht.ca web site.

Forestry and Cedar salvage – Following negotiations by DDC, a new forestry licence has been offered to Ditidaht by the province that will provide close to 20,000m³ of timber annually for 20 years. Plans for management of this new licence are being developed at this time.

There has been active cedar salvage ongoing within Ditidaht territory creating employment opportunity for Ditidaht members. This program is currently under review and has been inactive during the summer months due to fire hazard.

West Coast Trail – The DDC has a number of contracts currently active with Parks Canada. These contracts create employment opportunity for members and revenue generation for future investment by DDC. Contracts include:

- Guardians – 5 positions
- Boardwalk Trail renewal – 5 positions
- Ferry service for guardians and trail crews – 2 contracts to Ditidaht member owned businesses
- Lumber production for boardwalk – 1 position and funding for public works crew
- Cheewaht stump removal (contract pending) – will create 4 jobs
- 3rd entrance attendants – 2 positions in Store

Comfort Camping – There are four walled tents set up on the West Coast Trail that provide comfort including sleeping cots and heat with outhouses offering respite for hikers who look forward to a break along the West Coast Trail. The Guardians take care of this site. Hikers can reserve these campsites when they book their trip on www.westcoasttrail.ca.

Windsurfer Park – DDC manages the management of Windsurfer Park Recreation Site including maintenance and selling permits, through an agreement with the province. There are 2 positions for park attendants created from this contract.

Aquaculture – DDC is working with Ditidaht Fisheries to explore viable seafood business development opportunities within Ditidaht Territory. Working with assistance from Nuuchahnulth Seafood Development Corporation and the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association, the DDC Board expects to have proposals to implement by the end of this fiscal year.

Retail Services – DDC has reopened the motel, store and fuel station on the Malachan reserve this year. The Board has plans to improve and expand operations next year. DDC is currently working on the application for tax exemption for fuel and cigarettes. We expanded offerings this year by renting kayaks and paddle boards to visiting tourists, and opened an espresso bar in the store.

Referrals – Any development on public lands (crown land) that requires a permit or government approval legally requires consultation with First Nations. DDC has accessed funding through Nuuchahnulth Employment and Training Program (NETP) to hire a Referral Officer in a trainee position. Brian Tate is using his experience and knowledge including his recent work on the Ditidaht Traditional Use Study to help ensure that Ditidaht interests and values are protected.



Ditidaht First Nation

Is currently accepting Catering Bids

*For the Ditidaht Comprehensive Community
Planning Meeting at Malachan Community Hall
5:00pm to 8:00pm*

On Thursday, September 17, 2015

Bid to include:

- *Hall set up and clean up*
- *Dinner for 40 people. The bid is not to include the main course. This will be supplied by the Ditidaht First Nation. Fish and Crabs will be the main course. All other dinner requirements to be included in the bid. Note: Paul Sieber will assist in cutting the fish and cooking the crab. This should be reflected in the bid.*
- *Must Provide Food Safe Certificate for all food handlers.*
- *Menu needs to include: Elders/Diabetic Sensitive's*

*Please send in your bid email: paulcomm@ditidaht.ca
admin@ditidaht.ca*

Any Questions email or call Paul Sieber at 250) 745-3333

Deadline: September 9, 2015@ Noon

Ditidaht First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan - Phase 1 Accomplishments

July 23, 2015

START DATE: JUNE 1, 2014

END DATE: MARCH 31, 2015

- A series of community engagement meetings were held in Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Duncan and Malachan to explain the CCP process and gather input from membership.
- A one day workshop was held at the Ditidaht community hall on March 11, 2015.
- Linda Bristol and Andrew Moore of T'Souke First Nation gave a presentation on new ways of engaging community members and explained T'Souke's CCP priorities; and, Alanna Mitchell of K'omoks First Nation gave a presentation on the K'omoks First Nation CCP.

PHASE 2 GOALS

- "Sections of the CCP" generated in Phase 1 will be prioritized by members through further community engagement sessions.
- "CCP Ditidaht Vision Statement" will be developed further by members at community engagement meetings and home visits conducted by the CCP team.

- Date of DFN CCP-completion will be March 31, 2016 and will be approved by the Chief and Council. Once approved, the Plan must be implemented through and followed by the Ditidaht Administration.
- There is an *Education Survey* to be completed by Ditidaht membership. The CCP Home visit team will have this survey with them during their home visits and it is on the DFN Website at www.ditidaht.ca or it is available at the Ditidaht Administration office contact: Paul Sieber – this is very important and will help in the CCP and treaty processes.
- Please join us for Ditidaht Comprehensive Community Plan meetings coming this fall – as follows:

<i>Each session will be from 5:00 - 8:00 pm and start with dinner.</i>	
Port Alberni	Wednesday, September 16th
	Arrowsmith Room, Barclay Hotel
Malachan	Thursday, September 17th
	Ditidaht Community Hall
Duncan	Tuesday, September 22nd
	Riverwalk Room, Quw'utsun Cultural Center
Nanaimo	Wednesday, September 23rd
	Port Alberni Room, Coast Bastion