



**Ditidaht**  
FIRST NATION



# Treaty Newsletter

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Issue 7

## What is new?

In this edition we are taking a new approach to the treaty newsletter and providing information to you. We'll be sending the Treaty Newsletter once every two months now, and will feature treaty-related community member biographies, community related stories and other topics.

"Bulletins" will provide other important treaty information as it becomes available. Bulletins will be sent as needed.

In January of 2017, we've met with membership in a round of meetings in Balaats'adt, Nanaimo, Port Alberni.

The attendance for community engagement sessions has been slowly increasing and we have been receiving a great response from our membership. The treaty team invites any and all to attend the information sessions, please bring your family!



Photo: Clo-oose

## tluu7uus, (Clo-oose)

The name, Clo-oose means "Camping Place". Clo-oose is located on the ocean, east from the entrance to the Nitinaht Narrows. Tluu7uus was an important village to the Ditidaht people because of the availability of fish and beach food in the area. Today the West Coast Trail goes through Tluu7uus.

In the early days, Ditidaht people used fish weirs and traps. A weir is like a fence that is placed across a stream and catches the salmon and prevents it from escaping. Some weirs were placed in the near by Cheewhat river near Tluu7uus, some remains of these fish weirs can still be seen today.

In 1932, Mike Thompson was born at Clo-oose, to George Thompson and Helen Mary Chester. Mike spent much of his young life moving from place to place; he lived at Clo-oose, Waaya, Victoria, and in 1941, his family moved back up the lake when the war started. Out of 14 or 15 children, Mike was the 9<sup>th</sup> child. At the age of 10, Mike recounts memories of his grandfather teaching him songs and dances.



Featured Elder Bio: Mike Thompson

Also at this young age, Mike was taught how to bathe in both fresh water and in ocean water. Alongside Mike was his younger brother Elmer and cousins Ernie and Jimmy Chester. Learning to fish, hunt, and trap along with singing, dancing and learnin about sacred ceremonies was of utmost importance to Mike's parents and grandparents.

In his young life, Mike attended residential school for 5 long years where they tried to take his language away from him. Mike heavily emphasized the memories he has of his grandmother and how she used to speak the traditional language as she was weaving baskets or preparing a meal. Time spent with his parents and grandparents is what Mike treasures.

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## Contact Information

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As a young man at age 13, Mike was instructed to accompany his grandfather in their dugout canoe. Quite a ways off shore was a gray whale, Mike's grandfather needed help to harvest the meat and blubber. Mike recalls the blubber being 9 inches thick. He thinks the whale might have been being chased by killer whales.

At the age of 18, Mike started logging, which he would continue to do for the next 33 years of his

life. Once Mike had reached adulthood, he began to understand much of his childhood and what his parents and grandparents were trying to teach him. It was also in his adult life when he embraced God and began serving him. As Mike looked back at where he grew up at various locations on the coast of Nitinaht Lake, he stressed the importance of these traditional lands and all the benefits that comes with living there. Having our people move back to our traditional lands is something Mike says he'd like to see, but in order to be successful in this, he says we must pray for it.

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## Community Gathering!

We are having a community gathering in Balaats'adt this summer, similar to last year.

Tours down the lake and around the territory!

Transportation will be available.

**Arrival June 30, 2017**

**Tours, Meetings, Activities  
July 1–2, 2017**

**Depart July 3, 2017**