

# Kwanlin Dän Ch'a

KWANLIN PEOPLE OF WHITEHORSE, HOW ARE YOU?

**SPRING/SUMMER 2021**



Maxine Lindsay (left) and Emily McDougall pictured at the Assembly of First Nations, Yukon Region's Leadership Awards in March. Emily won the 2020 Climate Leader Award.



- |               |  |   |   |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| <b>INSIDE</b> | <b>3</b> Council's Lateral Kindness Pledge | <b>10</b> Range Point update                        | <b>24</b> How We Walk update                        |
|               | <b>4</b> Shout Outs                        | <b>12</b> Honouring Our Future                      | <b>26</b> A report from the trail with Bruce Wilson |
|               | <b>5</b> Chiefs speak out                  | <b>18</b> YFN Arts program                          | <b>28</b> Wolves in the Southern Lakes              |
|               | <b>6</b> Long-Service Awards               | <b>19</b> James William's path to becoming a doctor | <b>30</b> Spring fishing tips                       |
|               | <b>8</b> Student success in the trades     | <b>22</b> Grandma Treesaw builds her business       |   |

## Dānch'ea. Welcome to the Spring 2021 Kwanlin Dän Ch'a newsletter!



Chief Doris Bill at the Easter giveaway

Welcome to spring. This is a time for growth and new beginnings. I hope you have been able to get outside to spend time on the land, and with family and friends.

I know the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on everyone's mental health and it is more important than ever to do the things that make you happy and give you peace.

If you had asked me a year ago, I would not have believed we would still be dealing with a pandemic today. It's been a challenging time for everyone, but we have learned a lot over the past year.

Council is continuing our work alongside Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health to ensure our community is as safe as possible from COVID-19 and the variants of concern. The variants are causing case numbers to rise sharply in other parts of Canada and around the world. They are more easily transmitted from person to person and they can be more dangerous, especially to younger people.

Shāw nithān to the hard-working team at the Natsékhi Kų Health Centre who offered citizens the opportunity to be vaccinated in McIntyre. Many citizens were also able to access the vaccine at the downtown clinic and I appreciate the work that Yukon's healthcare workers have done to make that happen.

It is concerning that vaccination numbers show that not as many of our young people are getting vaccinated. I encourage you to talk to the young people in your lives and encourage them to get vaccinated if they are eligible. It's important we have as many people as possible vaccinated to protect our community.

As we move through the second year of the pandemic, I would like to thank citizens, KDFN staff, and community members for continuing to support each other and follow the COVID safe guidelines. We are not out of the woods yet. It is only with continued support that we will get through this together.

Despite the challenging conditions, we have a lot to be excited about.

- This winter, Kenādān Ku House of Learning delivered successful courses and training for citizens. Congratulations to all the graduates of the Housing Maintainer and the Yukon First Nation Arts programs, and to all the people who completed their training programs.
- Since our *Lands Act* came into force in October 2020, our Heritage, Lands and Resources Department has been busy reviewing historical submissions. We're also engaging in many more land planning processes. Keep up to date at [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com).
- In March, Kwanlin Dün Dā kwāndur ghāy ghakwadīndur: Our Story in Our Words won a Yukon Heritage Award for Innovation and Community Engagement. It was also named as a finalist for the B.C. and Yukon Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize. The award ceremony will be in September. Congratulations to all of the citizens, Elders and researchers who worked on the publication.
- In April, Council joined our Youth Advisory Committee for the Easter drive-by giveaway where we were able to see families as they drove by or walked up to pick up 100 gift packages and youth craft packs. Shāw nithān to everyone who came out. It was so nice to see your faces and say hello.
- This spring and summer, we are strategic planning for the future of our Nation. I encourage all citizens to engage with the surveys and other activities that are coming up. Tell us what your priorities are for the next few years. This is your nation and your future.
- This summer, we look forward to moving into the new KDFN administration building and council chambers. We look forward to welcoming you to visit the building as soon as it is safe to gather.

Be well everyone. Let's take care of ourselves and each other.

Łānūr ch'u shāwthan dāk'ānāta jè.

## KDFN Council's Lateral Kindness Pledge

**Lateral violence is directed at the people around us. It includes gossip, put downs, backstabbing, undermining, blaming, bullying, and shaming.**

It is a pattern of behaviour that comes from our experience of racism and oppression. It is not who we are.

### We will replace Lateral Violence with Lateral Kindness.

We will speak out about it. When a case comes forward, we will respond through a safe and fair process. We will listen to all parties with love and understanding.

When someone does something good, we will acknowledge it. We will lift each other up, compliment each other and give each other support.

By doing this, we will give our children the future they deserve.





# SHOUT OUTS

## A Yukon that leads...

Congratulations to all of the Yukoners, especially the three KDFN citizens, who won AFN 2020 Yukon Regional Leadership Awards this winter.

**Emily McDougall** won a Climate Leader Award

**Rennes Lindsay** won a Wellness Award

**Bill Webber** won a Lifetime Achievement Award

**We celebrate all of your hard work.**

## New book gets noticed...

Congratulations to all the Elders, citizens, researchers and writers who worked hard to put together Kwanlin Dün Dǎ kwändur ghà ghakwadindur: Our Story in Our Words.

In March, KDFN and KDFN Elders won the 2020 Yukon Heritage Award for Innovation, Education and Community Engagement.

And in April it was announced that the book is a finalist for a BC Yukon Book Prize, the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize. The winner will be announced at a ceremony in September 2021.

## Keeping our community healthy...

Shǎw níthän to all the health care workers at KDFN who have worked hard over the winter to offer vaccines to citizens at the Natsékhi Kų Health Centre. They were able to give 145 first shots and 135 second shots of the Moderna vaccine. We appreciate all of your work to keep our community safe.



“

*It meant a lot to me. I felt really honoured to be recognised for doing climate work for future generations. Yukon First Nations are leading when it comes to climate action and it's inspiring and uplifting to be able to work with our youth to protect Mother Earth. There is so much energy there I feel hopeful for our future.”*

**Emily McDougall**

We want to celebrate your successes, big and small. Do you know a person, group or program that deserves a shout out? Let us know at [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net) or by calling 867-334-2012.

## Chiefs come together for the health of citizens and Yukoners

This spring, Chief Doris Bill and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Chief Kristina Kane came together to confirm their support of the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health's mandate to keep Yukon's border restrictions and self-isolation rules in place.

### THIS JOINT STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN APRIL 2021:

As COVID-19 variants are spreading quickly in other parts of Canada, our governments are concerned about increasing pressure on the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) and Government of Yukon to ease restrictions and open our borders.

Evidence has shown that Indigenous people are one of the most vulnerable populations when it comes to COVID-19 infection and our Yukon First Nations could be greatly impacted if this virus is allowed to spread.

Some COVID-19 variants—such as P.1, first identified in Brazil, and B.1.1.7, first identified in the UK—have shown themselves to be more easily transmitted and more dangerous, especially to younger people.

Yukon has done well rolling out the vaccine, but we have yet to reach herd immunity levels and too little is known about how immunization will protect against this new P.1 variant.

We know Yukon's health care infrastructure remains limited, with just 15 ventilators in the territory, and we realize there is a risk of overburdening our system. Other jurisdictions, such as BC, may not be able to help if they are dealing with their own cases. An influx of medical transfers from the Yukon may be too much for them to accommodate.

We all must work together to act in the best interest of public health. That means continuing to follow the Safe 6 + 1 protocols and to enforce the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*.



# KDFN's 2020 Long Service AWARDS

Shăw níthän, Gùnátchîsh, Mähsi'cho and Thank You to all the staff who reached milestones in their service at Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Your work is appreciated!

## 20 YEARS

Gary Bailie  
Lester Wilson  
(not pictured)



### RETIREMENT

Dietmar Tramm



## 15 YEARS

Denise Peter  
Clara Shorty  
Tracy Oles  
(not pictured)



## 10 YEARS

Heather O'Grady  
Vera Brown  
Anne Webb  
Claire Strauss  
Gordon Campbell  
(not pictured)  
Crystal Edzerza  
(not pictured)



## 5 YEARS

Richard Vladars  
Amy-Lynn McCann  
Mark Stephens  
Carolyn Harris  
Jennifer Burns  
Michele Taylor  
(not pictured)







## Learning the tools of the trades

From early 2020 to March 2021, five KDFN citizens learned basic skills in carpentry, electrical and plumbing by actually working on a KDFN home, located at 11 Hanna Road.



The Housing Maintainer Program is designed to teach students how to do repairs on their own homes, and also give them skills and confidence that can help with finding employment in the future.

Student Roshanna Smith says she learned a lot about self-sufficiency through the program.

"If somebody tells me to 'do this', I can do it on my own now," says Roshanna. "Working with new tools was pretty cool. They show you what to do and what not to do, and you really have to pay attention."

Through the program, instructors Axel Kaiser and Keith MacPherson taught participants how to restore a house, piece by piece.

They also learned other things. For example, every morning, students started their day with Yukon University's Math 030 course, taught by Math Instructor, Brian Stevens, and supported by Math Tutor, Carolyn Simmons.



On March 1, participants celebrated their graduation from the program, and got the chance to tour their families through the newly renovated house.

The program is jointly run by KDFN and Yukon University. It was supported by Yukon government's Post Secondary and Labour Market Program.

Congratulations to all the graduates!

- Roshanna Smith
- Allan Taylor
- Nathan Dawson
- Lawrence Sam
- Theodore (Ted) Huebschwerlen

For more information about programs offered through the Kenādän Kù House of Learning, visit: [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)

## How does the Lands Act serve Kwanlin Dün Beneficiaries and Citizens?

### ACCESS TO LAND

**Historical submissions:** honour existing land submissions by KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens for residential or traditional use of settlement land.

**Residential allocations and leases:** grant residential allocations and leases. KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens will have an opportunity to apply for residential land lotteries and tenders, before the general public. Only KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens can apply for spot land applications and residential allocations.

**Traditional-use allocations:** grant KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens land allocations for traditional activities, such as hunting, fishing and trapping. Allocations are only available to KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens.

### PROTECT LAND

**Compliance:** manage and protect settlement land against unauthorized uses, environmental damage, trespassing, pollution and littering.

**Public comment and feedback:** consider KDFN Beneficiary and Citizen feedback on land and land-use applications before approving or rejecting an application. All applications open for feedback are available at [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com).

### PLAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Land-use planning and feasibility studies:** guide future land-use decisions. All land-use plans and feasibility studies are developed with direction from KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens.

**Revenue generation:** receive income tax from individuals living on settlement land and collect rent from commercial and industrial leases. Money earned will come back to the community to support KDFN programs and services.

To learn more call  
867-334-2624  
email [lands@kdfn.net](mailto:lands@kdfn.net),  
or visit [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)



Do you have questions about a citizenship application?

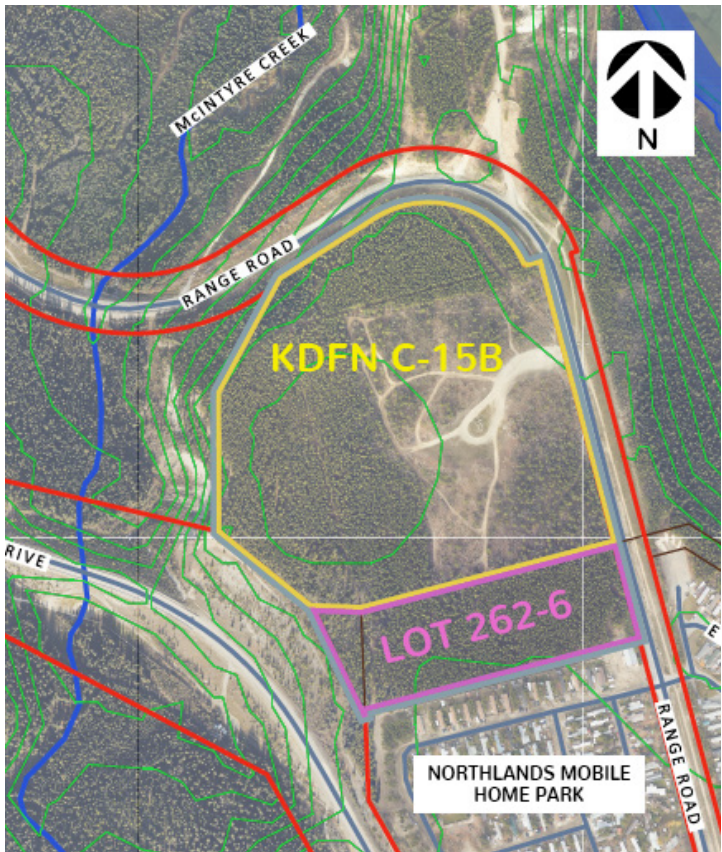
Do you need to update your contact info?

Kwanlin Dün's Citizenship Registrar can help:

- by phone;
- over email; or
- in person, by appointment only.

The Registrar is scheduling appointments Mondays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment or submit a question, call: 867-633-7800 ext. 131 or email: [citizenship@kdfn.net](mailto:citizenship@kdfn.net)



## Land Planning Update: Range Point Joint Master Plan

In 2019, KDFN Citizens and Beneficiaries identified Settlement Land Parcel C-15B for residential development and revenue generation. That direction could make this 15-hectare site the Yukon's first large-scale residential neighbourhood on leased Yukon First Nation Settlement Land.



During the Community Lands Plan engagement in Fall 2019, KDFN Beneficiaries and Citizens provided input into how parcels of Settlement Land should be developed within the City of Whitehorse. One of those parcels was C-15B, located in the Range Point neighbourhood—north of Northland mobile home park and next to lower McIntyre Creek.

Land development is a complicated and expensive process, and KDFN is proceeding carefully. In late fall, we partnered with the Government of Yukon (YG) to develop a joint master plan for C-15B and YG's neighbouring Lot 262-6.

Groundswell Planning has been hired to develop the plan with support from KDFN and YG planners and a committee that includes KDFN and YG Economic Development and City of Whitehorse staff.

The master plan will create a general "blueprint" for this new neighbourhood – including housing types, park spaces and trails, roads, and other services (transit, water, sewer, etc.).

The plan will need to address the housing needs and preferences of future residents and keep development costs low, while protecting environmental and heritage values. The final master plan will be presented to Council, who will decide how – or whether – to proceed.

This would be KDFN's first major residential development, and we want to make sure that it makes our Nation proud. We'll be reaching out to citizens for feedback throughout the process, with the first round happening between May 15 and 30. If all goes according to plan, we'll be presenting some draft neighbourhood ideas to the KDFN community by the middle of summer!

Contact KDFN's Urban Planner and Policy Advisor by phoning 867-332-4049 or you can email [duncan.martin@kdfn.net](mailto:duncan.martin@kdfn.net). You can learn more about the community engagement happening around this project at [kwanlindun.com/range-point](http://kwanlindun.com/range-point)





# What's happening at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre?

## HONOURING OUR FUTURE

From January to April 2021, we hosted Honouring Our Future, an exhibition of Yukon First Nations Graduation Regalia.

The show was developed as a partnership between the KDCC, the Yukon Arts Centre and the Teslin Tlingit Heritage Centre with support from the Government of Yukon. Honouring Our Future will travel to five other Yukon cultural centres over the next two and half years.



*The dedication and effort of all these sewers, hunters, and artists are poured into each piece of regalia so their special loved one can receive their diploma wearing regalia that represents who they are.... These pieces deserve to be highlighted longer than one day of graduation. We are here to celebrate and hold up the pride, love and support that these family members and communities show our graduates."*

Lisa Dewhurst, exhibit curator



*This exhibit honours the hard work and creativity that goes into the regalia made specially for our Yukon First Nation graduation ceremony. It demonstrates our increasing pride and celebration of our Yukon First Nations."*

Judy Gingell, Vice-Chair of the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Society

Though it hasn't quite been business as usual due to the pandemic, the last few months have been busy nonetheless. We've hosted a variety of community events, including:

- KDFN Council Meetings
- Yukon First Nations Education Conference
- Yukon First Nations Family Support Worker Program and Graduation Ceremony
- Available Light Film Festival
- Ta'an Kwäch'än Council General Assembly
- Yukon Rendezvous
- Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Special Assembly
- White River First Nation General Assembly

## COMING UP!

### NEW ELDERS' PROGRAMMING Summer 2021 to Spring 2022

We're excited to announce Elders' programming delivered in partnership with KDFN with funding from the New Horizons for Seniors Program. This programming will help create meaningful opportunities for our Elders to connect with each other and with our community's youth.

### BANNOCK DRIVE-BY PICK UP Friday, June 18

We had so much fun last year, we're doing it again. Drive by KDCC between 2-4pm to pick up bannock made by Grandma Treesaw. Check our webpage or Facebook for more information.

### VIRTUAL NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY CELEBRATION Monday, June 21

We're busy preparing for this year's celebration. It will be held online for the health and safety of all citizens. Stay tuned for the full program.

### KDCC'S SHAKAAT ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM July - September 2021

Keep your eye out for this year's artist-in-residence. During their time at the Centre, they'll work in KDCC's Culture Cabins, deliver a public workshop, take over our social media accounts, and create a piece for a fall opening exhibit at KDCC.





# What's happening at Youth Rec?

## Coming Up!

We've hired four Youth Rec support workers—Sarina, Sheena, Dana and Nadine—who are looking forward to sharing their enthusiasm with you. New staff have been busy with orientation, and meeting KDFN staff and youth.

Our Youth Rec team is hard at work planning summer activities and programs. Some ideas include after school rec, land-based skills, mountain biking, art exploration, swimming lessons, paddling... and more!

We're working with the RCMP and other community partners to offer a range of rec programming for ages 6-18. What do you want to do?

Last fall, some amazing girls displayed their mountain biking skills and had a good time learning new techniques thanks to the local Dirt Girls riding club. Watch for more girls-only programs this summer!

All programs follow COVID-19 Safe 6 + 1 guidelines.

Pre-registration is required!

Follow KDFN on Facebook or visit [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com) for the most up-to-date list of programs.

Contact Youth Recreation at 633-7850 ext. 607 or 608; or 867-332-3060



## Over the winter and spring we've been busy

Youth Rec helped with the Christmas gift give-away in December. We were able to give Arctic Winter Games sleeping bags, stuffed animals to youth. Winter activity kits were given out and youth created fun posters of how they stay active. The Easter drive-by was coordinated by Rec with help from Council and other departments.

We took youth on a field trip to the Yukon Arts Centre to participate in art gallery tours and creating artwork. We're excited to have this partnership continue as we encourage youth to explore their creative sides.

Winter wouldn't be winter without a few trips to Mt. Sima, so our staff joined KDFN families on the slopes.

We also hosted Spring Break camps at Jackson Lake and a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) camp with Yukon University. Thanks to partnerships within KDFN's Lands, Education, Health, Child & Family Unit, RCMP and partnerships with community organizations: Youth Achievement Centre, Women in Trade. The youth involved had a good time and went home with new handmade creations, including duffle mitts!





During Spring Break camps, Land Steward Officers Cheyenne Bradley and Troy Friday taught the youth survival skills, like how to make a fire and how to build a shelter.

Other community members also came out to share knowledge at the camps. There were people from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Big Fish Little Fish, RCMP, Conservation Officer First Nation Liaisons, Yukon University, the Youth Achievement Centre, and KDFN Community Safety Officers.

#### LEFT PAGE

TOP • Ice Fishing on Jackson Lake with Youth Rec, Lands, Community Safety Officers, Youth Achievement Center and RCMP

LEFT • Youth made their own duffle mitts at Youth Rec Spring Break Camp

RIGHT • Youth learn how to build a fire without a match

“

*It was amazing to see different knowledge holders attend the camp to teach our youth about different topics.”*

**Cheyenne Bradley**  
Land Steward Officer

#### ABOVE

LEFT • Youth learn how to build a shelter in the bush from Troy Friday, Land Steward Officer Trainee

RIGHT • Playing caribou chase at Jackson Lake Spring Break Camp



# Reviving old skills and leaning new ones



Six women worked hard this winter at the Kenādän Kù House of Learning during the Yukon First Nation Arts Program.

For three months this winter, a group of six women improved their skills in traditional arts through the Yukon First Nation Arts course at the Kenādän Kù House of Learning. They worked on beading, sewing, carving and the principles of formline design.

Course instructor Darlene Scurvey integrated Southern Tutchone learning into the lessons. One of the phrases she taught was: *Shāwkāthān Kwānji ch'e shākwathān uch'e shj*. It means: "If you live a good life, you will be a good person."

It's a phrase she believes in. To Darlene, "living a good life" means being healthy, committing to things that are important, and working hard.

"It's doing things like this class," she says. "These women are committed, they're showing up every day, they're working on making quality items, and their talents are coming out. This program has been about lifting up our First Nations women."

The program was run through a partnership between Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Yukon University. It was funded through KDFN's agreement with the Yukon government's Post-Secondary and Labour Market Program and the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program.

Look for an exhibit of the students' work at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in the future.

**Elder Dorothy Bellrose** supported the instructors and students throughout the course by answering questions, telling stories, or helping students if they were going through a hard time.

For Dorothy, making things is linked to good mental health. It helps her to relax. "If you have tension, you start to sew and you think about every other thing than your worries," she says.

Congratulations to the KDFN and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council students who completed the program: Kara Macintosh, Hilda Dawson, May Bill, Desiree Sam, Lori Graham and Brenda Sam!

**Brenda Sam** puts her handmade mukluks into a plastic bag for safekeeping.

"It's a really intense course. You have to commit to it because there's lots of homework and we hardly had any free time over the past few months. but it's worth it."



As a child, **Lori Graham** learned to sew by watching her mother and her grandmother, but lost the skill as she grew up. Taking this course has helped her remember.

"My mother used to say that if you know how to sew, you'll always have money. I am going to keep sewing now because I like doing it and it makes me feel closer to my ancestors. I just want to thank Kwanlin Dün for including me in this class."



**May Bill** displays gauntlets she made during the course.

"Once I started doing it all of the things I learned as a child just came back to me. It really helped me get motivated to keep sewing. We spent many hours working at home and some of us even stayed up all night sewing. It was hard work but now that it's ending it feels kind of sad."





# KDFN citizen James Williams became a doctor so he could ‘help people when they need it most’

1% of Canada’s doctors identify as Indigenous. That’s 760 of 94,000.

– 2016 Statistics Canada census

**Do you know a citizen who should be highlighted in the KDFN newsletter?**

Let us know by phoning 867-334-2012 or emailing [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net)



James Williams is at his best when people are at their worst.

The 30-year-old KDFN citizen recently joined the West Coast General Hospital in Port Alberni, BC as an emergency room doctor and anesthetist.

He realized he needed to be at the top of his game while working in small communities during his training as a medical student. One time, his more experienced coworker was in another town delivering a baby when a woman who couldn’t breathe came into the health centre. It was a critical situation and James was the only one who could help.

“I was so nervous and afraid, but fortunately I was able to help her and she was okay,” he says.

The experience made him realize he wanted to focus on emergency and critical care.

“Being in those situations was something I feared, so I tried to make it my strength,” he says. “In a situation like that you need to decide what to do within seconds or you miss the window. And I don’t ever want to miss the window.”

James grew up in Whitehorse with a family that was very active in the community. As a boy he would take walks through the woods with his grandmother, Elder Violet Storer. She was a traditional healer who told him stories about nature and plant-based medicine.

“I was always fascinated with the different types of bark and roots she collected that had medicinal properties,” he says. “I still am.”

The stories and shared knowledge sparked his interest in learning more, and so after high school he went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry. There, he learned more about how medicines work and the effect they have on peoples’ bodies.

“A lot of people don’t understand—they see a hard line between what’s considered western medicine and what’s considered traditional healing,” says James. “They are two different things, but they are very connected.”

“Many medications are literally made from plants. There needs to be more education on medicinal plants and how they relate to western medicine.”

After his undergraduate studies, James went on to complete four years of medical school at the University of British Columbia. Then, he spent two years working in family medicine in a handful of small towns in Alberta. There, he learned a lot about what it means to do your best for your patients.

“I have seen some terrible things in my training and how horrible racism can happen in some communities,” he says. “A lot of people say the patients have to be educated, but I don’t think that’s true. A lot of times it is the healthcare providers that need to be educated. I’ve seen healthcare providers that don’t understand the history or culture of a community.”

After gaining experience in rural medicine James went on to do another year of training in anesthesiology, which includes caring for patients before, during, and after they have surgery or other medical procedures.

Currently, James is gaining more experience working on Vancouver Island, but he hopes to come back to his hometown of Whitehorse to practice in the future.

In the meantime, he wants to encourage other Indigenous young people to follow their dreams.

“I believe education is the most important thing for everyone. I wouldn’t say I’m a particularly smart guy, but I worked hard and read a lot of textbooks,” he says. “My advice to young people is to get involved in whatever you’re interested in.

“There are lots of barriers and adversity and racism, but if you keep working hard you can be whatever it is you want to be.”



Apologies to Jade Rothwell who was mistakenly left off the High School Graduation list in the Fall Newsletter 2020. The complete list of graduates is as follows:

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Joseph Coyne      | Jessica Smith   |
| Joshua Lewis      | Tyson Smith     |
| Rennes Lindsay    | Eddie Sterriah  |
| Crystal MacIntosh | Kitana Sterriah |
| Jade Rothwell     |                 |

**We look forward to celebrating the 2021 graduates soon.**

On page 15 of the winter newsletter, John Patrick was misidentified as John Webb.

We apologize for the mistake.





# Grandma Treesaw is growing her bannock business

This April, Alexander Gatensby spoke with KDFN Citizen Teresa Ward of Grandma Treesaw's Bannock and Catering Services. They talked about how she started her own business and what she's cooking up for the future.

**AG:** How did you start your business?

**TW:** Around 2011, I started selling my bannock because I needed to make ends meet. I opened up the back of my truck, put the tailgate down, and started cooking bannock right on the tailgate with a propane stove.

The line-ups were getting longer and people were starting to know my bannock. And I went to a lot of community events like the Adaka Cultural Festival, hand games tournaments and anything else I could think of.

It was popular, so around 2014 I decided to put the mix in a bag and sell it in stores. It's not a bad little business but I wanted to go a little bigger, so I went into a Yukonstruct boot camp for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

I got into the bootcamp, and they helped me develop a business plan. They helped me really look at my business, inside and out. At the end, I had to make a pitch deck — a brief presentation about the business — and they invited all kinds of people from around the world to come see it.

Through the presentation, I ended up with the opportunity to get my bannock into the US. So, now we've developed a new bag, a new brand, and a new logo. We're looking to sell online too.

*I'm really passionate about getting First Nations' foods, like bannock, into our stores. We see a lot of foods from different cultures but I would like to see more First Nations foods and share Yukon First Nation culture with the rest of the world."*

- Teresa Ward

**AG:** How did you come up with the recipe for your mix?

**TW:** The recipe is a Teslin-Tlingit-style bannock. Throughout the Yukon we all have our certain ways of making bannock. Teslin has a unique style of deep-fried bannock. The rest of the Yukon, they do it with a little bit less oil.

**AG:** Where did you come up with the idea to start selling bannock mix?

**TW:** I came up with the idea in the summer of 2013. Customers and clients told me they would really appreciate being able to open up a bag of bannock and just make it. So, I created the bannock mix bags. You just have to add water to it and follow the instructions.

**AG:** What was the process like bringing that into reality?

**TW:** It was a lot of work. You almost have to be a mathematician just to figure out the nutritional facts table. It takes a long time and I am still working on it. I got it into the Yukon stores, but now we're exporting and there's a lot more process to that.

**AG:** What does your day to day look like in your business?

**TW:** I work at Yukon University part time because I still have to pay the bills. So I work on my business just about every weekend, and after work I'm in meetings, I'm on webinars... I take anything I can find to help me make this better and easier for me to understand. How to read financial statements, how to do finance, learning QuickBooks, how to promote, how to market, how to work with my team in Whitehorse and my team in the US, and my person in Vancouver. There are a lot of Zoom meetings to make sure we have everything in the bags down, packed, and ready to go into the US.

**AG:** What is the cultural significance of bannock?

**TW:** I'm really passionate about getting First Nations' foods, like bannock, into our stores. We see a lot of foods from different cultures, but I would like to see more First Nations foods and share Yukon First Nation culture with the rest of the world.

**AG:** Why do you think it's important to share First Nations cultural foods with the world?

**TW:** It's just important to get that out there to show people that we have a unique food as well. Bannock is sold all over the place, but being able to get ours from the Yukon is really cool.

**AG:** Why are you doing this? What's driving you to grow your business?

**TW:** I am doing it for my grandchildren, so they can have a piece of this in the future. They're the most important thing to me.

**AG:** Do you have advice for people who want to start their own business?

**TW:** My advice is that if you're committed, then you're committed. If you don't commit yourself it doesn't work.

In Whitehorse, you can buy Grandma Treesaw's Bannock at Independent, Bigway, Stacy's Butcher Shop, and Hougen's Sports lodge.

Check out her website at [yukonbannock.com](http://yukonbannock.com)





KDFN is getting ready for regional planning through an initiative called **How We Walk with the Land and Water** (HWW)

HWW will help us prepare to make big planning decisions about the future of the Southern Lakes region in partnership with Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

OUR WAY

Our Way is guided by Elders and meaningful community engagement. This means we are:

- asking for guidance, listening to concerns and working with citizens to prepare the plan.
- gathering traditional knowledge, stories and scientific data to help answer questions.
- having tea to identify the values and relationships that should be sustained into the future for our people.
- recording our own story so we are prepared for Chapter 11 Land-Use Planning.

WE ARE IN THIS PROCESS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

HWW has been working with C/TFN children on what their values are when it comes to the land and the water. Youth have been building their storytelling skills by working with Elders, and then creating their own stories on film. Community Coordinator Sean Smith has also been supporting the youth by guiding them in using Southern Tutchone and Łingit in their stories.

OUR PURPOSE

Our stories, oral histories, purposes, passions and ways of being will all inform the plan's direction. These things are helping us decolonize our way of thinking. In this way, we are shaping our own world rather than having others shape it for us.

HOW WE WALK TOGETHER

We would like to meet in a safe way, around a fire to sit together, drink tea and to connect people to the land and to their ancestors to help with the healing process. We will keep you informed as we plan engagement sessions in the future.

**LEFT:** Children in the Carcross Drama Club learned how to record sound and film Sean Smith as he pronounced five animal names in both Southern Tutchone and Łingit.



**ABOVE:** Filmmaker Douglas Joe guides children in the Carcross Drama Club to create their own short film called "The Land of the Wildlife". HWW engagement team asked: What is important on the land and water in different seasons? The children talked about different animals and what they need to be healthy, such as clean water, good food, a partner, and a safe place to sleep.



Gathering

Gathering traditional knowledge and scientific data for cultural and ecosystem conservation area design.



Sharing Our Values

Indigenous values framework that articulates eco-cultural values and their inter-relationships across time and landscapes.



Having Tea

Community engagement with families, clans and organizations. Focused on incorporating TK, story, and interview information to develop draft maps.



Creating Our Story

Creating a shared vision for Southern Lakes First Nations in preparation for Chapter 11 Regional Land Use Planning.



Upholding Our Agreements

Chapter 11 Regional Land Use Plan that reflects a Southern Lakes First Nations vision to protect our land and water for future generations.

GET INVOLVED:

Help share knowledge of our Traditional Territory by posting your stories and photos to our Facebook Group. Join by searching "How We Walk with Land and Water" on Facebook

communications.hww@gmail.com

[howwewalk.org](http://howwewalk.org)







# A report from the trail from KDFN Land Steward Bruce Wilson

This winter KDFN Land Stewards (LSOs) went into some remote areas to inspect parcels of Settlement Land and install marking signs. While out, they also helped break trail for the Yukon Journey Dog Sled Race. This mission fostered positive relationships with outside organizations, created an opportunity for team building, and gave the LSOs a chance to practice back-country skills under challenging conditions.

A team of KDFN Land Steward Officers (LSOs) spent four days covering more than 300 kilometres by snowmobile in February.

We helped prepare the trail for the Yukon Journey Dog Sled Race, a 375-kilometre run from Pelly Crossing to Whitehorse organized by mushers to fill the gap left by the cancellation of this year's Yukon Quest. We worked with Bernard Stehelin, a local tour operator and Canadian Ranger, to groom the trail between Coghlan Lake and Mandanna Lake. We used snowmobiles to break the path and cleared trees with chainsaws.

We also inspected and installed signs at four remote KDFN Settlement Land parcels in the area. It's important to have signage out there to let people know where our land is located and reinforce KDFN's presence in the lesser-travelled rural areas.

On February 16, we geared up and left Braeburn just as a long Yukon cold snap was waving good-bye. It was a two-hour, 30-kilometre journey to our base cabin on Coghlan Lake.

After arriving at the cabin, we got our gear unpacked, had a quick bite to eat, then headed out to the southern shore of Coghlan Lake to inspect Parcel S-359B and install a sign. The parcel was pristine and completely in its natural state.

From there, we travelled northeast to Frank Lake to inspect Parcel S-47B. We found that a local trapper had a trapline through this parcel and a wolf snare set up near the lake's north shore. We installed a Settlement Land sign close to the trapline. With the first day's tasks complete, we returned to the cabin for the night.

The next day we focussed on trail-breaking. We travelled north towards Mandanna Lake, following the Yukon Quest trail. Along the way, near the Chain Lakes, we snowmobiled through an old-growth forest fire site with plenty of blown-down trees blocking the trail. This meant we had to stop many times to pull out the chainsaws, cut up the trees and clear the trail.

We finally arrived at the turnaround point on Mandanna Lake around supper time. From there, we headed back towards the cabin at Coghlan Lake, placing wooden markers every 250 metres on every frozen water body along the way. This was the longest day of the trip. We covered more than 100 kilometres.

With the trail breaking and marking completed, we spent the next day at Parcel R-69B at Claire Lake and Parcel S-301B at the northern edge of Coghlan Lake.

R-69B is a 169-hectare parcel that sits on the northern boundary of our Traditional Territory. It is a true gem of our rural lands. Our team installed a Settlement Land sign on the eastern shore of Claire Lake.

On the way back to the cabin, we stopped at S-301B, located at the north end of Coghlan Lake, to complete the final inspection and sign install. The dog sled trail cut through the eastern corner of the parcel. We installed the sign right next to the trail, so it would be visible to every musher that raced by.

On the fourth and final day, the team packed up and returned to Braeburn.

An overall success!





# The Southern Lakes Wolf Monitoring Program

Over the past few years, Kwanlin Dün First Nation has worked with other First Nations and the Yukon government to monitor and study wolf populations in the Southern Lakes. Our goal is to build our scientific, traditional and local knowledge of wolves in the area.

Adult wolf photo - Lars Jessup

Wolf pups photo - Peter Knamiller

Over the last two winters we've worked together on the land to live trap and put GPS collars on wolves. The collars allow us to identify the different wolf pack territories in the Southern Lakes and update our knowledge of the local wolf population.

So far, we've collared 11 wolves in six different packs. Each pack has a territory of about 1,200 square kilometres.

To further estimate the total number of wolves in the study area, we carried out ground-based wolf track monitoring surveys by snowmobile. This work was done by Yukon government staff, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Taku River Tlingit First Nation Game Guardians and Land Stewards.

Field crews also collected wolf scat, which will be analysed to identify what prey the wolves are eating.

We used GPS location data from collared wolves to identify places where wolves have made kills. Potential kill sites are identified as locations where wolves have spent more than a day in the same spot. Our field crews visit the sites to

investigate what species of animals has been killed. So far, we have located more than 35 kills, most are either moose or caribou.

We will continue with this effort over the next year. By combining the scat analysis and kill site information we hope to increase our knowledge of wolves' prey composition and the importance of caribou in wolves' diet.

## A FEW INTERESTING FACTS WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT WOLVES IN THE SOUTHERN LAKES

On average, a wolf pack takes two to three days to eat a caribou and about four days to eat a moose. However sometimes they may feed for up to seven or eight days before completing their meal.

While visiting the wolves' kill sites, field crews have identified up to six additional scavenging species benefiting from a single carcass. This includes lynx, wolverine, fox, pine marten, several bird species, and countless insects.

In the Yukon, wolves rarely make it to five years old due to the hardships of life in the wild. After humans, wolves are the greatest predator of wolves.

## OTHER INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WOLVES:

Known as highly intelligent pack animals, wolves are extremely social animals that develop close bonds with family members and their pack. In the wild they often display affection and other emotions with each other.

Once widespread throughout North America, Europe and beyond, the grey wolf now exists only in parts of the USSR, North America and Eastern Europe, where it continues to retain its legendary and mythological status in the animal kingdom.

### TRUE LOVE

Once a wolf has found a mate, they tend to stay together for better or worse, through sickness and health, often until death. Typically, only the alpha male and female breed, leaving the rest of the adult pack members to help rear the young and ensure their survival.

### WOLVES WILL DIE FOR EACH OTHER

In addition to a trend toward monogamy, wolves develop strong social bonds for their family and other loved ones. They have been known to sacrifice themselves for the survival of the pack or family unit.

### HOWL

Perhaps the most well-known characteristic of the grey wolf is its beautiful howl. This is a primary communication tool, both between a lone wolf and its pack, as well as between packs. When it comes to territory, inter-pack howling will determine the size and strength of different packs, often determining whether to attack or retreat.

### TERRITORY SIZE

In Canada and Alaska wolves' territory extends 400 to 1,600 square kilometers. Packs often travel 20+ kilometres a day.

### PAWS

A wolf's average paw size, at 4-inches wide by 5-inches long, is comparable to an adult human hand.

### SIZE

Grey wolves are the largest canids (mammals in the dog family). On average, adults have a nose-to-tail length of between 4.5 and 6 feet, a height at the shoulder of 26 to 32 inches (66 to 81 centimetres), and weigh between 50 and 110 pounds (22.7 to 50 kilograms).

The largest wolf on record weighed 175 pounds (79.3 kilograms). Males are larger than females, and Yukon Alaskan wolves are generally larger than those in southern areas.

### MARATHON RUNNERS

Wolves can sprint at speeds of 58 to 61 kilometres per hour for short distances. Unless they're on a chase, they tend to cruise at a more leisurely pace of about 8 kilometres per hour.

Wolves have been known to track and trace their prey for hours well into the night. They have a high IQ and excellent sense of hearing and smell—all of which they put to good use in rounding up their next meal.

### EATING, ALSO KNOWN AS WOLFING IT DOWN

Wolves can eat a huge amount—as much as 9 kilograms—in one sitting. The alpha male is first to eat, followed by other pack members and or other scavengers. This is a survival tactic. They never know when their next meal will be and often it's days before they eat again.

### LIFE SPAN AND MORTALITY

The life spans of wild wolves vary dramatically. Although the average lifespan is between six and eight years, many die earlier and some reach age 13. Wolves in captivity have lived up to 17 years.

Life in the wild is difficult. Thirty to 60 percent of wolf pups die from diseases, malnutrition and starvation. Wolves are known to bury their dead pups and pack members and mourn as deeply as a human family.

This story was provided by KDFN Operations Manager Brandy Mayes and Peter Knamiller Yukon government Wolf Management Program Coordinator.





# Spring fishing tips and tricks with KDFN Land Steward Troy Friday

Spring is here and the days are getting longer. We can feel some heat off the sun, and the ravens and crows are starting their crazy acrobatic flying. Spring in the Yukon is magical – our brother bear is waking up from his hibernation, swans and migratory birds are returning, and so much is coming alive after a long cold winter.

## A WARNING ABOUT BAITED HOOKS:

**Do not leave baited hooks unattended on land or in the water because birds and dogs may try and get your bait. A hook in a seagull's or dog's mouth is hard to get out and harmful to the animal that picked it up.**

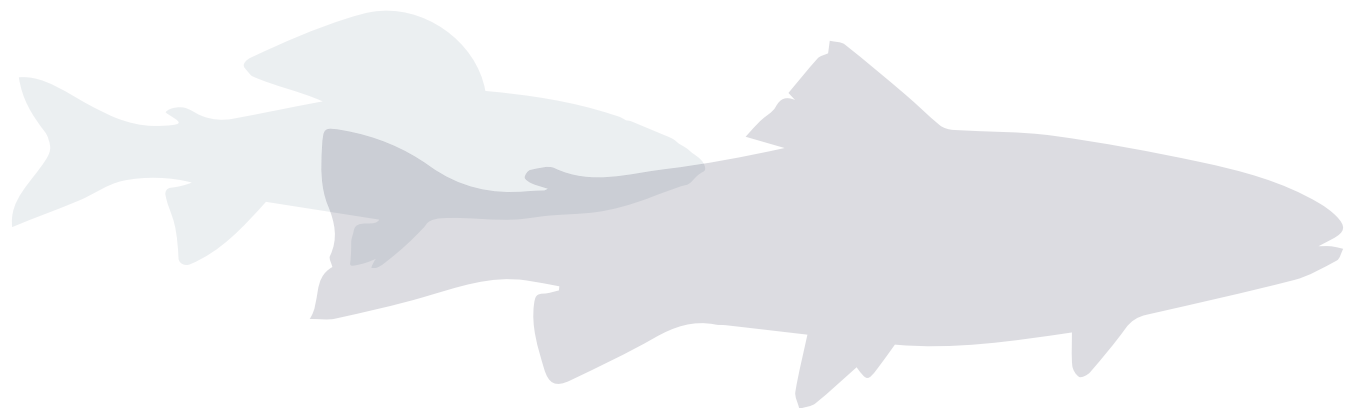
For my family, spring means open-water fishing. So, I'd like to share one of my family's secret fishing spots and a few tips and tricks. As the ice on our lakes and rivers slowly melt and open water is exposed, we have a great opportunity to catch some early season lake trout and grayling.

If Fish Lake is still covered with dangerous ice and only a small patch of open water at the culvert – don't worry. That small patch is all you need to land this season's first fish, and bring home dinner.

Grayling and minnows are attracted to this area with hopes of getting spring's first few flies in their bellies. This feeding frenzy attracts the larger lake trout from the deeper cooler water. The trout lurk around the ice edge, occasionally coming into view to gobble a tasty minnow or little grayling.

I like to start with grayling and so a small black, fluffy floating fly is all I need to use. If only minnows are chasing the fly, I try switching it up to a larger fly.

For lake trout there are two options: casting or bait fishing.



## CASTING

Use a small- to medium-sized silver-coloured spoon. Cast to the far side of the hole and retrieve fairly fast.

## BAIT FISHING

Use a medium-sized weighted hook with a little artificial trout bait. Little pink balls or grayling guts work best for me.

Cast over the hole onto the far ice and slowly retrieve till the baited hook falls into the water. Then stop and let it sink.

I like to put a little bell on the end of my rod and prop up the rod into the rocks on shore. Reel in any loose line and wait. Grab a chair and a good book and enjoy the springtime sunshine! When you hear the bell ring it's FISH ON!

## WHEN YOU'RE FISHING, DON'T FORGET...

Please fish with respect and take only what you need.

Follow fish handling best practices:

- Use barbless hooks;
- Keep fish in the water, if you're going to release it; and
- Use the right slot sizes for the fish you keep.

We need this wonderful resource to be there for many more generations.

Also, make sure you have your fishing licence with you or your status card.

And remember, if you see anything out on the land or water that concerns you, please phone any of the KDFN Land Steward Officers. You can phone me at 867-332-6504.

## OFFICE RELOCATION

KDFN's Heritage, Lands and Resources department has relocated to 301 Hawkins Street in Whitehorse. They will be there until August 31, 2021.

Sending email or calling cell phones are the best ways to contact staff as the land lines are not working at this location. If you have any trouble, you can phone Office Administrator Michele Taylor at 867-334-2624 or email [michele.taylor@kdfn.net](mailto:michele.taylor@kdfn.net)

## WHERE ARE YOUR DOGS?

Please make sure you know where your pets are at all times. Keep your pets either inside or in your yard.

If a loose dog is bothering you, contact Whitehorse Bylaw Animal Control at: (867) 668-8317





## DATES TO REMEMBER

**MAY 24** – Victoria Day

**JUNE 5** – Community Clean  
Up Day in McIntyre

**JUNE 21** – National  
Indigenous Peoples Day

**JULY 1** – Canada Day

**AUGUST 16** – Discovery Day



This winter a group of citizens  
took traffic control training.



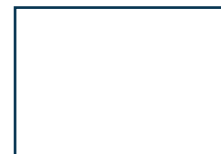
## STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT KDFN!

Sign up to receive emails at [kwanlindun.com/email](http://kwanlindun.com/email)

Or send an email to [communications@kdfn.net](mailto:communications@kdfn.net)

We're online at [kwanlindun.com](http://kwanlindun.com)

 Find us on Facebook!



**DESTINATION ADDRESS**