This November 24th, the Ktunaxa Nation Executive Council (also known as the KNEC) will be deciding on the Ktunaxa-Teck Impact Management and Benefit Agreement (“IMBA”). A full day of briefing materials and documents will be reviewed by all leadership on November 23rd, the day prior to the KNEC meeting.

The IMBA negotiations were mandated by KNEC in November of 2011 and guided by the IMBA Steering Committee, established by the KNEC and the negotiations ran from January 2012 to January 2015.

Since 2012, thirty community sessions have been held in each of the Ktunaxa communities and with citizens in Vancouver. A sincere thank you to all citizens who took the time and gave their input, came to the meetings. Your effort and input directly shaped the IMBA.

We summarized input from citizens and the steering committee into a document called, “What we Heard”. This was distributed and reviewed by citizens last winter in community sessions. If you would like a copy of this document, contact Denine Milner (info below).

If you would like to view and read the decision package that leadership will be reviewing at the upcoming meeting, a copy is available in each of the community offices. If you would like to talk about the IMBA, or have questions about it, contact Denine Milner (250.489.2464; dmilner@ktunaxa.org).

**Lands and Resources - Ktunaxa Jeopardy YOU COULD WIN!!**

**Question:** This sight is located at the base of ʔakinmî and was covered by Ktunaxa with cement in the 1990’s to protect it from destruction.

**To submit your answer:** Please go to our Facebook Page, Ktunaxa Nation Lands and Resources, and private message us your answer or simply email: nnicholas@ktunaxa.org and a random winner will be awarded a $25.00 gift card. Deadline to answer is: November 27th 2015.

The winner of the September issue was Margaret Teneese. The question was: Also know as FBR, these artifacts are found near ancient elk roasting pits near the Columbia Lake? She answered with: Fire Broken Rock. Congratulations!!!
Greenhills Operation Site Tour

On October 9th, Kerri Garner, Rosemary Phillips, Nevada Nicholas, Danielle Gravelle and myself went to Teck’s Greenhills Operation to tour the proposed Cougar Pit Expansion (CPX) area. The proposed project primarily includes areas that are already disturbed, or already permitted, with roughly an additional 85 ha of new disturbance. We saw the undisturbed ridge-top that is within the proposed project footprint, as well as the existing pit and spoil that would be expanded.

In my previous job, I became familiar with reclamation work at all of Teck’s Elk Valley operations. It has been my opinion over the years that reclamation at GHO is the best in the valley, and after the site tour I still feel the same. Staff at the operation are strongly pushing forward and continuously improving best management practises, and are wholly focused on native plant reclamation and trying to create and native plant habitats on site through reclamation work. Coarse woody debris is incorporated to provide wind breaks and shelter for plants, as well as nutrients as the material breaks down. Unique site preparation is conducted to create microsites that are beneficial for plant establishment and development. The installation of native plant communities are both tested in reclamation research and also installed operationally throughout the mine. Many different species are planted, depending on the site conditions of the area to be planted.

What was really encouraging was touring the massive soil salvage operation that is going on at GHO. They are salvaging soil from an area where a dump will be expanded. Instead of losing that soil underneath a pile of waste material, they are salvaging the soil, and will take care of it until they can place it onto areas they will reclaim down the road. This large-scale project is the first of its kind in the Elk Valley, and will provide great benefits for reclamation work and help establish native ecosystems back on site. This is the type of work we hope to see at all Teck sites in the future; best management practises, native plant reclamation, and helping to establish native ecosystems on site again.

Alison Burton, Coal Regulatory Coordinator

Culture and Conservation Value Forests (CCVF) Site Visit with Aqm Citizens

On October 6, Citizens of Aqm, KNC Lands and Resources staff and Canfor staff attended a site visit to previously logged sites in areas that have been defined as Culture and Conservation Value Forests (CCVF’s) through collaborative work done between Canfor and KNC. 4 sites were visited including two in the White Swan area where logging had been conducted with particular consideration of ungulate and wildlife habitat considerations; a site near Skookumchuk where ecosystem restoration was done and one site on Aqm Reserve which was also managed for Ecosystem Restoration in collaboration with the community. The site visits were an opportunity for community members to ask questions about logging practices and to gain a greater understanding of the values that are being managed on the landscape. KNC is currently working to develop a monitoring program to
CCVF Continued

have Ktunaxa citizens monitoring Canfor’s activities and ensuring that they are adhering to management strategies to protect Ktunaxa Values. Site visits are planned for Akisqnuk and Lower Koote-ney in the Spring. For more info contact your LRSA or Kerri Garner at kgarner@ktunaxa.org

What is Archaeology?

What exactly is “archaeology”? Why is it important to First Nations, specifically the Ktunaxa? The Wikipedia definition of archaeology is this:

“Archaeology or archeology,”[1] is the study of human activity in the past, primarily through the recovery and analysis of the material culture and environmental data that has been left behind by past human populations, which includes artifacts, architecture, biofacts (also known as eco-facts) and cultural landscapes (the archaeological record). Because archaeology employs a wide range of different procedures, it can be considered to be both a social science and a humanity,[2] and in the United States, it is thought of as a branch of anthropology,[3] although in Europe, it is viewed as a discipline in its own right, or related to other disciplines. For example, much of archaeology in the United Kingdom is considered a part the study of history, while in France it is considered part of Geology. Archaeology studies human prehistory and history from the development of the first stone tools in eastern Africa 4 million years ago up until recent decades.[4] (Archaeology does not include the discipline of paleontology). It is of most importance for learning about prehistoric societies, when there are no written records for historians to study, making up over 99% of total human history, from the Paleolithic until the advent of literacy in any given society.[5] Archaeology has various goals, which range from studying human evolution to cultural evolution and understanding culture history.[6]

The discipline involves surveying, excavation and eventually analysis of data collected to learn more about the past. In broad scope, archaeology relies on cross-disciplinary research. It draws upon anthropology, history, art history, classics, ethnology, geography,[6] geology,[7][8][9]

Did You Know??

Did you know there are 291,000 unique Watershed in BC?

Juanita and Stubby on the CCVF Site Visit

Aqam members at the CCVF Site Visit

One question that has been asked since I have started in my position as Archaeology Guardian, is if I am looking for dinosaur bones? Fossils and other prehistoric data is researched by Paleontologists, they are the dinosaur "hunters". What archaeology is looking for is human cultural evidence. As our ancestors migrated throughout the traditional territory and travel corridors, they would leave behind bits and pieces of evidence that they were there. Whether it is tool production flakes, or actual campsite evidence, it is our job to try and locate these artifacts and collect data to properly document. Ensuring our archaeological sites and information are protected is important for many different reasons. Firstly, it helps to show our own citizens where traditionally our ancestors were on the land. By mapping these locations, we can see a trend where they may have gathered medicines or harvested meat. One thing I have learned in my short duration here is that historically Ktunaxa people (as with other indigenous populations) camped near water, whether it is a stream, river or a lake. This is why wuʔu is so important to the Ktunaxa culture, it sustains life. They make excellent travel corridors to use canoes, such as Kootenay or Columbia Lake! The downside to this is a lot of tourists and incoming residents are also attracted to water for recreational purposes. They invest in property along shorelines and communities near water. With this comes the issue of compliance of the BC Heritage Act and impacting cultural heritage sites. Some of you may recall local incidents where archaeological sites have been impacted.

Why is archaeology important to the Ktunaxa? As stewards of the land and protectors of knowledge and culture; it is not only our right but our duty to ensure all archaeological and cultural heritage sites are protected appropriately. The BC Archaeology Branch does not commit any resources to monitoring or reviewing projects after they have been granted the permits. So it is up to First Nations, like the Ktunaxa, to step up and protect our heritage. This is how my position came to be!

Archaeology encompasses more than just digging in the dirt and looking for artifacts. Archaeology also understands the link of the language and culture to archaeology. If there was a historical campsite in a specific area, there is a valid reason. Whether it was harvesting wild game such as kii̱q̓ɑ̕l̓l̓ (bull elk) or ču̱p̓ɑ̕ (deer), medicine, or for cultural/spiritual purposes; we can analyze the surrounding area to see what may have been of significant value back then. Ktunaxa traditional stories and place names have significance to the Ktunaxa people. When we understand these stories and place names, we have a better connection to the past. Pictographs for instance may tell a story or significant event. They were left there many years ago by our ancestors, to inform or warn the following generations. They can be found along historical trails throughout the territory, and even along water shorelines. Without adequate protection, these can be lost much sooner than nature intends.

I am seeking out ideas from communities and citizens regarding what resources and education we can work on regarding archaeology. If you have something specific you’d like to learn about, or something cool you’d like to see regarding archaeology, please feel free to contact me!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any known archaeological sites or archaeology in general, please do not hesitate to contact Nicole Kapell or Pauline Eugene at the Ktunaxa Nation Governance Building. Phone contact information located on page 6.
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Remembrance Day. All offices closed.
The Mandate of the Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency is to ensure that the lands and resources within the Ktunaxa Territory are effectively managed and protected for the benefits of the citizens, communities and government of the Ktunaxa Nation.

- Lands Sector Mandate

For the latest news and events please visit us at: www.ktunaxa.org

Like us on Facebook: Ktunaxa Nation Lands and Resources

Chad Luke is encouraging everyone to please add Lower Kootenay (Stewardship Assistant) as a friend on Facebook to keep updated on what’s happening in the Creston area.