



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT
First Nation



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Water

Photography by Evelyn Lee Folbar



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TAKU

Fall Issue 2020

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING TRAILBLAZING

by Shauna Yeomans

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Taaku Fall Issue 2020

Contributors to this publication include TRTFN staff and members of the Health and Social Department Youth Program. Its aim is to showcase the amazing work of our TRTFN staff and share stories and knowledge within our community.

We invite you to email us your comments and questions and things that you would like to see added in each issue to hss.youth@trtfn.gov.ca. Editorial Note: After the first two editions of the Health and Social Newsletter, TRTFN Managers decided to create a new publication that includes all TRTFN departments.

Readers can expect changes and improvements with each issue as we learn and develop this prototype. We look forward to your feedback.

Also, please visit our amazing website at www.trlfn.com for more information about TRTFN and notice the cool, local youth-produced videos!

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A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

TRAILBLAZING

by Shauna Yeomans

I am so grateful in my job and life for a space that allowed me to create, learn and thrive and ultimately find my purpose. This year has been a really interesting year for me. A Spiritual Awakening. I've recognized that as a community we are offered so many amazing opportunities, but in order to embrace them all, we need to be a healthy strong people. We need a compassionate community.

For the 4 years that I have worked for my people as a Land Guardian with TRTFN, I have been able to utilize the resources, space and support in some cases, to dig deep into my own culture, local history and heritage. Our People are named after the lake. The original name in our language is called Wéinaa which means where the white stuff is, which meant 'alkali', the mineral lick that attracted the Caribou for the salt. It's not just a place name to me anymore, its proof of our ecological knowledge and our connection to the Land.

I love sitting with our Elders and listening to so many amazing stories. My heart is full and raw, with their experiences. Gathering stories and being able to have access to them makes my history real for me, in a way it hasn't been before.

I have started reading so many books for more understanding on colonization, how its affected our culture and traditions and how true healing can be gained by trailblazing a new path forward. Last year a small group of our people did the Nakina Hike. The blood, sweat and tears I experienced, it kicked my butt.

I never in my life thought I would have been able to do it but I did. What made it the most meaningful to me however, were the people I did it with. Being able to share my first experience on that trail, with people that grew up on that trail. Putting my trust in them, and seeing them totally excel. This is who we were meant to be. It was amazing. Those are the things I want to continue doing.

Lately I've struggled with slowing down, but I am learning how to trust and let go of worry. Being a resource in our lands department has made me learn this one lesson. For every bad thing that's happening in this world, there are always good authentic connections to outweigh the bad things. Our stories are powerful, and connect us. We should be so proud and excited for the work we are doing.



Beading Artwork by Shauna Yeomans



Our Land is Our Future

by Charmaine Thom Manager of Lands Resource & Fisheries



My Tlingit name is Geneak I am from the wolf Clan. I was raised by Evelyn and Sylvester Jack. As the manager of Lands and Resources,

I am here to listen to our people and work to protect our land. I love working with my fantastic team. They are a compassionate people who have a heart for the land. We work together to oversee our traditional territory, and protect our resources, wildlife, fish, air, water and land for the next generation of TRTFN citizens.

for our nation. Through the wildlife program, Ryan and a few of your youth have been on the mountains counting sheep, by the slough identifying birds and putting up game cameras for future monitoring. A Land Guardian Officer will be hired in October and our Land Guardian Program will be up and running once again.

Jackie is super busy working on the reclamation work in Otter creek and the Tulsequah mine site.

Christine is busy doing GIS work, Implementing the the G2G agreement and working hard on the hydro expansion project.

There is so much work still to be done but everyone in Lands is in it to win it!

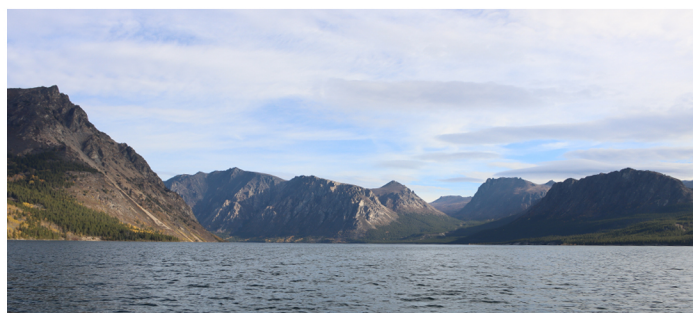
Our department provides technical support to assist treaty negotiations and I sit on Tlatsini Indigenous protected and Conserved Areas (TIPCA) working group to identify and protect more area within our traditional territory.

I'm excited about the Archaeological Site Assessments that Ben has been doing.

We are so proud of the work that Mark and the fisheries team has been doing with the Fisheries program. So much work has been done behind the scenes and I am happy to report that from the slump 5 years ago counting 13 fish from Kuthai, this year we have close to 5000. This is a huge accomplishment

We all play a role and have a responsibility to protect our Land. My late father Sylvester Jack who had been the chief for many years ingrained in me that "Our Land is our Future."

Gunalchéesh
Charmaine Thom



Community Health Representative Rodger Thorlakson



The Community Health Representative (CHR) Program is here to provide a quality service to you and your loved ones. We provide resources to facilitate your good health, healing, and quality of life. We offer training and workshops throughout the year so watch for information on Social Media or on our notice boards. Please contact Rodger Thorlakson for more information. We are here and happy to help.



Get trained to use a Naloxone Kit. Learn how to tell when somebody is overdosing, and how to respond with your Take Home Naloxone kit. If you are interested in this training please contact CHR at 250 651 7900 ext 301 for more information.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WRITING A WILL?

A last will in testament is beneficial to anyone who wishes to dictate how their assets will be distributed after they pass away instead of leaving it up to the court to

You should consider a Last Will In Testament if you:

- Get Married, have children or separate from a spouse
- Have monetary assets, such as investments savings that you wish distribute to family or friends
- Own property or business

Please Contact Community Health Representative at
250 651 7900 ext 301
hss.chr@gov.trtfn.com

DO You or Someone You Know Have A CRIMINAL RECORD

Need help getting a RECORD SUSPENSION

All information will be kept **Private & Confidential**

The Community Health Representative Will help you understand the Process of getting a Record Suspension

If you have any questions, please contact CHR for more information
Phone: 250 -651- 7900 ext 301
Email: hss.chr@gov.trtfn.com

Please remember to return all Gas Cards to the H&S Department or the drop-box at ATELP

JOB BOARD & OPPORTUNITIES

Position: Administrative Support Governance Manager

Superior: Governance Manager

Wage: \$18.69 to 24.62 per hour Dependant upon experience and knowledge

Status: Permanent Full-time Position in Atlin BC

Closing Date: Until Filled

Position: Manager of Capital Projects (Capital Manager)

Superior: CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) or designate

Wage: (\$70,000 / \$83,000) Dependant upon experience knowledge and suitability

Status: Permanent Full-time Position in Atlin BC

Closing Date: Open until Filled

Position: Van Driver

Superior: Health & Social Manager

Wage: \$20.52 - \$24.62

Status: Part-time

Closing Date: October 31 2020

Position: Technical Support and Community Engagement Liaison

Superior: Lands & Resources Fisheries Manager or designate

Wage: \$34 per hour

Status: Half-time & Full-time Position (20 -36 Hrs per week)

Closing Date: September 4th 2020

Position: Home Care Worker

Superior: CHR Community Health Representative

Wage: \$20.52 - \$24.62

Status: Part Time up to 20 hours per week

Closing Date: Oct 31 2020

Check Notice Boards for more information and more available positions

Family-based Traditional Harvest Support Available

Up to \$1000 per Household

Thanks to TAC and 3Nations

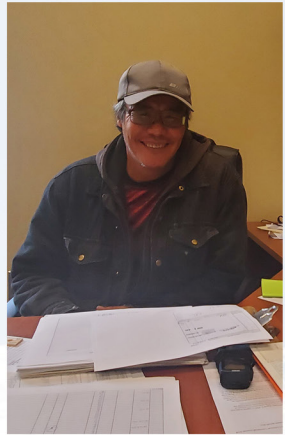
Contact Zoya Lewis @ hss.assist@gov.trtfn.com

for further information



Photography by David Thorn

JASON WILLIAMS



Since 2014 I've been the **Fisheries PO Supervisor**. I am in charge of several TRTFN fisheries camps at Kuthai Lake, King Salmon Lake and Nakina, River. I manage approximately 10-12 people on the sites. My team collect data and sampling of the Salmon. Some guys are out there for 2 months at one time, but it's amazing rewarding work.

I love getting out of the office into the field. Being out in the bush is awesome. Getting away from stress of the world. I love being on the water, down by the lower Taku and at the camps. In between work at the weir sites, I went out a few times to catch fish and just be on the land.



I was raised by Elizabeth Nyman my grandmother, she taught me a lot about work ethic and being accountable. And I am so grateful for the wisdom she shared. No matter what you are doing, you have to love what you do, you have to show up on time and be dedicated.

FINANCE

Adding Value

By Laura Lubben



I Enjoy puzzles, and numbers. When I was a child I would play games, and I was always the banker, always dealing with the money. I was an honest banker, and played fair. So by the time I was in high school I was planning to become an accountant. I was inspired to follow a different path.

Just recently I accepted the opportunity to work with numbers for TRTFN. I enjoy my work in Finance.

I also enjoy chatting with people as they come by. People have value, and adding value to people's lives by simply acknowledging them is what I do, promoting people and lifting them up.

I came to the conclusion one day, that you don't just find a career and then that's it for your life. Whatever I am doing, as long as I am speaking life to people and bringing the value to whatever work I am doing I know I am fulfilling a purpose.

Life is not static *it is fluid.*

CHRISTINE ZIEGLER



My name is Christine and I work as the **Lands Engagement Officer (LEO)** in the Lands Department of the TRTFN. Growing up as the youngest daughter of a working class family in a smallish village in Southern Germany I very much welcomed the opportunity of escaping and exploring other places foreign to me.

That's how my journey started traveling Canada, which sparked my initial interest in the natural and environmental sciences. I lived and learned in various locations across the country, including Vancouver, Fredericton and Yellowknife, until my journey eventually led me to Atlin in the summer of 2019. There are hardly any words that could accurately describe how glad and grateful I am to call Atlin my home.

It is absolutely wonderful to be part of this bustling community surrounded by mountains, lakes and rivers, and to have meaningful work with the TRTFN government. In my free time I very much enjoy exploring the TRTFN traditional territory by foot, bike or kayak.

In my role as the LEO I am reviewing land use applications requiring permits or tenures on TRTFN traditional territory in cooperation with BC government representatives. In this review I ensure that the proposed land use is in line with TRTFN values and interests, and complies with the Atlin-Taku Land Use Plan.



FALL TIME at TFLC

by Roberta Vaneltsi

I have been working with children for over 30 years. I love them all and feel very comfortable with preschool and the infant toddler age group. We teach them as much language as we know, but we would love to see more Tlingit involvement in our programming here at TFLC, facilitators who are willing to teach some Tlingit language and culture.

These beautiful children are such a blessing to us and our community. My favorite times of day are anytime they come to us and want to sit and talk. It is also so great to

work with my coworkers Grace and share this quality time with her. Its fall time now and the leaves are changing and it's a wonderful Season.

The theme this month at TFLC is Safety, Blueberries and Hunting. The artwork is coming along; we will be adding a Moose to our wall soon. We are very friendly and accepting here at TFLC. Our Children are our future and we value that.



Operations & Maintenance

with Andy Carlick Manager



I enjoy my job very much at Operations and Maintenance, In this small hamlet, we have 56 housing units that we look after and 10 community buildings. We look after tenants water and sewer, maintain 2 pump houses and make sure all the lights are working.

We are responsible for the upkeep of the Nations homes and offices and keep everything functioning optimally during every season. Health and Safety is one of our priorities. For example, dripping water in someone's house, may seem like a small problem, but left unattended can lead to major issues. So we encourage people to tell us, so we can pay attention to it and fix it. At times people sometimes fail to report such things, but we want to be there to help. It is our job.

My part here at O&M is making sure everybody has what they need to do their job. Ordering materials and purchasing the things needed to get work done. Also looking after our maintenance workers and making sure they have proper training and keeping up their ICU's and water certificate. We also handle Emergency Management, it is a priority. Forest fire is one of the biggest

threats that we prepare for, planning and organizing what we need to do for the community if there is ever a fire threat.



I have always had a dream to see a gym in our community. I am passionate about the health and wellness of our people. Over the years I see how fitness has helped to strengthen not only our bodies but our minds. To have a safe space in walking distance, close to home for our elders and youth would really be wonderful. It would also be wonderful to have a gathering place, a big house to celebrate our art, music and to mourn and celebrate life.

A Job fair is something else I'd like to see, to show the youth what we have to offer in each department and encourage them to see what our Nation has to offer them for a career and an identity.

ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD, LOOK AHEAD!

Find your strength and Train Yourself.

GOVERNANCE

By Louise Gordon *Manager*



I have worked with TRTFN since 1984. I love our Nation. I believe we ought to do things with love and kindness while building on our community strengths. This will pull our community together in a good way.

The Governance department is a new department, so we're learning new ways to become more efficient as time goes by. In short, the Governance department oversees negotiations with other governments for the TRTFN, so it's very political. Governance has also been tasked to conclude the Comprehensive Community Based Plan (CCP).

I work with TRTFN's Lead Negotiator, G2G Co-Chair, Chantelle Schultz. Chantelle will be communicating updates through short videos on social media so stay tuned and thanks to Chantelle for improving the community negotiation updates to the citizens we serve.

I have seen a positive difference in so many people, in so many ways

Sometimes I get so frustrated while executing my work, but it's heart work. And I have been doing it for many years. My passion and focus is to build on the strengths of my community members. I believe by living on strength based approaches our community, young and old will thrive.

My very first community planning meeting in 1985, our people wanted a greenhouse, 35 years later I am so happy that that our community dream and wish is a reality. It was done to support the community in sustainable living and to promote social cohesion to help people interact and connect together while enjoying good company and nourishing food.

The community garden was led by Our Community Matriarch Group and supported by the Health and Social Department.

The community Matriarchs are also organizing projects that will build on non violent communication and zero tolerance for violence in our community. Another project led by the Matriarchs is the Elders Biography project. Gunalcheesh to Manu who has helped us so much with taking the most beautiful pictures of our Elders. I have seen a positive difference in so many people, in so many ways. I am so happy to be a part of these projects.

In my job, I see a difference in the way we negotiate, I see that we have more tools to use, as we come together to negotiate, I see that our community is more aware. There is a glimpse of hope for the future. Sometimes it seems like that glimpse is small but hope is there. I enjoy the challenge of setting up the Governance Department so that we could strategically move forward in a good way to the future.

HOMECARE

Health & Social Department

by Izaiah Carlick

It is so cool to help our Elders, Sly and June and Jacky and Loraine, all of them. Sly taught me so much, about Skidoos and fixing things. I like working with Becky and Jarin. It doesn't feel like work. We have so much fun working, and listening to music.

We were cleaning under a porch one day in the summer, and found so many fun things that made us laugh, like an old cassette tape. Jarin thought it was a weird looking video game.

We couldn't stop laughing.

Sweeping the roads was fun, hard work but fun. But doing it with your friends makes it so much better. I am saving up to buy stuff. Things for my bike, my quad my skidoo and to start my Youtube channel.

I like to enjoy life, and be happy. You have to enjoy whatever you do. We are so excited to have Luke join our home care crew with Health & Social.



JOANNE WILLIAMS



How I kept busy as a young person

In my younger days, I spent a lot of time here in Atlin. Both my Grandmothers would have a lot for me to do and I was always busy harvesting. Collecting medicine was my job. Dad Williams always wanted Caribou leaf. Grandma Nyman always wanted honey and Grandma Antonia Jack always wanted me to get whatever I could get especially pitch. We made and sold slippers especially for Christmas presents. I started buying and selling art when I was young 15 or 16. I remember I would even sell wild flowers at the airport when I was 8 years old. We made good money! We also used to make berry cakes and eat rose hips - that was how we got our vitamin C.

What I do today

I still buy and sell art. I still gather and make medicines. Even though I do take vitamins I supplement with natural land-based medicine. Nothing compares to the quality of medicine I collect from the land.

Advice to our youth

Learn about the land , learn about what the elders have to share with you. Learn to live off the land.

Embrace all people and work together. Share knowledge and wisdom freely. Love your land and be good guardians of it.



Health & Social

Manager *Anne Campbell*



Fall is my favourite time of year and we are being treated to some of the best weather experienced all summer! I hope everyone gets a chance to get outside and enjoy our trails and waterways and pick the amazing mushrooms and the berries that seem to be so plentiful this year!

This month we said goodbye to David Thorn our Indigenous Justice Worker. David retired September 18 and we thank him for his many years of service to the Atlin Community. The work that he started will be continued but perhaps in a different form.

A new conversation has begun and we are framing this as a Community Safety initiative. More information and full community consultation and participation will be presented in the near future.

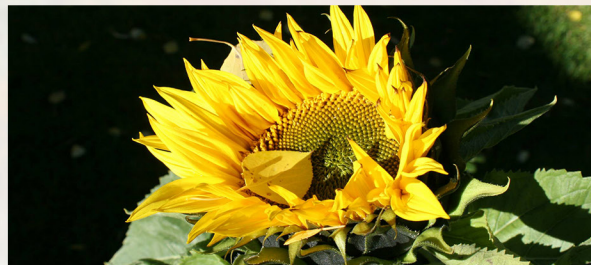
The job competition for a family support worker closed August 31 and we hope to have our new staff here in November.

Rose Creek Cabin is fixed up beautifully and is ready to be used! All you have to do is book through Charmaine Thom. Health and Social will also book time for various programs - Deb and Donna are working on family hunting programs which will be fun and educational so watch for that information soon.

Health and Social partnered with local fishers, Department of Fisheries and TAC to offer the food fish program to TRTFN citizens. One load of fresh fish was distributed to Whitehorse and Elders in Atlin and a second load was delivered last week. If you missed out, please contact Health and Social to make arrangements. Thanks to Charmaine, Nicole, Deb, Wayne, Donna and Rodger for handling all of that. Treatment programs in the province are still not open entirely. Please see Donna to make arrangements and preparations if this is something you would like to do.

Health and Social, O&M, Lands and Resources is working with 3 Nations, FNHA, NHA, Paramedic Program and the local Health Centre to ready a COVID 19 second wave response should that be needed. Noticing the case numbers rising across the country we all must remain vigilant and pay attention to the rules – small gatherings with those in your bubble, social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands regularly, and staying home when sick.

We all must remain vigilant and remember the safe 6.



RiverSong

by Donna Patrick
Health & Social Wellness Coordinator

I struggled in my youth to find my way, the Elders showed me a route. I was on my fast and saw my ancestors standing around me in a horseshoe form. I was in the river, water up to my chest hanging onto a pole topped with deer hoof rattles rattling to the flow of the music coming down the river. It was so incredibly beautiful.

A couple of years later I went into the long house because my spirit was hungry to learn about my gift. The same song came to me again. In the long house it comes out as a cry as a quinn. I am preparing to stand up from the bleachers and begin my round on the long house floor.

Two fires are burning brightly and my people are everywhere. It's powerful medicine slowing ushering me to my purpose, to help people. As I rise up to dance my song transforms, it is an Eagle song now. The Spirit of my ancestors.

My dream is to see the Spirit come back to this community. The way I see this happening is with a Big House. It will help the community, because we heal through our songs and dances. If people can train and go through the initiation, I think things will really turn around and it will just get better for our community. As we move forward I would love to see a 'Big House' as a priority for our Physical Development Plan.

Personal growth and development has always be very important to me. We all experience love and fear in our lives, May you embrace the spirit of love in this new season.

COMO LAKE

Mountain Biking Trail Project

With Devin Wittig



This project started 3 years ago. At that time I worked for TRTFN, we wanted to do something that encouraged our youth to be on the land. Observing the success of the trail building model in Carcross. TRTFN worked with Locals and BC parks and rec sites for more community focus involvement and to bridge the cultural divide we were experiencing.

This year Parks and Rec Sites provided the funding to get this project off the ground.

This trail starts at the Como Lake Rec Site and wraps around the north end of Pilman Hill, then wraps around the ridge to the summit. That's going to be the descending track. From the summit there will be a green trail that climbs up from the base.

This trail will be one of the better trails in the north when it's done offering a hard blue flow trail with black sections.

Trails and work of this nature, teaches you to value the process. You can feel like you are on one section of trail for hours then when you finish at the end of the day you realize you've done 100 m of trail.

It creates the space for honesty and accountability to yourself, it gives you a sense of ownership for what you are doing.



Please contact Wayne Carlick or Debra Michel if you would like to attend the Centre for Culture. Thanks to Deb and all those who helped her make the week of family activities at the point such a great success!

Congratulations to all those who worked on the community greenhouse project, we couldn't be happier with the results. Everything grew beautifully and various community members picked fresh veg and our cooks used the produce to prepare the community lunches. Many thanks go to Elissa Miskey and Kim Morrison our gardeners – they really made it all happen for us! We are looking forward to hearing from community about the results of your personal garden boxes and ideas for next year's gardens.

Three fantastic new installations in Atlin this summer – the skateboard park, the mountain bike trail and the completion of the loop trail at 5 mile point!



Taking responsibility for your life is a job we all have to do. It's difficult at times but the opportunities are here to grab and own. Here at Health & Social we provide so many amazing opportunities for all to take advantage of. Education is free here at TRTFN.

I'll like to encourage our young people to take the opportunities and run with them. With regards to Education, do what you want to do, make sure the job that you want is the job that you look for. If you want to be a doctor go be a doctor but you have to Look Forward to the future, don't just live for today.

Colleen Williams

Congratulations to all those volunteers and workers who continue to make things happen to make this community such a fantastic place to live!

Even though we must be conscious of the threat of COVID 19, we can, by following the guidelines, safely connect with others, play outside and spend quality time with our families (extended or otherwise). As winter sets in it is time to make plans for keeping health and happy this winter. The Centre for Culture will be open, the Rec Centre is organizing a Seniors program and we hope to have the wellness centre open regularly for use by youth, staff, elders, and community members. Watch for posters and other information around town.

Finally, I am very grateful to live in this community, work with such a fine and dedicated staff who continue to offer new and innovative programs and services that assist our community. What an opportunity!!

Thank you all for your support, encouragement, and feedback.

Anne Campbell

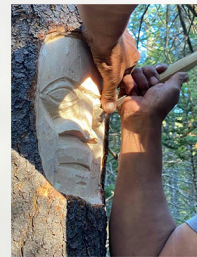


Taaku Culture Centre

by Debra Michel Cultural Outreach Coordinator



A group of us flew in to the Nakina trail with Brian Jack as our guide. It was a special experience. Wayne did two carvings facing in different directions, one looked like a female and the other looked like a male. Joan and I joked that the female one looked like Marilyn Monroe.



Wayne always gets everyone to help in the carving process, no one gets left out. Matt from Discovery Helicopters volunteered to fly us out and we were so grateful and enjoyed a great flight and we were able to show him the trail.



This summer and fall was so wonderful. The family week at the point was a success. Berry picking season with Elders and children was also lovely. Fun watching the little ones pick, each had their own techniques. Some Elders just came along to sit and talk, to be out on the land with us. They shared stories about picking with their families, and the areas they would go. So much sharing. It was such a good way to connect with our people in beautiful places on the land.



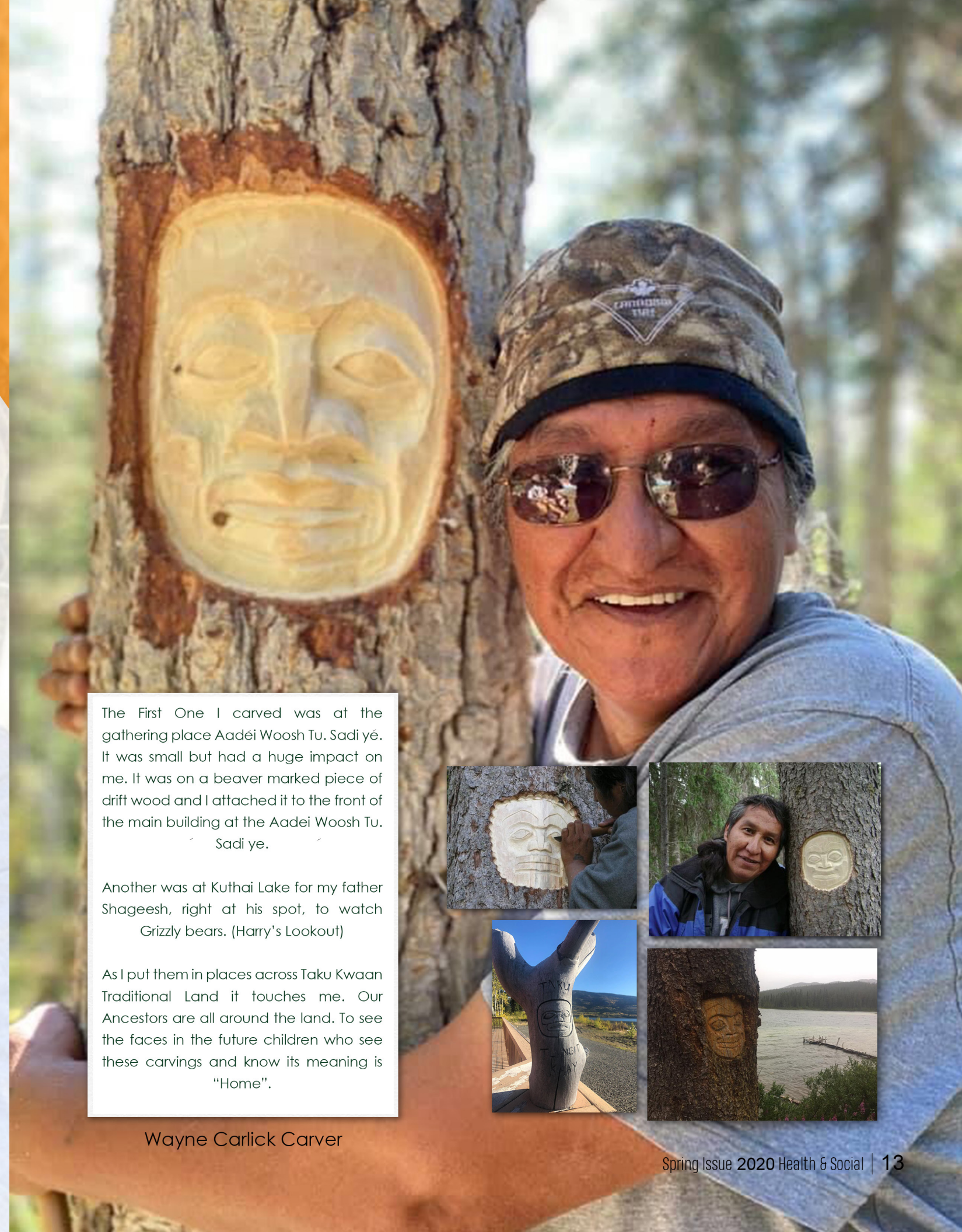
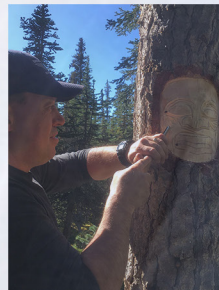
We picked low bush cranberries and moss berries at Surprise Lake, and high-bush cranberries at 5 Mile area. We picked swamp tea everywhere, and sage balls at Jakes Corner.



Our traditional walkabout's are very important to us. Searching for an answer to a question in life, the land has all the answers we need. Your therapy is outside of the door. Ask for the answers that you need and the answer can come from the water and the sounds around you, the way the animals behave in front of you.



We all feel lost at one time or another, if we go back to our traditional way, on the land we can heal. Mother nature is there, the Creator is there, we have all we need, we are home, we are free.



The First One I carved was at the gathering place Aadéi Woosh Tu. Sadi yé. It was small but had a huge impact on me. It was on a beaver marked piece of drift wood and I attached it to the front of the main building at the Aadei Woosh Tu. Sadi ye.

Another was at Kuthai Lake for my father Shageesh, right at his spot, to watch Grizzly bears. (Harry's Lookout)

As I put them in places across Taku Kwaan Traditional Land it touches me. Our Ancestors are all around the land. To see these carvings and know its meaning is "Home".



Wayne Carlick Carver