

## COORDINATOR'S UPDATE



By Sharon Shorty,  
Event Coordinator,  
Ha Kus Teyea Celebration 2009  
July 22-28, 2009

As I write this message, it's 60 days till our event! I'm sitting at The Heritage Centre and the lake is cracking and it's very warm outside. Reality sinks in for all the work ahead....

I was re-assigned to coordinate our Inland Tlingit gathering in July 22-28, 2009. Just over a year ago, TTC General Council gave direction for TTC to host a celebration of our culture and invite the coastal peoples. In the fall we started the Steering committee meetings; we have six community committee volunteers; Isabelle Dewhurst, Elaine Shorty, Duane Gastant' Aucoin, Elders and Clan Leaders: Sam Johnston and Jimmy Johnston and former Chief, Eric Morris.

TTC staff on the steering committee are Bev Morris, Tip Evans, Sharon Shorty, Doug Smarch Jr., Lisa Dewhurst and Janet Smellie.

We thank everyone for their wonderful contributions from our TTC staff and volunteer community committee members and Elders.

It was vital to the General Council that our neighbors be invited to share our Inland Tlingit way- so we are happy to report that we have a representative from Atlin: Wayne Carlick, Taku River First Nation. In April, Carcross-Tagish First Nation appointed Marilyn Jensen as their representative. Donna Geddes is CTFN's alternate committee member.

From here, we had a two day workshop for the Steering Committee to fine tune all areas, to make

this an event that will honour our guests. Elders were invited for lunch and they shared in the afternoon to give feedback, support and guidance.

While at the volunteer appreciation dinner last month, we publicly thanked the volunteer committee members. We recruited 17 volunteers so far! Mostly from the dinner guests.

In total we have 25 volunteers signed up. We are looking for a volunteer coordinator to set up the volunteer guidebook and manage the volunteers.

We are also looking for a Site Manager and a Protocol Researcher for Opening and Closing Ceremonies. This is to ensure that all nations are respected during our welcoming ceremony for Taku River Tlingit and Carcross-Tagish peoples on July 22 and for all coastal nations on July 24.

Most activities will happen at the Heritage Centre and the VOT Rec-Plex and Arena. We will have a Tlingit cultural village at lakeside at the Centre. cultural demonstrations and workshops will highlight our Inland Tlingit culture. For example; moosehide tanning, soap berry picking, skinning animals and campfire stories.

Bev Morris, Arts Coordinator will head up the artist market at the Arena. She will also be coordinating three major workshops: Chilkat/Ravenstail/Weaving, Cedar Bark Weaving and the Carving Program. Contact her for further information bev.morris@ttc-teslin.com or at 390-2532 ext. 384.

We thank Tle'Nax T'awei Lmt. for their \$10,000.00 donation. Village of Teslin has stepped up and given us the Rec-Plex for the week long event. Also we raised \$1,120.00 through 50/50 draws and citizen donations. TTC can issue tax receipts for cash donations.

Watch for upcoming community information session in Teslin and Whitehorse.

If you're interested in volunteering or need any information, please contact me at 456-4806 at the TTC Whitehorse office or email me at sharon.shorty@ttc-teslin.com

Gunalchish.