



MAAQTUSIIS HAHOULTHEE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

MATSQUIAHT UPDATE

July, 2014

The first step to developing the Matsquiaht site for tourism was to remove the old buildings that were on the site formerly used by the treatment centre.

Demolition Project

A demolition project started in April 2014. Ahousaht members were engaged to do the tear down on the buildings. Thanks to Harvey Robinson and his team from Maaqtusiis Contracting.

Clayoquot Wilderness Resort donated the use of their excavator and operator to do the final take down of the buildings after they were stripped, and to organize the material into piles. Over \$9,000 worth of services was provided at no cost.

All salvageable wood siding and beams were saved for future use on Matsquiaht. Metal and other valuable material that can be sold for salvage was also saved. Painted murals from the sides of the treatment centre buildings have been salvaged and mounted on the decks of the high rise and caretaker house, thanks to Lory Campbell.

A delay occurred in completing clean up due to access by barge to Matsquiaht. BC Hydro is doing an upgrade and their cable prevented the barge to land. With assistance from BC Hydro a new barge ramp was prepared.

A big thank you to Alec Dick and Ahousaht for kindly providing the use of the excavator, and to G&L towing for transporting the excavator to and from Matsquiaht at no charge. John Keitlah Jr , as operator, did a great job with the clean up and final adjustments to the barge ramp and rocky breakwater.

Final clean up is underway and soon we will sow grass seed on the disturbed site to prepare for campsite development for next year.

Also, some improvements to the deck of the landing dock have been done using some of the salvaged wood, thanks to the efforts of Lory Campbell our caretaker.

Tourism Strategy

A 5 year business plan has been prepared for Matsquiaht with assistance from Aboriginal Tourism BC. MHSS is meeting with financial institutions to seek refinancing of the property (to lower interest rates) and finance the tourism strategy.

We hope to have 8-10 basic campsites operating at Matsquiaht before the end of this summer.

Campsites will be established on the grassy areas near the open area across from the high rise and caretaker house.

Local Tofino guides and water taxi's are collecting a visitor fee from tourists they bring to the Matsquiaht dock, same as last year.

Community Use

Chah chum hiyup continues to use the site for retreats and campouts.

MHSS has a Community Use Policy for members who wish to use the site for family gatherings. Members can contact the General Manager. The policy will soon be posted on www.mhssahousaht.com