

MHSS UPDATE

December 31, 2013

The first year of operation for **Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society** is completed. It has been a busy year focused primarily on organization structure, strategic planning and building relationships with Ahousaht Chief and Council, Administration and business networks.

The business operations are overseen by the Board of Directors appointed by the Hawiith and trusted to act in the interest of the Society for the benefit of the muschim. The Directors are David Jacobson, Wally Samuel Sr. and Tyson Atleo. In July, the Board hired Cindy Stern as the General Manager to run the day to day operations. You can view their profiles on our **About Us** page on www.mhssahousaht.ca.

Regular Operations for MHSS are managed under the **Ahous Business Corporation**, this includes administration and all business operations with the exception of Matsquiaht and Forestry. Forestry Operations are managed by the **Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Forestry Corporation** and is overseen by the Forestry Board led by David Jacobson. The Forestry Corp is busy with a cedar salvage permit for shake and shingle through much of the Clayoquot Sound. This business opportunity allows Ahousaht to benefit from past forest harvesting by salvaging valuable cedar left behind.

The property purchased by the Hawiith at Matsquiaht on Meares Island is managed by MHSS under the **Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Holdings Inc.** There is a full time caretaker living at Matsquiaht and the facility is used regularly by the Cha-Chum-Hii-Yup for retreats and support treatment. For more information about what is happening see our Matsquiaht page on www.mhssahousaht.ca.

We are also focused on developing tourism opportunities for Matsquiaht and will be putting plans into effect early in 2014. Plans include developing a campground and tour opportunities. We expect to create work opportunities for Ahousaht members as we implement the development plans. All opportunities will be posted on our website.

A clear priority we heard from Ahousaht was the need for a fueling station. We are working on plans to put a fuel station in place by this summer. A survey will be conducted early in 2014 to find out how much fuel is consumed by Ahousaht residents for their boats and trucks at Ahousaht, both regular and diesel. This information will assist us in securing a supplier.

Strategic planning sessions were held during October leading to the completion of a MHSS Strategic Plan that outlines the vision and mission and strategic goals and

priorities. A key part of the strategy is focused on protecting Ahousaht from Own Source Revenue (OSR), a policy of the federal government that can result in losing transfer funding from Aboriginal Affairs Canada based on money earned through economic development. Please see the **MHSS Own Source Revenue Strategic Plan** posted on www.mhssahousaht.com.

We expect a busy 2014. The first Annual General Meeting for MHSS will be held in February (watch for notices) including presentation of the budget and financials for MHSS and the subsidiary companies.

MHSS will be seeking ways to communicate effectively with all Ahousaht muschim, regardless of where they live. We will use a mixture of electronic communications including the mhssahousaht.ca website, Facebook and twitter, written notices posted or delivered at Ahousaht, and announcements on VHF. If you have any suggestions, questions or comments please share them with us.

Contact MHSS General Manager Cindy Stern at cindystern@telus.net or at 250-954-5711.

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR