



## OLD MASSETT VILLAGE COUNCIL

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### ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY REPORT July 2023



#### CURRENT PROJECTS:

##### Community Park

OMVC has been approved for funds from Gwaii Trust, Council and Jordan's Principal (pending) to upgrade our community park at the beginning of the village near the base ball field.

A ground blessing ceremony was held last year, and construction was set to begin, but we received a call from a concerned parent regarding lead paint. After an environmental assessment we have received an ok to proceed with construction.

Construction will begin immediately for a new Outdoor kitchen and picnic area by the old Museum/day school. The kitchen will have two kiosks, two bathrooms and a covered eating area.

We be installing a new playground, some benches to watch baseball/soccer, and we will be clearing an area so that Old Massett can host Haida Days with a market area.

We will be naming the park on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (although it may not be completed by then), so be sure to mark your calendars!

As it will be a full-fledged construction zone, please do not let your kids play in the area unsupervised if possible.



**New Town Park**

Tlagaa Gawtlaas needs a PARK! OMVC has been approved for a new park from Gwail Trust, Northern Savings Credit Union, and hopefully Jordan's Principal. The park will be located near the apartment building and will begin construction asap.

This park will have a covered bbq area (you will need to supply your own due to New Towns frequent bear visits), a new playground, a new sign, and a fence.

As it will be a full-fledged construction zone, please do not let your kids play in the area unsupervised if possible.



## **Micro Shops**

Infrastructure is key when trying to create efficiency for programs. After building the container shop for the Carpentry Apprentice program, we found that the building had so many interesting attributes such as storage space, and a functional dry space for the crew to work!



Since these buildings are cheaper to build, and provide a lot more accessibility to many different programs, OMVC is happy to announce that we have been approved for funding for the following MICRO SHOPS:

1. **Roofing Shop** – yes! we still have a roofing company. It's been on hold for the last couple of years but we are gearing up to get back on track. The business plan is being updated, and training will commence once we secure the funds. If you are interested in learning, send Paul Bell your resume at [housingassist@omvc.ca](mailto:housingassist@omvc.ca) The roofing shop will be located near the Housing building, and will provide a place for our team to work, store the equipment, etc.

The land will be cleared and prepped for building so parking will be a challenge in that area for a bit. Again, please be careful in that area as it is considered a construction zone.

2. **Housing Complex** – This building is an old building, but its been deemed fixable! So we are going to slap on a new roof, renovate the offices, insulate it, and build some storage. It will be a new office space for our apprentice program, and our new maintenance coordinator. So if you see activity going on, that's what's going on 😊
3. **Woodworking Shop Expansion** – The woodworking shop on Loop was built in 2014 to run programming for the community. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, the shop was leased out for the past 6 years, but that lease is up, and it has now come back to the band. We are working at creating a community space to run programs like “women in trades”, bentwood box making, and other value added woodworking activities. Ian McLean will still be organizing and managing the shop, and is working with us on updating the business plan we started when the shop was originally built.

We are working on a schedule to allow individuals to use the shop, but are just writing the policy around its use. It's important that we take care of the shop, and manage it so that it is there for years to come. Once we have completed that, we will post a schedule.

We will be building another building for wood storage, and an undercover open shop much like the Carpentry Apprentice program building pictured above. Please note that there will be construction happening in the next few months. Once again, as this will be a construction zone, please be careful in that area.

4. **Micro Kitchen** – With all the food processing we have been doing, we have outgrown our space at ADP. OMVC has just secured funds from First



People's Cultural Council to build a new micro kitchen that will host a butcher shop, an outdoor undercover fish processing space, and a place to vacuum seal, smoke, can, dehydrate and freeze dry foods. We are all so excited about this new space! This micro kitchen will go somewhere near ADP, and will be used for cultural food programs,

workshops, food fish, etc.

Please note, it will be a construction zone as we build it, and ask that you be careful while in the area.

5. **Hydroponics** – Our energy department has secured funding to start growing our own veggies in an incredibly cool way. The Growcer units will be delivered in the next month and will be located near ADP, as 60% of the veggies will feed into our food programs and food bank. We are incredibly



excited about this project, and we hope that the community will love it just as much as we do.

Please note, it will be a construction zone as we build it, and ask that you be careful while in the area.

### **Recycling/Composting**

OMVC Capital Works has been approved for an exciting composting project!! This project will complement existing recycling programs, and will start with composting. A new composter will be installed in late August near the refuse station.



### **Subdivision Expansion**

OMVC has applied for a subdivision expansion for New Town. With this expansion we will create 100 new serviced lots that will be made available for community projects and individual land holding. This project will begin in the new year, and will take approximately 18 – 24 months to complete.

Currently the band does not have any lots to allocate. So please bare with us as we work diligently on this expansion.

### **Eagle Road ditch project**

Capital works will be fixing some of the ditches along Eagle road starting by the Annex (family centre). There will be some traffic disruption, we apologize for any inconvenience.

### **Real-estate**

As you may have heard, OMVC has purchased the Teachers apartments on Wallace. We are very excited about the project as it has been fully funded by BCHousing to create low – mid income housing. The apartment does need extensive work but after the two inspections it was deemed to be worth fixing. We will begin working on this project in the next few months.

### **4-Plex Men's SRO**

OMVC purchased the 4 plex on Widgeon to serve the growing need for single room occupancy for the men in our community. The 4 plex was leased to Niislaanaay for a period of time, but the lease is now complete. As of July, OMVC has taken over the management of the SRO. We are at full capacity in the units, but if you are couch surfing, in an overcrowded living situation, homeless, etc. please fill out an application with the housing department in case there are any openings available.

## **FUTURE PROJECTS:**

### **Daycare**

Old Massett needs a daycare, and we have been working hard at getting you one! A survey went out that was well received with 84 responses. The feedback from the community was so helpful in our planning, and has provided some great suggestions and statistics for our funding application.

This project has a very short timeline for capital planning, but we are hoping the community will keep their eyes peeled for any surveys, engagements, etc. to help us as we plan. According to the last survey, a language nest and headstart program seemed to be very popular! Which is fantastic since Aboriginal Headstart has just been integrated into the childcare spaces program.

The timeline is not certain, but we are striving for April of 2025. This gives us time to run the ECE program starting this fall.... **THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!!** Contact Gwen Edgars at [education@omvc.ca](mailto:education@omvc.ca)

### **Before and Afterschool Program**

We received a number of calls in regard to the funny markings on the pavement and the clearing behind the hall. OMVC is working on a before and afterschool program and we needed to do some measurements of the land behind the school and hall, as well as from the shoreline.

This project is almost at the stage for proposal submission and has a timeline of 2026. It's a bit far off in becoming a reality but as there will be some activity happening behind the school and community hall we wanted to give you the heads up.

## **OTHER HAPPENINGS:**

### **Community Comprehensive Planning**

OMVC will be undergoing an update on the CCP in the upcoming year. This is a chance for community members to reaffirm the vision for our community until 2025, and to start thinking beyond that. It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the 5-year mark of when our first plan started! This process should start as soon as funding is approved.

### **Election Policy**

OMVC has a custom election code. This means that we are in charge of running our elections, and we are in charge of creating our own process to run these elections.

The current policy does not include some fundamental process needed to run a good election, and it's crucial that we make some very important changes. Election policies should be extremely black and white. OMVC Admin has taken the best practices, and the current code and suggested some changes and additions.

We will be hosting 3 public meetings, dates to be determined, with a

target date to host a referendum on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

We need help with the policy and are looking for someone with a policy background that may be interested in taking on this work. Please contact me at [cao@omvc.ca](mailto:cao@omvc.ca) with your resume and background. We will accept resumes until August 4<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm.

### **Hiellen**

As you may have seen that Hiellen will not open this year due to some major construction and staff changes. We realize this may be disappointing to many of you, but after careful consideration we are not ready to host guests this year. We appreciate your patience as we update our business plan, improve our facilities, and increase the number of cabins available.



PLEASE respect the construction that is happening out there. Please notify the Economic Development Office at [ecdevassist@omvc.ca](mailto:ecdevassist@omvc.ca) if you see any camping or occupation activity out there.

### **Wills and Estates**

Marcel LaFlamme will be back in August or September to help with wills and estates. If you don't have a will package, please pick one up at the front desk at the Band Office. Wills are so important and provide your family with clarity on your wishes. Even if you don't think you have enough to leave in a will, it's an opportunity to ensure that sentimental things are left to the person you choose to have it. Or check out ISC's website for Estate planning:  
<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032357/1581866877231>

### **Haida Language Puppet Show**

Kristi Sinclair will be shooting a xaad kil puppet show pilot for APTN this fall. She will be doing a few engagements in the community and hopefully will attend Haida Days with a booth to introduce you to her characters. Watch out for this great project!

### **Audit**

The OMVC Audit is almost ready for the public. We will post a public presentation with the auditor once its ready. If you can't make it to the presentation no worries! We post it on our website, and it also can be found on ISC's website. Have any questions? Please contact the band office and Carrie and I can help you.

### **Covid Funds**

By now most of you have received your \$275 COVID cheque. This is the last covid cheque that will be made available, and the covid funds are now spent. There will be no more covid initiatives moving forward.

Besides some cash disbursements to the community and elders, the covid funds provided a lot of the community baskets, food fish, and other food initiatives both deer and fish distributions at the Adult Day Program. It supplemented the food bank, food programs like hot lunch program, Elders' market coupons, Niislaanaay, highschool, soup kitchens, and covered some ongoing costs such as the freezers, etc. We were grateful for having these funds to provide supports to those in need.

### **Public Meetings**

OMVC Admin has committed to hosting two OPEN HOUSES each year. The first happened in April of this year, and the second will happen in October. Please watch for notices.

Each department has public meetings throughout the year on various topics. Your input is valuable, please watch for notices.

### **Coffee and Council**

OMVC will host coffee and Council once per month on the last Wednesday of the month. We hope to keep this as an open dialogue to gain feedback from the community on different matters that reach the council's table.

**Council and Coffee will be held at Sarahs' longhouse at 5pm, and on the last Wednesday of each month. (Please note that due to unexpected events the dates may change)**

### **Annual Report**

OMVC is hiring a communications manager. The posting is on our website. Part of this position will be creating an annual report for our membership to keep updated on what we are working on, what we have done, and highlighting staff members so you know where to go should you want to get involved!

### **Staff Changes**

It is with great sadness that we are saying goodbye to our Economic Development Officer Tarah Samuels. She is off to further her education, and will soon be joining the Masters team! Tarah has been so very valuable in her role, and she will be sadly missed by the OMVC team. We have big shoes to fill. The posting for the position is on our website and open until we find a suitable candidate.

### **Website**

OMVC has a website that can be found at [www.oldmassettvillagecouncil.com](http://www.oldmassettvillagecouncil.com)

We post jobs, notices, applications and frequently asked questions for each department. Be sure to check it out, add it to your favorites!