

ADMINISTRATION  
ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT  
April 2025 – March 2026



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Patrica Moore, Band Administrator  
Duffy (Donald) Edgars, Chief Councillor

## Staffing

### **Our continuing staff and positions:**

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Tania Collison       | Reception                  |
| Ruby Bell            | Payroll                    |
| Jalal Ud Din         | Finance                    |
| Cynthia Samuels      | Accounts Receivable        |
| Melody Williams      | Accounts Payable           |
| Chelsey Bell         | Executive Admin Assistant  |
| Jessica Bell         | Recreation Coordinator     |
| Courtney Bell        | Communications Coordinator |
| Ivy Bell             | Economic Dev Manager       |
| Shannon White        | Economic Dev Assistant     |
| Darren Edgars        | Hatchery Manager           |
| Helen Davis          | Culinary Arts Coordinator  |
| Paul Bell            | Lands Manager              |
| Mike Hart            | Chief Matthews Principal   |
| Richard Williams     | Capital Works Manager      |
| Gwen Davis           | Capital                    |
| Works Exec Assistant |                            |
| Derek Washington     | Capital Works Assistant    |
| Avery Collison       | Wastewater Treatment Plant |
| Andrew Abrahams      | Garbage & Compost Crew     |
| Andy Smith           | Garbage & Compost Crew     |
| Gwen Edgars          | Education Manager          |
| David Hill           | Education Assistant        |

|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Brady Edwards          | Elders Center Cook           |
| Laura Squires          | Activity / Home Maker        |
| Kevin Brown            | Energy Coordinator           |
| Terri Williams         | Energy Assistant             |
| VACANT                 | Housing Maintenance          |
| Jaasalijuus Yakgujnaas | Xaad kil Team Lead           |
| Jean Williams          | Xaad Kil assistant           |
| Grace Jones            | Xaad Kil Program Coordinator |
| Helen Davis            | Head Chef                    |
| Michelle Jones         | Kitchen Helper               |
| Elliot Jones Jr        | Sioux Chef                   |
| Laverne Bell           | Social Assistance Clerk      |
| Christopher Horner     | ADP Coordinator              |

### **Welcome to our new staff:**

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Buster Bell         | Natural Resource Manager |
| Adrienne Holeman    | Community Development    |
| Manager             |                          |
| Andre Hypolite      | Emergency Services       |
| Executive Assistant |                          |
| Owen Jones          | GIS Manager              |
| Charmaine Adams     | GIS Assistant            |
| Dustin Edgars       | New Canoe Captain        |
| Blaine Bell         | New Canoe Deckhand, and  |
| Captain in training |                          |
| Lorne Bell          | Recycling Champion       |
| Darin Swanson       | Housing Manager          |



Shoreline Cleanup Crew

TideWalkers Crew



## SPONSORSHIPS

OMVC is proud to sponsor many events and initiatives throughout the year that bring our community together. This includes youth events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Pumpkin Patch, Haida Nights, fireworks, and the annual Christmas Tree Party. We also do our best to support high school sports teams, graduates, and other school-based initiatives brought forward by the school district.

Each year, OMVC contributes to a variety of sporting events, including the Christmas Classics, Family Ball Tournaments, All-Native and Jr. All-Native teams, as well as the wrestling team.

We also help community traditions by providing funding for the annual Community Christmas Dinner, St. John's Community Christmas Dinner, and our Christmas Hamper program, making sure families have a turkey and ham with all the fixings to share with loved ones.

OMVC cares for all our community members and understands that emergencies happen. To help during difficult times, we offer a one-time \$250 emergency contribution for members facing crisis situations, such as medical travel not covered by FNHA, weather-related accommodations, and similar urgent needs.

We also provide a bereavement contribution to support families after the loss of a loved one. This includes a \$500 contribution toward funeral expenses, along with additional assistance through our IA program when eligible.

Throughout the year, OMVC also sponsors workshops and community events, often offering free gym use or accommodations for guest speakers.

It has been a pleasure to support the many opportunities and initiatives brought forward by our community. To apply for sponsorship for events, workshops, or activities, please send a letter with a brief description of the event and a budget breakdown to Chelsey Bell at [adminassist@omvc.ca](mailto:adminassist@omvc.ca)

## Audit

The OMVC Audit for 2025/2026 is now posted on our website, and it also can be found on ISC's website. Have any questions? Please contact the band office and our new Finance Manager Jalal Ud Din and I can help you.

Our Finance team welcomes Jalal or "Jay" to the OMVC family. Jalal has been working hard at transitioning us to a paperless office, upgrading and improving our computer systems, and keeping our staff informed.

## Public Meetings

OMVC Administration has committed to hosting at least one Open House each year. However, because we have so much to share with the community, we hosted two this year—one in April and one in October. The last two Open Houses welcomed over 200 community members in attendance!

Haw'aa to everyone who took the time to join us, show interest in community programs, and support our staff. We invite you to join us again this coming April for our next Open House. Come ask questions, share your thoughts through our questionnaires, enjoy some food, and take part in meaningful conversation. Please watch for upcoming notices with dates and details.



## PROJECTS & DEPARTMENTS

- **Administration & Governance**
  - o Capital Needs Assessment
  - o CCP – Comprehensive Community Plan
  - o Demographic Study
  - o Election Policy
  - o Labour Market Study
  - o Giving voice
  - o Restorative Justice
  - o Rising Tides
- **Capital Works**
  - o Capital Works Compound & Lighting Industrial area
  - o Community Park
  - o Composting
  - o Memorial Wall
  - o Subdivision Expansion
- **Education and Xaad Kil**
  - o Before and after school program
  - o Daycare
  - o Early Childhood Education (ECE)
  - o Carpentry Program
  - o CMS Seismic Upgrades
  - o Summer Students
  - o Post Secondary
- **Economic Development & Natural Resources Management**
  - o Coffee Shop and Ice Cream shop
  - o Community Based Fishery
  - o Haida Forest Products
  - o Hiellen
  - o Masset Grocery
  - o Micro Kitchen
  - o OMNAT
  - o OMVC Gas Bar
  - o Short Term rentals
  - o Woodworking Shop Expansion
- **Emergency Services**
  - o Auxiliary Coastguard
  - o OMVC Drone program
  - o Emergency Service Program
  - o Fire Department
  - o Geographic Information System (GIS)
  - o New Canoe
  - o 2 billion trees
- **Energy**
  - o Hydroponics
  - o District Heating Project
  - o Energy Retrofits and Diesel Reduction
  - o Tll Yahda Energy (TYE)
- **Finance**
  - o Management of and oversight of all budgets and audit functions
- **Housing**
  - o Housing Complex
  - o Roofing Shop
  - o Swan Crescent
  - o Wallace (Teachers Apartments)
  - o Women's Second Stage Transition housing
  - o 4-Plex – Widgeon Men's Shelter – Wellness Community
  - o Harrison Street Subdivision
- **Lands**
  - o Important reminders for landowners

- Wills and Estates

- **Social Development**

- Adult Day Program
- OMVC Food Bank
- Income Assistance
- Skills Development
- TideWalkers Connecting community and Land



## **ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE:**

**Capital Needs Assessment-** In partnership with Haida Children and Families, OMVC has begun a **Capital Needs Assessment for Children and Families to better understand what our community needs now and into the future.** This work looks at the condition and expected lifespan of our current buildings, the programs we hope to offer based on feedback from Community Comprehensive Planning (CCP) and Community Engagement surveys, and the types of spaces needed to support those programs.

The information gathered through this assessment will help us plan ahead and apply for additional capital funding through government programs, ensuring we can continue to support and strengthen services for children and families in our community.

**CCP – The Community Comprehensive Plan (CCP) is still underway, and we expect to share a new draft in June 2026. In the meantime, we continue to follow the current CCP to guide our work.**

Please keep an eye out for community engagement opportunities between now and then—we look forward to hearing your ideas, feedback, and priorities as we move forward together!

**Demographic Study-** OMVC has launched a **Demographic Study to better understand our membership, both on and off island. This study is similar to a census, but it is being conducted by OMVC to help us plan for current and future community needs.**

For example, we know that a large portion of our population is in their 60s and approaching retirement. In the years ahead, this may increase the need for senior programs, Elders’ housing, and medical services. We are also looking at birth rates to help us understand whether there may be a need for a larger school, additional grades, or more youth programs and spaces. Please watch for upcoming surveys and take part when you can—your input truly matters. The information gathered will help OMVC plan ahead and access additional government programs and funding to better support our community now and in the future.

**Election Policy-** OMVC has a custom Election Code, which means we manage our own elections and set the rules that guide them.

In the new year, OMVC will hold one last workshop about the Election Code. The goal is to finish a new policy by summer 2026. This will help us get ready for the election in December 2026

More details about the workshop will be shared soon. Everyone is welcome to join. Share ideas and have voices heard!

**Labour Market Study- OMVC has launched a Labour Market Study to better understand the gaps in our local workforce. This study looks at the supply and demand for labour to help us learn more about employment and unemployment rates, wages, and job vacancies in our community.**

The information gathered will support our Education Department, career planning, policy development, and long-term workforce planning. It will also help us apply for funding to create more local training and education opportunities for our members.

**Giving Voice- *Giving Voice*** was a project created to provide a safe space to talk about women and violence, including the barriers women face when trying to leave unsafe situations and the gaps in services within the community. A summary of what was shared through this project was included in the Capital Needs Assessment and helped support applications for transitional operating funding.

**Restorative Justice – The Restorative Justice project has now concluded. Haw’aa to everyone who took part in the engagement sessions and shared their voices during the Restorative Justice planning process. We have reported back to the funder what was heard from the community.**

We are working on the next steps. This plan will help us look for funding to support community safety and bring community’s ideas to life. A copy of the plan will be shared on our website in the new year.

**Rising Tides- In 2024, OMVC received \$10 million from the Council of the Haida Nation through the Rising Tides Agreement. These funds are to support cultural and infrastructure projects in our community.**

The initial funds have been invested while the Community Comprehensive Plan (CCP) is being completed, so that infrastructure priorities can be guided by community input. This year, the interest earned from those funds was allocated toward the construction of a new doctor’s office for Niislaa Naay, creating space for their incoming physician. The building is expected to be completed by the spring.

### **CAPITAL WORKS:**

Capital works is responsible for Water, Sewer, Roads, and community buildings.

TEAM:

Richard Williams, Program Manager  
Gwen Davis, Executive Assistant  
Avery Collison, O&M Support  
Derek Washington, O&M Support  
Lorne Bell, Waste Recycle Champion

**Capital Works Compound & Light Industrial area – OMVC Cap is working on creating several lots for light industrial projects, and clearing has already begun. Each lot will have water service, but there will not be sewage service at this time.**

Capital Works is also expanding onto Parcel C, which will allow us to centrally store all our machinery and equipment, making operations more efficient.

**Community Park-** The Community Park in Old Massett is nearing completion, and we are entering the final stages of the project. Some unforeseen costs and additions have delayed the installation of the hood fans and fire suppression system in the kitchen facility.

**Our Carpentry Apprentice** group has taken the lead on this project and worked incredibly hard to complete the kitchen construction while balancing other projects and coursework. Other park features are also moving forward. New benches for spectators to enjoy baseball are scheduled for installation in the spring. The playground upgrades, originally planned for early August, were delayed due to the installer’s schedule. The installer is expected to return in the New Year to complete the new equipment and additions to the existing play area.

We appreciate the community’s patience and look forward to opening a safe, functional, and welcoming park space for everyone to enjoy.

**Composting** - The Capital Works Department has been running the organics composting program for a whole year—and it's been a success! So far, 48% of our community is participating.

Let's keep the momentum going! Talk to your friends and family about composting so we can reach our goal of 100% participation by next December. Way to go, Old Massett!



Compost – BEFORE



Compost – AFTER

**Memorial Wall** – The memorial wall is moving along nicely! The stairs and some pavers have already been put in place, and the contractor is currently working on the monument pieces that will be installed this summer. This is such an exciting project for our community.

If you haven't had a chance to meet with Scott Walter to discuss the project, feel free to reach out to him through the Capital Works Department.

The monument will honor old village sites, missing and murdered women, lives lost at sea, and include many elements of Xaad Kil.



**New Town Park** - The New Town Park is now open, and we are thrilled to see the community enjoying the new space! In the future, we plan to add a gazebo so families can picnic while watching their children play. A new fence will also be installed in the New Year to improve safety and clearly define the park area.

Construction notices will be shared once work on the gazebo begins. In the meantime, we kindly remind parents and caregivers to keep a close eye on their children while they play.

Haw'aa for your continued support as we make this community space even better!

Subdivision Expansion - OMVC has been approved for 60 new lots under Phase 3 and is now working on approval for 40 more lots in New Town. This expansion is timely and will help many of our members achieve their dreams of home ownership.

Developing these lots involves more than just clearing land. It also includes engineering work, infrastructure planning, and careful attention to drainage, water, sewer, landslide risk, and hydro services. The project is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2026.

As part of this process, we are also planning a commercial area in New Town, which will host some of our major commercial infrastructure projects.

## **EDUCATION & XAAD KIL**

The Education Department oversees Chief Matthews, Post Secondary, Local Skills and Training and Xaad Kil.

Team:

Gwen Brown, Education Manager

David Hill, Education Assistant

Jaadgaljuus Yaghujaanas, Xaad Kil team lead

Jean Williams, Xaad Kil Office Manager

Grace Jones, Xaad Kil Programs

Before and Afterschool Program - OMVC has been working with Chief Matthews for the past few years on a before- and after-school program. We are excited to share that we have officially received half of our funding from New Spaces and are now working with ISC for the remaining half.

This unique project has three important purposes:

1. Provide a before- and after-school program for kids
2. Serve as an emergency shelter in case of evacuations
3. Create a new school gym

We are thrilled about what this project will do for our children and families! Proposals have been submitted for the second half of funding, so here's to manifesting success! 🎉

Daycare - Exciting news—Old Massett has been approved for a new daycare in New Town! We are thrilled with the Ministry's announcement and so happy to have secured this funding.

This Important new facility will have the capacity to serve up to 50 children and offer a variety of programs, including Head Start, Language Nest, and drop-off care. It's an essential service for our community, and we expect the daycare will be ready by July 2027 just in time for September enrollment.

## **Early Childhood Education (ECE)— OMVC is excited to share an upcoming Early Childhood Education (ECE) training program to help prepare community members for employment at the new daycare.**

The program will be offered in Old Massett and delivered through a blended model, combining online learning with in-person classes. This flexible approach is designed to support participants who may be working or managing family responsibilities.

Thanks to special funding, this program will be fully funded, including:

- Student sponsorship for classroom learning
- Paid wages during eligible practicum (hands-on training) hours

If you are interested in working with children and becoming part of the daycare team, this is a great opportunity to gain training while earning income. To sign up or learn more, please contact Gwen Brown at [education@omvc.ca](mailto:education@omvc.ca).

We look forward to supporting community members in building skills, careers, and a strong future for our children

**Carpentry Program – OMVC Education has proudly hosted a Carpentry training program over the past four years, and we're excited to share that our participants are now one step away from earning their Red Seal in Carpentry! This is a huge accomplishment, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication.**

Looking ahead, OMVC Education is planning to launch a Level One Carpentry course in Spring 2026. This timing aligns well with the many infrastructure projects planned for the coming year, creating strong opportunities for training and employment right here in the community.

If you're interested in building skills, working in the trades, and joining the Carpentry team, we encourage you to reach out. To sign up or learn more, please contact Gwen Brown at [education@omvc.ca](mailto:education@omvc.ca).

This is a great opportunity to start a career in carpentry and be part of building our community's future.

**CMS Seismic Upgrades – Due to recent changes in building codes, Chief Matthews School will be undergoing a seismic upgrade over the next year to ensure the safety of students and staff.**

Over the past year, assessments have been completed and detailed plans have been developed. With this preparation now in place, construction is scheduled to begin in the fall and continue into the spring.

While this work may cause some disruption during the school year, every effort will be made to keep impacts to learning and daily routines to a minimum. Parents and guardians will be kept informed in advance of any changes related to construction or school operations.

This project is an essential safety upgrade and an important step in ensuring a safe learning environment for our children.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we complete this important work.

**Summer Students - his year, OMVC was pleased to welcome 10 summer students across the Xaad Kil Department and other OMVC departments. These youth brought energy, creativity, and hard work to everything they did.**

Some students had the opportunity to work with our Youth Summer Program, helping plan and support Haida Nights, while others gained hands-on experience working at our ICE CREAM shop. We truly enjoyed hosting all of the teens — they were a wonderful group, and we're grateful for the time and effort they shared with us.

In the Xaad Kil Department, summer students took part in a meaningful and hands-on project focused on learning food preservation in preparation for the Xaad Kil potlatch. The students worked hard, built new skills, and gained valuable cultural knowledge throughout the process.

What an incredible experience for everyone involved! We look forward to the rescheduled Xaad Kil 'do', where we'll finally get to enjoy the delicious, canned goods they worked so hard to prepare this summer.

Haw'aa to all our summer students for your dedication and enthusiasm — you made this summer special. Haw'aa to Xaad Kil and Jessica Bell for taking care of our youth this summer and working hard to create a meaningful work experience for our youth.

**Post Secondary – Each year, OMVC Education sponsors between 80 and 90 students attending registered public post-secondary institutions. This past year, we were proud to support 84 students pursuing their education throughout the province.**

While funding constraints continue to present challenges, OMVC remains committed to finding solutions to ensure our students receive the support they need. We are grateful for the support of our partners — Tricrop, which has assisted with tuition and books, and Gwaii Trust, which has provided scholarships to students who return home to work during the summer months.

Despite these supports, funding often falls short. For this reason, we strongly encourage all students to apply for bursaries and scholarships whenever possible. If you are interested in learning how to write bursary applications, OMVC Education is planning to offer a bursary-writing workshop.

Please contact David Hill at [David.hill@omvc.ca](mailto:David.hill@omvc.ca) to add your name to the list, and we will schedule a workshop in the near future.

OMVC is proud to support our learners and remains committed to helping our students succeed in their educational journeys.

### **XAAD KIL NAAY**

**Xaad Kil Naay has developed a 10-year plan for Xaad Kil, outlining 21 strategies to strengthen and revitalize our language within the community. Through community engagement sessions and guidance from the Xaad Kil Advisory, this plan is now being put into action.**

**As part of this work, the Xaad Kil team has:**

- **Opened a new Language Lab at the local library.**
- **Planned a Celebration of Language Learners**
- **Developed new curriculum to support Xaad Kil language programming.**

**This important planning work was also a key part of securing funding through the Four Pillars, and it now serves as the foundation for creating and expanding Xaad Kil programs in our community.**

Xaad Kil programming will focus on:

- Strengthening the use of Xaad Kil in daily life
- Increasing the number of Xaad Kil speakers
- Building sustainable, long-term language programs

Culture saves lives! Here's how we can continue to support Xaad Kil and the incredible work that's being done by:

- Attending workshops
- Joining language classes
- Creating safe, welcoming spaces to practice and learn our language.

Together, we can help ensure Xaad Kil continues to thrive for future generations.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Economic Development has been busy this year! Our team has been hard at work writing business plans, acquiring businesses, and supporting expansion efforts as we gradually get new ventures off the ground.

This year also marked the introduction of an additional sub-department within Economic Development to support the Natural Resource Management projects currently underway. This new capacity strengthens our ability to plan, manage, and move these important projects forward in a thoughtful and sustainable way.

Staff: Ivy Bell, Economic Development Manager  
Shannon White, Ec.Dev. Executive Assistant  
Buster Bell, Natural Resource Manager  
Darin Edgars, Salmon Enhancement Manager  
Jason Hallett, Coffee/Ice Cream shop Manager



Sweet Tide Coffee & Ice Cream Café – 1650 Delkatla Road

**Coffee shop & Ice Cream shop– Sweet Tides Café and Ice Cream Shop is officially open for business, and we're excited to welcome the community in!**

**We're slowly redesigning the space to include retail swag items supporting Xaad Kil, Salmon Enhancement, and Rediscovery, making Sweet Tides a place that celebrates both great treats and meaningful community initiatives.**

**The coffee is delicious; the ice cream is yet to come — and even better when shared! ☕🍦**  
**We invite everyone to stop by, spread the word, and bring friends and family to support the shop.**

All revenues from Economic Development projects are reinvested back into the business and our community through future economic development initiatives.

Thank you for supporting local and helping our community grow, one scoop and cup at a time.

**Community Based Fishery- The Community-Based Fishery (CBF) began in 2024 with a few pilot fisheries and expanded in 2025 to include a halibut program. To support the program, OMVC welcomed Buster Bell as our Natural Resource Manager, working closely with fishers to ensure challenges are addressed and successes are shared with the community.**

**A milestone for the CBF this year has been the acquisition of licences that, for the first time, can be split among smaller fishing vessels. This allows many local fishers to supplement their incomes by fishing quotas, creating new opportunities for families and the community.**

Through the Community-Based Fisheries (CBF) initiative, Old Massett Village Council has purchased a 30-foot aluminum vessel to support prawn, halibut, and crab fisheries. The vessel, *Rolling Thunder*, is configured as a day-fishing boat and is owned by OMVC.-It will arrive on Haida Gwaii sometime in the Spring.

Through the Community-Based Fisheries (CBF) initiative, Old Massett Village Council has acquired additional commercial fishing quota, including prawn and crab licenses. Details on how associated allocation and access will be designated and then will be shared with the OMVC community later once a framework has been finalized.

**While the program is still evolving, it provides important benefits, including:**

- Improved access to local seafood
- Support for the Nations' Haida Wild business

OMVC is committed to making the program work for all involved, and we are excited to be part of this growing initiative. Questions or want to learn more? Contact Buster Bell at [Buster.Bell@omvc.ca](mailto:Buster.Bell@omvc.ca).

Let's continue to support our fishers and celebrate local seafood in our community!

**Haida Forest Products- Haida Forest Products is a joint venture between OMVC and Abfam, formed in 2015. While activity has been limited in the past, 2025 has brought some exciting developments!**

This year, we harvested 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> from Taan Forest as part of our Haida tenure. This milestone allows us to move forward with our value-added program. While plans are still in development and not ready to be publicly announced, we can share that we have repaired our gasifier and are making improvements to our dry kiln.

In the spring, we will be adding major infrastructure that will enable the company to offer exciting new products, benefiting both local and international markets. We also plan to increase our whitewood offerings locally, so more lumber logged and milled on Haida Gwaii can stay in the community.

We have several proposals submitted for funding to support these projects in areas like product development, marketing, and infrastructure. OMVC is thrilled about these opportunities, as they will not only allow us to produce value-added products but also **create employment for our membership.**

**Pumper Truck** - The OMVC Pumper truck is ready for hire! For septic tank and outhouse emptying, on the North end of Haida Gwaii.

Transparent pricing. No hidden fees. Within the Greater Masset area.  
Call 250-626-9489 for details.

**Hiellen - We're thrilled to announce that Hiellen is expanding! Seven new cabins will be ready for next year, and construction is almost complete — they are looking fantastic.**

After a soft opening last year (following the COVID closure), Hiellen has welcomed many visitors. While we aren't able to offer member pricing at this time, we do have last-minute camping rates available. Keep an eye on our weekly summer posts for updates and availability!

To book a cabin, please contact Shannon White at [ecdevassist@omvc.ca](mailto:ecdevassist@omvc.ca)  
We can't wait to welcome you to Hiellen for a memorable stay!



**Old Massett Grocery- OMVC is excited to announce the purchase of Massett Grocery! Plans are underway to transform the store into a market-style space that will work alongside our Community-Based Fishery and local foods program.**

Our goal is to create a unique space that benefits the community while avoiding overlap of existing products and services. The new market will provide greater access to local seafood, produce, and other goods, helping to support local food systems and our economy.

The Grand Opening date has not yet been set, but we will share updates with the community as soon as plans are finalized. This is an exciting venture, and we look forward to creating a space that adds significant value to Greater Massett.

Stay tuned for more updates — we can't wait to share this new chapter with everyone!

**Micro Kitchen – The Micro Kitchen is almost ready to start full operations!**

**We are currently waiting for Capital Works to install water lines, and once that is complete, the space will be fully activated.**

At the moment, the kitchen is being used for window storage, but once that project wraps up, it will become a hub for food workshops, venison processing, fish processing, and preparation of foods grown in our hydroponics buildings.

To ensure the space is well cared for, we will also be running the TideWalkers program out of the Micro Kitchen.

We are very excited about this project and know it will be a valuable space for hands-on learning and community food initiatives

**OMVC Gas Bar- (Sheri's gas bar) - Earlier this year, OMVC purchased Sheri's Gas Bar, and we've been busy preparing it to start selling gas. Progress is moving along with minor repairs, water work, computer upgrades, and, of course, lots of paperwork! We're aiming to open in the new year.**

We're very excited about this new venture and hope the community is too! The Gas Bar will not only provide tax savings at the pump, but also add another food option in town, making it a convenient spot for everyone.

Stay tuned for the official opening — we can't wait to welcome you!

**OMNAT – OMNAT is a partnership between Old Massett Village Council (OMVC) and North Arm Transportation (NAT). Since forming a few years ago, OMNAT has been exploring opportunities to bid on fuel supply projects within the region.**

Through these efforts, OMNAT has secured several contracts, generating revenue for the community. Looking ahead, the team is also researching green fuels and other strategies to reduce environmental impacts from fossil fuels.

OMNAT continues to focus on projects that benefit the community while supporting sustainable practices for the future.

**Short term rentals- Haida Gwaii has been recognized as one of the best places to visit by National Geographic (2025) and the New York Times (2020)! While this recognition brings more visitors, it also reduces the number of available rentals in the community.**

To help address this, OMVC has purchased several properties to provide emergency rentals, professional rentals, and accommodations for crews working on infrastructure projects. Our current inventory includes:

- One-bedroom rental
- Two-bedroom rental
- Three-bedroom rental
- Four-bedroom rental



Bookings for these properties are coordinated by Shannon White. To reserve a space, please contact her at [ecdevassist@omvc.ca](mailto:ecdevassist@omvc.ca).

These rentals help ensure that visitors and workers have a place to stay while supporting the community's growth and development.

**Woodworking Shop Expansion – The Woodworking Shop is undergoing some exciting developments! We are partnering with Coastal First Nations on marketing strategies, product development, and planning another expansion of the shop.** Once complete, the shop will serve both community programs and OMVC initiatives, providing a space for skill-building and creative projects.

With new funding proposals, we're planning to add:

- A paint room
- A classroom
- And an expanded outdoor workspace, which is currently under construction

These enhancements will create more opportunities for learning, creativity, and collaboration for our community.

We're excited for the future of the Woodworking Shop and look forward to sharing updates as the expansion progresses!



## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The Emergency Services oversees the Emergency Planning and Projects for OMVC. It's been an exciting, productive year with some new staff and projects!

Staff: Teri Kish, Emergency Services Manager  
Andre Hypolite, Executive Assistant  
Dustin Edgars, New Canoe Captain  
Blaine Bell, New Canoe deckhand  
Owen Jones, GIS Manager  
Charmaine Adams, GIS Assistant

**Emergency Service planning – Emergency Services has been working on an egress road project for several years. While building or using an existing road may seem simple, careful planning is required to find the best solution for the community. Factors such as bird habitats, soil stability, drainage, archaeological and environmental impacts, traffic flow, and future developments all play a role.**

**We are pleased to share that the feasibility study is complete, and we are now searching for funding to cover the project costs. This road is essential for ensuring safe emergency evacuation routes in the community.**

**In addition, Emergency Services is creating a temporary storage unit in New Town for emergency supplies. This unit will store items needed in case of an evacuation, including:**

- Food supplies
- Hunting equipment
- Beds and bedding
- Generators

Preparing for emergencies is a shared responsibility. Families are encouraged to assemble their own emergency evacuation kits. Even purchasing a few items each month can make a big difference. A suggested list of supplies is available online or by contacting the Emergency Services team.

Together, we can ensure the safety and resilience of our community in any emergency.

OMVC welcomes Andre Hypolite as our new Emergency Services Executive Assistant!



**Fire Dept – The OMVC Fire Department is an independent volunteer team, and OMVC supports them with administration and proposal writing. This year brings exciting news: the department will be receiving a new firetruck! This is a big milestone for the team and a win for the entire community.**

We would also like to extend a HUGE HAW'AA to Peter White, who has dedicated 50 years to the fire department! His service, along with the commitment of the entire volunteer fire team, helps keep our community safe and resilient. From responding to emergencies like house fires to supporting community events, their dedication does not go unnoticed. We are deeply grateful for all they do to protect and serve our community.

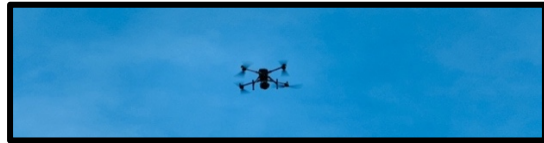
Thank you to Peter White and the OMVC Fire Department for your incredible service!

**Auxiliary Coastguard- OMVC is proud to announce that we have been selected as a member of the Indigenous Volunteer Coast Guard! As part of this initiative, we are building a search and rescue boat to support water safety, emergency response, and community training.**

Living on an island and spending time on the water is a gift — and being able to help when help is needed brings peace of mind to everyone in the community. This project also provides an exciting opportunity to train our youth and pass down generations of traditional knowledge about navigation, ocean safety, and seamanship.

We are thrilled about the potential impact of this project and look forward to strengthening community safety on the waters surrounding Haida Gwaii.

**OMVC Drone Program- This year, OMVC purchased a drone and our team is currently undergoing training in LiDAR detection. LiDAR technology allows us to create digital elevation models and map roads, bridges, and other infrastructure features, even through dense forest canopy.**



LiDAR also helps monitor vegetation density, species, and health, which can identify areas that may pose risks to utilities or infrastructure.

Previously, we had to hire off-island companies for this work, which could be costly for projects. With our new LiDAR team, OMVC can now handle this work internally, saving time and resources.

We plan to use this technology for future community projects, including the Haida Trail, subdivisions, the recreation centre, and the school addition, helping to ensure our developments are safe, sustainable, and well-planned.

This investment in technology is an exciting step forward in supporting the growth and safety of our community.

**Geographic Information System (GIS) – GIS (Geographic Information Systems) is a technology that captures, stores, analyzes, and displays geographically referenced data. In simple terms, it links what things are to where they are on a map, helping to reveal patterns and relationships that improve decision-making in areas like urban planning, environmental management, and community development.**

**OMVC is currently using GIS for public works and housing projects, allowing us to map community infrastructure such as sewage lines, buried cables, and water systems. The program will also track the history of each lot, including homes, renovations, and owners, all stored in a centralized data space.**

**This technology will support better planning, data management, and decision-making across many OMVC departments. It's an exciting step forward for the community, helping us build a safer, more organized, and well-documented village. OMVC extends a big welcome to the GIS team!**

**Welcome to Owen Jones, GIS Manager and Charmaine Adams, GIS Assistant to the OMVC Team!**

**New Canoe & 2 Billion Trees – OMVC has purchased a new landing craft to support the Emergency Department and prevention programming. This vessel will help the community:**

- Access the land for cultural and traditional activities
- Reduce costs for transporting children to Rediscovery programs
- Support research across our 27 reserves
- Assist with the 2 Billion Tree Project

The 2 Billion Tree Project is a large-scale initiative using drones, LiDAR, and GIS mapping to track coastal erosion, assess existing conditions, and guide tree planting and carbon sequestration efforts. The project aims to:

- Provide more accessible opportunities for the community to visit and connect with traditional sites
- Reduce the vulnerability of cultural heritage sites, critical infrastructure, and buildings to climate hazards like storm surges, coastal flooding, shoreline erosion, and extreme winds

This initiative will help bring community members back to their traditional village sites while protecting our heritage and environment. We are excited to offer more opportunities for connection, learning, and stewardship along our coast.

Welcome to Dustin Edgars, Captain and Blaine Bell, Deckhand to the OMVC team!

## **ENERGY**

Staff: Kevin Brown, Energy Manager  
Terry Williams, Energy Assistant

**Hydroponics - The OMVC Hydroponics Shop is ready to get growing! Hydroponics is a soil-free method of growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution, allowing us to produce fresh food year-round. Current crops include:**

- Herbs and leafy greens!
- Cherry tomatoes, chili peppers, bell peppers!
- Fruits!

We've also submitted proposals to expand the program with a food cellar, additional growing unit, and a commercial greenhouse. These upgrades will help us grow more food for selling and for community programs, so more people can enjoy fresh, healthy produce.

We posted positions for the hydroponics team, received applicants for both lead and assistant roles, and sent two team members for training last month. We expect the hydroponics shop to be fully operational by spring, and can't wait to share the harvest with everyone!

**District heating project – Construction has officially started on OMVC's new district heating system! District heating uses a central heat source to distribute hot water through insulated pipes to multiple buildings. This will be OMVC's second system, joining the existing one that heats Chief Matthews, the Hall, and the Haida Child & Families building. The system uses hog fuel and pellets from Haida Forest Products, supporting local resources and sustainable energy.**

After 30 years of applications, Parcel C has been added to the Old Massett Reserve #1 (Parcel C is between 100 Raven Ave. and the hospital). Crews are now clearing the land in preparation for building the system, which will provide heat to the hospital and potentially the new Ambulance Station.

This project is an important step toward **sustainable energy** and stronger community services. We look forward to sharing more updates as the work continues!

**Energy Retrofits and Diesel Reduction– The Energy Department has been working hard to help homes and buildings use less energy and reduce diesel use in our community.**

**So far:**

- Many homes received **new windows and doors** to help keep heat inside.
- Several community buildings—including the Hall, Annex, and Chief Matthews—received upgrades to reduce energy loss.
- Chief Matthews had major improvements with fixed heat loss and new solar panels, which are expected to lower energy costs for the school.

Right now, we do not know if the program will continue after the current homes are finished. If you are worried about your **windows or doors**, you can contact **Kevin Brown** at [energy@omvc.ca](mailto:energy@omvc.ca) to be added to the next list.

**TII Yahda Energy (TYE) – TYE, a partnership between Skidegate Band Council, the Council of the Haida Nation, and Old Massett Village Council, is taking big steps toward cleaner energy.**

- This year, TYE installed a 2MW solar field at the Village of Massett Airport to support the northern grid, with plans to add another 2MW.
- Additionally, TYE has secured a 2MW solar field for the south end, scheduled for installation this year.

These projects will not fully replace diesel power, but they are an important step toward a more sustainable energy future for our communities!

## **HOUSING:**

The Housing Department manages new builds, renovations, band-owned homes, off-reserve housing, and the roofing department.

This year, we said farewell to Alfred Adams, our cherished Housing Manager, and welcomed Darin Swanson as the new Housing Manager. We look forward to his leadership as the department continues to support housing needs in our community.

Team:

Darin Swanson, Housing Manager  
Adrienne Bertrand, Housing Executive Assistant (maternity leave)  
Doreen Parnell, Housing Executive Assistant  
David Delill, Housing Maintenance Manager  
Jessie Mulvaney, Roofing Coordinator

**Housing Complex – The Housing Department’s new housing complex is almost ready! Upgrades include a new roof, improved drainage, and two new offices, with a bathroom planned for the new year.**

In the future, we hope to sell lumber from Haida Gwaii Forest Products and provide bulk sales to contractors, supporting both the community and local projects.

**Roofing Shop – The OMVC Roofing Shop is now complete! The new space allows the team to keep all inventory and machinery in one place, making roof repairs and material sales more efficient.**

If you need a new roof, roofing materials, or gutters, contact Jessie Mulvaney and the roofing crew. For inquiries, contact Darin at the Housing Department: 250-626-8969.

**Swan Crescent – OMVC has been running Swan House for over a year, providing affordable housing for women and LGBTQ+ community members.**

We are excited to announce that, in partnership with FNHA, we have secured funding to fully staff Swan House and transition it into a Recovery House. The home will operate as 100% drug- and alcohol-free, with residents participating in daily activities. The house will be closed to the public, except for special events. Staff positions will be posted soon. Looking ahead, OMVC plans to open a Men’s Recovery House at a different location, with an anticipated start date in 2027.



**Wallace (Teachers) Apartments - OMVC has purchased the Teachers Apartments on Wallace Street! This exciting project will provide 40% low-income housing and 60% market-rate units.**

After careful assessment, it was decided that rebuilding on the existing foundation is the most cost-effective option. Approval was also given to **expand the building size**, allowing for more units than before. The current building has **12 units**, and the new building will have **15 units**.

OMVC is now waiting for final permits. Once approved, the old structure will be removed, and construction of the new building will begin.

**Women’s Second Stage Transition Housing - OMVC is proud to announce full funding for a Women’s Second Stage Housing project in New Town! After three years of planning, bid packages have been sent out, and we are in the final stages of selecting a commercial contractor. Construction is expected to start late spring or early summer.**

The new housing will provide safe, temporary homes for women and children, along with one unit for our ECE staff.

**4-Plex – Widgeon- Men’s Shelter – Wellness COMMUNITY- OMVC** purchased the 4-plex on Widgeon three years ago as a temporary solution for housing needs, but demand continues to exceed capacity. To help, we have now purchased the Trailer Park on Old Beach Road, which will provide 15 small, self-contained units (SCUs) for second stage housing, along with a laundry facility. Once these units are ready, the 4-plex on Widgeon will be available for small families.

In addition to the SCUs, we have been approved for 14 new two-bedroom tiny homes and are developing a proposal to build a traditional longhouse for meetings, workshops, and community celebrations focused on recovery. The entire park will become a Wellness Community, and with FNHA support, full-time security will be provided.

**Harrison Street Subdivision – OMVC has been working on a project to create a new subdivision on Harrison Avenue. The property, owned by OMVC, has been set aside for this development.**

This will be a low-income rental housing project overseen by the Saving House Society. While the project has not yet been publicly announced due to some relocation details being finalized, it is moving forward and getting close to completion. We anticipate that housing for families, singles, and Elders will be announced shortly. Stay tuned for updates as we get closer to sharing more details with the community!

## LANDS

The Lands Department, overseen by Paul Bell, primarily works with Individual Land Holdings, helping with land and estate matters under guidance from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).

Since OMVC does not yet have its own land code, we are not the authority over lands outside of OMVC ownership, including those with Certificates of Possession (COPs). This can be frustrating when community members need support, as ISC makes the final decisions.

The department is exploring the possibility of creating a local land code and weighing the advantages and challenges. We are also working to resolve estate issues that prevent land development. Many land parcels are currently owned by multiple people due to inheritance without wills, which can lead to family tensions.

Important reminders for landowners:

- Create a will to clearly say who will inherit your land.
- Avoid leaving land to multiple heirs when possible.
- If leaving land to a child, name a trustee.

OMVC has hired extra support to help with land code engagements. Over the next year, we will host information sessions to explain what local land code could mean for the community, so you can make an informed decision. Please watch for upcoming notices.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The social development department oversees the Income Assistance program, ADP, Skills Development and Skills and Recovery Programs.

|      |                        |                                                                                                                                                         |
|------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Team | [As of March 31, 2026] | Adrienne Holeman – Community Development Manger<br>Laverne Bell – Income Assistance Clerk<br>David Hill – IA Relief Clerk<br>Chris Horner – ADP Manager |
|------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Adult Day Program – The Adult Day Program has been a busy and welcoming place this year! Each day, we provide breakfast and lunch to about 25 participants. Even though we are only funded for three days a week, the program finds creative ways to stay open and active for the other two days.**

There is always something happening at the program! Including card games, field trips, beading, weaving, crafts, gardening, and lots of food preservation that helps support other programs. While we see about 25 participants each day, the program reaches far beyond our doors and supports the whole community.

We offer support to families who are grieving, take part in community celebrations, and put together special gift baskets for Elders on occasions like Mother's Day, Father's Day, Valentine's Day, Christmas, and sometimes just because. Once a week, students from Chief Matthews come by to visit and help with food bank bags, gardening, crafts, and food preservation.

The Adult Day Program is a place of connection, care, and community. Stop by and see what we're up to, we'd love to welcome you!

**The Home Care Nurse and Homemakers Supervisor will determine the number of service hours needed. Homemakers can assist with various tasks, including:**

- Cleaning kitchen and bathroom areas, Mopping kitchen and bathroom floors
- Vacuuming, Dusting, and making beds for clients
- Preparing and cleaning up meals for clients, Precooking meals
- Cleaning inside windows and spot cleaning walls, woodwork, and cupboards
- Cleaning the stove and fridge
- Helping with laundry, Walking clients
- Assisting with grocery shopping or attending functions, if approved (call Chris at 250-626-7517)
- Write letters or help access service or funds for home improvement

**Homemakers are not permitted to:**

- Clean up after other family members
- Clean vehicles
- Provide major housecleaning
- Shop or make purchases on behalf of a client
- Homemakers are not allowed to transport clients or family members unless pre-arranged with approval (call Chris at 250-626-7517)
- Handle client money

If you're not home for a scheduled appointment:

- Call Chris at 250-626-7517.
- If you miss two appointments without calling, you'll need to call to reschedule your next visit.

Please no smoking marijuana or cigarettes one hour before an appointment. If you're unhappy with the services provided:

Register by calling 250-626-7517 or scanning the QLR Code and one of our team will reach out to you;



**OMVC Food Bank – The ADP Food Bank has truly been a blessing to our community. With grocery prices continuing to rise, many families are finding it harder to keep up with the cost of food. Our food bank operates on a bi-weekly basis and provides over 147 food bags to community members in need.**

OMVC is proud to be one of the only food banks in British Columbia that can provide protein such as fish and venison. This support would not be possible without the generosity of our sponsors. A big Haw'aa to Gwaii Trust and the Farmers' Association for their monetary donations, to Gwaii Co-Op for including us in their Zero Waste Program, and to Second Harvest for their generous pallets of apples, rice, potatoes, and naan. And to Chief and Council for putting our people first and supplying the traditional foods.

Your support helps keep our community nourished and strong—thank you to everyone who makes this possible.



**Income Assistance- The Income Assistance (IA) program is a policy-based program guided by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Our team often faces changes to the program, and unfortunately these changes do not always bring good news for our recipients. Each file is unique, with different rules depending on family situations and household composition.**

Our staff work diligently to follow the guidelines set by ISC, as the program is audited every year. These audits can sometimes result in funds being clawed back if certain expenses are deemed ineligible. OMVC operates under a yearly funding agreement, which limits flexibility but also protects the organization from falling short of funds. With the ongoing fluctuation in IA client numbers, this remains the most responsible option until our numbers become more stable.

We sometimes receive questions about why other Nations are able to offer different supports. This is often because they operate under different funding agreements or policies. We kindly ask community members to keep this in mind when speaking with our staff. They do their very best to support clients while working within the parameters of the policies they are required to follow.

**Skills Development – OMVC works with Tricorp to offer short-term, local training and certification opportunities. All Income Assistance (IA) clients are encouraged to connect with the Community Development Manager to talk about their career goals and training needs.**

Throughout the year, we offer courses such as driver's licensing support, Food Safe, Serving It Right, and WHMIS. This year, we also ran a successful security training course in preparation for some of the larger infrastructure projects planned in our community.

Our Community Development Manager also completed training this year in FNHA treatment referrals and life skills programming, helping to better support community members on their employment journeys.

**TideWalkers Connecting Community and Land- This year, OMVC launched the TideWalkers program, focused on getting our people back on the land and supporting restoration projects.**

The TideWalkers have partnered with experts, including Suzanne Summard and her colleagues, to conduct benchmark research and plan future projects that aim to positively impact our forests and rivers.

In addition to research, the TideWalkers are contributing to food sustainability initiatives, helping supply our Micro Kitchen with traditional foods. This year, the program also plans to certify our butcher shop, allowing venison and seafood to be packaged for schools, hospital programs, and emergency storage.

The Tide-Walker Program is excited to share updates on community land-based projects. Two Laanas Cabins have been renovated with the support of their owners. These improvements make the cabins safe, functional, and ready for use during harvesting seasons. They provide Youth and community members a place to learn traditional harvesting practices and spend time on the land with guidance from experienced harvesters.



The program also completed a new rifle range shelter. This shelter provides a safe, weather-protected space for teaching and practicing traditional harvesting skills. It supports intergenerational learning, cultural knowledge, and Haida values, helping Youth and Elders share skills responsibly and pass them on to future generations.

Through these projects, the Tide-Walker Program strengthens cultural continuity, hands-on learning, and respect for the land

Through the Tide-Walkers Program, all hired team members have successfully obtained and passed their Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) requirements. The licensing opportunity was also extended to the wider community, and all participating individuals successfully completed the process. Fees associated with obtaining the license were fully covered by the "Tide-Walker" program.

We are proud to welcome the TideWalkers to the Old Massett Village Council team! This program is an exciting step toward community-led stewardship, traditional food sustainability, and environmental care.