



# Members Update

August 2007

## Grandma's Retirement Party

By Kelly Lucas.

Fidelia is the daughter of the late Esther and Joseph Smith.

Fidelia married Victor Adrian and had six children with Victor. The children are, Victor, Reg, Marcel, Vern, Vivienne, Valerie. Fidelia also considers Marlene Billy her daughter because Fidelia raised Marlene.

Fidelia married the late Roy Haiyupis and when Fidelia decided to go back to school to obtain her Masters in Educational Psychology, Roy and her children were very supportive. Fidelia graduated from UBC the early nineties. After graduation Fidelia went to Kyuquot for one year a then spent the last nine years in her home community of Zeballos and began teaching at Zeballos Elementary Secondary School (ZESS).

It was Fidelia's dream to incorporate the Nuu-chah-nulth (NCN) language into the academic school setting. As a result, Fidelia began her mission, it has taken several years and now she has completed her mission. As a result, Fidelia has decided to retire and move out of the community of Zeballos.

The family had decided that they wanted to do something in Fidelia honor to acknowledge the accomplishments that she has made for Ehattesah. The family decided to host a dinner in Zeballos. Approximately one hundred people came to the Zeballos Community Hall to celebrate Fidelia's accomplishments.

As the family served dinner, the floor was open for people to share their thoughts and feeling about Fidelia.

Jennifer Auld the principal at ZESS begins by recognizing the importance of what Fidelia has done and the importance of the language to NCN people. Jennifer shared that usually there is a team of people who work on a project such as this, however, Fidelia took the job on and did the majority of the work.

Bruce Jensen the superintendent for the school district thanked Fidelia for being a leader. Bruce acknowledges that Fidelia has played an important role in the school.

Many family and friends thanked Fidelia for what she has brought to their lives and the things that has taught their families.

On behalf of Ehattesah Chief and Council, Dawn Smith and Virgil John, recognized the difference that Fidelia has made. Dawn shared that Fidelia has inspired Dawn as well as many other people. Dawn also stated that "Fidelia you have paved a path for language" and Virgil thanked Fidelia for everything that she has done for his children as well as the children of Ehatis.

Several of the children from Zeballos as well as grandchildren of Fidelia presented her with a framed photo that was taken earlier in the day.



Ivan Wells shared a story about Fidelia requesting that Ivan make her a button blanket. Ivan followed protocol and then began to make the blanket. After singing several songs, Victoria and Ernie began to show the blanket. Fidelia became quite emotional. Ivan then wrapped Fidelia in the blanket.

It was explained that the family from Zeballos were going to prepare to let Fidelia go from their territory and were going to release her to her family from Port Alberni and Lilloet. Prior to her release Kelly John began to sing a few more songs and then Kelly gave Fidelia a name that comes from Kelly's family. The name given to Fidelia is 'Ah-ah-Qwa-Yak' meaning nobody can out do you, you are the biggest giver.

It was explained that the family from Zeballos was not going to let her go so easy and requested a song be sung by the other family member. Tim Sutherland also one of Fidelia's son's from her marriage to Roy, began to sing a song that he composed. Approximately 15 women began to dance and Fidelia was taken to the other side.



# August 2007

Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

1 RCMP Commissioner                  2                  3                  4

## Canoe Journey (Lummi)

5                  6                  7                  8 Family Campout at Ferrier                  9                  10                  11

BC Day

Elders Gathering (Vancouver)

C&C Meeting

Treaty:  
Fed/Prov/Fisheries

12                  13                  14                  15                  16                  17                  18

Housing Committee Mtg

Chief Negotiators FNS (North Vancouver)

19                  20                  21                  22                  23                  24                  25

Dea and Linda in

Youth Group to PNE

26                  27                  28                  29                  30                  31

Youth Group to PNE

SA Day

Language and Culture Week

