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A GROUP OF FIRST NATIONS YOUTH who range in age from 15-27 are taking place in a seven-week forestry training program with Blue Collar Silviculture.

First Nations Youth Forestry Program

Blue Collar Silviculture, a Quesnel-based forestry contractor, has just completed the first month of their inaugural seven-week First Nations Youth Forestry Training Program. The program was developed in partnership with and support from the Nazko, Alexandria and Red Bluff First Nations, the College of New Caledonia, the Cariboo Chilcotin Aboriginal Training Employment Centre Society, Community Development Trust, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

A group of 25 First Nations Youth, who range in age from 15-27, are taking part in a live-in program of personal and professional development designed to facilitate

future employment and broaden awareness of the forestry industry, and to encourage secondary and post-secondary education.

Training and work opportunities are provided in a variety of areas of the forestry and silviculture fields, including tree planting, brushing, fire suppression, first aid, all-terrain vehicle operation, and compass and GPS navigation.

"We're always having fun," says Miranda Laurent, and 18 year old high school graduate and participant in the program. "I've been able to get my First Aid certificate and the S-100 fire suppression training ticket. Myself and others would definitely come back if this program carries on."

The support from industry, government,

First Nations communities and local organizations has been remarkable. With a mandate to increase aboriginal education opportunities through an Aboriginal Services Plan, the College of New Caledonia, Quesnel Campus is providing instructors and classrooms in support of this program.

"We are pleased to be able to provide \$300,000 from our Community Development Trust Tuition Assistance Program to support this valuable learning experience," said Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development. "Allowing youth the opportunity to get hands on experience will encourage them to explore a future in forestry as well as other

related industries, like silviculture and land use management."

"These training programs prepare graduates for a forestry career and are another way we are working towards First Nations becoming full partners in forestry," said Minister of Forests and Range, Pat Bell. "There will be a growing global demand for B.C. forest products and new employment in silviculture, operations and management, as well as opportunities created through our expanding export markets, commercial construction sector and our Wood First program."

"The response from our participants has been very positive," says Bob

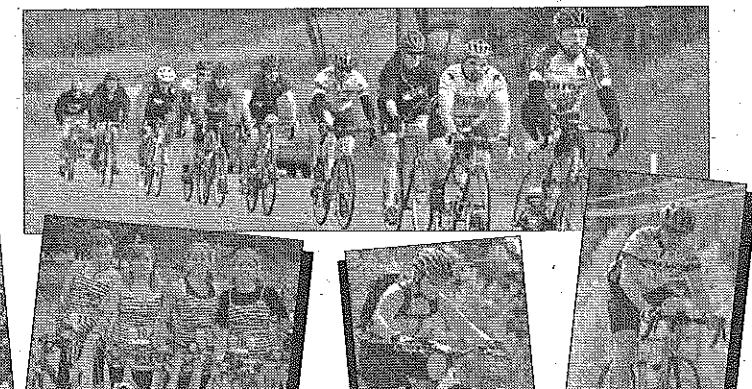
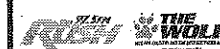
See FORESTRY on Page 11

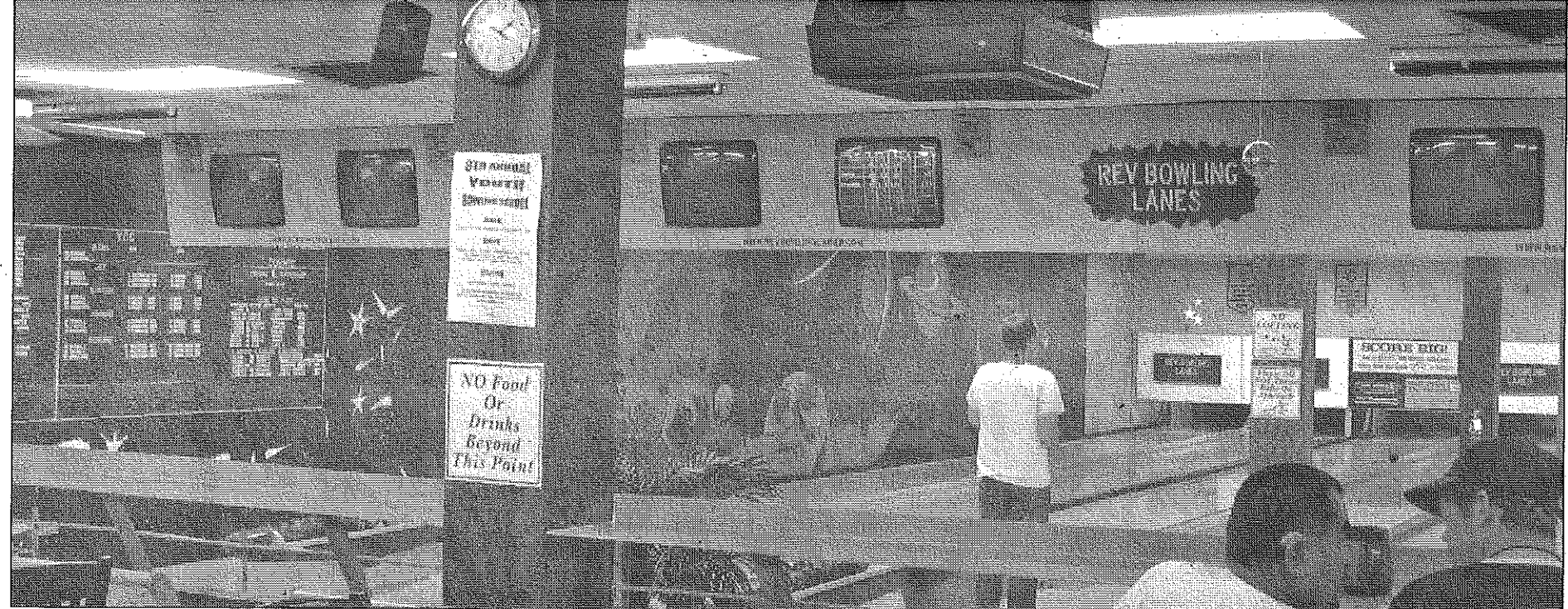
Big Brothers & Big Sisters



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Kim Manning photo

REV BOWLING LANES have a brand new look, so come down to register for your fall leagues and check it out. Owner **Tracy Mero** says that bowling is just \$1 per game during the month of August. Rev Bowling can be reached at 250-992-2441.

Forestry program success

From **FIRST NATIONS** on Page 10

Dearden, the Supervisor of the program. "We couldn't have asked for a better group of kids - most are really enthusiastic and engaged in each aspect of training and work experience that we have offered, and many are already asking whether we will be running the program again next summer."

The Western Silviculture Contractors Association provided support from the early stages of development, and will be contributing an industry-specific all-terrain vehicle training course. "We are glad to support this innovative program that engages First Nations youth in hands-on forestry work like tree planting and plantation tending," says President John Betts. "We look forward to programs like it evolving

and expanding across the province so more young people from First Nations communities can find work in the forests."

"Nazko First Nation is pleased to be a part of this program that is not only preparing our youth for a future in forestry but is also providing them with invaluable life and employment skills," states Chief Delores Alec. "We view this joint venture as an excellent opportunity to promote jobs for our youth for the future and look forward to working with Blue Collar Silviculture as a partner for years to come."

"I would like to thank all the partners involved in the program," says Mark Courtney, Owner of Blue Collar Silviculture. "This inaugural year so far has been a huge success and we are looking forward to continuing the project next year."

Relationships take time to nurture

I read a quote once that said "If you don't understand your kid, you can't stand your kid."

Whoa, that comes across harsh, yet I have met many a person that has said that exact thing about their child or their spouse.

What causes a person to move from being in love with someone to loathing that same person?

We're not talking socks behind the bathroom door or leaving the top off the toothpaste tube the odd time.

No, we are talking about a series of events that over time have come to change one person's view of another they once loved.

It is amazing what time can do; after a death in the family it is the passing of time that mellows the strong emotions felt at the time of the death, and it is time that can also cause unresolved issues to turn into strong negative emotions.

If you are into mathematical equations here it is; time+emotions=relationship.

If you want your relationship to be a good one (listen closely you other men) you will have to factor in understanding into the equation.

If you spend time with someone

they will get to know you (with me so far guys?).

The key here is spending time together.

If after spending time together and she is still hanging around, Bonus.

Now, after this time together you will naturally start to feel some kind of an emotion towards the other person.

This is where most relationships are made or broken; both personal relationships and parent-child relationships.

We can become so busy in our daily lives trying to "get by" we forget the important parts of the relationship.

Yes, we live under the same roof and sometimes go to the same activities together, we may even eat supper together every night but, I know a lot of single guys who do the same with their dog rover.

What makes our relationships

different is that we take the TIME to listen to and understand each other.

We have to stop justifying what it is that keeps us from spending time with our loved ones and start putting them first.

Communications is God's gift to people and we need to use it well.

It means investing in the other person, sacrificing your desires to get to know theirs, putting their interests before yours at times

and valuing the outcome.

Life is all about relationships; some good some not so good. How are yours?

If you are interested in learning more about relationship building you are invited to attend a parenting group offered by Cariboo Youth and Family Resources.

We meet every Wednesday from 7pm to 8:30pm at #2-345 St. Laurent Ave. The cost is five dollars person and this covers all materials.

