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In-SHUCK-ch Days 2008



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A year of planning was well worth the effort as In-SHUCK-ch Days 2008 was a resounding success. Through the generous support of our many sponsors and donors we managed to raise \$46,500, allowing us to include a large variety of activities and presentations in celebration of In-SHUCK-ch culture. In fact, we had so many activities planned we couldn't fit them all in, and fell behind schedule as a result. Each year our experience with planning In-SHUCK-ch Days grows, and next year we'll try to make sure everyone gets their meals on time!

Among the popular highlights were Xúsum Ice-cream Making (by far the messiest event!), the BC 150 *Amawilc* sign presentation by Doug Hudson, and the *Siq'úta* Standing Up ceremony led by Gerald Gabriel. The *Siq'úta* ceremony held particular significance, and I was pleased to see In-SHUCK-ch youth participating in their culture and dancing for the community. It was clearly an emotional experience for everyone, and many people expressed their pride and happiness upon having witnessed the occasion.

All of the performers put on great shows, and REDDNATION's energetic antics managed to get the crowd going despite the fact that they were playing around midnight!

The 2008 2nd annual In-SHUCK-ch Days has come and gone. Now we start the planning for next year's event. It's very exciting and already I look forward to the planning. What type of events and workshops are going to take place next year? Who will we have as musical acts? These are just a couple questions that I think about. I really enjoyed being a part of the planning process this year. I think this year was a big hit. A big thanks to all our sponsors our donors because without them the event would not take place.

Thank you to all the volunteers; you all did a great job. You were incredible. I loved seeing all the red shirts out in the crowd. Some of you even volunteered for a couple of days before the event. There were even some volunteers who worked right up to the very end on Sunday helping the organizers and always asking us, "What can I do next?" You were truly amazing. I look forward to seeing you at In-SHUCK-ch Days 2009.

Thank you to all those within the community that donated things for the traditional dinner: Victor Wayne Smith, Lyle Peters, Eva Sam, Cedric Sam, Lee Charlie, Frank Charlie Jr., Calvin Sparrow and of course Ki-zia Peters, Dan Dan and Marietta Wells for the traditional pit. Not everything went as planned, but everyone saw



Top: Some of the indoor activities at In-SHUCK-ch Days 2008.
Middle: Marietta Wells and Dan Dan prepare a pit for the traditional dinner.
Bottom: A crowd gathers for the evening entertainment by Jaysun Williams and E-Rock, Kalan Wi and REDDNATION.

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Jaysun Williams and Eric Peters (E-Rock) also gave an amazing opening performance, and after their set, REDDNATION applauded their enthusiasm and talent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who helped with In-SHUCK-ch Days 2008; without their support the event would not have achieved such a measure of success. I would particularly like to extend my thanks to all our sponsors and donors, the volunteers, the artisans and performers, the In-SHUCK-ch Nation staff, and the many members of the community I consulted during the planning of the event and asked to participate.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the In-SHUCK-ch Days 2008 celebration; it was certainly a pleasure for me to have participated in such an important cultural event. As I have previously mentioned, planning such an event is a learning process, and I would love to hear your feedback on what you liked, what could have been done better, and what you would like to see at In-SHUCK-ch Days 2009. Thanks to all those who filled out the surveys we handed out during the event.

Please feel free to e-mail me with your comments and suggestions at days@inshuckch.com, and if you missed your chance to fill out a survey, they can be found on our website under the “forms” section at <http://www.inshuckch.com/formsID.html>.



Top: The Basket Weaving demonstration by Tara Peters.
Middle: Wayne Chambers of Cloudworks captured this funny moment, as Joey Harris decided to join the Chiefs on stage.
Bottom: Jaysun Williams and Eric Peters (E-Rock) take the stage as opening act for the evening’s entertainment.

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how it was done and we still got to try the food.

I would also like to extend a very big thank you to Mavis and Abou for all their help before, during and after the event. Without your help we would have been lost, especially when it came to last minute details. We appreciated all of your help.

Thank you to everyone that made In-SHUCK-ch Days 2008 a big hit, which includes all the volunteers, vendors, caterers, spectators, musical acts, workshop facilitators, film and sound techs, the master of ceremonies, the career fair facilitators and the Kids Zone volunteer.

In-SHUCK-ch Days is a great cultural event; it teaches the youth the culture from the past and our friends and family our traditions. I look forward to seeing everyone next year.



Top: Josh Littler of Artisan Log Work and Josh Alexander pose in front of the kiosk they built for the *Amawilc* project.

Once the project is complete there will be 6 signs and kiosks throughout the traditional territory.