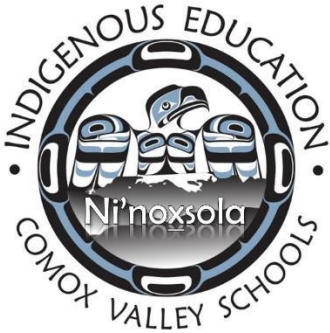


NI'NOXSOLA

Elders in Residence Program
Indigenous Education Comox Valley Schools



Sheila Buchanan
Sledding



We always made our entertainment. We did not have a tv or games to play. We just could not afford any of these items, so we had to create our own games. We also didn't have electricity, so a tv would be no good anyway.

To go sledding we either used a cardboard or make our own sleds. We would go to a place where they were building and ask if we could pick up the boards that were discarded. We often got several pieces and could make more than one sled. The builders would also give us some nails because they knew that we could not afford them. We told them what we were building.

To build a sled, you had to use an axe and a saw to make the runners so they were slanted in the front pointing up, otherwise it would not slide very well. Boards were then placed across the two runners, (about 5) so you had something to sit on. If you wanted a sturdy sled, two boards were nailed under the sled like an X and this would stabilize it, so it did not collapse.

A few times my sled would collapse because I did not build it very sturdy. I had to start over and redo it all. There was a lot of sawing and axing going on to make this sled slidable and stable. Once it was built, there was fun to be had. We always shared and everyone took turns and we would allow the younger ones to participate and we would push them to get them going. They were not too keen in pulling the sled back up the hill, so one of us had to do it.



No one ever complained. We would slide down our hill until dark and then we would go into the house, wash up, have supper. If we had homework, it was done in the dim light of the coal oil lamp.

Sheila Buchanan (Kookum)