

# Takla Lake First Nation

January 2011 Newsletter

## A LOOK AT 2010



Mining Exploration Training 2010



Fishing Derby 2010



Jeff Coombs Grad Photo



34th Annual Elders Gathering in Salmon Arm



3 Nation's Gathering 2010!



Mining Exploration 2010

## FNWARM Wins Prestigious National Award for Work in Promoting Responsible Mining

**Takla Lake First Nation Community Thursday Dec. 3, 2010:** Chief Dolly Abraham & Councilor Kathaleigh George of Takla Lake First Nation and fellow members of BC's First Nations Women Advocating Responsible Mining attended the annual Canadian Boreal Awards Gala dinner as nominees – and ended the evening as big winners.

“We were excited just to be nominated as there were are lot of impressive nominees for this award, which is organized every year by the Canadian Boreal Initiative, and it was a great surprise and honour when, at the end of the evening, after the other awards had been announced, we were called to the stage as the final winners of the evening,” said Chief Dolly Abraham & Councilor Kathaleigh George.

“It was particularly exciting because we were selected by a team from the Boreal Leadership Council, which is made up of leading conservation groups, Aboriginal organizations, resource companies and financial institutions, all of whom were represented in the audience, along with politicians, and all of whom gave us a standing ovation,” said Councilor George & Chief Abraham.

The award recognized the work that FNWARM has done since its members decided two years ago to share their experiences with mining issues in their own communities in central and northern BC, and to pool their knowledge and resources to support each other and work to promote responsible mining.

“We are not against mining of any kind, but we are against mining at any cost, and our goal is to promote ways for industry to work with first Nations on viable, environmentally sound mining projects that respect our rights, cultures and way of life,” said FNWARM Chair Anne Marie Sam. “It was especially rewarding to see such an audience recognize us as a proactive group.”

The group has used a variety of innovative ideas - including cheeky personal newspaper ads seeking responsible mining partners - to promote their ideas. It was also key in promoting a key study by Harvard's International Human Rights Clinic regarding the impact of a biased BC mining regime on the Takla Lake First Nation.

Most recently FNWARM worked closely with two members – Xení Gwet'in Chief Marilyn Baptiste of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, and Xat'sull (Soda Creek) Chief Bev Sellars of the Shuswap Nation to prevent the proposed Prosperity Mine from getting federal approval to proceed and kill Teztan (Biny Fish Lake).

FNWARM is currently supporting the Nak'azdli First Nation in seeking consultation and accommodation of its rights and social and environmental concerns before further work is done on the Mt. Milligan (Shus Nadloh) mine.

In on winners- CBI awards news release: <http://www.borealcanada.ca/pr/11-25-2010-e.php>



FNWARM members with Grand Chief Ed John at Canadian Boreal Awards Gala

# Nus Wadeezulh School

Nus Wadeezulh Community is situated very close to beautiful Takla Lake surrounded by majestic mountains and forests. The school offers a Kindergarten to Grade Seven program with a Daycare for the aged four and under housed in the school. This year the Takla Band welcomed new principal, Patricia Burnett from Penticton, B.C. and the Kindergarten to Grade Two teacher, Jodi Coppola from Windsor, Ontario. In October, we welcomed another teacher, our Language and Culture teacher, Mabel Daley.

At our school, many people work together as a team to bring about the best educational outcomes for the students. We are grateful to have an Educational Councillor, Irene French, who provides us with direction and guidance. In addition, we have Cheryl George, an experienced teacher from Takla, who teaches the Grade Three to Seven aged group. The Teacher Assistants: Belinda Charlie, Leah Daley, Susie Charlie, Nicki Thomas, and Violet Charlie help to provide individual academic assis-

tance to those children who need extra support to bring about successful learning outcomes. As well, we have our school cleaners, bus driver/maintenance person, cook, and receptionist, who make it pleasant for us to work here. Staff in this area include: Laura Charlie, Clara Williams, Colin Teegee, Rachael Pierre, and Shannon West. The Daycare Program is headed up by Corinna West with positive direction given by



Wilma Abraham. Our classroom programs follow the outcome based curriculum as prescribed by the B.C. Ministry of Education as well as ongoing individual support for children with exceptionalities.

The whole community is invited to our special events such as Halloween, Remembrance Day, and Christmas. Community members and the senior school students also come out for floor hockey and

volleyball. The RCMP help supervise these activities and participate for fun and exercise. Our current extra-curricular plans are to make a skating rink in the schoolyard for families and the younger children and to host a movie theatre in the gym for the children on Saturday afternoons. Ice hockey on the lake is also on the agenda when the lake becomes safe. Next week the children will have the privilege of learning beading from one of our esteemed elders, Susan Abraham. The Takla nurse, Sara Peters, also promises to come out and do some nutrition and craft activities. Some of our recent student workshops relate to preventing bullying, controlling anger, and educational awareness about drugs and alcohol. We have great advice and support for our projects from Chief Dolly Abraham and all the Band Councillors.

Oh Takla, what a wonderful place to be!

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Holiday from everyone at Nus Wadeezulh Community School.



*Nus Wadeezulh Community School will provide an environment of learning in which respect, fairness, safety and belonging are established as the cornerstones to a foundation of parity with public education. Furthermore, we will strive to give our students classes in our Carrier Language and Native Traditions.*

# Economic Development Office Update

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The economic development office at the Takla Band Office has been working towards providing more information on jobs inside and outside of the Takla territory for members. At the same time, we are working on identifying training programs to provide essential and specific work skills to those who need them. Our office provides the following services to community members:

Help with resume writing, and EI applications

Member database development to help identify training needs

Training workshop facilitation

Employment opportunity posting

Employment research

Please contact Kathaleigh George or Ernie French for more information: ph. 250-996-7877.

## Economic Development Plan

As included in our previous newsletter, Christos Vardacostas was recently contracted by the Band to complete an economic development plan (EDP) for Takla. Christos spoke to members during community meetings in October to identify and determine Takla's economic opportunities and priorities. Members that attended the meetings voiced concerns about wanting to obtain any kind of employment, and specifically about Takla taking advantage of opportunities that arise in resource sectors (eg. harvesting beetle-killed timber). At the same time, some others voiced concerns about the sustainability of such activities and leaving the land to their children. There was also some discussion about the need for the Nation to heal and that social services are needed to help. These are obviously important considerations that need to be worked on in terms of the social services provided to Takla, as well as in the risk and essential skills assessments and training facilitated as part of employment services provided to members.

The economic development plan (EDP) is a process that has begun, will produce a document in March 2011, and continue by being implemented and revised in subsequent years. In response to the priorities expressed by community members at the recent meetings, the current, initial focus of the EDP includes training and employment, forestry and mining.

The employment and training work involves identifying and connecting with all potential partners that are public, Aboriginal-specific as well as from the private sector; and helping the economic development office in Takla be more effective by hiring Ernie French as the project assistant in the office for the duration of the current project. Ernie is there to help members directly with employment and training needs, and also to conduct research for the project when time allows.

Forestry and mining activities under the EDP will include doing some initial research on the sectors to help the natural resource department bring as much information to their roles and the community as possible when needing to make decisions. The concentration of jobs in the region is in the natural resource sectors. The short term strategy is simply to connect trained and/or willing people to these jobs. The longer term focus will include improving the Trading Post operation and using it as a vehicle to, for example, move into tourism-related activities. Traditional activities such as arts and crafts, berry picking and fishing and guiding have been mentioned. It is important that measures be taken to preserve such cultural activities. Whether such activities become economic in nature can be determined in future, depending on the desires of individual entrepreneurs or the collective, if people want to group to create such business opportunities.

*We will be holding an upcoming presentation of the draft Economic Development Plan on **Tuesday, March 8th**. Please watch for announcement of the time and location.*

If you have any questions, want to discuss the economic development plan or related thoughts, you can reach Christos at 250-981-1635 or by email at: [christos.takla@gmail.com](mailto:christos.takla@gmail.com).



# **EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING INFORMATION MEETING**

**Aboriginal Training Employment Program** would like to invite you for the presentations of Mount Milligan, Christy Smith; CNC, Ann McCormick; Skills Link Outreach Coordinator, Shauna Hesse; PTP – ASEP, Gloria Catherall; PGNAETA, Jason Morgan for introductions & presentations of Employment & Training.

**DATE: January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**TIME: 12:00pm to 4:00pm**

**PLACE: Bahlats Hall**

(Lunch will be provided from 12pm to 1pm)

Any questions contact: Ernie French, Christos Vardacostas or Kathaleigh George  
TAKLA OFFICE: 250-996-7877 PRINCE GEORGE: 250-564-9321

## Council Report - Jeanette West Housing/Capital Portfolio

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Hello Band Members – I am pleased to present a report on activities that have taken place.

### Mould Remediation

We are still trying to catch up and can't seem to get off the freeze list from INAC, which we have been on for the past 10 years. We made progress in 09/10 and did get approval through C.E.A.P. (Canadian Economic Action Plan) for 5 homes: Peter Abraham, Jimmy Johnny, Larry Dominic, Judy French, and Antoine Johnny and this work was completed by end of March 2010. I have worked hard on this and we are getting closer to being off the freeze list.

Nine homes were completed and ready for me to submit to CMHC - RRAP and C.E.A.P - Mould Remediation under INAC for April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ron from CSTC has completed six inspections that will also be submitted as above. This year the Band will be proactive and have our files ready to go before any calls for proposal 2011 so we can start any project this spring.

### Renovations

We have at least 20 inspections for renovations which were done by Health Canada and by Ron Prochot from CSTC and which are ready to be submitted. Also, 5 new inspections were put in place and action plans have proceeded. These applications have been approved and \$ 95,000 was contributed from CMHC. The projects were able to go ahead as we had a capital surplus of \$123,000 that was used. Leonard Teegee, Late Ester Abraham, Susie Charlie and Joshua West's homes were renovated. Some outstanding work still needs to be completed. Since we started late in the fall we have asked for an extension on these projects until we can get some of the outside work done.

Emergency repairs for Sophie West and Lottie French were also done. We are waiting for the rest of our proposal to be approved this spring to continue the renovations throughout the community. We will also get ready to do some Section 95 housing this year.

### Workshops

Takla Band has a 5-year agreement in place with CMHC to bring in workshops that are relevant to the Band. We have had three workshops with facilitators funded by CMHC.

The first workshop, with Roxanne Harper from Turtle Islands in Ottawa looked at ways that we can work with the community at large to start getting out of our arrears management.

Also, since I got in as a councilor I have attended several workshops sponsored by CMHC including: Property Management held in Terrace, Arrears Management held in Prince George, Maintenance Management held in both Vanderhoof and in Prince George and a First Nation Housing Symposium held in Prince George. I also have taken in all the conferences held by INAC under the Waste Management and the B.C. Water and Waste Management Conference held by INAC in Whistler, Kamloops and Vancouver.

### Fire Prevention Program

My next major project is the **Fire Prevention Program**. For this, I will arrange for someone with the proper expertise to carry out house and chimney inspections. We will also inspect stove pipes and conduct air quality tests for smoke and carbon monoxide. Some of our people are suffering lung problems; children have asthma and allergy problems, so this inspection is important to do.

### Mortgage loan payments

I have also updated all the homes as to what is owing by individual **mortgage loans** outstanding with the Royal Bank. In September 2010 we started with our repayment plan for all home owners and began collecting rent from staff and social assistance clients in order to pay our mortgages. Those owners that are working have signed a form to deduct payments from your payroll. Those that are under the Social Assistance program also signed tenancy forms, payable to the housing project.

Right now TLFN is being deducted right from the top of its funds in the amount of 15,000.00 per month. We are paying from all of the programs including the Education. It is like Peter robbing Paul. We need to put a stop to that and have us all responsible for the repayment of these mortgages.

We were also told by INAC that there are a lot of vacant - new homes sitting around and no one in them. They know the situation and that is one more reason for them not giving us new housing construction. These are all Band owned homes and we should have the right, like any tenancy agreements in the city, to rent out these homes to people. I am sure that you have all had rental agreements. These are no different from ours other than the subsidy given to you in the down payment of a home.

So please co-operate and this way we will be able to accommodate those that are less fortunate and are waiting for a new house. We need to be fair. This is why I ran for the Council position - to help this Nation get out of debt and to assist in getting off INAC's freeze list after the Mould Remediation Project of 2000.

A **workshop** is currently in process and will take place here in the community - under CMHC and INAC. Invited guest and participants will look at way to deal with all the housing issues that we are faced with. I realize that our economy is down and people can't afford their mortgage payments. We will find a way to accommodate the problems.

#### Housing Society

As I said in my previous report, the Housing Society has been re-established. This society will have their first meeting sometime in February or March - date to be announced. The Housing Society will be dealing with developing policy regarding the Band's unpaid mortgages. The Society will also be dealing with houses which sit vacant while we have families living in overcrowded or condemned homes. Emergency housing has been identified and I will continue to work to try and accommodate these families.

The Housing Society will also be the host to the workshop above. We will be looking forward to this important workshop which will help this Band with the health, safety and the wellness of the people and their homes. Please be there as your input into the housing policy will be reviewed.

#### CAPITAL PROJECTS

Takla has a 20 year plan that is updated on a continual basis. This Plan outlines all of the capital work that needs to be done in the community, including any upgrades to our Water Treatment Plant. Keith, along with the Chief and Council past and present have been consistent in making sure the plans are put in place every year and we get what we need. The Band also has a 5-year plan, which was just been completed in November, just before the deadline. Other reports will be brought forward by Keith and Jeff.

Thank you for all those that work with me and are very patient with the homeowners. They too are patiently waiting. I have pushed papers, people and organization to get to things going since I got in as councilor. We still need necessary documents such as T4s, T4A and OAP as well as doctor reports on individuals so we don't stall the process. So please get these copies for me with the upcoming projects.

I made a promise the Community in *my goals and objective* and will do what I have said for the remaining months until the next election. Unfortunately, this is my final task and work I will be doing with this Band.

Thank you for taking time to read my report. If you have any questions please come and see me at the office. With my mom being very sick I won't be in the office all the time as I am at her place much of the time that I am up here in the community. I do a lot of my work from home.

Hoping everyone had a good Christmas and New Year. God bless you and your families throughout the 2011 year.

Jeanette West



# HEALTHY LAND HEALTHY FUTURE MEETING UPDATE



**Where:** Takla Lake Potlatch House  
**When:** Wednesday January 26, 2011  
Meeting to start @ 11am

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

The HLHF staff will be discussing the preliminary results of the hair samples that were taken; and other questions that members might have. Door prizes & 50/50 draws. All members are encouraged to attend.

## *Employment Training Opportunity for Members*

### **Who can access this?**

Anyone interested in participating. Further criteria will establish eligibility for ATEP intake.

### **What will you get?**

Innovative job-related training over an 8-day workshop

### **Why is it important?**

The program will help increase your job readiness and employability.

### **When is this happening?**

The next training session is coming up....

*Please submit your resume with expression of interest for ATEP participation to Ernie French at the Takla Band Office no later than February 15th, 2011*

*In coordination with the Aboriginal Training for Employment Program (ATEP)*

Working together to help keep B.C. strong

Funding provided through the  
Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement



For more information on B.C.'s labour market, please visit [www.workbc.ca](http://www.workbc.ca)

## ***2 New Faces at TLFN !!***

### **Elke Lepka – Forestry Coordinator**

Elke, a Takla Lake Band member, came on board in early November as Takla's new Forestry Coordinator. She takes over the position from Terry Teegee, following his election to the position of Vice-Chief at CSTC.

Elke brings a strong educational background to her new role. She has completed the 2-year Forestry Technologist program at CNC as well as a 2-year Business Management and Marketing program. She is continuing to work towards her Masters degree in Environment and Management. She has also worked in the forestry industry for several years and brings a good deal of forestry experience, especially in silviculture and planning.

Over the last 2 ½ years, Elke worked for Tl'azt'en First Nation as their Natural Resource coordinator as well as the liaison for the Elder's Society.

She looks forward to working with her own Band and to the challenges of her new role.

### **Stephanie Stuart – Financial Controller**

Takla welcomes our new Financial controller, who is taking over the job from our interim controller Ruth Sauder. Stephanie has come to work with us after leaving her accounting position at Northern Health (Northern Cancer Control Strategy). Before that, she held the position of Controller at Pope and Talbot sawmill in Mackenzie.

Stephanie is a Certified General Accountant (CGA). She obtained her initial financial education at CNC, where she completed the accounting and finance program. As well she has taken many other financial courses at BCIT, in Burnaby, including some in forensic accounting.

Stephanie realizes that there is a lot to learn regarding the financial challenges of First Nations, and that the role of financial controller is a very demanding one, Stephanie is very much looking forward to that challenge. She is excited to be part of the TLFN management team and eager to get to know everyone at the community.



## Election Code Review—Committee Membership List

TLFN is currently in the process of reviewing its Election Code. Kathaleigh George is coordinating the project. Bruce Mack has been hired as the facilitator and will be writing the final document. A **volunteer committee** has been selected to work on these revisions. The community will be asked for input and a referendum will be held in the spring to vote on the changes..

Committee	Title	Email	Phone
Bruce Mack	Facilitator	<a href="mailto:popmack@shaw.ca">popmack@shaw.ca</a>	
Kathaleigh George	Coordinator	<a href="mailto:kathaleigh@gmail.com">kathaleigh@gmail.com</a>	250-996-7445
Heather Abraham	Membership	<a href="mailto:hanihb@live.com">hanihb@live.com</a>	No phone
Irene Johnny	Membership	<a href="mailto:Imj_69_ld@hotmail.com">Imj_69_ld@hotmail.com</a>	No phone
John Allen French	Membership	<a href="mailto:Buckley63@shaw.ca">Buckley63@shaw.ca</a>	250-613-
Linda Charlie	Membership	<a href="mailto:ccp.takla@gmail.com">ccp.takla@gmail.com</a>	250-996-6696
Margo French	Membership	<a href="mailto:margofrench@gmail.com">margofrench@gmail.com</a>	250-996-6071
Roy Downey	Membership	<a href="mailto:Roy_downey@hotmail.com">Roy_downey@hotmail.com</a>	250-996-7772
Winnie French	Membership	<a href="mailto:Winnie.oranda@gmail.com">Winnie.oranda@gmail.com</a>	250-996-7772
Tom Patrick	Membership	<a href="mailto:Patrickthomas727@gmail.com">Patrickthomas727@gmail.com</a>	250-564-4971
Notifications	Following's for the community to keep everyone updated on what the committee is doing....cc. minutes from committee mtgs. and for any postings we need to advertise (newsletters - web). Alternative		
Phyllis Charlie	Postings	<a href="mailto:Phyllis699@gmail.com">Phyllis699@gmail.com</a>	
Anita Williams	Council	<a href="mailto:Anita.takla@gmail.com">Anita.takla@gmail.com</a>	
Dolly Abraham	Chief	<a href="mailto:dolly.takla@gmail.com">dolly.takla@gmail.com</a>	
Jeanette West	Council	<a href="mailto:Jeanette.takla@gmail.com">Jeanette.takla@gmail.com</a>	
Jason Morgan	Mediator	Jason will only be called in if we need alternative facilitators	

1. ALL meetings will be held in Takla.
  2. This group is a volunteer group.
  3. All meetings will be kept at two hours and be held at the Bahlats Hall.
  4. Comments/questions/solutions will be collectively from the committee.
  5. Kathaleigh will put together the package of each meeting minutes, Bruce updates the code and sends back the changes for approval from the committee on the working draft.
  6. All meeting discussions/comments will be available for the public.
  7. The committee will keep working until we completely walk through the code and make all changes necessary for a final draft to present to Chief and Council for approval and a community meeting will be setup for public input.
- Community for input/direction/meeting/advertisements, postings & announcements referendum.

**I will provide a chronological chart for all meetings and provide the paperwork of what needs to be discussed.**

**Kathaleigh George**

# Takla's Land Use Plan - Update

By Michelle Lochhead, Takla Lake Land Use Planner



Over the past several months, I have been meetings with some of the Keyoh groups to work on the Land Use Plan. I will be meeting with the remaining groups over the winter. Johnny Mikes, who is with *Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society* (CPAWS) has been at the meetings as well, as he is assisting us with putting together our Plan. As promised, we are developing a series of maps for each Keyoh that shows information on past forestry activities, mining, trapping, wildlife values, and cultural sites. These maps will be provided at the meetings, and will help us with developing the Plan.

Over the next year and a half, we will be meeting with each group a minimum of 3 times. We would like to include as many Keyoh members at each meeting as possible but this is sometimes difficult to do. It is the Keyoh representatives' responsibility to inform their family members of discussions from these meetings.

Meeting 1: This is a preliminary meeting to explain the reasons for developing the Land Use Plan and to talk about what goes in the Plan. We will verify that the Keyoh maps we have cover a large enough area. As well, the information on land use activities – such as forestry and mining, will be viewed. We will begin to discuss the location of wildlife values, and talk about protected areas. Maps will be left with each family so they can spend time thinking about what they would like to see in the Land Use Plan for their territory.



Meeting 2: During the second meeting, more detailed information on land values and resource use will be discussed. Maps will be discussed in detail to verify the data and to add any values that are missing. Ideas on potential land and resource use will be examined, including economic opportunities, and areas that should be kept off limit to development.

Meeting 3: A draft Keyoh plan that shows several options will be brought to each family for discussion. Further review of the resource map atlas will also take place.

Meeting 4: A final meeting to approve the Keyoh plan by the family. We will look at how the Keyoh plan can be woven into the overall Takla Lake Land Use Plan.

## *Land and Resource Plan*

*The Takla Land and Resource Plan will set out what Keyoh holders and the Takla membership want to see happen on their lands, including areas where industry can or cannot take place. On those areas that may be open for some level of development, the Plan will outline the types of restrictions on industrial activities. It will also designate areas that need to be protected for cultural or other reasons.*

It is important that everyone is part of the development of the Land and Resource Plan. Once we have our plan constructed, our leadership will begin meeting with the Provincial Gov't to push them to integrate their Plan (which we have not supported) with Takla's Plan. In this way, we can have a voice in the activities that are taking place on the territory and be able to get financial benefits from the damage to our land and the loss of our natural resources.



## TAKLA LAKE BAND

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Prince George, B.C. V2L 3B9

Phone: 250-564-9321

### Thank you Ruth and Farewell!

After working with Takla for 8 months, Ruth Sauder is headed back home to Vancouver Island. Ruth came to help Takla as our Financial Controller last May, taking on the difficult task of getting our financial records organized and ready for the audit. She was hired on an interim basis, initially for 3 or 4 months, but this extended to 8! Over the weeks, Chief and Council and staff came to quickly value not only the organizational skills and efficiency of Ruth as an accountant, but to appreciate her easy-going personality. We knew we were in good hands! In addition to her financial background, Ruth brought many years experience working as a manager in a First Nations context. She is knowledgeable about funding, programming, and the changing landscape of FN governance as a consequence of the opportunities that are arising from consultation and accommodation.

Despite the tough demands of the job, Ruth was always willing to help and to listen. She communicated with everyone easily, always had a ready smile or laugh, and brought order and efficiency to the Finance Department. Working with such a likeable and energetic person lightened the mood of the entire office.

Ruth says that she has thoroughly enjoyed her time working with Takla Lake, and with Chief and Council, and hopes to be able to come back some time in the future. For now, she is looking forward to returning home for a well-deserved rest. Best of luck, Ruth, and a sincere thank you from everyone!

### ATTENTION TLFN MEMBERS

If you have any comments about this newsletter, or would like to contribute to future issues of the TLFN Newsletter, please contact :  
Phyllis Charlie  
@ 250-564-9321 ex.28 or by  
email: phyllis699@gmail.com

Please make all call's during work hours as my hours of work are from Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 4:30pm

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation:)

### YOUR TIME

Yesterday was a great start. Today, you can do even better. What you've done up to this point is impressive. What you can do now is phenomenal.

You've put great time, effort, pain and sacrifice into becoming who you are. Now is when you can harness all that value to become the best of who you can be.

Feel the goodness and the rightness of your past accomplishments. You are here to make a difference, and when you do, you know without a doubt that you're connected to your deepest purpose.



The warm sun shines, the cold winds blows, and life offers new joys and challenges with each dawning day. Through it all, no matter what, you can offer your own unique value in return.

Learn from the disappointments and build on the successes. This is your time to fulfill your best possibilities!

~Ralph Marston