

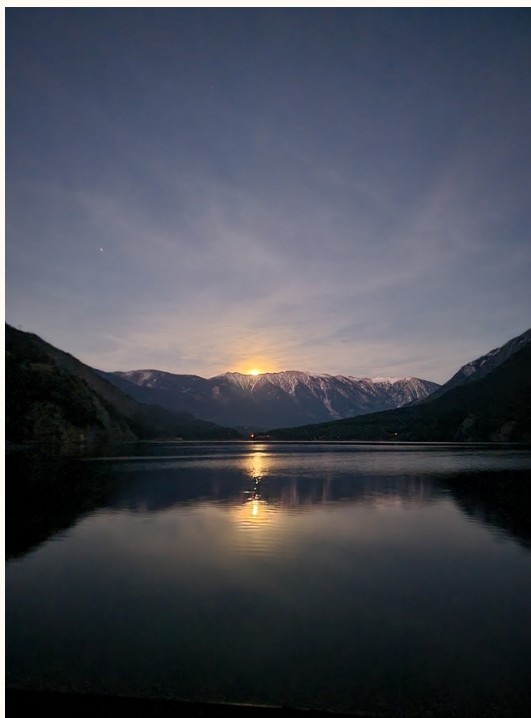
WELCOME TO THE  
**EARTHKIN**  
NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO OUR  
**FIRST NEWSLETTER!**

Winter solstice is marked at Earthkin each year by the arrival of the Kokanee salmon on the shores of Anderson Lake. We are marking this special time of year at Earthkin processing animals from the hunting season, tanning hides, and by launching the Earthkin Newsletter. This weekly newsletter is our way to:

- Inspire you with stories of what is happening
- Explore a topic, or question in each issue
- Share nature connection and ancestral skills courses, events, and happenings

We hope that by sharing this newsletter we deepen the Earthkin community's exploration of nature connection, land-based living, and ancestral skills.



## KOKANEE SALMON

### ECOLOGICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!

Anderson Lake is home to the unique Black Kokanee, a subspecies of Sockeye salmon found only in Anderson Lake, Seton Lake, and Lake Saiko in Japan. The first dead Kokanee was found on the shores of the lake on December 19th. It will draw hundreds of eagles plus lynx, fox, cougar, coyote, and more to the lake shores for a free feast.



# ANCIENT FUTURES

PART I OF A 5 PART SERIES

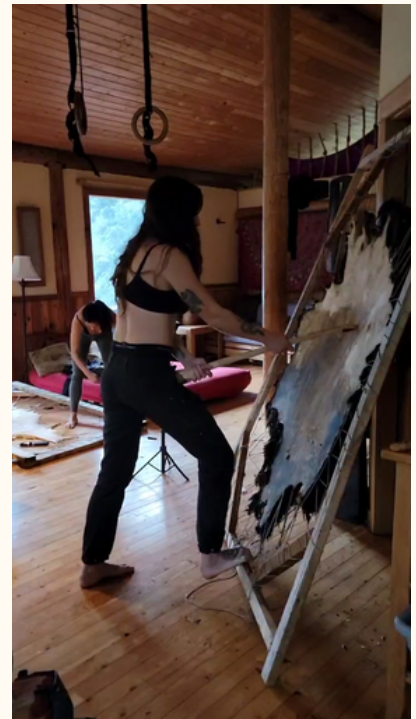
BY FERN YIP

The wood stove gently roars a bright-orange glow radiating warmth to all the corners of the living room. I reach for the damper and yank it out fully. The flames grow to a hotter roar. The heat is needed by all of us in the cabin living room, not because it's cold outside but because we are softening our hides. A road kill deer is stretched between my frame while Kyle and Miranda have luxurious shaggy fur-on sheep skins stretched out in their frames. In total there are three racked up hides precariously propped up against any available post or wall.

The inside temperature needs to be hot enough so that the hides will dry out fully while we work the skin fibres until they are soft and supple. It's the most laborious stage in the tanning process and one I typically reserve for the summer when the heat of the sun makes drying the hides easier. This winter, however, we have all caught the hide tanning fever and all of us are fervently softening indoors. We know the room temperature has risen sufficiently to begin drying the hides when the only comfortable way to be is entirely or mostly naked.

The three of us find ourselves in a rhythm of doing the demanding physical work of softening our hides for a bit and then taking a break to catch up on computer work. In a peculiar way the two alternating activities compliment each other. We give ourselves fully to the exertion of pulling the skin fibres apart with our wooden softening stakes for fifteen minutes and then leave the hide to dry some more. The rest period offers a convenient time to attend to our internet communications and responsibilities.

The resulting experience is a paradoxical combination of ancestral skills and modern technology. It's somewhat of a summation of where many of us find ourselves in the pursuit of reviving ancestral skills in these times. Which brings me to a question many of us are exploring at Earthkin. **What does it mean to practise ancestral skills in modern times?** This newsletter kicks off a five-part series where we'll be sharing our experiences and stories to answer this question. Different Earthkin instructors will contribute a response to the question to help illustrate what it looks like to practise ancestral skills today and what it means to them.



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# WINTER TRACKING COURSE

JANUARY 18TH-21ST, 2024

Snow is on the ground for a limited time. Learn to identify and interpret the tracks and signs of animals while gaining a new awareness of the natural world in this 3-day Winter Wildlife Tracking Course.

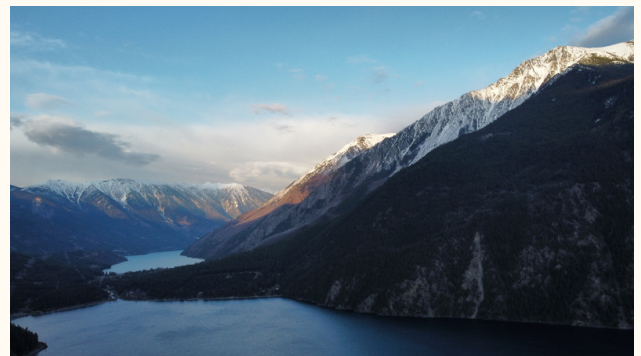
[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## Coming Up

### TRACKING GUILD

A peer group will be reconvening at the very end of December to focus on deepening our study of the art and science of tracking through excursions in the snow. If you are interested in joining next year consider taking the per-requisite Winter Tracking Course in January 2024.



## 2024 Calendar

### COMING SOON!

We have a number of courses coming up next year on a variety of topics including tracking, hide tanning, bushcraft 101, and week long mountain trips. Look out for our the next Earthkin newsletter to find out when these courses are and how to sign-up.