

**Xáwɩ te shk'xóɩ** "the moon is new"  
– the first sliver of moon that appears  
after the blacked out moon; lasts about  
six days and ceases when the moon be-  
comes a half.

**Yuwál lɩséq' te shk'xóɩ** "first half  
moon. The left half is dark and lasts  
about one day

**Lhíxwɩ kwóteɩ te shk'xóɩ** "three  
quarters moon" – three quarters of the  
moon are bright, the left quarter is  
dark, probably lasts two or three days.

**Selítɩ' te shk'xóɩ** "the moon is full"  
– the whole moon is lit, lasts one day  
or so.

**Lhíxwɩ kwóteɩ te shk'xóɩ** "three  
quarters moon" – three quarters of the  
moon are bright, the right quarter is  
dark, probably lasts two or three days.

**Lɩséq' te shk'xóɩ** "(second) half-  
moon" – half moon with right half dark,  
lasts about one day.

**Th'éth'eth'ex te shk'xóɩ** "the  
moon is burning out" – more than half  
of the right side of the moon is dark,  
lasts about six days till the last sliver has  
almost disappeared.

## How Night and Day Came to be...

In the beginning there was only dark-no  
light. During this time, xá:ysem people had  
a hard time. Many times they became lost  
and couldn't find their way home.

Xá:ysem, Ant, decided to ask Xexá:ls, the  
Transformer, for some daylight. Xexá:ls  
answered "Yes" to Xá:ysem. Spá:th, Bear,  
heard of Xá:ysem's desire and became an-  
gry. He traveled to visit Xexá:ls, also.  
Spá:th loved to sleep, he requested more  
Night-time. Xexá:ls answered "Yes" to  
Spá:th.

When Xá:ysem and Spá:th realized that  
Xexá:ls answered "yes" to both of their re-  
quests, Xexá:ls decided that there would  
be a dance. The winner's wish would be  
the prize.

Spá:th danced, oh, so slow. If only he could  
sleep or maybe eat a little. He danced a  
little while, then went for a nap.

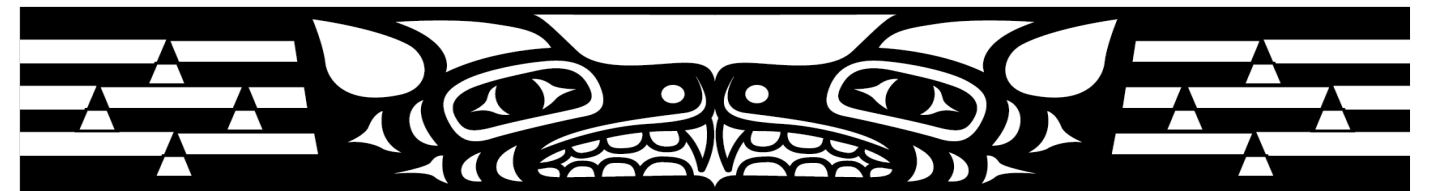
It was Xá:ysem's turn. She put forth all her  
energy. Every time she danced, she tight-  
ened her belt which made her stomach  
seem full. She didn't eat between dances.  
Because of her dedication, Xá:ysem won  
her wish. She would have some daylight in  
order to carry on her tasks.

Spá:th woke from his slumber to find day-  
light, hungry he lumbered around to find  
food, upset that he lost.

Xexá:ls felt pity on Spá:th and gave him  
the winter months for his long sleep, gifted  
him the ability to sleep while the sun is out,  
and moves around during the night.



# October 16, 2023



## Lalme'lwesawtexw

### Xwoyíwel tel

## Stó:ló Xá:wɩ Silólem Swáyel

**Th'éx te shk'xóɩ** "the moon is  
burned out" – the whole moon is black



How the T’óltel (Eclipse) Came to Be”

A long time a go, when things were mixed up. The stars were shined extra bright in the sky that the Skw'exós became jealous. "Oh, what am I to do? I am much bigger than the stars, but they still shine so brightly in the sky. Oh, woe is me." There was a star shooting by that evening. It heard what the Skw'exós had said. "Well, hello!" said the Kwósel. "I hear you have troubles."

"Yes, thank you for asking Kwósel. I saw you shoot by, and I made a wish. Maybe my wish may come true."

"A wish, you say," replied Kwósel. "What was your wish?"

"I wish to be as bright in the sky as your brother and sister stars," whispered the Skw'exós .

"As bright as my brother and sister stars, you say?" laughed the Kwósel.

"Is that too much to ask for?" The Skw'exós asked, sniffing back a tear.

Tapping his finger on his chin, "No, that sounds like a reasonable wish that I might be able to grant."

"How can you do that?" exclaimed the Skw'exós .

"I own a night paint. I can make the paint and be right back." and off Kwósel streaked into the night. The next evening while the Skw'exós was high in the sky, Kwósel returned with a fresh basket of paint. He proceeded to gussy up the Skw'exós with some brand-new color.

"Oh, Kwósel, I am now so bright. I am so grateful for your service," chuckled the Skw'exós .

"You are quite welcome. If you ever need my help again, make a wish." off he went.

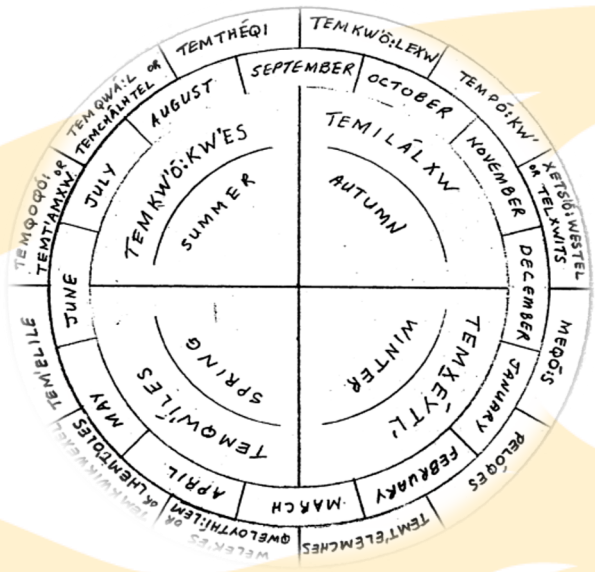
Further on down the road, the Syó:qwem and Skw'exós shared the sky. The Syó:qwem noticed how suddenly bright Skw'exós was. "Hello, Skw'exós , you are looking so good today." said the Syó:qwem.

"Why thank you, Syó:qwem. I got painted up." Replied the Skw'exós and then proceeded to tell Syó:qwem how she achieved the renewed look.

"I never see Kwósel when I'm out. Do you think you could make a wish for me and wish that I may be able to receive a new paint-up?" asked Syó:qwem.

The Skw'exós said she would be glad to make a wish for him. Later that evening, Kwósel streaked across the night sky. The Skw'exós wished upon it for Syó:qwem. Being more than happy to grant the Skw'exós 's wish the next day, Kwósel contacted Syó:qwem. Now, for Kwósel to paint Syó:qwem, he needed a place to stand. So the Skw'exós moved in front of Syó:qwem, so Kwósel would have a way to stand and paint. That's how the T’óltel came to be.

T’óltel Eclipse Skw'exós Moon Kwósel star



About Stó:lō New Year...

In early times, starting in Early Spring – Temqw'iles- when mother earth comes alive, everything grows. People had to gather and preserve all types of foods—plants, roots, tree bark, and early runs of salmon- to survive the long cold winters. During the beginning of July – temkw'okw'es – when the weather is hot and windy and there are no flies or bees, many of our people, with other tribes from Vancouver Island, traveled by special canoes up the Fraser River to the Fraser Canyon to fish by dip-net with a life line or by setting net out by pole and pulley. Salmon was butchered in a special way and hung on drying racks for the sun and wind to dry. In late summer, people from many villages would ascend the mountains, like Mt. Cheam, to pick berries, plants, roots, and bark. While in the mountains in the Stó:lō people would hunt wild game, deer, elk, moose, bear, mountain goat or sheep, also duck, geese, pheasants, grouse. In late summer and early fall the people would move down the river to smoke salmon and wild game in huge smoke-houses – 50 feet to 150 feet long. Several years ago an archeologist unearth an area of a smokehouse about 100 feet long with eight fires on Seabird Island . According to the Stó:lō calendar Tempó:kw (time for white spring salmon) is the tenth moon (month) and usually the food harvesting of the Stó:lō comes to a gradual close—Temilá:xw - and time to put away tools, utensils, berry picking baskets, canoes and paddles.

Kwósel Pettit, 1999  
Xwoyíwel tel Stó:lō Xá:ws Silólem

Stó:lō Calendar for 2023-2024 —originally documented by Dr. Brent Galloway for the Coqualeetza Elders		
The month was one complete cycle of the moon, about 29 ½ days and so it was called by the same name as the moon, skw'exós (in some dialects, lhqá:its'). Each month or moon was said to begin on the first sliver of the month that appeared after the “burnt out moon” which is two days after the new moon. Pre-contact of Europeans, the Stó:lō named the seasons according to the lunar cycles in relationship to their hunting and gathering cycle. The Stó:lō people and their relationship to their world named each “month” based on harvest for that particular season. Each “month” or moon began on the first sliver of the moon that appeared after the “burnt out moon” or new moon. Some years have thirteen months, others have twelve months, the thirteen moon years come every third year for 10-13 years; a 5 year gap occurs, and the next 10-13 year cycle occurs. This by no means was a ridged cycle, all was based on observations of the environment and its moon cycles.		
Skwix	Translation	Date
Temkw'ó:lexw	“dog salmon time”	Sept. 16, 2023
Temhilálxw “time for things to fall” (tem – “time, season”, hilálxw “falling & rolling leaves”) Fall Equinox September 22, 2023		
Syilólem 2022-2023 the beginning of the Stó:lō Year Oct. 16, 2023		
Tempó:kw'	“time for Chehalis spring salmon”	Oct. 16, 2023
Xets'ó:westel (or Telxwíts or Telxwítsel)	“time to store away canoe paddles for winter” (or “leaves are falling”) Tsélcheptel wood-gathering time	Nov. 15, 2023
Meqó:s	“fallen snow season”	Dec. 14, 2023
Temxéytl' “cold time” (tem – “time, season”, xéytl' “cold”) Winter Solstice December 21, 2023		
Pelóqes	“torch season”	Jan. 13, 2024
Temtl'í:q'es (or Tem't'elémtsés)	“time to get jammed in [as in a trap, a box, etc]” (or “time one's hand sticks to things [from the cold]”)	Feb. 11, 2024
Welék'es (or Qweloythí:lem)	“little frog season” (or making music)	Mar. 12, 2024
Welék'es (or Qweloythí:lem)	“little frog season” (or making music)	Apr. 10, 2024
Temqw'iles “time for things to come up” (tem “time, season”, qw'iles “sprouting up, sticking its head out of the ground [of a plant]”) Spring Equinox March 20, 2024		
Temkwíkwexel (or Lhem't'ó:les)	“time for baby sockeye salmon” ( or spring shower in the eyes)	May 9, 2024
Tem'elíle (Temkw'à:y)	“salmonberry time” (“hungry time”)	June 8, 2024
Temqoqó: (or Tem't'ámxw) (or temwíwe (or possibly) temswíwe)	“high water time” (or “goose berry time”) (oolachen moon)	July 7, 2024
Temkw'ókw'es “hot time” (tem “time, season”, kw'ókw'es “be warm, be hot”) Summer Solstice June 21, 2024		
Temqwá:l (or Epóléstel) (or Temchálhtel)	“mosquito time” (or “the tenth month”) (or “time to wind dry fish”)	Aug. 6, 2024
Temthéqi	“sockeye salmon time”	Sept. 5, 2024
Temkw'ó:lexw	“dog salmon time”	Oct. 4, 2024