**sinklip** BRINGING SALMON TO t’ucin (SKAHA LAKE)

Written by June Paul as per the story told orally by Richard Armstrong

**sinklip** (Coyote) brought salmon from the south at the n̓əən̓ant̓stt̓ikʷ (Columbia River) and into the q̓awsitkʷ (Okanagan River) in Washington and in the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia. On his journey, **sinklip** stopped at the south end of t’ucin (Skaha Lake) near sx̱axnitkʷ (traditional fishing camp in Okanagan Falls) and asked the sx̱í̱ltx̱ people for a wife and a home. He continued his journey to the north bringing the salmon into t’ucin. When he returned for his wife and a home in sx̱axnitkʷ, he discovered his given wife was impregnated by another. Coyote was very disappointed, so he put the mx̱̱apr̲ (cradleboard) above the river to let everyone know that he did not receive this promise. However, to show his promise for the salmon, he placed his fishing spear above the river, across from akspaqnix (Vaseux Lake.)

With Coyote’s promise for salmon he left three rock formations at sx̱axnitkʷ (Okanagan Falls): stunx̱ (Beaver), s̕aʔn̓ix̱ (Muskrat) and c̓əʔtups (Fisher). These are the Coyote’s story markers and are visible above q̓awsitkʷ between the n̓əy̓l̓ín̓ən (McIntyre Dam area) and sx̱axnitkʷ.

**s̕aʔn̓ix̱** Muskrat was honored as a teacher “in the water”. His responsibility is to care for the dams and vegetation in the river.

**stunx̱** Beaver was granted guardian of the river. His responsibility is to build dams to regulate the water levels.

**c̓əʔtups** Fisher was granted guardian of the higher lands. His responsibility is to regulate the creeks and watersheds.