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# HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Council of the Haida Nation

April 2016



Photo: Haida Laas/Rhonda Lee McIsaac

**Superstar basketball players Cenita Sankey, Zoey Collinson and Xiila Guujaaw braving the freezing wind in Williams Lake while representing the Nation at the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament.**



## HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

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## Newly elected Kaa Dllxaaws Naay *Skidegate Band Council*



Photo: Barbara Stevens

Newly elected Kaa Dllxaaws Naay Chief and Council. (l-r): Chief councillor Kuuhlaans *Billy Yovanovich*, Jutkungits *Lyndale George*, Wah gwii hla gaay *Duane Alsop*, Naajuuwu *Michelle McDonald*, Nankil'slas *Trent Moraes*, Michelle Pineault, Taaixou *Robert Russ*. Missing from photo: David Crosby. The Council was elected on March 15, 2016.



## Goose Eyes Girl

Rhonda Lee McIsaac, Goose Eyes Girl (Way Way Sh key zhi gook) Weweshkiinzhigook, Caribou clan, is a member of the Ojibways of Saugeen First Nation #97. She is a graduate student in the Masters of Education, Multidisciplinary Leadership Program

the University of Northern British Columbia. Rhonda is a traditional Jingle Dress dancer. Her most recent research is sharing the leadership perspectives of Self Governing Yukon First Nation women chiefs. She works as a graduate student teaching assistant, grader and tutor with the First Nations Studies department at UNBC. She has extensive experience working with indigenous organizations, post secondary institutions, the Public Service (INAC and Work BC), non-profit organizations, social service agencies, and in the service sector before coming to the Council of the Haida Nation, Communications Program. She lives with her partner in HlGaagilda and has two children in Vancouver, British Columbia, unceded Coast Salish Territories and in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Snuneymuxw traditional territory.





Fisheries Guardians graduates (l-r): Guud Kyagangs Ava Williams, 'Laanas St'ang Richard Matthews, Rob Brown, Yaqvalalis Stacey Humchit, Shawn Edgars, Xaahlk'wii Sdaansing Naas Morgan Pollard, Chris Hans and Gwaay Dal Gaay Gins Mark Grinder. Missing from photo: Nigel Pearson.

# Hooked on learning

Nine new Fisheries Guardians graduated from three weeks of intensive training this past January. The first Canada-wide course held years ago trained over 200 guardians, three of whom were Haida. Now an additional eight fully trained Guardians join them.

"We've done a lot of work on the land," said kil tlaats 'gaa Peter Lantin, President of the Haida Nation. "The story on the water is next. What's exciting to me is that both people, the Haida Nation and Canada, are working together. These are going to be exciting times, and there are a lot of opportunities emerging from this relationship."

The course resulted from this cooperative effort and began with a trip to Ottawa two years ago, when Haida Fisheries Manager Yaahl Iiwaans Brad Setso and Fisheries Officer Beth Guptill started talking about further training and capacity building.

Experienced instructors provided students with story-based instruction throughout the course along with instruction from a lawyer and conservation and protection experts.

Legal training covered the Fisheries Act, Pacific Fishery Regulations, Fisheries General Regulations, BC Sport Fishing Regulations,

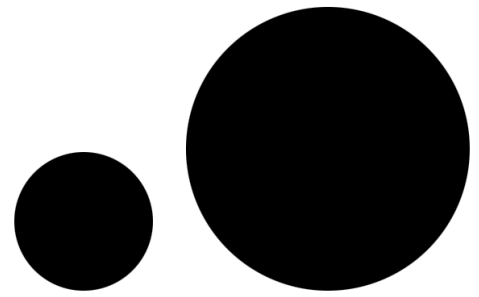
Aboriginal Communal Fishing License Regulations, the Species at Risk Act, and the Sanitation Program. The students also practiced skills like public speaking and firearms safety.

A colleague from Heiltsuk territory, Yaqvalalis Stacey Humchit, joined the Haida students. And, as one of the graduates, he will be taking his new knowledge back to Heiltsuk territory, to help to build coast-wide capacity.

The graduates include Yaqvalalis Stacey Humchit, 'Laanas St'ang Richard Matthews, Gwaay Dal Gaay Gins Mark Grinder, Xaahlk'wii Sdaansing Naas Morgan Pollard, Ava Williams, Shawn Edgars, Rob Brown, Chris Hans, and Nigel Pearson. DFO staff partnered with CHN to help with the course, including Beth Guptill, Kelly Aitken, Jeff Quigley, Eric Zimmermann, and Cathy Sumi.



Tyson Brown



Size of Earth (l) in relation to Planet 9.

## FAR freakin' out

The solar system's eight official planets have been joined by a ninth with the discovery of a planet way beyond the orbit of Pluto.

Astronomers called upon the most exotic muses from the farthest reaches of their imaginations to conjure a nickname for the solar system's newest family member: 'Planet Nine'. Based on the composition of Neptune and Uranus, scientists speculate that the far-flung sojourner is likely an ice giant slathered with an ocean of liquid gas.

The planet probably traces an elliptical 10,000 to 20,000 year orbit around the sun ranging between 200-700AU\*, placing it well beyond Neptune's 30.1AU\* range. Based on the gravitational behavior of nearby, observable Kuiper-belt objects, scientists estimate Planet Nine to weigh in at 10M<sub>⊕</sub>\*\*. Although astronomers are still scrambling for a first look at the object, mathematical models have conclusively confirmed Planet Nine's existence.

The discovery of this planetary recluse is of little consolation to Pluto, which, in 2005 was doomed by unyielding detractors at the International Astronomical Union and demoted to 'dwarf planet' status for the next 7.5 billion years. At that time, the dying-breaths of the ever-expanding Sun will cast the forsaken rock and it's celestial cousins into the fathomless indifference of space. The fleeting beauty of the decrepit Sun's nebula will offer little comfort to the sightless outcast. •

\*AU: one Earth distance, or 149,597,870,700 metres.

\*\*M<sub>⊕</sub>: one Earth mass, or 5,972,000,000,000,000,000kg



## Hammer stones, cedar baskets & intertidal pathways

By Graham Richard

A walk down any beach on Haida Gwaii can quickly turn into an archeological adventure. These shores are peppered with signs of our Haida ancestor's use, which include the building of fish traps, fish ponds, canoe runs and intertidal pathways. From 2009 – 2012, the Haida Nation and Parks Canada sent out survey teams that identified dozens of cultural features in Gwaii Haanas.

"That was an incredible project and what we found in the intertidal opened my eyes to the number of features that one can see when the tide drops and the intricate resource management practices used by the Haida in the marine environment," said archeologist Nicole Smith of the Hakai Institute.

It is easy to see sections of beach that appear beautifully manicured. These are often the 'front yards' of a village site where ancestors moved stones out of the way to encourage shellfish or sandlance populations to grow. Clearing the shoreline also improved the working of major fish trap complexes. Some of these intertidal traps were built with large cedar baskets bound around circles of stones or human-made ponds containing little stone cairns where *naaw octopus* still take up residence.

Many of these more obvious features are easier to spot. K'yuu kudhllk'aat'ijja *clam gardens*, however, only reveal themselves at the lowest tides of the year, leaving only about 20 days when they are visible in daylight.

That's why in 2008 Ms Smith felt so eager to take advantage of an approaching low tide to go in search of them. What she didn't anticipate was how easily she would discover the k'yuu kudhllk'aat'ijja.

"As we [started our search and] made our way down to the boats, there in front of us,

less than 300 metres from the cabin were not one, but two clam gardens," she said. In addition, the team immediately discovered another two candidates on nearby beaches.

In 2008, archeologists had not listed any k'yuu kudhllk'aat'ijja in Haida Gwaii. However, between 2009 and 2011, teams identified around a dozen candidates on islands off Haida Gwaii's southeastern coast, especially near K'iid Xyangs K'iidaay *Burnaby Narrows*.

Later in 2012, experts confirmed the team had correctly identified the k'yuu kudhllk'aat'ijja during a helicopter-flight. By the time the helicopter returned to its pad, the team had identified even more clam-gardens, cleared beaches, fish traps, canoe runs, and tidal pools that hadn't been noticed from boats. Now archeological teams have confirmed that there are dozens of clam gardens in Haida Gwaii, if not more.

As Gwaliga Hart describes, this abundance of archeological sites has become the norm in Haida Gwaii.

"Oh man, it was incredible!" Gwaliga exclaimed. "My first day down there doing archeology we were going over all the types of features we were looking for, stone tools, lithics, fish complexes, fish traps, and clam garden-like features. We started off on the north-east side of Kunghit Island, and we came into this spot called Heater Harbour. Its Haida name, Giilii GawGa, means Salmon Trap Bay, which is a dead giveaway. We went in there on a low tide and every sort of feature we were looking for was in there. Our project director and everyone we were training under were bug-eyed with excitement at the almighty discovery of it all. Everyone was blown away! It was the best

way to start off my archeology adventures; it was perfect for training, because every thing was so clean and clear in my first few days. We found rock alignments for fish traps and things like that. There was wooden stakes that created different weir-complexes. We found stone-tools, stone pile drivers that would drive in the wooden stakes. Hammer stones. Yah, it was amazing."

Still, Haida Gwaii has a relatively low density of clam-gardens compared to the rest of the coast. This may be because Haida ancestors were aware that sea levels in Haida Gwaii had been falling. Today some thousand-year-old rock-walls are at the mid-tidal region where they are too high above the water to produce. Haida Gwaii also has many exposed shorelines that are highly productive for other species. Mussel shells dominate most of the middens in Gwaii Haanas.

Today, the large quantity of ancient Haida aquacultural sites is slowly awakening the academic world to how coastal people managed the land and sea. Sustainable aquacultural practices in Haida Gwaii included long-term, intergenerational farming and trapping areas that were backed by a strong and well-developed management system. This system was administrated and overseen by the 'waahlgahl *potlatch*, where laws were enacted and witnessed. The collective authority of the Haida community recognized and upheld the fishing rights each family established through the 'waahlgahl. This collective knowledge was the foundation by which Haida aquaculture was governed.

"This shows that our ancestors managed a huge number of sites for thousands of years to catch and produce food," said crew member Jaalen Edenshaw. "Essentially, what the sites show us is that Haida society was built on slow and patient aquaculture techniques in a big way. Our ancestors had a really close relationship to all the life in the ocean. This shows us how we have grown food sustainably over generations and generations. We have always treated our food with respect and our ancestors managed our resources with patience and honour. As long as that continues we will always have enough." •



# CHN REPORTING OUT Winter Session 2016

by Graham Richard

A sharp edge of white water mixes with the wings of a hundred *sgin seagulls*. Their flustered clamour encircles a herring ball, pinpointing it with their bright splashes of sea-spray on the sea's dark surface. *Iinang herring* are returning to *Xaana Kaahlii Gawgaay Skidegate Inlet*. Their pursuers, *kun Humpback whale*, herd them past *Sgaay.yas Torrens Island*. Their massive flukes, broad as dinner tables, heave into the sky then dip elegantly below the waves as they dive for another mouthful.

People watching from the shore at *Kay Llnagaay* were taking a break from the Council of the Haida Nation's Winter Seasonal Session. Inside *Gina Guu Aahljuu Naay Performance House* high-spirited citizens were gathered around the central house pit discussing the past winters activities; with the first day devoted to airing issues and debating policy, resulting from the National election in December.

The last four months have been a series of unfolding surprises, starting with the election of a Liberal majority to the Canadian parliament on October 19, 2015 followed by the Old Massett Village Council elections on December 7 with the Council of the Haida Nation's election following on December 12, and finishing with the Skidegate Band Council election on March 15, 2016.

Inside the house, the expectant crowd gave a very lively welcome to CHN's 12

newly elected representatives and executive members *kil tlaats 'gaa Peter Lantin*, President of the Haida Nation and *Ginn Waadluu un Uula Isdaa Ayagang Trevor Russ* Vice-president. They are joined by *Kung Xyaalas Tyler Bellis*, *Guud Yuwans William Russ*, *Xylang Jaad Xylaa Leslie Brown*, *Iihlgeegaa Roger Smith*, *Giinowaan Ernest Swanson*, *Kaakuns Pansy Collison*, *Gaagwiis Jason Alsop*, *Kaad Giidee Robert Bennett*, *Huux Percy Crosby*, *Kung Xaangajee Shawn Cowpar*, *Stephen (Buck) Grosse*, and *Sea'gay David Smith*.

When the new council was sworn in on January 5, seven of its members were starting their very first day as CHN representatives. The reps underwent two days of orientation January 6 and 7 which concluded with the appointment of reps to their portfolio and committee responsibilities.

## Haida Title

In October the House of Assembly passed Resolution 2015-11, which provided CHN with a mandate to "prepare a strategy to move the Haida Title case forward to the next stage". In December 2015, the Hereditary Chiefs Council discussed and passed a motion requesting legal counsel to file amended pleadings and secure the earliest possible trial date before the BC Supreme Court. CHN approval followed in January 2016, and legal

counsel will be requesting a trial date from the court this coming July, when the court opens its register for new trial dates.

The Haida Title case is based on an enormous collection of historical evidence (documents, photographs and recordings), gathered from sources throughout the world including the federal and provincial governments' archives, CHN's institutional archives from its formation in 1974, elders' testimony through depositions, and prior interviews. Beyond its legal significance, the research has also uncovered many culturally important treasures over the years, including photographs, ships logs, audio recordings of oral traditions, Haida laws and legal orders, and Haida place-names.

## Reconciliation

The conversation with Canada also continues outside the courtroom. CHN's executive met with federal representatives who are approaching the negotiating table with a new interest since October's Canadian election led to a Liberal party majority in parliament. To open the conversation, federal representatives prompted CHN to create a discussion paper outlining its terms and conditions of negotiation. This document will guide the two parties and serve as a framework by which to negotiate. The negotiation, which is a component of reconciliation with Canada, will among other things cover governance, capacity building, fish, fisheries management, and marine transportation.

During the new Liberal government's first days of office, in what is recognized as a positive step toward reconciling Haida and federal issues, *Hunter Tootoo*, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard closed the herring fishery around Haida Gwaii. This action by Canada reflected

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## Rockin' the web



### CHN Facebook

Followers - 4716

New weekly followers - 30+

Most people reached with a single post - 147,700

We reach between 3000 - 6000 people every time we post.

**Don't forget to LIKE < Council of the Haida Nation > on Facebook!**

*reporting out continued from page 5.*

the closure already put in place by the Haida Nation and is a step toward rebuilding the stocks around Haida Gwaii.

## Oil Tanker Moratorium

The ongoing conversations about the shipment of oil by pipeline and tanker to and from the coast via Haida territorial waters, continued with in Kxeen *Prince Rupert* as CHN executive met with Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, on January 14. The minister of parliament and former astronaut returned for his third term, this time filling the role of Transport Minister in the federal cabinet. Haida leadership joined Mr Garneau, Tsimshian, Heiltsuk, Nisga'a, Haisla, and Coastal First Nations representatives to discuss the implementation of an oil tanker moratorium on the coast. At the meeting CHN executive presented the House of Assembly resolution opposing oil tankers on the coast to the transport minister. Kil tlaats 'gaa *Peter Lantin*, President of the Haida Nation said that the message from the federal government was that a moratorium is coming but the details are still not clear on what the moratorium will cover. He also said that the CHN has to "get out there" to let coastal nations know exactly where the CHN stands on this issue.

## Haida Traditional Fishery

In 2014 the Haida Fisheries Program started a Haida Traditional Fishery in *Gaaw Old Massett*, which purchased xaaguu *halibut* and sgwaagan *salmon* from local Haida fishers. After a successful first year, the program was expanded to include HIGaagilda in 2015. Fisheries Guardians purchased the fish on the docks at Daajing Giids *Village of Queen Charlotte* and *Gaaw* as fishers returned from a day on the water.

When the season ended on September 7, the Haida Fisheries Program had purchased 17,478 pounds of fish from citizens including 8,898 pounds of sgwaagan and 8,580 pounds of xaaguu. The fish was donated to community causes and events throughout the year. Feedback from the fishers shows that the program helps to boost local incomes and

supplement the cost families incur while food fishing for themselves.

## Razor Clams

This winter Haida Fisheries worked with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to float another new program. Together they completed and implemented a joint k'aamahl *razor clam* management plan. The plan was ratified at *Gaaw* in January at a public consultation. On March 5, the first commercial k'aamahl fishery of the season opened in the area from Mey.ya Kun *Wiah Point* to K'aa Kun *Rose Spit* for commercial harvesting with a quota of 450,000 pounds. Haida Fisheries staff are working with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to test the clams bi-weekly to ensure they are safe to eat. The k'aamahl management plan is available for review through the Haida Fisheries office. Citizens can watch the CHN Facebook page for beach condition updates.

You can also sign up to the CHN contact database and receive fisheries notices by email. Go to < [haidanation.ca](http://haidanation.ca) > and click on "SIGN UP HERE".

## Haida Law

As the Nation's governance structure is debated and refined through public discourse, the call to address the enforcement of Haida law increases, as does the need to define the consequences for breaking these laws.

A question posed at the HoA asked how the CHN was addressing these matters. The president responded with an overview of the law-making process the Nation uses today, both cultural and legal, and the codifying of historical laws that have been in use since the beginning.

The process of taking a law that has been passed along through traditional methods and writing it down so it can be applied in a modern context is a complicated business he said. "It really comes down to how we wish to behave toward each other and our relationship to the natural world," said kil tlaats 'gaa. "It's about understanding the knowledge that has been passed to us by our ancestors and applying it to the context in which we find ourselves today; that is not a simple thing to do." •



*Ts'aabl Eagle clan • Save the date*

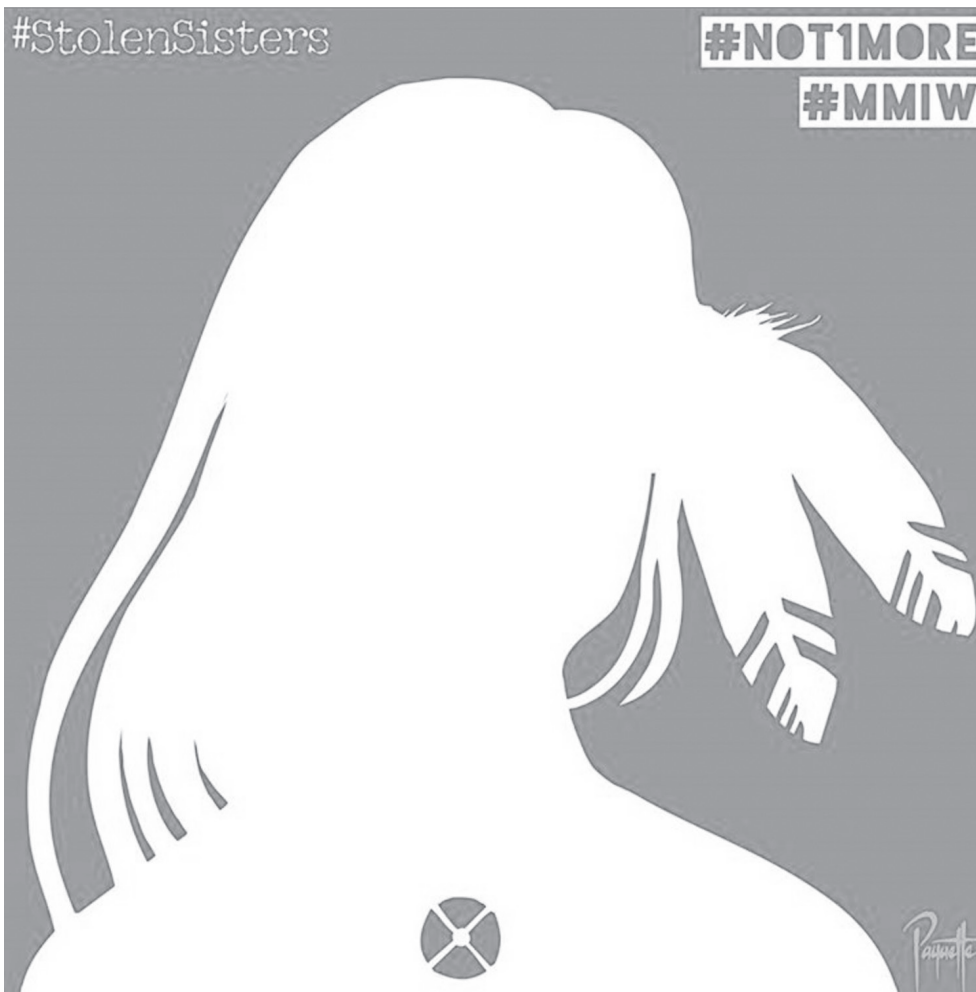
*Chief Gaahlaay's naming potlatch*

*Saturday, October 8, 2016*

*Invitations to follow*

*Haaw'a*





Thousands of social media users including Iksokapi Magazine have recently changed their profile photo with this image to bring attention to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Aaron Paquette, creator and founder of the Cree8 Success philosophy and renowned artist invited his Facebook followers to share the version he created, "I designed this image in 2012 to speak to the growing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women."

- Iksokapi Magazine, September 2014

# *There are stories we must tell*

By Rhonda Lee McIsaac

Those who do not know the stories of missing and murdered women along the Highway of Tears may describe that stretch of highway as one of the most scenic in Canada. Travelling from Prince Rupert to Prince George on Highway 16 with the kilometres of forest, snow capped mountain ranges and river views only highlights the loneliness and secrets that this land possesses. That loneliness also highlights the missing and murdered women who've disappeared from the roadside that follows the Skeena River inland.

Large signs standing along the road warn residents and those travelling through, about the dangers of hitchhiking along this stretch of highway. The faces of missing aboriginal

women who once lived in these communities are displayed and along with their likeness the urgent message, "Girls, don't hitchhike the Highway of Tears" is blazed across the sign in large letters.

At least 34 women have gone missing along this highway since 1969. Clues as to those responsible have been found over the years and while some cases have been solved most remain unsolved and the guilty still at large. The victims are not nameless, most have family who live along the highway, and the ties of the families to the land and river are strong and diverse, and the outcry of their voices is as loud as the rushing waters of the Skeena River.

The Highway of Tears runs for 720 km. It passes through over 15 indigenous communities, communities that are also dealing with the social, economic and political issues which have been a constant bur since contact. The RCMP that police these communities are often understaffed and stretched to the max. And, at times they are cited as being part of the mix of systemic racism and oppression that everyone is trying to deal with. These 34 women and girls who have gone missing are part of a larger problem which stretches from coast to coast. The bigger story has victimized over 1500

**MMIW continued on page 8**

**MMIW continued from page 7.**

women and girls and the vast majority of these cases have not been solved.

In 2016, in a time of reconciliation between Indigenous nations and the federal government there is work of the heart and mind occurring within the wheels of government. After years of denial and misdirection, newly elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called for an inquiry into these missing and murdered women and girls within his first 100 days in office.

Getting to the point of having the issue recognized nationally has been a rocky journey. Numerous studies looking into the issue have already happened at all levels of government and the grassroots as well. These reports include Amnesty International's Stolen Sisters (2004) and the follow-up, No More Stolen Sisters (2009); the Coordinating Committee of Senior Officials Missing Women Working Group's Report; and the Final Report of the Provincial Partnership Committee on Missing Persons in Saskatchewan.

In 2004, the federal government's Status of Women funded the group, Sisters in Spirit (SIS) to support their research, education and policy driven projects led by aboriginal women and to raise awareness regarding the high rates of violence against women and girls. Part of their findings were a set of recommendations requesting funds to educate Canadians on the issue of violence against aboriginal women and girls. Funding dedicated to address this very large problem has always been an issue as the jurisdiction and responsibility for addressing the problem is caught somewhere between the provincial and federal government.

What the Sisters in Spirit confirmed, at the time, was what many already knew – 600 women were missing or murdered. This number is being updated to reflect current cases and the number of missing and murdered women and girls today is now nearing 2000 individuals.

The controversial two-year long Missing Women Commission Inquiry led by Wally Oppal Q.C., which began in 2010 was struck to look at British Columbia police forces investigations into missing women from the

Downtown Eastside in Vancouver, look at the actions of Robert William Pickton, to begin investigations of missing women and suspected homicides in BC, and finally, to make changes in how homicide investigations are conducted by investigating organizations across BC.

All four areas of the inquiry were to be reported on to BC's Attorney General and in June 2012, after an extension requesting more time, four reports were released along with one research paper. It is generally felt that the Oppal commission's consultation process was rushed, proper time was not provided to families and victims, and issues were not prioritized and not discussed adequately. One of the biggest complaints was that the Commission did not act on the recommendations that came from families.

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2010-2015) looked into the ugly history of Indian residential schools across Canada it was noted that an ongoing effect of the residential school system was its negative impact on women and girls. Included in the final report was the need for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Studies come and go; how they are acted upon is dependent on many factors, but through the years and all across Canada, women's groups have been instrumental in keeping missing and murdered women and girls in the public eye and have lately driven on to the national agenda. These grassroots initiatives have been supported by groups like Idle No More, the Assembly of First Nations, provincial organizations, and the families of the missing and murdered women. At the international level, the United Nations is involved.

When Canada's former Prime Minister Steven Harper said that, "[Missing and murdered women] isn't high on our radar, to be honest." The pushback from groups deeply involved in the issue was dramatic. For many, this became the reason to vote for a change in the 2015 national election, with the hope that a new and younger Prime Minister would understand the gravity of the issue. Change happened and the new federal government listened.

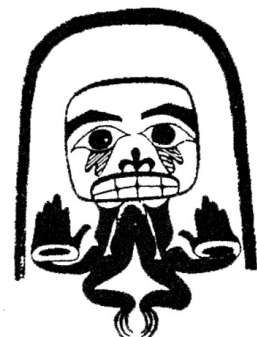
To begin the latest process of federal inquiry, Carolyn Bennett, Minister of

Indigenous and Northern Affairs; Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women travelled the country and witnessed stories and the tears and the anger that families have suffered for years. They met with people in Prince George and have heard from those left behind – the survivors, family members, loved ones, and representatives from women's organizations like the Downtown Eastside Women's Shelter, the Native Women's Association of Canada, Carrier Sekani Child and Family Services, and other organizations and individuals presented and attended these ministerial sessions.

The question that the federal government asked in these pre-inquiry sessions was: Who should lead and who should take part in the inquiry?

First Nations are largely a matriarchal society, women are important to the stability of a nation's social structures, lawmaking and continuity through ages. Many groups said that indigenous women who are knowledgeable in education, street smarts, land knowledge, and traditional teachings should lead the inquiry. The pre-inquiry meetings wrapped up in early March and we await the appointment of a Commissioner to head the inquiry.

The geography of northern BC and across Canada is marked by rivers which have been a connecting network for communities since the beginning. Today, the highway is the most common way to travel the country, it connects the hearts of people in ways that grief connects those who march and gather, the way the crosses hammered into the roadside provoke a memory, and the way you are startled when the face of another young woman gone missing, flickers across your screen. •







**“When we went to collect the dresses, one was missing. It highlighted to us the sense of loss and lack of closure for some people” who have lost their loved one, stated Joanne Yovanovich. We will see red dresses again this fall.**

## REDress Project on Haida Gwaii

The image of red dresses blowing in the wind was what greeted downtown Daajing Giids residents last year. This was done with great care and thought by Joanne Yovanovich, her son Billy and her sister, Bev.

The use of red dresses to represent missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls began with Métis artist Jaime Black in 2010. In her exhibit *The REDress Project*, Black displayed over one hundred red dresses around the University of Winnipeg campus to raise

awareness about missing and murdered women and girls and the violence against women issue.

Today red dresses continue to be used across Canada as a symbol of the Indigenous women and girls lost to violent crime and as a call for action to prevent future violence. Recently, Jaime Black was honoured by the Canadian Museum of Human Rights’ (CMHR) whom they believe should be well known in Canada for her work.

## Here’s hoping

In the 1970s, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau committed to an oil tanker moratorium that would protect the coast and Haida Gwaii from oil spills. While subsequent governments honoured this commitment, the Harper government’s disregard for it made the limitations of a non-legislative ban apparent. That’s why 45 years later the newly formed Liberal government has resolved to enshrine that commitment in legislation.

The proposed moratorium will encompass the northwest coast from Salish territory in the south to Tlingit territory in the north, including *Siigee Dixon Entrance* and *Kandaliigwii Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound*. It will also protect coastal fishing, aquaculture, and tourism industries from economic disaster.

North coast ocean-based industries generate approximately \$1.2-billion in revenue each year, providing employment for nearly 30% of the population. This translates into an annual GDP contribution of \$700-million. By hosting an oil-shipping facility, coastal people would expose themselves to the danger of a tanker spill, risking their wellbeing and livelihoods. A University of British Columbia study estimated that if there were a high impact tanker spill, then over a 50-year timeline north coast communities could lose up to \$300 million in productivity and up to 4,500 person-years of employment. This would cost Canada’s Gross Domestic Product up to \$200-million.

These considerations do not include the incalculable losses that an oil-spill would have upon the social wellbeing, cultural heritage, and ecological wealth of coastal communities.

It is believed that an oil tanker moratorium will essentially kill Enbridge’s proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline project. However, the coast remains wide-open to the potential shipping of fracked gas (Liquefied Natural Gas) as well as to the continued condensate tanker traffic which already traverses the coast, as these do not qualify as “crude oil”. •

# FOOD FIGHT...not



Photo: F2S Haida Gwaii

organize for program coordinator Kiku Dahnwant. Together with dietician Shelly Crack, she takes part in a local food network of farmers, cooks, elders, and school staff. These local food champions meet to coordinate harvesting, delivering, cooking, and serving.

“We’re reaching out to more and more people that want to help with this kind of programing,” said Kiku. “Local food champions know what they’re talking about, because they’re doing it!”

The F2S program goals for the next two years include:

1. Buying more from local producers and harvesters.
2. Developing a well-coordinated food transportation system
3. Getting wild, harvested, foraged and locally preserved foods onto school menus.
4. Working with the communities to share assets and resources.
5. Supporting local food education in schools and the surrounding community.
6. Ensuring F2S is economically sustainable of farm to school program.

The program started small, with the installation of salad bar equipment at George M. Dawson and Sk’aadga Naay in 2010. Now the food champs aim to supply two pantries for the safe storage of local food on the north and south ends of Haida Gwaii.

With so much access to seafood and wild game, F2S also hopes to get even more local food on to students’ plates. Gaaw resident Stan Hansen already donated two entire cows to keep local kids well fed, and last year CHN Fisheries donated over 400 pounds of fish. With a local, Food Safe certified processing facility the program could provide even more protein to make sure kids have full tummies and healthy bodies. •

Aaliyah Arens (l) and Mackenzie Douglas (r) prepping for lunch.

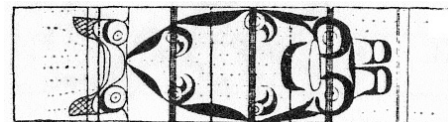
## Producing it, buying it, preparing it, serving it.

Every week, schools on Haida Gwaii are serving about 5000 lunches to students made from local food, along with some additional breakfasts and healthy snacks. With the support of Haida Gwaii’s Local Farm 2 School program (F2S), more local farmers and kitchens are connecting produce to kids throughout School District 50.

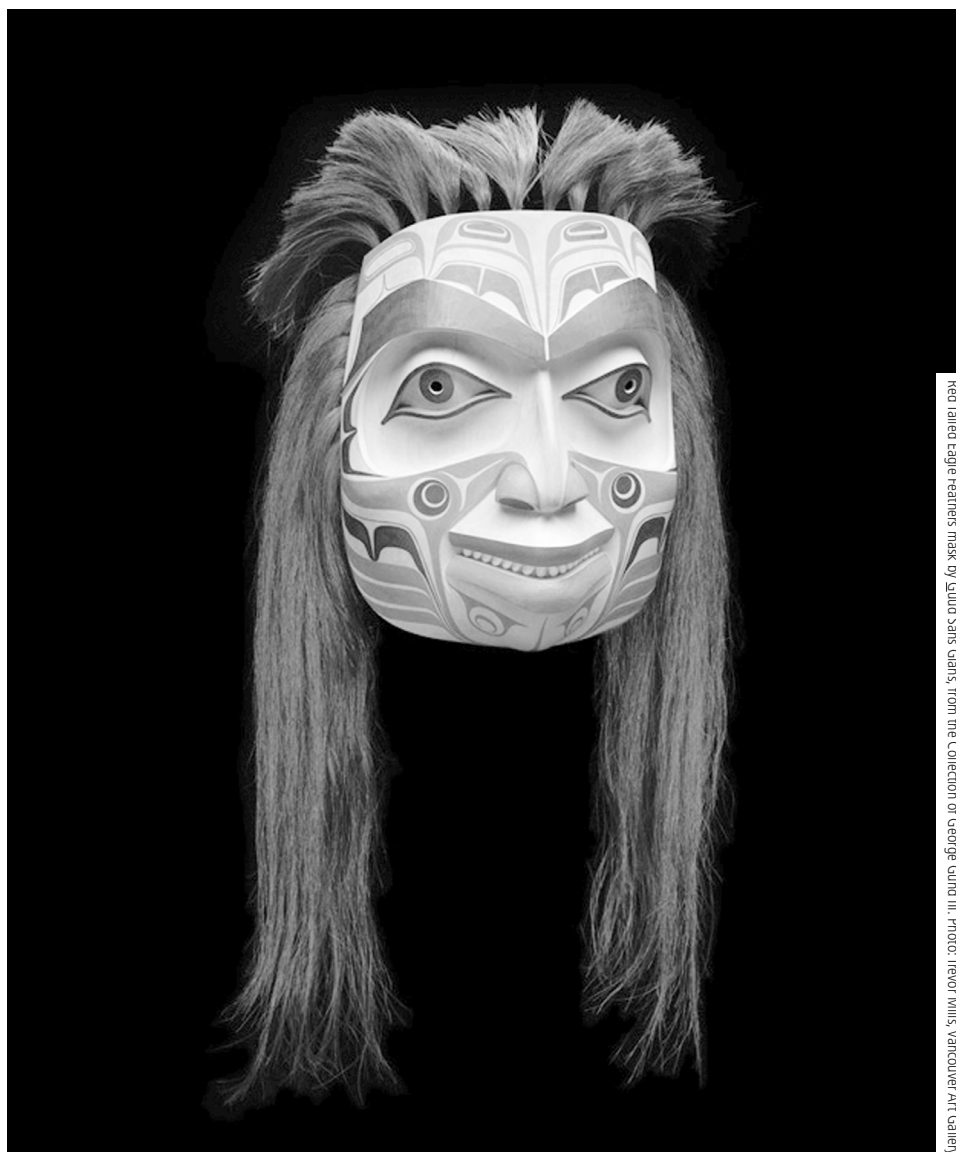
The program supports Island residents as they work together to get local, healthy food on to school menus. So far, each community has different programming levels. The Old Massett

Village Council Culinary Arts kitchen prepares all meals for school lunches at no cost to parents; Sk’aadga Naay Elementary has hired a cook, supported in part by charging two dollars for lunches and providing vouchers for those who cannot afford them; and at the Living and Learning School volunteers create meals to keep kids healthy. F2S’ purpose is to support these initiatives and others, like the local food classes that Haida language programs provide.

Between the various schools, farm, kitchens, and products, there is a lot to







Red Tailed Eagle Feathers mask by Guud Sans Glans, from the collection of George Gund III. Photo: Trevor Mills, Vancouver Art Gallery

**“This is my journey of discovery through niijang uu [masks].”**

**Guud Sans Glans**

# There is power in the mask, even if it's made of paper

In a Haida town not long ago, the long shadows of monumental poles fall from a forest of nobility. The beach is lined with brightly painted canoes and ancestors peer from between the poles and the broad-faces of painted house-fronts. Inside each house the steps surrounding the hearth bear beautiful treasures – carved boxes, horned spoons, woven blankets and cedar-bark hats.

These are the sorts of memories artist Guud Sans Glans *Robert Davidson* asked

his audience to conjure. These are the sorts of treasures that filled Haida villages in the 1800s, at the height of the Haida form he said.

A full house left standing room only as people crowded in to hear Guud Sans Glans discuss his work on January 9. The Vancouver Art Gallery is exhibiting, The Gund Collection, under the direction of senior curator Ian Thom. The pieces on display are part of the private collection of deceased philanthropist George Gund III,

and includes 19th-century masks, feast bowls and argillite carvings of Haida, Nuuchahnulth, Kwakwaka'wakw, Tlingit, Heiltsuk, and Nuxalk origin. Among these are 13 pieces by Guud Sans Glans, including eight masks and five bronze works.

In the 1840s, Canada established residential schools. This was a first step in the systematic dismantling of Haida cultural

***Mask continued on page 12***

***Mask continued from page 11.***

wealth. From 1885 to 1951, Canada's potlatch ban reinforced the cultural destruction wreaked by these institutions. By 1900, coastal First Nations were at odds with a concert of culturally corrosive laws designed to dissolve First Nations artistic wealth through plunder, prohibition, and destruction. By the 1950s, the only masks to be danced on Haida Gwaii were made from paper and the only drums to beat were made from ice cream buckets.

Many elders did not want to pass on their knowledge of the language and artistic form, hoping that their descendants would not suffer as they had on account of their culture. This was the context that young Haida artists worked in the 1960s.

Despite this destruction, Guud Sans Glans spoke of 'a few strong threads' that ensured Haida form was passed down to the current generation. These elders mentored a new generation of beginners, apprentices, journeymen, masters and artists, whose work is filling Haida Gwaii once again.

"I never realized what my dad went through," said Guud Sans Glans. "I never went to residential school, but my dad and my mother did. I changed my attitude, forgiving my mother and father, for what they couldn't give me. And also recognizing what they did give me."

At 13, Guud Sans Glans' father began to teach him the basic elements of carving – the sharp edge, the taper of the ovoid, and the downward slanting eyes. But, because so few examples of high art remained on-Island he had to travel to the shops and museums of Vancouver to truly encounter the form for the first time. "I didn't see any of the classical Haida art until I left Haida Gwaii in 1965," he said. "It made me feel amazed with the art form I was born into."

When Guud Sans Glans started carving masks, he didn't understand their function, he said. And, it wasn't until he started singing that he began to connect them with ceremony. Haida form and song are intertwined. Many of the dances associated with Haida masks tell old stories and without ceremony, the masks have no context.



Salmon mask by Guud Sans Glans

**In 1989 to celebrate the return of the salmon and welcome them home, singers introduced a new mask in a Salmon Ceremony. "After we introduced the mask, an elder said 'Wow, I haven't seen that dance in a long time,'" Guud Sans Glans recalled. "A lot of the time we think we're doing something new, but really we're tapping into a cosmic memory."**

At 16 in his noni's kitchen, he heard Haida songs for the first time.

"After several practices, noni would demonstrate a dance, and one time she felt a bit awkward," he said. "The dance was called *k'awhla*, where the dancer conceals themselves in a blanket and only shows the mask once in a while." His noni asked one of her grandchildren to run to the kitchen to make a mask from a paper bag. This was Guud Sans Glans' first encounter with a ceremonial Haida mask.

"I remember in 1969 when I was at home to carve the Bear Mother Pole [raised in Gaaw in 1969] I thought I was going to teach the people a thing or two! I didn't know anything about the depth of the art, the dances, the songs, the history. None of that was ever talked about. In my household I had a disadvantage: I didn't speak Haida. So it was difficult to understand the depth of where I came from."

In the 1970s the Haida Dancers formed, followed by the Rainbow Creek Dancers in



the 1980s. By listening to mentors and elders, as well as knowledge stored in neighbouring communities like Hydaburg, Haida singers and dancers were able to place Guud Sans Glans' masks in their proper context. For example, Guud Sans Glans needed time to understand the proper context of the Eagle Spirit mask. In 1980, he carved the mask, but didn't know its function.

"I was so terrified of it that I hid it away for a year," he said. "I didn't want to show it to anybody. I was afraid of it." Then Guud Sans Glans realized the mask's purpose. At the time there had been many deaths in the community. So he consulted his aunts, and at his potlatch in 1981 he danced a black mask and a frog mask. Then he burned them in a fire to recognize the losses in the community. Afterwards, he danced the Eagle Spirit mask, to symbolize life.

Reflecting on his progress through the stages of craftsmanship, the audience asked Guud Sans Glans to discuss his approach to the trauma from which Haida form has reemerged.

"I feel we need to learn from that, but not continually re-experience it," he answered. "The more we hang on to that experience, the more our growth is stumped. I'm working on a sculpture that's called Drying the Tears. Now that we know the story, and Canada knows the story, it's our responsibility to dry those tears and move through that experience so we're not perpetuating it on to the next generation."

"The art came from nothing: the image of a brown paper bag for me," Guud Sans Glans concluded. "But now the art is there for many people to reconnect with our stories and our ceremonies." •



Photo: Brian Wallace, courtesy of Sealaska Heritage Institute

Unveiling the naaxiin robe in Juneau, Alaska.

## Robe returned

The Sealaska Heritage Institute welcomed home a long-lost treasure this past December. Weavers, carvers, painters and the curious gathered at the clan house in the Walter Soboleff Building in Juneau to witness the unveiling of a five-foot wide naaxiin *Chilkat* robe. The robe features a design that likely portrays *Hiilang.nga thunderbird*.

This fine example of naaxiin weaving is made from Mountain goat wool and cedar bark and is the oldest robe that Sealaska staff, have ever seen. It is thought that the robe was made in the late 1700s or early 1800s and University of Alaska anthropologist, Yeidiklatsókw *Rosita Worl*, suspects it was stolen from a grave due to signs of wear along its top edge.

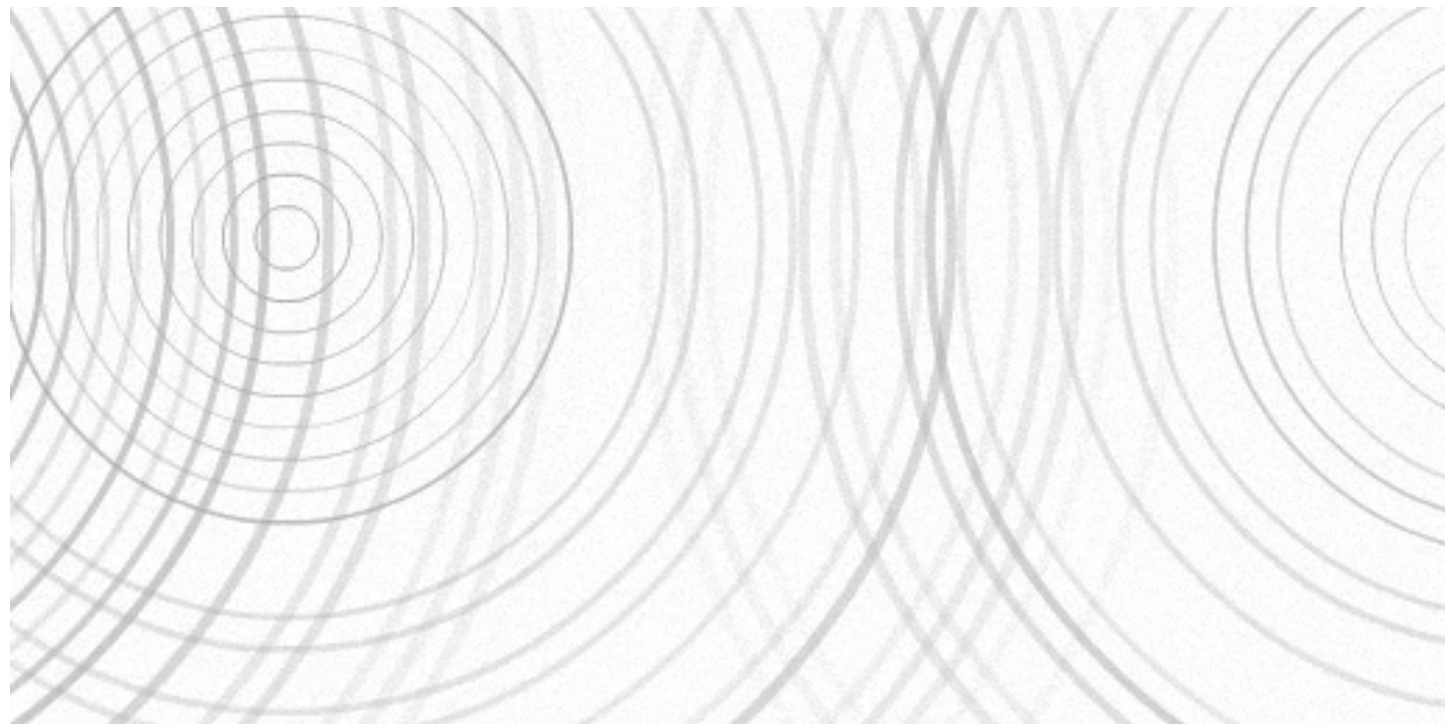
It is known that the robe was taken to the southern States sometime after the Klondike Gold Rush in 1899. There, it was sold at an estate sale, and later purchased at a flea market in Illinois just 25 years ago by George Blucker.

Unaware of the robe's significance, Mr Blucker posted the robe to eBay, where bidding could have easily pushed the price above \$30,000. But, Mr Blucker quickly learned of the robes importance and agreed to sell it to Sealaska for his reserve price of \$14,500.

At this time it is uncertain to which nation the maker of the robe can be attributed – Haida, Tlingit or Tsimshian.

# HGYA 2016

**SKG**  
**May 5-7**



# TRUMPED UP LOGIC and watered down science

by Graham Richard

Sgwaagang *salmon* and saaw *eulachon* dart about the mouth of the Skeena River. Upstream, the river bares white teeth that can rip islands from their roots and consume them in minutes. Even so, the fragile fish navigate the mighty currents to find their way up-river every year. The life aquatic is wild and the fish depend on a network of nurseries, feeding grounds, and resting places to survive until they can reach their gravel spawning beds. When the next generation hatches, they will follow their ancestors down river in search of a safe haven.

At Flora Bank, at the mouth of the Skeena River, they hide amongst eelgrass and gather strength before departing for the ocean. The estuary is a sandy quilt of shallow meadows that has been held in place by a delicate balance of waves, river currents, ocean currents, and tidal forces since the glaciers

receded over 10,000 years ago. The eelgrass that grows in the forty-acre meadow nurses the millions of juvenile fish that make the Skeena among the most productive rivers in the world. The schools of fish provide food for the *xaaguu halibut*, *dak shrimp*, *k'uus'tan crab*, *skul porpoise*, *xuud seal*, and *kay sealion* that come to hunt them as they dodge through the slender grass that waves hypnotically in refracted sunlight.

Flora Bank's beauty and importance to ocean-life have aroused scientific attention as Malaysian crown-corporation, Petronas, moves to build a fracked gas (Liquified Natural Gas or LNG) export facility on the estuary's edge as early as 2020. On February 10, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) released a 257-page draft report regarding the proposal Petronas brought forward through its subsidiary

company Pacific NorthWest LNG. In the report the CEAA posits that piloting fracked gas super-tankers and building a \$36 billion gas liquefaction plant, storage facility, fossil-fueled power plant and new marine terminal immediately beside Flora Bank is unlikely to affect fish habitat.

Construction would involve blasting and dredging for a 2.7-kilometre, Golden Gate-sized bridge, driving 464 pilings into the sand for a super-tanker berth and burying a submarine fracked gas supply pipeline under the Skeena River. Thereafter Flora Bank would endure continuous noise and light pollution, damaging salmon's ability to migrate in darkness. The area would also be in near-constant danger of devastating fuel spills. On top of this the industrial facility would release carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide, two chemicals that contribute to acid rain.





**“You couldn’t find a worse location to develop in terms of risks to fish. The CEAA report does not acknowledge that this LNG proposal is located on critical habitat of Canada’s second largest wild salmon watershed.”**

Charmaine Carr-Harris, Biologist, Skeena Fisheries Commission.

The CEAA received 5214 responses during the proposal review process. CHN’s feedback reminded the CEAA of risks that the project poses to Haida Gwaii. The report’s dependence on incomplete materials, including a lack of sufficient baseline data, exposes the whales, fish, and birds of Siigaay Hecate Strait to the danger of tanker noise, traffic, pollution, invasive species, and spills. The report also offers no consideration for that fact that places of refuge in Haida Gwaii have not been identified. As the Simushir incident demonstrated in 2014, this combined with a lack of proper marine emergency response equipment, like tug boats, could make an otherwise manageable marine emergency disastrous. A letter from Communities Against Super Tankers (CoAST) also draws attention to the importance of Skeena River salmon, which traverse all coastal regions including Haida Gwaii and depend on the endangered habitat of Flora Banks to survive. CoAST referenced large amounts of scientific

research, pointing out that it has been ignored in the CEAA assessment process.

In addition, 130 scientists are raising their collective eyebrows at the CEAA’s conclusions, and have sent a letter to Canada’s Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna. The letter says the CEAA report is “scientifically flawed and represents an insufficient base for decision-making”. Signers include experts in aquatic ecosystems, environmental risk-management, fish biology, ex- federal government employees, academics, independents, First Nations spheres.

In the letter, scientists focus on *sgwaagang salmon*, *saaw eulachon*, and *‘iinang herring*, pointing out five major flaws in the CEAA Report.

First, they show that the CEAA failed to recognize that Flora Bank is a unique ecosystem. This conclusion diverges from five decades of research that demonstrates the area is an “exceptional nursery habitat

for salmon that supports commercial, recreational, and First Nation fisheries from throughout the Skeena River watershed and beyond.”

Second, the scientists show that the CEAA report mistakes a lack of information for a lack of risk. Namely that because no scientific studies have directly observed *saaw* around Lelu Bank the project poses no risk for this species. The letter says CEAA’s only evidence for this position is an absence of information, calling it “scientifically indefensible to conclude that a species will not be negatively impacted when it is unknown how it relies on habitat that would be destroyed.”

Third, the scientists berate the CEAA for ignoring a large databank of available publicly funded science, instead electing to depend solely on industry-funded science. As the letter says, “CEAA relied upon conclusions presented in proponent-funded

**Trumped up logic continued on page 16**

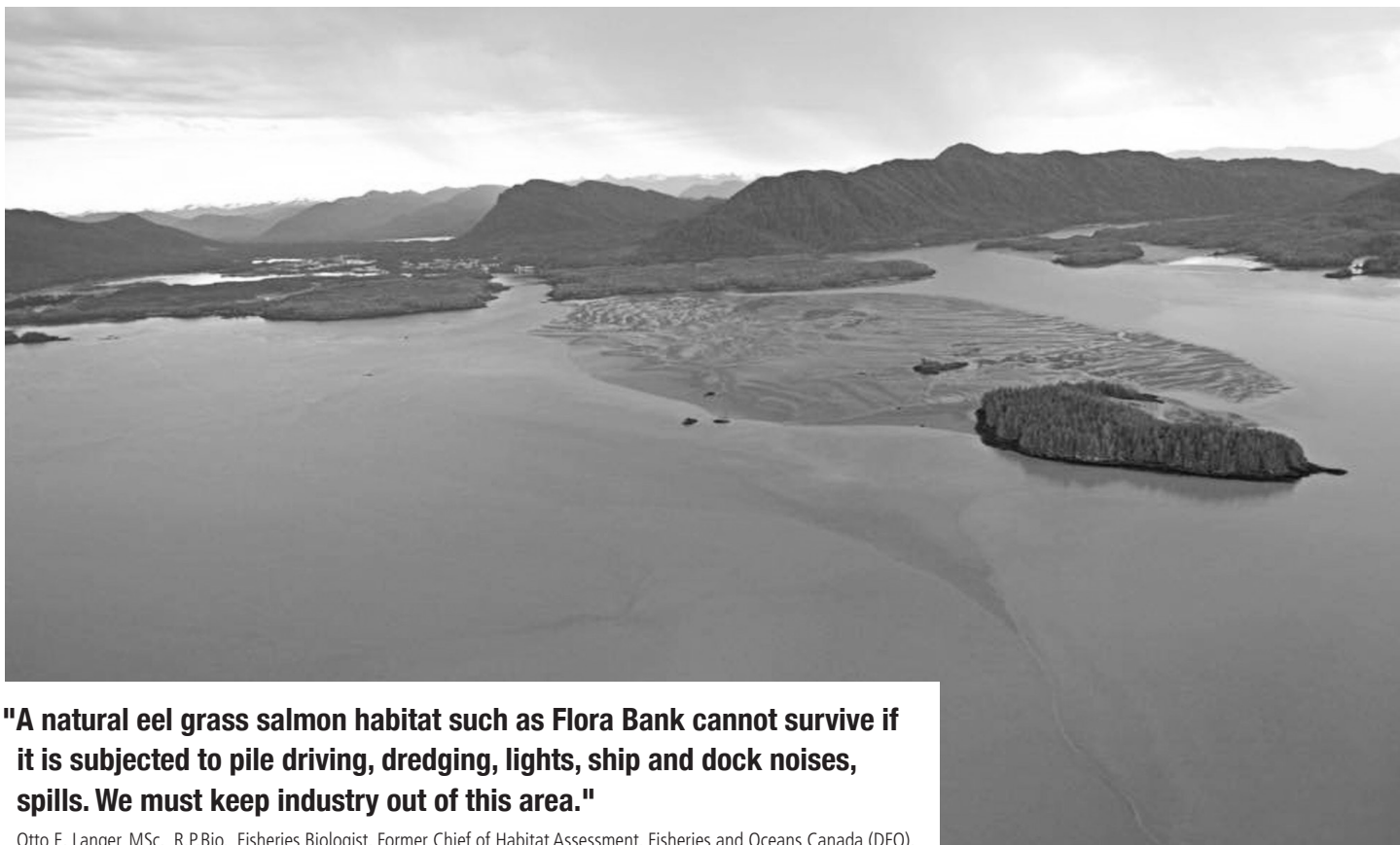


Photo: Stop Pacific Northwest LNG/Petronas on Lelu Facebook page

**"A natural eel grass salmon habitat such as Flora Bank cannot survive if it is subjected to pile driving, dredging, lights, ship and dock noises, spills. We must keep industry out of this area."**

Otto E. Langer, MSc., R.P.Bio., Fisheries Biologist. Former Chief of Habitat Assessment. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

***Trumped up logic continued from page 15.***

studies which have not been subjected to independent peer-review and disregarded a large and growing body of relevant independent scientific research, much of it peer-reviewed and published." This includes a published and peer-reviewed study revealing that Flora Bank is held in place by a delicate balance of waves, tides, and water currents.

Fourth, the scientists point out the CEAA's failure to consider the cumulative effects of multiple project impacts. While construction of the fracked gas facility risks "destruction of shoreline habitat, acid rain, accidental spills of fuel and other contaminants, dispersal of contaminated sediments, chronic and acute sound, seafloor destruction by dredging the gas pipeline into the ocean floor, and the erosion and food-web disruption from the trestle structure," the report only focused on the single risk of habitat erosion.

And finally, the scientists point out that while the CEAA proposes risk mitigation measures, they haven't been fully developed, planned out, or tested. For example, Pacific NorthWest LNG said that if it destroys

Flora Bank, it has identified other places someone could modify to replace Flora Bank as a salmon nursery. However, the CEAA process didn't present any actual data on how productive Skeena estuary habitats are, meaning no one understands how to enhance the habitat's productivity.

The ignored, incomplete, unanalysed and undiscussed research regarding the ways the project could change Flora Bank, leaves the salmon nursery even more vulnerable as risks combine to create unanticipated and unpredictable consequences.

For example, independent peer-reviewed research suggests that a super-tanker terminal will change the currents and waves that keep Flora Bank stable, causing it to erode into the ocean. In contrast, the CEAA report states that "all of our scientific research to date indicates that Flora Bank is a highly stable environment and our marine infrastructure is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects on Flora Bank, fish or fish habitat."

"Scientific research from other estuaries has found industrial development, such as

that proposed by the PNW LNG project, is associated with lasting damage to salmon populations," the scientists concluded in their letter. "The greater body of science demonstrates that protection of the Lelu Island/Flora Bank area would benefit the second largest salmon-producing watershed in Canada. Protection of the Flora Bank area would demonstrate the Liberal Government's commitment to protection of marine ecosystems, rights of indigenous people, and scientific integrity." •



Tyson Brown



by Graham Richard

# Running out of coffin nails

On January 13, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline project must undergo a provincial environmental assessment. Additionally, the Gitga'at and other First Nations along the proposed route must be properly consulted.

Citing a desire to eliminate redundancies BC entered into an 'equivalency agreement' with the federal government, signing over its responsibility to undertake an environmental assessment to the National Energy Board, the body assigned to conduct federal environmental reviews.

However, the Supreme Court of Canada found that BC's environmental decision-making duty is enshrined in provincial constitutional law. While BC can agree to eliminate the redundancy of undertaking a provincial environmental assessment, it cannot surrender its duty to issue its own environmental approval of a pipeline project.

The court also found that BC failed to properly consult with the Gitga'at

Nation. The court recognized that the environmental assessment agreement between BC and the NEB and the pipeline's impacts on Gitga'at rights and title are separate concerns. BC must consult meaningfully with First Nations, in accordance with the *Haida Nation v. British Columbia and Weyerhaeuser* decision (TFL 39 case). In order to fulfill its obligation to consult the Gitga'at, BC would have needed to terminate the 'equivalency agreement' with the NEB. Until proper consultation and consideration is complete BC cannot make a decision to issue environmental approval for the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline project.

Provincial environmental approval is central to the proposed pipeline's construction and without it Enbridge cannot proceed. Furthermore, while Enbridge received two federal certificates approving construction of a condensate pipeline, oil pipeline, and marine terminal in 2014, these certificates are set to expire on December 31, 2016. In addition

by July 1, 2016 Enbridge must show it has signed contracts with clients and suppliers to purchase 60 percent of Northern Gateway's oil supply and provide 60 percent of the condensate it requires. As of February 2015 Enbridge has secured none of these contracts, due in part to ongoing legal challenges. Unless Enbridge fulfills these requirements and begins building the pipeline, its federally issued certificates of approval will expire on December 31, 2016.

The Gitga'at and Coastal First Nations worked together to bring this constitutional challenge forward. This ruling will affect Kinder Morgan's proposed pipeline expansion project, which will also require meaningful consultation with First Nations and a provincial environmental assessment certificate. •







Guud Yuwans Willie Russ driving hard to the hoop.

# Fierce competition and a five-peat

At a send-off rally for Haida basketball players in Gaaw Old Massett this winter, elders described travelling to Kxeen Prince Rupert aboard seiners in 1960 to attend their first All Native Basketball Tournament. The elders not only brought their passion for competition and the sport, but also

sportsmanship and the discipline it takes to win. Today's young athletes who have inherited this passion have a lot to live up to. In 1960, Haida were among just ten senior teams and five intermediate teams at a four-day tournament. Today the tournament has expanded to include 48 teams competing

in four categories over seven days.

In recent history, Haida teams have won the last four years in the Masters' Division and 15 of the last 16 years in the Seniors' Division. In 2015, Haida players won the Seniors' and Masters' titles and closed in on the Intermediates' trophy with a close second to Metlakatla, Alaska. Haida women also brought their game back to a level that hasn't been seen for over 20 years.

This year, six Haida teams travelled to Kxeen to battle it out on the courts.

## Women's Division

The women's team hit the floor for their third year bringing ten players from six communities together, this time under the name Haida Wild. Unfortunately the team started off with some significant injuries. Starting forward Chloe Good carried over a knee injury from the Christmas Classic tournament and Chantel White had a foot injury.

According to coach Richard Smith, the team struggled to work as a unit due to the lack of opportunities to play together. This left them with shaky confidence when the week brought injuries their way he said.

Hitting the court on Monday morning, the team played a very competitive game, staying within four points of Vancouver until halfway through the third, when starting forward Vanessa Belcourt was kneed in the chest. As she retreated to the bench, Vancouver pulled ahead closing the game at 59 to 31.

Returning to the loser's bracket on Tuesday, Haida Wild faced Ahousat. At first the teams appeared evenly matched, but Haida Wild picked up the pace and pulled ahead through the second quarter. At that point Belcourt suffered a second injury, this time seriously spraining her knee. The starting forward was helped off the court and into an ambulance for medical attention. While the team was visibly shaken, this time they were able to maintain a 10-point margin winning the game 50 to 41. Belcourt did not return to the court for the remainder of the week and she may require surgery.

Haida Wild came back on Wednesday morning to face Kitimat. Multiple injuries and

**ANBT continued on page 20**





Top left: Masters All Star and Haida Wild Coach Richard Smith.  
Top right: Sid Edenshaw and Abe Brown battling for position.  
Bottom: Five time champs, Skidegate Saints, celebrating after their final win.  
All photos: Haida Laas/Graham Richard





**ANBT continued from page 18.**

a lack of practice-time combined and took its toll on the team's morale. Throughout the game the team worked with reduced ranks, but the pace tired the less experienced players. Team-members struggled to keep their spirits up as they fell behind to the end with Kitimat finishing the game at 90 to 38.

"There is so much talent on this team," coach Richard Smith said. "They just need to see results. At the Christmas Classic, everyone was really giddy. Everybody played together really well." But, after a rough year that showed little progress Richard Smith stepped down as coach.

Starting forward Vanessa Belcourt says that with more opportunities to practice both together and separately, Haida Wild will have a good chance at performing better in the years to come. Starter Chloe Good is determined to improve the team's performance, create opportunities to play together, and do better next year.

## Intermediates' Division

This year the Warriors were the only team to represent the Nation in the Intermediate Division. HIGaagilda's 2015 first-place contenders, the Intermediate Saints, stayed at home amidst injuries and absences.

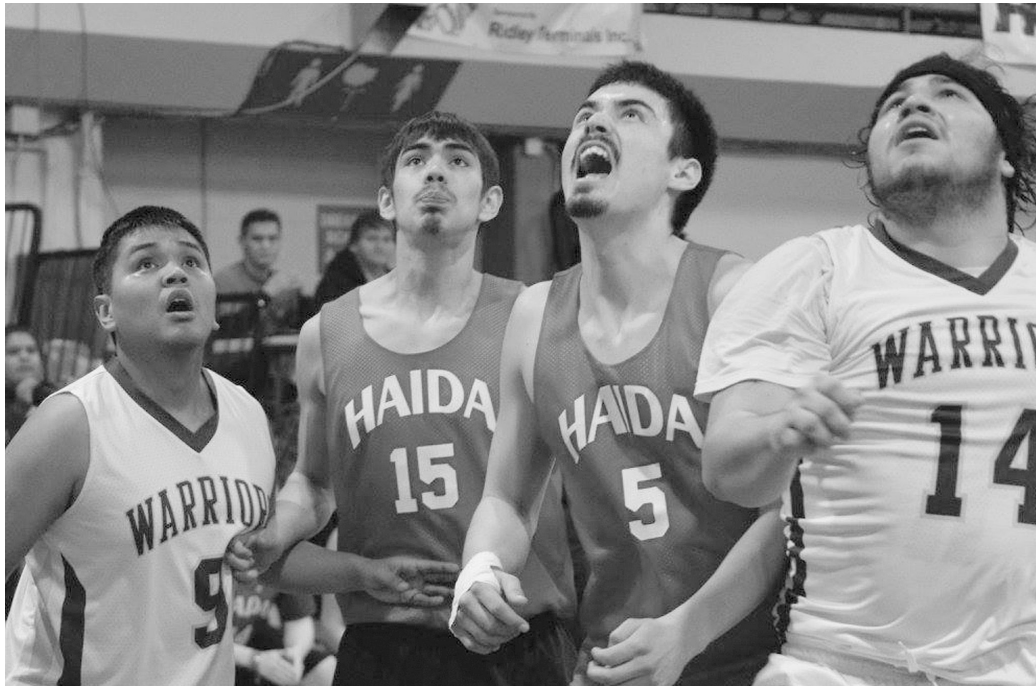
Duffy Edgars stepped in to coach the Warriors in November and the community rallied behind fundraising efforts led by manager Leslie Brown, raising \$12,500 in three months so the Haida Nation was represented in this category.

As the tournament approached, ferry cancellations left team members stranded on Haida Gwaii. The tournament requires at least

eight team-members to play in each game. In order to arrive at their first game in time on Monday morning, the team chartered a plane and filled it with five players who met another three off-island players who were already in Kxeen. Because of the five-person seat-limit,

and he was rushed away in the first minutes of quarter three, receiving five stitches to his eye-lid. Soon after, guard Owen Bedard, sprained his knee. At that time Brian Smith came off the bench, fighting hard to maintain pressure, hitting four three pointers over the third and fourth quarters. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, starters Aaron Edgars and Damon Reece fouled out. Still, the Warriors kept their head in the game and maintained their lead until the fourth quarter, when Kitkatla crept ahead to finish at 79 to 70, knocking the Haida Nation out of the Intermediates Division.

Overall, the Warriors finished



Keenan Davis and Austin Prevost waiting for a rebound.

Edgars remained behind in Gaaw and Haida Wild's coach Richard Smith stepped in to fill his shoes.

The rushed arrival challenged the team's mental game as they faced off against Kxeen, losing 61 to 52 and sending them into the loser's bracket. However, with the arrival of Edgars and four more team-members the Warriors rebounded against Kitimat Wednesday morning, leaving them well behind with a score of 75 to 42. From there they played a close game on Thursday morning against Tsalgiu *Hartley Bay* in which all 12 team-members got on the court, each performing very well. While Tsalgiu got an early lead in the first quarter, the Warriors drove hard through the second, setting a marginal lead that held steady until they won the game 53 to 49.

In their Friday morning game against Kitkatla both teams scrambled point-for-point, with tight scoring and narrow leads for the Warriors. Guard Chase Samuels played exceptionally well, racking up 22 points before his streak was cut short by an injury

fifth. "As one of the younger teams in the Intermediate division they performed well," said Edgars. "For 2017 we're going to start practicing earlier in the year. We have a lot of players coming up. We have about 20 players to select from to make a 12-person team. There are some very good players, and we still have so much talent left on the team." In 2017, Aaron Edgars, Austin Prevost, and Owen Bedard will be moving to the senior's division.

## Seniors' Division

Early in the spring of 2015, Cal Westbrook started his first year as Raiders' coach with a small group of players. The rest of the team joined later in September and began to prepare for November's qualifying tournament, which is also hosted in Kxeen.

The team started the All Native tournament strong, winning an easier game against Gitanyow (86-52) Monday morning. Another strong win of 80 to 60 followed on Tuesday afternoon against Ahousat; whose team was



suffering from absent players.

With two resounding victories early in the week confidence was high as the Raiders faced Lax Kw'alaams Thursday afternoon. However, their momentum met its match in what turned out to be a rough game.

Lax Kw'alaams established a 10-point lead in the second quarter and the Raiders couldn't close the gap before it ended at 86 to 72, sending the Haida into the losers' bracket.

"We matched up with them well," said Westbrook. "We felt confident going into the game, but we couldn't match their intensity. We were out-rebounded and out-worked."

But, the Raiders bounced back with fresh rigor against Waglisla *Bella Bella* on Friday morning, taking the game with a generous lead of 92 to 65, then going on to face Kitkatla that evening. Kitkatla had been playing well throughout the week, beating Vancouver and keeping four-time champions the Senior Saints on their toes. Some dynamic plays gave Kitkatla a large lead in the first quarter. In the second the Raiders switched to a zone strategy and came alive, closing the gap to five points in the second half. By the fourth quarter the Raiders had come all the way back to within three points, but faltering again in the last minutes and losing to Kitkatla 79 to 70. With that the Raiders were knocked out, taking fourth place in the tournament and leaving Kitkatla to sort things out with HIGaagilda and Lax Kw'alaams.

"I was so proud we showed the attitude we always talked about: never giving up and always fighting hard no matter what the score or the time on the clock," said Westbrook. "I'm really proud of us,

considering we had to go to the qualifying tournament. If we beat Kitkatla next year, maybe we'll face the Saints in an all Haida Nation final. We're hungry, we're not satisfied. We want first place!"

Next year the Raiders will be back

during the week, fighting their way through each game against very tough teams. They started with a close call against Vancouver on Monday and despite recruiting some strong players from Vancouver's large talent pool, the Saints nudged ahead beating the

team 74 to 69. On Thursday they put a little more distance between themselves and Kitkatla, with a 83 to 71 win. From there they faced Lax Kw'alaams on Friday afternoon, building up an early lead and coasting to a final score of 81 to 68.

This brought the Saints to the finals on Saturday, where they faced Kitkatla for the second time that week. The two well-matched teams wrestled the lead back and forth throughout the first



Shawna Williams and Haida Wild playing strong defense.

with a couple of key editions. With consistent training for eight to ten months, Westbrook is convinced they will return a better team. Overall the team placed fourth with Chris Campbell and Mike Russ earning All Star status.

In HIGaagilda, the Saints started with a short hand as they trained early on in the year. This winter the four-time champions lost starting forward Xyaalaga Dagwiiya *Desmond Collinson* to some serious injuries. In response Howustii *Joel Richardson* stepped up from the Intermediate's Division to join them, becoming the team's newest and youngest member. Howustii clutched in key moments against Vancouver, and played a strong defensive role.

"He's the future," said All Star Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop*. "It was good to have him on the team, and get him some experience. He's the future leader of the senior program. He's really tough, plays through injuries, and plays super hard."

The Senior Saints went undefeated

three quarters. The Saints finally left Kitkatla behind with a series of decisive three point baskets in the fourth quarter. From there, they maintained the lead, relying on their strength and experience to snatch key rebounds and make defensive stops. Finally they brought the game to an end with a score of 78 to 66, making the Saints the five-time Senior All Native Champions.

All Star Wah Gwii Hla Gaay *Duane Alsop* and MVP StllnGa *Tyler York* each contributed 19 points to the win, with All Star Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop* contributing 16. Darcy Pearson took the division title of Most Inspirational Player.

## Masters' Division

The Watchmen of Gaaw charged into the week on Tuesday evening with a lengthy game of rough play against long-time rival Laxga Its'ap *Greenville*. While five players would foul out before the game was through,

*ANBT continued on page 22*



Top row (l-r): Katelynn Smart, Chantel White, Chloe Good, Naomi Swanson, Vanessa Belcourt, Christina Edgars, Kayla Davis  
Bottom row (l-r): Tineasha Innes, Vanessa Parnell, Shawna Williams

#### **ANBT continued on from page 21.**

the game fell short of causing any lasting injuries, ending with a score of 102 to 79 for the Watchmen.

Team Haida of Hydaburg started the following Wednesday morning, defeating Kxeen by a comfortable 21 points. On Thursday morning the Watchmen left Waglisla well behind at 94 to 57, and fans hunkered down for the week's first all Haida game, held that evening.

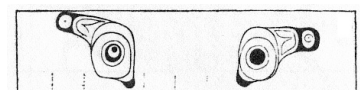
The two Haida teams played a tight game, with the Watchmen setting an early lead in the first quarter. Hydaburg pushed back throughout the second, closing the quarter with a four-point lead. While the Watchmen pushed hard through the third to regain their lead, the team could never quite close the gap. Finally Hydaburg pulled ahead as the game

drew to a close at 81 to 71.

With the Watchmen pushed into the loser's bracket, Waglisla was facing a Haida team for the second and final time. The Watchmen set strong leads until the fourth, when Waglisla hit five threes in a row, giving the Watchmen a good shake and tightening the game as the Haida drove it to a close at 83 to 73.

The two Haida contenders were bound to face off once again at Saturday's finals. The friendly rivals started with a round of hugs and handshakes, but from there on it was a fight. While the Watchmen fought hard to wrestle the 2015 title from Hydaburg, they couldn't quite overtake their northern cousins, who once again stayed just ahead of them throughout their final game, ending at 76 to 65.

Haida teams continue to dominate the Masters' division with Hydaburg taking first place and the Watchmen taking second. Tony Peele, Joe Young, Abe Brown and Richard Smith were named All Stars, David Hill took 'Mr Hustle', Ginn Waadluu un Uula Isdaa Ayagang *Trevor Russ* was recognized as the Most Inspirational Player, and Devon Edenshaw took MVP. Tony Peele took a second honour, bringing the Sixth Man award home. •





# A cacophony of cetaceans

by Molly Clarkson

After a year of listening to the calls of whales and dolphins recorded on an underwater microphone (or hydrophone) installed at *SGaan Kinghlas Supernatural Being Looking Outward*, University of Victoria researchers say that the underwater mountain is a “hot spot” of cetacean activity.

“Seamounts attract certain types of cetaceans due to their nutrient rich waters,” says Dr. Lauren McWhinnie, post-doctoral researcher with the Coastal and Ocean Resources Analysis Lab (CORAL) at UVic. “Analysis of our recordings to date have picked up many species of cetacean including calls from globally endangered species such as fin and blue whales.”

The research conducted by Dr. Rosaline Canessa’s lab at UVic is in partnership with the management board for the *SGaan Kinghlas – Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area* (MPA). The project began back in 2014 and was set up to answer some questions: How much and what kind of vessel traffic is occurring in and around the MPA? How much noise is this traffic making? What are the potential ecological impacts of that noise?

This project builds on several decades of research on the risks posed by human generated noise in the ocean. Researchers have found that marine mammals such as whales that rely on sound for communication, foraging and navigation are likely to be negatively impacted by significant levels of noise in the ocean.

Marine vessel traffic is the most significant source of human-generated noise in the oceans surrounding *SGaan Kinghlas*. At a workshop held in March, 2015, Dr. Canessa discussed her team’s preliminary research findings which included:

The detection of a significant amount of marine vessel activity in and around the MPA, mostly from fishing, cargo and tanker vessels.

The mapped routes taken by different vessels in and around the MPA. The majority of tankers travel to the west of *SGaan*



Dr. Rosaline Canessa (r) and Dr. Lauren McWhinnie (l), and a team of UVIC researchers are working with the *SGaan Kinghlas* Management Board to find out more about vessel traffic noise and potential ecological impacts on the seamount

*Kinghlas*. Cargo vessels tend to travel to the east of the boundary, while fishing vessels track back and forth across the MPA.

The seasonal variation in the noise generated by transiting vessels. Noise tends to be much higher during the summer months, when good weather and calm seas reduce the amount of natural noise in the ocean.

After analyzing the data of over 5,000 hours of recordings, Dr. McWhinnie was able to report that Blue, Fin, Sperm, Baird’s Beaked whale, Killer, and Humpback whales, as well as Pacific White-sided dolphins had been detected at the seamount. These findings indicate that there is significant cetacean activity at the seamount.

CORAL researchers emphasized that the number of whales detected by the hydrophone represents an “absolute baseline” of cetacean activity occurring within the MPA. Species such as Dall porpoises and Stjnegers’s, Cuvier’s and Hubbs’ Beaked whales call at high pitches that are not detectable by the hydrophone,

while other cetaceans like the Minke whale travel silently to avoid predators. The hydrophone can only detect whale calls within a certain distance; for toothed whales, this distance is about 10-15 km.

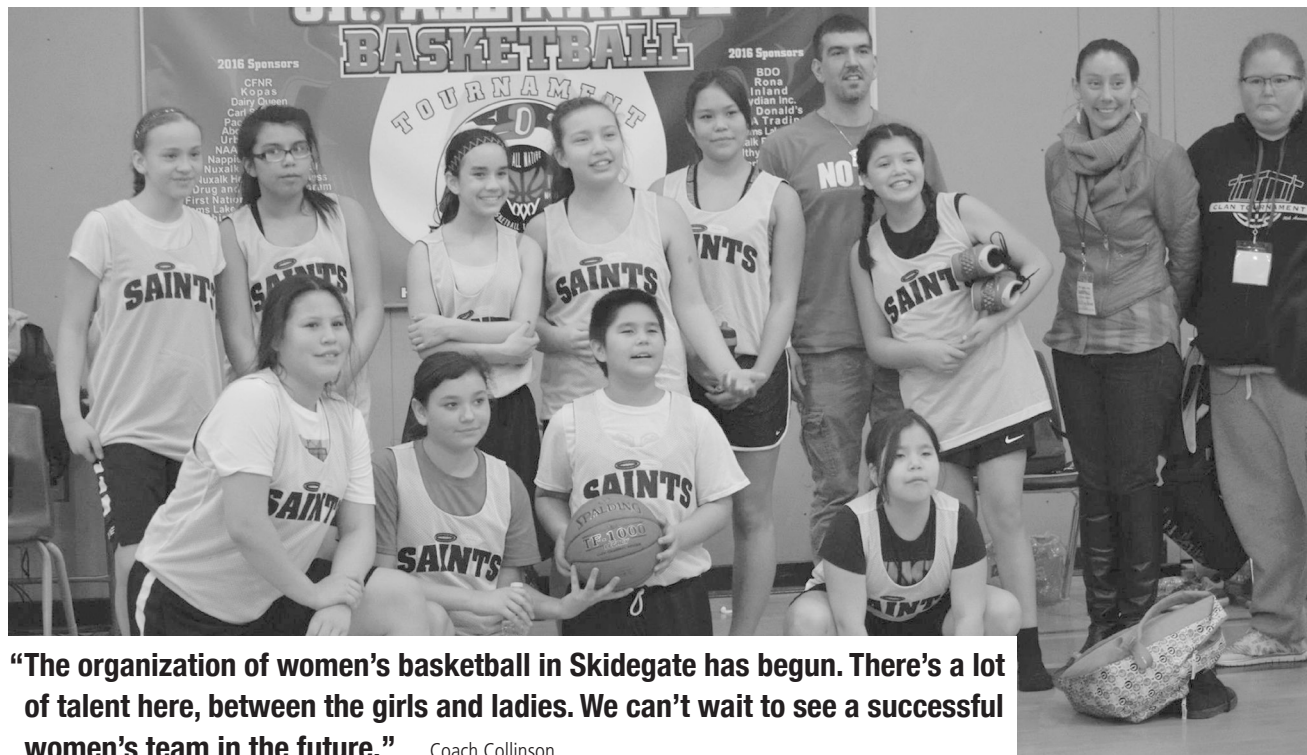
The CORAL team expects to complete their analysis of the recordings next spring. That information will go to the Management Board with other data about cetaceans at the seamount; what times of year they are there, and where they are in relation to the seamount. The team will also try to link these recordings with those from other hydrophones in the area to see if they can track where the cetaceans are coming from and where they are going. This will help to inform the board’s management decisions related to marine vessel traffic in the *SGaan Kinghlas - Bowie Seamount MPA*. •



Photo: Heidi Laas/Molly Clarkson Artwork: Heidi Gwaii/Heartbeat by Maryanne Wettlaufer

Tyson Brown





**"The organization of women's basketball in Skidegate has begun. There's a lot of talent here, between the girls and ladies. We can't wait to see a successful women's team in the future."** Coach Collinson

Skidegate Saints (top) Bailey McDonald, Tanika Brown, Xiila Guujaaw, Taang gu Naay Grinder, Jordan Sankey, Coach Wade Collinson, Zoey Collinson, Coach Gidin Jaad Erica Ryan-Gagne, Manager Xaayna Jaad Kristy Alsop (bottom) Chantae Helin, Stacey Edinger, Cenita Sankey and Danae Yaroshuk. Missing from photo: Madison Brown.

# Something in the water?

by Rhonda Lee McIsaac

As the girls stand huddled, elbow to elbow, coach Gidin Jaad Erica Ryan-Gagne encourages them to keep up their good hard work! This is a young team, ages 10-14, competing at the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament in Williams Lake. It is evident from the expression on her face that she cares deeply about the team and about each player's performance.

As coaches; Gidin Jaad and Wade Collinson, have pressed these young girls to play their best, to not give up and to play fair.

"We are so invested in [the team]" stresses Gidin Jaad citing coaches, parents and community as being vital to the team's success.

"They are young and the goal is to keep them together through the years,

developing them as individuals and as a team". Gidin Jaad hopes to "inspire an older group of girls" to round out the team as they advance.

"It doesn't matter how old you are; how good you are. You practice and fundraise and then you can play," states Gidin Jaad.

"Practise and fundraising is not optional," exclaimed Gidin Jaad. The girls collected and recycled bottles and cans, did sweat equity to acquire Gwaii Trust funds, volunteered at community events, sold raffle tickets and had bake sales.

"The community, I feel, is proud of them and how hard they work," says Gidin Jaad of the team. This was evident in the stands at Williams Lake with cheering fans and Facebook

posts motivating the players from Haida Gwaii.

Already looking to next year the team is back practising. Gidin Jaad hopes to "designate two point guards to direct the team's offense on the court and to continue developing ball handling skills. We want to practise the full court press break, ball movement and patience".

"Soon [other teams] will wonder what is in the water in Skidegate!" she says, as a smile crosses her face. Next year, the Junior Saints girls head to Kelowna. •

