

HAIDA LAAS

JULY 8, 1994

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Journal of the Haida Nation

Gold Fever and the Haida

by Mavis Gillie
Public Social Responsibility Unit
Anglican Church of Canada

This article was written back in 1988. It's message still applies today.

The speaker had put his finger right on the ouch! spot in getting a rise out of his listeners on why we in B.C. sell out our environmental heritage. "It isn't necessarily the government that's at fault, nor the companies - the real enemy is apathy of people who could do something but won't!"

There was no apathy at a meeting in Old Massett, Haida Gwaii, on December 2nd. It was an eyeball to eyeball encounter with members of B.C. government's Mine Development Steering Committee. They'd come at the invitation of the Islands Protection Society to answer questions about the proposed Cinola Gold Project at the headwaters of the Yakoun River, largest river on the north island and producer of five

(cont.pg.4)

Message to Haida Graduates

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY
Dedicated to the Haida Graduation Class of 1994
by Robert Davidson

We are living in a time where there is great upheaval in our family values. When you turn on the news of the day, the dominant theme is the break down of western society. The reason for this is the break down of the family. Today we, the first nations, are strongly influenced by western society. The family is the glue that holds our culture together. Our ancestors have survived gen-

erations upon generations through this system. For us to continue to survive in this world we need to hang on, and strengthen our family values.

In 1950 my grandfather built a 60 foot seine boat, he was 70 years old then. That same year he lost his house to a fire, and he and his wife, my grandmother, started to rebuild a new house. They could not have done it without their family. Their family was their insurance policy. They all pulled together to fulfil this dream and rebuild their lives.

(cont.pg.3)

inside...

Treaty Negotiations
2nd Quarterly Motions
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COMMUNICATIONS

Haida Laas,

I am writing this letter out of desperation and utmost concern for the issue of Heather's (my daughter) outstanding hospital bill for the birth of my grandson, Ryan at Burnaby Hospital here in Vancouver on January 14, 1993.

The situation at hand is quite serious as Heather has had three court appearances on whether anything is resolved.

She also has another Court Order to appear in Supreme Court in mid-July where they threaten prison if no definite answer is reached for the thousands of dollars owing due to the complications of her son's medical coverage.

My grandson, Ryan, has medical problems due to the humid weather conditions at his present home. He is asthmatic and requires a nebulizer (oxygen mask). I feel that if he were able to come home it would relieve some of the problem, but, due to the matter of expenses, Heather is unable to save for the return home, which she so desperately wants.

As well, Heather is still paying off a student loan for which she did not receive any financial assistance when putting herself through nursing school.

Needless to say this situation has caused considerable stress on all concerned. I feel we are all Haida's and where one little soul is concerned, there must be some way to resolve this matter and where one resides

doesn't change the fact that we are all Haida's and proud of it.

So please!!!

Yours Truly,
Carol Bradley
Vancouver, B.C.

AN OPENING PRAYER

O SALAANA
GIIYAAT SANGEE
IIT'LLGA DANG SGASLASS
GAGANAANG DANG G AA
T'ALANG
KIL LAAGANG HAAW7AA
IIT'LL KAGANDII SANG
WADLAWAN
DANG KADLAJUUGAN
SALAANA
XAADASS 'LAA IS DAMAN
TLLA
XING GADJUU. HAAW7AA

Council of the Haida Nation

Executive:

Miles G. Richardson, President
Arnie Bellis, Vice President

Representatives:

Charlie Bellis
Bruce Brown
Vernon Brown
Robert Dudoward
Jim Edenshaw
Tom Greene Sr.
Henry Hageman
Gary Russ
Bill White
Charles Yorke
Wilson Brown (ex-officio)
Paul Pearson (ex-officio)

HAIDA LAAS: JOURNAL OF THE HAIDA NATION

Editorial Policy:

- * To educate and inform Haida People on what is taking place within the Haida Nation; and everything that affects the Haida Nation.
- * To form a communication link between all Haida's living off Island and on.
- * To educate the non-Haida people on the aims of the Haida Nation.
- * Haida Laas has the right to edit all submissions that will be printed in the paper.
- * Approval must be obtained from the Communications Committee prior to printing of articles.
- * The Comm. Committee has final responsibility for what is published.

" THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE HAIDA LAAS NEWSLETTER IS THE DISSEMINATION OF QUALITY INFORMATION THAT IS ACCURATE, ISSUE ORIENTED AND REFLECTS HAIDA LIFE AND CHANGES."

Message to Grads (cont.fr.pg.1)

Today, we, the first nations people, have a great job ahead of us. As we face issues, some of them I will name later, we must remember that we don't have to do it alone. We have our families to draw on. For all of you to achieve this goal of graduation, your families supported you. That support came through many guises, such as meals on the table, a roof over your head, or words of encouragement.

In spite of the great upheaval in our lives since contact with the yaatz xaa.adee, we are still living in a very powerful time. We are living in a time when we as a people are surpassing our forefathers in our understanding of the yaatz xaa.adee. I say this because of the education that we are receiving in the yaatz xaa.adee school system. In other words, we are becoming a bicultural people. To be successful today we have to keep our feet in both doors. As we enter into the yaatz xaa.adee world we cannot forget our cultural background. In my parents generation it was common for them to go only as far as grade 8. In fact it was against the law for us to go beyond grade 8. In my generation very few of us went beyond grade 12. In my children's generation I am happy to say many go beyond grade 12 to the university level. As we become more and more educated in the yaatz xaa.adee system we cannot limit our education to their system. We also need to educate ourselves in our

cultural background. We have to know and remember where we came from.

As you all move onto the next part of your lives the need is greater now than in any part of our history to feed back into our communities. As you all move onto the profession of your choice or talent the need is greater now to feed back into your homeland. There is a great need to face many issues such as welfare, alcoholism, drug abuse and suicide, all of which are killing our people. We need to know where this epidemic is coming from. I can offer a few ideas from my own experience since I started my own healing process. The symptoms of alcoholism, drug abuse, and suicides, stem from low self-esteem, no self-worth and the loss of our spirituality. This was bred out of our parents generation through the residential school system. We cannot lay blame to anyone for this part of our history. When we lay blame there is no room or energy left for our recovery. In healing the shame and hurts instilled in our parents generation, which has affected us all, we can take charge of our lives again.

We were a self-sufficient society before contact. As we take control of our lives the welfare system as we know it can be eliminated. You may ask where the money come from? I want to use my grandfather as an inspiration to all of you: when he built that boat he was "creating a job opportunity", to coin the modern

day phrase.

In my line of work I have to continue to be creative in order to survive in the very highly competitive art world. We all came into this world as creative people. Use that talent. We all have 10,000 ideas a day, grab one of them and bring it to fruition. How many people here have a dream? If you do not have a dream grab one of those thoughts that you have, hold that dream in your mind and allow it to grow. There is power in visualization. When I create a painting or a sculpture, first comes the vision. I hold that vision until it is complete. When that idea is complete create another idea, don't let age be a factor. Don't think that you are too old or too young. I once had a dream that said to me, "you are only limited by what you set out to do." There is an old saying, "you have to be careful for what you want because you will get it."

You have already been using this understanding. How many of you visualized this graduation? There is power in understanding. Practise it and use it for the good of your people and humanity.

As you enter the work force you will be carrying on, and sometimes even finishing the dreams of those that went before you. Don't despair on what I am saying. It is not all work. As I am on the road to healing I can now see life as a process. The first part of my life was all work. As I am on the road to healing I now

(cont.pg.7)

Gold Fever (cont.fr.pg.1)

species of salmon. There was an unexpectedly large turnout of locals, mostly Haida, men and women, young and old, hereditary chiefs, elders and councillors, fishermen, IPS members and the Anglican priest.

Ray Crook, chairman of the Committee, had come up from Victoria. He was dealing with a complicated application for this gold mine and he knew it. So did those assembled as they listened to him outline the process required in reviewing a mine application in the province.

It's an old proposal that was controversial back in 1981 when then owners Consolidated Cinola gained approval for a pilot plant and tailings pond just above the marshy plain that flows into the Yakoun. Problems of all kinds had plagued the project. For example, when tailings leaked out of the pilot pond, it was found that a perforated lining had been used!

The ore is very low grade. Probably 20 tonnes will produce an ounce of gold. Over the anticipated 15-year life of the mine, up to 74 million tonnes of rock and overburden will have to be moved. This is why the project was dropped back in '82 - the price of gold had slumped and it wasn't worth the effort. Now, investors figure gold is a good place to put one's money. No doubt the company - City Resources (Canada), it's parent company in Australia - is happy about that.

"It's the most sensitive mine development we've ever looked at," says Keith Ferguson of the federal Environmental Protection Service. The tailings pond will require a 300 acre area, and it's planned to keep that chemical soup mix under water. The mine is in an area which has one of the largest overwintering waterfowl concentration in the Pacific Northwest and one of the highest concentrations of mercury in North America. It's close to a fault line in a high seismic risk location. Exposure of the ore will generate acids which could kill the already acidic Yakoun river. Add to that the annual rainfall in Haida Gwaii and you begin to get the picture. Ferguson's word "sensitive" hardly describes it.

Mr. Crook admitted that a public inquiry on a mining project is not a Cabinet preference. Provincial policy holds the proponent responsible for holding public information meetings. The proponent does most of the technical work, hiring consultants of it's choice and submitting their reports to the Steering Committee. Haida Michael Nicoll exclaimed, "That's like letting the fox count the chickens!"

It was the haida's turn. They've survived the European invasion, small pox and tuberculosis epidemics, residential schools and Indian agents, logging companies and Indian Affairs, even arrests in defense of South Moresby. Said Ernie Collison, a Director of the Council of the Haida Nation,

"Haida responsibility goes far beyond studies and processes for government and City Resources. Long after you and the mining people have gone with the gold and the profits, we'll be dealing with the pollution and the sickness, and we'll have to answer for it to our people. We saw what happened to our neighbours, the Nisga'a, with the Amex mine, and we know approval for that was political, not scientific reasons." The chickens had come home to roost.

Others spoke of Minimata disease associated with mercury poisoning on White Dog and Grassy Narrows reserves. Of assurances of data from experts, Haida Arnie Bellis said, "You can always buy scientific opinion. We've learned the 'experts' are for sale."

Masset Chief Councillor Cecil Brown summed it up. "You have your guidelines. We have ours. We will not let the mine operate. Your society has taken away or rights and resources, but we won't let you take away our food. Right from the start there will be confrontation. Come back in 300 years and try again."



Jack & Sharleen Greenwood

Haida Gwaii Offices

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Treaty Negotiations: "Readiness"

HAIDA NATION RESPONDS

In the last issue of Haida Laas, We featured the Six-Stage Process to negotiate outlined by the British Columbia treaty Commission (BCTC). Stage two of that process determines "Readiness" of each party to negotiate.

The "Checklist of Completing readiness Stage 2" was completed by both Canada and B.C. and printed in the last issue of Haida Laas. This is the official response from the Council of the Haida Nation to the BCTC, Canada and British Columbia to the following items on the "checklist":

A.1) Each party has made a formal commitment in writing to the other two parties to negotiate a treaty.

2) Each Party has appointed a Chief Negotiator.

3) Each party has confirmed that it has a mandate to negotiate a framework agreement and an effective process in place to develop it's mandate throughout stages 3,4 and 5.

4) Each party has adopted a ratification procedure.

B.1) Each party has identified and developed a list of the substantive issues which will be discussed during stage 3. 2) Dedicated ongoing resources and support for negotiating teams. 3) Information sharing. 4.a) Clearly identified issues of overlap.

COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETING READINESS STAGE 2

A.1 *Council of the Haida Nation* agrees with the 6 Stage Process of Treaty Negotiations outlined in the BC Claims Task Force Report, and also agreed to the British Columbia Treaty Commission Agreement signed September 1993 by First Nations of BC, the Premier of BC, and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Council of the Haida Nation has sent a Letter of Intent to Negotiate a Treaty to the Government of Canada and Government of BC.

A.2 *Council of the Haida Nation* has appointed Miles G. Richardson, President, as Chief Negotiator until further notice.

Council of the Haida Nation has appointed Ernie Collison, Administrator, as main contact person.

A.3 *Council of the Haida Nation* has a mandate from the Haida Citizens through the Haida Constitution, and Haida Nation House of Assembly, and further, through a decision of the Council of the Haida Nation.

A.4 *Council of the Haida Nation* - has a ratification procedure outlined in the Haida Constitution (Article XII, S.6).

B.1 *Council of the Haida Nation* is currently developing the list of substantive and procedural issues for Stage 3.

B.2 *Council of the Haida Nation* has a mandate and has commenced the 6 Stage Negotiations Process, and will submit a Budget to British Columbia Treaty Commission and will negotiate the terms of accepting funds from British Columbia Treaty Commission.

B.3 *Council of the Haida Nation* is developing a strategy for Public Education, both for Haida constituency, and the general public.

4.A Overlap is not an issue between *Council of the Haida Nation* and any other First Nation.

Communications

Our President, Miles Richardson, recently was invited to the Queen Charlotte School to discuss Haida Government with the grade 11 social studies class. It was an excellent opportunity for students to hear the CHN perspective on treaty negotiations and interim measures and to ask questions.

Council of the Haida Nation
President: Mr. Richardson

Dear Sir:

The grade 11 social studies class would like to thank you for finding time in your schedule to speak with us. We've been studying native governments and laws and the time you spent with us answered many of our questions, and provided us with a better understanding of the role of the CHN.

We especially appreciated the copies of *Haida Laas* and other articles the CHN is dealing with. The Haida Journal broadened our minds on Forestry and Treaty concerns.

We hope that you will be able to return to speak with future grade 11's so they will have the same opportunity that we had. We would like to thank you once again for your time.

Sincerely,
Val Anderson
Kelly Leung
Social Studies 11
Queen Charlotte School

Editor,

I write in response to Bill Ellis' campaign in the press. Mr. Ellis speaks as if there are serious "internal" difficulties based on whether we have a nanni or a grandmother.

Mr. Ellis was quiet when it was business as usual. He was quiet when millions of dollars went exclusively to a private corporation for compensation for not logging Gwaii Hanaas. Mr. Ellis was still quiet when the federal and provincial planning and coordination committee (PCC) were going to spend 38 million dollars over eight years with only a limited advisory role for the Island community.

Although Mr. Ellis says that Haida's are not the problem he constructs his arguments to persuade the reader otherwise. He implies that Haida's are bogeymen that control parliament, the legislature and all the levers of economic power. Mr. Ellis' campaign advocates mistrust suggesting that neighbours are more of a problem than a solution. Any difference that may exist between us are small time when compared to the troubles of the world.

I encourage the reader to examine the Gwaii Trust closely and consider what we are handing over to our children. Over the upcoming years they too will wrestle with the many challenges of living and working together. Hopefully we can make those challenges a little easier.

Good neighbours can be more helpful than distant relatives Bill; look out your door and you will see the children of nannis and grandmothers working, playing and living together.

Sincerely,
Michael Nicoll, Yahgulanaas

CHN COMMITTEES

You Can Help!

The Haida Nation will negotiate a formal treaty with the governments of Canada and BC.

Haida's now and in the future will be affected. Your input and interest is vitally important.

Contact the CHN for information on meeting locations and dates of CHN Committees

**COUNCIL OF THE
HAIDA NATION**



BE INFORMED!



CHN 2nd Quarterly Motions & Committees

Council of the Haida Nation
Second Quarterly Meeting
Skidegate Community Hall
June 8 & 9, 1994

Motions

Motion 94-06-02-33

That Ernie Collison be Chairperson for Day 1 & 2 of the CHN Second quarterly meeting.

Moved by Gary Russ. Seconded by Arnie Bellis. Carried.

Motion 94-06-02-34

That the CHN Agenda of the Second Quarterly meeting of June 8 & 9, 1994 be adopted as presented.

Moved by Bill White. Seconded by Gary Russ. Carried.

Motion 94-06-02-35

That the Council of the Haida Nation pay Miles G. Richardson the \$12,00 that is owed to him.

Moved by Sonny York. Seconded by Charlie Bellis. Carried.

Motion 94-06-02-36

That the CHN authorizes entering into an Interim Agreement with the B.C. Government for Commercial Recreational Fisheries on Haida Gwaii.

Moved by Gary Russ. Seconded by Robert DuDoward. 9 in favor. 2 opposed (Charlie Bellis & Tom Greene). Carried.

CHN Standing Committee Appointments:

Chairpersons listed first.

1. Executive - Miles G. Richardson, Arnie Bellis, Tom Greene Sr. Charlie Bellis, Bruce Brown (alt).
2. Personnel - Tom Greene Sr.
3. Finance - Arnie Bellis
4. Fisheries - Sonny York, Jim Edenshaw, Gary Russ.
5. Forestry - Robert Dudoward, Charlie Bellis, Gary Russ.
6. Gwaii Haanas - Miles G. Richardson, Arnie Bellis, Paul Pearson, Wilson Brown.
7. Communications - Robert Dudoward, Jim Edenshaw, Trudy Doell.
8. Economic Development - Bruce Brown, Tom Greene Sr., Henry Hageman.
9. Land/Sea Use - Deferred to 3rd quarterly
10. Cultural - Jim Edenshaw
11. Constitution - Vern Brown, Bill White.

Message to Grads (cont.fr.pg.63)

know that I can create a balance for Love and Happiness in my life with the work that still needs to be done in healing first nations people.

It is in you people completing your dreams of graduation that I see hope. As you visualize and complete your dreams, when you are at a crossroads, when you don't see any way out, and when you feel you are all alone, draw on the experience of your families. Our ancestors, in completing their dreams, drew on their ancestors' wisdom. As we draw on the wisdom and support of our families we are strengthening the glue that holds our culture together.

As we rebuild our families we also need to know that there is a greater power above. In our language we call it saa 7laana, the power above. Some people call it God. In reconnecting with the power above we are reclaiming our spirituality. In reconnecting with our spirituality we are completing the circle.

Like my grandfather did in building that 60 foot boat, create your dream. Make it happen. No one is going to do it for you. Grab a dream and sail away with it. See where it will take you. You each hold the power.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Haida Language Conference
August 1994- Days to be announced
Skidegate

SBC/OMVC/CHN
Tripartite Meeting
September 13, 1994
Old Massett

CHN 3rd Quarterly Meeting
September 14 & 15, 1994
Old Massett

CHN/BC/CAN
Treaty Negotiations
October 5 & 6, 1994
Skidegate



Haida Laas: Mail List & Subscriptions

Haida Laas is published bi-weekly by the Council of the Haida Nation and is distributed free to Haida's through the CHN Mail List. If you are Haida and would like to be on the mail list, or/and you would like to make a donation, please write, fax or phone Gilbert Parnell, Communications Officer, at:

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