I-r: Eve Hansen & Isaac, Deena Manitobenis & Bella Rose, and Mallory Russ & Harvey all attended the ReDiscovery Clan Dinner in Old Massett with their young children.

See story page 13
EVERYONE WELCOME

HAIDA LAAS
NEWSLETTER OF THE Haida Nation
published by the
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HAIDA LAAS
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EVERYONE WELCOME

Please attend the JOINT REVIEW PANEL HEARINGS and witness contemporary and oral history being presented to the Panel by our people and our neighbours on Haida Gwaii.

The Hearings are part of a federal government review of the proposed Enbridge oil pipeline project that would run from Alberta to Kitimat.

In addition to the pipeline, the proposed project would require over 200 oil tankers a year to circumnavigate Haida Gwaii to transport the oil to Asian and US markets.

Old Massett Community Hall
February 28 & 29, 2012
9:00 am
Open to public -

The Girls Group, which has been running since March 2011, is a club for girls who live in Old Massett and Masset and are between the ages of 13-18. Liah Hetherington, Child & Youth Counsellor with the Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace (HGSCP), runs the club, which meets every Wednesday, after school, at the Counselling House in Masset.

These days, the Girls Group has been busy planning and fundraising for eight of its members to travel to the Gathering Our Voices Aboriginal Youth Conference in Nanaimo. The conference is a great place for youth to learn about things like health, language, culture, environment, employment, education, and sports and recreation, and is held annually during the school spring-break.

Last year, the conference was held in Prince Rupert, so many youth in our community were able to attend and had a great time meeting other young people from all around the province. This year, it was taking a lot more effort to get the girls and two chaperones to Nanaimo, but when Success by Six awarded the group a grant in support of the trip, the girls knew the trip would become a reality.

This is a big trip. The group will be off-island for ten days and take the ferry from Skidegate to Prince Rupert, then drive to Nanaimo. Due to the ferry schedule, the group will have an extra two days before the conference begins, so they have planned a short detour to Alert Bay.

The staff at the U’minta Cultural Centre in Alert Bay has generously opened to the museum on a Sunday and gave the youth a tour. The girls are also interested in visiting the residential school at Alert Bay, which many Haidas attended in the past. To prepare for their visit to the school, Sandra Dan, a counsellor at the Haida Health Centre, recently shared with the Girls Group her knowledge about the residential school system.

The Girls Group has been working hard to reach their fundraising goal of $2000.00. They have had sales tables at the Co-op, bingos at the Elders’ Center, and are selling anti-violence-against-women t-shirts to make their goal. The HGSCP and the Gwaii anti-violence-against-women t-shirts to make their goal. The HGSCP and the Gwaii

To Asian Markets

To U.S. Markets

The Proposed Tanker Routes

From Kitimat, bitumen would be sent by supertanker (also known as Very Large Crude Carriers or VLCCs) to markets in Asia (primarily China) and in the US. The proposed tanker route would pass through the Hecate Strait, south of Haida Gwaii through the Queen Charlotte Sound, or north through Davis Strait out into the Pacific Ocean.

Did You Know?

Skidegate Band Council Election Results

Skidegate Band Council elections were held Wednesday, February 15 and of the 19 hopeful candidates seven were successful. A full list of candidates and the votes they received is posted to < haidanation.ca >.

-To the office of Councillor the following were elected:
Duane Alsop - 195 votes
James Cowpar - 230
Lyndale George - 287
Remi Levesque - 298
Godfrey Williams - 163
Robert Williams - 236
Billy Yovanovich - 292
Robert Mills was acclaimed to the position of Chief Councillor.

Super Fan Aaliyeh Arens
Aaliyeh Arens kept the Skidegate Saints pumped and focused at the All Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert. See story - next page.

Did you know there are 1,068 different salmon populations on Haida Gwaii – 11 percent of the total known variation in Pacific salmon stocks in Canada, in just 1/100th of their range. Some salmon are believed to have inhabited local streams during and prior to the last ice age.
Stoked Saints bring home the hardware

The All-Native Basketball Tournament is different from all other basketball tournaments. It’s an opportunity to represent your community and yourself with your hustle, heart and spirit to win, and to succeed for your family, community and nation.

This year, the Skidegate Senior Saints did something they have never done before, by winning the Senior Division championship in convincing fashion before, by winning the Senior Division championship in convincing fashion with 92-79 win.

With an average margin of victory of 23.5 points per game throughout the tournament, the Saints became the team to beat, with defending champs, Hydaburg, unable to attend this year’s tournament. In an inspiring demonstration of unity to protect the coast from oil supertankers, the event brought together First Nations, elected officials, authors, and blues artists, among many others, in a stand against Enbridge’s proposed pipeline and the oil tankers that would ply the coastal waters.

The Wall – Prince Rupert rally lays the foundation

On February 4th, the Gitiga’at – people from the Hartley Bay region – hosted one of the largest rallies to date opposing the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline project.

In an inspiring demonstration of unity to protect the coast from oil supertankers, the event brought together First Nations, elected officials, authors, and blues artists, among many others, in a stand against Enbridge’s proposed pipeline and the oil tankers that would ply the coastal waters.

Representatives from the Gitiga’at, Haida, Tsimshian, Heiltsuk, Cree, Yinka Dene Alliance, Metlakatla, Lax Kw’alaams, Gitxsan, Wet’suwet’en, and Haida all attended. Marching from Mariner’s Park to the Civic Center, a stream of over 1,000 supporters from across the province took over the streets in a symbolic demonstration, declaring: “This is our territory and we do not consent to any pipelines or supertankers threatening our way of life.”

At around noon, everyone settled into the auditorium at the Prince Rupert Civic Centre. After a welcoming from Prince Rupert Mayor Jack Mussallem, MLA Gary Coons, and Chiefs from the Metlakatla, Lax Kw’alaams, and Gitiga’at, and a powerful performance by the Gitiga’at Cultural Dancers, the day’s events officially opened.

As the afternoon continued, the audience was honoured to hear the song, Shallow Waters, performed by 11-year-old Ta’kaiya Blaney, a member of the Sliammon. Wise waters, performed by 11-year-old Ta’Kaiya Blaney, a member of the Sliammon. Wise waters, performed by 11-year-old Ta’Kaiya Blaney, a member of the Sliammon.

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that the pipeline, “is not going to happen, and we’ll all be there to make sure bulldozer ever came to start construction for the project. Quoting Gerald we have to all be there and stand there and be prepared to go to jail if project.

-free speech and the environment, and has been speaking tirelessly against the real threat that the Northern Gateway proposal puts in front of us. Ms Vernon said that there are 75 coastal jobs at risk for every one job people who have never activists or to many people who may sound cliché, but this movement to stop this proposal through as a project “in the national interest”, but this diverse group of people at the march and gathering demonstrated that it is not in their best interest and there is a growing movement to protect what is in their best interest. This rally demonstrated the wall of First Nations standing against the proposal, the in their best interest.

First, the words “fight” and “battle” referring to the slogan of “Thanks to you, your spirit, your energy, your commitment and determination, these tanker will not pass through the Douglas Channel and these pipelines will not be built,” said Andrew Nikiforuk speaking at the gathering.

Third, the Enbridge Northern Gateway proposal is not only a First Nations’ issue, it is also an environmental issue, a social issue, and an economic issue. It is a local, a national, and an international issue. The federal government is determined to push the proposal through as a project “in the national interest”, but this diverse group of people at the march and gathering demonstrated that it is not in their best interest and there is a growing movement to protect what is in their best interest.

The rally reaffirmed everything that we are doing on Haida Gwaii to stop the project and reinforced that there is great support for that position from across the province, and, across Canada.

The Wall - continued next page

Top: Over 1000 people attended the Say NO to Enbridge Rally sponsored by the Wall at Haida Nation. Middle: Mr. Mair, an outspoken and passionate advocate of free speech, told the crowd he was prepared to go to jail over the Enbridge issue. Right: A sea of signs carried by all ages jostled along the avenue.
What to expect at the Joint Review Panel Community Hearings

Over the past month many people on the Islands have been in deep conversation about the proposed Northern Gateway project – talking at the grocery store, through social media, hearing it on the news, and consequently thinking about the possible environmental, social, and economic impacts of the project.

With the Joint Review Panel arriving on Haida Gwaii this month, the question, “Why are they coming here?” has come up a few times and probably led some people to wonder, what could a pipeline running through BC mean for us here on Haida Gwaii?

The Joint Review Panel has been tasked, by the federal government, to conduct an assessment of the potential environmental effects of the proposed Northern Gateway Project. The project is to build two pipelines from Bruderheim, Alberta, through BC, and terminating at Kitimat. Once the review process has been completed, the JRP will submit their report to the Minister of Environment, Peter Kent, who will make it available to the public.

The Project in Four Bullets

• The Enbridge Northern Gateway Joint Review Panel (JRP) is the federal government’s process for assessing the environmental, social and economic impacts of the Northern Gateway proposal. They will propose mitigation methods to offset environmental impacts. The review panel will make a decision on whether to approve the project or not.

• The Joint Review Panel will make their recommendation to the federal government – expanding our oil markets”, which the Prime Minister has made public on a number of occasions. Harper and Enbridge CEO Pat Daniel were in China, earlier this month, promoting the potential of an expanded Canadian energy sector.

• Given the above scenario, supertankers would navigate around Haida Gwaii more than 500 times each year.

The Joint Review Panel Members

Sheila Leggett is the vice-chair of the National Energy Board. She’s served on a number of government review panels, has a Master’s Degree in Biology, and lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Kenneth Bateman is a lawyer and member of the National Energy Board. He has been involved in a number of pipeline hearings, has a Master’s Degree in International Business Management, and lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Hans Matthews is a geologist with experience in Aboriginal community development in the mining industry. He is from the Wahnapatie First Nation and lives in Ontario.

The Enbridge Northern Gateway Joint Review Panel (JRP)?

As a result of environmental concerns and public questions regarding the Northern Gateway proposal, a federal review of the project and its potential impacts started in 2010. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the National Energy Board oversee the review, which includes Hearings being held in a number of communities throughout BC and Alberta. Following the review process the Joint Review Panel will make a decision on whether to approve the project or not.

Who are the Joint Review Panel members?

Sheila Leggett is the vice-chair of the National Energy Board. She’s served on a number of government review panels, has a Masters Degree in biology, and lives in Calgary, Alberta.

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Hans Matthews is a geologist with experience in Aboriginal community development in the mining industry. He is from the Wahnapitae First Nation and lives in Ontario.

What kind of recommendations will the panel make?

The Joint Review Panel will make their recommendation to the federal government based on information they receive throughout the review. Most often, the review panel will propose mitigation methods to offset environmental impacts. The review panel
Who will speak at the Hearings on Haida Gwaii?

There are approximately 12 individuals and organizations preparing to present Oral Evidence at the first round of Hearings in Old Massett and Skidegate. A second round of Hearings will be held on the Islands at a later date to give members of the public an opportunity to be heard. A final round of Hearings for final arguments will be held in April 2013.

Each of the Intervenors can get up and speak for themselves, or they can call in any number of speakers to talk about how the proposed project would impact local communities. Each Intervenor has been allotted between 15 minutes and three hours to present their oral evidence to the panel.

Preparing and Presenting your Oral Evidence

Generally speaking, this first round of the review is for First Nations from across BC and Alberta to give Oral Evidence, though there are other individuals and groups who are also registered to present on this round.

Oral evidence is information, provided by Intervenors, that cannot be submitted in writing. This includes:

- oral traditional knowledge
- personal knowledge and experiences that show how the proposed project would affect you or your community

Before presenting your evidence, you will be sworn in on a bible. If you don’t want to swear on a bible, you can bring in another sacred item with you to use.

You can tell the panel your point of view, but your evidence must focus on information that supports your views.

Your views about the decision the panel should make, and your opinions of the proposed project, should wait until the hearings in the Spring/Summer.

Your final arguments in your presentation, this round, can include your position on the decision that the panel should make and the reason why your evidence supports your position.

The final decision that the panel makes on the project will include the environmental and socio-economic effects of the project, the significance of the effects, and, if the proposal should be approved, on what terms and conditions.

Who will be at the Community Hearings?

The Community Hearings are open to the public – everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Hereditary Leaders, Women Held in High-Esteem, elected officials, and the three-member Joint Review Panel will also be at the Hearings.

The Hearings will begin with an opening ceremony and an official welcoming. After a brief introduction from the panel, Oral Evidence will begin and carry on all day. The evidence being given by community members will consist of traditional knowledge and/or personal experience. The public is welcome to come and go throughout the day.

Preparation for the Hearings on Haida Gwaii

For people who registered to make Oral Statements, the Joint Review Panel will return this spring or summer to hear from the public. Over 300 Islands registered to make Oral Statements. They will each be given ten minutes to speak directly to the panel about their views of the proposed project.

What if I missed the registration deadline but still want to have my opinions considered in the JRP process?

Everyone is encouraged to have their voices heard by the JRP. If you missed the deadline to register to make an Oral Statement, you can still write a Letter of Comment to the panel. These letters can be as technical, or as personal, or as long or short as you like. The deadline to submit a Letter of Comment is August 31, 2012.

Check the JRP website at <http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-on/hm-eng.html> for details.


The JRP Hearings Timeline

- January 10, 2012: Community Hearings began in Kitamaat
- February 28 and 29: Hearings in Old Massett
- March 21 and 22: Hearings in Skidegate
- Spring/Summer 2012: More Community Hearings on Haida Gwaii to hear 10-minute Oral Statements from the general public
- August 31, 2012: Deadline to submit Letters of Comment
- April 2013: Final Hearings – Final Arguments

For more information on the Joint Review Panel, visit the JRP website at <http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-on/hm-eng.html>.
Youth Leadership – thinking as one

By Kelsey Pelton

On January 8, 2012, 13 youths from Old Massett, Masset, Port Clements, Tli’ik, Skidegate, Queen Charlotte and Sandspit came together for the first meeting of the Gwaii Trust Youth Board.

The directors and alternates of this new group are: Preston Sloan, Mike Berg, Chelsy McDavid, Brandon Gibbard, Niisii Gouflage, Abigail Mitchell, Skil Iaader White, Saaqmgajaaan Yaggujaanaas, Shyleene Abrahams, Chloe Good, Kade Kricheldorf, Ian Benoit and Jesse Condrotte. These youth are representing Band and Village Councils, and Youth Councils from their communities.

Part of the Gwaii Trust Youth Board’s mandate is to decide how $150,000.00 will be spent by August 2012. The board was told to not only think of their individual community when making decisions, but to think of Haida Gwaii as one big community.

The Gwaii Trust Board, which was also at the meeting, presented some goals that it would try to achieve with the new Youth Board and youth on-Island. The goals are: 100% high-school graduation; for every teen on-Island to attend a wilderness camp; increasing the graduation rate; a teen centre in every community; and, to put 15 students per year in an apprentice or educational mentorship program; support awards; Swan Bay Rediscovery; to give a teen on-Island to attend a wilderness camp; and, Youth Councils from their communities.

At the meeting, the discussion was around ideas that could help achieve these goals, and how to spend the money in a way that helped all communities and all youth. The GT Youth Board decided to designate individuals to do research about the potential investments and come back with information to help shortlist the options of how the Youth Board will spend the money. Those in attendance also voted to set priorities about the things they felt should be done first.

Some great ideas were put forward at the meeting: Chelsy McDavid thought that it would be a good idea to have transportation from Sandspit, where she lives, to attend the youth centre in Skidegate; Abigail Mitchell, from Tli’ik, suggested that there be counselling to help with the goal of increasing the graduation rate; Brandon Gibbard of Skidegate thought the idea of funding every teen on-Island to attend a Haida Gwaii wilderness camp was great.

He feels that everyone should have the opportunity he had to learn more about Haida culture and have the experience of visiting Gwaii Haanas.

The Youth Council intends to meet again in March and May. At those meetings, they will be looking at applications from individuals with great ideas that could be used to create programs and more activities for youth.

If you have an idea as to what the Gwaii Trust Youth Council could do to make Haida Gwaii a better place for youth, submit your idea and application by contacting any member of the Gwaii Trust Youth Council. Their email addresses are posted at <www.gwaiitrust.com>.

www.haidanation.ca

ReDiscovering Ourselves In-Town

by Florence Lockyer

ReDiscovery Coordinator, Vince Collison, and Youth Coordinator, Harmony Williams, organized a Community Clans’ Dinner for Old Massett this past January 31. Of the dozen Clans situated at the north end of Haida Gwaii, most had a good representation at the dinner of about 150 people.

The Clans’ Dinner was planned to involve the community in decision-making and program planning for the newly initiated In-Town ReDiscovery Program that will deliver programs and services to our youth. The Summer Culture Camp held annually at Taalung Stlung is the inspiration for this new year-round, in-town endeavour.

The idea for the dinner was to bring positive attention to the program and the boundless possibilities of in-town activities. The ReDiscovery Society still operates the cultural camp at Taalung Stlung, and, last year, the Haida Health Center delivered the programs at the camp. The new in-town programming is additional to the summer camp. The Old Massett Village Council is managing the programs in both locations.

The dinner was also organized to inform the community that the program has received financial support from Haida Child and Family Services. Part of the Haida Child and Family Services mandate is to support community initiatives aimed at enhancing children’s lives and a financial contribution from HCFSS breathed new life into the ReDiscovery Program.

Rather than just promoting the program with posters and notices, and designing the program without community input, it was decided that the launch of this new phase would be through a Clans’ Dinner so that all clans and community members were aware of the importance of this new initiative.

In-town - continued next page
In-town – from page 13

The summer camp has operated for 30 years and many adult community members attended the camp and now their children are attending it. Many remember seeing or feeling the accomplishment of being Stone Ribs and successfully doing an overnight solo, and as a consequence being filled with Haida pride. With the new funding, all of our youth aged 9-12 will now be able to experience that pride, here in the village, before they attend the cultural camp in the summer.

The dinner began with an opening by MC’s Elizabeth Moore and Vince Collison. Beef, deer and seafood stews were prepared by the Adult Day Program. Clan members decorated their tables with crests and regalia and also brought desserts. Each table served themselves at the dinner.

After dinner Hereditary Leaders Daynaang, Donald Bell; Githeewans, Vernon Brown, Thansi, Ken Edgar, Illdimi, Alfred Davidson; and Gya awhlans, Roy Collison spoke for Gya awhlans. In their speeches many of the Leaders shared similar sentiments:

“It’s good to be here for a happy occasion! It’s great that [our] teachings will be passed on. It’s good to see everyone together for our children. No matter what I do, there is always at least one of my children or grandchildren around to hear and see what I am doing.”

“We need to do this more often – gather together for our children. No matter what we do, there is always at least one of my children or grandchildren around to hear and see what I am doing.”

“We arrived hungry and are leaving full. We need to do this more often – gather together for our children. No matter what we do, there is always at least one of my children or grandchildren around to hear and see what I am doing.”

Number 6 in the series – WORKING ON-ISLAND

MAY RUSS - from navigator to steerswoman

by Valine Crist

May Russ is a passionate and committed Haida woman. Born and raised on the islands, she has made a lifelong career of working for – and in – the community of Old Massett. Today, May is Senior Administrator for the Secretariat of the Haida Nation (SHN), and for the past nine years has managed a team that is building and expanding CHN programs.

May is Haida through and through: she loves food gathering, especially berry picking, enjoys spending time in her garden, and has a regular exercise practice. Reading – mostly mysteries and biographies – watching hockey, and craftwork are other favourite past times. These activities are some of the ways that she keeps her feet on the ground with her demanding work life, she says. May has two sons from her first marriage, and – with her spouse of thirty years, Stan – a daughter, Eve. But, nothing touches May’s heart more than her seven grandchildren – four boys and three girls, including the newest addition, grandson Isaac, born May 9 of last year.

Before she came to the SHN, May spent twenty-two years at the Old Massett Village Council office. There, she began as a part-time Clerk, moved up to a junior Finance Clerk position, and, after that, became the Finance Clerk. From Finance Clerk she took on the position of Band Administrator, a management position she held for nine years. Today, working for SHN with its associated politics is a “rewarding challenge,” May says, with her dry sense of humour.

Although May does not have a formal post-secondary education, in her early twenties she did complete some post-secondary courses. “I never did get my Grade 12, but I have taken post-secondary courses and received university credits through a program called Aboriginal Studies,” she said. “You don’t have to do it the hard way, which is how I did it. If you get the education, that will make a big difference – definitely get the education.”

May’s hard work has paid off. Over the years she has learned the skills needed for the jobs she has taken on. Skills, such as having strong writing skills and a deep understanding of finances and knowledge of bookkeeping, or something as simple as getting along with people, are strengths required in her current position. The ability to organize and problem-solve will serve you well while working in challenging work environments.

“You don’t have to do it the hard way, which is how I did it. If you get the education, that will make a big difference ...”

May Russ

May Russ - continued next page

Senior Administrator for the Secretariat of the Haida Nation, May Russ, knows that hard work pays off and a skill set that includes the ability to organize and problem-solve will serve you well while working in challenging work environments.

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May Russ

May Russ - continued next page

Senior Administrator for the Secretariat of the Haida Nation, May Russ, knows that hard work pays off and a skill set that includes the ability to organize and problem-solve will serve you well while working in challenging work environments.
During his second year at school, Ernie realized that he was very interested in organizing and being organized is something May considers to be of high value. During our conversation, May pointed out that some people are still confused about the relationship between SHN and CHN. She explains that the CHN is the political body of elected officials representing the Haida Nation at a government-to-government level, and the SHN is the organization responsible for the administrative duties of the CHN. The SHN administers the CHN support staff and CHN programs such as fisheries, forest planning and communications. As Senior Administrator, May’s responsibilities include overseeing the operation; meeting with elected officials and Hereditary Leaders; internal and external communications; budgets; and accounting. To do this, “you have to have a really strong ability to organize and to problem-solve,” she explained.

As Senior Administrator, May works hard and continues to learn new skills. The position often involves big challenges like preparing for important decisions on behalf of the Nation. When asked what inspires her, she says, “We’re doing it for our kids … they have to inherit whatever we make for them and it’s our challenge to give them the best opportunities we can.”

Part of any well-run organization is clear policy, and, in 2009, May dedicated a lot of time and energy, along with CHN Policy Committee, to revise the CHN election regulations. She says that this was a highlight for her and a major piece of work for SHN. Having the Haida Nation adopt the recommendations at the House of Assembly was another highlight in her professional work life, she said.

With an appreciation for administrative process, management systems and organization, May is now working on the operation and structure of existing CHN programs, with an intention to build those programs from the foundation that has been established. “Our programs are continuing to expand,” she said. “These are exciting times and it’s fun to be a part of it all.” Happily engaged in her work, May encourages others to “get out there, get the training, and look at our organization [for jobs].” Recognizing that youth need to be involved and informed about the type of employment being offered, CHN and SHN are looking for ways to engage motivated and educated Haida youth. “We need so many different people to fill jobs. We need biologists, divers, field workers and, of course, administrators,” May exclaims.

CONSIDERING WORK
Recent job postings with the CHN/SHN have included: Summer-student research jobs, Rediscovery Camp coordinators, department managers, a research writer, a community correspondent, and field crew members. Check for employment opportunities at: www.haidanation.ca.

Number 7 in the series – WORKING ON-ISLAND
ERNIE GLADSTONE - a solid influence

Ernie Gladstone, has spent many years and a lot of effort to get the education and training needed to run Gwaii Haanas.

“A lot of areas are protected for natural reasons, and others are protected for cultural reasons. Gwaii Haanas is protected for natural and cultural reasons — we bring both of these things together; they’re one and the same here and they’re given equal weight.”

Nang Kaa Klaagangs

“...I knew I wanted to get some kind of education, so I began with general studies,” Ernie said, referring to his first year at post-secondary school.

During his second year at school, Ernie realized that he was very interested in...
within this federal-Haida structure, Ernie expressed an interest in the superintendent position. “So, I moved from manager of the maintenance department into a developmental position and worked alongside the then-Superintendent,” he said.

Things obviously went well. Ernie has been Superintendent for the past 10 years and speaks with knowledge and experience as he describes the balance he must find between Haida Nation protocol and citizen expectations and Parks Canada requirements.

“When you’re from Haida Gwaii there are expectations people have of you that sometimes aren’t in line with Parks Canada’s expectations.” Finding that balance takes diplomacy and patience, and though navigating that line can be difficult and stressful, the job does come with benefits. As Superintendent, Ernie has visited all of the provinces and territories in Canada and many of the national historic sites and parks. He has also travelled internationally, visiting the US, Ireland, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand.

With his many accomplishments Ernie remains modest and attributes most of Gwaii Haanas’ success to his colleagues. “We have a solid team and I really enjoy working with people here,” he said. This sentiment was echoed recently in a speech Ernie gave when accepting the George Wright Society’s Cultural Resource Achievement Award – an award recognizing protected areas for their natural and cultural value. “When I accepted the award, I made it clear that the work we do here in Haida Gwaii isn’t done just by me – it’s done by the team that we have working here and the team at the Council of the Haida Nation.”

Gwaii Haanas directly employs about 45 people, not including summer student positions. Haidas fill half of these positions. Ernie said there are many interesting opportunities, some of which include employment designed specifically for youth within the many departments at Gwaii Haanas. He says to watch for the job ads posted, along with the job description is a document called the Statement of Qualifications. The Statement of Qualifications is key to the hiring process and identifies everything that the interview committee will be looking for. You should pick up a copy of the related documents before an interview to help you prepare. During the interview be ready to respond to each of the items in the Statement of Qualifications and talk about your abilities and skills in relation to specific items in the document.

An interview committee at Gwaii Haanas generally consists of the manager of the Human Resources department and at least one other manager along with a representative of the Council of the Haida Nation. The interview committee will review your personal suitability and attributes and conduct the interview.

Ernie suggests that you talk with and get advice from somebody who’s already employed at Gwaii Haanas and has therefore been through the hiring process.

Ernie was required to review the entire Agreement and assess each clause, evaluate whether requirements of the Agreement were being met, and identify the progress and call in to ask about the positions. One of the benefits of living and working in one place for a long time is the opportunity to see things change over time. Ernie’s attachment to Gwaii Haanas began at an early age. “I first experienced Gwaii Haanas when I was about 12 years old,” he said. “I went down there for about a week and travelled around by zodiac with just a few others and really connected with the area … we did a lot of food gathering and exploring and it was at that time I became really attached to the place.”
YOU ARE IMPORTANT!
Please attend the JOINT REVIEW PANEL HEARINGS and witness contemporary and oral history being presented to the Panel by our people and our neighbours on Haida Gwaii.

Old Massett Community Hall
February 28 & 29, 2012
9:00 am

The Hearings are part of a federal government review of the proposed Enbridge oil pipeline project that would run from Alberta to Kitimat.

In addition to the pipeline, the proposed project would require over 200 oil tankers to circumnavigate Haida Gwaii each year to transport the oil to Asian and US markets.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable attend these hearings there are also two days of Hearings scheduled for Skidegate, March 21 and 22.

lunch provided