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# HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Council of the Haida Nation

June 2015





# HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

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## Call for expressions of interest

The Council of the Haida Nation is seeking motivated individuals with business or professional experience in areas such as, accounting, legal, environmental, human resources, finance, marketing, forestry, energy and tourism.

If you are interested in sitting as a member of the board of directors for the Haida Enterprise Corporation (HaiCo) there are currently two board positions and the chair position open for consideration. In addition to the above professional experience, we are also looking for the following qualities:

- Sound personal and professional integrity
- Inquiring and independent mind
- Practical and mature judgment
- Experience at the policy-making level in business, finance or government
- Experience that is useful to the current needs of the company and complementary to the background and experience of the current directors
- Willingness to devote the time required to carry out the directors' duties and responsibilities
- An understanding of Haida Nation issues, culture and experience in dealing with First Nations

Please forward your resume with attached cover letter to:

Attention HaiCo nominators committee

C/O Kim Robinson

Box 98 Skidegate

Haida Gwaii V0T 1S1

or

e: [kim.robinson@haidanation.com](mailto:kim.robinson@haidanation.com)

The deadline for applications is July 17th, 2015.



Cover Photo: This Team Oceans' poster is one of 20+ that were produced at the Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly 2015.



Photo: Molly Clarkson

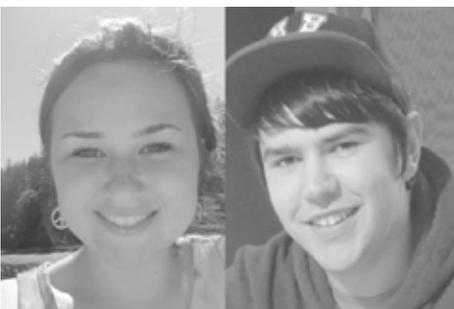
Makah representative Chad Bowechop addresses participants at the "Lessons from the Simushir" workshop held at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Lnagaay.

# Learn from the past, plan for the future

In the fall of last year, the Russian cargo vessel *Simushir* lost power and nearly ran aground on the west coast of Haida Gwaii. This incident raised questions about the current marine response system, and the capacity of the Haida Nation, Canada, corporations and communities to respond quickly and effectively. To address these issues the nation recently hosted a two-day workshop designed to learn from the incident and to use those lessons to develop a better marine safety and emergency response system.

The workshop brought together experts in marine emergency response, Haida, and other Islands residents to learn from one another and to address topics such as decision-making protocols during an incident, internal and external communication policies, and the future development of Geographic Response Plans.

A variety of actions and recommendations came out of the workshop to improve the current accident prevention and emergency response system in the North Coast region, including Haida Gwaii. •



New CHN Communications Program staff Tawla Jaad Kelsey Pelton and Zachary Grosse.

## YOUNG MINDS WITH BIG IDEAS

The staff of the CHN Communications Program welcomes Tawla Jaad Kelsey Pelton and Zachary Grosse to the Haida Laas writing team. Zachary will be covering events in the north end and Tawla Jaad, the south, throughout the summer months. Keep your eyes on the Council of the Haida Nation Facebook page and blog <haidanation.wordpress.com> for stories by these young minds with big ideas! •



Photo: Haida Laas/Graham Richard

Lynn Lee (left) and Xiila Guujaaw (right) selling tickets at the Pull Together fundraiser.

## Good clean food

Two hundred and seventy plates of steaming fresh prawns, halibut, salmon, k'aaw, and candied salmon emerged from the kitchen at the Skidegate Community Hall on Saturday, May 2. The meal was fished from the waters of Haida Gwaii and enjoyed by those in attendance, who kept in mind that an oil-free ocean produced the bounty. The music and laughter that accompanied the dinner were part of "Pull Together", a coast-wide campaign to raise funds for the legal cases nations have brought against Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline.

So far, the Islands' community has surpassed its original goal of \$10,000 by raising \$10,498 to assist with the legal fight against Enbridge, and an anonymous donor has doubled that amount to \$20,996.

"It has been a humbling and exciting experience to work with so many talented and dedicated people to make a little idea into a hugely successful event," said organizer and event initiator Molly Clarkson. "Haida Gwaii's communities have clearly demonstrated their opposition to the proposed pipeline, and have shown how far their commitment to the ocean goes. Our opposition will continue until the pipeline proposal is stopped."

Pull Together is a partnership between the Sierra Club BC, RAVEN (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs), and seven nations, including Heiltsuk, Kitsoo-Xai'xais, Gitga'at, Gitxaala, Nadleh Whut'en, Nak'azdli, and Haida. Last fall 3,000 donors from all around the coast raised \$250,000 through the Pull Together campaign. In 2015, Pull Together set a new goal to reach \$600,000 and to date \$393,976 has been raised. •



Illustration courtesy of Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas.

## Hard to believe

Amanda Reid-Stevens is retiring at the end of July. Amanda’s job title is Business Manager and Special Projects Coordinator, but that doesn’t begin to touch on her role within the communications department.

From the beginning, Amanda has been instrumental in the development of the CHN’s communications program. Her insight and experience has been critical in

keeping the program on track and moving forward—the goals of the program’s first five-year strategic plan were completed in just three years mainly due to her ability to keep on task.

Developing and writing stories has many parts to consider, which are constantly in play with each other: Is the perspective right? Is the lead going to capture the reader’s attention? Are we being fair? Is this a good story? What are the politics of the situation? Is the headline any good? And, above all are we accurate?

Accuracy is one of many, many places Amanda excels. Her critical and “take no prisoners” approach to copy-editing has made all Haida nation communications products better and it’s primarily due to her vigilance and stamina. When you are on the fifth edit, “discussing” a comma, fatigue can set in, but all the writers at Haida Laas keep working the story because we know the final piece will be tight, interesting and considered by our expanding readership. Amanda keeps that view at the forefront and it inspires the whole department to go that extra step to “get it right” as she says.

Amanda is a role model, one all of us in the communications department compare ourselves to – she has brought wisdom, sound argument and critical thought to the program and we all thank her for that.

Haaw’aa Amanda Reid-Stevens! ●



Photo: Sabine Jessen

L-R: Ginn wadluu un uula isdaa ayaagang *Trevor Russ*, Vice-president of the Haida Nation; kil tlaats’gaa *Peter Lantin*, President of the Haida Nation; Sgaann 7iw7waans *Allan Wilson*; Berry Wijdeven and Nang Jingwas *Russ Jones* at the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan announcement.

## Marine Plan for Haida Gwaii approved

*Submitted by the CHN Marine Planning Program*

As the sounds of Namgis drummers filled the rotunda of the provincial legislature, the crowd of coastal nation representatives, provincial officials and marine stakeholders rose to their feet to begin the celebration of four marine plans, recently completed for the Pacific North Coast. For the Haida nation, this marked the culmination of nine years of planning, supported by elders, fishers, mariners, ecologists and many others.

“This plan provides a model for how we can work together,” said kil tlaats’gaa *Peter Lantin* in his address. “It charts a future for Haida Gwaii and outlines a path forward that prioritizes culture, healthy intact ecosystems, and sustainable communities.”

Forests, Land and Natural Resources Minister Steve Thomson stated that the plans “provide the province and First Nations with a shared vision for future marine planning decisions.”

The work on the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan began in 2006, when the Council of the Haida Nation established the Haida Marine Work Group. The group was charged with identifying priorities for the development of a marine plan. The provincial government became a partner in planning the Haida Gwaii marine area in 2011.

Read about the implementation of the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan on back page ●



Photo: Haida Laas

## Finding a place of refuge

On March 30 and 31, 2015, representatives from the Haida nation, Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard and the BC Ministry of Environment met in Skidegate to discuss “Places of Refuge” – one critically important aspect of emergency marine response in Haida Gwaii waters.

The two-day workshop initiated the process for identifying Places of Refuge (PoRs) on Haida Gwaii. PoRs are sheltered areas where a ship, in need of assistance, could be directed in the event of a storm, ship malfunction or other situation. The identification of PoRs for Haida Gwaii is a priority, especially in the wake of the recent *Simushir* incident.

To follow up the March workshop, the Haida nation will be working with federal and provincial ministries to develop protocols and review potential sites. ●



# IT'S LOUD AND CLEAR

## Spring Seasonal Session broadcast via the Internet

by Graham Richard

Eagles swooped after one another as ravens chuckled from the roof of Naagudgiikyagans *Skidegate Community Hall*, while inside the building another group of eagles and ravens assembled for the Council of the Haida Nation's Spring Seasonal Session. There, over coffee and snacks, a flock of Haida citizens chatted with one another about current events; soon after, the session opened with President of the Haida Nation kil tlaats 'gaa *Peter Lantin* reporting on executive activities.

Interestingly, there were extra sets of ears in the room that day and on the day that followed. For the first time, citizens were listening in from as far away as Williams Lake and Nova Scotia, as an audio feed from the Seasonal Session was streamed on-line. Over 30 citizens were provided with a secure link, which they used to listen to the Internet broadcast; some of these people also asked questions and provided feedback through a chat line. In the hall, Council of the Haida Nation leadership responded to questions and concerns from abroad in real-time.

### Canada could, Province does

From May 19-21, the CHN opened preliminary discussions with Canada under a new mandate that seeks to achieve reconciliation outside of a treaty process.

The discussion included the ocean that surrounds Haida Gwaii; the nation's management of, and access to, fish; and shipping and navigation within territorial boundaries. The conversation with Canada is expected to continue into September, when the federal government will turn its attention toward the federal election and talks will slow down.

The CHN also met with the Province of British Columbia on May 20-21, to continue their joint oversight of the implementation of the K'unst'aa Guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol. In meetings, BC said it was prepared to respond to CHN's 2013 proposal to take on statutory authority

decision-making within the protected areas on Haida Gwaii. The CHN expects to see BC's proposal soon.

### Peace, Respect and Responsibility

As the end of June approaches, the Haida nation is preparing for the next step in reinforcing its relationship with its neighbour, the Heiltsuk nation.

On September 20, 2014, hereditary and political leaders from the two nations signed an agreement to reaffirm a centuries-old peace treaty at a 'waahlgahl *potlatch* in Gaaw. Currently, the allies are crafting new protocols to uphold the treaty. A Haida delegation of 80+ visited Waglisla (Bella Bella) from June 25-July 2 to ratify the Treaty of Peace, Respect and Responsibility, in Heiltsuk territory.

### Protecting Future History

The Heritage and Natural Resources and Mapping programs continue working on the Cultural Features Inventory survey. Survey crews have traversed the length and breadth of Haida Gwaii throughout this ongoing project, locating and listing Haida heritage and forest features, medicinal plants, culturally modified trees, and monumental cedars. As part of the project, the team also explores ancient village sites; burial grounds; middens; forts; weirs; caves; petroglyphs; sites from oral histories; and lithic sites that are scattered throughout Haida Gwaii.

To support the effort, CHN is planning to construct staff accommodation in protected areas over the next couple of years. The management of the protected areas is funded by the sale of carbon credits that are created by protecting forests from logging. Undisturbed forests sequester carbon from the atmosphere, cooling the planet. Once accumulated, verified, and certified, these carbon credits are then sold on the worldwide commodities market.

### 'Iinang herring

Islanders celebrated on March 6 when the Haida nation won an injunction to shut down the 2015 roe-herring fishery in Gwaii Haanas. Once the nation's legal counsel had presented its argument, the Federal Court agreed that re-opening the fishery posed a "real and serious risk of irreparable harm" to 'iinang stocks. In its decision the court recognized the uncertainty of DFO's stock forecasts, their reliance on flawed modeling, and ineffective management of the fishery.

Furthermore the Court agreed that DFO failed to consult properly prior to opening the fishery. This is especially serious, as the Court found DFO's duty to accommodate is heightened "given the existing [1993] Gwaii Haanas agreement, the unique Haida Gwaii marine conservation area, the ecological concerns, and the duty to foster reconciliation with and protect the constitutional rights of the Haida Nation."

In its argument, the nation combined traditional knowledge, scientific findings, and personal testimony to assert that the fishery should be kept closed to give diminished stocks a chance to recover from years of over-fishing.

Despite the nation's decisive victory, DFO appealed the Court's ruling on March 16. Today, DFO has a "stay of proceedings" on its appeal while the questions that prompted the court case are put on the reconciliation table for consideration. This means that DFO will wait to see if an agreement can be reached out of court. If no progress is made in three months, DFO will go back to court to take its appeal forward.

This year's fishery was stopped but if an agreement can't be reached, or if DFO's appeal is successful, then both parties will be back to square one with conflicting management regimes when the herring fishery opens next year.

*Seasonal session continued on page 6...*

Seasonal session continued from page 5.

### ENB = Ethically Not Believable

On another legal front, the nation submitted its argument against Enbridge to the Federal Court of Appeal to stop the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline. The court has confirmed it will hear submissions on October 1-2 and October 5-8 in Vancouver.

At that time, appellants – including eight nations, four environmental organizations, and one union – will have three days to present their case against the proposal. Enbridge, Canada, the Province of BC, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers will have three days to respond.

The Haida Gwaii community rose in support of this legal effort, raising over \$20,000 in contributions toward the “Pull Together” campaign. Pull Together is a movement that unites seven coast nations against the proposed pipeline. Each nation is cooperating with the others to harmonize its arguments in a coordinated effort to gut the proposed project.

Grassroots organizations coordinating world-wide have raised a total of \$745,000 to help coast nations with legal fees as they work to protect the coast. The grassroots effort aims to raise an additional \$200,000 by the end of June.

### Language

This season the CHN continues to disseminate a total of \$300,000 that was allocated to language work, at the 2013 House of Assembly.

The first \$75,000 was allocated to Xaad Kihlga Hl Suu.u Society in Gaaw to support language immersion training. In addition, \$75,000 has been earmarked for master-apprentice and immersion efforts, \$100,000 to community language initiatives, \$45,000 to translation and Title work, and \$5,000 to language revitalization planning.

The funding apportioned to the Xaad Kil immersion course in Gaaw supported 14 students, and on April 24 the students presented their new language skills to the community at Thlu Xaada Naay.

"Sang waadluuan uu Xaad Kil Giiy t'alang hlGangul Guslangan," explained Jaskwaan. "T'alang waadluuan uu Xaad Kil sk'adee 'Iitl' gulaa Guslang. Gya'gad uu sangiitsid Gusdlang." During presentations, students exhibited both memorized and improvised language skills and encouraged the audience to speak some Xaad Kil. The evening ended with a very big haawa to the students' teachers, a prayer, and a song.

### Haida Media Project

A team of four writers has completed a 70-page script for the Haida Film Project. Elders are now busy with translation work, and SHIP has completed a first draft of all the lines spoken in Hlgaagilda Xaayda Kil.

The script tells a Gogxiit/Gaagiixit story whose central theme concerns the relationship between a kayxal (eagle) and k'uudstak (raven) family. These two families have been intertwined for generations. One family speaks Gaaw Xaad Kil, while the other uses Hlgaagilda Xaayda Kil. Soon the harmony between the two families is disrupted by a tragic event and they must make peace with one another, all while trying to capture the Gogxiit/Gaagiixit that haunts the forests around their autumn fishing camp.

To produce the film, the nation has established a Haida production company in partnership with Asuma Media. Asuma Media is the Inuit production company that produced the award-winning film “Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner”. •



# Vastly, Hugely, Mind-bogglingly Big\*

This April, astronomers confirmed their discovery of a hole with a diameter of 1.8 billion light-years, located in the southern celestial hemisphere toward the “watery” constellation of Eridanus. This is the length of about one hundred seventy quintillion, nine hundred seventy-three quadrillion, four hundred four trillion, and six hundred eighteen billion trips to Hlgaagilda from Gaaw. To try and bring this even closer to home, just imagine running errands up and down island at light speed for twenty-five million

lifetimes. For comparison, the Milky Way galaxy is about 100,000 light years across, or about .0055 per cent of the size of this spherical ‘supervoid’. Not surprisingly, this makes the supervoid the largest known structure in the universe.

While the supervoid is not completely empty, it is about 20 per cent less dense than the rest of the universe and is distinguished by an area of much lower average temperature called the ‘Cold Spot’. This unprecedented anomaly has curious astronomers investigating how

such a supervoid might form. To add to the perplexity, the region’s emptiness can account for only 10 per cent of the Cold Spot’s low temperature. The remaining 90 per cent of the temperature dip may relate to dark energy forces currently unobservable to scientists.

Dark energy is on the verge of our scientific understanding but, for now, its mysteries dominate the world of physics.

\* Douglas Adams, author of the Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy •



Photo: Team Media

Winning! Mya Edenshaw holding Team Communications first place prize at the Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly 2015.

## A NEW GENERATION AWAKES! Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly 2015

by Graham Richard

Three days packed with competition started on Thursday, May 7, as busloads of eager participants arrived in Gaaw for the 2015 Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly. Many youth darted around and reconnected with each other as they anticipated the start of one of the most exciting events of the year.

“One of the things I totally love is to watch the youth walk in so shy and so unsure, and then create bonds and grow. [They] find that little voice inside of them, and just go with it!” said HGYA Team Skilay volunteer, Hiilang.nga Jaad *Seraphine Pryce*.

Twenty years after Skilay *Ernie Collinson* organized the first Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly in 1993, the intensive three-day program was destined to become an annual event. By hosting the second and third youth assemblies in 2013 and 2014, the Haida nation awakened a new generation of young leaders like Skilay.

Each year, ten dedicated volunteers make up a team of organizers named after him: Team Skilay. This team ensures the HGYA is a safe, healthy place where youth can openly express themselves without outside interference. In their own way, the youth

create a rich environment where they can grow and learn to lead.

“My really, truly favourite part is watching the youth grow,” explained Hiilang.nga Jaad. “There was such a young crowd this year, and I really wanted them to feel safe, to be there, and to not worry about what anybody or the adults around them said. They were able to shine, take control of their weekend, and know what they said will make a difference in their world. I hope the adults listen to what was said.”

During the intense few days, four time-restricted, top-secret team challenges were revealed. As the teams worked, Team Skilay awarded them points based on punctuality, time management, participation, use of resources, creativity, and team spirit. The team earning the most points by the end of the weekend won \$1000 cash. Team Skilay members also each selected youths who exhibited strong character, like Skilay, and invited them to join and be recognized in an honorary team.

Individual CHN representatives and staff were also assigned to lend a hand to each of the ten teams. Teams included Oceans,

Forestry, Fisheries, Mapping, Haida Child and Family, Old Massett Village Council, Art and Culture, White Raven Law, Gwaii Haanas, and Communications.

A smaller group of six youth, organized by Nang K’uulas *Patrick Shannon*, comprised Team Media. The team shared photos through social media and produced a music video that featured all of the assembly’s participants, including elected representatives of the CHN. Team Media’s photos and videos are available on Facebook <Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly>.

When the HGYA assembled on Friday morning, its first task was to elect a council of youth composed of a president, vice-president, and twelve regional representatives. Candidates introduced themselves and made speeches, each vying for an elected position.

“I ran as a representative because I wanted to see the youth assembly in a different way and get a new experience on the whole assembly,” explained Northern Representative Danielle Stewart. “It taught me how to voice my opinions and helped me step out of my comfort zone.”

After voting concluded, the successful candidates left the hall to receive their new, black, Youth Council hoodies. As they re-entered, all the participants sang for them, and the newly elected youth-representatives danced in their uniforms alongside elected CHN representatives.

“Getting sung in and dancing with the youth council felt amazing,” said Northern Representative Xilang Kwoyas *Shania Williams*. “In that moment I knew that we all are the leaders of tomorrow.”

### Team Challenges

The first team challenge was to present, in any form, an answer to this question: What would you say to the world about Haida Gwaii? Challenge winner, Team Communications, began their skit by ‘paddling’ about the hall, and ‘stopping’ to show places all around Haida Gwaii. As they stopped, a speaker described features of each community, including places like Taaw *Tow Hill*, Hlgaa *Kaahlil Balance Rock*, and ‘Laanaa Dagang.a *Windy Bay*, and illustrated them with a short skit.

*hgya 2015 continued on page 8...*

**hgya 2015 continued from page 7.**

The second challenge was to create two posters that represent the concept of “Haida Gwaii United”. This challenge sent teams scrambling all over Gaaw for pictures and ideas, and as the work of the first and second challenges began to overlap, the teams worked non-stop to finish each task. The challenge winner, Team Oceans, produced a poster that honoured those who stood at Athlii Gwaii *Lyell Island*, and those who stand today to fight against oil tankers.

“We really knew we could hit this one out of the park. We had confidence,” explained Team Oceans representative and HGYA Vice-president Dion Lewis. “Our image to honour the people who stood at Lyell Island came together easily. But the oil one was tough. We got the idea from Patrick Shannon. Our team agreed and we went along with it.”

The third challenge was to create a four-minute instructional video about how to fill the gaps between communities on Haida Gwaii. This project resulted in a flood of wide-ranging suggestions and some deep

reflection. The challenge winner, Team Gwaii Haanas, featured the team’s CHN representative, President of the Haida Nation kil tlaats ’gaa *Peter Lantin*, and Gwaii Haanas biologist Gwiisihlga *Dan McNeil*. They acted out a skit showing communities in conflict, and used some inside jokes to humorously point out the silliness of that division.

“Fixing the gap between the people of Haida Gwaii starts with you,” stated Jaad Kaajuu *Jaylene Shelford* in the video. “Open your mind and eliminate stereotypes. Don’t be afraid to interact with people and get out there. We need to come together and address this issue. Let’s get transportation between the communities and let’s link the youth together more often. This can’t be done without you, without us, and without Haida Gwaii.”

The video is available on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTQA39cWg6A&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTQA39cWg6A&feature=youtu.be)

The fourth challenge was to discuss what Haida Title means to you. While the youth started this project with a team approach,

many of the team members found Haida Title is such a personal concept that it can’t be described in one way.

“Challenge four was difficult both for our team and as individuals,” summarized Kwiigu Jaad *Kendra Williams*, a member of the challenge-four winner, Team White Raven Law.

“It was something we took seriously because Haida Title is something we take seriously. Each of us started off by brainstorming by ourselves and then we came together as a team. As individuals, we explained to our team what Haida Title means to each of us personally. Then we combined everyone’s voices, knowledge and ideas. We decided that when we presented, we would demonstrate that everyone’s voice and everyone’s knowledge is important. This activity really shows that one person’s voice can be strong and powerful, but having agreements and making connections with others can be even more powerful! That power comes with a lot of work and

**hgya 2015 continued on page 10...**

## The fourth challenge: What does Haida title mean to you?

To that question youth responded with well considered presentations and the following:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• healing</li><li>• respect for the land, ocean and ourselves</li><li>• fighting until we get the results we need</li><li>• educating ourselves for our future</li><li>• song</li><li>• collecting cedar</li><li>• pride</li><li>• unity</li><li>• what we can do for Haida Gwaii</li><li>• learning from our elders</li><li>• formline</li><li>• humour</li><li>• language</li><li>• gathering</li><li>• appreciation</li><li>• our law</li><li>• resources are safe for future generations</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• acting out the way</li><li>• strength through respect</li><li>• naming</li><li>• knowing who we are</li><li>• keeping our ancestors in our minds</li><li>• fighting Enbridge</li><li>• governing</li><li>• respecting other cultures</li><li>• sharing</li><li>• being</li><li>• food</li><li>• security</li><li>• answering tough questions</li><li>• a clam shell</li><li>• “How does it feel to be Haida?”</li><li>• potlatching</li><li>• airspace</li><li>• no script</li><li>• experience</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fluorescent orange sneakers</li><li>• winning</li><li>• Canada’s “claim”</li><li>• being humble</li><li>• yahgudaang</li><li>• me thinking like this</li><li>• having power</li><li>• having peace</li><li>• thanking the cooks</li><li>• all communities on Haida Gwaii</li><li>• #hgunitied</li><li>• being in our hearts</li><li>• tree hugging</li><li>• the CHN Constitution</li><li>• moving freely about the land</li><li>• is not having to be Haida</li><li>• listening to my siblings</li><li>• laughing out loud</li></ul> |
|--|---|---|



Amelia Rea and Morgan Chisholm having a good time representing Team Communications.



Jaasdalaas *Harmony Williams* and Stan Wesley working together to make the Youth Assembly a success.



Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly 2015 elected council and CHN representatives: Kaakuns *Pansy Collison*; Danielle Stewart; Katy Young; Kwiaas Parnell; Dion Lewis (Vice-president); Lillian Williams; Xilang Kwoyas *Shania Williams*; Shelby Collinson; Rebecca Holte; Ava Williams; Robert Davis and Cynthia Samuels. Back Row: Shawn Edenshaw; Jing Kwiaas *Brandon Gosnell*; Donovan Hunter (President); Bradon Bell; John Yeltatzie; Teresa Russ; Ginn wadluu un uula isdaa ayaagang *Trevor Russ*; Jordan Stewart and kil tlaats 'gaa *Peter Lantin*.

*hgya 2015 continued from page 8.*

dedication. We all had to dedicate a lot of that time to thinking about our people.”

## Resolutions

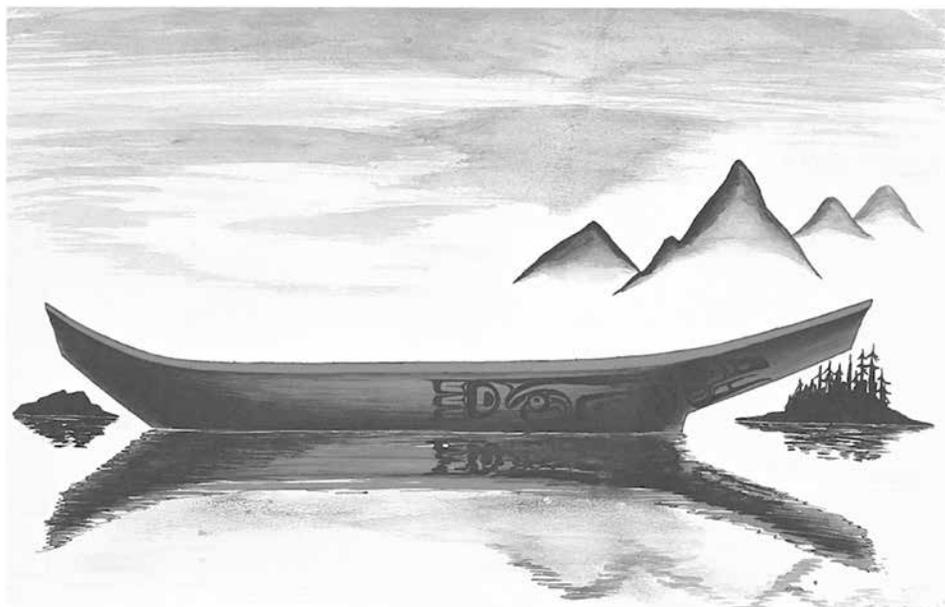
When the final day of the youth assembly started on Saturday morning, each team presented resolutions at the ‘Youth House of Assembly’ and then voted on them. Many of the resolutions tackled challenges in transportation and suggested increasing support-staff to help youth travel safely; other topics covered were wide-ranging.

Team Mapping sought to resolve problems with the logging of private lands and called for improved regulations to govern this land designation. The resolution, which was passionately delivered, starts by acknowledging that all of Haida Gwaii is under Haida jurisdiction and calls on CHN to "revisit the Forest Act to see where changes to regulation and policy can accommodate Haida interests".

Team Fisheries proposed that a flag be designed to represent the youth of Haida Gwaii. To move that along, MC Stan Wesley contributed \$500 to be awarded for the winning design. Meanwhile, Team Oceans moved to resolve that a music facility be built in Gaaw to "provide powerful ways to help youth shape their social identities”.

After all of the challenge presentations were concluded, dinner was served, then Team Skilay started the awards ceremony. First, as individuals, each member of Team Skilay asked a particular youth to join the team at the front of the hall to be recognized for demonstrating strength, honour, and dedication ‘like Skilay’, the HGYA’s founder. This year, judges also celebrated an honorary member, MC Stan Wesley, whose contributions to three assemblies have deeply affected many youth on Haida Gwaii.

After a long wait, a long lead-up, and being milked for all it was worth, MC Stan Wesley announced that Team Communications was the winning team. The lucky team has placed first at two of the last three Youth Assemblies. Team Gwaii Haanas and Team Oceans came in a close second – a very close shave that illustrated the tough competition as the youth pushed hard so that their teams could finish strong. ●



*Red Canoe watercolour painted by Patrick McGuire.*

# Patrick McGuire

## An upcoming Haida Gwaii Museum Exhibition

*By Jaad Gudgihljawah, special to Haida Laas*

"The rage then was Pat McGuire. I really wanted to know what it was that people were marvelling about and to know what good carving was. I don't know who his teachers were, maybe the old pieces, but the quality of his work was really advanced." - Guud Sans Glans *Robert Davidson*

From: Gina Suuda TI'I Xasii – Came To Tell Something: Art & Artist in Haida Society, 2014.

Artist Patrick McGuire had a short life (1943 – 1970) but during that time he created an influential body of work. Working in argillite, watercolor, silver, and gold, Mr McGuire was a significant contributor to the resurgence of Haida and Northwest coast art. His craftsmanship demonstrates a clear command of classical Haida techniques and illustrates a vision that transformed these foundations into a style that was completely his own. Now, for the first time, his work will be formally exhibited at the Haida Gwaii Museum from July 10 - September 6, 2015.

The exhibition, titled simply ‘Patrick McGuire’, features select pieces of Mr McGuire’s work in argillite and watercolour, showcasing his unique and progressive style, which interprets Haida Gwaii’s landscape and stories – supernatural, animal, and human.

During his life, he was always drawing or carving and never stopped creating. To honour this constant creativity, the exhibition will feature “art in the works” which will include sketches, tools and texts referencing his working style. This exhibition also brings many of his creations back home enabling his friends and family to see and study pieces that they would not otherwise have access to.

The Haida Gwaii Museum invites you to attend the opening of this exciting exhibition July 10th at Kay Lnagaay.

Note: In her debut as curator, niece Jaad Gudgihljawah *Michaela McGuire* is managing the exhibition under the guidance of Haida Gwaii Museum curator, Jisgang *Nika Collison*. ●

# Radiating hope

by Tawla Jaad

On June 1, Islanders gathered at the Haida Heritage Centre for the *Inform Project Community Update: Radiation in the Pacific Ocean* presentation by Dr Jay Cullen of the University of Victoria. Professor Cullen provided insight into what the west coast, and specifically Haida Gwaii, can expect in regard to radiation arriving on these shores as a result of the Fukushima disaster.

On March 11, 2011 an undersea megathrust earthquake occurred off the Pacific coast of Tōhoku, Japan. The 9.0 magnitude quake and subsequent tsunami brought massive tragedy throughout Japan and effectively shut down the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Because the plant was unexpectedly and suddenly shut off, heat waste was released into the atmosphere and Pacific Ocean.

Dr Cullen explained that his project is to monitor radiation levels in sea water, vegetation, and animals, and conduct a radiological health survey to look at the effects of the radiation release. Much of the data Dr Cullen is using has been collected by volunteers who are taking samples along the entire west coast of Canada – inclusive of Old Massett and Sandspit – and the United States.

Radiation is measured by the number of “becquerels” (Bq) per cubic metre of water. Radiation can travel across the Pacific on the Kurishio ocean current which splits and flows south to California and north to Alaska. The average number of becquerels found in each cubic metre of Haida Gwaii water, post-Fukushima, is 3 Bq, which is relatively low and almost the same as natural radiation levels.

Both sockeye salmon and steelhead trout are being tested for radiation levels. These two species have been chosen because of their cultural value and because they are the two species that travel the furthest west out into the Pacific.

Dr Cullen’s trip to Haida Gwaii is one stop of many on a tour of coastal communities; he will be returning to Haida Gwaii to give an update. And, yes, he did answer the question we have all been thinking: Are we at risk? The answer? Not yet. ●



June Blossom Edgars and Evelyn Edenshaw enjoying dinner at the Vancouver Regional forum.

## Of Citizens and Reps Reporting

Haida citizens came together in Prince Rupert and Vancouver to share in a meal and receive an update on the business of the nation June 17 and 19. It was said that this could be a perfect combination – that being good food and politics.

This is the first time that the Council of the Haida Nation has hosted regional forums since the Regional Forum Terms of Reference were passed at the 2014 House of Assembly. Those terms of reference spell out the timing and format of a process that will formalize reporting by regional representatives to citizens.

In Prince Rupert, CHN representatives Pansy Collison and Bill White gathered about 15 citizens, many of whom had questions about how individuals could access different funding sources for education and skills development in the region. And, people shared thoughts on the need for capacity building and job training for Haida citizens.

Allan Davidson and Shawn Edenshaw reported to about 25 citizens in Vancouver who were interested in an update on Enbridge and the title case. Mr Edenshaw also spoke about how inspiring it was to work with the

youth at the Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly this year. That combination of youth and elected reps led to some great ideas on how to engage young people in the governance of the nation. He added that the assembly was a good way to show youth that there are job opportunities within the nation’s government and that those positions could be filled by youth who are in school, now, or thinking about future options.

At both meetings CHN Policy Committee Chair, Gulee Cynthia Samuels, presented the draft Haida Citizenship Act, which was tabled at CHN’s Spring Seasonal Session. Accompanying Ms Samuels was analyst and Policy Program Manager Brady Yu. Over the next few months and prior to the House of Assembly there will be more regional meetings to delve into details of the draft Act.

Participants and representatives at both forums said they were pleased that CHN was formalizing the reporting process. While these two meetings were the first at which the regional forum process was presented, citizens can look forward to this style of reporting continuing in future. ●



Photo: Haida Laas

The Greenpeace indigenous delegation (l-r): Nang Juuwayxa, Candace Campo, Taylor George-Hollis, Robert Holler and Audrey Siegl. Missing: Michael Auger who was filming the proceedings.

## K'inhlgahl Dlaayiida *Green Peace* People vs Oil

In May, a pipeline measuring 60 cm in diameter, and owned by Plains All American Pipeline, spilled approximately 105,000 gallons of crude oil, 21,000 of which polluted Refugio State Beach, California. In good weather conditions, vessels managed to remove just 3,200 litres or three per cent of the oil spilled. The remaining 97 per cent soiled about 6.4 km of coastline.

Still, that spill is miniscule compared to British Petroleum's 200-million gallon Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico during May 2010. That disaster oiled 1770 km of coastline with a tremendous loss of wildlife and intertidal

foreshore. Fourteen billion dollars and 7,000 vessels managed to remove only about five per cent of the oil spilled.

In a movement titled "People vs Oil", a delegation from Greenpeace Canada arrived on Haida Gwaii as part of a coastal tour to unite forces against polluting industries and hasten technological innovation that will lead to cleaner energy.

"We need a strong holistic movement that will take on all of these challenges," said Jessica Wilson, head of Greenpeace Canada's Arctic Campaign. "We need to demand renewable energy and technology that will power our world without cooking it. The way [the Haida] have taken this on is so beautiful and inspiring and gives us hope and belief that this can happen."

Eighteen members of the Greenpeace delegation feasted with locals at the Skidegate Community Hall on Monday, May 25. Dancers from the Skidegate Children's Group and Hltaaxulang Guud ad K'aajuu welcomed them and shared some of their stories; the Greenpeace delegation responded with speeches and songs.

"When we join together as one, we are unstoppable," said Musqueam delegate sylemtəna:t Audrey Siegl. "When we stand together, when we stand united, we are going to stop Arctic drilling, the tar sands, and the pipelines. We are gathering together because it is what we were meant to do. So we put on our warrior faces. We are all warriors in this room. We can stand together no matter our past." ●



Haida Gwaii Museum staff (l-r): Haana Jaad, Jisgang, Jaad Gudgihlijiwah, Raven Pearson, Gid Yahk'ii, Kulgwaayuugwang, Guding.ngaay 'Laa, Angela Ransom, Scott Marsden, Gatgas.

Photo: Haida Laas/Graham Richard

installation, collections management and communications. He will also be spending a month at an off-Islands museum.

Jaad Gudgihlijiwah *Michaela McGuire* also recently joined the museum as an intern curator; this position is sponsored by First Peoples' Cultural Council. For eight months she will focus on two main projects: *The Great Box*, and the *Patrick McGuire* exhibition. Both entail research and development, curating, and programming. As part of the job, Jaad Gudgihlijiwah will spend three weeks at the Bill Reid Gallery and three weeks at the UBC Museum of Anthropology.

Archivist Kulgaayuugwang *Leah Sankey* and Collections Assistant Raven Pearson are being mentored by former museum director *Kay Jaada*. *Kay Jaada* is teaching them about managing the museum's vast archives, which include photographs, artwork, a library, rare newspapers, and much more.

"Soon we will be digitizing the VHS and reel-to-reel tapes in the collection, and we are preparing for the arrival of a completely new storage system by organizing, cleaning, and making sure all archives are accounted for," said Kulgaayuugwang. "Working and learning from Nathalie is so much fun – she is very knowledgeable and I'm honoured she is passing her knowledge on to me."

This March, the museum gift shop's manager, Maureen Waddell, who brought the shop up to its current standard, moved on to manage the Queen Charlotte Visitor Information Centre. Angela Ransom is succeeding her as the new manager and Koayas Jaad *Meighan Wilson* is joining her as assistant-manager.

Gwaalagaa Naay has also hired four cultural ambassadors, Gaajiaawa *Linda Tollas*, Duncan Rumak, Haana Jaad *Alix Goetzinger*, and Gatgas *Erica Stocker*, to work at the Haida Heritage Centre until the end of August.

Jisgang *Nika Collison* continues as curator and is heading into year 16 with the Haida Gwaii Museum.

"I always enjoy mentoring our interns and I love the fresh perspectives they bring to the table," said Jisgang. "A very warm welcome to all our new arrivals, and a very special haaw'a to Gaagwiis for his vision and hard work over the past year, and to Maureen for her many years of service!" ●

# EYES FORWARD

Big changes have passed across the gaze of Alder House pole, the 125-year-old Haida monument from *K'uuna Llnagaay Skedans Village*, now residing in the Greeting House at the Haida Heritage Centre at *Kay Llnagaay*.

Carved sometime between 1878 and 1897, the pole with twelve eyes overlooked bustling fishing seasons in *Hlkinul Kaahlil Cumshewa Inlet*, its home, before it was carried away to the noisy towns of Prince Rupert and Victoria. It was welcomed back to Haida Gwaii in 1976, and for many years rested in the relative stillness of the Haida Gwaii Museum. Today, the pole's masterfully carved eyes are observing the many people who come and go from the heritage centre — and the past year has been busier than usual.

Starting in February 2014, the Haida Gwaii Museum welcomed new Director Scott Marsden, who brought a new pair of eyes to watch over the museum's collections. He arrived at the beginning of a year that included many staff changes. Mr Marsden succeeded *Kay Jaada Nathalie Macfarlane* who guided the institution as director for 22 years.

In March 2015, Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop* completed this year's curator internship, funded by the Audain Foundation. During his

time at the museum, Gaagwiis contributed to many projects such as *Gina Suuda Tl'l Xasii – Came to Tell Something*, a major exhibition and publication focusing on Haida art and artists. He was also part of several educational programs, including *The Great Box* project, featuring Gwaii and Jaalen Edenshaw's reproduction of a bent wood box held in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England and considered a masterpiece of Haida art. This past fall, Gaagwiis focused on the Haida Repatriation Committee's efforts to bring home the remains of 11 ancestors from the American Museum of Natural History. He also developed and co-hosted the popular podcast "Kay Corner" with summer student Guudangnaay *Laa Pete Moore*. Gaagwiis will not be returning to the Haida Gwaii Museum but will instead focus on his work with the Council of the Haida Nation and a master's degree at Royal Roads University.

In April, the museum welcomed new Intern Curator, Gid Yahk'ii *Sean Young*, for a one-year term also sponsored by the Audain Foundation. Through the many projects planned for this year, Gid Yahk'ii will gain broad experience in research and development, exhibition



## **INFORMATION ON THE HAIDA CITIZENSHIP ACT**

### **ALL OUR RELATIONS**

#### **An overview of the draft Citizenship Act**

The history of the Haida nation is long and storied and throughout that history a whole world has formed with a culture that is recognized and respected around the globe. For millennia we have identified ourselves and maintained relationships with one another as clans and as individuals – we therefore know who is Haida.

Today, a certain percentage of all nations' citizens, including our own, live away from their ancestral homelands. And although counting Haida citizens and staying “connected” may be more difficult in this day and age, our relationships remain close.

The Council of the Haida Nation is responsible for the wellbeing of Haida citizens. It is therefore important that citizens know what their government is doing in their name.

The Haida Citizenship Act establishes a process for the Council of the Haida Nation to maintain a registry of Haida citizens. The registration of Haida citizens is a practical tool for building good governance and, ultimately, providing services to citizens.

The CHN Policy Committee, acting for the Council of the Haida Nation, is asking citizens to review the current draft of the Citizenship Act prior to a final draft being presented for adoption at the coming October House of Assembly. Please read the Act and ask tough questions. The Citizenship Coordinator (contact information below) will collect your comments, questions and concerns and the final draft of the Act will be tabled and voted on at the HoA.

An interesting benefit of this process is that in a couple of years individuals who register will have collectively painted the most complete picture of the Haida nation ever assembled, and that picture will keep expanding as new citizens are born in to this world.

#### **Following are a few highlights of the draft Act:**

##### **The Act**

All people of Haida ancestry are Haida citizens. If you can trace your hereditary bloodline to one or more people of Haida ancestry, you can apply to have your name added to the Citizenship Registry.

##### **The Hereditary Baseline**

Clans have produced clan trees according to the laws and customs of each clan. The collection of clan trees forms the Hereditary Baseline. The baseline is used to help verify citizens who apply to register, and also to help connect citizens with their lineage if it is unclear.

Although the Council of the Haida Nation is the custodian of the Hereditary Baseline, only the hereditary leaders of each clan can update it or make changes. During the implementation of the Citizenship Act, the Citizenship Coordinator will meet with clans quarterly to help develop processes to keep clan trees up to date.

### **The Registration Process**

In order to register, you will fill out a short form and provide some supporting documents.

If you're already on the Hereditary Baseline, then the supporting documents to submit are a letter of affirmation or a copy of photo ID, and a passport photo. The photo will be used on the CHN citizenship card.

If you're not on the Hereditary Baseline, then you'll need to submit a Letter of Affirmation, a copy of your photo ID, a long-form birth certificate, and a passport photo. If the birth certificate does not show a bloodline to a person of Haida ancestry, you will need to provide additional documentation that shows how you are related to someone with Haida ancestry.

Your passport photo can be taken by the Citizenship Coordinator, or a professional photographer who takes passport photos.

After the Citizenship Committee approves your application, you will be issued a citizenship card. The card expires every 5 years on your birthday.

### **The Citizenship Committee**

The CHN Citizenship Committee reviews applications. The committee is made up of four matriarchs representing *kuusdiyak* (eagle) and *kayxil* (raven) clans in Hlgaagilda and Gaaw and a chairperson who is an elected CHN representative. The recognized matriarchs of each clan get together and select the four members each year.

### **Protecting Your Privacy**

The Registry is stored on its own secure server. Aside from yourself, only the Citizenship Coordinator can access your personal information. The Council of the Haida Nation will not share your information with a third party.

The only situation where someone can view another person's information are parents who are acting on behalf of their child under the age of 16, and people who have the authority to manage the affairs of another person.

There is also a check box to allow your contact information to be added to the Haida nation's contact list. This list is also governed by a privacy protection policy, and will not be shared.

### **Is this the same as my Band Council's membership records?**

Band offices maintain records for the Canadian government. In some cases, the band lists include people who are not Haida, or are members of other First Nations who have transferred from other bands.

CHN's registry will include every Haida, based on ancestry as defined in the Constitution of the Haida Nation. The registry will not be based on the Canadian government's rules.

### **Questions**

If you would like more information, or have any questions, please contact the Citizenship Coordinator by phone at 250.559.4468 or by emailing <citizenship@haidanation.com>.



# Haksda! Let's Go!

## Putting the CHN-BC Marine Plan into action

Bears Awakening, canoe carved by Billy Bellis for the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay 'Llnagaay Grand Opening on August 23, 2008.

*Submitted by the CHN Marine Planning Program*

After three years of intense planning by the Haida nation and provincial government, the “canoe” is ready to be launched. This spring both governments approved the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan, one of four plans developed through the Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP) for the North Pacific Coast of British Columbia. But what does implementation look like, and who will be involved?

The Haida Gwaii Marine Plan is a hefty document that sets out a path for supporting sustainable cultural, social and economic practices that rely on healthy oceans. Its two hundred pages contain just over 100 strategies for management of the marine area, and 50 strategies related to economic development. Because it is not possible to implement these strategies all at once, the governments have identified priority actions that will address the most pressing needs first.

These include:

- **Establishing a governance body to oversee implementation of the**

### **CHN-BC Haida Gwaii Marine Plan**

This will enable the Haida Nation, in partnership with the provincial government, to manage and oversee the plan as the priorities are put into action.

- **Supporting a successful Haida Gwaii marine economy**

This includes advancing the Islands as a destination for travellers, encouraging sustainable shellfish aquaculture and community-based fisheries, and promoting training and business development.

- **Supporting a sustainable marine economy**

Includes preparing a Haida Gwaii Recreational Fishery Code of Conduct, developing a management plan for the recreational fishery, and a plan for shellfish aquaculture to guide tenure decision-making by CHN and BC.

- **Establishing a marine protected area network**

Includes tabling the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan protected areas at the First Nations-Canada-BC MPA Network Strategy meeting.

- **Implementing Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) to protect and**

### **restore the Haida Gwaii marine environment**

Includes research and monitoring for areas with high cultural and ecological values, restoration and mitigation projects (for example, managing sewage discharge and invasive marine species), and developing a way to assess the effectiveness of the implementation process.

- **Coordinating compliance and enforcement to ensure integration of marine and terrestrial activities**

Includes the design of a framework for compliance and enforcement that will deal with both the marine and terrestrial realms.

Many individuals, including Haida and other Islands residents, stakeholders, and local government representatives, contributed to the planning process. The CHN and the provincial government will continue to rely on this collective knowledge, experience and perspectives throughout implementation of the CHN-BC Haida Gwaii Marine Plan over the next several years. •