Gwaii Haanas Superintendent receives cultural award. pg 3

Eileen Hayles, OM Emergency Coordinator pg 6

Lisa Kendall, SKG Emergency Coordinator pg 8

HAIDA LAAS
Newsletter of the Haida Nation
March 2011

Shania Williams with Silas Brown at the Junior Basketball dinner send-off. See page 10.
Spring Session

April 28 & 29
10 am – 4:30 pm
Skidegate Community Hall

Marine Map Ready for Pick-up

The Council of the Haida Nation is pleased to announce that the Ocean & Way of Life marine map and companion document are available for pick-up at a location near you! This free map shows some of the information collected as part of the Haida Marine Traditional Knowledge Study. The companion document describes the project and Haida marine cultural use in more detail.

- Old Massett: CHN Haida Fisheries Program office (379 Eagle Avenue)
- Skidegate: CHN Haida Fisheries Program office (133 Front Street) or the CHN Communications/Haida Laas office (148 Front Street)

For further information, please contact the Haida Fisheries Program in Old Massett or Skidegate.

Vancouver Reporting

by Sandra Greene, Vancouver CHN Representative.

Vancouver Haidas were honoured to be host city for the Haida Language Gathering held on February 5 and 6, 2011 at the Work Centre, right downtown and easily accessible to everyone.

There was a really good turnout of people from Alaska, Masset, Skidegate, Seattle and Vancouver. Updates on what is happening with Haida language in all of the communities were given and there are a great many things happening. What makes me proudest is seeing the young people so into learning our language. At one point we sat in a circle and told stories, some in Haida and some about what it means to be Haida. It is good to sometimes hear our language used in a casual way too!

At the same time that the gathering was going on, Hobiyee was being celebrated at the Joe Mathias Centre in Squamish and a few of us went out there after the Saturday session. It was great to see the Rainbow Creek Dancers participate along with many other cultural groups in this Nisga’a New Year’s celebration.

A reminder to Vancouver Haidas that we have language and culture gatherings every Sunday at 2:00 pm in the Theatre Room, downstairs at the Friendship Centre—everyone is welcome. We are also starting cedar-weaving get-togethers—if anyone is interested in any of these activities, please talk to me.

Urban Feast Date Change

The date for the Urban Feast has been changed and will now be on May 14, 2011 from noon until 9:00 pm at the Vancouver Friendship Centre.

HaiCo wants to Know what you Think!

The Haidas Enterprise Corporation (HaiCo) is working on creating a website and is seeking your input. The website is being designed to communicate regularly with the nation on HaiCo activities and businesses.

Please take a few moments to share your thoughts and opinions. This survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete.

Survey Link: https://coppermoon.wufoo.com/forms/haida-community-survey/

To thank you for your time, your name will be entered in a draw for an iPod and other prizes!

Did you know?

Did you know that under the section Rights & Freedoms of the Haida Nation’s Constitution, Article 3.52 (f) states that: The official languages of the Haida Nation shall be Haida and English.

See page 14 for this issue’s Haida phrases.
HARVESTING CONTRACT SUPERVISOR WANTED

Taan Forest is currently seeking an experienced Harvesting Contract Supervisor for our operations on TFL 60 and the Haida Tenure.

Reporting to the Operations Manager, you will be responsible for the supervision of contract harvesting, road construction and sorting crews.

The position requires a highly motivated individual who has an excellent safety record, a good working knowledge of occupational health and safety regulations, and a willingness to work with Taan Forest in reaching its safety, production and environmental objectives.

The successful candidate must possess strong leadership and communication skills, and the ability to work in a team environment. Previous supervisory experience in logging and a good working knowledge of computer systems and software is an asset.

Remuneration will be dependent upon demonstrated skills and experience.

We thank you in advance for your interest in Taan Forest; however only those shortlisted will be contacted for an interview.

Deadline for submission is April 8th, 2011. Please include references and examples of work related to this position. Email applications only please.

Send applications to: Taan Forest, careers@taanforest.com

Gladstone Receives Cultural Award

Ernie Gladstone, Field Unit Superintendent for Gwaii Haanas, has been awarded the George Wright Society’s Cultural Resource Achievement Award. Presented at the 2011 George Wright Society Conference on Parks, Protected Areas and Cultural Sites in New Orleans, Louisiana, the award recognizes Mr. Gladstone’s leadership on the Canada-Haida Nation Archipelago Management Board – one of the most successful cooperative management arrangements in the world.

“The effective leadership is a key part of any success,” said Dave Harmon, Executive Director of the George Wright Society. “Ernie and all those involved in the management of Gwaii Haanas have played a critical role in the success of both heritage sites’ management and we are pleased to be able to offer this recognition for their exemplary and important work.”

Mr. Gladstone has been Superintendent of Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site, a position he has held since 2001. Since then, the protected areas of Gwaii Haanas have grown to include the newly established Gwaii Haanas Marine Conservation Area Reserve. The sites are managed by the Haida Nation and Canada through the Archipelago Management Board, and as co-chair of the board, Mr. Gladstone has dedicated himself to establishing an effective partnership. The partnership is critical to the protection and presentation of the area’s natural and cultural heritage.

Gwaii Haanas is the only protected area in the world to be managed from mountain to sea floor.

“This award recognizes the efforts of the Archipelago Management Board and its commitment to advancing the common goals of the Haida Nation and the government of Canada: protecting and preserving the natural and historical interconnection of land, sea and people that is Gwaii Haanas, while providing opportunities for employment and tourism to support the local community,” said Mr. Gladstone.

Guujaaw, President of the Haida Nation, acknowledged, “This cooperative relationship is seen as an international model for protecting lands in the context of living Indigenous cultures that continue to rely on those lands. In this instance we have found a way to work around competing jurisdictions in the interests of looking after Gwaii Haanas. The international acknowledgement of this project through recognition of Ernie Gladstone and the AMB is fitting and well-deserved.”

The George Wright Society is a non-profit association dedicated to the protection, preservation, and management of cultural and natural parks and reserves through research and education. Based in Hancock, Michigan, the Society promotes professional research and resource stewardship across natural and cultural resource disciplines, provides avenues of communication, and encourages public policies that embrace these values.

This is the first time the society has presented an award to a recipient outside of the United States.

DID YOU KNOW?

Japan has 5.5 million vending machines. Each machine uses the same amount of power as a household. If you add up the power-use of the vending machines, it is the equivalent to the capacity of just one of the troubled Fukushima nuclear power plants.

Book & Bite

Haida Gvai’s Travelling Bookshelves

Coming to eateries near you.

Read while you wait, or borrow ‘til next time!

See posters for details.

Next Steps

NaiKun Wind Receives Federal Approval

The NaiKun Wind energy proposal, has received the long awaited environmental approval from the federal government. NaiKun was awarded a provincial environmental certificate in December, 2009. Since then, the federal government has continued reviewing other issues such as fish habitat and the crab fishery, which they consider within their jurisdiction. After more than two years of deliberation, the conclusion made by Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the Prince Rupert Port Authority and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency was that there would be “no significant adverse environmental effects”.

That is not to say there were no concerns. Attached to the 2009 provincial report were more than 100 mitigation directives dealing with various aspects of the project, all of which have been accepted by NaiKun Wind.

Some of the directives in Appendix-3, Table of Commitments and Assurances, include putting a marine-mammal monitoring program in place through the design, construction and operation of the proposed wind farm; determining with Environment Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service, whether there is a need for follow-up and monitoring of marine birds, and implementing an Adaptive Management Plan; and, initiating a joint research project with the Area “A” Crab Association to study crab mobility in Hecate Strait.

Among other issues, the directives cover accidents and risks, marine safety and scouring around the towers.

In an independent process, the Council of the Haida Nation contracted Dr. Tom Gunton of Simon Fraser University to study the proposed project and provide an impartial review to the nation. That report is expected within the next month. Once it has been received and distributed the question of establishing a business partnership with NaiKun will go to a “general vote” of the nation.

A motion by the House of Assembly requires that the vote take place (see resolution this page) and the question on the ballot will be whether the Haida Nation goes into a business partnership with NaiKun Wind. The intention is to provide citizens with the best information to make an informed decision before the vote.

The assessment made by the federal government notes that although the project did not receive a contract in BC Hydro’s Clean Power Call, NaiKun remains confident that they will receive a contract in the future under the province’s Clean Energy Act. The Clean Energy Act will see contracts awarded to companies, with the intention of bringing British Columbia to energy self-sufficiency.

GIANT DESERT TURTLE

A giant desert turtle has been found in the United States. This is the first time the species has been seen since it was declared extinct in the 1970s.

The turtle was found in a desert area in Arizona, where it was thought to be extinct. The turtle was seen feeding on cactus and other desert plants.

The discovery is significant because the giant desert turtle is the largest species of tortoise in the world. It can live for up to 150 years and can weigh up to 200 pounds.

The turtle was quickly removed from the area and placed in a special care facility to ensure its safety from other animals.

The discovery of the turtle is being closely monitored by scientists to understand more about the species and its habitat.

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Preparation is the Key
by Eileen Hayes, Emergency Program Coordinator for Old Massett

The Old Massett Village Council and the Health Centre have an emergency planning committee, which has been working closely with the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) on developing a comprehensive emergency plan for the community.

At this time, if an evacuation order is given to the community, in the face of a tsunami warning being issued from the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) offices, the village will respond in the following way: The Volunteer Fire Department will send fire trucks through the village with the sirens going to tell everyone to evacuate their homes and follow the tsunami escape route. The route, which has signs, takes you out of Massett up to a staging area at the top of what is known locally as Garbage Dump Hill. The Massett Fire Department and RCMP will be directing traffic at this location.

Tsunami watches and advisories can be issued because of an earthquake that happens a long way away, such as the recent event in Japan, and these advisories can be upgraded to warnings if the situation warrants it. The system works like this:

• The first level of notification is an information statement. The statement is usually issued to reassure those experiencing an earthquake that conditions will not generate a tsunami.
• The second level is a watch. Watches tell communities that a distant event has the potential to generate a tsunami and to be alert for more information.
• Advisories are the third level. An advisory indicates potential beach and harbour danger, possible strong and dangerous local currents and to stay tuned for emergency guidance.
• The top level of notification is a warning. The seismic data indicates that a wave or waves could occur. The warning advises people to run for high ground and follow local emergency instructions.

In the case of a warning, a community often has several hours to prepare to evacuate. In this situation the best thing for you to do is to get your personal emergency supplies ready to go, turn on your radio to Channel 96.1 FM and listen for emergency broadcasts, or if you have a radiophone, put it on standby, and please do not call the Volunteer Fire Department at this time as the Department needs to keep their phones open for their use, during an emergency.

A phone number for Old Massett residents to phone for emergency information is in the works, and the number will be published when it is operational.

If an earthquake is felt and it is severe enough to shake the ground so that you are not to be able to stand, then there will not be as much time to evacuate as there would be if the event were further away.

If the earth shakes hard enough and you are not able to stand, then you need to immediately locate your 72-hour Emergency Supplies into your vehicle and go to the tsunami evacuation staging area outside of Massett. It is important that if you or anyone in your family needs help in evacuating that you are already registered with the Band Office before such a situation happens.

The Emergency Program Coordinator is Eileen Hayes, and she can be contacted at the Health Centre 250.626.3911.

Register at the Health Fair
On April 7th the Health Centre will be hosting its Annual Health Fair and we will have a booth showcasing our Emergency Preparedness information. The fair will be a good place for you to learn more about the community plans and ways that you can volunteer in an emergency situation.

Rhonda Loewen-Hutchinson of the FNESS, who has been working extensively with OMVC on our emergency plans, will be giving a presentation on Emergency Social Services volunteer – this is something you may want to seriously consider.

Please note: At the Health Fair there will be forms for you to fill out so that we know of family members who may need assistance during an evacuation.

Be Tsunami Ready!
A warning system is in place to notify citizens about the levels of readiness or evacuation. The levels begin with information, watches, advisories and finally a warning.

Following are the definitions of each stage.
1. Information: Information statements are issued to reassure those experiencing an earthquake that conditions are not enough to generate a tsunami.
2. Watches – tell communities the a potential distant event has occurred and to be alert for more information.
3. Advisories: Advisories indicate there is potential danger to beaches and harbours with possible strong and dangerous local currents. The event may be significant and widespread and you should stay tuned for emergency guidance.
4. Warning: A warning is based on seismic data that indicates a significant inundation of water may occur. You should run for high ground and follow local emergency instructions.

Haida Tsunami Stories
Introduction and interpretation by Guujaaw
It might seem unlikely that there would be a tsunami on the east coast of Haida Gwaii, however in 1905, this story was recorded in Skagpec.

The warriors started home and camped beyond Hoya Gaandala (Raven Creek). The weather was calm. Towards evening two tidal waves rolled in out of the ocean. The first one came in and broke. The canoes with their skids even drifted away. The last one even washed the trees away by their roots. Half of the warriors were lost.

Seismologists and historians dated a tremendous wave generated off the coast of Oregon to about the year 1700. This event sent a wave all the way to Japan and up both sides of Haida Gwaii.

The following story was recorded by a Massett elder around 1790 and tells a story of an event that happened in a village near Fredrick Island on the west coast of Haida Gwaii. Based on the story it seems that the wave came from the west rather than the south, so it may be a separate event from the one that occurred on the east coast.

… Very early next day, they heard a drumming sound out at sea. All awoke quickly. All of them listened. Immediately they were disturbed. They saw a wind rising. They saw that the wind was not like any ordinary wind. The waves out to sea were white. When the waves got near them they saw that this was foam. Then they saw that it was at the level with the houses. They thought it would go down quickly before it got to them so they were not much troubled. Still it grew bigger. Then, however, they collected the things they could save. Then they put on their backs the children that they had borne. Then before the foam got near, they ran for safety. They got a long distance away, halfway up the mountain, still the foam did not stop. They were very tired. Then the foam came over some of the children who could not run fast. … The foam also overcame those who became tired.

In the story of the origin of totem poles there is another flood. Following is a small part of that story. At that time there was not one house to be found standing there. Then too they were very sad because they remembered the former times when they played there and their houses had been good. Again they remembered the many children that they had. So they again wept bitterly. When all stopped crying, the Chief called the people together and told them how they will rebuild their houses. His house was to be built last. The people were pleased with what they heard. They united and rebuilt the village one house at a time. Then they prayed to the One in the Sea.

The next day they started out again, and again came to more bodies and again they wept together. They made all good in the three places they had left them.

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Our people have known the beauty as well as the power of the sea. There is no quarter in worries and fear. Through knowing, we respect the sea, and the powers of the earth for its strength and all that it gives. •

Source: Swanton, Contributions to the Ethnology of the Haida
Skidegate Emergency Planning – Stuff We Need to Know

by Lisa Kendall, Skidegate Emergency Coordinator

The Skidegate Emergency Planning and Preparedness Committee (SEPPC) is a sub-committee of the Skidegate Band Council and is tasked with running the Skidegate Emergency Plan. This job includes things such as planning and preparing for emergencies; public education; acting during and after an emergency and keeping up to date on all related information.

SEPPC has been in place for many years, and has participated in many levels of training in emergency management. The committee has also written a full and comprehensive emergency plan for Skidegate and keeps in contact with full and comprehensive emergency plans years, and has participated in many levels of training in emergency management. The committee has also written a full and comprehensive emergency plan for Skidegate and keeps in contact with governmental and aid agencies such as the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP).

Following are key elements of the Skidegate Emergency Plan:

The Hazard Matrix

This matrix, illustrated here, shows hazards that may occur in Skidegate and the severity and likelihood of these events happening. The black and lighter gray sections are the most critical events for us to manage and we put a lot of focus on preparing for these types of disasters.

Critical Facilities

The SEPPC will set up an operations centre at the Skidegate Health Centre during a large emergency. If evacuation is necessary, the George Brown Recreation Hall will be open to the public. But, if these buildings are too damaged or are at other risk, then other locations will be identified and the public notified by loudspeaker, signs and radio broadcasts.

It is important to note that not all emergencies require more than one or two people on alert, and that evacuations are rare. The Skidegate Emergency Plan has several levels of activation ranging from one person to a full community evacuation. A good example of how this works is the tsunami advisory of March 10–11, 2011.

The Provincial Emergency Program notified the Skidegate emergency coordinator and alternate with a watch advisory about the Japan earthquake and tsunami. PEP monitored the wave as it moved across the Pacific by: monitoring buoy motion; the effect on the Alaskan Aleutian Islands; the travel and estimated arrival time of the waves, with a projected wave height; and watching the activities of the Pacific and Alaska Tsunami Warning Centres. Through this monitoring period, notifications to Skidegate coordinators stated that there was no danger to our community other than to people/buildings below the high tide mark.

If you are indoors during an earthquake:

□ Stay inside.
□ Take cover under a heavy table, desk or any solid furniture and hold on.
□ If you can’t get under something strong, or if you are in a hallway, flatten yourself or crouch against an interior wall.
□ Stay away from windows, glass partitions, mirrors, fireplaces, bookcases, tall furniture and light fixtures. In an earthquake you could be hurt by shattered glass or heavy objects thrown around by the shaking.
□ If you are in a shopping mall, go into the nearest store. Stay away from windows, skylights and shelves with heavy objects.
□ Avoid doorways. Doors may slam shut and cause injuries.
□ If you are in a wheelchair, lock the wheels and protect the back of your head and neck.
□ If you are at school, get under a desk or table and hold on. Face away from windows.
□ Wherever you are, protect your head, face and neck.
□ If you are outdoors during an earthquake:
□ Stay outside.
□ Go to an open area away from buildings. Sidewalks next to tall buildings are especially dangerous.
□ Stay away from windows, buildings (or any other structure that could collapse), overhead wires, downed electrical wires, power lines and telephone poles.
□ Remember that broken gas mains and fallen chimneys can cause fires. Downed power lines and broken water mains can also wreak havoc.
□ Stay at least 10 metres away from downed power lines.

If you are in a vehicle during an earthquake:

□ Avoid bridges, overpasses, underpasses, buildings or anything that could collapse on you and your car.
□ Listen to your car radio for instructions from emergency officials.
□ Do not attempt to get out of your car if downed power lines are across it. Wait to be rescued.
□ Try to pull over to a safe place where you are not blocking the road. Stop the car and stay inside.

□ Place a HELP sign in your window if you need assistance.
□ Keep roads clear for rescue and emergency vehicles.
□ If you are on a bus, stay in your seat until the bus stops.
□ Take cover in a protected place. If you can’t take cover, sit in a crouched position and protect your head from falling debris until the shaking stops.

After an earthquake

Earthquakes are often followed by aftershocks, which are smaller earthquakes that happen when the frictional surface adjusts to a new position.

If you feel aftershocks, stay where you are until they stop.

Although ground shaking is the major source of earthquake damage, secondary effects can also be very destructive. These include landslides; saturated sandy soils becoming soft and unstable; flooding of low-lying areas; and, tsunamis or tidal waves washing over coastlines. Large buildings, roadways and other infrastructures that have been built on reclaimed land, steep slopes, and unstable soils are at high risk of being damaged by a large earthquake.

Tsunami

Any tsunami caused by an earthquake that is a distance from us, like the recent event, will give the SEPPC 9+ hours of warning of the tsunami arriving here. As the event unfolds data can be gathered and the effect on our coast predicted. The 9+ hours lead time on the Japanese event would give us plenty of time to evacuate lower lying areas if necessary.

But, if you feel the earthquake, and it is longer than one minute, and it is hard to stand, then you should wait for the shaking to stop, and then proceed immediately to higher ground. Remember to take your emergency kit with you.

The reason to move to higher ground is that the southern BC coast and Washington, Oregon, and northern California coasts are in a subduction zone. A subduction zone is where one piece of the earth is sliding under the other. The gray area in Figure 1 shows the Cascadia subduction zone, which is a large earthquake will happen at some time.

Higher ground means anywhere that is 20m above the high tide level. The Co-op, gas station, and Spirit Lake trailhead are all considered a safe level.

The best way to be prepared is to prepare a Family Emergency Plan & Kit. If you have any questions please contact Emergency Coordinator, Lisa Kendall, at 250.559.4610.
B-Ball Players represent in Penticton

by Florence Lockyer

On Thursday, March 16, the Junior Boys and Girls basketball teams of Old Massett held a dinner prior to heading off on their journey to Penticton to compete in the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament. They represented the nation in a tournament that attracted over 50 teams from all over the province.

Coach, Trevor Russ, opened the evening by welcoming everyone and introduced the masters of ceremonies; Chloe Good and Damian. Naamii Mary Swanson followed with a prayer.

Two huge pots of seafood chowder, made by Brian Bell and Judy Williams, and a wonderful deer stew made by David Smith, were served while drummers and singers sang the dinner song. Both pots were nearly devoured by the hungry guests, along with the fresh buns, which were a nice addition.

Following the main course, trays and trays of delectable desserts were served. The Junior Boys and Girls teams, hosting the event, did a wonderful job serving – it was very well orchestrated and executed!

Sagam 7i7Waaans was invited to say a few words, and he spoke about the importance of being involved. It’s good to have such strong support from the community and families,” he said, and wished them, “all the best – not luck. It’s the ability to enjoy the game that’s far more important.”

Old Masset Youth Council representatives, Marsha Therrien, Shaylene Abrahams, Savannah Samuel, Keifer Collison, Curtis Brown, and Chantel White stood and gave their support to the teams. Keifer spoke of how good the boys’ team is, and how tough they are, but ended on the note that the girls’ team was even tougher!

Raelle Williams, a former basketball coach, thanked the coaches for the enormous effort of organizing the trip, and for travelling with the youth. He also thanked the parents for their hard work standing behind their players. “Play from your heart and have fun,” he said!

The team was then introduced, the members are:

- Coaches - Trevor Russ, Robert Davis, and Nicole Harris. Team Manager - Leslie Williams, and players on both teams, in no particular order: Jordan Lewis, Brian Smith, Chase Samaels, Latisha Seben, Simon Wesley, Shania Williams, Sylena Liddle, Martina Abrahams, Chantel White, Mahalia Smith, Jake Harris, Robert Davis Jr., Shawn Smith, Kennan Davis, Damian Shaw, Chloe Good, Dillon Brown-Sawyer, Skil Jaaadee White, Lucas Yealtatzie, Jonathan Parnell, Hazel Smith, Quintin Brown, and two players not in attendance, Jade Smith and Michelle McLeod.

For coach, Trevor Russ, it is the teams’ hard work and dedication to practice that drives his commitment to coaching. “If it weren’t for the team, I wouldn’t be here,” he said. Both teams were presented with red hoodies with the words Haida Nation Basketball printed on them. Upon receiving the gifts, the teams proudly danced the Haida spirit into them to the songs of the women’s dance and then the men’s dance.

Gathering in a circle in the middle of the hall, the two teams sang the haa wa song in appreciation for all the support they had received from the community and their families.

Manager, Leslie Williams, gave a brief breakdown of the financial input from the community, which tallied up to a significant amount of funds – in excess of $16,500, and in order to further defray the cost of food on the trip, the Haida gambling song was performed and another $500 was raised. Manager Williams also acknowledged the large donations from organizations like the Old Massett Village Council Social Development Department, the Masset-Haida Lions Club, and the contribution of the vans, at a lower than actual cost, from Masset Services. Haa wa to all who contributed and worked so hard!

Elder, and former basketball player, Robin Brown talked about the changes that the Old Massett community has seen when it comes to basketball – the hall, the cost, the travel off-island – and said that they are lucky to have lots of opportunity to play. He suggested that youth take advantage of what they have at hand – like education – “It can help you and you will meet lots of people on your journey,” he said.

Reg Davidson “took his hat off” to those who organized the travel, fundraising and dinner. He stated that the coaches and manager are teaching the players more than life skills – they are teaching about life and how to survive in life!

Parent volunteer, Brad Seaso, said that this will be an ongoing event and to not be discouraged if your child didn’t get to go this time. “We will keep this going year after year,” he said, and added, “Haa wa to everyone for coming and showing your support.”

With Donnie Edenshaw’s assistance, both teams joined together and sang the Haida Nation national anthem – the Lyell Island Song – to demonstrate their strength as young warriors going to represent our nation at the tournament.

Reverend Lily Bell gave a closing prayer and also shared a few words about the importance of being involved.

What about Iodine?

What we all need is a healthy and well-stocked thyroid gland. With concern around radioactive fallout from the troubled Japanese nuclear reactors, there has been much talk about radiation and iodine.

Following a nuclear event, radioactive iodine (iodine-131) may be released into the air and then breathed into the lungs. It may also contaminate local food supply and get into the body through food or drink. When radioactive materials get into the body through breathing, eating, or drinking, the thyroid gland quickly absorbs it. Radioactive iodine absorbed by the thyroid can injure the gland and subse-

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The thyroid gland doesn’t know the difference between good or bad iodine and will absorb both. The trick is to have your gland full of the good stuff (KI) at which point the gland will stop absorbing iodine for the next twenty-four hours and this blocks any radioactive iodine from entering the gland.

A common way to up your iodine levels is through iodine tablets. For day-to-day living, iodized table salt contains enough iodine to keep you healthy, but it doesn’t have enough to block radioactive iodine. So don’t try to use it as a substitute for iodine tablets.

Iodine tablets must be used carefully. There are benefits to taking them, but there are also risks and there are other ways to up your iodine levels.

Fifty grams of dried seaweed includes about 100 mcg of iodine, and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) says, as of March 31, that there are no health concerns at this time about eating seaweed or other food products. But the safest option is to follow the recommendations of your doctor, emergency preparedness and health care workers.
Dedicated to Gathering the Language

by Albert Hans, Dwyer Cross and Haida Laas staff

Vancouver

People travelled from Haida Gwaii, Alaska, Prince Rupert and Seattle to attend the Tenth International Haida Language Gathering held this year in Vancouver.

The first day of the gathering saw fifty people listen as language programs from Vancouver, Haida Gwaii and Alaska provided an overview of their year’s activities. The reports highlighted each program and its own unique way of teaching, using local knowledge holders and resources. Everything from iPods to one-on-one are utilized in an effort to deliver lessons and capture the interest of new learners.

Today there are still many issues being worked on: Can a writing system be designed so that the three common dialects can be spelled in the same way? A common complaint among non-speakers is that the spelling keeps changing. As the language progresses and a common way of spelling is developed we can expect more changes – after all, not only is translating the Haida world view into English a daunting task but also a different worldview, which it may not be able to do. As Alaskan Elder, Woody Morrison explained, the word k’yuu, means path, door, ladder and clam but what is really being conveyed is not the objects but ways to get to another place. This way of seeing the world cannot be conveyed through a literal translation and in trying to do so you may lose the meanings of the word. This is just one example, but when you consider the complex Haida view of the world then you can imagine the task ahead of these Elders and learners – there is a lot at stake and care has to be taken to ensure that the language is being taught and learn from.

Fortunately, with old ways and new technology there are as many ways to learn the language, as there are ways to describe k’yuu. These days you can get the language on the media of your choice: cd’s, MP3s for iPods, children’s books, flash cards, song books, video, one-on-one, learn in groups, or stream it online, and in Old Massett you can learn and have lunch too. Not having access or the time to learn is hardly an excuse anymore: you can now learn anywhere, anytime.

Another serious issue is, of course, funding. Ongoing, secure, year-to-year funding is basically non-existent and programs struggle to keep staffed and their doors open. Some programs have partial funding, and although it is acknowledged that funding is tight everywhere, Island priorities have yet to include language in a meaningful way and the consequence is that thousands of years of knowledge and meaning is being lost – the depth of knowledge these last fluent speakers hold is staggering – and by not capturing this, following generations will be living in a greatly diminished world.

Even given these hurdles, when people gather, a natural outcome of coming together is the telling of stories and, at the conference, stories were told in probably the oldest way – sitting around in a circle. Speakers in the circle were also chosen using the “traditional” spin of the bottle – though with a more modest outcome. Old and new stories conferences continued page 14
Speak up!

Refresh your Haida, check out the following phrases. If you require help with pronunciation or want to further your knowledge, contact the language group in your village.

You are going fishing
SKG: Xaw in guu hla.
OM: Talang waadluuwan xaw an saang.
AK: Xaw in’uu hlaa!

I am going on a boat trip.
SKG: Tluu guuGaaw hll gaayinda in dii ga.
OM: I am going on a boat trip.
AK: I am going on a boat trip.

Hawaii: It’s Not All Academics
After fundraising for close to two years, the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program took off from the Vancouver Island Language Gathering and landed in Honolulu, Hawaii six hours later. SHIP had been chosen to attend the Second Annual International Conference on Language Documentation and Conservation, and regular fundraising events – including licorne-toonne auctions and dinner sales – paid for the group’s excursion.

stepping off the plane into the humid tropical winter of the Pacific islands felt like stepping into about 30 degree weather, said Albert Hans, one of the younger members on this expedition. He said that the weather for their ten-day stay was not unlike Haida Gwaii, and the winter, a lot warmer. Delegates had a couple of days to recharge their batteries after the Vancouver Gathering and spent that time checking out restaurants and seeing the sites.

In terms of conferences, the Vancouver and Honolulu conferences are in the same ballpark but certainly separate bases. The Vancouver gathering does address conservation, and is meant to help with conservation, but the focus is more on ways to teach and learn. On the other hand, the Honolulu conference is an international academic gathering dealing with finer and more technical points of language, documentation, conservation and revitalization. The conference coaxes academicians out of their ivory towers and brings them together on debatable topics, and its mission is not just to discuss but to motivate and inspire everyone to share experiences, teaching methods – what works, what doesn’t – moves the joint goals of a shared orthography forward and inspires everyone to keep doing the work of preserving and evolving the language. The gatherings are open to anyone interested in saving and revitalizing the Haida Language.

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Fact Finding is Inspirational in Old Massett

by Laas Parnell

Last week, members of the Skidegate Education Committee and Band Council visited the Chief Matthews School in Gwai, Old Massett, on a fact-finding tour. Visiting the Chief Matthews School was an overall wonderful experience; walking into the building and feeling the positive energy made me smile. Everyone in the building, whether they were a student or a teacher, was in a good mood.

Those of us who arrived early were given a short tour by school principal, Leslie Bellis, while we waited for the others. She took us around to each room and explained that students are taught by their abilities and not their age. After the tour and when the others had arrived, we were shown the rest of the building by students Marissa and Marcus. They spoke to us in Haida and translated to English throughout the tour. Their pride in their ability to speak Haida and explain to us which Clans they were from shone through in their presentation. They took us through a few of the classrooms and introduced us to the teachers.

Chief Matthews School has about sixty-three students enrolled from Kindergarten to Grade 4, and seven teachers. With the small student-teacher ratio, students can get help if they need it.

At Chief Matthews, language is the main focus because it is much easier for children to learn the language early and the way the school teaches Haida is very effective; rather than learning single words, the children are taught sentences. Many aspects of our culture are taught at Chief Matthews, and when students graduate from the village school they have their own cedar graduation hats before they move on to Tahayghen in New Massett where they learn other cultural skills.

Near the end of our tour I had the opportunity to speak with and interview Leslie Bellis. I asked Chief Matthews’ principal what the most positive aspects were of having a community-managed school. She said her measure was by how much the parents and grandparents are involved.

“The children who attend Chief Matthews have very supportive families who are always contributing to making the school better. Whether it is participating in a field trip or attending the monthly parent-teacher meetings there is always support for Chief Matthews School,” she said, and added, “The whole community gets together to make a safe and positive environment for the children.”

On the ride back to Skidegate I carpooled with Lisa Shoop, Casey Vanderweide, Heather Dudoward, Nicola Einarson and Isabel Brillon. I asked them what stood out and what they really liked about the school. Each had similar thoughts about culture; the student-teacher ratio; the friendly environment and the supportive community.

The Skidegate Band’s Education Coordinator, Lisa Shoop, was amazed by how totally immersed in culture Chief Matthews School is. “You can take a look at it and you know it’s a Haida school!” she exclaimed. She was also impressed by how responsive the teachers were to individual student needs, which she considered, these days, to be a cutting-edge technique.

Casey Vanderweide, who is supervisor of the Youth Mentored Skills at Skidegate, said that, “They’re doing the right thing; the proof is in the waiting list to get into the school.” He also thought that the hot lunches provided to students were a great idea, because, as he said, “You can then ensure kids are getting the nutrition they need to keep their brains at an optimum learning level.”

Nicola Einarson runs Kaugin King Nay, the library located in the same building as the nursery school in Skidegate. Ms Einarson especially liked the positive attitude towards learning and how the children were proud to show what they learned.

Chief Matthews School really focuses on challenging students, which leads to their success. What stood out, for me, is the priority put on the continued learning for their Haida language teacher. Rhonda Bell is the teacher and she is mentored five mornings a week by Tsniiv Steven Brown. In the classroom, Rhonda is supported by silent speaker, Marilyn Collison, and elder naanii Nina Williams. This integrated, team approach to learning clearly illustrates the school’s dedication to preserving and teaching the language.

Isabel Brillon travelled to Old Massett as a representative of the Skidegate Education Committee and is interested and concerned about the education of young people. She said she would love to see a school like Chief Matthews, in Skidegate, in the near future.

The Chief Matthews School is a great facility, where children can learn to read, write, and are absorbed in Haida culture throughout the day. Therefore, the children leave with confidence, and have a clear sense of identity, which is imperative to learning. Having the whole community come together to support their youth and manage their school is very important, and even though the BC curriculum is still being used, it is taught in a different way – the school is Haida-based – and at Chief Matthews everyone is treated equally; the students want to learn and the teachers want to teach.

As Northwest Community College’s new Director of Education for Haida Gwaii, my job is to support students learning by creating supportive environments and encouraging students to realize the enjoyment and satisfaction that comes from learning something new. Enjoyment is crucial to successful learning – just ask anyone who is good at what they do.

When I started working for NWCC on January 31st, I was happy to discover that the college was already offering an innovative learning program at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnaguay in Skidegate. This program is known as Essential Skills for Work (ESWK). Don’t be fooled by the humble title: this is a truly groundbreaking program. The class is taught by Fraser Earl with assistance from Haida Heritage Instructor, Clayton Gladstone, and was developed with Ooka Pineault and Ruth Gladstone of the Skidegate Social Development office, whose strong support has made this program the success it is.

ESWK runs four days a week and offers a unique combination of experiential learning, practical work training, and Haida cultural programming.

Thanks to additional funding from the Skidegate Social Development office, students had the opportunity to take a range of Continuing Education courses offered by NWCC, which included a Radio Operators Course and Occupational First Aid. ESWK has also helped students gain experience in a range of cultural activities like making button blankets and wood-carving tools.

There will be a Celebration of Learning for the ESWK students on April 21st at Kay Llnaguay, and community members are welcome to join in the festivities.
Water - at least two litres of water per person per day. This should include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order.

Food - that won’t spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods. Remember to replace the food and water once a year.

- Manual can opener
- Flashlight and batteries
- Candles and matches or lighter - Place candles in non-burnable sturdy containers and put them out before going to sleep.
- Battery-powered or wind-up radio (extra batteries)
- First Aid Kit
- Special items such as prescription medications, infant formula and equipment for people with disabilities.
- Extra keys for your car and house.
- Some cash in smaller bills, such as $10 bills (Traveller’s cheques are also useful) and change for pay phones.
- A copy of your personal emergency plan, which includes contact information.
- A planning booklet can be picked up at the Old Massett or Skidegate Health Centre.

Recommended additional kit supplies:
- A change of clothing and footwear for each household member.
- Sleeping bag or warm (foil) blanket for each household member.
- A whistle in case you need to attract attention.
- Garbage bags for personal sanitation.
- Toilet paper and other personal-care supplies.
- Safety gloves.
- Basic tools such as hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, fasteners, work gloves.
- Small fuel-driven stove and fuel (follow manufacturer’s directions and store properly).
- Two additional litres of water per person per day for cooking and cleaning.

Don’t Wait.
Put These Items Together Now! Be Prepared.
Don’t Wait, Vaccinate!

Protect your child from many childhood diseases like whooping cough, chickenpox and measles by having them vaccinated on time.

Learn more!
• Talk to your health care provider
• Get your guide
• Hear what others have to say and share your story at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/vaccinate