The Haida Nation’s new leadership: President Peter Lantin and Vice-president Trevor Russ.
Got a lust for language?

Come and participate in the 14th Annual Haida Language Gathering in Vancouver!

Join us in discussing Haida language curriculum, teaching materials, Haida orthographies and dictionaries, master/apprentice techniques, and more! Come and get inspired by our dedicated, passionate teachers and learners and hear about the exciting revitalization initiatives in place.

The Annual Haida Language Gathering brings speakers, teachers, learners, and novices together from all three dialects: ‘Xaayda Kitl (Skidegate), Xaad K’l (Old Masset), and Xaat Kíl (Alaska).

April 20th and 21st, 2013 • Georgian Court Hotel, Vancouver, BC

Call for Expressions of Interest

We are compiling an inventory of local suppliers who are interested in being considered for contracting requirements we may have. On the immediate horizon are the celebration activities around the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Gwaay Haanas Agreement, including the Legacy Pole raising at Windy Bay in August 2013. The following are examples of some of the services we may require:

- Event planners (coordination of traditional community-celebrations)
- Caterers (Food Safe qualified and capable of feeding up to 1000 people)
- Seamstress (production of traditional Haida regalia)
- Marine transportation suppliers (transporting people and equipment)
- Equipment contractors: backhoes, haikuas, cranes, etc.
- Building contractors: carpenters, electricians, plumbers, labourers, etc.
- Marketing/Communications contractors: writers, educators, graphic designers, artists, printers, sign-makers, photographers, videographers, film editors, website managers, event planners.

Once the inventory is established, contractors/suppliers may be invited to submit bids on any contracts we are considering within your area of specialty.

Please provide a brief letter expressing your interest and the services and/or equipment you provide. Please mail your information to:

Liz McGowan, Finance Manager
Gwaay Haanas Field Unit – Pirts Canada Agency
P.O. Box 37, Queen Charlotte, BC V0T 1S0
p.250.626.9468
f.250.626.3403
1.877.569.8981
chn_hts@haidanation.ca

If you are interested in serving as a HaiCo board member, please submit a letter and resume by 4 pm April 12, to Trevor Russ, Percy Crosby, Allian Davidson, Jason Alope, Darin Swanson, James Cowpar and an OMVC representative.

HaiCo touching base

In response to feedback from Haida citizens and direction from the Council of the Haida Nation, HaiCo will host two Community Information Sessions this spring – one in Skidegate (May 15) and one in Old Massett (May 16). The format will be similar to CHN’s Seasonal Sessions: the Haida-owned corporation will report on its work and Haida citizens will have the opportunity to ask questions. HaiCo will also provide its 2012 financials with a comparison to the 2011 summaries.

Healing for the sun: Jaasaljuus Yakgujaan means received the Fernandez Earle Scholarship to study marine biology in Hawaii.

Kiefer Collison appointed

Council of the Haida Nation representative Kiefer Collison, of Old Massett, was appointed Chair of the Haida Child and Family Services Society board. The board is in place to build a new model for child welfare that reflects the traditional Haida way of life.

Matthews leading the team

Sharon Matthews is taking on the team leadership at Haida Child and Family Services, while the society is in the process of hiring a new executive director and team leader. It is expected that these two positions will be filled in the very near future.

Setso appointed

Old Massett resident Brad Setso has been appointed by the Council of the Haida Nation to the chair of the Gwaay Haanas Trust. Mr Setso previously served two terms on the Gwaay Trust, including a year as vice-chair. He has a variety of experience that includes serving as a regional district council member, a band councillor and as a member of a number of community groups.

“I have a candid and fair approach to chairing a meeting,” Mr Setso said. “And, in the interest of making good decisions, there needs to be differing points of view and opinions expressed. I think it is these things that generate lively discussion and keep people engaged.”

Baybutt managing

“T’ll be overseeing daily operations, supervising our employees, and tracking processing,” said Shawn Baybutt, the new operations manager for Haida Wild Seafoods (formerly known as SeaPack) which was recently purchased by HaiCo. Mr Baybutt, 43, moved to the Islands seven years ago and gained local marine experience working as a lodge guide and, later, as lodge manager at Langara. This is his third year of working for the custom fish-processing plant and he is looking forward to the different role. “It’s going to be new and, I know, will be a good challenge for me.”

Of sunscreen and scholarship

Jaasaljuus Yakgujaan means received the Fernandez Earle Scholarship to study marine biology in Hawaii.

Jaasaljuus, 17, has always had a fascination with, and appreciation for, the ocean, and she says Haida Gwaii is the ideal place to make a career in that field. “I feel that by becoming a marine biologist I will have an opportunity to give back to the ocean and be doing something that I love.” Because of its renowned marine program, studying at Hawaii’s Pacific University was her first choice, and her scholarship has made her post-secondary aspirations a dream come true.

“When I found out I was the recipient, I was in shock! I still cannot believe I was given such an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Jaasaljuus exclaimed. Moving so far from home, she says that she will be sure to bring a supply of nourishing Haida Gwaii salmon, and for the first time in her life will need to pack sunscreen.

Born and raised in Old Massett, Jaasaljuus – whose name translates to 'precious woman’ – will be graduating from George M. Dawson Secondary this June. Working with partner universities, the Fernandez Earle Scholarship Foundation was founded in memory of Kane Fernandez and Roger Earle – both had a passion for education, and sports fishing on Haida Gwaii. The scholarship is awarded to one Islands student each year and is based on academic achievements and an extensive interview process.

HaiCo board vacancy

HaiCo is looking to fill two positions on their board of directors. Applications submitted will be reviewed by a nominator committee which will make a recommendation to the HaiCo board. The committee consists of four members of the CHN, two from the Hereditary Chiefs Council, and one each from the Skidegate Band Council and the Old Massett Village Council.

Cover photo: Valine Crist

JAASALJUUS YAKGUJAAN WAS AWARDED THE Fernandez Earle Scholarship for marine biology studies at the University of Hawaii this year. Photo by Valine Crist

2 3
Frank and open dialogue mark first meeting of new council

It was a “honeymoon” said more than one person at the conclusion of the first public sitting of the newly elected Council of the Haida Nation. And, on reflection, there is some truth in that observation. As most citizens who attend the CHN Seasonal Sessions know, the heat in the room can go from cool to extreme in a matter of seconds, depending on the level of passion displayed during discussion of a particular subject or statement. That swing in temperature, though often difficult, frequently removes ‘roadblocks’ in discussions and propels issues from talk to action – things do get done!

The Winter Session began with a new and noticeably younger Council in place, and an entirely different energy in the room. Agenda items were presented to the session and citizens were asked to discuss issues, offer opinion and provide suggestions on ways to move particular items along.

In his opening remarks, President of the Haida Nation Peter Lantin said that he was looking for open communication between all parties to ensure citizens are informed and provided the detail they need, on all the issues. “I want to get everyone on the same page with the same information,” he explained. “I am looking for a broader buy-in so that the ownership of the nation’s issues does not weigh only on the executive.”

Mr Lantin then gave a thorough overview of what those issues are.

At the top of the agenda and calling for immediate attention, he said, was working with the Band Councils and hereditary leaders on economic development opportunities and a protocol to guide future development, and a Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly (May 8-10) that will seek the answer to: What is the future of governance on Haida Gwaii?

Progress made

Reconciliation of Haida and crown title has been at the forefront of the nation’s business since filing the title case in 2001. An agreement between the Haida nation and the crown put the case on hold in December 2008 but that agreement expired in 2012, allowing the nation to take the case to court at any time. Since the 2001 filing, negotiations with the province have been generally productive and considered fruitful; the Kunst’aa Guu – Kunst’aayah Reconciliation Protocol (2009) is considered a substantial outcome of those negotiations. The same cannot be said of negotiations with the federal government. Over the years, talks have been occurring intermittently with representatives of the federal government, and though they have attended the negotiation meetings, they have been in the room as observers only, as they have received no mandate from their government to negotiate. Obviously, little progress has been made.

But things have shifted, and since the lifting of the abeyance agreement, representatives of the federal government have made an effort to engage in talks with the Haida Reconciliation of Title Team. The CHN met recently with the feds, and two working groups have been struck; both groups will concentrate on building terms of reference for negotiating – one group will look at co-management of the marine environment and access to resources, and the other will look at governance and the reconciliation of Haida and crown title. “Progress is being made,” Mr Lantin said at the Winter Session, “but this is going to be a long journey.”

The two working groups are made up of federal government and Haida appointments. Russ Jones and Robert Davis have been appointed by CHN to the technical working group; which is discussing the marine component, and Guujaaw and Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson will be working on designing a negotiation framework for the full process.

A step up

Having served as an Old Massett regional representative for the past five years, newly elected Vice-president Trevor Russ said that he had spent the past month getting up-to-speed on CHN committee work and portfolios. This was a formidable task, he said, and further explained that having to be conversant with all of the nation’s business is a big step from serving on committees as a regional rep.

Throughout the month, the President and Vice-president also met with White Raven Law for an overview of the title case, Coastal First Nations/Great Bear Initiative staff, the Coast Opportunity Fund and various CHN committees. The new leadership is interested in using the latest technologies, such as video conferencing, to keep regional reps’ and
Council of the Haida Nation – Winter Session

Open dialogue – from page 5

Let us have it!
The CHN Communications Committee wants to know what you need to know. Please send us your thoughts on ways the CHN can report to you ... what would be helpful, what do you read/listen to, and what is the best way to get information to you?

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

were passed. These were also read

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.

Phone Simon Davies, Program Manager at 250.559.4468; email editor@haidanation.net or drop by No.1 – Reservoir Rd, Skidegate

Committee members are: Jason Alsop, Chair; Kiefer Collinson and Cynthia Samuels.
Lasqueti, which is already outfitted for crabbing, included 900 pots in the deal. This meant that the Fisheries Program would have what they needed to start fishing and have to buy only 300 additional pots. Mr Setso pursued the sale, a deal was struck, and the vessel was purchased.

Local mariners may be familiar with the 59' Lasqueti Fisher No.1 because Masset resident Russell Wiley fished the boat around Haida Gwaii before it was sold to the Lasqueti Fishing Company. The vessel, built in 1980, is approved for crabbing in Area A, which covers much of Dixon Entrance, and has worked primarily in Hecate Strait.

“We’ve purchased a structurally- and mechanically-sound vessel,” said Mr Setso. “The purchase went through the Haida Fisheries Committee and CHN Board for approval. It made sense to everybody. “ Haida Fisheries Program Manager, Brad Setso.

To better utilize the vessel, the Haida Fisheries Committee was going to outfit the boat to go crabbing. The largest license – one of three that CHN has access to – specifies that 1179 pots can be fished, which meant the CHN Executive Committee and CHN Board for approval. It made sense to everybody. The purchase went through the Haida Fisheries Committee, the CHN Executive Committee and CHN Board for approval. It made sense to everybody. The purchase would have what they needed to start fishing and have to buy only 300 additional pots. Mr Setso pursued the sale, a deal was struck, and the vessel was purchased.

Local mariners may be familiar with the 59’ Lasqueti Fisher No.1 because Masset resident Russell Wiley fished the boat around Haida Gwaii before it was sold to the Lasqueti Fishing Company. The vessel, built in 1980, is approved for crabbing in Area A, which covers much of Dixon Entrance, and has worked primarily in Hecate Strait.

“We’ve purchased a structurally- and mechanically-sound vessel,” said Mr Setso. “The purchase went through the Haida Fisheries Committee and CHN Board for approval. It made sense to everybody.”

Early education bears fruit
Talking politics, sports and community with Peter Lantin

Citizens of the Haida Nation might know him as Pistol Pete from his broadcasts of basketball games at the ‘All-Native’, others may know of his work as chair of the Gwaii Trust, but today we know him as President of the Haida Nation. Haida Laas sat down with Peter Lantin to talk about his life, his politics, and his priorities while in office.

By Valine Crist

The accomplishments of the Haida Nation are many… but they are few compared to the challenges ahead. At the top of the list is the reconciliation of Haida and crown title, followed by the ongoing tweaking of a co-management system with the provincial government regarding the lands and near-shore waters, the development of policy to address the political and business relationship with HaiCo, and tying into the complexities of revitalizing our language. Through the years the nation has worked on these issues with varying degrees of success. With new leadership, citizens can expect a fresh approach and a new style – one of consultation and open dialogue.

“What the Haida Nation has accomplished is truly remarkable and I think we can all feel proud of this and have confidence in where we’re going,” said the recently acclaimed Haida Nation President, Peter Lantin. In fact, one of the priorities in his three-year term is to communicate these accomplishments to Haida citizens. With this foundation and context, Mr Lantin says, citizens can become meaningfully involved in guiding the future of the nation.

Raised by his social- and cultural-activist nannii, Ethel Jones, and with role models like his goggie, Alex Jones, (also known as ‘Scumby’), Mr Lantin was politically aware at a very early age. He says he always knew that as a Haida citizen he had a responsibility to get involved with the nation’s affairs, and this early education and way of life instilled a real passion in him. When citizens encouraged Mr Lantin to run in the 2012 national election, he realized and understood that this was what his family had been preparing him for.

After graduating from George M. Dawson in 1992, Mr Lantin attended Carleton University where he was enrolled in one of Canada’s top radio and television broadcasting programs. It was a highly competitive environment and only 300 students were accepted to the three-year program. As the program progressed, students were weeded out, leaving only 30 students in the final year. Mr Lantin did not make it to that final year, and at age 18, he felt that his childhood dream of sports broadcasting was over. But in 2006, Mr Lantin, aka Pistol Pete, made his broadcasting debut at the All-Native Basketball Tournament in Prince Rupert. Recently, after eight consecutive years at the ANBT mic, he announced he would step away from this role to focus on his presidential responsibilities, but emphasized, “I made it. For me, providing commentary to the games at the All-Native was like broad casting the NBA!”

Before taking on the presidency of the Haida nation, Mr Lantin chaired the Gwaii Trust for three years, an experience he describes as shaping his approach to communications and building his confidence operating in the field of business. His time there also honed his abilities to combine a variety of opinions and facilitate group decision-making. He believes these skills...
Early education – from page 9

will be beneficial to the Council of the Haida Nation, which brings together 14 elected representatives from four communities (Old Massett, Skidegate, Prince Rupert, and Vancouver) and hereditary leadership. “It’s a lot of work to continually consult with one another, to make sure that everyone’s being listened to,” he stressed, “and to make sure everyone understands a decision and its implications. But, that’s what we have to do as a council.”

Part of this process of consultation is directed at maintaining the nation’s legal and political position and strength. Mr Lantin contended that every Haida citizen should be aware of and understand the unique position their nation is in with the federal and provincial governments: The Haida have what is considered one of the strongest title cases in Canada. With that knowledge, citizens will also have the responsibility of charting the nation’s path over the next few years, meaning the responsibility will not fall on the shoulders of only one person, he said. Mr Lantin considers himself only one member of a team of leaders and believes citizens have a responsibility to keep informed and educate themselves about the issues in front of them.

One of those issues, front and center, is the reconciliation of Haida and crown titles. “We have created our own innovative negotiation process based on reconciliation,” he said, acknowledging the work of past councils. “We’ve been very bold in blazing our own path. We have been successful with the provincial government and signed the Kunst’a Guu – Kunst’aayay Reconciliation Protocol, and we will continue that same approach with Canada.”

Mr Lantin has also identified other key priorities to tackle over the next few years. Foremost is the development and growth of HaiCo, the nation’s arm’s length economic initiative. He would like to see HaiCo develop business policy that ensures values, such as sustainability, are enacted so that citizens can see how policy influences the work being accomplished on the ground, in a practical way.

“I was very intrigued with the immediate success of Haiada economics and I’m talking about HaiCo. I want to continue a lot of the good work that HaiCo is doing. But it’s got to be done in a way that does business differently. You can slap a Haida label on anything and call it Haida, but is it truly a Haida company? Does it have Haida values? I want to see things being done differently.”

While on the campaign trail, Mr Lantin heard from many citizens who expressed deep concern about the survival of Haida language. Developing a strategy for the revitalization of the language is critical, he insisted, as is encouraging youth to get involved in politics and having them speak up on issues.

While studying social sciences at UVic, Mr Lantin became involved in the world of national and international student politics. This new perspective added to his early political education in Old Massett with Naamii Eelh and his gogging and further prepared him for his current political career. In his second year of studies, he was appointed to the UVic Student Union as the First Nations representative. The next year he decided to run in the union’s general election – and won a seat – which freed up a space for another First Nations person to fill the appointed position.

“Hav[ing] my political life ended at university and I started to focus my energy on youth work. I later moved on to finance and facilitation, but now I’m back working in the political arena. This is where I’m meant to be and I’m very confident in my abilities.”

A practical man, Mr Lantin recognizes and acknowledges those who have helped him transition from private citizen into the new role as president and continue to support him in that position.

“Having Trevor [Russ] here has been awesome – he’s of the same generation as me and has the same ideals and points of view on how to approach things. He also brings the knowledge and the continuity of what’s happened over the past six years – he’s been hugely helpful – it’s been amazing so far.”

While Mr Lantin feels well equipped for this new position, leading the Haida nation is a feat that comes with some serious challenges. After living away from home for 10 years, the new president says that he has to re-familiarize himself with the life, customs, and values on Haida Gwaii. He also knows that he is stepping into some very big shoes. The Haida Nation has had many strong leaders who have brought us to where we are today – it’s a high bar.

“How do you follow in Gunjaaw’s footsteps? I’m not going to. He was the right person at the time and did an incredible job for over 13 years, but it’s just not realistic for anybody to expect me to do what he’s done,” Mr Lantin explained.

“Having Trevor [Russ] here has been awesome – he’s of the same generation as me and has the same ideals and points of view on how to approach things. He also brings the knowledge and the continuity of what’s happened over the past six years – he’s been hugely helpful – it’s been amazing so far.”

While Mr Lantin feels well equipped for this new position, leading the Haida nation is a feat that comes with some serious challenges. After living away from home for 10 years, the new president says that he has to re-familiarize himself with the life, customs, and values on Haida Gwaii. He also knows that he is stepping into some very big shoes. The Haida Nation has had many strong leaders who have brought us to where we are today – it’s a high bar.

“How do you follow in Gunjaaw’s footsteps? I’m not going to. He was the right person at the time and did an incredible job for over 13 years, but it’s just not realistic for anybody to expect me to do what he’s done,” Mr Lantin explained.

“My challenge is to carve out what’s going to be my legacy: I’m a professional guy and well-spoken, but it’s time for me to apply my experience to the nation’s politics, start learning my language and really embrace my culture – it’s time for me to walk the talk.**
B-ball: Players leave it on the court

The All-Native Basketball Tournament's top scorers (L) Tyler York (136 points) and Desi Collinson (145 points) give everything for the Skidegate Senior Saints.

By Graham Sawyer • Photo's courtesy of James Sawyer

The intense rivalry at the All-Native Basketball Tournament climaxed February 16 in Prince Rupert. Kitkatla took the competition so seriously that the community had their whole village jumping on boats and seaplanes to fill the hall in Prince Rupert. With an empty village, the silence in their houses was in stark contrast to the roars and jeers of the community had their whole village jumping on boats and seaplanes to fill the hall in Prince Rupert. With an empty village, the silence in their houses was in stark contrast to the roars and jeers of the hall in Prince Rupert.

February 16 in Prince Rupert. Kitkatla Basketball Tournament climaxed in Prince Rupert. Kitkatla took the competition so seriously that the community had their whole village jumping on boats and seaplanes to fill the hall in Prince Rupert. With an empty village, the silence in their houses was in stark contrast to the roars and jeers of Kitkatla Basketball Tournament climaxsed February 16 in Prince Rupert. Kitkatla took the competition so seriously that the community had their whole village jumping on boats and seaplanes to fill the hall in Prince Rupert. With an empty village, the silence in their houses was in stark contrast to the roars and jeers of the hall in Prince Rupert.

The Skidegate Senior Saints won their division, and the players with the most time on the court included Desi Collinson, Darcy Pearson, Tyler York, Duane Alsop, and centre Jason Alsop. Collinson earned more points than any other player in the tournament, scoring 145 points with a game point average of 18.1. York followed him closely, earning 136 points with a game point average of 17.

Flair, craft and skill

Although the Skidegate girls did not bring home a win in the women's division, the team united the team. Collinson said that even though this first loss was a low point for him, the lowest point was when the Intermediate men lost. They put a lot of work into their game, and finished lower than expected.

According to York, losing the first game was the best thing that could've happened. Everyone stopped doing their own thing, realizing the team needed to unite and prepare carefully for each game. Wahl adds that while things could have easily fallen apart after the first game, teammates didn't attack each other as can happen, but stayed positive. Wahl said there was no excuse for the loss, but it really forced improvement quickly and over the next couple of years.

Basketball strengthens communities, friendships and builds relationships, and that’s Skidegate basketball. “That’s why we’re winning,” Collinson says. “That’s what makes the gym, the gym. Basketball is more than just a game – it’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Khataya Brown says that because of basketball she has made strong friendships outside of practice. Coaching really helped to bring the team together and make sure there was no drama on court, and the skills and bonds the girls have learned from the coaching carry on in their friendships outside the team, she said.

Wahl says that one of the struggles in the Senior division is that even the injured players participated in practices, watching from the sidelines. “It’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Basketball strengthens communities, friendships and builds relationships, and that’s Skidegate basketball. “That’s why we’re winning,” Collinson says. “That’s what makes the gym, the gym. Basketball is more than just a game – it’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Khataya Brown says that because of basketball she has made strong friendships outside of practice. Coaching really helped to bring the team together and make sure there was no drama on court, and the skills and bonds the girls have learned from the coaching carry on in their friendships outside the team, she said.

Wahl says that one of the struggles in the Senior division is that even the injured players participated in practices, watching from the sidelines. “It’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Basketball strengthens communities, friendships and builds relationships, and that’s Skidegate basketball. “That’s why we’re winning,” Collinson says. “That’s what makes the gym, the gym. Basketball is more than just a game – it’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Khataya Brown says that because of basketball she has made strong friendships outside of practice. Coaching really helped to bring the team together and make sure there was no drama on court, and the skills and bonds the girls have learned from the coaching carry on in their friendships outside the team, she said.

Wahl says that one of the struggles in the Senior division is that even the injured players participated in practices, watching from the sidelines. “It’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Basketball strengthens communities, friendships and builds relationships, and that’s Skidegate basketball. “That’s why we’re winning,” Collinson says. “That’s what makes the gym, the gym. Basketball is more than just a game – it’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Khataya Brown says that because of basketball she has made strong friendships outside of practice. Coaching really helped to bring the team together and make sure there was no drama on court, and the skills and bonds the girls have learned from the coaching carry on in their friendships outside the team, she said.

Wahl says that one of the struggles in the Senior division is that even the injured players participated in practices, watching from the sidelines. “It’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Basketball strengthens communities, friendships and builds relationships, and that’s Skidegate basketball. “That’s why we’re winning,” Collinson says. “That’s what makes the gym, the gym. Basketball is more than just a game – it’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Khataya Brown says that because of basketball she has made strong friendships outside of practice. Coaching really helped to bring the team together and make sure there was no drama on court, and the skills and bonds the girls have learned from the coaching carry on in their friendships outside the team, she said.

Wahl says that one of the struggles in the Senior division is that even the injured players participated in practices, watching from the sidelines. “It’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Basketball strengthens communities, friendships and builds relationships, and that’s Skidegate basketball. “That’s why we’re winning,” Collinson says. “That’s what makes the gym, the gym. Basketball is more than just a game – it’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”

Khataya Brown says that because of basketball she has made strong friendships outside of practice. Coaching really helped to bring the team together and make sure there was no drama on court, and the skills and bonds the girls have learned from the coaching carry on in their friendships outside the team, she said.

Wahl says that one of the struggles in the Senior division is that even the injured players participated in practices, watching from the sidelines. “It’s a real chance to learn discipline, passion, encouragement, and teamwork. It’s life training – not a lot of people realize that. Basketball helps our youth realize what they want to do in life.”
Vitality, health and confidence

At the player celebration dinner in Skidegate, coach Wahl said that Desi Collinson’s real contribution to the community is how much and how consistently he invests in younger people. Role models dedicated to mentorship grow new and stronger players in each successive generation, he said.

Duane Alsop stood and read a letter from Brian Gladstone. Gladstone’s powerful words emphasized the intergenerational nature of sport, and as one generation was inspired by the integrity of players like Percy Williams, the fearlessness of Volker Young, and the intensity of Sid and Calvin Crosby, so now the younger players look up to today’s Senior Saints. Jason Alsop emphasized that the Saints’ win truly represents the long-term, intergenerational support and love of Haida Gwaii’s community, and that as we heal ourselves and one another, our youth will continue to grow in vitality, health and confidence. The most Senior Saint – Percy Williams – spoke about the construction of the George Brown Recreation Centre and the inspiration it has provided through generations in the community. Wahl added that every player, from the oldest players down to the elementary school students, see themselves as members of the Saints.

“You can’t go anywhere without money

Every Massett Master interviewed said they would like to thank Memory Brown for her incredibly good fundraising. They say that without her they never would’ve got to the tournament. They would also like to thank their fans and our bingo players!

Collinson said the meaning of the Skidegate Saints’ and Massett Masters’ wins is that “we set a high standard for our community, and we want to live up to high expectations. Younger players are attending university. Basketball put that drive in them, and it is so important for our young people to succeed.” And that’s a slam-dunk! •

Work ethic

Massett Masters MVP Abe Brown attributes their win to hard work and plentiful time for training. Players were disciplined, avoided alcohol, and lived with positive attitudes and clean minds.

“Some guys have really put the work in and really played hard. Those guys got themselves into shape. It makes it easier – you’re not ashamed. We stick with the basics and play great defense.” Those sentiments were reflected with the Masters receiving the Most Sportsmanlike Team award at the tournament.

Massett Masters All-Star David Hill emphasized that the practices were really hard, but nobody complained, and that their physical conditioning was the biggest factor. “I had to work a lot on my own, but the practices were really hard. We practiced on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday – man, that was tough! The kids, our youth – Juniors and Intermediates – saw how hard we were working, when they were hanging out. And we’re busting our tails harder than they did! I hope it set the tone, set a higher standard of work ethic. We were proud to win, but also getting the Most Sportsmanlike Team award proved you can win with class and respect. The crowd cheered really hard when they called the Masters’ name for the award.”

Masters’ coach Trevor Russ is younger than all of his players, but everyone respects him by listening and attending all the “killer practices”. Brown says Russ earns that respect by really understanding the game and having played with the team members since childhood.

“There are people who say they know the game, but the people who really know the game know you need to work hard. Russ coaches with structure, simplicity, discipline, and fun. He is not so much about singularity, and teaches a lot about passing and unselfish play.”

You don’t go anywhere without money

Every Massett Master interviewed said they would like to thank Memory Brown for her incredibly good fundraising. They say that without her they never would’ve got to the tournament. They would also like to thank their fans and our bingo players!

Collinson said the meaning of the Skidegate Saints’ and Massett Masters’ wins is that “we set a high standard for our community, and we want to live up to high expectations. Younger players are attending university. Basketball put that drive in them, and it is so important for our young people to succeed.” And that’s a slam-dunk! •
One for all and all for one
Submitted by the Healthy Communities Society
Leslie Bellis, Board Member
On March 6th, the Healthy Communities Society hosted a drug awareness meeting in the Old Masset Community Hall in partnership with the Masset RCMP detachment, Old Masset Village Council, and the Village of Masset. Also in attendance were the drug and alcohol counsellors for Masset and Old Masset. The meeting was extremely well attended, reflecting the seriousness with which the people of Old Masset and Masset regard drug abuse and crime in their communities. We were also pleased to see that every on-Island member of the Masset RCMP attended the meeting, ready to talk about drug issues and respond to community concerns.

The meeting was structured around a series of short presentations from the RCMP, focusing on different dimensions of substance abuse, drug crime, and RCMP policy. In particular, the RCMP asked that community members provide personal information when they call in with information on drug related incidents. The officers explained that while anonymity might seem safer when calling in tips on crime, in fact it is impossible for the RCMP to guarantee the safety of callers when following up on information if they are unable to identify or contact them.

The meeting also provided the opportunity for community members to ask questions and voice their concerns to the RCMP and their neighbours. Some spoke powerfully about the ways in which their families had been affected by drugs, sharing their stories with honesty and courage. Almost everyone who spoke agreed that in times of need, it was the community’s responsibility to pull together and help each other, offering support to those going through difficult times in their own lives or their families. The message was clear: Making positive change in the community was a job for everyone – RCMP, health care workers, and everyone else.

The drug and alcohol counsellors also reminded the audience that they cannot make visits to people unsolicited. Counsellors and care workers are trained to provide many different forms of support, but community members need to ask for their help before they are able to assist them. Finally, it was asked that we all work together to help each other and show that drugs are not an answer and that drug crime cannot be allowed to continue in our communities. In order to work towards these important goals, the Healthy Communities Society will soon be hosting another meeting focused on drug related issues. A planning meeting will be held Tuesday, April 2nd, at 7 P.M. at the Healthy Communities office. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Small changes have big impact
by Graham Richard
A quiet but powerful gathering of over 70 elders, village councillors, and citizens came together in prayer to support the Idle No More movement, at Skidegate on January 18th. Elders made food offerings to the ancestors and prayed for peace. Prayers for wisdom were also sent to the Assembly of First Nations as it was deliberating with the federal government, and prayers for guidance were sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper. With the assembly gathered around a small fire, Erica Ryan-Gagne sang a peace song.

Bringing Idle No More to the country’s westernmost point shows our participation in what is a worldwide movement that includes millions of people. The Skidegate contribution to the movement was not so much in protest against the threat of the federal government’s omnibus bills that change First Nations’ and environmental law, but in support of wisdom and peace for the citizens involved in Idle No More and the legislators involved in shaping Canadian law. “Expressing solidarity with Idle No More is important,” said Skidegate resident Rose Russ.

Idle No More’s website calls the movement “a revolution, which honours Indigenous values and protects the land and water,” and the site emphasizes the need for “sustainable, renewable development.”

The grassroots movement has no single leader – instead, each individual or community makes their own contribution to the movement’s direction and velocity. The four women who started the movement – Jessica Gordon, Sylvia McAdam, Sheelah McLean, and Nina Wilson – wanted it to belong to
It is so easy for a very small thing
to destroy even the largest ship.

Small changes - from page 17

the people and hoped it would take on
a life of its own. It has, and it continues
to shape-change as time moves on. This
approach and the movement reflect the
diversity of cultures that span the country,
emphasizing each person’s unique
relationship with Canada. However,
as members of the Islands community
have pointed out, groups acting on their own or
from their own perspectives can confuse
other participants, the government, and
observers about the larger direction and
goals of the movement. Activities such as
these can be a distraction from the
movement’s initial purpose, which was
to bring attention to new federal laws
within Bill C-38 and Bill C-45. Idle No
More has united First Nations and many
others – it has awakened the world to the
environmental and sovereignty issues that
these new laws confront.

The feelings and action that have
galvanized around these Bills are not
new. Here on Haida Gwaii, as in most
places across Canada, issues with federal
laws developers are no longer required
to prove power lines and pipelines will
not harm waterways that they cross nor
against the danger of any initiative
that bestows respect upon our selves and the Haida
community at large. Elders at the
Skidegate Haida Immersion Program
emphasize that our ancestors taught us to
respect and honour the earth and warned
us to practice our culture, language and traditions in a manner that expresses who we are
as young Haida;

• We have the right to be informed and meaningfully
involved in the governance affairs of the Nation;
• We have the right to freedom of choice and
expression, particularly as this relates to our
individuality;
• We have the right to design and deliver programs,
services, interventions and events that support our
needs and aspirations.

We understand that with these Rights come
Responsibilities; that one cannot exist without the other.

We are responsible for conducting ourselves in a manner
that bestows respect upon our selves and the Haida
Nation as a whole:

• We are responsible to one another, recognizing that
no one walks alone, all of us belonging to a vibrant,
family-based Nation’
• We are responsible for our choices and the resulting
consequences, both good and bad, that flows from
these choices; and
• We are responsible for our Nation, as the Haida
Nation is only as strong as the level of support and
input it receives from its’ citizens.

The Haida Nation will continue to prosper, embracing
a child-centered approach that holds our children and
youth in high regard, recognizing that Haida children
and youth are the future and the future is now.

The Haida Nation Children and Youth Declaration

As Haida Children and Youth, we declare that we
have the following Rights that are a central part of our
cultural heritage and legacy.

• We have the right to live with our parents,
grandparents and family members; and in a
community that is safe and free from unhealthy
influences and behaviors;
• We have the right to access all the resources that the
land, sea, and air have to offer;
• We have the right to practice our culture, language
and traditions in a manner that expresses who we are
as young Haida;

The declaration is also available for download as a pdf at
haidanation.ca. Go to the “agreements” page. •

Family Services, reprinting the declaration seems appropriate.

It's so easy for a very small thing to destroy even the largest ship.
HAIDA GWAII
YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Old Massett Community Hall
May 8 - 10, 2013

workshops • sports • entertainment