



YOUTH ASSEMBLY
p 3 & 20



INTERVIEW: CHN
VICE-PRESIDENT
TREVOR RUSS
p 5



LANGUAGE
CONFERENCE
p 12

Robert Davidson

HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Council of the Haida Nation

May 2013



Photo: Haida Laas

Signing the Haida Accord – 2013

Hereditary leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Haida Accord by signing May 31, 2013 with the new leadership of the Council of the Haida Nation. Back (l-r): Sgaann 7iw7waans; Dayaang; Skil Hiilans; Nang Jingwas; Thasi; Giteewans; Sdiithladaa; Taawga Halaa Leyga; Chee Xial; Gaahlaay; Vice-president of the Haida Nation, Ginn Waadluuwan uu 'laa isdaa aayaagan. Front (l-r) President of the Haida Nation, Kil tlaats 'gaa; Wiigaanad; Ihldiinii; Gidandsa; Gwyaawhlans.



HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL of the HAIDA NATION

published by the

Council of the Haida Nation

Managing Editor
Simon Davies

Business Administrator
Amanda Reid-Stevens

Writers
Valine Crist – Researcher/Writer
Graham Richard – Writer

Web
Mare Levesque

editor@haidanation.net
p.250.559.4468

Council of the Haida Nation Administrator

Box 589, Old Massett
Haida Gwaii
V0T 1M0
p.250.626.5252
f.250.626.3403
1.888.638.7778
chn_hts@haidanation.com

Council of the Haida Nation President

Box 98, Queen Charlotte
Haida Gwaii
V0T 1S0
p.250.559.4468
f.250.559.8951
1.877.559.4468
chn.skidegate@haidanation.net

MAY 2013
www.haidanation.ca

haidanation.ca

program reports : haida laas
links : diplomacy : agreements
government : working groups
- it's all good -



HAIDA HOUSE at Tllaal

HAIDA GWAII / CANADA

naturally wild, culturally alive

Accommodations
start at \$82⁵⁰/pp
Bed & Breakfast
based on double-occupancy

www.haidahouse.com

Now open 7 days a week for your dining pleasure!

OUR SUMMER HOURS -

- Monday to Thursday · 5pm - 7:30pm serving a Table D'hôte (set menu with choices) · \$25pp
- Friday & Saturday · 5pm - 8:30pm Full menu options
- Sunday Brunch · 11am - 1:30pm
- Sunday's Smokin' BBQ Dinner · 5pm - 7:30pm · \$25pp

HAIDA HOUSE is located at the end of Beitush Road, on the Tlell River

Winner of the 2013 Aboriginal Tourism British Columbia
Outstanding Accommodation Award
for service standards.

Reservations are highly recommended – 250.557.4600



Taan FOREST

From the land and spirit of the Haida.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH TAAN FOREST

- GENERAL MANAGER
- HARVESTING OPERATIONS MANAGER

Detailed job descriptions and key job requirements are posted under Careers and Job Opportunities on www.haico.ca and www.taanforest.com

Deadline for Applications June 14, 2013
Submit Cover Letter and Resume to info@taanforest.com

Did you know?

The Coastal First Nations (CFN) is an alliance of First Nations on British Columbia's north and central coast and Haida Gwaii. CFN includes: Wuikinuxv Nation, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xaixais, Nuxalk Nation, Gitga'at, Metlakatla, Old Massett, Skidegate, and Council of the Haida Nation.

New HaiCo board members

Gaahlaay, Lonnie Young and Dana Bellis have been appointed to the board of HaiCo. The two were chosen from a field of seven candidates and will assume their responsibilities immediately. •

Haida House the best

Congratulations Haida House at Tllaal! The restaurant, convention centre, and hotel proudly announced they received the 2013 Aboriginal Tourism BC award for Outstanding Accommodation. •

HaiCo meets shareholders

Citizens publicly questioned six of HaiCo's board members to clarify attendees' expectations for jobs, capital, and growth. Beyond mere questioning, attendees also suggested many thoughtful solutions to HaiCo's current and upcoming challenges. Participants scrutinized the performance of five projects, including Taan, Westcoast Resorts, the Inn at Sandspit, Haida House, and Haida Wild Seafoods (previously Seapak). Meetings were held in HlGaagilda and Gaauu May 15 & 16, respectively. •

For your consideration

Facebook is fun, and it has a significant carbon footprint. Last year, the social networking company released information stating their annual carbon footprint is 285,000 metric tons of CO₂; a majority of these emissions come from large data centers in the US. •

Artists, help!

Haida Laas uses spot illustrations throughout this newsletter and in other publications. Tyson Brown has supplied us with some wonderful work, but we are in need of more. This is an invitation to artists to have your work seen by over 1800 readers and on the world wide web. Please contact Simon Davies to arrange a meeting – 250.559.4468 or editor@haidanation.net. •



Team Communications: (counterclockwise from left) Simon Davies, team support; Aaron Yeltatzie, Jacob Brooks, Chantel White, Latisha Setso, Chase Samuels, Valine Crist, team support; Darrian Pollard, Hazel Smith, Paige Atwell, Kendra Williams, Jordyn Stewart.

Twenty years in the making

An event unlike any other to occur in decades (two decades, actually) the 2013 Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly was chock-full of positivity, life lessons, and enormous inspiration! There were some 70 youth from Prince Rupert, Vancouver Island and all Islands communities. The youth elected a president, vice-president, and regional reps on the first morning and then all 70 apprenticed under CHN reps, leaders and various CHN departments/teams,

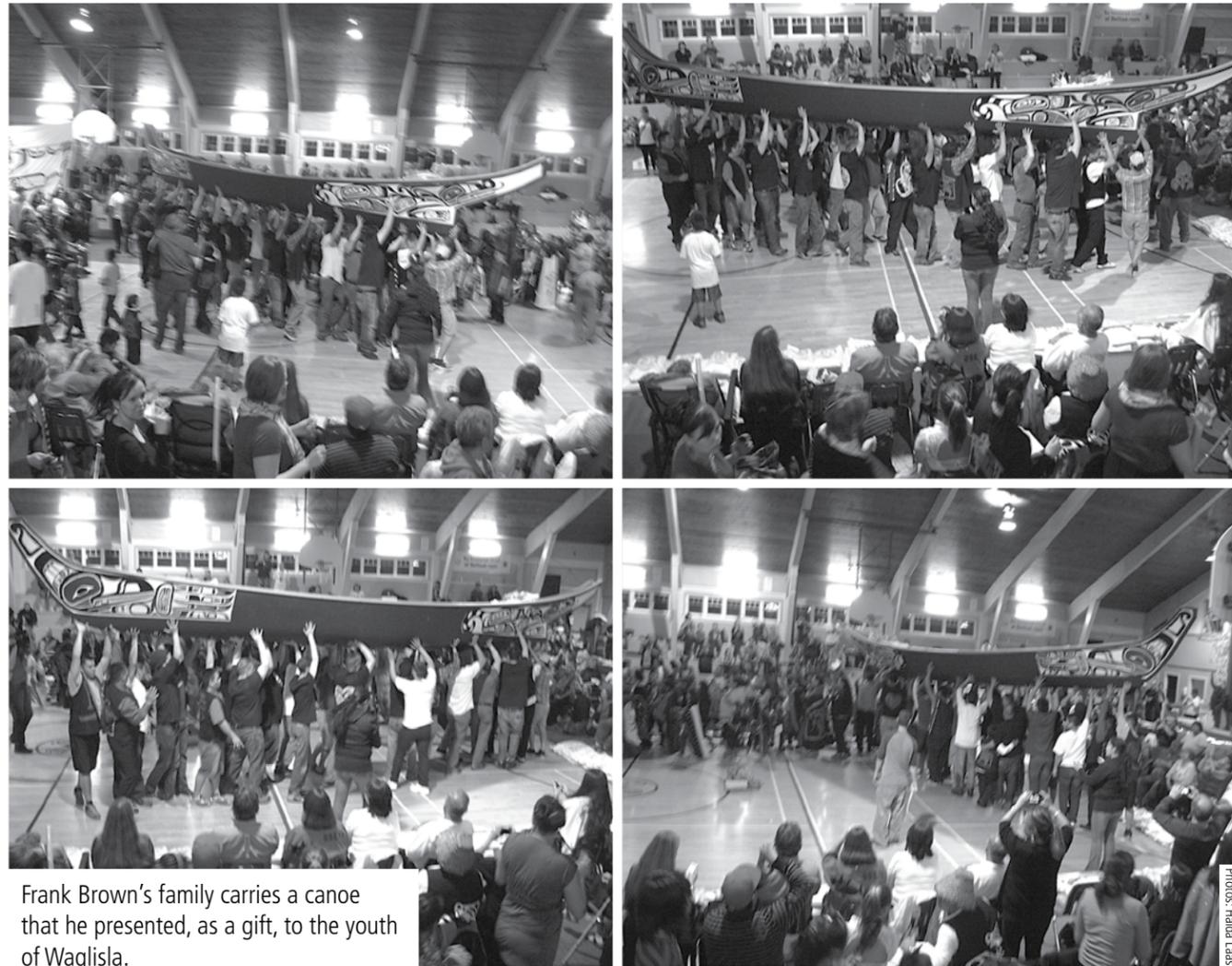
for the three days of activities and challenges. With the help of many, many dedicated organizers and community volunteers, the 2013 Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly was an enriching and enlightening experience for everyone, especially the superstar youth!

There is more to come in the next edition of *Haida Laas*, but until then, we applaud the winning team – Team Communications!

Tactful Haidas

The Walrus, a popular Canadian magazine, featured Haida repatriation efforts in its April issue. The article highlights the Old Massett Repatriation Committee, emphasizing the contributions of Lucy Bell and Vince Collison. The collective efforts of the Old Massett and Skidegate Repatriation Committees brought home 460 ancestors previously held in academic institutions and private collections. Between 1850 and 1950, government legislation and anthropological grave-

raids spread thousands of precious First Nations' cultural objects and remains throughout the world. *The Walrus* article acknowledges that negotiating with museums and collectors for these treasures can be gruff and awkward, but the committee's persistent rapport-based diplomacy resulted in consistent success. In fact, tactful and courteous dialogue resulted in an even deeper connection and expanded influence within those institutions. •



Frank Brown's family carries a canoe that he presented, as a gift, to the youth of Waglisla.

Photos: Haida Laas

A story from Waglisla

Haidas witnessed Frank Brown take the ancient name Dhadhiyasila (greatest potlatcher) at a potlatch in Waglisla (Bella Bella) May 20 & 21. Heiltsuk hosts danced and sang during elaborate ceremonies for two days.

Haida guests responded with dances, songs, and stories. Friendship through the Haida Gwaii Semester Program with Heiltsuk student Jessica Brown has deepened ties with Heiltsuk community members and in broader networks.

Witnesses from all over North America honoured Dhadhiyasila for his generous gifts of k'aaw, sGyuu, flour, rice, blankets, clothes, utensils - and above all - a massive fibreglass canoe. •

www.haidanation.ca
 programs : haida laas : directory : links : diplomacy : agreements

Vice-president Trevor Russ: Setting priorities

by Valine Crist

After some six months in his new role as Vice-president, Haida Laas had a conversation with Trevor Russ about his transition from Council of the Haida Nation regional representative for Old Massett to Vice-president; where he will be focusing his time this term; and how the future is going to play out.

“Politics are around you wherever you go within the Haida Nation, and you can see leadership at all levels wherever you look – we have leaders in our Band Councils, at CHN, within our youth and through sports in our communities,” says Trevor Russ, 35. A leader in many respects, the new Vice-president of the Haida Nation and two-term regional representative for Old Massett, examines his relationship with politics and sports.

“Coaching the Old Massett Masters basketball team has really helped my communication and leadership skills; I can get my message across to different personality types. It’s a very similar dynamic working as part of the CHN team because you have a group of 14 elected people working towards common goals, like title and sovereignty, and all 14 of them could have differing opinions and approaches on how the CHN should move forward,” said Mr Russ. “That’s how it’s similar to a basketball team where you have 12 people coming together, with the common goal of winning, who all have different skills and abilities that contribute to the success of the team. In both groups, you have to get everyone on the same page by supporting the approach that the leadership (or coach) has chosen. The two are very similar.”

Talking about his decision to take on a leadership role within the CHN, Mr Russ explains that his great-grandparents,



Photo: Haida Laas

Vice-president of the Haida Nation Trevor Russ readies for three days of activities at the Haida Gwaii Youth Assembly.

“Under this new leadership, processes within the Executive Committee may be changing, too.”

William and Flora Russ, Sr, raised him and helped shape his values. He attributes a lot of his confidence coming into the vice-president’s position to the positive influence they were in his life.

“As a Haida citizen, I’ve always had my eye on the nation’s politics; I’ve always had an interest in what was going on. I think that started at a fairly young age because of the influence of my naannii and tsinnii and, more recently, working with the CHN Executive.

Learning from Guujaaw and other leaders over the last few years has also helped me

prepare to step into this role.”

Mr Russ was commercial fishing when he was only 13 years old and has worked most Island fisheries since then. When he was a teenager, his mother, Corrina Russ, encouraged him to gain experience away from Haida Gwaii and sent him to high school in Burnaby for two years. Then, in his twenties, Mr Russ lived in Prince George while attending the University of Northern British Columbia to begin courses in the Outdoor Recreation and

Vice-president continued next page

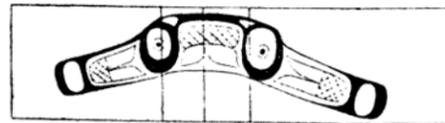
Vice-president from page 5

Tourism Management Program. For personal reasons, Trevor had to withdraw early and moved to Alaska to be closer to his eldest daughter, Teanna. In 2004, he returned home and started discussing politics with friends. It was in 2008 that he decided to put his name forward as a CHN Old Massett rep candidate in a by-election held to fill an empty seat for the region, and he has stayed involved in the nation's politics since then.

One of his main priorities as VP is to increase Haida access to local commercial fisheries, and work to see fairer access for local fishermen to those fisheries in Haida territory. This will help to foster a healthy economy.

"It took a bit to transition into leadership because my passion is to be out on the water, but after the first couple of years as a rep I started to realize my priority was to work for the nation." Because of his experiences as a fisherman, Mr Russ has become a strong advocate for local stewardship, especially through the CHN's marine use planning.

When he was first voted in as a rep, Mr Russ was designated as an alternate on the CHN Executive Committee. He explained that one of the reps on the committee at that time was very busy, so Mr Russ, by default, ended up spending most of his time working at the executive level. "Entering into my second term, there was a changeover with two reps, and I already had experience at the executive table, so I was then appointed [to the committee] as the official rep for Old Massett."



Addressing the difference between the role of a rep and VP, Mr Russ explained, "What it boils down to is that a rep sits on several and varied committees, whereas the VP has to be familiar with each of the committees and their responsibilities – the VP really oversees the operations of the whole of the CHN."

According to the *Constitution of the Haida Nation*, a regional rep is the gateway between the CHN and our Haida communities. There currently are no clear guidelines for defining the role of reps, but that is something the current leadership is addressing. Mr Russ said that the Policy Committee is going to develop a clear definition of the roles of every elected representative, including president and vice-president, over the next few years.

Under this new leadership, processes within the Executive Committee may be changing, too. Whereas previously the four members – President, VP, and an elected representative from Old Massett and from Skidegate – would have made the higher-level decisions between CHN Seasonal Sessions, the committee now makes recommendations to the full CHN. This will help make the decision-making process more inclusive, he says, and will allow reps to have more of a voice – but this change in practice also requires greater communication.

"Previously, Council only sat together at the work sessions before Seasonal Sessions, so only four times a year. I think this led to some communication breakdown and Peter [President Lantin] and I wanted to rectify that as early as possible with this new Council. We've incorporated full-council, monthly, video-conference calls into our agenda to help increase internal communications."

Helping to develop effective communication within the nation is another focus for Mr Russ. "There's a need for more communication at all levels – between Haida citizens, the Band Councils, and internally within

the CHN; that's been a big focus for both Peter and myself." Within the next couple of years, Mr Russ plans to help implement a communications strategy for the nation that will strengthen lines of communication.

Another priority during this term will be to focus on the revitalization and preservation of *Xaayda kil* (southern) / *Xaad kil* (northern). "It's something that I grew up with, and something I lack [in terms of] making a commitment to myself. I know I should take responsibility in learning our language," he said.

Mr Russ and President Lantin have familiarized themselves with the Language and Culture Committee's mandate and reviewed the nation's commitment to language. "Our language groups have identified that an approach to saving our language is the master-apprentice approach," he said. "CHN doesn't have access to revenue for language programming, but we can assist in locating funds for programs."

Mr Russ' local perspective and past experiences have helped him step into the position of Vice-president but he is the first to admit that there are real challenges ahead. "On the national level, I know that reconciliation with Canada will be a big and ongoing challenge." On a personal note, Mr Russ mentioned that with a young family at home, finding a work-life balance can be difficult.

When asked what motivates him to do this work amidst such challenges, he remarks that it is, "for the love of my home, really. That's why I got involved. I love Haida Gwaii – I've moved away many times for school and other reasons and there's something that always draws me back. I want to see a comfortable and healthy future for all of Haida Gwaii and ensure that we're taking care of her the way we should. What better way is there than being at the table, helping make decisions?"

Too cool for school

By Alix Goetzinger

Displaying our crests through artwork is a traditional method to identify who we are as Haida people. Most commonly we see these incredible images on button blankets, vests, and jewelry. Items such as spoons, boxes, and baskets have been less-commonly decorated with crest figures. In terms of uncommon items today, however, one Haida artist is

on and I just focus on my art." Billy says the stories he likes to portray are either new ones he's learned, or stories that aren't known as well by others. "I guess I just try to be different – I've always been one that likes to stand out in a crowd," he said. The appeal of being different has led him to customizing his own shoes. He usually starts out in pencil, and applies

wear daily and showcase to everyone wherever you go, and Billy has taken this idea to a new medium by applying his own designs to shoes. Hopefully we will see more Haida crests jumping, dancing, and striding into the future. •



Photos: from Billy Yovanovich's facebook page

applying his designs to modern footwear.

Artist Billy Yovanovich, 22, has developed his own graphic style and medium: applying his designs to shoes. Billy first became interested in Haida art in 2000, when he witnessed the six monumental poles go up in Skidegate and received his first vest. His artistic wheels began turning when he turned 16 during the summer of 2007, and his uncle, Jason Goetzinger, taught him about formline. After graduating high school in Queen Charlotte, Billy moved to Victoria to pursue his future in art, and is now going into his sixth year.

So what is it he likes most about Haida art? "I like the sense of freedom it gives me – when I begin to draw, my mind becomes clear of everything that's going

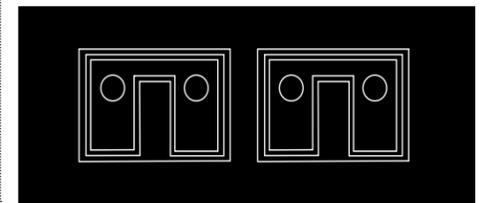
the design with either paint or charcoal. Billy noted that he's thinking about doing more with shoe art, as well as clothing.

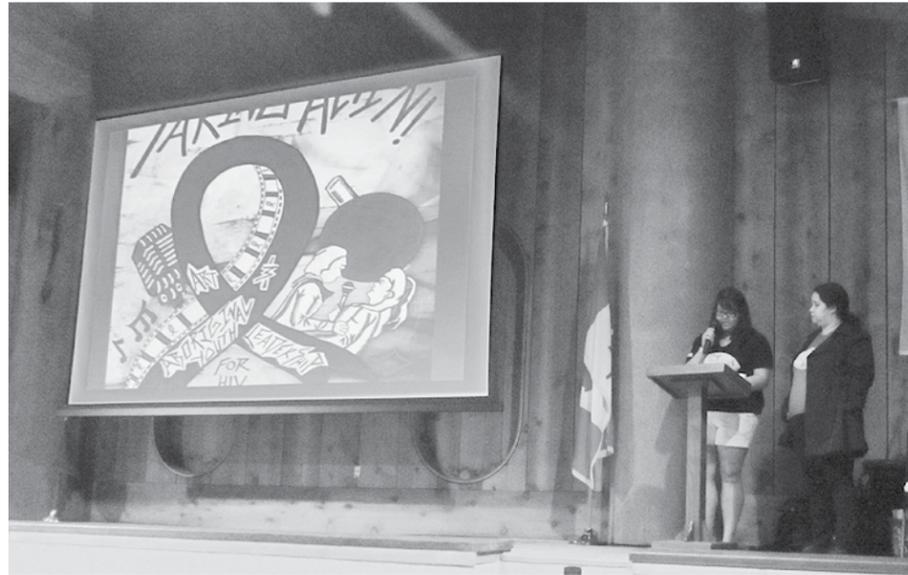
As far as other projects go, Billy's biggest commission so far is a 24' x 14' painted mural, which was completed last year in the community of Langford. Presently, he is working out a deal with another school in Victoria to do a big plaque this coming fall. He is also working on a tattoo and blanket design, which he says are just smaller commissions for now. He hopes to do many more tattoo designs this coming summer, and adds that his focus is to "just continue to work on my art and try to improve myself."

There is something about having your clan crest on a personal item that you can

Two shoes, two designs – Artist Billy Yovanovich has applied original designs to running shoes giving them a unique but identifiable look. The designs were applied using acrylic paint.

Author Alix Goetzinger spent three days this May in the CHN communications office. During that time she got an idea of how the department operates within the CHN. Ms Goetzinger also produced this article during her internship.





Shyla Cross tells her story at Kay Llnaagay, supported by mentor Jessica Danforth.

Shyla Cross is taking action

By Graham Richard

Sgaas Sgwansing, Shyla Cross, presented her work with an HIV prevention initiative for aboriginal youth on Monday, April 15, at the Kay Llnaagay Heritage Centre. The program, Taking Action, is designed to educate aboriginal communities about the dangers of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. It also focuses on training youth to be the educators and begins their training by working through abuse issues that they may have.

Ms Cross' mentors – Jessica Danforth, a Mohawk from Upstate New York, DJ Danforth, an Oneida from Wisconsin, and Ciann Wilson, a Jamaican from York University – helped support and organize the evening. Their presentations centered on encouraging youth leadership and growing stronger inter-community connections. The Taking Action team flew in from Labrador, and our community was the first of six it is visiting.

According to a report by the Public Health Agency of Canada, aboriginal HIV rates are disproportionately high

compared to Canadian rates. Public health nurse Catherine Birtwistle says that the on-Island spread of HIV is relatively low, but in order to keep the spread low, it is very important to remain open to discussing the dangers of HIV. Most HIV spread among members of the Islands community is attributable to intravenous drug-use, she said.

Heather Barnes, Community Health Nurse at Skidegate Health Centre for 27 years, is tasked to 'prevent disease and promote wellness'. To do so she coordinates with the Stop HIV AIDS initiative of the Northern Health Authority. She reminds the community that 25% of HIV carriers don't know that they are HIV positive. Getting checked is very important and with treatments today, knowing and dealing with it is a much simpler process than it has been in the past. HIV infection can be treated and reduced to almost undetectable levels but it is extremely important to receive tests immediately if you suspect you may have been exposed to HIV.

Mentor Jessica Danforth pointed out that there are many ways to get HIV,

and many more ways to prevent it but some of the simplest prevention methods are the least widely exercised. In her experience, caring for the land and community is the most effective prevention strategy. This approach raises mental and spiritual wellbeing and teaches people to value themselves and one another. When people care for themselves, HIV rates are lowered, she said.

The gathering included dance and music performed by Jaylene Shelford, as well as video presentations and testimonials. The Cross family provided door prizes, organized the presentation, and fed all of the attendees.

Part of the evening's presentations included videos that the Taking Action participants created. Ms Cross' video-project can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjNBC19Okj0>

Cancer research on Haida Gwaii

By Ted Andrew, hqprincegeorge.com

A researcher with the BC Cancer Agency Centre will be able to research cancer diagnosis and care in isolated Aboriginal communities after receiving a \$100,000 grant. Dr. Robert Olson has received funding from the Vancouver Foundation and Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation to conduct the research. Olson says he will be conducting his research in Haida Gwaii to see what barriers there are for residents to get cancer treatment.

Olson says one of the barriers residents have noticed is a lack of coordination between local physicians and cancer specialists. He hopes the results of his research will give people living in Haida Gwaii and other remote communities the chance to advocate for better health services.

This story is courtesy of hqprincegeorge.com; for the full story go to the web address.

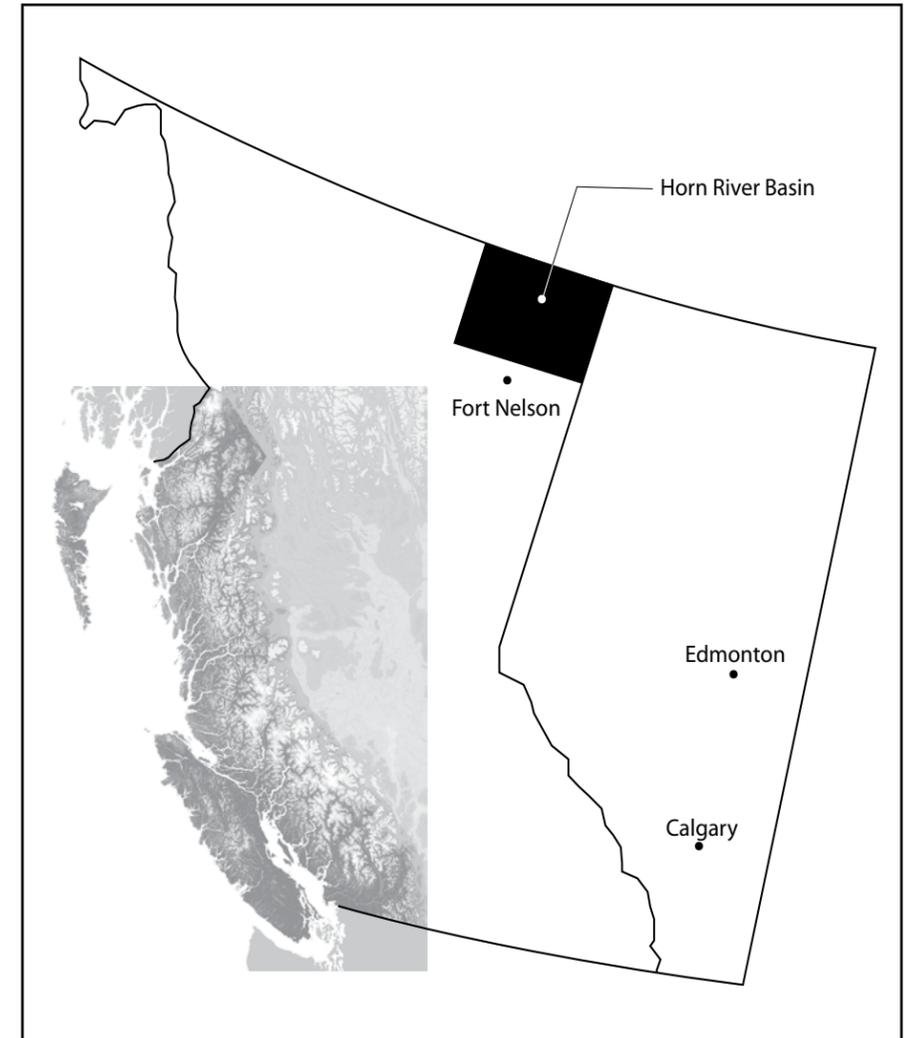
All gassed up Part 1

By Valine Crist

The sheer number of proposed liquid natural gas projects is mind-boggling, and trying to keep up with the implications and technologies of the industry can be overwhelming. Extracting and, in turn, liquefying gas are changing the face of the province; with new roads, right-of-ways and pipelines, the controversial process of fracking injects highly pressurized water and chemicals into rock, fracturing it to release the trapped gas so it can be captured, piped to the coast, and shipped to Asia.

In this issue, *Haida Laas* provides an introduction to liquid natural gas (LNG) and examines different aspects of the industry to provide an understanding of the scope, scale, and impacts of the proposed boom to British Columbians, and how the export could impact us here on Haida Gwaii.

All gassed up continued next page



Above: Most of the shale gas in BC is found in reserves in the northeast region, near the Montney Basin (close to Dawson Creek) and the Horn River Basin (in the Fort Nelson area).

All gassed up - Part 1

Gassed up from page 9

Where to start? Maybe with a quick and dirty definition of ‘fracking’ or ‘hydraulic fracturing’. The process of extracting gas from shale rock, with a mixture of pressurized water and chemicals, is referred to as fracking. The gas industry started experimenting with this technique about 65 years ago, and with improvements in technique, for the past 50 years fracking has been making previously unavailable gas reserves accessible in Canada and other parts of the world. This process is now one of the most common ways to extract natural gas from the earth.

Northeastern BC is facing a tremendous increase in fracking. Companies are hoping to get a piece of the pie supplying energy for Asia’s growing needs – mainly those of Korea, Japan, and China. As part of the exporting process, natural gas would be piped from northeastern BC through numerous pipelines to the coast where it would be cooled to -162°C through a process called liquefaction. The gas, once cooled, is a liquid, which is then shipped to markets in specially designed natural-gas carriers. Liquefying gas requires an immense amount of energy, and that leads to some pressing questions about the proposed rate of natural-gas development in the province, the energy needed to process the gas, and the environmental impact of more pipelines.

Another important question about gas exports is the price they receive in the resource market. The global resource market fluctuates, and today’s prices for gas in Asia are three to four times higher than in Canada. But that price can change much faster than

an LNG terminal can be built *and* there is strong competition in the industry, coming from Africa and Australia – there is no guarantee that prices will remain what they are. Competition is great: there are currently six LNG plants being built in Australia, and BC is feeling the pressure to get into this lucrative market



Gas: facts & figures

Under the Liberal government, Christy Clark changed the definition of ‘clean energy’ so that it would include fossil fuels and changed policy so that when natural gas is used to power an LNG power facility, it will be considered ‘clean’.



Several oil and gas companies have already applied to the province for water licenses totalling 11.1 billion litres of water annually. According to the nearby Fort Nelson First Nation, this rate of water use and contamination is unsustainable and unacceptable.

while it’s booming. This race is resulting in what some have called ‘the 21st century’s gold rush’.

There are nine potential or officially proposed LNG facilities split between Kitimat and Prince Rupert. Each of these projects is at various stages of approval, with approvals pending a variety of reviews, such as environmental assessments, water

licenses, and exports licenses. Another important component in project development is identifying power sources for the massive liquefaction plants – some projects have identified their power sources, while others have not.

At this time, the project closest to

All gassed up - Part 1

exports dramatically, leading to hundreds, if not more than a thousand, new fracking wells in northeastern BC.

Locals, politicians, and some First Nations have compared the risks of transporting gas through pipelines and in tankers to the hazards of

Lelu Island near Port Edward. There are seven more proposed for Kitimat. These proposals, if approved, could see hundreds, maybe thousands of LNG carriers plying the north coast waters. While nations like the Gitga’at and Gitxaala have stated their concerns about such a dramatic increase in LNG



Gas: Facts & Figures

LNG carriers are massive ships designed with tanks specifically made for transporting liquid natural gas. With a carrying capacity of 120,000 – 140,000m³ – and up to 260,000m³ – the proposed shipping routes would follow a shipping route similar to the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway, bringing these vessels into and out of the Douglas Channel, through Hecate Strait, and to open waters via the Dixon Entrance or south of Cape St. James.

transporting crude oil, as proposed by the Enbridge Northern Gateway. Often stating that a gas spill in a coastal environment would be less harmful than a bitumen spill, people seem generally more receptive to transporting fracked gas, suggesting that the benefits could outweigh the risks. But the whole process, from fracking to shipping, is not that simple or straightforward, and there are many factors to take into consideration.

In Prince Rupert there are two projects proposed for the export of LNG from Prince Rupert – one from Ridley Island and the other from

carrier traffic, the Haisla have welcomed some natural gas export through the Douglas Channel, so opinions vary.

Degeneration of air quality, noise-pollution impacts on marine life, LNG carrier traffic interrupting local vessels, billions of litres of used or contaminated water discharged from the fracking process, the clearing of land and building new roads and pipeline right-of-way, the possibility of hundreds to thousands of new gas wells, and our continued reliance on fossil fuels – these are just some of the concerns cited with regard to expanding natural gas development throughout the province. Critics of LNG have said that

government and industry are not considering the cumulative impacts of gas development, and argue that we need to consider what the combined effects would be – from fracking gas wells to loading freighters with LNG.

With these concerns and many more at the local and global level, politicians, industry, and analysts admit that BC’s north coast will likely not see this myriad of proposals come to fruition. However, BC’s current Premier, Christy Clark, has an ambitious plan for natural gas development in the province and sees one LNG terminal on the coast within the next two years, and envisions three by 2020.

In her 2013 throne speech, Ms Clark said BC could export up to four trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the next 30 years (which is about four-fold the province’s current gas production) and that this could lead to a trillion dollars in revenue in the coming decades.

All in all, the LNG climate in BC is temperate today and many local residents and political leaders acknowledge that the natural gas industry offers some economic potential for the province. At the same time, many people, non-governmental organizations and First Nations assert that BC cannot exchange the health of the natural environment for 20-30 years of economic revenue. Many of these same people believe that British Columbia can and should pursue gas development but should do so cautiously. This means really considering the long-term regional and global impacts of fracking, the development of the gas industry and the consequences of our continued reliance on fossil fuels. •

The sound of language

By Graham Richard

Haida-speakers met for two days this April at the Georgian Courtroom in Vancouver for the fourth Haida language gathering. Skidegate Haida Immersion Program members coordinated with Kaawan Sangaa, Woody Morrison, to initiate the gathering and Skidegate resident Isobel Brillon believes this was the very best one so far.

Approximately 70 people attended: 8 to 10 from Massett; 24 from Skidegate; 30 from Vancouver; and 2 from Alaska. Skidegate elder Patricia Gellerman remembers at past conferences attendance was high on day one, but wavered on day two. This year, however, day two filled up to standing room only.

The CHN's Chair of the Culture and Language Committee, Gagwiis, Jason Alsop, struggles with the urgency of the Haida community's responsibility to preserve the Haida language. To lift this great weight the conference acts as a support network. It shows the progress made toward language revitalization and shares the teaching and learning methods of each community. Discussion alleviates isolated and anxious feelings and establishes teaching and coordination strategies. The Master of Ceremonies, Guudee Gud Dlaaya, Vince Collison, asserts that assessing the challenges of the three dialects, like a common orthography and inter-group communication, helps Haida communities to work together. Participants begin collaborating and demonstrating various teaching methods, so no one's way of learning is excluded. Ms Gellerman remembers that finding enough language program funding was the most important issue concerning the gathering's collaboration. This year,

Editor's note: The CHN announced Friday, May 29, 2013 that \$300,000 had been earmarked to support Haida-language initiatives.



Guuyang, Claude Jones and Kaawan Sangaa, Woody Morrison at the language gathering.

improved funding also made participants a little more hopeful. Recent five-year grants secured from the federal government for certain groups are a relieving step toward full language-program funding. Passionate learners and teachers also challenge their own governments, Gwaii Trust, and village councils, to prioritize the language. They aim to utilize resolutions passed in the House of Assembly to gain funding here at home. Guudee Gud Dlaaya expressed that fund-raisers like Lucille Bell are amazing at finding as many avenues as

possible, and that participants are very grateful for their very hard work. Still, as SHIP elders assert, teaching and learning would progress much more effectively without the constant pressure of fundraising distractions. Full funding would greatly relieve everyone. To Guudee Gud Dlaaya it shows great inequity when governments pour so much into French while indigenous languages receive little support. Indigenous languages are as much a part of the country as any and were the center beams of highly-structured societies,

before contact. Guudee Gud Dlaaya believes the first wrong perpetrated by Canadian authorities against native people was the destruction of their languages. It is ironic that the restitution process addresses language issues lastly. Prioritizing language is crucial to redeeming those years, and, as linguist Jordan Lachler points out, governments took 70-100 years to injure the language — it may now take 70-100 to heal it. Patience is so important to recovery, especially as the nation faces such strong urgency. As Guudee Gud Dlaaya reaffirms, "Because so many elders have been lost, we're finding it very challenging to pass on the language. The language is not lost but the challenges are that much greater. We don't like to live in the past so much — that's the first thing taken from us. Those times don't define

us, but they do help shape us to who we are today. The solutions are between us." The three dialects challenge the nation to create a common orthography. People attending the conference say writing so many different ways is confusing. Linguists like Marianne Ignace and Jordan Lachler are working hard to standardize orthographies. Guudee Gud Dlaaya notes that this is 'one of the most important tools in the arsenal'. These two linguists are very generous with their time, he says, and elders are grateful to have their committed and passionate help. Because linguists make such a strong academic contribution, Kaawan Sangaa underscores the importance of local knowledge components. He worries that students depend on linguists so much, when the more intimate knowledge of first-language speakers gives Haida kil

context. It is not only crucial to memorize and pronounce well, but to understand what each word truly means. For this, Guudee Gud Dlaaya affirms learners' awe of elders like Grace Wilson, Henry Geddes, and Ethel Jones, for generously and patiently answering question upon question to teach the stories of each word. Kaawan Sangaa worries that so many young people want to learn, yet comparatively few came to the gathering. Vancouver faces large interest from students but low levels of fluent speakers. Still, Jay Bellis points out that many new students appeared at the gathering, especially from Vancouver, and Gagwiis feels that young learners are 'generally quite optimistic'. As Mr Bellis encouraged in a speech, it might not be this generation that brings the language back completely — it might be the next. No matter what, he is confident good things will happen.

Members of the gathering resolved to hold CHN and Gwaii Trust accountable

Language continued next page

Front row (L-R) Ildagwaay, Bea Harley; Gaayinguuhlas, Roy Jones Sr.; Yang K'aalas, Grace Jones; Guuyang, Claude Jones; Niis Waan, Harvey Williams; Harold Williams; Gwaanjuu Jaad, Doreen Mearns; Ils gidee, Primrose Adams; Leona Clow; Pat Gellerman.
Back Row: Two unidentified gentlemen [apologies]; Wilbur Abrahams; Gidin Jaad, Erica Ryan-Gagne with Xaay.ya; Lois Rullin; Kii'iljuus, Barb Wilson; Iijuux iilaay, Isobel Brillon; Taalgayaa'adad, Betty Richardson; Sgaana Jaads K'yaga Xiiangs, Golie Hans; Jiixa, Gladys Vandal; Dolly Garza; Clara Hugo; Kaawan Sangaa, Woody Morrison.



Language from page 13

to fulfill resolutions that prioritize the language. Since 2005 seven mandates concerning the language have been adopted by six Houses of Assembly. They include provisions to incorporate Haida into the Haida Constitution (2005+2010); to make promises of unrestrained support between Haida language authorities and leadership (2006); to commit all CHN employees, council leaders, and hereditary chiefs to study the language (2008); and to concentrate all the might of political and hereditary leaders to engage Gwaii Trust's financial resources and alleviate funding issues (2008+2011). One way to fulfill these resolutions, elders urge, is for leadership to provide core funding for existing programs. This will recognize the vital importance of 'that which makes us Haida'. According to Molly Yorke and Lily Bell's 2006 resolution, Haida knowledge and history preserved within the language give great weight to Haida title. More importantly that knowledge empowers community members to take authority over their own lives.

Kaawan Sangaa describes how ocean-going vessels reach a top cruising speed. At that point it becomes pointless to waste further energy to accelerate. When a canoe finally gets 'on its step' and cruising speed is reached, the steersman calls out "ts'aak'aay siidan!", meaning 'the eagle flies'. Paddlers diminish their pace and start cruising. In the same way, an eagle reaches a cruising altitude at which she can relax on the sky. In the same way, the nation is pushing its language to reach that momentum, where it will carry itself across time. But, as Kaawan Sangaa warns, "If we're not paddling in the same direction, we're going in circles." The language gathering ensures we are all paddling in the same direction to reach that momentum to ensure the longevity of the Haida language. •



Photo: Haida Laas

Dejah Busch and baby Oscar bring smiles and 'concern' to the 2013 Baby Welcoming Feast held at the Old Massett Community Hall, May 11th.

Super cute!

By Valine Crist

The 2013 Baby Welcoming Feast took place at the Old Massett Community Hall on Saturday, May 11th. Scheduled on Mother's Day weekend, the event is organized to celebrate the fantastic job that families are doing with their babies and to honour the little ones in our community. One of this year's coordinators at the Old Massett Haida Health Centre, Community Health Nurse Shauna Smith, explains, "All of Old Massett's babies are born outside of the community; some are born in Queen Charlotte, but most are born off-Island. This feast welcomes all babies to Old Massett, regardless of where they are born."

Leslie Brown and Shannon Greenwood shared a vision for this celebration and initiated the first Baby Welcoming Feast in 2007; this year marked the fourth bi-annual event (they are hosted every two



Photo: Haida Laas

Memphis Jones, ready to mentor the babies.

years). Since then, approximately 140 babies have been welcomed, and this year 46 babies were honoured – born in places from Hawaii to Haida Gwaii.

The Baby Welcoming Feast is organized by the Old Massett Haida Health Center, which also covers most of the costs. This year's main organizers were: Laura Therrien (who was also the



Photo: Haida Laas

MC for the evening), Ms Smith, Mallary Russ, and Shannon Greenwood. "The moms also had a lot of input leading up to the event – this is really their feast," said Ms Smith.

Such a successful event requires great collaboration and hours and hours of volunteer time. Among the many contributors, Terri Russ donated cedar hats and headbands and Kevin Lecroix his photography skills. Haida Child and Family Services funded a Haida language book that each baby received as a gift. The book highlighted 2013's young 'ladies' and 'gentlemen' and included several phrases of Xaad kil, which were compiled by Lucille Bell. The proud families decorated their tables and filled them with food, and community members donated their time and ingredients for two massive pots of stew.

Ms Smith's endless efforts and energy were recognized at the feast where she was presented a woven-cedar hat, but



Photo: Haida Laas

Top: Babies and parents produced their first flash mob in the bleachers at the Baby Feast.

Above: Courtney Edgars with Jeremy.

she readily offers credit to the many other individuals who helped: "So many people helped make this happen, and the parents did such an incredible job. From decorating the hall to making regalia, everyone contributed so much," she said. "It was a long haul, and all the families stayed until the end. I'm always so impressed with the community's generosity and willingness to pull together."

Extending a special haaw'a to the clean-up crew, Ms Smith notes that she looks forward to helping orchestrate the next feast in 2015. "The Baby Welcoming Feast is always so much fun; the babies always leave so tired, but the families really enjoy themselves and the community is always happy to see the babies and toddlers celebrated."

Super cute continued next page

Super cute! from page 15

Not all babies and parents were able to attend the ceremony. Following is a list of babies that were acknowledged at the event.

- Wilson, Isaac Harold Stanley
- Russ, Selena Flora Rae
- Collinson, Justine Shirley Darlene
- Lincoln-Bear, Alaura Trinity
- Bellis, Chloe Vanessa Rose
- Jones, Memphis Belle
- Edgars, Payson Betty
- Russ, Harvey Trevor Michael
- Dix, Vanita Vivica Shyla Lisa Marie
- Brown, Nathan Dominic Ryan
- Collison, Baylee London
- Stelmaschuk, Asher Darrell
- Stelmaschuk, Cohen Anthony
- Swanson, Justin Young Gun
- Arens, Bella Rose
- Vanderhoop-White, Novella Beatrix
- Parnell, Marcus Aiden
- Edgars, Cheyenne Milana
- Barton, Danny Harold Joey
- Jones, Hailey Elaine
- Taggart, Kaiya Charm

- Bell, Grayson Lorne
- Jones, Roman Peter Ryan
- Lincoln, Aubree Quinn
- Jones, Julian Corban
- Gladstone, Hailee Lynn
- Wynter, Morgan Lee
- Reynolds, Oscar James Arthur
- Smith, Tlaatsg'aa Charles
- Edenshaw, Wijjaa Adze Kenneth Emery
- Parnell, Brayden Lance Gabriel
- Holeman, Osias Vayshon
- Wisla, Fletcher
- Fisher, Kai Liam
- Brown, Maddox Ryder
- Widen-Shaw Paul, Bella-Avehya Jewel Star
- Young, Lucas Ryan Hubert
- Edgars, Destiny Rose
- Watts, Dorothy Maliah Agnes
- Wilson, Jefferson Drake Walter
- Brown, Coraleigh Cali Diamond
- Edgars, Jeremy Archie
- Lewis, Heaven-Lee Johnabelle
- Russ, Freja Giselle
- Collinson, Rita
- White-Davis, Aubrey Michelle



The Bell-Wilson-Watts Family with toddler Trinity and baby Dorothy

Thinking ahead

Residents gathered at the Skidegate Community Hall on March 21st to review a new Skidegate Comprehensive Community Plan (SCCP). Coordinators Gid Uuwans, Dana Moraes and Janine Williams consulted 244 contributors who identified priorities for the plan, which will guide all aspects of village development. The plan includes discussion on governance, land, economy, language and culture, education, healing, and food security and each section notes principles, issues, and actions based on community feedback. Gid Uuwans believes the high number of residents who reviewed the plan bodes well for community ownership of the plan.

The coordinators are still updating the plan, adding census data and information on small businesses operating in the village. The SCCP will also identify funding sources useful to local businesses, non-profit organizations and residents. The community will review and update the plan annually.

Contributors to the plan include Janine Williams as Assistant Coordinator, Ryan Barnes as Youth Intern, and Jessie Hemphill of the Gwa'sala-'nakwaxda'xw nation in Campbell River, who works with Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada through UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning.



'Like' the Council of the Haida Nation on facebook and receive notification of upcoming jobs, community events and up-to-date nation information.

Scrape, plant, kick, scrape, plant, kick...

Submitted by David M. Brown, RPF

Taan Forest began its planting season in early April and will be digging in 365,000 seedlings, which includes 105,000 western red cedar with their accompanying cedar stakes and browse-protectors. The remainder are mostly spruce, with a small amount of pine and hemlock.

This year Taan has a solid group of seven young Haida working hard, planting cedar trees, pounding in stakes, and carefully placing and securing the browse-protectors.

To get a fresh perspective on aspects of planting in general and planting cedar specifically, Captain Stewart-Burton, a new planter, was asked for his impressions of his first few days of work:

Taan: How was your first day planting?
Captain Stewart-Burton: The first day was good. The planting supervisor and foreman were both clear about how to plant a tree and what was expected in terms of quality and spacing. After we practiced planting a few trees, we were each given a small area to plant ourselves. To learn about spacing, we did a plot in our own section to keep track of how we were doing and to see if we were getting the right spacing. By the second day we were given larger sections to plant.

Taan: What do you like the most about planting, so far?

S-B: I like that it's physical, I get to be outside, and [I like] that you make your own breaks.

Taan: Have experienced planters been helping you?

S-B: I've been watching the other planters and seeing how they do things because not everyone plants the same. I've been asking a lot of questions and the other planters have helped me by explaining why and how they do things in certain ways, and have suggested a few different techniques. I've been trying different



Tree-planter Captain Stewart-Burton stands beside one of his many carefully planted cedars.

ways to plant cedar as some people plant and stake the cedar and then go back and put the protectors on. So far, what's been working the best for me is to plant, stake and [attach the browse-protector] at the same time. The other day I used a dry bag to carry the stakes and protectors instead of having them in the back of my planting bag. Another planter suggested carrying stakes and protectors this way every few days to give your back a rest – I really felt a difference.

Taan: Are you are making progress in terms of your technique and what you are earning?

S-B: Yes, it helps to try different techniques to see which one works best and so far I've been making a bit more each day. (Planters are paid by the tree, so the take-home pay depends on their effort in light of the type of ground they are planting in and weather conditions.)

Scrape cont'd next page

Scrape from page 17

Taan: Is tree planting what you expected it to be?

S-B: No, there is more to planting than what I originally thought, especially with the care of cedar. You have to select the right spot to plant, so you are looking for areas that aren't too wet or dry. Cedar is harder to plant because they are more fragile and not stiff like a spruce. So you have to take extra care when putting the protectors on because small portions of the tree can get caught outside the protector, and you then have to make sure to fix it because [the seedling] won't be protected from the deer.

Planting cedar is not an easy job and requires practice and planning:

- First, find the seed to grow the cedar – Taan's commitment is that the seed must be of Haida Gwaii origin;
- Have a nursery grow the seedlings. The nursery must be committed to using non-chemicals to assist the seedlings' development to protect them from insects and disease while at the nursery;
- Collect and recycle old seedling-browse-protectors, which are no longer required to protect the tree as it has reached a height where deer are not able to damage it. Taan recycles as many protectors as possible;
- Have local Haida Gwaii mills cut the cedar stakes used to hold up the browse-protectors, which are in place up to six years. This year, four local mills were used to cut 105,000 stakes;
- Contract the planting to a company committed to Haida Gwaii through the hiring of local planters and training young workers from local communities;
- Organize the shipping of the seedlings to Haida Gwaii, ensuring the trees are going to survive the trip and will be safe until planted. •



Kii'iljuus, Barbara Wilson along with Guujaaw provided a first step in understanding the culture of the Haida nation and its political make-up.

Taking the first step

by Valine Crist

With tourism businesses, such as West Coast Resorts and Haida House at Tllaal, employees of those Haida companies need to have a real understanding of our culture, so HaiCo arranged for a one-day orientation at the Haida House at Tllaal on March 20th, and another at the Richmond headquarters on the 22nd. "This is just something that HaiCo knew we had to do," said the company's CEO, Kevin Ainsworth. While attendance at the orientation was not mandatory for all staff, HaiCo's board of directors identified a real need to increase frontline and behind-the-scenes employees' understanding of Haida history. To that end, HaiCo invited Kii'iljuus, Barbara Wilson to share some of her knowledge, and over the course of a few hours she provided a solid introduction. Speaking to the importance of genealogy and explaining the

significance of trade, travel, and treaties, Kii'iljuus condensed an immense amount of information into her component of the training. CHN regional representative and former president of the Haida Nation, Guujaaw, also contributed information on stewardship and governance. As part of addressing the need for ongoing training, HaiCo will build a collection of books for their staff so that they can expand on the foundation laid down by Kii'iljuus and Guujaaw.

Did you know?

Language revitalization is the organized and concerted effort to increase the use of a threatened or endangered language. Although languages have always changed and some have died, the world's 6,000 indigenous languages are at serious risk today because of the increased globalization of dominant languages, such as English.



Back Row (l-r): Jenna Shelford, Mikey Hughan-Blazic, Jack Moseley, Taro Oike, Davin Kettunen, Caden Ives, Gabe Wesley, Avery Brillion, Jacey Pollard, Dawson Sterritt-Aiken, Maggie Borrowman, Isabella Kendrick, Ms Ives. **Middle Row:** Thea Ames, Trey Rorick, Brooklyn Greenough, Greta Romas, Olivia Ives, Bailey McDonald, Teniel Ellis, Juno Bradley (two students just above: Stacey Murphy, Chayla Williams). **Front Row:** Bryce Moraes-Pearson, Arilyn May, Taya Adams-Moraes, Davy Hornoi, Riley Duke.

Gardeners are going to grow good food

By Graham Richard

Sk'aadga Naay Elementary School is having a beautiful greenhouse built on a parcel of land just behind the school! School principal Vicki Ives hopes that having students working and playing around growing plants will encourage parents and community members to grow more of their own food.

With the greenhouse up and running Ms Ives anticipates it will provide greens and vegetables to students who are part of a regular program that serves lunch twice a week, on Wednesdays and Fridays. Ms Ives said she expects 100 of the school's 160 students to participate in the program.

Skidegate's extensive volunteer network undertook the construction of the 20' x 28' post-and-beam building. So far, Sid Crosby has led efforts, putting up the greenhouse's beautiful cedar frame in one day. Arthur Pearson milled the beams for the inspirational structure and Diane Brown said she is enthusiastic about tending the young plants that will fill the space.

Major donors to the project include local medical professionals, the Gwaii Trust and the community of Skidegate. Skidegate CHN rep Percy Crosby ensured that construction materials were acquired through CHN's Cultural Wood Program.

Once the building is completed, Ms Ives would like to see garden boxes, berry bushes, and fruit trees planted to add to the variety of food produced. The greenhouse will also be close to a new playground encompassing a 'tree of wonder', a large three-branched tree that will soon be planted upside down in the earth as the centerpiece of the playground.

With this project, Sk'aadga Naay's staff hope to establish a legacy that encourages and celebrates food being grown on-Island. If such a lifeway takes root among children it can contribute to keeping the community healthy for a long time.



Photo: Team Media

A huge xaw7aa

I would like to express my hugest xaw7aa's and gratitude to all our Team Leaders: Finance – May Russ; Fisheries – Ed Davis and Robert Russ; Forestry – Lynn Hughan and Nick Reynolds; Mapping - Sean Brennan, Tara Brennan and Owen Jones; Energy – Adeana Young; Art – Robert Vogstad and David Jones; Communications – Simon Davies and Valine Crist; Media – Patrick Shannon.

Congratulations to our winning team, Team Communications! Kendra Williams, Latisha Setso, Jacob Brooks, Michelle Mcleod, Hazel Smith, Chase Samuels, Darian Pollard, Jordyn Stewart, Aaron Yeltatzie, Chantel White and Paige Atwell.

Swan Bay Rediscovery Program – Nick, Rachel and Desiree for all your hard work. Erica Ryan-Gagne for your help with Xaad kil. Haida Gwaii Recreation – Lucy Neville and Pamela Richardson for organizing the basketball tournament.

To our amazing cooks at the Old Massett Culinary Arts Program. To everyone who showed up to support our youth and witness this event, all our volunteers and mentors. David, Dillon, Dakota, Rebecca, Jonathan and those who cleaned up at the end, that's the toughest job of all, thank you for staying behind! Kendra, Charnelle and Danielle for our awesome timeline!

Xaw7aa to the *Council of the Haida Nation* for following up on the House of Assembly resolution to hold this assembly. Our Vancouver rep Shawn Edenshaw, Prince Rupert Rep Pansy Collison, Southern Rep Shawn Cowpar, Northern Rep Robert Bennett.

Robert Davis, Kiefer Collison and Cynthia Samuels, President Peter Lantin and Vice President Trevor Russ for your valuable time mentoring our young elected leaders. Shout-out to our cherished MC and facilitator, hin gulee, Stan Wesley.

My most honored and humbled appreciation to April Churchill and Team Skilaay – Vince Collison, Vern Williams, Joanne Collison, Patricia Moore, Roy Collison; Tarah Samuels, Dr. Peter Eppinga, and Paula Varnell. In the words of our very wise youth – Skilaay's legacy carries on – and most of all xaw7aa to all the youth who showed up, on time, each day, and put so much into this three days! So what shall we do next? :)

Harmony Williams,
Youth Coordinator, Old Massett Village Council