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HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Haida Nation

November 2009



**Percy Williams & Skyler Boulton Brown
carry the Olympic torch at Skidegate.**

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Photo: Haida Laas



HAIDA LAAS

NEWS of the HAIDA NATION

published by the
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- it's all good -



Your Vote Counts!

All persons of Haida Ancestry who are sixteen (16) years of age as of October 12, 2009 are eligible to vote.

Election Dates

Advance Poll: Saturday, November 28, 2009
Regular Poll: Saturday, December 5, 2009
Time: 9:00AM to 9:00PM

Polling Stations

The Polling Stations will be at the following locations:

- **Old Massett**
CHN Office (downstairs), 504 Naanii Street
- **Skidegate**
Skidegate Homemaker's, 119 Front Street
- **Prince Rupert**
Highliner Plaza Hotel, 815-1st Ave. West
- **Vancouver**
Community of Courage Centre, 1726 East Hastings

COVER: Percy Williams takes a moment to acknowledge the crowd at Kaay Llnagaay on his Olympic Torch run.

\$50,000 Each for Language

At the House of Assembly the CHN presented \$50,000 to the Haida language groups in Old Massett and to SHIP in Skidegate.

Guujaaw speaking for the CHN recognized that the amount of money was not much but hoped it would help to carry them until the remainder that is needed can be found.

Gary Russ spoke on behalf of the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program thanking the CHN and recounted the difficulties of the past year, but also the progress that has been made especially with the common orthography which will be used in the Title Case.

Vince Collison speaking for language groups in Old Massett thanked the CHN for the effort it's making to support language and recognized all the Elders who were committed to teach, record, and translate the language. •



Weaver, Isabel Rorick with Premier Gordon Campbell and BC Achievement Foundation Chair, Keith Mitchell.

Isabel Rorick receives Award

The winners of the 2009 Creative Achievement Awards for Aboriginal Art were honoured at a Vancouver event on October 15. Haida artist, Isabel Rorick; Kwakiutl artists Calvin Hunt and Richard Hunt; Carrier Naldle Whut'en, Noeleen McQuary; and Chemainus artist, John Marston received the BC Creative Achievement Award. Premier Gordon Campbell awarded Gitksan elder Earl Muldon the award for Lifetime Achievement.



After 30-years Lois Helmer-Rullin is retiring from Haida politics.

Heads Up Canada!

CHN Vancouver Rep, Lois Helmer-Rullin announced at this year's Annual House of Assembly that she would not be seeking reelection this coming December 5. After a fiery 30-years of political involvement in Haida affairs, Lois has decided to retire.

Lois began representing Vancouver region before there was an official Vancouver CHN seat. In those days Vancouver Haidas organized themselves and most years would fund raise to send two people up to have their voice heard at the House of Assembly. Then about 15 years ago that changed and Vancouver received official recognition along with

Prince Rupert and since then, Lois has sat as a rep or an alternate without interruption.

With CHN elections coming in a month and a three-year term in sight for nominees, Haida Laas asked Lois if she had advice for incoming reps. Indeed she did! In fact, she had three pieces of advice. "One, Reps need to know how a government works because CHN is a government. Two, they need to make sure they're dedicated because it's a full time job, and three, they need to remember that they're working for the people not for themselves."

As for future plans Lois said that she had done her research, networked with people in the know, and has decided that she has a good chance of being the first Haida in Canada's upper house of parliament—the Senate. With opinions that are legendary and a tenacity to get things done... heads up Canada! •

Keeping Compassion Alive

by Florence Lockyer

In the Islands current economic state it is a worry of some community members that not all our friends and neighbours are able to provide food for themselves. Living on Haida Gwaii one recognizes there are many self-sustaining options but the availability of transportation to harvest the food is not an option for many people. So, in consideration of those who need support in a dignified and healthy manner many programs have evolved to help our neighbours and families fill their cupboards with healthy foods.

The Healthy Communities Society began to offer light lunches at their office the Community Soup Kitchen (located on Main Street in Massett) This service is available to those who need it on Saturday afternoons. It is offered with contributions from the community, either monetary or food, and the Healthy Communities board and Community Soup Kitchen are run by volunteers. They have had bottle drives and raffles to raise money. Please contact Leslie Bellis or Karen Russ for more information on how to volunteer or make a donation of food and/or money; or a raffle item. The Healthy Communities meets every other month and the next meeting will be in January, watch for notices.

Stan and Ada Swanson also serve lunch at noon in the Green Church and on average 20-30 community members show up .

Are these the only places this type of service is offered? No, it's not. Reverend Lily Bell has offered the Sharing and Caring Luncheons in the St. John's Anglican Church for years—without fail; the Sharing and Caring Luncheon is offered on Tuesdays. Lily and Freeman Bell began about 14 years ago and these days, 35-45



Photo: Florence Lockyer

Elsie Bramble preparing food for the Sharing Caring lunch in Old Massett.

people share weekly meals. Everyone is invited and donations of traditional food are gratefully accepted. Lily and her crew of volunteers had a brief reprieve from cooking last year when the Culinary Arts Program provided lunches for about six months. Funds for this program come from the Gwaii Trust (with the help of proposal writer Elizabeth Moore). Volunteers include Elsie Bramble, Pauline Jones, and our local RCMP (they even help with the dishes!). Want to help, volunteer, donate food items, seafood, deer, potatoes, rice, veggies, etc. then call Lily at 626-3559

Another source of sustenance is the Greater Massett Food Bank, it is located at 2132 Collison Avenue in the Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace compound in their administration building basement, across from the library. It began in September 2002, and is managed 100% by volunteers. They are open from 4-5:30 pm on the 8th and 22nd of each month. On average 140 bags

(filled with 3-4 days of sustenance) are prepared and given out monthly, but the need is quickly rising. Donations of money and non-perishable food items are always welcome, as well as volunteering your time. Gwaii Trust Society is an integral factor in the delivery of this program; they provide matching funds for all donations received. Please contact Cathy Camp 626 4664 for more information on how you can help or make a donation.

For the past four years, there have been Food for Hunger bags available at Co-op for customers to purchase for the Greater Massett Food Bank... check it out next time you're shopping there. On average, \$150 worth of food a month has been contributed to the food bank with these bags. Atwell Family Foods is also considering this option... they currently have reduced fruit/produce bags for \$2.

continued >

Compassion - from page 4

Other food programs to note in Old Massett are the Culinary Arts students in the Old Massett/NWCC program, which prepares food for a number of organizations. Here are a few: The Adult Day Program Lunch (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday), Language Nest Lunch (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday), Chief Matthews School Lunch Program, Old Massett Health Centres' Breakfast Program, and Meals on Wheels for Elders (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday).

The Adult Drop-In has lunch prepared by their own cooks on Monday and Friday. The Family Centre Day Care prepares their own lunch and snack; and the After School programs prepare their own snacks.

To keep these programs alive and running well, community involvement and financial contributions are needed and greatly appreciated. Now that the cold weather, declining seasonal employment, and food gathering options are reduced, support for our local communities and families needs to be stronger. Keep an eye out for ways you can help, Christmas is fast approaching and there will be community Christmas Hamper deliveries and other needs. Do you have an extra fish or deer roast in your freezer, a few spare jars of fish, clams, crab or deer? See a family or person in need? Share. It'll come back to you tenfold... compassion leads the way to healthy hearts.

\$800 Million is a Lot of Money

Money was on the minds of many at the Annual House of Assembly. The rumours about CHN borrowing \$800 million to buy into the NaiKun Wind Farm and burdening future generations with debt hit a nerve—many nerves.

On August 13th 2009, the Council of the Haida Nation signed an agreement with NaiKun to have an option to buy into the wind farm business. CHN has not agreed to purchase anything or borrow any money; that decision will be made by the Haida Nation.

CHN has been planning for this type of economic development opportunity for the last couple of years. The Haida Independence Project (HIP) has been considering the options of how to structure the corporate workings of the Haida Nation, the political side and the financial. HIP has three parts: the Secretariat of the Haida Nation, the Treasury and HaiCo. HaiCo is the corporate wing that will deal with situations just like the wind farm. The Secretariat deals with the day-to-day business of CHN and the Treasury takes care of administering corporate profits with priorities set by the Haida Nation. Because HaiCo is a legal corporation it ensures that even if the business deals they are involved in don't work out there is no financial



burden on individual Haidas or the Council of the Haida Nation.

If the Haida Nation decides that it does want to get into business with NaiKun then the option they have signed would enable HaiCo to purchase up to 40% of the business. HaiCo can also purchase less of the business. If HaiCo did purchase the 40% is then the cost of buying in would be about \$800 million.

The overall funding structure for a project like NaiKun is fairly simple; the details are more complicated. The federal government has an economic development program that will guarantee loans up to \$250 million. The CHN would like \$300 million from this fund. To receive a loan guarantee a project has to be looked over by the federal government to make sure that it has a sound business plan and that the chances of it working are good. If they find it is not sound, then they will not guarantee anything. If they find the proposition is sound then they may guarantee a loan and by guaranteeing the loan the federal government is taking the risk on the amount that HaiCo may borrow.

If we presume the government says the NaiKun project is a good idea and will guarantee \$300 million, then, with that \$300 million HaiCo could go to the bank and borrow more money and/or search for investors to make up the remaining \$500 million. At no time during this process or during the operating of any business are individual Haidas or the CHN exposed to any risk; the risk is taken by HaiCo and as a corporation those risks are limited to the corporation.

The profits from any business venture pursued under HaiCo will go to the CHN Treasury and those funds will be distributed to benefit the Haida Nation. •

Get Connected...

HAIDA CITIZENS! If you have a business or you are an artist, you can have a free listing and link posted on the Council of the Haida Nation's web site. At over 500 hits a day the website puts visitors in touch with everything Haida.

There is no charge for this and to be listed just send your contact information to editor@haidanation.net or call 250.559.8755 to make other arrangements.

Three Messages for the Haida Nation

by Andy Wilson

I was asked to pass these messages along to the Council of the Haida Nation from three different groups of First Nations people.

The first and most recent one comes from an elderly man who approached me after I gave a talk at the University of Oregon's conference for political science and law professors and students. They wanted to hear about my experience going to Eugene, Oregon to repatriate two of our ancestors from the museum there. When I went to speak I told them that I would speak from my personal experience, as I was no longer a member of the repatriation committee.

When I had finished my talk we broke for dinner and an elderly First Nations man came and asked if he could join me. He introduced himself and said that he came from around the Seattle area. He told me that he heard that I was coming to give a talk about working with Americans on repatriation and he asked if I would pass a message along to the chiefs and political leaders of the Haida Nation.

I told him that it would be better if he came and told the leaders himself, that our leaders are approachable and that it might be better if he came and spoke at the Annual House of Assembly. He told me he did not have the funds to travel as it is very expensive to fly from Vancouver to Haida Gwaii and so I told him I would deliver his message:

The message is a while back they were having trouble figuring out



Photo: Haida Laas

The gift of the Seven Fires flag from the Algonquin people is walked around the House of Assembly by Andy Wilson and Guujaaw.

where all the fish had gone, as they were not returning to the rivers of Washington State. Everyone was blaming everyone. The white people were blaming the Indians, the Indians were blaming the commercial fishermen, the commercial fishermen were blaming the sports fishermen, and the sports fishermen were blaming the seals and sea lions—it went around and around. So they asked the American government to do a study.

Meanwhile they were having meetings around the Seattle area to try and figure out why the salmon weren't coming back and everyone was still blaming each other, and then they decided to blame the seals and sea lions and to cull them.

While they were figuring this out

a super pod of killer whales came and took all the seals and sea lions the group was planning to kill. The news got back to the people that were meeting and they all felt badly because they realized how arrogant they were thinking that they could do what Mother Nature does to balance the scale of things.

He also said that they were watching with interest on television a person who was in Ottawa trying to persuade the Canadian government and people to approve culling in Canada, so he thought it was very important that this message and the lessons they learned be passed along to the Haida Nation.

...

The second message came from two women in Chicago; one woman was from a tribe in the area and the other from Guatemala. They phoned me up and asked if I would introduce them to people and meet with our leaders to pass messages along. They

also wanted to talk to some of the repatriation committee members. One of the things that they wanted to do was present our leaders with a buffalo robe.

They have been watching with interest the developments and precedence that the Haida Nation has been setting in the courts of Canada. These precedences help First Nations across North America and they wanted to thank the Haida Nation with a gift of appreciation. They presented the buffalo robe to Guujaaw at a ceremony that Eric Gonazles was having at the Dead Tree longhouse.

...

The third message was from the Kiti-gan Zibi Anishinabeg, members of the Algonquin First Nation.

We were asked to give a talk at the First Nations International Repatriation Conference in Maniwaki, Quebec and just before we were set to go up and talk the room of about 500 people got totally quiet, no one moved, no one said a thing. We didn't know what was going on until we looked to where everyone else was looking and there at the back was an elder being helped along toward the front by a young lady. Once he was seated the woman came to us and asked if we would come and meet her grandfather. Knowing that this was someone very special we accepted the offer—the whole building was dead silent.

The young lady introduced her grandfather as William Commanda. William Commanda is the spiritual leader of over 150,000 people in Ontario and Quebec. William Commanda attended the repatriation dinner at the Canadian Museum of Civilization when we were there to repatriate over 150 of our ancestors, and he remembered and reminded us of that event. He also told us that he had been watching with great inter-

est what the Haida have been doing in regard to the Supreme Court, repatriation and land claims. The message that he wanted us to pass along was that he is watching with great interest, that he appreciates what the Haida are doing, not just for the Haida but also for other First Nations across North America. We were gifted with a flag of the people of the Seven Fires, to bring back to the people of the Haida Nation.

There was one other thing I noticed when we were at the conference. Women surrounded the room we were in, so I asked one of the people from the area what this was all about, and he told me that these were the clan mothers, grandmothers, mothers, and aunts. He said that nothing

happens without their approval. I wanted to share these stories, as I think it is important that we know people are paying attention to what is being said and what we are doing. There are so many people we have met from all over the world, Europe, Africa, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Americas who have said the same thing—that they are watching with great interest what the Haida are doing, and what will they do next, whether it's our title case, forestry, fisheries, residential schools, or repatriation.

I would like to also thank the Haida Nation for allowing me to represent them in places that I would never have dreamed of going. •

HAIDA GAMES: the Slippery Stick!



Photo: Kwiahwah Jones

Denver Cross (L) and Mikey Moody struggle for control in a game of Slippery Stick!

Slippery Stick is a game to see who can keep hold of a slippery stick. It serves the purpose of seeing who would/could/do make good fisherman. Halibut and cod fishing requires pulling in long lines which are slippery and heavy, so slippery

stick was a game that was probably developed to spot those who are good at this. This activity provides a competitive game especially for those that take great pride in their long line abilities—best of three wins the match. •

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The Coast Opportunity Fund & the Haida Independence Project

With the high level of protection and the pending implementation of an ecosystem based management system and with land plan agreements reached by other First Nations on the Central and North Coast, First Nations agreed that they would need to identify new sources of funds to implement land plans and to diversify economies.

To this end these First Nations worked with Non-governmental organizations, the philanthropic community, and the federal and provincial governments to establish the Coast Opportunity Fund. Environmental Non-governmental Organizations kicked in 50% of the dollars for the fund, and the Provincial and Federal governments put in 30%

each for a total of approximately \$116 million. First Nations receive a portion of the \$116M based on a formula that takes into account how much land has been newly protected among other things. The Haida Nation will receive about \$20M; \$10M for economic development and \$10M for land management under the formula.

CHN says that deliberate and intensive strategic planning will be necessary to ensure they obtain the best value from this fund.

The \$10M economic development portion provides an opportunity to establish the Haida Independence Project whereby the CHN can advance the objective of economic in-

dependence. The land management portion of the fund will be used to begin the process of managing the protected areas.

The Coast Opportunity Fund is a limited resource and is expected to be spent out by 2014. Once the money has been spent it will not be replaced, therefore, it will be used in a manner consistent with the following criteria:

- The Fund will be used for projects that support sustainable development consistent with the Haida Land Use Vision; and
- The Fund will be used for projects consistent with our Economic Strategic Plan that will ensure the benefits will be for the Nation as a whole. •

Passion, Debate & Direction: the 2009 HoA

People at the 2009 Annual House of Assembly held in Skidegate, said that it was the best attended in living memory.

With a 4-day agenda that included the proposed wind farm, Marine Planning, Executive reports, the Haida Independence Project, Enbridge and others, the debate at this full-house was lively and intense, and direction was clearly given to the CHN for the coming year.

But four days was not enough and the dozen or so resolutions were moved to the following week and dealt with in a full day of discussion. (See page 18 for passed resolutions.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Guujaaw opened by referring to a map on the wall and told the Assembly that the green areas are those areas our people wanted protected. Most of you have seen these maps but if you look a little closer and you will see that this one is not a CHN map but rather a map made by the province of BC. "The BC maps now matches the Haida Nation map," he said. "The struggles to protect these lands are now behind us." "The Haida Protected areas are no longer an idea or part of a wish list, it is permanent, next, we can get on to a more rewarding era of managing these precious lands."

"Because our people had clear objectives and beliefs, we have been able to carry this," he said. "We got here through the right combination of negotiations, court cases, blockades, alliances and planning."

"We are well into marine planning. Ultimately we will have better information and a better plan than exists today, and expect that logic will prevail."

But, Guujaaw acknowledged that in the villages these changes have

had little impact on the lives of people. "Though we prevented a loss, it doesn't change much, except for those of our people who go out and enjoy the land. This is however an investment in our future and that future will include trade and an economy that will provide independence for our people," he said.

PR: Reconciliation

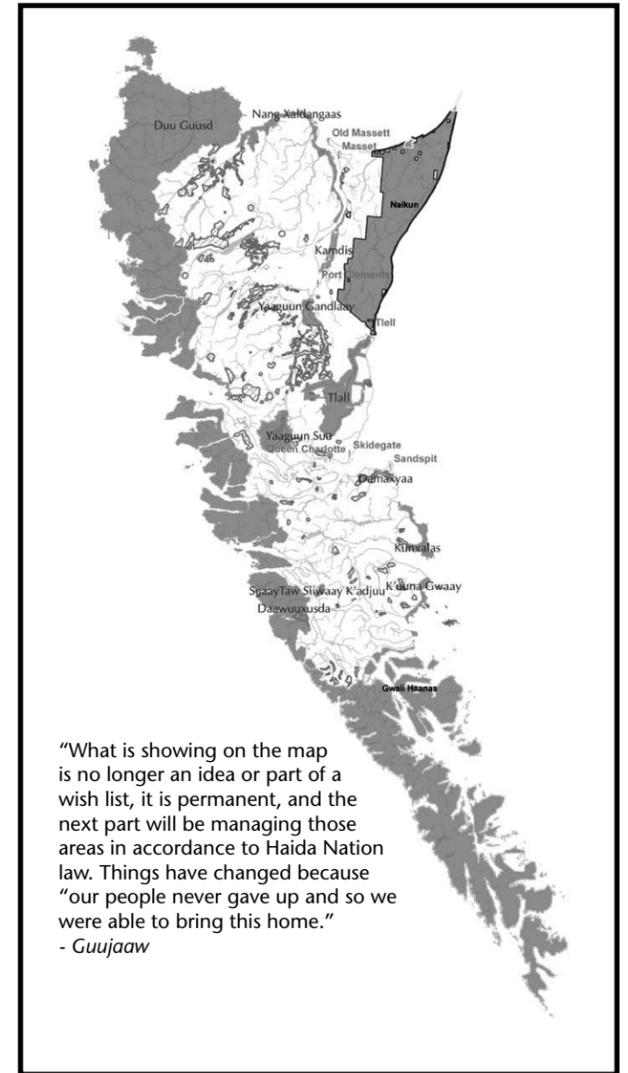
While the "Recognition and Reconciliation" initiative, has come apart, CHN has been negotiating on items such as joint management in the protected areas and moving to more responsible rules where there will be logging. Guujaaw said that reconciliation with the Crown is possible without compromise to Haida Title. He said that the Haida Nation receives its authority from the ancestors.

"That is our strength and in negotiation this is why we prevail." The objective of the CHN is full Title and independence and every move the CHN makes is measured against this objective.

PR: Wind, Water, Fire... Energy

Just a decade ago there was little regard given to the Haida Nation when it came to any of the major industrial projects on Haida Gwaii.

Over the past few years, the Haida Nation has looked a number of options for generating power to replace



the diesel power plants presently producing our electricity. This power is costing BC Hydro six times more than we are paying, giving them a strong incentive to seek an alternative. The diesel generators place us amongst the worst polluters in the world. We are burning 26,000 litres of diesel a day.

The CHN has been looking at wind, fire and water for the production of power and has worked with EPCOR in looking at every potential water supply, measuring the catchment and capacity, and determining how

HoA - continued page 12

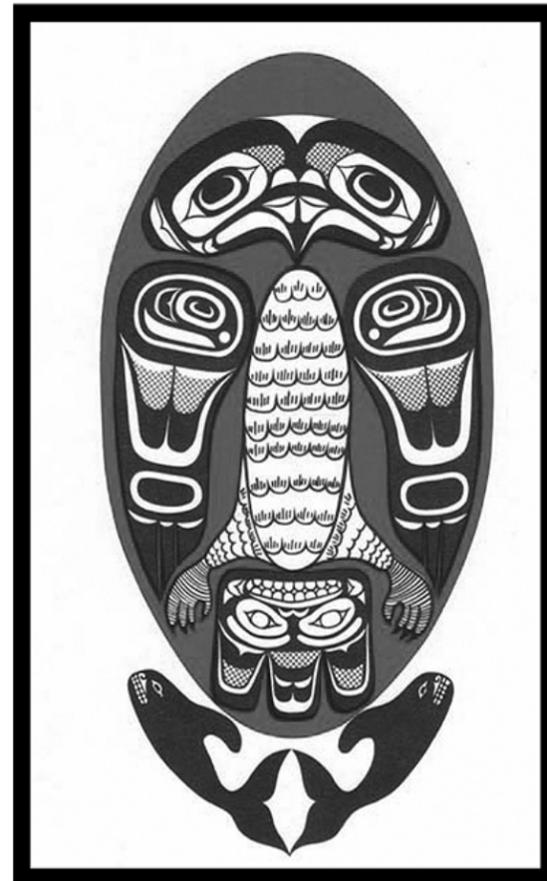
*Our Clan invites everyone
to the*

Potlatch for Russ Jones
to take the Chiefs name:

*Nang Jingwas
of the Naa S'aagaas Xaaydagaay
Skidegate Gidins*

Saturday, November 14, 2009
2:00 pm, George Brown Rec Center
Skidegate, Haida Gwaii
Ceremony to be followed with a Feast.

(Rescheduled from June 13, 2009)

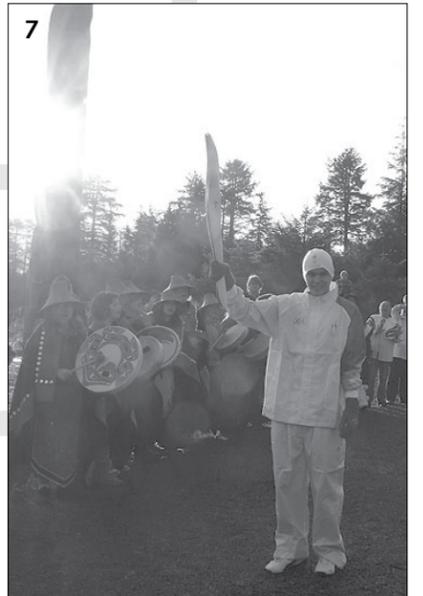




1. The Olympic Torch arrived by canoe at 9:00, Skidegate and carried was by Elder, Percy Williams. He was greeted by over two-hundred people.



The Olympic Torch at Skidegate



Photos: Haida Laas staff



- 2. Percy jogged up from the tideline with his button blanket about his shoulders and the torch held high.
- 3. At the top of the bank he was met by singers and then surrounded and hidden from view with blankets.
- 4. Away from view, Percy was transformed: he was secluded as a Haida man and then revealed as an Olympian.
- 5. Percy moved through the crowd waving and on into Kaay Lnagaay where a short and dignified blessing took place led by Winnie Casey and the Skidegate Haida Immesion Program Elders.

6-9. After the ceremony the flame was passed to Old Massett resident, Skyer Boulton Brown. Skyer proceeded out of the Centre and was greeted by the enthusiastic crowd who followed him out to the highway where the flame was whisked away to Queen Charlotte. •

WEB: go to < haidanation.ca > for a photo gallery of this event.

Passion, Debate & Direction: the 2009 House of Assembly

HoA - from page 9

much of a dam would be needed to meet the needs of the Islands. CHN has also looked at other means of producing electricity, such as tidal power and wood waste. In every instance there are difficulties in meeting the demands over time. Wind power is one of the options that has been examined. All of these projects have been looked at in terms of power capacity, feasibility and economic return to the Nation.

The NaiKun Project has come out the front runner in the delivery of power and economic returns to the Nation. This proposal goes well beyond generating power for the Islands, but would generate enough for 350,000 homes. Needless to say, the prospect of windmills in Hecate Strait has received mixed reactions. The concerns however, have all been for the crab, clams, fish birds and environment, which is a concern to all of us.

There have been three levels of environmental assessment that needs to be satisfied, the Federal, Provincial, and Haida processes. There are also offshore windmills in operation around the world that we have had the benefit of learning from.

The CHN report was headed up by Rescan Environmental Services over the past couple of years. As well as environmental issues, our project conducted underwater archaeological studies. The environmental assessments (EA) has been tabled at the House of Assembly and ongoing information sessions.

On the business side, the CHN has considered several projects. In the instance of NaiKun, the CHN brought forward two options, one of which included no investment, and the other with a substantial investment. The Haida Nation has secured the option

to buy into the project. The House of Assembly unanimously called for a vote before any business arrangements are entered into. Over the next few weeks there will be further information sessions regarding the Environmental Assessment and Business cases.

Some of the questions regarding the NaiKun proposal are:

Why offshore? This is because of the strong and consistent winds that blow in the Hecate Straits.

Why so big? It is the economy of scale, the underwater cables are very costly and a project would only pay off at a certain scale.

Why not on land? There are many wind farms on land in the prairies and Spain and other places in the world. There are proposals for Banks Island, but there would be no reason to come out here to go on land.

As far as birds and marine life; so far, we haven't seen anything that would indicate a great threat and as with any EA, there is additional information requested, and will be some back and forth, as well there would be requirements for ongoing assessment.

Our EA can be picked up at the CHN offices. The provincial Environmental Assessment can also be found online (see below) and carries all of the studies that have been done which include noise, marine mammals, birds, socioeconomic etc. The web site also carries a list of public, federal government and local comment submissions.

Go to: www.eao.gov.bc.ca then click on Project Information Centre then the letter 'N' then NaiKun Offshore Wind Energy Project. •

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his written report, Vice-president Arnie Bellis, touched on the legal depositions that were taking place in Old Massett with the first witnesses, Stephen Brown and Claude Morrison. The depositions are evidence for the Title Case and took place last month. These are the first of ten to be conducted on Haida Gwaii; another will follow in November and the rest in the year.

As noted in the President's report, Bellis said that reconciliation talks are moving along. Discussion at the negotiating table includes co-management, decision making, ecosystem based plan implementation (Forest Planning and Practices Agreement), a collaborative management agreement for the new Protected Areas, a Heritage Co-management agreement, revenue sharing, and forest tenure. Bellis said that the way CHN envisions the forestry sector to work in the future is that there will be two authorities, the province and the CHN, and that both authorities will issue licenses. Bellis said, "the Haida are not looking for a way to be under the authority of the provincial or federal governments." He said that co-management will require three steps: legislative change, the creation of a new management structure, and an agreement on a terms of reference which clearly describes how each party will be engaged and their lines of decision-making authority. He said that the CHN is on schedule with their objectives.

The Vice-president concluded his report reminding people that the CHN did not get to this place alone. "We didn't get here by ourselves, we got here with the help of Port and New Massett and directors that said they support the Haida Land Use Vision—

continued >

Passion, Debate & Direction: the 2009 House of Assembly

that relationship needs to be maintained."

HAIDA INDEPENDENCE PROJECT
Skidegate Rep, Cindy Boyko presented the Haida Independence Project to the assembly explaining that the intention of the project is to find the means, and set the conditions to look after ourselves. To get there, we need sound management and to ensure accountability to the Haida people.

"This project is a way to organize ourselves to build an economy, and if we work together to do this, we can make a better life for ourselves." "This model will make things transparent. Money can cause us huge internal anxiety, and even troubles without a broader consideration of social implications," said Boyko.

The main goal of the Haida Inde-

pendence Project is to improve the collective well-being of the Haida people," she said. Boyko then outlined the components of the Independence Project.

The business will be separate from the politics. Business will be dealt with at the corporate level through HaiCo (Haida Enterprise Corporation) and the revenues will not be handled by Haico, but rather would flow through the Treasury of the Haida Nation.

The Secretariat of the Haida Nation oversees the administration of the CHN which includes running the day-to-day operations and its programs—Haida Fisheries, Land Use Planning etc.

The Treasury will be responsible for the financial holdings of the Nation and

for administering benefits according to priorities set by the Nation.

In preparing ourselves for new opportunities, this will provide structure and a way to manage the economic development and initiatives that are on the Nations horizon. There are still a lot of details to work out, it is important for people to closely examine the structure and help work through the details.

Some of those details to be worked on are:

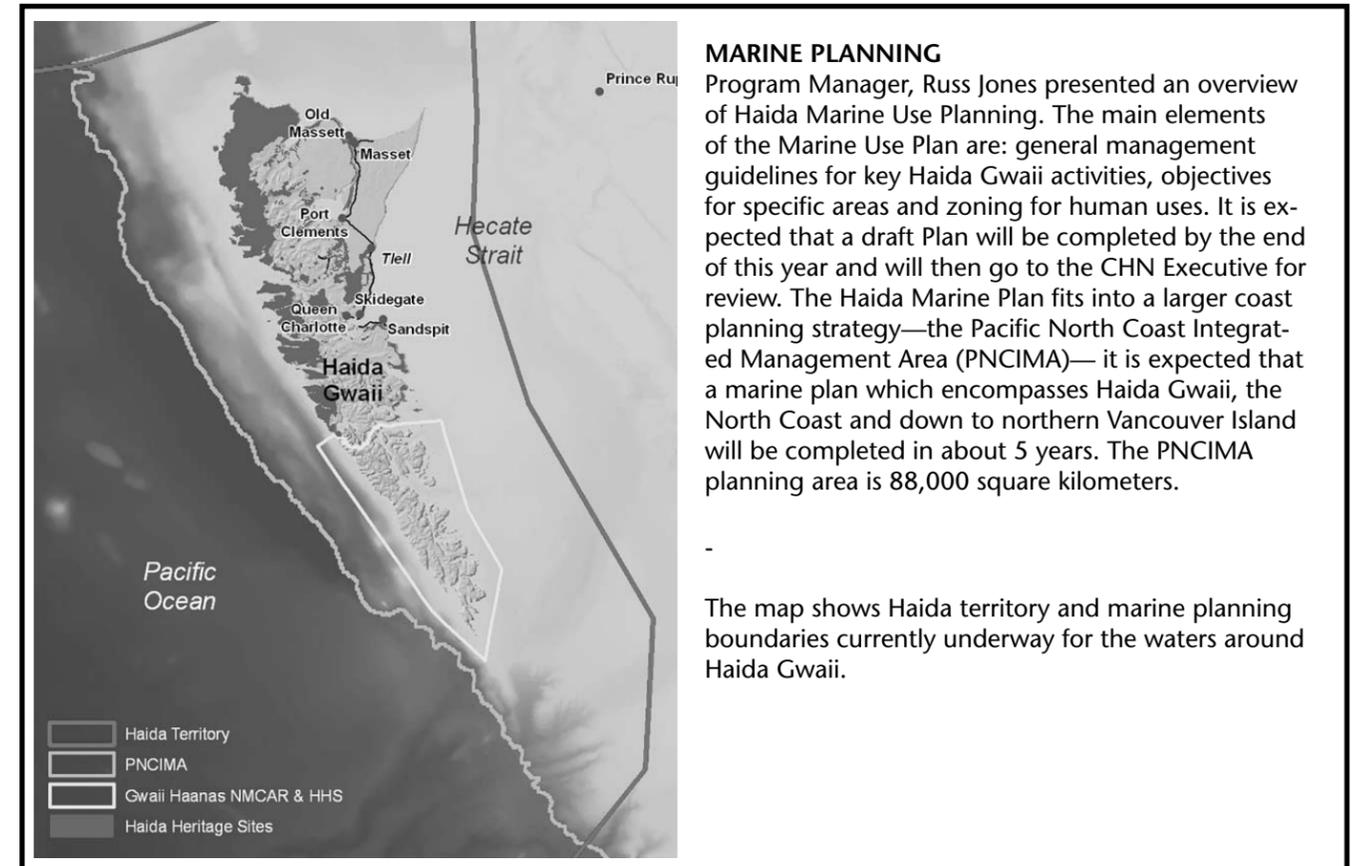
How do we ensure that decisions made by the corporations are compatible and even enhance our position of Title?

continued >

MARINE PLANNING

Program Manager, Russ Jones presented an overview of Haida Marine Use Planning. The main elements of the Marine Use Plan are: general management guidelines for key Haida Gwaii activities, objectives for specific areas and zoning for human uses. It is expected that a draft Plan will be completed by the end of this year and will then go to the CHN Executive for review. The Haida Marine Plan fits into a larger coast planning strategy—the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA)—it is expected that a marine plan which encompasses Haida Gwaii, the North Coast and down to northern Vancouver Island will be completed in about 5 years. The PNCIMA planning area is 88,000 square kilometers.

The map shows Haida territory and marine planning boundaries currently underway for the waters around Haida Gwaii.



Passion, Debate & Direction: the 2009 House of Assembly

HoA - from page 13

How will Haida people living off-Is land participate and benefit?

How are we going to ensure that we are using our revenues to greatest benefit of the Nation?

What are the formal lines of communication between CHN and HaiCo?

How is HaiCo accountable to the people?

The Independence Project is in the beginning stages of development, flexibility will allow us to customize and design this to our needs.

Haico will be the corporate vehicle to manage the Nation's business and it will also adjust to the needs of the Nation.

The concept of the Treasury of the Haida Nation is sited in the Constitution and a Treasury is a proven way to deal with substantial holdings. Haida Nation holdings will include timber, fish, power, and other revenues that are the common property of the Nation.

The Haida Independence Project is in its beginning stages of development and Skidegate Band, Chief Councilor Willard Wilson summed up their position. "I will be excited when the day comes that we can come to the Treasury and ask for \$4 million for a project, it will be the best day in the history of our Nation. I believe strongly [about] what we have to do, we want to move forward. We want to be part of this... we will be fully involved."

The Draft Framework for Establishing the Treasury Board of the Nation is available at both CHN offices and see September 09, Haida Laas, page 10 for more background)

CRABS: Heavy tourist use

Though there was much interest about marine planning and the progress made, citizens also had other things on their mind. The possible impacts of the proposed wind farm in Hecate Strait, the increase in licensing boats from the lower mainland, the lack of local processing, and the "recreational" fishery along North Beach, were all raised in the context of the crab fishery.

After another summer of heavy tourist use, it was felt that the crab fishery was not being managed or monitored well and that fishing during mating time should be stopped. People asked the fisheries committee to look into the "recreational" crab fishery on North Beach and to address the huge increase in boats receiving crab licenses to fish Hecate Strait.

Fisheries Co-chair, Robert Davis said that the committee had many of the same concerns as were being voiced and they were working to close the fishery during the mating season. The committee is also working with Old Massett Village Council to begin a monitoring program and to collect information from beach users.

With the increase of crab fishing licenses in Hecate Strait there was an expectation that many of the boats would deliver their catch to Massett for processing. But that hasn't happened, two or three boats deliver to Massett and the rest head to Prince Rupert where they are offered a better price. The committee has requested a meeting with DFO to discuss this and Davis said he felt local resources should be processed locally.



LAND PLANNING: Next steps

In 2010 we should see logging done like it's never been done before. Bill Beldessi, Nick Reynolds and Sean Brennan of the CHN Lands and Waters department updated the House on its activities of the past year. Turning the Land Use Agreement into written laws has taken most of the year. "[The laws] are not general or airy-fairy, this is specific and descriptive language," Reynolds said. The new laws will dictate a type of land management using an ecosystem based approach that differs greatly from past practices and provide strong measures for protecting habitat for cedar, salmon, bears, birds and plants. The CHN has been directly involved in writing these provincial laws and Reynolds says that co-management of the land is written right in. "These are things that haven't been done elsewhere," he said.

Before the regulations become law they will go to Haida public review and then to the CHN executive and the province of BC. It is expected that the regulations will become provincial law in 2010 and once that happens forest licensees have 4-6 months to adhere.

Sean Brennan represents the CHN on a Joint Technical Team (BC and CHN) and has been involved in the detailed strategic land planning for this project. Part of his job is to ensure that cultural values are clearly spelled out in the regulations. Siting examples, he said, anything with archaeological value will be protected, as are bears, fish and other sensitive habitat. He said all these values will also be accounted for and managed under the ecosystem based plan. Along with habitat and cultural values being protected the CHNs 1000-Year Plan for the stewardship of cedar has set aside 25,000 hectares for Haida use—the equivalent of 50,000 football fields, Brennan said. •

Rediscovering Rediscovery

by Florence Lockyer

Our summer has come and gone, there were days of beauty and serenity and of solemn stillness. Why? If you hadn't noticed there was no Rediscovery Summer Camp at Kuista and Lepas Bay. The long-houses and cookhouse stood quiet and empty. This stillness was at the wish of the current Rediscovery Board so that time could be taken to revamp the camp before offering further programming. This was the first year, since its inception in 1976 that the camp did not run. There are renovations needed to the camp facilities, but it has yet to be determined when these will begin.

The purpose of the camp is to immerse participants in life on Haida Gwaii and in the Haida culture. It was designed for participants to re-discover themselves... a place to focus on themselves and find their inner strength and come out at the end of the program anew—a "rediscovery" of the self.

When operating, the camp employs a camp director and coordinator, senior and junior guides, cooks, and maintenance people. Elders are always welcome, as they are the keepers of our culture.

A couple of years ago, Gwaii Trust allocated a significant sum of money to keep the camp going. The Society also receives other funds from the Ministry for Children and Family Development, but even when the funds are combined there is still a budget shortfall. It is hoped that this coming year, 2010, that more funds will be in place to offer programming in the way the Board would like to in the newly renovated facility.

Lawrence Jones is the current board chair, and is open to discuss the program. •



Rediscovering Rediscovery: the long stretch of white sand at Taalung slung, location of the northern Rediscovery camp.



Artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas unveiled his new graphic novel *Red* at the Vancouver International Writers and Readers Festival this October. The book tells the tale of orphan Red and his sister, Jaada. When raiders attack their village, Red, escapes but Jaada is captured. Red sets out to find his sister and extract revenge on her captors. The book is designed as a mural or box front and then divided up to fit the book format. At the festival Yaghu-lanaas deconstructed two books and reassembled the pages to create a 4 metre long mural showing the original design. •

The Long and the Short of it

by Kwiaahwah Jones

On a cool, gray, misty day at the Haida Heritage Centre the work was unfolding as usual. People come to visit, dine on fine foods, view the collections, shop in the gift shop and pursue numerous other possibilities within the centre. But then, in walked an intriguing bunch of men, four to be exact. The group was led

early Missionary based out of Old Massett, noted this in his many articles, memoirs and observations of the Haida. In some articles he talks of the Haida bow. He describes it as four feet long (which is not a very long bow) made of yew wood with the string made of spruce root. Arrows were made of various woods

Bow-making on Haida Gwaii

amazing as sapwood is key to making a bow, as it gives the bow its spring and strength.

The American Museum of Natural History in New York has two Haida bows in their collection. One is highly painted and made in the same fashion as the one in the HGM.



David Shuster



Michael Mayr



Ernst Bierling

by Christopher Collison, President of the Haida Gwaii Museum. The other three interrupted the status quo in more ways than one. Each held a friendly face, shinning eyes, an air of confidence and attire that clearly stated they were not from around these parts. After a brief introduction, Michael Mayr, David Shuster and Ernst Bierling said they would like to put on a bow-making course with all the proceeds going to the Haida Gwaii Museum. Museum director, Nathalie Macfarlane heartily agreed and plans were put in motion.

Haida have created exquisite bows for hunting and war. Harrison, an

and the tips of arrows had muscle shells ground to a point with two inches showing from the end of the shaft to the tip. These arrow tips were craftily embedded into the wooden shaft of the arrow.

At the Haida Gwaii Museum we have one burnt bow fragment. Half the bow is intact, the other piece disappeared in a fire. The piece we have is very short maybe a foot and a half and we speculate it is most likely made of yew. The thing about this bow is that it doesn't appear to have any sapwood on it (sap wood is the outer few rings found on a tree). Any bow maker would find this fact

It's about the same length and has a blunt arrow with it. The blunt arrow was for hunting birds. The other another example they have is a beautiful Tsimshian bow and is very similar to the Haida bows.

The Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England also has a Haida bow. This one is a little different as it was much longer and slender than the two at the American Museum of Natural History. It also appears that this bow does not have any sapwood.

These examples informed the bow course being taught at the HGM and in our budding relationship with the

Bavarian bow makers we found their credentials and experience to be very impressive. Michael, David and Ernst all had the knowledge and know-how to make primitive stone and iron age tools. They also craft finely made jewellery, beautiful knives, clothing, coins, obsidian tools and many other things.

The three teachers took on ten students over a period of three days and hand carved custom-made bows. There was not enough time to complete the projects though and four days later, the following Friday, we met again at the Centre to complete the bows and students shot their long bows in front of the Centre.

The following Friday, the Sustainability Fair was going on at the Centre and the Bavarians had a booth and showed their many examples. During the weekend Ernst, David and Michael went out on Loo Taas, our 50-foot canoe. They took their bows and on the paddle around Skidegate Inlet they shot them off. It was this experience that made them realize that rather than a long bow, a shorter bow worked better in the confines of a canoe.

The door has opened. As we become more familiar with the wood and construction of bows, our abilities grow. We have to be thankful for the many ways in which knowledge comes back to us such as with these great Bavarian bow makers, David, Ernst and Michael and how they have helped by bringing their own knowledge to us. •

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Photo: Cheexial

Skidegate to the Rescue

How would you feel as you drive by a house that is burning to the ground? Your first instinct is probably to call for help. Something we take for granted is that we have a choice. But this is certainly not the case in the small village of Wet'suwet'en. Lucky no one was hurt in the fire.

On September 6, 2009, a house, a day-care, the Head Start building and two apartments burnt to the ground late in the afternoon as residents watched helplessly with no fire department to come to the rescue.

As fate would have it, Cheexial, Roy Jones Jr., and his wife Bonnie were driving back from Vancouver and stood alongside local residents feeling their pain and despair at the loss. After the fire and as they talked on their trip home to Skidegate, a plan sprung into action.

Upon arrival, Cheexial met with the Skidegate Volunteer Fire Department and showed them photos and a short video of the inflamed buildings as they burned. He then proposed that the Skidegate Volunteer Fire Department donate their extra fire truck to the Wet'suwet'en.

The fire truck had been for sale for the last three years but had no bites. The SVFD upon viewing the video instantly agreed that giving the truck to the Band was a good idea, but the final decision lay with the Band Council. Cheexial met with Council and they also supported the idea of donating the truck to our mainland neighbours.

The fire truck was in mint condition and upon delivery it only had 6,600 km on the odometer. The Wet'suwet'en accepted the gift with open arms holding a community luncheon for the three Skidegate men who delivered the truck—Cheexial, Willard Wilson and Frank Russ.

Later, Cheexial talked with the Wet'suwet'en and Burns Lake Fire Department and arranged a meeting to help with training to ensure that if they have another fire that they have the means to fight it.

"I hope that this incident at Wet'suwet'en will at least bring to the attention of the Department of Indian Affairs that not all First Nations are so lucky as to have fire protection," said Cheexial. •

Resolutions Passed at the House of Assembly

R4. PARTNERSHIP WITH NAIKUN WIND ENERGY GROUP INC.

WHEREAS the Haida people must have a say in the decision regarding the Naikun Project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Haida Nation hold a general vote after the completion of an environmental assessment regarding whether or not to enter into a business partnership with Naikun Wind Energy Group Inc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CHN present the details of the business arrangement to the Haida people at public meetings in Massett, Skidegate, Prince Rupert and Vancouver before the vote.

R6. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STAFF AND ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS it is imperative there be easily accessible communication available between Council of the Haida Nation, Secretariat of the Haida Nation and other elected representatives to carry on day-to-day business of the Nation.

WHEREAS in this day of modern technology with computers easily available in your home or Old Massett and Skidegate offices.

WHEREAS email is the most widely available and efficient use of paperless communication in today's world.

WHEREAS the staff will save time on their growing workload, while the leadership is working on better environmental practices.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all elected representatives be given a <electedrepresentative@haidanation.ca/> net email address and it be mandatory that they actively use this address to access all information being sent to them, Whether they use their computer at home, the Old Massett and or Skidegate offices.

R7.

WHEREAS Haida citizens need to be able to provide feedback on all the subjects that are being discussed at the House of Assembly [...].

AND WHEREAS the resolutions are the written mandate, guiding the direction of the Council of the Haida Nation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the resolutions be pre-

sented and voted upon at the last day of the House of Assembly. The deadline for submissions being noon on the last day, to enable as much input as possible. With resolutions being put in on a continuous basis.

R9. TITLE CASE

WHEREAS the objective of the Haida Nation is to establish aboriginal title and rights to Haida Gwaii.

WHEREAS the Haida Nation has employed various strategies including negotiating, direct action, alliances, planning and targeted court action. The Title Case has provided the greatest leverage.

WHEREAS we are proving to be largely successful in our efforts to protect and conserve the lands and oceans around Haida Gwaii.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Haida Nation carry on with their efforts to ensure that the Title Case continues and that the necessary resources be provided for the Title Case.

R12. BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE OF ALL LEADERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

WHEREAS at the beginning of the Constitution of the Haida Nation is a Haida Proclamation where it is stated, "Our culture is born of respect; and intimacy with the land and sea and the air around us."

AND WHEREAS it is important for the Haida's responsibility and respect for the environment to be practised on a daily basis in doing what we can regardless of how small.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that at meetings of the Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate Band Council, Old Massett Village Council, Hereditary Chiefs Council and all committees or boards of the Nation representatives that cutlery, food containers, coffee cups etc. be brought by attendees or provided that do not contribute to the landfill of our nation.



HAIDA ACCORD

We the undersigned, who represent the Haida Nation as:

1. Hereditary Chiefs, Council of the Haida Nation, Old Massett Village Council, Skidegate Band Council do commit to work cooperatively as a Nation to protect and enhance the well being of Haida Gwaii and our people. In doing so, we agree:
2. The Constitution of the Haida Nation is the guiding document of Policies and Principles from which we govern ourselves;
3. To uphold the Constitution of the Haida Nation encompassing Haida values in decision making;
4. To work respectfully and cooperatively to resolve internal conflicts and differences in a timely way, internal to the Haida Nation;
5. The citizens of the Haida Nation collectively hold Title to Haida Gwaii and commit to go forward as one Nation to share all lands, waters, and resources within our territory for the benefit of all living Haida and future generations;
6. To protect Haida Culture and Heritage while providing for the economic needs of our people;
7. We will protect Haida Title and Rights of the territories of the Haida Nation;
8. To be accountable to the people by presenting factual reports and full financial disclosure on all programs and services within the Nation;
9. To participate in the development of policies and strategies, to direct and support bodies assigned specific tasks, and we will strive for full understanding and consensus in advancing our interests within or outside our Nation.

Adopted and Signed, November 14, 1998



Photo: Haida Laas

New Signatures added to the Haida Accord

Annual House of Assembly Skidegate: After a morning of sorting out election procedures and date setting, Friday afternoon at the HoA began with two chiefs signing on to the Haida Accord and one making his signature permanent.

"I am very pleased to see so many Elders here today to witness this event," said Guujaaw and noted that with elections for CHN and Band Councils coming, that incoming councils are bound by the document.

The Accord was read aloud by CHN Skidegate Rep, Cindy Boyko and then Ihldiinii, *Alfred Davidson*; Gitkinjuwaas, *Giitsxaa*; and Kithlaigaa, *Colin Scheck* sat and signed the document. The new signatories were supported by all the chiefs in attendance standing behind them, and were given a standing ovation upon signing.

Kithlaigaa, *Colin Scheck* had signed the document previously at *Gaaysiignang* - an ocean forum for Haida Gwaii. At that time he had signed in pencil and this time he made it permanent with ink.

The full text of the Haida Accord can be found at: haidanation.ca/Pages/CHN/Haida_Accord.html >

• • •

L-R, back: Arnie Bellis; Guujaaw; Git-ee-wans, *Vern Brown*; Iljawuus, *Reynold Russ*; Thasi, *Ken Edgars*; Dayanng, *Donald Bell*; Sdiithladaa, *Frank Collison*; Gaahlaay, *Lonnie Young*; Sgaann 7iw 7waans, *Allan Wilson*.

L-R, front: Kithlaigaa, *Colin Scheck*; Gitkinjuwaas, *Giitsxaa*; Ihldiinii, *Alfred Davidson*.