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HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Council of the Haida Nation

October 2014





HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

published by the

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October 2014

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#: A Sign of the Times

To keep up to date with changing technology and deliver the nation's news to you quickly, Haida Laas is changing its ways.

In the last few years, smart phones, apps-for-everything, and the rise of social media have radically changed the way people on Haida Gwaii and around the world are communicating. The demand for the Council of the Haida Nation and Haida Laas to stay relevant and keep ahead of the curve is a challenge on many levels.

Today, citizens rightly expect to be able to find and receive information on any platform or device. To meet those expectations the CHN is reconfiguring the way it produces and delivers information to you.

CHN is introducing changes that are based on the following assumptions:

- Directly communicating detailed information is necessary to keep citizens informed about CHN activities.
- The need to produce and publish information quickly is critical.
- The need to communicate CHN and Haida nation information to a broader public is important.

Based on these assumptions Haida Laas is moving the stories produced for the general public on-line where they will be accessible to anyone who is interested in the activities of the nation.

Haidanation.ca and Facebook will be updated as stories are written. The CHN

web site, with its new look, will display these stories prominently where they will be easy to find and read. The site has also been "optimized" to be even more readable on your phones, tablets and laptops.

The Facebook page, Twitter feed and Instagram page are working well and will continue to function as they are, though it is anticipated that Twitter will be used more often – subscribe if you have not already signed up <@CHN_haidanation>.

The move toward delivering more CHN information online does not mean the end of the printed Haida Laas. In addition to the web and mobile focus, the CHN Communications Program will continue to produce a paper version of Haida Laas – the only difference is that it will be published quarterly following the Seasonal Sessions and House of Assembly. The publication will provide citizens with more detailed reporting-out of the sessions and will contain other material on hot issues. The paper will be delivered directly to Haida households and mailed to citizens living away. There will not be a general distribution of the paper version as there has been in the past. Citizens can also expect more CHN information coming to their households in the form of newsflashes and information bulletins.

The intent of this reconfiguration of the CHN Communications Program and its products is to ensure that citizens are informed quickly, and in greater detail, about the nation's business.

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Front cover L-R: TI' aagaang Quna *Elvis Davis*; Skil Hiilans *Allan Davidsor*; Gya awhlans *Roy Collisor*; Nang Jingwas *Russ Jones*; Wigaanad *Sid Crosby* and Matthew Brown.

Kepler on Exoplanets

So far in its career, Kepler, the planet-hunting space-telescope, has confirmed its discoveries of 989 “exoplanets” – planets outside of our solar system. Hurling behind Earth through space four times faster than a bullet at 5.892 km per second, Kepler has vigilantly watched the sky for almost six years. In that time it has zoomed in on millions of targets, revealing that planets are proliferating in the the Milky Way. Kepler’s 989 confirmed exoplanets represent just a portion of the 3,269 exoplanet candidates that have yet to be confirmed. Subsequent investigations startled the world in April, as Kepler revealed that one of the Earth-like exoplanets called “Kepler-186f” orbits its star in the “inhabitable zone”. Otherwise known as the “Goldilocks Zone”, this is the distance from a star where a planet is not too hot, and not too cold, but the temperature is just right for the planet to have liquid water. More recent observations have also concluded that another “Neptune-like” planet known as HAT-P-11b has clear skies and water vapour in its atmosphere. Based on these discoveries astronomers anticipate the Milky Way galaxy may contain as many as 40 billion Earth-like planets orbiting sun-like stars in the inhabitable zone. Travel enthusiasts will be happy to learn that the nearest such planet may be just 12 light-years away.

Project partners have catalogued Kepler’s 13.2 million targets, which are openly available in a fully searchable online database: <archive.stsci.edu/kepler/kic.html>

Define Direct Democracy

“Direct democracy” enables citizens to vote directly on the policies and mandates of their own government. Because each voting citizen has an opportunity to decide how their government will spend resources, the people have a stronger hand in guiding their governing body. In contrast, under “representative democracy”, decisions about the policies and direction of the government are left to elected representatives. This constrains the participation of citizens in decision-making. For this reason, direct democracy is also sometimes called “pure democracy”, because citizens collectively determine the course of their society.



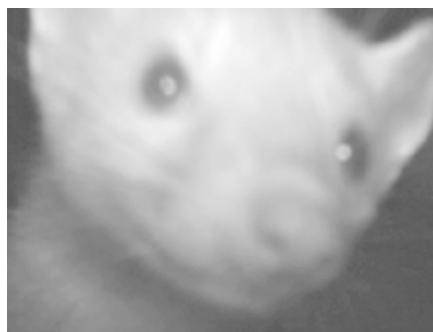
Haida-style movie

Haida Media Network staff and Leona Clow brainstorm ideas for the Haida feature film.

A film team is collecting ideas for a full-length feature film in Xaad/Xaayda Kil. Haidas gathered in Gaauu and Hlgaagilda to contribute their ideas to the Haida Media Project, with the aim of creating a story for the film. The project is a collaborative effort between CHN, Skidegate Band Council, Old Massett Village Council, Nunavut Independent TV Network and the Indigenous Community Planning Program at UBC. The project partners aim to create a film inspired, scripted, and acted by Haidas. They also want to train residents of Haida Gwaii to understand and use the equipment to make the film.

In workshops, contributors shared all kinds of excellent stories and ideas to guide the crew in choosing a strong story for the

film. Suggestions included everything from k’aaygang nga *ancient Haida stories*, to stories of healing from residential schools, to stories that envision Haida descendants speaking in Xaad/Xaayda Kil about oceans that have regained their health. A panel of judges will choose a story to be turned into a film. Further script-writing workshops in Hlgaagilda (held on October 4th), in Gaauu on October 11th, and in Vancouver on October 15th will also help community members to start creating their own full-length script. Crews are working in cooperation with Isuma TV, a network with great experience in Nunavut territory. Project leaders hope to combine this cinematic expertise with local, accurate story telling.



K'uu selfie - courtesy of Gwaii Haanas

Did you know?

Xaadas kil: K'uu

Xaayda Kil: K'uuxuu

English: American pine marten

Latin: *Martes americana nesophila*

Like some other long-term residents of the Islands, k'uu is part of a group of subspecies specific to Haida Gwaii. As a pine marten subspecies, k'uuxuu is distinguished from its mainland relatives by its larger size. K'uu has a special reproductive cycle that allows it to breed in summer, but delays growth of its gestating babies until spring. This way k'uuxuu's children can be born in spring, when there is plenty to eat and things

are just warming up. Haida ancestors said that k'uu is the older brother of another Haida Gwaii subspecies: taan, the Haida Gwaii black bear. Perhaps the strongest indication of their brotherhood is that neither are picky eaters. K'uuxuu is known to eat just about anything. According to another Haida story, k'uu is also famous for running up and down the pole that upholds the earth, causing the thundering noises before earthquakes.



HAIDA NATION

Haida Owned and Operated – Building our economy, ourselves

www.haidaownedandoperated.ca

September 24, 2014

The Skidegate Band Council, Old Massett Village Council and the Council of the Haida Nation are pleased to announce the Haida Owned and Operated entrepreneur's program.

Haida Owned and Operated is a new, specially designed program with the goal of providing the knowledge and mentorship necessary for Haida citizens to start and grow a small business on Haida Gwaii. This 5-month program will begin this October and end March 2015 – classes will rotate between Skidegate, Tllall and Old Massett.

“Today, our economy is driven by small business, and with the growing success of HaiCo there are many new opportunities arising for Haida owned businesses to be part of this growth,” said President of the Haida Nation, kil tlaats 'gaa *Peter Lantin*.

The program partnership includes TRICORP and the University of Victoria and has taken the best ideas from the universities Gustavson School of Business and tailored them to meet Haida requirements. Participants will learn solid business practices and have mentors available with the knowledge and skills necessary to support you in designing and starting your own business.

There is no shortage of good ideas out there. If your business idea will stand on its own or is one that will complement HaiCo's suite of businesses, and you would like to put it into action, then apply to this program and become part of improving the economy on Haida Gwaii.

“Our economy requires more Haida owned and operated businesses,” emphasized kil tlaats 'gaa. “We need Haida hiring Haida.”

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For more information or to apply please contact leslie.brown@haico.ca • 250.626.7370 or go to < www.haidaownedandoperated.ca >.

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Haida Owned and Operated would like to acknowledge funding provided through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Agreement, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Aboriginal Affairs, and Northern Development Canada.

Reporting Out: Summer Session

A bustling summer drew to a close as returning coho made the best of the departing balmy days. Before colder autumn currents once again drew near to Haida Gwaii, a busy crowd gathered on September 9th and 10th. Elected representatives, elders, youth and Council of the Haida Nation's staff, met at the community hall in Hlgaagilda for a quarterly meeting open to all Haida citizens. The executive and committee chairs spent the two days reporting on the CHN's seasonal activities.

Tsilhqot'in Title Case

The summer brought inspiring news: On June 26th President kil tlaats'gaa *Peter Lantin* and Lalaxaaygans *Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson* were in Ottawa to hear the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling that the Tsilhqot'in do hold title over 1700 square kilometres of their traditional territories. This ruling was the first declaration of aboriginal title under Canadian law.

Haida Title Case

The Haida Title case covers all of Haida Gwaii and the surrounding marine areas to the designated territorial boundaries. The strength

of the Haida case and the recent recognition of Tsilhqot'in title in the Williams case has changed BC and Canada's approach to title.

On July 28th, 2014 Minister Bernard Valcourt announced that Canada has broadened its "treaty-only" mandate and is now interested in reconciliation. Representatives from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and the DFO will visit Haida Gwaii in the fall to discuss the meaning of the new mandate. Recent conversations with BC and the Canadian government indicate that the Haida model of reconciliation may be used in the new relationship.

Haida language speakers in both Hlgaagilda and Gaauu have contributed enormously to the case. Over 2000 place names and 520 supernatural-being names have been confirmed and documented. A massive database of photos has also been created from a variety of sources, including the Haida Gwaii Museum's archives. As well, support from outside the nation has been welcomed, with contributors providing additional documentation and reports

Enbridge

During the session, the CHN reported it was

also pursuing another case that had been filed during the summer. On July 14th the CHN filed for judicial review of Canada's June 28th decision to approve the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline proposal based on the Joint Review Panel's recommendation. By that same day seven other First Nations, including the Gitxaala and the Heiltsuk Tribal Council, had also filed for judicial review in their own separate cases. Since then, the Federal Court of Appeal gave notice that it would hear the Gitxaala's case. Coordinated efforts between 13 groups of First Nations and environmental organizations have brought legal challenges at multiple levels. Together they filed over 10,000 pages for review, and coordinated to avoid duplicating their arguments.

The CHN's judicial review seeks a new decision or a ruling that the pipeline's approval is invalid or unlawful. The judicial review process is slow, but on September 26th the Federal Court of Appeal announced it had agreed to hear the case brought forward by the Gitxaala as well as the seven other Nations, and in the last week the Haida case has been granted leave to proceed. This case is a challenge to the decision made by the Joint Review Panel on the proposed Enbridge project.

LNG

CHN holds a firm and clear mandate opposing Enbridge's pipeline proposal. CHN also fulfilled two 2013 HOA resolutions to engage with First Nations to understand how they approach LNG industry. The executive attended conferences along with members of Treaty 8, and representatives of the Fort Nelson First Nation visited Haida Gwaii to share their view of LNG. While the Fort Nelson First Nation is not opposed to LNG development outright, industry practices are still causing great concern. Issues include

Reporting continued on page 6...



"The Haida Nation has been granted leave to apply for a judicial review of the decision on the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project – our challenge begins. Haida Gwaii's voice has been heard, and we now move to address the flawed JRP process, its unconstitutional activities, and the risks that are threatening our Haida way of life."

- **President of the Haida Nation, kil tlaats 'gaa *Peter Lantin***

"Leave" in this instance means being granted permission by the court to take legal action under special circumstances. In this case (JRP decision) the leave was granted so that the nation could challenge the Joint Review Panel's decision which recommended, in December 2013, that the federal government approve the Enbridge pipeline project.

Reporting continued from page 5.

industry and government's consultation process, the rate of development, the disposal of waste, and a lack of monitoring.

Powering Up

To lower CHN's own fossil fuel consumption, a 2013 HOA Resolution committed CHN to eliminating its dependency on diesel energy. BC Hydro is looking for renewable energy solutions for Gaauu, and received 26 proposals in response to a call out. The CHN Energy Committee is consulting with Economic Developer Pieter van Gil of Headwater Capital Consulting. He is helping the Energy Committee evaluate the proposals from a CHN perspective.

The proposals include land-based wind farms, wood bio-mass plants, and hydrogen bio-mass plants. After CHN evaluates the options and recommends a solution, BC Hydro will confirm whether the preferred technology is compatible with their system. Later, CHN and BC Hydro will establish an energy-purchase agreement.

With a vision for sustainable energy on Haida Gwaii, CHN representatives also visited the T'sou-ke Nation near Sooke, BC in July to see how they generate and conserve energy. The T'sou-ke generate solar power, and now sell surplus energy from their administration buildings back to BC Hydro. The visit also spurred CHN's interest in future green house and electrical transportation technologies.

Strength Training

To maintain autonomous energy production, the T'sou-ke Nation trained its citizens to maintain and understand their solar power equipment. At the past CHN Winter Session, participants raised concerns about how employment and business opportunities in Haida Gwaii's economy are mismatched with a lack of training among Haida. In response to this concern, a new cooperative program called "Haida Owned and Operated" is training 20 Haida from October to March to support the development of

entrepreneurial skills. The training will "link Haida people with opportunities that exist within Haida subsidiary companies such as Taan Forest" and support citizens who wish to develop an idea as a stand-alone business. All citizens are welcome to apply at <haidaownedandoperated.ca>.

Stewardship Restructuring

CHN's three stewardship programs – Fisheries, Heritage and Natural Resources, and Haida Mapping – are reorganizing into one integrated program.

Recent good news includes the return of Nick Reynolds from educational leave to his position as Stewardship Coordinator. As stewardship programs expand, citizens will have more job opportunities in land management and stewardship; in accordance with an educational mandate, CHN will support citizens in training for these positions.

To increase order and efficiency, the stewardship programs have undergone a Human Resource (HR) process, which included revisions of each of the program's structures and the committees' terms of reference and mandates. This move supports a general reorganization that includes new job titles, job descriptions, and program structures for the three stewardship programs. Currently the CHN/SHN is selecting a new stewardship director who will oversee the integrated program. Under this new structure, the three programs will operate under the Haida Stewardship Interim Authority.

The Heritage and Natural Resource Committee continues to be the Haida decision-maker on files reviewed by the Solutions Table. From October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014, the HNRC reviewed a total of 141 applications including items such as Cutting and Road Permits, Forestry Licenses to Cut, Extensions, Grazing Permits, and Waste Discharge.

Communications Committee

Communications has seen changes. After Kiefer Collison's departure, Shawn Edenshaw

moved from an alternate position to member.

The program is in transition and part of its transition is to focus on digital publishing. For a detailed explanation of the changes please see #: *A Sign of the Times* on page 2.

Haida Marine Working Group

After public review, CHN and the Province of BC are expected to be signing off on the Haida Gwaii Marine Use Plan, a process that began in 2006. Go to haidanation.ca/Pages/programs/marine_planning/index.html for details on the plan.

Policy

Part of the CHN Policy Committee's work is to oversee the Citizenship Project. The project is developing a Hereditary Baseline, which is the most complete collection of Haida family trees, to date, and represents the cumulative lineages of those people with Haida ancestry.

The purpose of the Hereditary Baseline is to serve as the reference to verify claims to Haida citizenship. An excerpt of the constitution reads: The Constitution of the Haida Nation (A2.S1) states that all people of Haida Ancestry are citizens of the Haida Nation.

As the Hereditary Baseline is a living document it will be added to as people are born into the nation and as new connections are made with relatives.

A resolution will be proposed at the HOA to formally adopt the Hereditary Baseline.

Managing a Fishery

CHN took initial steps to address an HOA resolution to manage its own commercial fishery. So far this year, CHN has purchased 2,598 pounds of xaaguu and 6,673 pounds of salmon from Haida fishers. Haida Wild processed the fish. During the project CHN managed fishing, monitoring, and processing aspects of the fishery. This provided training and capacity building for CHN and Haida Wild staff. Future projects may include fisheries in Hlgaagilda.



Photos: Rita Thibault

Marine Planning update

Haawa / Haaw'a to everyone who contributed their perspectives on the Haida Gwaii marine plan this spring!

Submitted by Molly Clarkson

Public engagement is an integral part of marine planning. The ocean is an important place for people on Haida Gwaii to work, play, experience their cultural heritage, and provide for their families. Throughout the process the CHN and BC have consulted with those who spend time in and have extensive knowledge of the waters around the Islands. The Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Haida Marine Working Group (HMWG) contributed important feedback and guidance to the marine planning team as they worked over the past six years to create a draft plan. The team has been busy holding meetings and open houses with communities, political leaders and stakeholder groups. Many letters and e-mails related to

the plan were also sent to the marine planning team during the public review period.

Public comments on the plan ranged from general questions related to the plan vision and jurisdictional scope to detailed suggestions for improving both the presentation and content of the marine plan. The proposed spatial zones were similarly commented on, with many people offering their knowledge of the ecological and cultural significance of particular areas. The planning team is taking all of this information into consideration in their revision of the draft marine plan.

The revised plan will reflect the longstanding work of the MAC and the HMWG and the recent public feedback on the draft plan. Public participation does not

end with the plan, however. For the plan to happen 'on the ground' (and 'in the waters') the planning team will continue to rely on the expertise of the many people who use and have experiential knowledge of the marine environment around Haida Gwaii. Stay tuned for future opportunities to get involved with the Haida Gwaii Marine Plan.



Design: Tyson Brown



Drummer: Frances Brown. Row one L-R: Annabell Vallejo, Poria Wilson, Tanya Wilson and Steve Hunt. Row two L-R: Charlie Wilson, Ishah Brown, Keegan Napple and Taylor Lawson. Row three L-R: Clara Lawson, Adon Reid and Myra Reid. Row four L-R: Inez Brown, Ilihana Brown and Charmee Brown. Row five L-R: Heiltsuk Chief Gary Housy, Heiltsuk Chief Arnold Hunchitt, Heiltsuk Chief Harvey Hunchitt, HTC - Chief Councilor Marilyn Sertt, Haida Chief Mel Innes, Heiltsuk Chief Conrad Hunchitt and Heiltsuk Chief Earl Newman. Row six L-R: Heiltsuk Chief Ken Campbell, Wilkinux Chief Charlie Lawson, Lara Hunt and Martha Lawson. Row seven L-R: Thomas Dixon, William Housy and Travis Hall. Row eight L-R: Kara Lawson, Eroy White and Denise Carpenter. Back Row L-R: Charles Brown and Jefferson Brown.

The Heiltsuk delegation arrived by ferry in Guuhlga Llnagaay Skidegate Landing on Thursday, September 18th after a 2-day journey. As the Heiltsuk guests came ashore, they put their children first, honouring their young leaders, and demonstrating how important future generations are to the work they will do here on Haida Gwaii. Photo: Mary Helmer.

A PEACE OF MIND

Haida Heiltsuk affirm historic relationship

by Valine Crist

It's a typical early-autumn day outside, but inside the Gaauu Community Hall is anything but typical. It's festive and everyone is eager to witness the historic event. Well

before the 1 pm start-time on Saturday, September 20th, the hall is packed full, and everyone is dressed in their finest clothes and regalia. You can actually feel the excitement and anticipation. Today, the Haida and Heiltsuk will potlatch the legacy of their ancestors with the 2014 Treaty of Peace, Respect, and Responsibility.

Singers and drummers soon captured everyone's attention to announce the entrance of the Haida hereditary leaders. Every chief was introduced by their traditional name

as they entered the hall and immediately following, the Heiltsuk delegation entered, singing and drumming, announcing their hereditary leaders one-by-one.

The delegation stopped at Kay Llnagaay for a tour of the Haida Gwaii Museum before arriving at the community hall in Hlgaagilda, where they were drummed in for their official welcome. The welcome was hosted by the Skidegate Band Council; Chief Councilor Billy Yovanovich said, "We're so fortunate to be here declaring peace. While other nations are warring, we're making peace. What a great example we're making here."

It's a once in a lifetime potlatch, and everyone was proud to witness and participate. Like every other coastal nation, the Haida and Heiltsuk have a mixed history – their ancestors intermarried and

had children together, but they also have a history of conflict and war. In the mid-1800s, both nations' predecessors knew that they had to make peace, so the hereditary

leaders of the day made the decision and agreed on an oral peace-treaty. At the time, the two nations exchanged three songs to symbolize the peace, and they still sing them in ceremonies today.

After the formal entrances, the Haida Descendants shared three songs and dances to cleanse the floor before the ceremonies continued. "We share [the] coast, and we're all here to protect our forests and seas," Skil kaatl'aas Reg Davidson

Treaty continued on page 9...

treaty continued from page 8.

explained between the dance group's performances. "We're all united and we're here to share our culture together."

The potlatch continued with speeches from elected leaders, President of the Haida Nation, kil tlaats'gaa *Peter Lantin.*, and Heiltsuk Band Chief Councillor, Marilyn Slett.

Council, and Old Massett Village Council also accepted gifts of beautiful prints titled "One Heart, One Mind". The Haida honoured their Heiltsuk guests with a large cedar bent-wood box drum with both nations' logos painted on it, and Guujaaw shared a Heiltsuk song that had been recorded amongst the

northern Haida families, namely the Parnells and Wilsons from *Gaauu*. One of the Heiltsuk delegates, Denise Carpenter, spoke proudly of the relationship between the two nations, saying, "Our Wilson name came from Haida Gwaii, from our great-grandfather, Alfred Wilson." Ms Carpenter went on to describe



Springtime birds captivated the audience at the Haida Heiltsuk Peace Treaty Potlatch. L-R: April White, Amelia Rea and Cynthia Samuels.



After signing the treaty of peace, respect and responsibility, hereditary chiefs *Jim Hart* and *Earl Newman* shake hands.

"On behalf of the Heiltsuk Tribal Council and our respected leaders here today, our hearts are filled with joy," said Ms Slett. "Today is a historic and monumental day for our people, signing a modern-day treaty with the Haida nation. We travelled here with good intentions, with pride, from the Heiltsuk nation. We're a small group of about 70 people here, but we carry with us our ancestors. We carry the good intentions of our families. I'm very proud to be here. I'm humbled and overwhelmed with your welcome."

After reading the treaty aloud, Haida and Heiltsuk leaders each took their turns putting pen to paper, ratifying the treaty of peace, respect, and responsibility. Hereditary leaders from both nations signed the treaty first, followed by CHN representatives, elected leaders, and respected individuals from the Heiltsuk nation.

Throughout the potlatch, both nations exchanged gifts. Heiltsuk representatives brought gifts for Haida cultural leaders, Christian and Candace White. The Council of the Haida Nation, the Skidegate Band

Haida over 100 years ago by John Wesley.

As day turned into night hereditary leaders from the Haida and Heiltsuk nations spoke about their time at residential school. Many of the chiefs recognized their Haida and Heiltsuk counterparts from those early days when they were sent away to school. These connections were a tangible example of the strength of

Discussions for this modern treaty started in 1997 amongst hereditary leaders of the Haida and Heiltsuk nations. A delegation of Heiltsuk leaders came to meet with their counterparts in *Ilgaagilda* and *Gaauu*. Over the last 17 years, these discussions continued until the treaty was authorized according to traditional law through the potlatch system, in *Gaauu*.

the nations, and this power reverberated throughout the day as each leader shared their words on the significance of this event.

Haida and Heiltsuk families also celebrated their common relatives and family ties. The Heiltsuk traced their connections to

her lineage and the relationship between the Haida and Heiltsuk: "Alfred was adopted by Chief *Wiah* and took on Haida traditions." She also explained that over the years, this connection was lost, and talked about how her research uncovered the history between the two nations.

The treaty between the nations also celebrates their common commitment to responsible stewardship – to protect their lands and waters from ongoing threats. The natural world knows no boundaries, and both nations, their people, and their cultures are inherently connected to the lands and seas around them. This message echoed throughout the chiefs' speeches. The Heiltsuk leaders were clear – they came here to protect the coast and their shared resources for future generations to enjoy.

Following these speeches, both nations shared performances to formalize the treaty. The Heiltsuk and Haida danced in ceremonies for nearly three hours each, performing into the early hours of the morning. The MCs

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treaty continued from page 9.

dutifully reminded witnesses that there was no *time* at this ceremony. “We don’t care about the time, we are only mindful of what business needs to be conducted,” said Jaskwaan.

“This is a monumental step in the right direction,” stated President kil tlaats’ gaa *Peter Lantin*. “We’re seeing declarations of land title in BC. We’ve known this all along. We’re not waiting for the court or the crown to give a declaration of title to either the Haida or the Heiltsuk. This nation-to-nation business is doing that. We know we have title to our territories and we’re acting on it.”

The momentum and celebratory energy continued over the course of meals, speeches, dances, and ceremonies. Witnesses and guests expressed their honour and privilege at participating in such a historic event and accepted many gifts as payment, including cedar seedlings. The Heiltsuk nation was presented with a 43’ monumental cedar, and seedlings were given to those who witnessed the potlatch, to respect the fallen tree.

At the end of a long, remarkable day, it was apparent from the speeches and celebration of culture that the combined force of these two nations, each with clear political and cultural mandates, will change the way business is conducted on the coast. The treaty of peace, respect, and responsibility affirms the strength and vision of the people, and the nations.

Check out our Facebook page <Council of the Haida Nation> for over 100 Haida Heiltsuk Peace Treaty Potlatch photos.



Design: Tyson Brown



Photo courtesy of the Pitt Rivers Museum

Brothers Jaalen and Gwaai Edenshaw paint the box prior to carving.

The Great Box project

by *Graham Richard*

The partially finished copy of the Great Box will return from Oxford on Friday the 10th of October. The new box, which is being carved and painted by brothers Gwaai and Jaalen Edenshaw, features skillful designs copied from the original masterpiece onto the new bentwood cedar box. The Edenshaws worked on the copy for 28 days straight and presented their work to local craftspeople and children at the Pitt Rivers Museum, where the original Great Box currently resides.

To achieve accuracy, the carvers followed agreed-upon protocols as they carved. They adjusted lines from the original Great Box only if very clearly damaged or irregular. “We may not understand something, even after months of working with [the Great Box],” Gwaai acknowledged. “That doesn’t mean someone else won’t be able to see or understand it. By downloading the information from the old box onto the new box, someone else can have the same opportunity we had to learn from it.”

As experienced carvers, Gwaai and Jaalen were happy to focus so much time on a single piece. “Usually when you get into a museum you get a couple hours or a day at most,” Jaalen observed, “and usually you’re dealing with a whole bunch of other pieces, too. You don’t really get to focus in and contemplate

what the artist was doing.” With 28 days of concentrated effort, the two carvers had time to learn some excellent lessons from the master who carved the original Great Box. “We learned something new pretty much every day,” Gwaai said. “We had a good idea of certain star features that are very interesting and obvious. But every single day, whatever we worked on, we noticed and learned something.”

Certain cuts surprised the Edenshaws as they worked. The master who carved the original Great Box appeared to react to the tone and grain of the cedar itself – it is also apparent he considered how the box would look in firelight and in the changing light from a longhouse’s smoke hole. Jaalen and Gwaai discussed these subtleties at length to find the best ways to go about these techniques. Both acknowledge that their partnership was crucial to understanding the original design. “When we disagreed with each other, it led to a better design over all,” Jaalen explained.

Painting and carving will begin again after the new box returns to Haida Gwaii. The Edenshaws have yet to carve trout heads on the back of the box; they will also be painting its sides.



Photo: Michael Peckert

Old and new: The copy stands to the right of the old master's piece.



Photo: Michael Peckert

Gwaai and Jaalen Edenshaw hold the finished copy of the box; it arrived on Haida Gwaii, from Oxford, October 10, 2014.



Council of the Haida Nation House of Assembly



October 14, 15, 16, 17, 2014

9 am - 4:30 pm

Gaauu *Old Massett* Community Hall

lunch provided

As per 2009 House of Assembly resolution, please bring your own dishes and cutlery. Citizens who bring their own dishes will be eligible for door prizes.