Hiit’a gan.iina Kuuyas Naay opens in Skidegate.

YOUTH GREET YOUTH – members of the Skidegate Youth Council arrive by the canoe, T’aa, to open the Skidegate youth centre. The paddlers were greeted on the beach by aspiring leaders and Skidegate’s Chief Councillor, Robert Mills. From the front, and left to right: Bryanna Williams, Chief Councillor, Robert Mills; Kostan Pelton; Saul Williams; Youth Council President, Desi Collinson; Carver Jones; Niisii Guujaaw (in back); Aaron Hans; Kris Olsen (in back); Joel Richardson; Duane Alsop; Brandon Gibbard; Jason Alsop; Doreeel Piercey and Staas Guujaaw (in the stern of the canoe).
Canada to Appeal Fish Ruling

Canada has applied to the Supreme Court of Canada to appeal the decision of the BC Court of Appeal which affirmed the constitutionally-protected aboriginal rights of five Nuu-chah-nulth nations to fish and sell fish into the commercial marketplace.

Ahousaht and Others v. Canada was the first major court decision in Canada to establish aboriginal rights to fish and sell a wide range of species available in the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations’ traditional territories. It represents a significant win not only for the Nuu-chah-nulth nations but for all BC First Nations who have maintained their economies through the trade and sale of fish.

To appeal the decision, Canada must first get permission from the Supreme Court of Canada. The Nuu-chah-nulth nations will oppose that application, but if the Supreme Court decides to hear Canada’s appeal, First Nations and aboriginal organizations throughout BC and Canada will be paying close attention to the proceedings.

Everything was Carved: the video

Produced as a teaching tool for students and community researchers, Everything was Carved is a short film that gives viewers a very interesting and intimate look inside the Pitt Rivers Museum.

Through interviews with staff and visiting Haidas, the streaming web-video reveals the philosophy that drives the institution and the push-and-pull of two cultures – Haida and European – struggling to build an ongoing relationship.

At the heart of the film is a “dance” around the sensitivity of dealing with treasures collected by one culture but owned by another. The film is available at: http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/haida.html.

Are you interested in politics, culture and people? Then this job is for you.

Haida Laas is looking for a Community Correspondent to write about the activities of the Council of the Haida Nation in and around Skidegate.

The writer, in collaboration with the editor of Haida Laas, will develop a storyboard and produce approximately 1000 words a month. Stories will cover CHN activities, and cultural and social events.

This position is ideal for a self-motivated person who has an interest in writing and photography, and basic computer skills. The wage for this work is $500 a month.

For more information, please call 250.559.8755, or to apply, send a résumé and a sample of your writing (one story or multiple stories totaling 1000 words) to: editor@haidanation.net. Applications must be in by October 30, 2011.

A Defining Contribution

Containing information found nowhere else, Swanton’s contribution is a resource that informs and provokes debate about Haida culture. Originally published in 1905, the Council of the Haida Nation reprinted the text in 2004 with a new introduction and acknowledgement of Haida contributors and translators in the first edition.

This 300-page clothbound book is a fine gift that will endure many years of study. The proceeds from sales support the work of the Council of the Haida Nation and the books are available at Haida Laas, Skidegate and other fine offices of the CHN – $10000.

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Thinking about, and caring for, the ocean

The first meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee, which was formed to support the development of a Haida Gwaii marine-use plan, was held this month in Skidegate. The plan is being created to protect the ocean around Haida Gwaii and provide guidance to sustainable human-uses.

In addition to the Haida Gwaii Marine Use Plan, there are a number of other planning activities already underway including the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site; St’aan Kightlas Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area; Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area, and Protected Areas created under the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement.

These initiatives involve the Haida Nation as well as federal (Parks Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada) and provincial agencies and organizations, and the parties have agreed that a coordinated approach to Haida Gwaii marine-use planning would be beneficial to all. Russ Jones, from Haida Fisheries, said, “The group is confident that a coordinated approach has significant benefits, including better understanding of the range of marine planning initiatives in Haida Gwaii, opportunities to share expertise, effective use of interest groups resources, and enhanced opportunities for relationship-building within and between agencies, organizations and the public.”

The new committee is comprised of 15 members with a range of backgrounds that include local and non-local expertise. The members bring knowledge gained from living on-Island, working in an ocean-based industry and/or involvement in a marine-related organization. Members were selected for their experience and knowledge in areas such as commercial and recreational fishing, conservation, marine tourism, marine sciences, economic development, marine transportation, and Haida culture.

This Haida Gwaii marine-use planning process will use the input from the Haida Gwaii Marine Advisory Committee, and other forms of consulting, to help develop the overall Haida Gwaii Marine Use Plan, building on the work completed, to date, by the Haida Marine Work Group of the Council of the Haida Nation and that of the Haida Gwaii Marine Use Planning Committee, and other forms of consulting, to help develop the overall Haida Gwaii Marine Use Plan, building on the work completed, to date, by the Haida Marine Work Group of the Council of the Haida Nation and that of other parties.

For more information, please contact: Russ Jones, CHN Skidegate 250.559.8945 or russ.jones@haidanation.net

Towards a Marine Use Plan is available at http://www.haidanation.ca/Pages/Splash/Documents/Towards_a_MUP.pdf and the report on the Haida Gwaii Oceans Forum is available at http://www.haidanation.ca/Pages/Splash/Documents/Gaayyiicang_72.pdf

Reporting from the Haida Nation’s Summer Session

EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Executive report covered reconciliation and recognition of title; regional and national relationships; the Council of the Haida Nation and the Secretariat of the Haida Nation’s organizational re-structuring; and a thorough list of meetings attended and travel undertaken.

One of many executive functions is to pay attention to detail and to build Haida governance using the Constitution of the Haida Nation and the regulations of the House of Assembly. The Summer Session report knits together the activities and projects that the CHN is working on and shows the extent and detail of work being done to achieve the Nation’s goals.

The Executive ensures that the Nation’s goals and objectives are embedded in, and driving forward, the projects and processes of the Nation. For example, HaiCo’s economic initiatives are meshed with the capacity building and governance goals of the Nation, and the goal of self-sufficiency is built into the Clean Energy Plan that is being worked on with the National Research Council.

HAIKO REPORT

HaiCo recently added West Coast Resorts to its business portfolio, which also includes Taan Forest, Taan Wood and the Tlell River House.

The West Coast Resorts group includes six properties – the Sandspit Inn and five fishing lodges. Two lodges are located in the waters of Haida Gwaii – one at Englefield Bay, the other at Hippa Island. Two others are moored on the North Central Coast – one at Whale Channel near Hartley Bay and the other at Milbanke Sound near Kletmu. And, on the west coast of Vancouver Island there is a lodge at Walters Cove near Kyuquot.

The West Coast Resorts acquisition gives the recently purchased Tlell River House access to marketing and sales expertise. With WCR and TRH now under the umbrella of HaiCo, general and administrative functions can be more efficient. It also gives HaiCo a broad range of products, which it can now cross-market to a guest list that is part of the WCR acquisition.

Once the doors are open, the Tlell River House anticipates a full house. To meet Summer Session report cont’d next page
Haida House of Assembly
October 11 - 14
Skidegate

HAIDA CITIZEN REGISTRATION
A Haida Citizenship Registration form, designed by the CHN Policy Committee, was presented to, and adopted by, citizens at the Spring Session. The registration form was developed to ensure there is an accurate list of registered Haida citizens world-wide. The official list will also be used to determine eligibility for voting in elections and for heritage purposes. The forms are available at either CHN office and online at www.haidanation.ca. Although personal information is requested on the form, that information will be protected and citizens’ privacy respected.

ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT
The proposed wind-farm came up for discussion during the Energy Committee report and a motion was passed to hold a vote, before December 15, 2011, to determine if there is to be a business relationship between the Haida Nation and Naikun.

1-on-1 is the way to go
A proposal requesting the CHN to endorse an accelerated Xaad Kil Learning Program was brought to the Summer Session by Jasquan Amanda Bedard and Jaalen Edenshaw. The two language students gave a short history of the way language has been taught to date, and acknowledged the dedication and efforts made by teachers and students who have been part of that learning.

The new proposal is to take a number of motivated learners “to a higher level of fluency through a ‘Master/Apprentice’ model of language learning”. This method of teaching and learning connects a fluent speaker with one or two students and operates much like other language immersion programs, but with fewer students and more one-on-one teaching.

In this model, the progress of students is monitored and evaluated, and resources such as oral recordings and documents are used to supplement learning. As students progress, they share their knowledge in the schools and community, become stewards of Haida language, and learners.

This is per Resolution 4:
R4. Partnership with Naikun Wind Energy Corp. Inc.
WHEREAS the Haida people must have a say in the decision regarding the Naikun project.

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

In response to the criticism of bias in information distribution, a motion was put forward that:
THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION, in its commitment to Xaad Kil/Haida Language, will acknowledge that there is a need to drastically alter the current approach to language learning in our communities, and that the “Master/Apprentice” approach as presented at the 2011 Summer Session is a proven method of language learning that needs to be seriously committed to, and CHN will provide support for the formation, finding of funding for, and implementation of such programs in our Haida communities.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Following the passing of the motion, the CHN committed to developing a Language Working Group to look at the number of ways that Haida is now being taught on-Island and develop a coordinated approach that will benefit teachers and learners.
The project will devastate clams, crabs, birds, whales and other species are unfounded.”

In their report to the Summer Session, the Energy Committee stated that, “subject to the implementation of [the] specified mitigation measures, the project is expected to have any significant adverse environmental effects. More specifically, the scientific evidence indicates that environmental concerns that the project will devastate clams, crabs, birds, whales and other species are unfounded.”

The committee report emphasized the importance of ensuring that the mitigation strategies, which include monitoring and adaptive management, are put in place and adhered to.

Alternative Power Options

In the interest of reducing or eliminating the use of diesel to produce power on Island, the CHN has been working with the National Research Council (Canada) to look at alternative technologies to produce power. The project is examining technologies such as tidal, burning waste, wind, etc. Phase One of the project, which examined the production of clean energy options, is complete; Phase Two is now beginning and examines energy for heating and transportation. The Energy Committee said that there is no single renewable energy source capable of supplying electricity for all of Haida Gwaii, and that an integrated system of complementary technologies will be required. The project does not examine the wind project proposed for Hecate Strait.

BC Hydro has been subsidizing power rates on Haida Gwaii to the tune of about $10-million a year and the emissions from burning fuel make the Islands’ population one of the biggest polluters, per person, in the country.

HAIDA FISHERIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Fisheries Committee spoke to the closing of the Pallant Creek Hatchery. They said the hatchery has been closed due to funding cutbacks, and that they are not walking away from it and are looking at ways to use the facility. DFO says they would support discussions on an alternate use (other than salmon production) of the facility and on the development of environmental education and stewardship activities that do not involve the facility.

The hatchery has been suffering over the past few years with budget cut-backs and a commitment to maintenance and upgrading the site. DFO cites health and safety issues among other reasons as too costly to keep the facility open. The facility produced chum and coho fry for release into the wild, food fish for social and ceremonial practices and approximately 3 full-time jobs over its thirteen-year operation.

The Fisheries Committee also reported that the Secretariat of the Haida Nation’s food-fish program delivered about 7,000 pounds of k’aaw to citizens this year. The Skidegate Band Council, which was distributed in the villages.

The Fisheries Committee has been conferencing by video – the initiative provides an independent evaluation of the proposed wind centre project and expressed his appreciation to Deputy Chief Robert Williams for consistently keeping the work and colleagues and that they were excellent at their jobs and at making clear to Band Council the needs of young people in the community. Deputy Chief Williams also announced humorously that he was making a point of keeping his speech very short that day.

SAI KUUYA NAS NAAY – The new youth centre – sits on Hijaagdilda Ki’waya overlooking the beach in Skidegate. On the sunny afternoon of September 9, a red-and-black ribbon graced the front of a brand new building in Skidegate, a section of Front Street was temporarily closed to traffic, and a spray of brightly-coloured balloons signalled the arrival of a special day. A crowd of excited guests was assembling on sidewalks, smiling cooks were tending barbecues and a group of young people, travelling by canoe, would soon join the gathering.

The occasion, jointly hosted by the Skidegate Band Council and the Skidegate Youth Council, was the grand opening of the village’s striking new youth centre.

The ceremonies began with Jackie Casey, a member of the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program (SHIP), offering a prayer. Betty Richardson, on behalf of SHIP, then announced the name of the youth centre: Hiit’a gan.iina Kuuyas Naay – which translates into English as Young People’s Precious House. This was followed by the cutting of the ribbon, performed by Percy Crosby, CHN Representative; Desi Collinson, Youth Council President; Robert Mills, Chief Councillor, and Shelley Sansome, Gwaii Trust Representative.

In his opening remarks, Chief Mills welcomed the guests, and explained that several years of planning and work had gone into the youth centre project. He noted contributions of past and present Band Councils, the Skidegate Youth Council, and the sponsors of the project. Chief Mills also gave special thanks to the Youth Council for keeping everyone on the right track in terms of the youth centre project and expressed his appreciation to Deputy Chief Robert Williams for keeping the work and aims of the Youth Council front-and-center at Band Council meetings.

Deputy Chief Williams outlined the history of Hiit’a gan.iina Kuuyas Naay and pointed out the combination of efforts that turned the idea of a youth centre into a reality. He spoke highly of the work of his Skidegate Youth Council.
then, as he neared the end of his speech, support of the youth centre project. And member of the preceding Band Counedging the work of the Band Council, he Kuuyas Naay. In addition to acknowl

secr: In his community and in Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay, and, with a fresh burst of joy and enthusiasm exclaimed, “Look at this! Just LOOK at this!” And everybody did.

Jason Alsop, Vice-President of the Skidegate Youth Council, named and introduced each of the SYC members to the audience. In honour of the day and Haida culture, the SYC members paddled the canoe, T’a’an, from Kay Li

nagaay to the grand opening, much to the delight of spectators who watched the canoe race past First Beach, and, a minute later, land at the beach directly below Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas. Jason also introduced three friends of the SYC, who were invited to participate in the canoe trip as honorary paddlers: Brandon Gibbard, Joel Richardson, and Kris Olsen of the Queen Charlotte Teen Cen.

To impress upon the audience just how supportive Kris is of the Skidegate Youth Council, Jason revealed that Kris’ name had been recorded a total of 83 times in the minutes of SYC meetings.

Current members of the SYC are: Desi Collinson, President; Jason Alsop, Vice-President; Robert Williams, Secretary-Treasurer; Duane Alsop, SBC Representative; Doreen Pierc
ey; Nisi Gujaaw; Laas Parnell; and Vanessa Whiteknife.

Additional highlights of the day included a performance by the Hl’gaagilda Children’s Dance Group led by Jenny Cross; a tour of Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay; the gifting, to the witnesses, of a commemorative Haida eagle-raven print designed by Billy N.C. Yovanovich; an invitation to enjoy a barbecue dinner of salmon burgers, beef burgers, hot dogs, salads and pies, which was served in the Skidegate Community Hall; and, to cap everything off, an evening display of fireworks, generously donated to the Skidegate Youth Council by the North Island Youth Council in recognition of the SYC’s achievement.

Situated on Hl’gaagilda K’iiwaay (Front Street), alongside the Skidegate Community Hall, Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay is centrally located within the village. Project construction was managed by Sid Crosby of Skidegate, and, the contractors, all of whom are local, included Les Collinson and crew, Eddie Dignard and crew, and Aaron Mark Services. Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay was fully complete within just over four months – the initial construction phase began during the week of March 20, 2011 – and the project came in under budget. Sponsors of the project were the Council of the Haida Nation, Skidegate Band Council, Gwaii Trust, and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (formerly INAC).

In addition to offering a majestic view of the ocean through its huge main window, Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay has a bright, airy interior with plenty of room for relaxing and hanging out, inviting friends in, working on any number of projects, and putting on special events. A spacious and fully-equipped kitchen is another terrific feature.

Judging by all of the smiles and grins at the grand opening, Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay is a hit with people of all ages.

Skidegate Youth Council President, Desi Collinson welcomes the guests, with SBC Chief Councillor, Robert Mills. Mr Collinson spoke to the dedication of the many people it took to carry and realize the youths’ vision of having their own centre.

Dressed for the weather in matching Stanfields — Paul Bell and son, Ryder, are ready to head outside and get to work on their boat.

He said that when he first applied for his current position about five years ago, he didn’t even get an interview.

After graduating with a Dogwood Credentials certificate at 19, Paul started working in his home community of Old Massett, first running the Youth Centre, and then managing the Group Home. This led to a 15-year career working with the Old Massett Village Council in various capacities, including Information Manager for the Old Massett Development Corporation (OMDC).

Before his OMDC tenure and while in his early 20’s, Paul enrolled in the Applied Business Technology program at the Native Education Centre in Van-

The series, WORKING ON-ISLAND, is a collaboration between Haida Laas and Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site.

Number 3 in the series – WORKING ON-ISLAND

PAUL BELL – Family, fishing and fixin’ the boat.

by Silvie Cruz

“I started out using and learning about computers a long time ago — it was before the mouse was invented. They told us that in the future there would be a little pointer that you could use to just point and click!”

Working as a GIS (Geographical Information System) Technician Level II for the Council of the Haida Nation, Paul Bell uses computers to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, and manage digital data. Paul explains that the maps the CHIN department produces are the end result of “hours and hours of work with this data.”

With the newly-signed agreements between the Haida and provincial governments, such as the Kunst’a Gis – Kunst’aayah Reconciliation Agreement, the CHIN requires accurate and detailed maps of Haida Gwaii, which are used in discussion and negotiation with other governments, courts and agencies.

There are six employees in the CHIN’s GIS department and Paul is one of a three-person team that works on creating the maps and information.

This ongoing task of collecting and entering data, processing, and managing may sound complex — and it is — but Paul really enjoys this work. “Every day you get a little further,” he says, “and with that comes a great sense of satisfaction.”

Attaining a dream job doesn’t come without hard work. It has taken Paul years of post-secondary school, specialized training, and roughly twenty years of work with other organizations on Haida Gwaii to get where he is today.

The world of digital processing. “How you work on a computer compared to a typewriter is like night and day,” he said. “It was like somebody turned the lights on. I thought, holy! Imagine what I can do now.”

Nearly a decade later, and while at OMDC, he was offered the opportunity of more computer training at Niagara College. Paul knew this was something he wanted to pursue. He registered at Niagara College in one of the Six Nations programs specifically geared to working where he learned about office administration and was introduced to the world of digital processing.

“Now you work on a computer compared to a typewriter is like night and day,” he said. “It was like somebody turned the lights on. I thought, holy! Imagine what I can do now.”

Working On Island cont’d next page

Photo: Haida Laas

He wanted to pursue. He registered at Niagara College in one of the Six Nations programs specifically geared to working where he learned about office administration and was introduced to the world of digital processing.
First Nations; the Six Nations are made up of the Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca, and Tuscarora Nations. Paul was the only Haida and the only Native from Western Canada among Ab-Originals from the Yukon and members of the Six Nations. The program was 16 months long, so he and Lisa, now his wife of nearly twenty years, moved to Brantford Ontario, just south of Toronto.

There were challenges for two Haida living so far away from home, but Paul speaks highly of the program. “We learned everything we needed to know about the earth, how it functions and lives and breathes and how things are built, like roads. [We learned about] the different methods of recording the information — which is with a Global Positioning System (GPS) or a compass — and then entering it into a computer.” Paul says turning the information into a map is the last step in this process.

Four years ago, Paul and Lisa had a son, Ryder Mackenzie, born January 11 in Prince Rupert. The apple of Paul’s eye, Ryder spends most evenings with his Dad in the yard, often working on their boat. Taking on an “apprentice’s” role under his father, Ryder can usually be found outside, with his Dad, doing stuff. “Fishing, getting ready for fishing, or cleaning up after fishing,” Paul says. “That’s what takes up all of our time!”

Now skilled at collecting, managing, and analyzing data, Paul says programming the computer to make it do what you want, in the most effective and efficient way, is critical. “You need to be able to tell the computer what you want it to do using the quickest and shortest path,” he said. But that doesn’t mean you have to think like a computer. “You’ll be fine if you don’t think like a computer,” he said. “You just have to learn to think like a programmer.” And, those are skills you can learn.

As a GIS tech, Paul is constantly working on professional development and upgrading his skill set. He speaks enthusiastically about a course he recently took to learn Python script, a programming language that helps him integrate computer applications and work more effectively.

Leslie Brown has been hired as Skills Development Coordinator at HaiCo.

HaiCo Hire
Leslie Brown has been hired in to the position of Skills Development Coordinator at HaiCo. Ms Brown brings human resource and project management experience to her new role, gained through a variety of jobs including her most recent as Project Officer with Gwaii Trust.

Ms Brown holds an Advanced Certificate in Business Administration and is currently completing a Bachelor in Commerce.

Ms Brown will work with communities to develop and deliver skills training initiatives and programs that will help meet on-Island human resource needs and contribute to capacity building. Her role will support skill development and training within HaiCo’s business units and organizations that HaiCo has partnered or works closely with. Ms Brown will work out of Skidegate and Old Masset.

Something Different This Way Comes
by Florence Luckey
Nights Alive begins this October. This crime prevention program, designed for youth 13-18 years of age, provides positive activities for youth that will yield a reduction in drugs, alcohol and street life.

Every Friday night from 8 pm to midnight, at the Old Massett Community Hall, the supervised program, sponsored by the Old Massett Village Council, offers activities and hands-on training in security, budgeting, food-safe, office operations, personal safety, etc.

“The youth will build the program,” said Harmony Williams, Old Massett Youth Coordinator. “And as they build it, a youth ‘crew’ will manage and operate the program on a weekly basis using the skills they have learned.”

First up on a list of activities is Something Different: Scary Fun, a series of events running throughout October:

• October 7 – Scary Movie Night with a Midnight Scavenger Hunt ($2)
• October 14 – Grosser Night ($2)
• October 21 – Open Gym ($2)
• October 28 – All-Islands Halloween Dance ($5)

Watch for other Old Massett Youth Program events. The events are open to youth from all over the Islands and Ms Williams says that if there is enough interest Nights Alive will provide transportation for youth to attend.

In other Islands news, make note of the coming elections in May 2012 for the North-Island Youth Council — just around the corner! North-Island youth are encouraged to think about who would make a good candidate to nominate, or run, yourself, for a seat on the council.

For more information about Nights Alive contact Harmony Williams or Kief er Collison. Kief er is also the contact for the North-Island Youth Council — 250.626.3911.

Meeting at the Center
Artist Robert Davidson, in front of his sculpture, Meeting at the Center, at the Old Massett Village office and Community Hall. The red, powder-coated, aluminum, silhouette-style artwork measures approximately 6’ on both sides and 4’ tall.

Mr Davidson donated the artwork because he wanted to be part of what is happening in the village. “The high quality of work in all the poles that have gone up over the past couple of years is an inspiration, and I want to be part of that. It’s exciting to see so much happening here in Massett,” he said.

Mr Davidson’s most recent contribution is number 3 of an edition of 5, and sits alongside two poles, overlooking the inlet, that were carved by Jaelen Edenshaw and Donny Edenshaw in 2009.

MIEDS: License to Cut
The Misty Islands Economic Development Society has received 25,000 m3 of timber for two years, as an interim volume, until a Community Forest Agreement for 80,000 m3 per year can be signed between the Ministry of Forests and the Islands’ communities. The communities included in this agreement are Masset, Port Clements, Queen Charlotte, Sandspit and Areas D and E.

To oversee the forestry operation, MIEDS has contracted B. A. Blackwell & Associates, of North Vancouver, who will use a competitive bid process to ensure MIEDS is guaranteed a profit for each cubic metre logged. That profit will go into an FLTC (Forest License to Cut) Reserve Fund and Range and the Islands’ communities. The profits will be distributed to the communities.
Karaoke & pedal bikes mark the end of summer
by Florence Lockyer

Getting people together is always a good idea and getting together to celebrate the end of summer and raise funds for the beautification of Old Massett is a really good idea!

On Saturday, September 10, the Old Massett Village Council hosted their first End of Summer Celebration. It was an event that was quick in planning and long on memories. It came together in only a few weeks with Council and staff volunteering their time to ensure there were lots of activities and events that ran smoothly.

Administrative Assistant, Geraldine Russ, was instrumental in gathering donations for the raffles and loonie auctions. Raffle prizes included a trip for two to Vancouver, with two nights at the Hampton Inn, and a 42” 3D plasma TV. The loonie auction prizes included art, jewelry, a bentwood box, and a gift basket. Out of all the great prizes, two were very unique: a doghouse, and a smokehouse, built by the work crew who are in training, learning how to put metal roofs on houses. Congratulations to all of the winners!

The day began with a pancake breakfast sponsored and cooked-up by the Old Massett Village Council Culinary Arts School. Following that, the community hall was set up for an indoor market and tables placed outside for the outdoor market. A highlight of both markets was the fried bread, and a delicious clam chowder made by Brian Bell and Judy Williams ... and then there was Sharleen’s cotton-candy corner! Both marketplaces had many treasures; there were fund-raising events, and community members sold their wares, which included home-made jams, hats, scarves, and art. Outdoors, there were more tables and treasures. The Fish Pond and Ring Toss were fun for people of all ages and the cake walk, with its fine music, added a welcome ambience to the festivities. And, to mark the end of summer, the sunshine graced the whole day with its comforting rays.

Our local RCMP members helped out barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs throughout the day, and both food items totally sold out. Other notable events were the giant, floating soap-bubbles created by Ken Leslie, and the U-Ride Pedal Bikes, which saw kids burning around the parking lot as if on a go-cart track. Sumo wrestling in big, awkward suits, and the giant, bouncy house were fun for many of the children and youth — and even some less-than-young folks enjoyed them too. But the busiest table, all day, was the bank, run by the very able Old Massett finance department, where a steady stream of tickets was sold for the events and raffles.

The afternoon was topped off by the talented people of the OMVC Culinary Arts Program who barbecued-up a delicious salmon and potato salad dinner.

Karaoke was then set up and the evening rolled on with many local heroes sharing their talent and penchant for singing. The draws for prizes were done after dinner and people went home happy and well fed. It was a grand way to celebrate the End of Summer in Old Massett.

PHOTO GALLERY
1 – Young at heart: Pedal-power fuels the race around the track at the End of Summer Celebration. 2 - l-r: Tatiana Russ, Carson Liddle, Devon Marks and Simon Smith take a break from bouncing around the parking lot as if on a go-cart track. Sumo wrestling in big, awkward suits, and the giant, bouncy house were fun for many of the children and youth — and even some less-than-young folks enjoyed them too. But the busiest table, all day, was the bank, run by the very able Old Massett finance department, where a steady stream of tickets was sold for the events and raffles. The afternoon was topped off by the talented people of the OMVC Culinary Arts Program who barbecued-up a delicious salmon and potato salad dinner.

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Photo: Michelle Brown

Photo: Archie Stocker Sr.

Photo: Archie Stocker Sr.

Photo: Archie Stocker Sr.

Photo: Archie Stocker Sr.

Photo: Archie Stocker Sr.

Photo: Archie Stocker Sr.
Curious? Ask around.