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HAIDA LAAS

News from the Council of the Haida Nation

October 2018



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NgaaysdII Naay Gyaagang

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HAIDA LAAS

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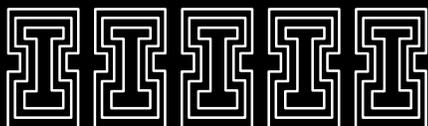
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Gidansda named Special Advisor by Coastal First Nations

Bessie Brown - The CFN board of directors are pleased to announce that Gidansda has been retained as Special Advisor to the Coastal First Nations (CFN).

Gidansda, a founding member and past president of the CFN, will provide strategic advice and direction, and support the leadership on key policy files. "As a negotiator, Gidansda is respected by friend and foe alike" says CFN senior policy advisory Paul Kairya. "He is an artful strategist known to come up with innovative solutions to complex problems."

"At this very critical time in our work to protect the environment and build a sustainable economy, we are very pleased to have Gidansda back with the CFN," said CFN President Chief Ga Gwi Ya Marilyn Slett. "He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table."

Gidansda was CFN Chair through the years of protecting and establishing the 'Great Bear Rainforest' and has worked with North and Central coasts leaders through the land and marine use planning processes.

Gidansda served 13 years as President of the Haida Nation and now carries the name "Gidansda" Hereditary Chief of the Gak'ya Is KiiGawaay of the Haida Nation. He has been in the thick of Haida culture and politics all of his adult life. He is a canoe maker and carver, known to some for his songs and stories, "There is no reason why we should spoil the earth to build economies." says Gidansda, "Art is politics, as surely as our culture is nature."

Northern Health's Connections Expanded Bus Service

by Rhonda Lee McIsaac

When your health and wellness are an issue, the last thing you want to worry about is how to get to and from Haida Gwaii for medical appointments or who will accompany you. The Northern Health Connections Bus will take some of the burden and the eligibility rules for this service have been expanded.

Patient travel to and from appointments or facilities continues to be to the main service for the Northern Health Connections Bus. Access has expanded its eligibility for others to access this bus service. Now, seniors over 60 years old, those with mobility and accessibility issues and patient escorts all qualify under the new operational changes.

These changes are to support the health and wellness of patients and their caregivers and to combat loneliness for seniors. It also aims to support family members accompanying patients to and from medical appointments and a further benefit to be able to visit and support a family member receiving health care away from their home community.

Providing comfort while travelling ill or healing is vitally important. To that end, the coach buses are accessible for wheelchairs and other health care aids. Wider aisles and roomy restrooms increase the accessibility for patients.

The benefits have increased but the price remains the same. Another change is that one-way travel is also permitted. The Xaaynang, nga Naay *Skidegate Health Centre*, the Old Massett Health Centre, hospital staff, and Northern Health Connections booking centre can help with more information. You can book travel by calling 1-888-647-4997, via e-mail at NHConnections@northernhealth.ca or online at nhconnections.ca. •

Smart Cookies!

CHN Bursary recipients 2018

Brannon Bell *Gaadaa* - accepted into the Culinary Arts Program at Northwest Community College in Terrace with hopes of returning to Haida Gwaii as a Professional Chef.

Guudangaay Laa Jaad Alexis Buxton - accepted into the Early Childhood Care and Education Program at North Island College in Courtney with hopes of returning to Haida Gwaii as an Early Childhood Educator.

Kennedy Jones - accepted into the Human Kinetics Program at the University of British Columbia in Kelowna with hopes of returning to Haida Gwaii as a Physiotherapist.

Isgin Xahlsingee Ing Ga Taylor Lantin - accepted into the General Sciences Program at Capilano University Vancouver with hopes of returning to Haida Gwaii as a Marine Biologist.

Niislant Davin McDonald - accepted into the General Studies Program at Camosun College in Victoria.

Ku K'adangaa Jaad Heidi Marks - accepted into the First Nations Fine Arts Program at Northwest Community College in Terrace with hopes of returning to Haida Gwaii as an Artist.

Hannah Parnell - accepted into the General Studies Program at Douglas College in Vancouver with hopes of returning to Haida Gwaii as a Business Administrator.



Huux announced as new chair of Coast Funds

Coast Funds' Board of Directors announced that Huux *Percy Crosby* has been appointed to the position of Chair.

Huux has been a member of the board since 2013 when he was nominated by the Council of the Haida Nation. Since then he has served as Chair of Coast Funds' Capacity Building Committee and as a member of both the Investment, Finance, and Audit Committee and the Project Review Committee.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to step into this new position and continue a close collaboration with my fellow directors," said Huux. "I am energized as I look forward to continuing to steward this organization to achieve our mandate of supporting First Nations to achieve their conservation and economic development goals."

Huux represents HIGaagilda *Skidegate* as an elected official for the Council of Haida Nation. He has also spent 25 years as a liaison between the Council of the Haida Nation, the provincial government, and the forest industry. Huux also has extensive experience as both chair and committee member on a variety of boards.

Prior to his appointment, Huux was Vice-chair of the board of directors and had been working closely with outgoing Chair, Merv Child, to ensure a smooth transition.



Artist: Kay Kuyaas Ariane Medley
PC: Sealaska Heritage Institute

HAIDA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

October 15-19, 2018

Gaw Old Massett
Community Hall
9:30am - 4:30pm

Lunch will be provided. Please bring your own plates, bowls and utensils.
For more information contact 250.559.4468



Photo: Haida Laas/Rhonda Lee McIsaac

SGaan jaadgu san glans Sara Florence Davidson keeps her hands busy while she listens to the considerations of the elders at SHIP on the values of using Xaad kil to tell children's stories.

Making Xaayda kil Children's Storybooks Accessible

by Rhonda Lee McIsaac

Haida educator SGaan jaadgu san glans Sara Florence Davidson was recently back on Haida Gwaii, consulting with SHIP elders about a new children's literacy project that has a Haida twist.

The project, which is supported by Indigenous Storybooks, is based on the premise that children's books, which are culturally relevant, allow children to connect to their traditional language and identity, as well as to literacy. The ability to read is a valuable skill for all children, but for Indigenous children, having access to children's books written and recorded in their language is also important and can help foster a stronger love for reading. SGaan jaadgu san glans has been working to create such resources and she is working collaboratively with SHIP elders and Xaad Kil speakers in Gaw in an effort to get children's books translated into Xaayda and Xaad Kil for children, families, and educators.

SGaan jaadgu san glans has worked as a classroom teacher in both Gaw and K'wan'dlIn Whitehorse, and it was during that time that she began to focus on literacy

as a key to student success. "When I worked in the classroom, I noticed that struggles with literacy acted as a barrier for many students and limited their ability to graduate. Because I wanted to find better ways to support students to strengthen their print literacy, I returned to school to learn more about how I could help. I completed a diploma, master's degree, and PhD focused on how to support students to strengthen their abilities with print literacy in the hopes that this might lead to increased graduation rates" says SGaan jaadgu san glans.

Through the Indigenous Storybooks project, SGaan jaadgu san glans has worked with SHIP to translate four children's books into Xaayda Kil; SHIP has also shared four of their own children's books with the project. In the north, language speaker Jaskwaan Amanda Bedard also translated and recorded four children's books into Xaad Kil for the project. These books are being considered for inclusion on the Indigenous Storybooks project website. If approved, this will increase the number of Haida children's books. It will also add Xaayda and Xaad Kil

to a growing list of Indigenous languages that may be read and listened to online.

An equally important aspect to literacy is respect for community protocols around research and the sharing of intellectual property and cultural knowledge. SGaan jaadgu san glans has come back to Haida Gwaii to work with SHIP elders in person, as she takes her community work seriously and wants to do things right. Doing things right means being present, sharing knowledge about the literacy project, and listening to all the concerns brought up by the language speakers at SHIP, and she spent all day doing just that. In the end, the SHIP Elders were left to make a decision about how they want to proceed with the Indigenous Storybook project. It is now a matter of seeking approval for the newly developed Xaayda Kil resources to be used in the online platform, if that is what the SHIP Elders would like to do.

Not all stories are the same and this is especially true for the stories used by Indigenous Storybooks. The stories that are available on the platform, developed by Liam Doherty, a PhD candidate at UBC, are open-licensed. Open-licensed stories can be accessed online. They can be read online by anyone anywhere. Stories can also be downloaded, or printed, for later reading – all without paying a fee. Permission to do this is granted through the Creative Commons license that is provided by the authors when the books are initially placed online. This free access gives families, community members, educators, and children options to increase their reading resources. The aim is to increase reading and audio resources in Indigenous languages and to promote a love of reading and stories. It also means having exposure to different languages as more audio options become available in different languages.

"The bottom line is that I want Indigenous students and all students to have choices in their lives, and I believe that if we find better ways to support learners to engage with print literacy, we can help them to open doors for themselves," says SGaan jaadgu san glans.

The educational and cultural benefits that come with these resources are great for students here and also those who are off-Islands as well. What was of particular

Children's Storybooks continued next page.

Children's Storybooks continued.

interest to the Elders at SHIP was that Haida students in other parts of the world will be able to access Haida language resources regardless of where they are. This is also important to SGaan jaadgu san glans as it is a need she identified while she was growing up off-island.

"I went to school off-island, so I did not always have access to Haida language. Because of residential schools, I grew up without hearing Haida spoken on a daily basis. Although I was lucky to be a part of the Rainbow Creek Dancers from a young age which allowed me to learn our songs and dances, I know that it would have meant a lot to me if I was able to hear Haida in my school where I was often the only Indigenous student. I think it would have strengthened my connection to my Haida ancestry and family" she says of her experience. "We now have the technology to support those connections for students – particularly those who are living away from their traditional territories. We have begun the project with Xaad Kil and Xaayda Kil, but we are hoping to continue to expand as we develop relationships with other communities and territories" she says of the growing literacy project.

Indigenous Storybooks is a growing project that will continue to develop under the work that SGaan jaadgu san glans puts in – all while she is teaching full time in the Teacher Education Department at University of the Fraser Valley. "I will be continuing to work on this project" she assured the SHIP Elders as they congratulated her on her new position. "I have to work full time to support my project habit" she laughs brightly, sharing with the elders that she's worked on multiple projects in the past to ensure she has the ability to support her passion for literacy. She will be back again next year to continue discussions with SHIP elders about the options she outlined just as their school program was winding down for the summer. "School is almost out" says Gaaying.uuhlas Roy Jones, "that is why we will wait" to make any decisions about how the Xaayda Kil resources should be made accessible within the Indigenous Storybooks literacy project. •

THE NATION'S BUSINESS Three Days, Two Meetings

by Rhonda Lee McIsaac

Three days and two meetings is what met citizens as they filed into the Old Massett Community Hall, July 11 for a special House of Assembly. Although mornings in Gaw can be slow and easy like the tide going out, that vibe changed with a bright sky and heat bringing out summer whites, smiles, sandals and sunglasses!

The special House of Assembly was called to deal with resolutions particular to the Nation's business operations as well as health and language programs. The social items were addressed relatively quickly the house moved on to identifying budgets and moved the item up the Council of the Haida Nation's priority list. The business side (HaiCo) took more debate with procedural motions and counter-motions taking time but in the end the issues were dealt with and forward movement made. Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of shareholders and the level of detail that is required to satisfy the need to know is part of a long discussion that began with the Letter of Expectations between CHN and HaiCo.

During the discussion, there is often other activities taking place in the room. People listen in different ways and things happen. During that first day, there was wool spinning for a warp and others knitting up a storm.

On July 12 and 13, the Summer Seasonal Session began in the "summer" for the first time in many years. The session usually slides into early fall when people aren't so busy with kids and harvesting. The "open house" format on the morning of the first day allows CHN's Reps and staff to set out information and products to engage citizens who come by asking about issues that are of concern to them, learn something new, talk hereditary lineage and register at the citizenship table. Some like the new format and others wish for the old way, but the informal style is open and allows for one-on-one deeper discussion on important issues and things that may be on

the agenda.

Taking time out from the agenda on day one, the President of the Haida Nation. Kil tlaats 'gaa Peter Lantin invited former politician and Ryerson professor Olivia Chow to speak to the session just after lunch. As founder of the Institute for Change Leaders, Chow shared an inspirational story about how Haida Gwaii influenced her late husband, NDP leader Jack Layton, and his leadership beliefs in all things being related – from the eagle to the salmon in the rivers.

Executive Report: Haida Title Case

Where Gina 'waadluxan gud ad kwaagiida *everything depends on everything else*, the decision of the Title Case trial judge; Justice Mayer, that Aboriginal Rights should be determined in the second phase of the trial means further delays. CHN's move to appeal this decision will mean that the issue needs to be resolved before the parties can meet in court, which is expected to be in 2019.

"We have to appeal the decision," kil tlaats 'gaa stated vehemently. CHN's appeal argument states that the judge's decision to split the trial into two phases is not in question, it is what will be addressed in each phase and how. The judge chose to take a set of representative areas (watersheds) intended to be used as a surrogate by which to assess damages across Haida Gwaii, and, instead is asking that the Nation prove title to these representative areas (watersheds). This spin supports the Province's assertion that the Haida Nation (and other Nations) must prove Title over specific locations and not consider a whole territory as one – this is referred to as the "postage stamp" argument.

The preferred outcome of the appeal is to hear the case in the order as originally proposed and use the areas as the Nation's legal counsel proposed.

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Nations Business from page 5

BC and the Land Base

Kil tlaats ‘gaa spoke to the St’alaa Kun incident. The injunction filed by CHN to stop Husby from logging five cut blocks in the areas resulted in some hard lessons learned, he said. One is that the Kunst’aa guu-Kunst’aayah Reconciliation Protocol’s dispute resolution, as designed, doesn’t work. It takes too long when issues do not have consensus, as in the St’alaa Kun blocks. If that process functioned as was intended then litigation to resolve issues like the cut blocks at St’alaa Kun would not be necessary, he said.

Kil tlaats ‘gaa also said that the province needs to change its legislation to come in line with reality on Haida Gwaii. This was the first time since signing the Protocol in 2009 that the CHN has gone forward with any litigation. “It sent shockwaves,” he said.

Vice President, Ginn wadluu un uula isdaa ayagang *Trevor Russ*, who was also heavily involved in the St’alaa Kun incident, was clear that this is not the end of the story. “We’re already regrouping.”

Minister Donaldson visits

Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, Doug Donaldson, visited Haida Gwaii, June 6-8, 2018. A tour of St’alaa Kun and other areas was conducted in an effort to inform the Minister of the issues in the area and generally about forestry on the Islands. Conversation also covered the broken consensus decision-making process and he was pressed to engage in resolving the issues in the short-term.

Taa Suu

Coastal Aggregate has stopped work at the Tasu mine site following meetings where the environmental issues were raised. The result is that environmental assessments will be dealt with before any other work continues.

Oceans Protection Plan

The Reconciliation Framework Agreement on Bioregional Oceans Management and

Protection is the name of the document CHN recently signed with the federal government and other coastal nations. The signing signals the release of funds to CHN’s Marine Planning department to begin work on some key initiatives. The largest being the Maritime Awareness Information System Enhanced Version (MAISEV) project. Haida Gwaii is part of the pilot project for northern BC, which includes building a monitoring system that will provide real-time data on local shipping traffic.

Coastal First Nations Board Meeting in Haida Gwaii

Community members were invited to meet the Coastal First Nations Board sometime during the week of September 24 at T’agwan *Vancouver*. This was the first time that the Haida Nation hosted this coast-wide board. CFN works to build a conservation-based economy that recognizes Title and Rights.

In recent news founding member of CFN Gidansda was hired to provide strategic advice and direction to the Board.

Land-Sea-People Management Plan

Since work first began, the Land-Sea-People Management Plan has been taking shape looking at the protection of the land and marine areas and the implementation of marine zoning in Gwaii Haanas.

The draft plan sought public feedback on priorities for the area through a broad public consultation process on Haida Gwaii and throughout the country. The AMB is looking to ratify the plan with Haida and federal governments signing off by the end of summer. It is important to note that the plan does not change the ability for citizens to practice cultural traditions within the area. Copies of the draft can be picked up at either



Tyson Brown

Council of the Haida Nation offices.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Under the new format at the Seasonal Sessions, committee reports are handed out during the open house portion and citizens are encouraged to read them and engage Reps and staff in discussion about them. Issues that cannot be addressed or need broader input can be placed on the next day’s agenda for a fuller discussion.

Following are highlights from the committee reports. If you want to pick up a package they are still available to citizens at the CHN offices.

In a recent overhaul of the Secretariat of the Haida Nation structure following the increase in staff and programs – specifically Protected Areas – programs and committees were reorganized to fall under one of four directorates: the Communications Directorate now oversees Internet Technologies, Records & Data, Culture and Language, Tourism, and Communications. The Stewardship Directorate has the Heritage and Natural Resource Department, Protected Areas, Fisheries, Marine Planning as well as the Solutions Table and Haida Gwaii Management Council staff. Governance and Operations oversee Policy, and Finance, Energy, and Capital Works fall under Administration.

Communications

Since April, Communications has been busy with day-to-day program operations which includes the tracking of third-party research requests. Throughout the year, the Nation receives numerous requests from students and to conduct research on the Islands. Media companies also apply to shoot productions here. The communications department vets and tracks this activity.

The Records & Data department received a UBC Digitization Grant which is supporting the purchase of specialized equipment to digitize a backlog of 400 historic audio tapes.

Tourism

The committee has been reviewing guiding and interpretation protocols, ways of permitting, and visitor orientation. Orientation of visitors is an ongoing issue that is receiving a lot of attention these days with the perceived increase of visitors and the concentration of activities along *Gaatguusd North Beach*, especially crabbing.

The committee held a Tourism Forum this past spring with a lot of discussion from 25 guests. Topics included the new guide (*Tadswii' - Kaats'Il Hla This is Haida Gwaii*), Protected Area trails and signage, the upcoming Gwaii Haanas season, Haida Owned and Operated, Small business opportunities and challenges, and a breakdown of Indigenous Tourism BC, and Destination Development Planning Process Review.

An All-Islands Forum is being planned for November that will welcome all operators working on Haida Gwaii. The agenda is forming up and will provide room for debriefing from the summers activities. Please get in touch with Tourism chair Gaagwiis *Jason Alsup* or call the Communications office at 250 559 4468, if you are interested in participating.

A Statement of Cooperation between CHN, Destination BC, Northern BC Tourism Association, and Indigenous Tourism BC is in draft and sitting with BC. The statement aims to set a collaborative relationship between CHN and the associations which will ensure that language, traditions, protocols, timeframes and culture are meaningfully acknowledged, respected and represented in the planning, reporting and implementation of a destination development plan on Haida Gwaii.

Culture and Language

Requests for the funding of language programs continues with a recent contribution made to Kwiiagee iwaans *Maureen LaGroix's*, *Xaad* Kil language project aimed at this coming years elementary school students. The program will provide a variety

of activities designed for the students who will in turn develop curriculum that can be used in following years.

The committee continues to work on the clarification of policy on the use of Haida art and names, protocols for the removal/relocation of poles, while providing guidance to individuals, companies and institutions on topics related to Haida culture.

The appropriation of Haida art is being monitored online and the committee is developing a strategy to help protect Haida intellectual property. To that end, the Haida Artist List and Authenticity Tag Program is being updated. If you are not part of the program, contact either office for information.

The committee is also working with Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum vetting and responding to outside inquires best answered by museum staff rather than the Committee or CHN staff.

Policy

Policy staff and committee members have been working on the Election Act, Travel Policy, House of Assembly Procedures Regulation, and the Citizenship Act. Work within the Citizenship Act includes a citizenship registration drive which is taking place now in the regions and will continue on into the Fall. All the forms required to register yourself and family are available online. If, you would like more information, please email: citizenship@haidanation.com, or phone the *Gaw* office at 250 626 5252.

Fisheries

The Hereditary Chiefs Council endorsed the policy to not issue Permission to Access cards to other Nation's citizens who come to Haida Gwaii to harvest resources. A site assessment was conducted on the Yakoun River to evaluate areas to establish a sonar station to estimate salmon escapement from the river. The equipment to do this is in transit and is expected to be installed by late August in time to catch the ts'it'an *pink* run.

There was no taaxid *sockeye* opening on

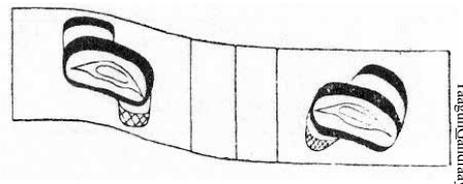
the Copper River this year as escapement number were much lower than expected but the Yakoun River had two openings with very low numbers caught and Aawan *Gandlee* opened for a weekend mid-June.

The Fisheries Committee is involved in many organizations and associations. A few of them are: Area A Crab Association directors and Annual General Meeting, Halibut Advisory Board, Integrated Herring Harvest Planning Committee, First Nations Fisheries Council, and the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

Capital Works

The Capital Works committee is: kil tlaats 'gaa *Peter Lantin*, Chair; *Kung Xyaalas Tyler Bellis*, *Gaw Old Massett*; Gaagwiis, *HI Gaagilda Skidegate*; Stephen Grosse, *Gaw*; *Xylang Jaad Xylaa Leslie Brown*, *Gaw*; *Kung xaang ajee Shawn Cowpar*, *HI Gaagilda*; *Ginn waadluu un uula isdaa ayagang Trevor Russ*, Vice-president and *Gya awhlans Roy Collison* for the Hereditary Chiefs Council. *Ginaawaan Darin Swanson* is the Program Manager. The program has focused on building cabins over the past few months with the building at St'ala Kun being completed and two others under construction at K'yuusda and D'aadans. Cabins at *Kang* and *Sk'áaws* are being looked at for possible renovations.

In closing the two days of the Seasonal Session, kil tlaats 'gaa thanked all who attended and those citizens who stood up at St'ala Kun. The President wished citizens a great summer, noting the next session will be the House of Assembly October 15-19th in *Gaw*. He was followed with a travelling prayer by *Jiixa* before everyone disappeared like the sun behind a passing cloud. •





Xya'ahl Guu'la'as (Colleen Williams), Paulette Robinson, T'sanuu Jaad *Laura Brown*, Ronald George (We'suwet'en Elder), Mervin Dunn visit the place they stood the line 33 years ago.

Athlii Gwaii Return

by *Ileah Mattice*

On the beautiful summer evening of July 22, a celebration took place in Gaw. It remembered and reunited a group of people who took a stand against logging at Athlii Gwaii, 33 years ago.

Although some of the original group have passed on, many of those still with us were welcomed into the Old Massett Hall with a song that has become very dear to most citizens of the Nation. The *Coming into the House Paddle Song* which is also known known as The Lyell Island Song was adopted as the Haida National anthem many years ago. The hall was decorated for a celebration with photos, news articles on the wall mingling with greenery. The visuals sparked memories of that time years back

and gave community members a glimpse of the action that took place during the stand at Athlii Gwaii.

After the feast, each citizen who was on the line, or a member of the family for those who have passed, received a plaque honouring the person for their strong stance. The plaques were presented by Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop* and Jaad Gudangaa 'laas *Dana Bellis* on behalf of Gwaii Trust, and Tarah Samuels. As those who stood on the line received their plaques, they shared their stories at the well-attended dinner. Depicted on the plaque is a copper shield with the participants name and the inscription: "A True Warrior – Athlii Gwaii".

Following the presentations, a t'aaGuu

with all the names of those who stood on the line engraved into it was presented to the group by Xya'ahl Guu'la'as, gifted by Chief Ginaawaan. And, with great ceremony, the t'aaGuu was danced around the room to close the dinner.

The next day some of the group travelled to Gwaii Haanas to continue with their reunion, as many of them have never been to the area since the stand. This gave them an opportunity to experience Gwaii Haanas again, visit the sites of the original camp and enjoy the area that is now known as a Haida Heritage Site.

The celebration and trip was put together by Xya'ahl Guu'la'as *Colleen Williams*, with the support of Gwaii Trust.



Photo: Haida Laas/Ileah Matice

“If Gwaii Haanas was saved, that meant there was hope for the rest of the world to quit destroying things. I believe every Haida has a legacy to honour, and that is to protect and preserve Haida Gwaii.” – GwaaGanad *Diane Brown*



Photo: Haida Laas/Ileah Matice

Xya’ahl Guu’la’as Colleen Williams holding up the copper with *Jen Wilson*, who engraved the names of those who stood on the line onto the t’aaGuu. On the base of the copper is the inscription “Warrior of Athlii Gwaii”.



Photo: CHN/ 于波 Brady Yu

Top Row L-R: Guud K’angudangaa’s *Zachary Collison*, *Jeffrey Gibbs*
 Middle Row: *Gavin Brown*, *Mary Russ*, *Arlene Ewert*, *Kara Sievwright*, *Guudangaa’ ‘Laa Jaad Alexis Buxton*, *Raven Dolly*, *Brady Yu*, *Penny Hans*
 Bottom Row: *Xya’ahl Guu’la’as*, Sgaansgid *Harold Williams* holding up the number of when he was arrested, *Ronald George (We’suwet’en Elder)*, *Mervin Dunn*, *Sgaana Jaads K’yaa Ga Xiigangs Kathleen Hans*, and *Audra Collison* sitting in front of the long house at Hlk’yah GawGa Windy Bay.



Raven transforming in front of the crowd who came to celebrate the Xaana Kaahlii Ngaaysdli Naay GyaaGang monumental pole.

Sahgwii Xaana Kaahlii Ngaaysdli Naay GyaaGang

by Rhonda Lee McIsaac with Graham Richard

With over 500 people pulling together Xaana Kaahlii Ngaaysdli Naay GyaaGang Skidegate Inlet Healing House Monumental Pole rose slowly to stand high. For the first time in 200 years, a monumental pole rose to look out over Kyahjuu Kun Beatie Point.

Gya k'id lGaayGa expert carver Laada Tim Boyko carved the 40' monument from ts'uu Red cedar with a team of three apprentices Kwakyans Tony Greene, Kuuhlanuu Billy Yovanovich, and StllnGa Tyler York.

At the monument's base, taan Haida Gwaii black bear embraces and speaks with

a western doctor. Her stories teach the doctor about healing and ancestral knowledge.

Above them Xuuya raven stands in place for all descendants of Kayxal, the raven matrilineage. Gyalaga SnaanGa fungus peers out of Xuuya's ear. Gyalaga SnaanGa steered the canoe of Nang Kilsdlaas Supernatural Raven and brought vaginas into the world from the supernatural realm. In Xuuya's left ear an infant weeps, representing the generation who will be born at Ngaaysdli Naay Haida Gwaii Hospital. To show his affinity with Xuuya, Laada carved his image within his tail. Laada belongs within Kayxal.

Above Xuuya stands a SGaaga Haida

medicinal doctor in complete regalia, holding rattles in trance.

Above SGaaga, Ts'aag stands symbolizing Kuustak, the eagle matrilineage.

Three tllga kyahts'ii xaaydaGaay watchmen stand watch atop the pole. This is a classical element of Haida monumental carvings. In the case of Xaana Kaahlii Ngaaysdli Naay GyaaGang, the three figures represent the medical professionals who watch over and care for sick and hurt people at Ngaaysdli Naay.

Together the gyaaGang's figures depict welcoming, healing, unity, and the joining

Continued on page 12.



Photo: Haida Laas/Rhonda Lee McIsaac



Photo: Haida Laas/Rhonda Lee McIsaac



Photo: Haida Laas/Rhonda Lee McIsaac

Top Right Photo: *K'uljaad Gaang.nga women held in high esteem wait for the gyaagang to be raised in front of their eyes.*

Left Photo: The pole is raised.

Middle Photo: Tim Boyko still showing his carvers how to dance.

Centre Photo Pg 12: Removing any negative energy or feelings from the feast hall made way for positive health and wellness for all to witness. PC: Haida Laas/Rhonda Lee McIsaac

Sahgwii Xaana continued.

of traditional and western healing practices. The monument embodies the commitment of Islands communities to learn from the past, heal, and work together towards a better future.

The diversity of lineages represented in the crowd demonstrated this joining together of communities. Amongst those gathered to raise the monument were Haida hereditary leaders; K'uljaad Gaang nga women held in high esteem; elected CHN, local, provincial and national leaders; local health administrators; and health professionals from different organizations on-Islands.

Before raising the pole those gathered fulfilled proper protocols. Speakers recognized hereditary authorities and received the proper permissions to proceed. Esteemed women blessed the gyaaGang and washed it with ts'uu branches. Tibetan guest, Lama Geshe YongDong joined them in blessing the gyaaGang and in spreading eagle down. Carvers then put life into the pole by dancing around it. A bead ceremony followed, wherein K'uljaad placed offerings in a hole in front of the GyaaGang. They made offerings this way rather than putting them underneath the bottom of the pole, as the gyaaGang's base rests above ground.

"I really believe in these events. They bring a lot of healing to our community, and they bring a lot of love," said Gidadguudsliylas Kim Goetzinger. "They can bring a lot of stuff up for everybody, but as we work through them and put our best energies into this to make this a monumental event, we will just feel so great."

With the gyaaGang standing high above Ngaaysdll Naay's entrance, guests dispersed

for Naa Gaagudgiikyagangs George Brown Recreation Centre in HI Gaagilda Skidegate to feast in commemoration. The Islands' many medical professionals and friends had everything prepared. Dancers brought



SGaaga through the hall in accordance with protocol, to flush any maleficent spirits and feelings from Naa Gaagudgiikyagangs. Medical professionals and friends then served food to hundreds of witnesses.

Hereditary leaders started speeches, followed by CHN elected representative Gaagwiis Jason Alsop who spoke on behalf of the CHN executive. Subsequent speakers included: Northern Health CEO Cathy Ulrich; Haida Gwaii's Chief of Medical Staff Dr

Gordon Horner; UBC Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dermott Kelleher; and Northern Savings Credit Union employee Gidin Jaad Erica Ryan.

Haida dancers with Tluu Xaadaa Nee had travelled from Gaw to sing in full regalia at the celebration. Their masks, dances and songs shook the air and brought good feelings to everyone. Witnesses rose from their chairs to show their dancing skills.

Speeches followed from pole raising organizers including: Xaaynangaa Naay Skidegate Health Centre Board Chairperson Suudahl Cindy Boyko; Ngaaysdll Naay Haida Gwaii Hospital member Dr Tracey Morton; Queen Charlotte Mayor Greg Martin; and XaaydaGa Dlaang board member Gyaa Xaagaay Uuance Lauren Brown.

Speeches followed from GwaaGanad Diane Brown; Gwaii Haanas Superintendent Nang Kaa Klaagangs Ernie Gladstone; First Nations Health Authority Chair Marion Colleen Erickson and Vice-Chairperson Dr Elizabeth Whynot; MP for Skeena-Bulkley Valley Nathan Cullen and MLA for North Coast Jennifer Rice.

Haida dancers with Hltaaxuulang Guud ad K'aajuu then sang and drummed a paddling song as

they flooded into the hall. The group danced in tribute to each of the figures carved into the gyaaGang.

To end the evening, Lama Geshe YongDong sang a prayer as the feast came to a close. Having finished all the business Islands medical staff distributed gifts to witnesses and people headed into the early morning to return home.

Nang Xáldangaas

Haida Gwaii's northern coasts are infused with emblems of a profound history. For thousands of years Kuuniisii lived amongst SGaanuuwee *supernatural beings* who ensured they thrived in plenty every year. Haida still walk amongst the familiar stones, plants, and creatures that shaped today's reality.

By Graham Richard

At Tuuhlga, a village west of Yaan, people walked to Tl'agadiiyaa *Hidden Island* to collect ts'a.al *Pacific silverweed*, an important food plant. A stone with a red face growing on it lived in the centre of a lake behind the village. Many laughed at the stone as they passed, which was made to grow long in the sunshine. However, one waded out to the stone to sprinkle fresh water on it. She did this whenever they passed the stone on a sunny day.

During one stormy winter the people had no food. Conditions worsened until one went to Gwaay T'úuwans *Striae Islands* to collect skaay *Sitka periwinkles*. He brought back baskets full and divided the tiny snails between the people. They were so desperate to eat they paid him thanks with t'aaGuu *copper shields* and sea otter blankets.

Then the woman went to see the red-faced stone. It held a taaGun *Spring salmon* tail in its mouth. This she brought to the village and made broth for the people. The next day the red-faced stone held a whole taaGun, which they also shared. Thereafter she received gifts from the stone's mouth day after day, including a xuud *harbour seal* tail, a whole xuud, a kun *whale* jaw, two kun jaws, and a kun tail. When the stone gifted her with a whole kun the people brought it in front of the village, rather than cutting it up right away. Finally, the stone provided another kun, which they put beside the first. Then she stopped visiting the stone, because the people were full. This was the youngest daughter of Kilxiigans *Sounding Voice*, the village's hereditary

leader. Her story continues from there. She brought it about that younger daughters are wiser than elder daughters.

Stones of Nang Xáldangaas continue to provide for us today. The area's reefs and rocky shores are foundations for rich intertidal environments and kelp forests that support innumerable species. Its streams host sk'aga *Coho*, taayii *Chum*, ts'at'aan *Pink*, taadlaad *Dolly varden*, Rainbow trout and tak'aal *Cutthroat trout*. These enrich the area's muskeg and old growth forests that are home to rare, endemic and beautiful medicines, plants, animals and fungi.

Nang Xáldangaas' southern end borders neighbouring Gámdas Haida Heritage Site. From there it's borders spread north covering Gaw Kaahlíi's western shore. They then stretch around Haida Gwaii's northern coast until they reach the mouth of Needan Kaahlíi.

Duuwan Kun *Allan Point* marks Nang Xáldangaas' southern tip. Every day many thousands of tonnes of tidewaters rush inland to flood Gaw Kaahlíi's sound. Strong in-coming currents circulate nutrients for the many creatures that shelter in the waterway's accompanying network of inlets and bays.

Nang Xáldangaas continued on next page.



Sasaa K'iigee *Harlequin Ducks* pause for a breath between dives at Nang Xáldangaas. Behind them fields of sGyuu *seaweed* grow from rocky shores, formed from frozen lava that flowed 25-million years ago. These shores have fed Haida since before the late glacial maximum.

Photo: Haida Laas/Graham Richard

Nang Xáldangaas continued.

Clamorous birds and schooling fish attract predators like Guud *Bald eagles*, sdads k'un *Northern goshawk laingi subspecies*, hGuu *Great blue heron* and xaguu *Pacific halibut*.

As the tide turns, currents reverse. Gaw Kaahlíi empties again, sweeping up another wave of nutrients, along with its complementary battalion of sea creatures. The inlet's current-swept floor is covered with xaguu k'ujuus *halibut houses*. Each xaguu k'ujuus is home to hungry flatfish that snap at the morsels drifting by in currents. These fishing spots are owned and managed through the legal system 'waahlGahl *potlatch*.

Further along thousands of migrating waterfowl and hungry shorebirds wade in wetlands sheltered behind Maasit Gwaayee *Maast Island*. Outflowing tidal currents run into a narrows, pouring over shallow banks thick with eelgrass. Here streams draining muskeg and old growth forests of k'aang *Hemlock* and ts'uu *Western red cedar* mix with the current, stewing terrestrial and marine nutrients together.

As outflowing waters pass from the narrows and around Sguhluu Kún *Rooney Point* they meet another influx of fresh water at Kyaawan Gandlee *Hancock River*. This is the first of Nang Xáldangaas' three estuaries. Here juvenile fish take shelter in calm shallows before entering the cold seas beyond. As outflowing currents bend along the coast and depart for open seas estuaries intermingle with kelp forests. This unique marine ecosystem is recognized as an "internationally significant intertidal estuarine wetland complex". This is a critical wetland habitat for waterfowl like st'aak'aats'idGa *Pacific brant*, hiixuudaada *Western grebe*, ang.aang.ngii *Long-tailed duck*, s'aay *Red-breasted merganser* and k'yaaluu *Pelagic cormorant*.

Like these many other creatures of the Islands, we thrive from this abundance. Today many visit Nang Xáldangaas to catch salmon, halibut and cod; pick edible seaweed; gather k'aaw *herring roe* on kelp; dig up shellfish; collect seabird eggs; hunt marine mammals; dive for guuding.ngaay *urchins*; flush naaw *octopus* from dens; and pull chitons from rocks. Forests above rich shores provide monumental ts'uu, ts'uu kal *cedar bark*, xil *medicinal plants* and good hunting and trapping.

The natural wealth of Nang Xáldangaas supported a coastal metropolitan area, once busy with canoes. A procession of villages, with over ten known and recognized village sites, marks the coast. Gaw Tlagee *Masset Inlet* area became a bustling centre for coastal trade, where great canoe armadas set forth to potlatch, visit relatives, trade, raid and seek revenge on the mainland.

Over millennia archaeological features have concentrated here including culturally modified trees, lithics, fire broken rock, charcoal, shell middens, animal remains, cultural depressions, plank houses and bark strips. Old poles stand amongst bones of kuuniisii ancestors resting throughout forests. At Yaan a new gyaaGang *monumental pole* and naay *longhouse* stand in memory of this cultural abundance, and remind of what is soon to return again.

As these waters empty around Nang Xáldangaas' northern edge the tremendous outflow clashes with north and westerly winds. The conflict comes to a head beyond Miiyu Kún *Seven Mile Point*. The resulting turbulence contrasts the relative security of nearby Gaw Kaahlíi, putting many mariners off-guard before throwing them into sudden disarray. The broader Haida Heritage Site takes its name from these waters, which are called Nang Xáldangaas *Enslaved One*.

Here pebble-covered and sandy beaches give way to dark, bare rock. Up until this point, the shoreline and the forests behind it rested on a wide foundation of mudstone, siltstone, and shale called the "Skonun Formation". These deposits settled from eroded rock to ocean floors as recently as 1.6 million years ago. Then Nang Xáldangaas' eastern portion was submerged beneath shallow, brackish waters. The Skonun Formation is among the youngest geological formations in Haida Gwaii.

Atop this, receding glaciers have scattered Pleistocene till and moraine deposits. Glaciers tore these large boulders from mountainsides and hoisted them 'down-ice' before lowering them to the ground as they melted. Today they lie indiscriminately scattered across not only sedimentary ground in eastern sections, but also across neighbouring fields of volcanic rock lying under northern and western sections.

The forests in these sections of Nang Xáldangaas grow atop ancient lava flows. Thin

sheets of liquid iron- and magnesium-rich ore gushed from volcanic peaks protruding from the ocean 25-million years ago. These lava-flows quickly cooled upon contact with the open air, and in areas where waves have torn away sand and soil beautiful formations appear. These complex geological features serve as an intricate record of a time when this part of the Islands was still forming as a churning cauldron of lava. Now the lava forms the rocky reefs and banks that would make short work of the most imposing trade-going cedar canoes.

Rough geology combine with strong varying tides, winds, and waves to make this coastline dangerous to navigate. But we have done so for millennia with skill and knowledge aboard the canoes, rowboats and seiners they crafted.

In more recent history we harvested k'uust'an *Dungeness crab* aboard such boats and packaged them up in a nearby cannery. Fishing cabins covered the shoreline as people set out from Gaw to catch and preserve the year's seafood. Today the Haida Gwaii Fisheries program maintains a camp at Sk'áaws *George Point village site*, located just within Needan *Naden Harbour*. From there, Haida Fisheries Guardians monitor summer fishing activity in the Nang Xáldangaas and neighbouring Duu Guusd Haida Heritage Site to the west.

Interesting Features in Nang Xáldangaas

Terrestrial component: 6,897 hectares
 Marine component/foreshore area:
 10,255 hectares
 Elevation: 0 to 91 metres.
 592 Monumentals Cedars
 78 Yew Wood
 22 Bear Dens
 433 Haida Traditional Forest Feature 2
 110 Haida Traditional Forest Feature 1
 29 Heritage Features
 1490 Culturally Modified Tree's
 32 Archaeological Sites





Ts'a.al *Pacific Silverweed* is a low-growing perennial with green leaves and silvery undersides. Ts'a.al is an important food plant and is used for its roots. This plant can be eaten raw, boiled, roasted or dried then steamed.



The bright yellow flower of *Potentilla anserina*, one of 4,825 species in the rose family, and part of a species complex containing its sibling species ts'a.al *Argentina pacifica*.

THE GREAT LIST 2018

This year, the Haida Nation is proud to celebrate and acknowledge graduates in Gaw, HLGaagilda and beyond. Throughout the past few months, ceremonies and celebrations have honoured the graduates as they were recognized for their hard work and achievements. The following is a Great List presenting the names of those who have completed certification in their field of choice! Congratulations to you all and we look forward to acknowledging the many citizens who are furthering their education today and will be graduating in the years to come.

HLGAAGILDA

First Nations Language Diploma

Xayna Jaad *Kristy Alsop*
 Jaad Xaay.ya *Fallon Crosby*
 Kuunaa Jaad *Jennifer Cross*
 K'una Jaad *Patti Gladstone*
 Daall Jaad *Melody Gravelle*
 Haahlginanguu *Joan Moody*
 Guud Xang.nga *Melinda Pick*
 St'aay Taw.waay *Carla Russ*
 Gidin Jaad *Erica Ryan*
 Taawgulaad *Linda Tollas*
 Jaad Tlaw *Paula Varnell*
 Siina *Cindy Williams*

Isaac Smith
 Jhett Collinson
 Davin McDonald
 Kenny Brillon
 Mike Hughan-Blazic
 Jessica Brooks
 Jessica Hughan
 Jenna Shelford
 Brynna Williams

Grade 12 – Off-Islands

Ethan Kuhn
 Starnita Nyce
 Madison Roy

Post Secondary

Heather Burch – Bachelor of Criminology, Simon Fraser University
 Trevor Casey – Bachelor of Commerce, University of British Columbia
 Roxanne Defant
 Megan Dorrington
 Aaron Grant – Bachelor in First Nations Studies with Minor in Psychology, University of Northern British Columbia
 Niisii Guujaaw – Bachelor of Science, Global Resources combining Marine Biology and Indigenous Studies, UBC
 Stacy McNeill – Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Northern Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program
 Jaad Gudgihliwah *Michaela McGuire* – Bachelor's of Arts Major in Criminology, Minor in Sociology, with Distinction, SFU
 Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop* – Master of Arts in Tourism Management at Royal Roads University
 Gyaa XaagaayUance *Lauren Brown* – Masters of Arts in Leadership, Royal Roads University

Adult Dogwood

Shelby Collinson
 Alina Mearns
 Yannick Levesque

GidGalang Kuuyas Naay

Kennedy Jones
 Alexis Buxton
 Dylan Barnes

GAW

Post Secondary

Jaskwaan *Amanda Bedard* – Social Studies Teacher's Professional Development Program
 Stephanie Watkins – Master of Education, Counselling
 Xnia Brown – Bachelor of Social Work
 Brittany Grosse – Bachelor of Arts
 Gahlaang Daay Jaadaa *Charlene Lawrence* – Associate of Arts Degree
 Hailey Bennett – Associate of Arts and Science Degree
 Robert Brown – Stewardship Technician Training Program
 Evan Edgars – Stewardship Technician Training Program
 Jordan Jones – Stewardship Technician Training Program
 Jonas Prevost – Stewardship Technician Training Program
 Jutkenjus *Laverne Hamilton* – Business Management
 Naad Kaa, Wang *Roger Smith* – Freda Diesing Fine Arts Diploma
 Guus Gudangee Tlaagaa *Jordan Holt* – Journeyman Powerline Technician
 Tristan Montjoy – Conservation Officer at Vancouver Island University
 Dora Bedard – Health Unit Coordinator
 Brandon Bell – Harmonized Carpentry Foundation
 Gyaagan Sgwaansang *Shane Bell* – Adventure Tourism & Recreation Coordinator
 Richard Brennan – Harmonized Carpentry Foundation
 Chase Collison – Harmonized Carpentry Foundation
 Kelsey Fitzgerald – Business Administration Certificate
 Jeannie Lawson – Health Care Assistant Certificate
 Jessie Marks – Harmonized Carpentry Foundation
 Jack Nychporuk – Harmonized Carpentry Foundation
 Shaun Smith – Harmonized Carpentry Foundation
 Danny Stewart Jr. – Harmonized Carpentry Foundation

Erinn Taggart – Medical Office Assistant Certificate

Sk'ud sgwansang *Nico York* – Adventure Tourism & Recreation Certificate

Adult Dogwood

Jordan Williams
 Oot kook eonce *Danielle Stewart*
 Sam Derrick-York – Kyah Wiget Education Society

Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay

Brannon Bell
 Caylene Bell
 Rochelle Drager
 Ethan Edgars
 Gavin Edgars
 Taylor Lantin
 Dion Lewis
 Heidi Marks
 Hannah Parnell
 Carol-Lynn Roberts
 Paige Setso
 Anna Williams

Grade 12 – Off-Islands

Dezirae DeLill
 Cullen Brown
 Angie Kermer
 Salal Ewasiuk
 Sydney Parnell
 Malcolm Brown