



WINTER  
SEASONAL  
SESSION  
pg 5



HEALING  
A HURT LAND  
pg 7



A CONFLUENCE  
OF COUSINS  
pg 9

# HAIDA LAAS

News from the Council of the Haida Nation

March 2018



Gyaa XaagaayUance, SGaalanglaay Gaamdamaay and Sue Gladstone breaking ground for HIGaagilda's new XaaydaGa Dlaang Society building. See page 6.



## HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

published by the

### Council of the Haida Nation

**Managing Editor**

Simon Davies

**Media Production Coordinator**

Mare Levesque

**Social Media Coordinator**

Ileah Mattice

**Writer**

Graham Richard

Rhonda Lee McIsaac

**Administrative Assistant**

Karen Fladmark

info@haidanation.com

p.250.559.4468

### Council of the Haida Nation

**Administrator**

Box 589, Old Massett

Haida Gwaii

V0T 1M0

p.250.626.5252

f.250.626.3403

1.888.638.7778

chn.masset@haidanation.com

### Council of the Haida Nation

**President**

Box 98, Queen Charlotte

Haida Gwaii

V0T 1S0

p.250.559.4468

f.250.559.8951

1.877.559.4468

info@haidanation.com

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[www.haidanation.ca](http://www.haidanation.ca)



# An Open Dialogue Enacting Haida Title

At the beginning of the year, the Council of the Haida Nation wanted to open up the conversation to gather more opinions and knowledge about how we see ourselves today and in the future. To do that, we brought a new format to the Winter Seasonal Session. We started by making staff and elected representatives available in a regular open house session on the morning of the first day. The Executive report followed that afternoon. We spent day two in an open-ended discussion where citizens could voice their ideas and concerns.

While the conversation at this past Session touched on many topics with many different viewpoints, much of the conversation was focused around Title to Haida Gwaii.

Citizens were quick to distinguish between Haida Title and Aboriginal Title. Aboriginal Title is a Canadian concept that must be proven in a Canadian court. Haida Title, on the other hand, has existed since we came out of the ocean and we enact this Title every day, as we have for millennia in our songs, dances, words, and deeds.

As citizens described how they envision enacting Haida Title into the future, healing became a centre-point of the conversation. Everything depends on, and comes from the wellbeing of our citizens. As our Nation recovers and heals from the many wounds sustained through colonization, our authority and government strengthen in turn. Our language community is working hard to strengthen our connection to our ancestors. Our singers, dancers, weavers, and carvers remind us every day of who we are. Our 'professionals' are making history in the courtroom, museums and halls of power. Our students are excelling in trades, arts, sciences, medicine, and administration. Our athletes inspire us, and bring esteem and honour to our Nation.

As we continue to build the Nation's stature we will need to stay focused on knowledge. To fulfill our role as leaders, we must maintain our determination to excel in two worlds. We need more leaders educated to understand law, administration, forestry, fisheries, and the sciences. But more importantly we need leaders with an intimate understanding of and love for Haida Gwaii and our way of being.

A big haawa, to everyone who came to the Winter Seasonal Session and shared their ideas and feelings. As we go about our daily lives enacting Haida Title and proceed toward Aboriginal Title in Canada's courts, let's continue to look after one another and keep personal wellbeing and healing at the centre.

kil tlaats' gaa *Peter Lantin*

President of the Haida Nation

**FOR AN UPDATE OF THE TITLE CASE AND ALL THE OTHER ACTIVE  
ISSUES OF THE DAY, COME TO THE SEASONAL SESSION.  
APRIL 25 + 26, HLGAAIGILDA**





Gin K'alang Gayaa (right, holding flag) with his family getting ready to watch Black Panther.

## A HAIDA BLOCKBUSTER

"He was born with a pencil in his hand," said Taaw Guuda Ista Jaad *Veronica Williams*, of her son Gin K'alang Gayaa *Joshua Samuels*, who is lead roto animator for Marvel's highly-anticipated movie, *Black Panther*. His name means "good artist" and he is well on his way to earning that recognition for his skills.

Gin K'alang Gayaa's artistic skills have taken him from Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay *George M. Dawson Secondary School*, where an unfinished mural on the lunch room wall still exists, to the Vancouver Institute of Media Arts in Vancouver, where he studied for two years. From there, he contracted with DHX Studios Broadcasting & Media Production Company, and then with Bardel Entertainment, and finally over to Method Studios.

"His dream has always been, to someday work on feature films and look at him now, he achieved his goal," said Taaw Guuda Ista Jaad beaming with pride.

"As long as I can remember, Josh loved comics. He already knew about Black Panther as he does almost every super hero movie out there," Taaw Guuda Ista Jaad

recalled. He would spend his pay cheques on "Japanese anime DVD's, ordering from Kxeen *Prince Rupert*, that's how he spent his money as a working teenager. He filled a wooden trunk with these DVD's," she said.

Gin K'alang Gayaa went from wearing the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Halloween costume, asking for, and receiving TMNT gifts on his birthday and Christmas, to animating them in his adult life.

"It's still so unbelievable at times," says Taaw Guuda Ista Jaad of her son's influences and success. She encourages parents to "always encourage your children to do their best, to have big dreams and to give them every means possible to achieve those dreams, as there is no dream big enough".

With a supportive home that included his older brother, Douglas White, and their sacrifices along the way, Gin K'alang Gayaa has risen to blockbuster status. The world saw his artistic efforts – and that of his team – when Wakanda's hero, *Black Panther*, opened this past weekend to a record breaking \$218M.



## Haida Art Authenticity Certificate

If you're a new Haida artist beginning to market and sell your work, you may not be aware that you can register with the CHN and receive a Haida Art Authenticity Certificate. The Certificate along with an assortment of CHN labels and tags are available from the CHN offices in Gaw and HI Gaagilda. All of these items can help you in the following ways:

The Certificate confirms, to galleries, collectors and other buyers, that you are an artist of Haida ancestry. It also bears a personal registration number, which the CHN assigns to individual registrants. The number can be written on the labels and tags, which artists then attach to their works; this confirms to the buyer that the artist is Haida and registered with the Council of the Haida Nation.

This system was developed to protect Haida art, artists, and buyers from the practice by some non-Haida artists, galleries and organizations of marketing and selling works of non-Haida people as Haida art.

Please call the CHN office in HI Gaagilda at 205.559.4468 or the CHN office in Gaw 250.626.5252 if you're interested in registering. •

# St'aala Kun Monitoring Update



Photos: Haida laas/Rhonda Lee McIsaac



Top left: Sean Peacock and crew unloading building supplies at St'aala Kun. Bottom left: Taaikou, CHN Protected Areas Manager, inspecting the cabin. Bottom right: Almost there.

The Council of the Haida Nation has finished building a new cabin at St'aala Kun *Collison Point*. Workers from the Heritage and Natural Resources Department will use the cabin to monitor forests and logging behind St'aala Kun.

The cabin is in a sheltered site overlooking the boom and off-loading area at St'aala Kun. That, and its proximity to a network of logging roads stretching to Suu liwans *Ian Lake* and Needan Gawee *Naden Harbour*, will provide crews with access

to monitor, audit and report on activity in the area. This will include monitoring forest practices, water quality, wildlife, Land Use Objectives Order effectiveness, and monumental cedars. Further capacity building may enable crews to conduct waste assessments.

The 480-square-foot cabin has room for eight bunks, a good water source, stove, fridge, metal roof, and heating stove.





# A NEW APPROACH

*Council of the Haida Nation Winter Session 2018*

Friends and relatives milled about to chat in the new open-house style at the Council of the Haida Nation's Winter Seasonal Session, January 31, at Old Massett Community Hall in Gwa.

Citizens chatted with Program Managers, staff and Reps who had set up displays explaining the departments' accomplishments this past season. The new format gave citizens direct access to staff and Reps who have the knowledge to address questions and concerns. Best friends sat in groups out front of their favourite programs. Long lost cousins hopped from table to table dishing out hugs and discussing all kinds of topics. A morning of what could be dry reporting

second reading in The House of Commons on October 4, 2017. Bill C-48 will prohibit crude oil and persistent oil shipments exceeding 12,500 metric tonnes from T'sikumi *Cape Scott* to Siigaay *Dixon Entrance*. Under Bill C-48 tankers bearing gasoline, diesel, or fracked gas will continue to ply coastal waters.

On October 13, 2016 tugboat *Nathan E Stewart* tragically spilled 237,000 litres, or roughly 190 tonnes, of diesel into Hailzaqv territory. While 190 tonnes represents just 1.5% of the 12,500-tonne limit Bill C-48 proposes, the spill devastated treasured Hailzaqv food-gathering areas. *Nathan E Stewart's* accompanying fuel barge has

swathes of forest on *XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay IinaGwaay Graham Island*. These burned Gámdas Tlagee's northern edge, leaving a fringe of fire-origin hemlock and cedar. The fires stopped short of the marshy woods below. In 2010 old-growth hemlock and cedar grew in these lower areas, with Sitka spruce filling in for cedar nearer to the tideline. Trees up to 322 years old reached heights of up to 35 metres.

Woods were interspersed with Culturally Modified Trees, showing kuuniisii used and occupied the area. Settlers living at the evanescent town of Graham Central also left numerous turn-of-the-century objects scattered underfoot, including a hand-made wooden rowboat.

In 2010, a tripartite of logging companies destroyed the area. Loggers purchased District Lot 413 as private land on June 25, 2010 for \$124,000. Three logging companies joined together to cut 28,000 to 35,000 cubic metres of timber from 62.27 hectares. In 2015, a provincial court found all three parties guilty on 20 counts of environmentally destructive logging practices.

On January 26, CHN and the Nature Conservancy of Canada partnered to start the centuries-long recovery process. They aim to care for and restore the area's forests and wetlands. While NCC went to great lengths to change their organization's policies so it could partner with CHN, the two organization's share many common values. NCC has already raised \$1.2 million to begin the restoration work.

The recovering forest joins a thick patchwork of protection. In addition to the CHN-NCC administered area, NCC purchased neighbouring 32.24-hectare District Lot 218.

The recovering clearcut drains directly into neighbouring Gámdas Kaahlíi *Kumdis Bay*, which is protected as part of Gámdas Protected Area's marine foreshore. Gámdas

**On September 15, 2017 Attorney General of Canada and Minister of Justice, Puglaas Jody Wilson Raybould announced Madam Justice Barbara Fisher had accepted an appointment to the BC Court of Appeal. Justice Andrew Phillip Avtar Mayer was appointed as case management and trial judge to the Haida Title Case.**

turned into an unexpected networking event. After lunch, the laughter, learning, and conversation quieted down and citizens settled as the Executive began reporting on CHN's activities.

## Title

To manage the complexity of the Title Case, CHN filed a formal request to split the Case into two phases December 1. The first phase would deal with Aboriginal Rights and Title to all of Haida Gwaii, and the second phase would address compensation for infringements made by the Crown. At a case planning conference on February 20, Justice Mayer provided his ruling and CHN is currently determining how it wishes to respond to Justice Mayer's decision.

Setting a court date to hear the Haida Title Case is the next step. Once Justice Mayer sets a date Haida should have around 15 months before hearings begin.

## Moratorium

The Oil Tanker Moratorium Act passed its

a capacity of 10,000 tonnes. Under Bill C-48 such vessels continue to pass through coastal waters.

Fuel barges can typically carry about 8,000 tonnes to coastal communities. Barges delivering to Haida Gwaii likely carry roughly 700 tonnes. Not including Sandspit airport, Haida Gwaii imports and burns roughly 28,800 tonnes of fuel per year. Swilawiid Sustainability Society estimates Haida Gwaii's diesel power plants burn roughly 8,000 tonnes each year.

## Gámdas Tlagee

An era of restoration has begun at the mouth of Gámdas Gandlee *Kamdis River*. Once described as a 'fish factory', the wetland forest served as an abundant salmon nursery. The area's streams run directly into a rich estuary ideal for juvenile salmon. The resulting natural wealth drew kuuniisii *ancestors* to the area to hunt ducks and geese, collect eggs, and catch salmon.

Just over 150 years ago fires swept vast

*Seasonal Session next page...*

### Seasonal Session continued.

Protected Area's terrestrial component covers a further 1,896 hectares 2.5 kilometres north.

In May 2017, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development designated 240.75-hectares a "Section 16 map reserve", conserving it for fish and wildlife. This area spreads across District Lots 339, 412, 419, and 422 600 metres north, immediately north, and immediately south of the recovering clearcut.

In 2009 the NCC established a 58-hectare protected area 500 metres southwest. In 1999, the Province of BC designated 26.91 hectares of Gamdas Kaahlíi's western shore as conservation lands. In 1993 the Nature Trust established a 26.5-hectare protected area 400 metres northwest. All together these protected areas leave a mere 130 metres of Gámdas Kaahlíi's shoreline unprotected.

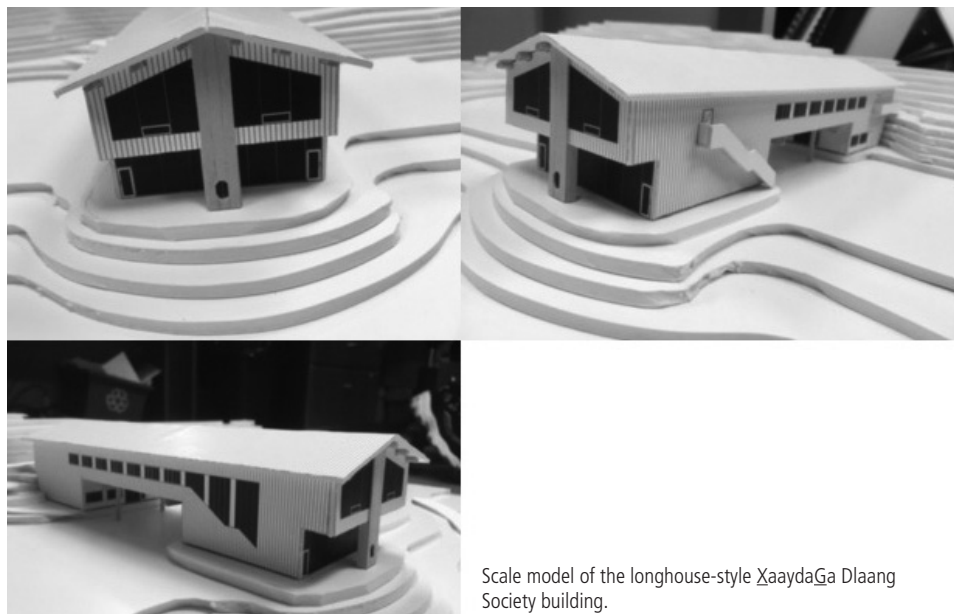
As part of the new format, citizens spent day-two in open discussions about Title, forestry, and the Land-Sea-People management plan. Talks were passionate, particularly when speaking to Title.

Haida Title encompasses all levels of self-governance, starting within the strength of Haida families, and extending to community and our national administration. In describing their visions for Title, citizens demonstrated they are focused on strengthening all levels of Haida authority so the Nation can continue to reach for great achievements in language, health, housing, and education.

## HaiCo Resolutions

Citizens brought a number of resolution concerning HaiCo to the 2017 House of Assembly. Because no official CHN HaiCo committee exists, these resolutions were delivered to HaiCo 11 January Three Working Groups with members from the CHN, SHN, Hereditary Chiefs' Council, and both village councils will address three corresponding HaiCo resolutions. These include:

- 2017-45: on-island value added jobs
- 2017-49: economic transition strategy
- 2017-51: HaiCo profit sharing



Scale model of the longhouse-style XaaydaGa Dlaang Society building.

# A MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND

by Rhonda Lee McIsaac

The hillside adjacent to the Council of the Haida Nation building and behind Taaw Naay Gas Station and the Skidegate Band Council office has changed dramatically. About 2 hectares of forest have cleared to make way for the new 9435 square foot XaaydaGa Dlaang Society building.

Excavators have been on site for a couple months and are 'grubbing and clearing' the site for a new longhouse-style wellness building which will serve the HIGaagilda community. The site for the Wellness Centre footprint is being cleared to get ready for an April tender process. The rest of the site will have stumps piled until the ground dries and they can be removed. All marketable timber has been delivered to Taan sort. Infrastructure is hoped to begin construction in June or July.

Health Director, Lauren Brown, has had the vision to move health services into a larger longhouse-style building and away from the Tsunami zone for a while. Along with the new building will be an innovative approach to delivering health care in HIGaagilda. Unison Architecture's preliminary design has been approved, as

has the preliminary survey and archeological assessment of the land – completed before clearing began.

In the new facility, the client will be at the centre of services and programs, says Office Manager, Mary Kellie. This client-centred approach will inform all services and programs, and the building design will facilitate a healthy mix of community socialization in the spirit of wellness while acknowledging and addressing illnesses within the community. The building will have areas for privacy, recovery, as well as quiet spaces. Staff requirements will also be met by a design that encourages teamwork, unity, and integration.



Tyson Brown



# Healing a Hurt Land

by Graham Richard

A new era of restoration has begun at the mouth of Gámdas Gandlee *Kamdis River*. Once described as a ‘fish factory’, the wetland forest served as an abundant salmon nursery with the area’s streams running directly into a rich estuary ideal for juvenile salmon. The resulting natural wealth drew kuuniisii ancestors to Gámdas Tlagee *the Gámdas area* to hunt ducks and geese, collect eggs, and catch salmon.

One hundred and fifty years ago fires swept vast swathes of forest on XaaydaGa Gwaay.yaay IinaGwaay *Graham Island*. These burned Gámdas Tlagee’s northern edge, leaving a fringe of fire-origin k’aang *hemlock* and ts’uu *Western red cedar*. The fires stopped short of the marshy woods below. In 2010, old-growth k’aang and ts’uu grew in these lower areas, with kayd Sitka spruce filling in for ts’uu towards the tideline. Trees up to 322 years old reached heights of 35 metres.

The woods were interspersed with Culturally Modified Trees, showing kuusiisii used and occupied the area. Settlers living at

the evanescent town of Graham Central also left numerous turn-of-the-century objects scattered underfoot, including a hand-made wooden rowboat.

In 2010, three logging companies cut the area. The companies purchased District Lot 413 as ‘private’ land on June 25, 2010 for \$124,000. They then cut 28,000 to 35,000 cubic metres of timber from 62.27 hectares. In 2015, a provincial court found each of the three parties guilty on 20 counts of environmentally destructive logging practices.

On January 26, 2018, the Council of the Haida Nation and the Nature Conservancy of Canada partnered to start the centuries-long recovery process. They aim to care for and restore the area’s forests and wetlands. The NCC went to lengths to change their organization’s policies so it could work with CHN, and the two organization’s values largely overlap. NCC has already raised \$1.2 million for restoration work.

The area they will restore falls amongst several previously established protected areas, creating a patchwork of protection. In 1993,

the Nature Trust established a 26.5-hectare protected area 400 metres northwest. In 1999, the Province of BC designated 26.91 hectares of Gámdas Kaahlii’s *Kamdis Bay* western shore as conservation lands. In 2009, the NCC established a 58-hectare protected area 500 metres southwest.

In May 2017 the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development protected a further 240.75 hectares surrounding the recovering forest. FLNRORD designated the area a “Section 16 map reserve” to conserve it for fish and wildlife.

Finally, the recovering forest drains directly into neighbouring Gámdas Kaahlii, which is protected as part of Gámdas Protected Area’s marine foreshore. Gámdas Protected Area’s terrestrial component covers a further 1,896 hectares 2.5 kilometres north.

All together these variously designated protected areas leave a mere 130 metres of Gámdas Kaahlii’s shoreline unprotected.







Photo: Gwaliga Hart

Gwaliga Hart with his award at the London International Filmmakers Festival of World Cinema in London, England.

## Giving Back The Name With Respect Screens in London, England

Submitted by Gwaliga Hart

“Giving Back The Name With Respect” is a 23 minute documentary that tells the historic story of the colonial name, Queen Charlotte Islands, being respectfully given back to the Crown by the Haida Nation at a ceremony held in *Gaw Old Massett*, Haida Gwaii on June 17, 2010.

At the ceremony the Islands’ proper name, Haida Gwaii, was formally recognized by British Columbia – a symbolic event illuminating new beginnings and the spirit of reconciliation. The short documentary tells the story of this monumental event in Haida, British Columbia, and Canadian history.

The documentary was first previewed on April 2, 2017 in Vancouver at the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, the day after the Reconciliation Pole Raising at the University of British Columbia. The timing of the first screening was set to coordinate with the pole raising because of the

important topic of reconciliation expressed within the documentary.

The next weekend, the film went home to Haida Gwaii. It first screened in Gina Guu Aahljuu Naay at *Kay Llnagaay*, then travelled north to Gaw, screening at *Thluu Xaada Naay*. The timing of these two screenings was important because the following weekend was *Guujaaw’s* – now *Gidansda* – ‘*Waahlahl* or *Hereditary Chieftainship Potlatch*. This screening created further awareness, paying respect to the former President of the Haida Nation who, on behalf of our Nation, led us to the occasion of returning the name.

After the film’s preview and premieres, more work was done to get the documentary into the film festival circulation.

I was keen on having the short documentary play at a film festival in England and the London International Filmmakers Festival of World Cinema 2018 accepted it. It was exciting news as this was the first

film festival the documentary would screen at and news soon came in that the film was nominated for two awards: Best Editing of a Short Documentary and Best Short Documentary, an accomplished status simply at that.

For myself the significance and symbolism of having the film screen in London, England was already an achievement. I was able to attend the film festival and took part in professional development opportunities and fostered new relationships. The film screened at 7:15 pm on Thursday, February 15, 2018. The Filmmaker Awards Ceremony began that Saturday evening and Michael Bourquin, the films editor, was awarded his prize, a proud and deserving achievement. Unfortunately, Mr. Bourquin was unable to attend the ceremony as he was deep into another film project and facing -70 degree weather at Kangiqitiniq Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. On behalf of Michael, I accepted the award and shared Michael’s words.

During the preview and premiere screenings on Haida Gwaii, guest speakers Kilsaay Kaajii Sting *Miles Richardson*, *Gidansda*, *Taaw.ga Halaa’ Leeyga May Russ* and Kil tlaats ‘*gaa Peter Lantin* shared their reflections about the historic event.

At each screening Kil tlaats ‘*gaa*, President of the Haida Nation, shared the story about the incredible ending to the journey of the bentwood box that contained the colonial name Queen Charlotte Islands. At the Giving Back The Name With Respect ceremony the bentwood box holding the colonial name was received by Gordon Campbell, then Premier of British Columbia, who took it to Mak’toli Victoria, British Columbia, where it resided at the Parliament Buildings until the Fall of 2016.

It has been told, that following the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge’s visit to Haida Gwaii, the couple took the bentwood box back to England and it now resides at Kensington Palace – a fitting ending to what might have seemed an impossible reality. Having the documentary “Giving Back The Name With Respect” screen in London punctuated this monumental history.

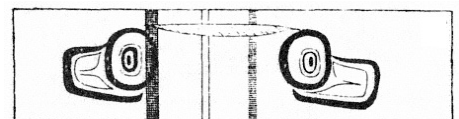






Photo: Haida Laas/Graham Richard

l-r: Joe Young, Anthony Lindoff, John Carle, Tony Peele, Jerry Peele, Sid Edenshaw, Devin Edenshaw, David Edenshaw, Reg Davidson, TJ Young and Clinton Cook Jr.

# A CONFLUENCE OF COUSINS

## *All Native Basketball Tournament 2018*

**H**aida Women started a week of competition, Sunday, February 11. And, it would not be the last time Haida played on both sides of the court as Gaw's Haida Wild faced off against All My Relations, the women's team representing T'agwan *Vancouver*. The Haida Nation brought eight teams to this year's All Native, and Haida cousins played hard when they faced each other on the court.

On Sunday evening, Gingolx *Kincolith* officially opened the 2018 All Native Basketball Tournament with phenomenal song and dance. Drums shook the air as Nisga'a dancers ushered supernaturals into the hall. Elders of high standing led the procession as an enthralled crowd cheered from packed seats. The stunning and profound ceremony was a fitting start to a week of dramatic games.

### Masters'

The all-conquering Haida Masters from Hydaburg paraded through 2018, undefeated. The perennial victors played four games, beating Gingolx, Gitlaxt'aamiks *New Aiyansh*, and *Gaw Old Massett*. In their final match Hydaburg played a rough first half as Gitlaxt'aamiks gained a ten-point lead. Hydaburg hit back in the third period, tying the game up. A tense crowd cheered as the contenders battled shot for shot. As the game closed Hydaburg managed to bring the score to 85 to 84, securing their fourth consecutive title.

Gaw followed close behind their northern cousins, claiming strong leads against Lax K'walaams *Port Simpson* and LaxGalts'ap *Greenville* Monday and Thursday. The team played a second game on Thursday evening, losing to Hydaburg 62 to 47. On Friday

evening, the team fell into third place with a second loss against Gitlaxt'aamiks 68 to 58.

HiGaagilda *Skidegate* hammered through a tough week of close games, losing an intense game 50 to 47 against Gingolx on Monday. HiGaagilda's Masters went on to defeat Kitkatla and Kitimat Tuesday and Wednesday as they fought their way back up through the second bracket. On Thursday, they played a very close game against LaxGalts'ap, fighting back against a 20-point lead. The team slowly closed the gap through the third and fourth periods. Thanks to a breathtaking contribution from Sdiihl *Frank Russ*, the team overtook their rivals by one point just as the clock timed out. Despite an inspiring effort HiGaagilda was pushed out of the tournament on Friday morning, losing to Gitlaxt'aamiks 78 to 64.

**ANBT next page...**

**ANBT continued.**

Eight Haida received individual awards including All Stars Toni Peal, TJ Young, Guud Gwawaas *Richard Williams*, Abe Brown, Dustin Cross, Darren Pearson, Mr Hustle Robert Davis, and Best Defensive Player Joe Young.

**Seniors'**

Hydaburg played hard despite serious setbacks off-court, representing the Haida Nation at the finals. The team pushed past Kxeen *Prince Rupert*, HIGaagilda, and Lax K'walaams early in the week, but on Friday Kitkatla pushed the team into the semi-finals. The team came back strong against Ahousaht the following morning for a second chance to wrestle the title away from their rivals from Kitkatla. Kitkatla dominated the early championship game, closing the first half 34 to 20. Hydaburg fought hard to turn the game around, gaining a four-point lead as the game drew to a close. Free throws and 'threes' riddled the game's final minutes, driving it into overtime. Cheering shook the air as the crowd remembered 2017, when HIGaagilda shut Kitkatla out of the championship title in overtime. The lead slipped back and forth as the teams exchanged 'threes' in overtime.

Finally Kitkatla locked in a two-point lead at 69 to 67, pushing Hydaburg into second place, and claiming a hard-won title.

After winning six straight titles HIGaagilda faced an early loss when Hydaburg pushed the perennial champions into the second bracket on Tuesday, beating the team 80 to 73. They went on to push Gaw, Kxeen, b'x'w'la *Bella Coola*, and Lax K'walaams out as they climbed back to the finals. On Friday evening Haida played a tough game, but their rivals from Ahousaht pulled ahead in the fourth period. Ahousaht ended the game with a comfortable lead of 104 to 86.

Gaw played three games during the week, winning on Monday against Hazelton and losing to Kitkatla Tuesday and HIGaagilda Wednesday, pushing the team out of the tournament.

Haida recognized for individual achievements included All Stars Freddie Hamilton, Vinny Edenshaw, StllnGa *Tyler York*, Darcy Pearson, and Best Defensive Player, Most Inspirational Player and High Scorer Nang Gaahlaang Stangs *Damen Bell-Holter*, who scored 177 points across six games.

**Intermediates'**

Haida only brought one intermediate team to this year's All Native. HIGaagilda lost early in the week on Tuesday against Kitkatla, but beat them later in the second bracket along with Gingolx and Tsalgiu. When Haida played their second game in a day on Friday evening, Waglisla *Bella Bella* closed the game with a lead of 110 to 81, knocking the young Saints out of the tournament. Officials recognized Niislant *Davin McDonald* and Trafton Williams as Haida All Stars at the closing ceremonies on Saturday.

**Women's**

Haida women started the tournament off on Sunday losing to T'agwan 71 to 46. The team came back against Ahousaht on Tuesday before Kitkatla pushed them out of the tournament on Wednesday. While some more experienced players were missing this year, many new players show great potential. Nikki Davis won the individual award for Most Promising Player. Fans look forward to watching their progress next year.



Photo: Haida Laas/Graham Richard

Fans feel every emotion while players are battling on the court.





# TRACKING VESSELS WITH BETTER INFORMATION

The Haida, Gitga'at and T'sou-ke Nations will take part in an initiative to enhance marine traffic tracking, starting in autumn 2018. The Maritime Situational Awareness Initiative (MAIS) is a data system that compiles several layers of maritime information and provides it in real-time. Haida using MAIS will have real-time shipping data through a simple app on computers, tablets, or mobile devices. CHN will use the system to improve research, marine emergency response, environmental protection and other functions.

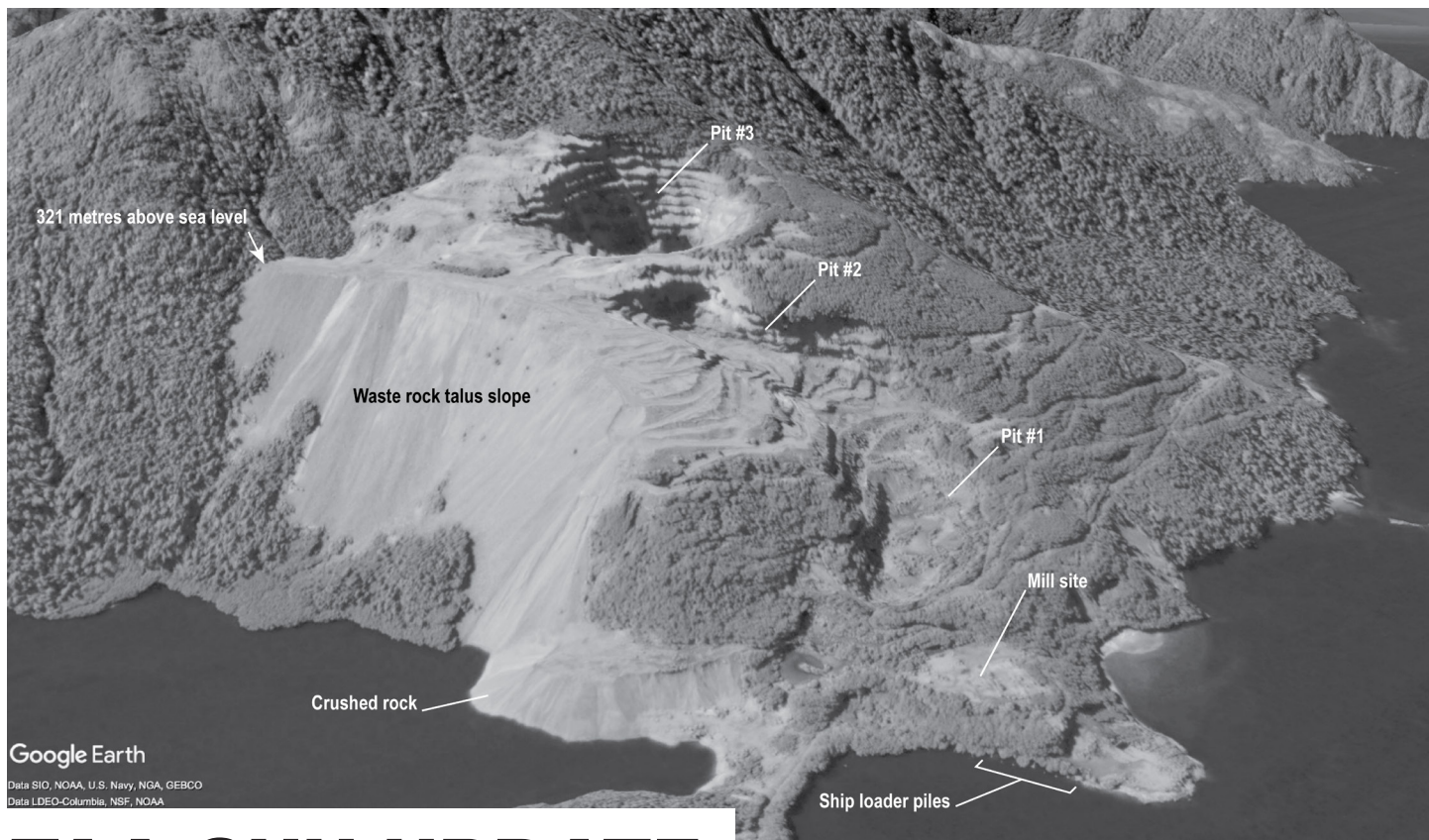
The project has two components. As of March 2018 community members and the general public will have access to MAIS version 1, a system component that relays information from land-based sites. Starting in September 2018 CHN staff will test and provide feedback on an enhanced MAIS, a satellite-based system component.

"Bringing the Enhanced Maritime Situational Awareness initiative to Haida Gwaii has been a big project and it took a team effort to do that. This project is going to add a few more layers of protection to the waters surrounding Haida Gwaii and in the event of an accident give us the best tools available

to deal with it," said kil tlaats 'gaa Peter Lantin, President of the Haida Nation. "We were selected for this project because our nation has built the necessary capacity. Working with the staff and infrastructure we have built, we are going to be able to keep Haida Gwaii safer using this system."

MAIS is based on a similar system Transport Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard have been using for about five years. CHN will gather and provide feedback about how to improve the new system for a year, along with other first nations, coastal communities, scientists, provincial governments, industry associations, and mariners. Transport Canada will then use feedback and integrate the two into a single system for public use.

Whether Haida users are a guardian watchman on patrol or a marine spatial planner in the office, MAIS will improve the Haida Nation's ability to protect Haida Gwaii. Using the enhanced MAIS, CHN will gain access to real-time marine traffic information badly needed to assess regional threats, promote safety, and minimize shipping impacts.



# TAA SUU UPDATE

The Province of BC and Coastal Construction Aggregates Inc (CCAI) are preparing to mine at Taa Suu without Haida consent. In 2011, the Council of the Haida Nation and BC met at the Solutions Table to review CCAI's proposal to quarry sand, gravel and armour stone from the old mine site. CCAI wants to extract up to 500,000 tonnes of sand and gravel and up to 250,000 tonnes of quarried material per year.

Haida representatives at the Solutions Table rejected the proposal because heavy metals are already leaching from the old mine site, poisoning Taa Suu's fish, shellfish and algae. By disturbing rock piles, CCAI would likely spill more sediment and heavy metals into the ocean. The Province of BC approved the request.

Given the 'non-consensus' outcome, the CHN is pursuing a variety of actions to ensure that their decision regarding Taa Suu is upheld.

In 1967, a mining company Falconbridge, dug three open-pit mines into the northeastern slope of Xiila Ga linas TildaGaaw Tasu Mountain, processing over 27-million tonnes of iron ore and shipping out 12-million tonnes. Falconbridge abandoned the mine in 1983, leaving behind tens of millions of tonnes of waste rock in a pile up to 320 metres high. The waste pile falls directly into surrounding waters. 35 years later forests have yet to reestablish in an area covering more than one square kilometre.

Heavy metals are leaching from waste dumps into fish, shellfish and algae. In 1977, a marine environmental assessment sampled bi-valves and molluscs for secondary heavy metals, confirming they had accumulated in marine animals at Taa Suu. While scientists took the majority of samples within one kilometre of the mine, tests also indicated marine life had been contaminated 2.3 kilometres away from the site.

Primary metals extracted at the mine were not measured at all, and a lack of proper monitoring makes it impossible to measure impacts of any future mining. Fine sediment could account for up to 30% of waste rock at the site, and a large tailings area still contains tonnes of fine and mineralized material.

CHN notified CCAI and the Province that they would have to ensure several tasks were complete before starting operations. These include:

1. An Environmental Assessment
2. A foreshore habitat assessment prior to bargaining

3. A detailed contaminated site investigation
4. An independent third-party evaluation of ground water quality testing during high water flow
5. Independent third-party sampling and testing for marine bio-accumulation and ecological community status. Ecological values should include species richness and bio-diversity.
6. Independent third-party evaluation of acid rock drainage and metal leaching potential
7. An independent third-party biological assessment of surrounding foreshore areas
8. A professionally engineered sediment control plan
9. A resource sharing agreement from the Reconciliation Table
10. A mine plan addendum showing site details for armour stone quarrying operations. Details should include maps, locations, rock types, and volumes.
11. An investigation disclosing whether proposed armour stone sites associate closely with Acid Rock Drainage or Mineral Leaching deposits
12. Acid Rock Drainage and Mineral Leaching sampling technique details
13. A sediment management plan
14. A plan to mitigate risks of blasting agents and bi-products poisoning marine environments
15. More rigorous standards for reclamation and rehabilitation
16. An amended and updated mine plan addressing these specifically outlined concerns regarding quarrying, sand, and gravel operations

Taa Suu is an area rich with sk'aagii *chum*, ts'it'an *pink*, taay.yii *coho*, taaxid *sockeye*, xaaguu *halibut*, k'uust'an *crab*, Gaalahyan *abalone*, k'iiwaay *clams*, guuding.ngaay *Red sea urchin*, Guuda gii *Gayd prawns*, taaxaw *mussels*, stan *geoduck*, hlk'wii *rock scallops*, and xuud *Harbour seal*. linang *Pacific herring* arrive to lay k'aaw *Herring roe on kelp* in spring .

For a full update on this file please attend the Spring Summer Session April 25 rd 26.