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HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Haida Nation

DECEMBER 2008



Photo - Cynthia Samuels

Jeremy and Rochelle Beynon with Brenda Vandal and Delsen, behind, enjoy the festivities at the Urban Feast held November 29, 2008 in Vancouver. > More photos page 15.

URBAN FEAST



HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER OF THE HAIDA NATION

published by the
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DECEMBER 08

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program reports : haida laas
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- it's all good -

Haida Laas,



*The Best of the Season
to everyone on these
shining Islands.*

*from the
Council of the Haida Nation,
representatives & staff*



In Remembrance

Old Massett

Nina Strike

Tyrone Russ

Skidegate

Braxton Moraes

The Council of the Haida Nation extends its deepest sympathies to the families.

Youth Workers Hired

by Florence Lockyer

Youth Workers have been hired by the Old Massett Village Council. Welcome to Norman Marks and Vanna Collison.

Renaë Marks was the last person to fill the position of youth worker, but she has moved on to another career and since she left last year, the position has remained open. The Youth Worker is a community liaison person who works to provide programs needed to meet the desires of our youth. The position is valuable because it enhances opportunities for youth.

The Youth Worker designs programs that youth want and need. Program planning is currently underway, so anyone with ideas can contact Norman at the Haida Health Center (250 626 3911).

Recreation and exercise is a necessity for all ages. Norman and Vanna will work with part-time Recreation Coordinator, David Hill, to develop and design a hall schedule to accommodate basketball, volleyball, and other indoor sports geared for youth. Youth in the community are also invited to become more involved in cultural events. There are Haida dance groups practicing. Check them out! None of them are exclusive; they are open to new members.

First Quarterly, 2009

The first quarterly meeting of the CHN will be held Thursday, January 15, 09 at the Skidegate Community Hall, 10 am - 4:30 pm. The meeting will include program reports and CHN recommendations. •



L-R: Visiting youth delegate, Ahti, former youth worker, Renaë Marks, Amber Good, Jessie Williams, Justin Klevgaard, and Raven Hausmann celebrating in Time Square, New York City, New York. Their film, *Islands of the People*, was one of the nine selected from 250 entries for the 'Youth Producing Change' Film Festival.



60th Wedding Anniversary!

Roy Sr. and Grace Jones of Skidegate celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, also known as the Diamond anniversary on December 1, 2008. They tied the knot December 1, 1948 and 60 years later they danced together at the same place they met — the Skidegate Community Hall. Family and community all joined in on the celebration, filling the hall, eating fine food, and enjoying the local talent. •

More Locations

You can now get a copy of Haida Laas at the Hydaburg Co-operative Association and in the Organized Village of Kasaan. Thanks, to both these Alaskan groups, for carrying the news of the Haida Nation.

In Vancouver you can get a copy from Lois Helmer-Rullin by calling her at 778.846.0109, or pick up a copy during West Coast Night, at the Vancouver Indian Center on Hastings Street. •

Did you know!

Did you know that the Haida Tribal Society is changing its name to the Secretariat of the Haida Nation.

Hagwilook'am Saxwhl Giis, Irene Sequin to head NWCC Board of Governors

by Florence Lockyer

In the history of the Northwest Community College, the chairman of the board of governors has always been just that – a chairman of the board. But this year, an event took place that changed all that. The new chairman of the board is a woman. In fact, she is a Nisga'a woman of the Laxgibuu (Wolf) clan — she is Hagwilook'am Saxwhl Giis, Irene Sequin.

With her forefathers and grandmothers watching, Ms Sequin proudly took the place of honour at the helm of the college during a festive ceremony held on Friday, October 3, 2008 at the Kitsumkulum Community Hall. Ms Sequin has strong leadership skills, she leads with her heart — a heart for her culture and ours, and a heart for education. The event had been originally set for the Terrace campus, Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art Studio, but the guest list exceeded the venue's seating capacity.

In her home town of Gitwinksihlkw, Ms Sequin is the Education Administrator and Housing Services Manager and has held many other positions in her community, the Band Council, and Northwest Community College. She has been on the board of governors and chair of the First Nations Council and, as such, has been involved in many committees.

I had the pleasure of having lunch with Ms Sequin at one of the last First Nations Council meetings in Terrace. I also had the privi-



Hagwilook'am Saxwhl Giis, Irene Sequin at her swearing-in ceremony as Chair of the Northwest Community College Board of Governors.

lege of hearing a small part of her story — as one hour is definitely not enough time to learn about an individual, especially one who has such a full life. She is down to earth, proud of where she has come from, where she's been, where she is today, where she is going — and where she will take us! •

Did you know!
Did you know that if you use a cloth bag you can save at least 6 bags a week, that's 24 bags a month, which is 288 bags a year. That's 22,176 bags in an average lifetime.

Opportunities for Youth in Massett

by Florence Lockyer

The Recreation Center in Massett, which has served the local Islands communities for decades, has closed its doors. The complex housed the swimming pool, gym, two-lane bowling alley, fitness equipment room, weight room, and sauna. It also had an auditorium that was used for kickboxing, grappling, and fundraisers. Community members from all over the island and of all ages used the facilities.

The complex also housed a 'teen centre' that fell under the Masset Teen Involvement Program which was supervised for many years by Sarah Hillis.

The Teen Involvement Program had been delivering a food program for youth for well over a decade and was pieced together with the help of various sources of funding. Ms Hillis was devoted to delivering this program for so long and now has run out of immediate options, so the Teen Involvement Program is on an unexpected hiatus.

Plans are in place to look at other buildings in New Massett as well as the Old Massett Community Hall, and the Dii Tuulang Naay Family Center — but, these options are in process and nothing is yet finalized. Thoughts are in motion about perhaps having a mobile program that relocates every night the program is offered. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays are critical points in the week for the youth. •

An Ocean of Knowledge and Interest

by the Haida Oceans Technical Team

Gaaysiigaang is the person who sizes up the waves so the boat can get out – are you ready to size up the waves?

There is little doubt that ocean conditions are changing. At the same time, we are seeing new marine uses and emerging resource conflicts, and we need to start planning for our marine future. *Gaaysiigaang* - an oceans forum, to be held January 22, 23, 24, 2009 - is an opportunity for Islanders to bring forward their ideas on ways to improve the health of our surrounding ocean and economy. It is also an opportunity to not only size up the waves, but the conditions that we are paddling out into.

Local and international experts will be on hand to talk about traditional, commercial and recreational fisheries and ways to market fish products. But the forum is not just about fish! It is a place to learn and share your ideas about cruise ships, offshore energy, marine education, ship-

ping and transportation, and ecotourism.

Adding to the mix we have two world renowned specialists speaking to local issues from a global perspective – Dr Jeremy Jackson of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography will talk about the condition of marine ecosystems, and Dr Mark Nuttall from the University of Alberta, will discuss the potential impacts of oil and gas development in Alberta on Haida Gwaii, and other BC coastal communities.

The forum kicks off on the evening of January 22nd with an inspiring Oceans Art Show opening and reception at *Kaay Llnagaay*— then on January 23 and 24 we come together to engage in the issues that affect all of our lives and livelihoods, be it transportation, oil and gas, or opportunities that will contribute to a local economy.

Like most events on Haida Gwaii, this is a collaborative effort –

partners include the Council of the Haida Nation, Gwaii Haanas, World Wildlife Fund, Canada and DFO. We are very grateful for the support we have already received, particularly from Kieran Moraes who has generously allowed us to use his name *Gaaysiigaang*. •



SAVE THE DATES OF
January 22, 23 & 24, 2009
for the Ocean Forum & Art Show
at the Haida Heritage Centre
at *Kaay Llnagaay*.



Watch your community boards or contact Forum Coordinator, Nika Collison, at 559.8133, or Lynn Lee and Catherine Rigg at 626.3302, for more information.

A MOVIE NIGHT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

DEEP BLUE

Deep Blue is a remarkable film that reveals some of earth's most mysterious ocean creatures. Three years in the making, the breathtaking cinematography of Deep Blue is awe inspiring. The evening will begin with an animated short film, *Once Upon a Tide*.

MASSETT - Tluu Xaada Naay Longhouse - Friday, January 9, 2009
SKIDEGATE - Skidegate Community Hall - Saturday, January 10, 2009
Doors open at 6:30 pm, Films begin at 7:00 pm • ADMISSION FREE • EVERYONE WELCOME

Council of the Haida Nation
Living Oceans Society

Sick, Sick, Sick

by Kwiaahwah Jones

SICK? What does that mean? Usually it has something to do with your health but how do you turn that image around? You spell it SYC, SYC, SYC, that's right, SYC, aka the Skidegate Youth Council, a newly formed organization that gives the youth of Skidegate a voice. It's a good path to take, and, by giving youth a voice, it's a good plan for a healthy future.

In April of 2008, the Skidegate Band Council met with 36 Skidegate youth and proposed an organizational structure for a youth council. SYC nominations took place and from 3-7 youth of Skidegate were nominated to fill each position.

The following youth were elected to the council:

- President - Desi Collinson
- Treasurer - Robert Williams
- Secretary - Shyla Cross
- SBC rep - Rose Russ
- Joby Russ and Denver Cross as reps for 13-16 years of age
- Tauren Collinson - rep, 16-20
- Kwiaahwah Jones - rep, 20-25
- Matty Davidson - rep, 20-25
- Jason Alsop - rep, 25-30
- Tyler Crosby - rep, 25-30

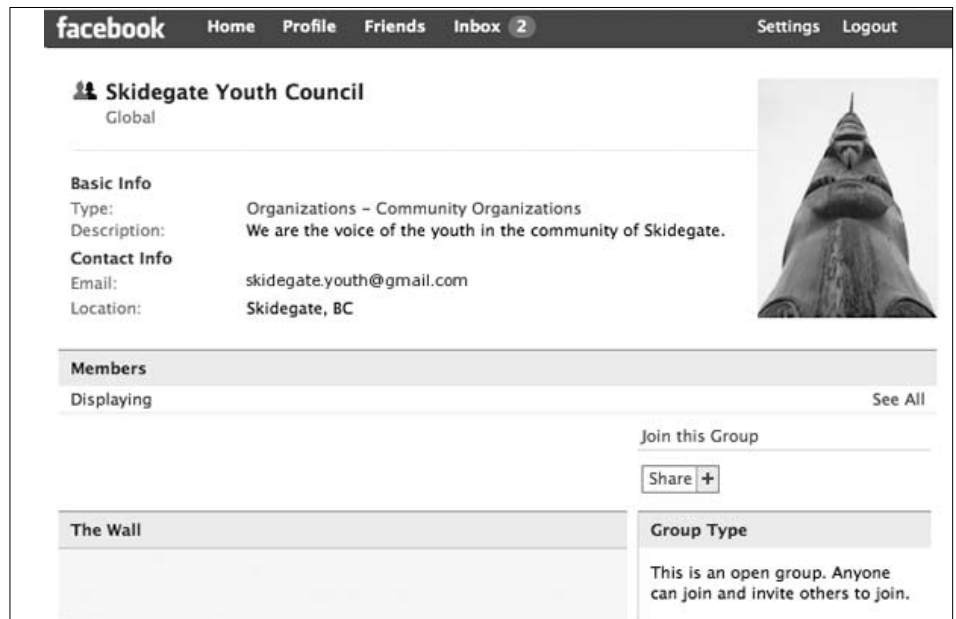
Over time some of the representatives resigned or moved on for various reasons — post secondary schooling or moving away.

Roles have also changed and SYC has grown and is now an autonomous organization separate from the Skidegate Band Council — however the band council remains a close partner.

We all know money makes the work go around and the Skidegate Band Council supported and empowered the youth by providing seed money for SYC. This seed money quickly grew as all the proceeds from Skidegate Days were added to the SYC account. We now have approximately \$23,000 to contribute to the youth of Skidegate. So far, SYC has had many accomplishments

World Music Festival. Members of the group volunteered at Skidegate Days and the organization is a contact for other youth groups. SYC has also supported movement and initiatives in recreation, education, spiritual teachings, arts and culture and has approved individual and personal requests.

SYC invites all youth from 13-30 years of age to join our meet-



Skidegate Youth Council aka SYC's homepage on Facebook.com

— things like defining what this new organizations' purpose is and how to make it serve the youth. Obviously, it is about youth, but the path it follows has to be articulated. Acts such as building policy and procedures; what it takes to provide a quorum; passing a motion; allocating money; and feeling out roles, responsibilities and capabilities of the youth of Skidegate.

Over the spring, summer and fall, SYC allocated money for youth to travel to the Indigenous Games on Vancouver Island in July, and they also provided transportation to events like the Edge of the

ings. Come out and get involved! If there is a project you are interested in, bring it to SYC. We are a diverse group with open minds. If you want to organize a basketball tournament, SYC could possibly help you. If you want to see more cultural events, SYC could possibly help.

Active members of SYC include Desi Collinson, Jason Alsop, Robert Williams, Frankie Wesley, Vanessa Whiteknife, Tyler Crosby and Kwiaahwah Jones. If you have any questions for SYC, you can post them on Facebook (Skidegate Youth Council) or email < skidegate.youth@gmail.com > . •

Ushering in the Future

The goal of the CHN Haida Independence Project is to provide a better quality of life for Haida citizens.

The Haida Independence Project is about getting Haida Nation involved in the Islands' economy, providing meaningful work and improving the quality of people's lives. The model and working concept of how this will happen and how it will benefit Haida people was presented to the November 18th Special House of Assembly by the Council of the Haida Nation executive committee.

Guujaaw, President of the Council of the Haida Nation, and Old Massett representative, Beryl Parke, sketched out in broad strokes, how CHN, through the Haida Independence Project, will be approaching economic development and supporting individuals in business enterprises.

"After taking the major steps of looking after our lands and culture, our next step is to design our future ...we pursue the honourable goal of economic independence. To get there, we know that the means are there, in the common property of our people. We also know that this won't be done in isolation and would require the highest degrees of diplomacy, negotiation and deliberate care. We

know that it is necessary to separate the management of business from the politics but at the same time it is also necessary that we build in the principles and processes of accountability. There is no question that Haida Gwaii has the means to provide for our people in spite of having being impoverished through short-sighted economic policies that we have witnessed over the years. As history shows, nothing will be falling on our laps, and old habits are hard to change, but economic independence is our goal and we will get there," said Guujaaw.

Prior to the special meeting, the CHN met with both Village Councils and the Hereditary Leaders and outlined the concepts, fielded questions and discussed different ways to approach economic development and revenue sharing. Various models were examined and some basic principles with which to operate were established.

The new organization will be owned collectively, accountable to, and overseen by the Haida people. The Haida Economic Development Corporation

Future continued next page

EVERYTHING MATTERS: Part of the research conducted to build the HEDC concept was information from the "Harvard Project". This project set out to "understand and foster the conditions under which sustained, self-determined social and economic development is achieved" among First Nations. The heart of the paper was a comparative study of social and economic development on American Indian reservations. What works, where and why? They found:

SOVEREIGNTY MATTERS: When Native nations make their own decisions about what development approaches to take, they consistently out-perform external decision makers—on matters as diverse as governmental form, natural resource management, economic development, health care, and social service provision.

INSTITUTIONS MATTER: For development to take hold, assertions of sovereignty must be backed by capable institutions of governance. Nations do this as they adopt stable decision-making rules, establish fair

and independent mechanisms for dispute resolution, and separate politics from day-to-day business and program management.

CULTURE MATTERS: Successful economies stand on the shoulders of legitimate, culturally grounded institutions of self-government. Indigenous societies are diverse; each nation must equip itself with a governing structure, economic system, policies, and procedures that fit its own contemporary culture.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS: Nation building requires leaders who introduce new knowledge and experiences, challenge assumptions, and propose change. Such leaders, whether elected, community, or spiritual, convince people that things can be different and inspire them to take action.

The full study and other papers can be found at: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/hpaied/index.htm>

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(HEDC) will have a board of directors made up of citizens appointed by a selection committee of the All Leaders Forum. The board will be responsible for hiring management for approved projects. Projects will be viable, sustainable, environmentally and culturally acceptable. The project is designed to provide a better quality of life for Haida people.

“Jobs are what we need,” said Arnie Bellis, Vice President of the Council of the Haida Nation. “But the jobs created have to be jobs that are not part of the problem. Likewise, the corporate models that have brought the destruction of the lands and waters are not models that we want to use. We can’t go forward with those models. We are creating a new model that reflects Haida values and principles.”

At first glance, projects in energy, forestry, fisheries and tourism are obvious choices but other opportunities that emerge will be considered as well. Once enterprises are set up under the HEDC umbrella, profits that are realized will go to a central national treasury. Based on priorities set by the Haida people, money from the treasury will be spent, investing in communities and other projects. The range of investments discussed at the meeting included small business, elder housing and education.

CHN Skidegate representative, Cindy Boyko pointed out that the Haida Nation has worked hard and come a long way to get to this place. “The Haida Nation has never been in a position where there is the possibility of income. This is a new development and we have worked hard to get here. The treasury and [Haida Economic Development Corporation] are things that should make us feel safe. They will not be subject to every election. There will be a continuity for the nation that will not be at the whim of political change.”

Separating politics from business is essential. But it is equally important to define the relationship between the political organizations, the enterprise and the people. Working out these details will be the task of a working group that will be formed before the end of the year. The group will be drawn from the village councils, hereditary leaders and the public and will consider options and bring forward recommendations for discussion at the quarterly meetings of the CHN.

“We will usher in a future brighter than we can imagine, and we will do it with courage and conviction.”

Arnie Bellis, Vice President,

Council of the Haida Nation

The motion, passed unanimously at the Assembly, reads in part:

Therefore Be It Resolved: That the November 18, 2008 Special House of Assembly approve continued work on the Independence Project and further that the five following points serve as guiding principles throughout the planning process:

- 1) The corporate management of the business would be at arms length from the political bodies; and
- 2) The Haida people are the owners; and
- 3) The accountabilities and mandate of the corporation are enacted before it takes on any holdings; and
- 4) The profits would flow through the Treasury of the Haida Nation, whereby spending priorities and criteria would be approved by the Haida people; and
- 5) Enhances the opportunities for our communities and individual enterprise; and

Further: That a working group to hold widely advertised meetings will be set up by the Haida leadership but will be open to any Haida person; and

That all final concepts and procedures’ documents will be reviewed at Council of the Haida Nation quarterly meetings. •

The Heroes of Massett

by Florence Lockyer

Authentic Warriors with Absolute Courage

It was an ordinary Saturday, or so we all thought. But a series of events was about to unfold. Bit by bit the day progressed. It was a normal, an ordinary day that the community of Old Massett will not forget. It was Saturday, the 6th of September and it was the day that an outraged young man, high on drugs, lost control and threatened the lives of community members. It was turmoil, a surreal situation. It had a turbulence that will resonate through our days and which we will think of every time we drive by the Gas Bar. It will reverberate in our souls when we consider the valiant efforts of our community heroes. We will always think of the heroic actions of our authentic warriors who took a stance that day.

To honour of our community heroes, the Council of the Haida Nation hosted a dinner and it was the finale to this year's Annual House of Assembly. The Howard Phillips Community Hall bustled with activity as community members entered and filled rows of chairs set before the tables. The smell of the stew wafted through the air as the doors opened and closed. There was laughter as family saw family, and friends sat with friends. The sense of community was coming alive. There was excitement; as we all knew what we were there for. Not only the great pots of stew, or the fresh-baked dinner rolls, or the tables of desserts. We were there to honour and appreciate our heroes; our authentic warriors.

Who are they? They are many.



L-R: Janice Ingram and granddaughter Anika with Nora Samuels (speaking), Noel White, Rose Brown, and Ross Samuels.

The unsuspecting Gas Bar employees, the customers unaware of the day that would change their lives, and the passers-by who stood strong and steadfast in helping to apprehend the young man.

But before the high point of the evening, there was business to be completed. Council of the Haida Nation Vice President, Arnie Bellis, opened the dinner, welcoming everyone. The Masters of Ceremonies were Cynthia Samuels and Vince Collison. After the blessing of the food and a prayer for those who were in the hospital, an announcement was given of the long-awaited birth of Jusquan Bedard and Jaalen Edenshaw's second daughter, Nora-Jane, a little sister for Haanaa.

We were all happily awaiting

our bowls of stew and chowder. Which table will be called first? Did I sit at the right table? Oh, great! The other end of the hall was called first to start the line up for the buffet. After dinner, when we were all full, the evening progressed with Cynthia Samuels giving haaw.aas to those who attended the five-day House of Assembly. There were lots of issues and lots of people. She also gave haaw.aas to all CHN staff who worked very hard that week.

Chief Iljawuus, *Reynold Russ*, was invited first to speak. He spoke about how long the week was — but not long enough — and of the new hospital opening just days before. He said haaw.aa to the staff and cooks as well and extended his appreciation to the

Heroes continued next page

Heroes from page

community for attending the meetings with the leadership.

Old Massett Village Council Chief Councillor, Elizabeth Moore, and Councillor, Harold Yeltatzie, stood and gave their appreciation to Iljawuus. Ms Moore presented a 'reciprocal gift' to Iljawuus from a Japanese monk for all that he had given the monk on his visit here. The gift was a necklace with much symbolism.

Other chiefs were invited to address the community: Chief Sgaann 7iw 7waans, *Allan Wilson*, spoke about how the nation is surging ahead and that it is being done with great respect and proper protocol. Chief Thasi, *Ken Edgars*, gave his haaw.aas to the cooks and all who participated during the week and congratulated tsiinii Guujaaw, President of the Council of the Haida Nation, on the birth of his granddaughter, Nora-Jane.

Newly declared chief, Sdiithldaa, *Frank Collison*, was given the opportunity to address the community before he signed the Haida Accord. He talked about the work the nation is doing; how we are moving along responsibly and caring for each other. He also spoke of how honoured he was to have the Chief Matthews students walk to the House of Assembly to listen about the future of their nation.

Kevin Brown read out the Haida Accord and in front of Tsiits Gitanee clan representatives, elder Robin Brown, and chief-in-standing, Leo Gagnon, Sdiithldaa added his signature.

Arnie Bellis then spoke about the House of Assembly proceedings. He highlighted how important it is to have the emergence of young people in the meetings, and how happy he was that newly elected CHN rep, Trevor Russ, attended all the meetings. "We



L-R: Nora Samuels, Noel White, Rose Brown, and Ross Samuels with CHN Massett rep Cynthia Samuels.

are prospering in our homeland!"

Elizabeth Moore spoke to the packed hall about victims of crime and the people facing drug charges. She spoke of how one young man told the court about his crime and how he felt having to improve his life, and to improve it on his own. She said the judge had been overwrought with emotion at the story of this young man. It was challenging and inspiring to hear the struggles of someone determined to make a difference in their life and in the lives of their loved ones.

Guujaaw thanked those who stood up in the face of danger

and the people that have been supporting them. He said he hoped that this marked the reclaiming of our villages by our people. He also thanked Ms Moore for remembering the other victims — the addicts, who are members of our families and who we must help in order to make our villages safe again.

He also thanked Rev. Lilly Bell and all those who prayed for Amanda and Jaalen, and his new granddaughter Nora-Jane, who was medivaced to Prince Rupert, then born naturally during the Special House of Assembly.

HONOURING OUR HEROES

And then it happened, the moment we were all waiting for – to show our true appreciation and admiration. Cynthia Samuels began the introduction by speaking about the events of that Saturday, September 6th. She first called on Noel White, the true hero who thought of others before himself. He wasn't thinking about what

was going to happen to him, he was thinking about stopping the 'crazed young man' from setting the gas pump on fire. As he said, "He did what he had to do."

With the support of a large number of his family, Noel stood and was presented with a silver-and-abalone-shell eagle pendant. His sister, Nora Samuels, took the honour of speaking. She spoke of how proud she was of her brother and how when she heard about the events unfolding she had a feeling that it had something to do with Noel. Her first thought was, "Where's Noel?" She thanked Stanley for sending Char-

lie Thompson to check on him after he left the scene. She then talked about what she had heard about the events happening at the gas station and how Diane York kept functioning and tried to talk the man into stopping. Arnie introduced the next hero, Diane York, employee at the Gas Bar, and presented her with a silver bracelet. She said the only thing she had on her mind was the safety of others. She stepped up to help other people. Her brother, Delbert Smith, who also received a gift, was also at the Gas Bar and played a major role in calming the situation. Thasi, Kenny Edgars, took the honour of speaking to Diane's bravery. He, too, was a witness to the day's events and commended Diane for her unselfish actions. She remained calm in the face of adversity. If she hadn't it could have been devastating! These are the brave souls in our community. Diane thanked the CHN for their acknowledgement and thanked Stanley and Ada for their support. Diane's son, Judd, heard the events of that day while he was in Vancouver, and he knew he needed to come home to be there for his mom and uncle.

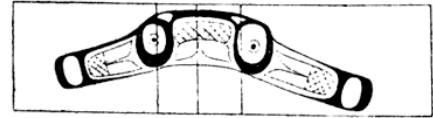
Delbert expressed how that was the day the Creator gave him his wings; the strength to act quickly. Diane's sister, Judy, also shared her thoughts about how it is that people can hurt each other so fast, and without thinking about who they are hurting. We need to think about healing.

Also acknowledged for their courage and quick thinking were Irene Pollard, Lily Amos, Stanley and Ada Swanson, Theodore Be-dard and Trevor Russ. They were all presented with gifts from the

Council of the Haida Nation. All the heroes mentioned gave us the gifts of courage and bravery that will last a lifetime. Our children's children will talk about it with admiration in their tones and in their stories.

Haaw.aa, haaw.aa, haaw.aa, our hands applaud you — all of you. To bring the event to a close, over 20 door prizes were drawn. And

OMVC Administrator, Jason Major, announced that the OMVC was going to be giving \$100 gift certificates to each one involved directly with the incident. Ms Samuels thanked everyone for attending and the evening was closed with a prayer. •



Master of Ceremonies, Kevin Borserio (L), with the family of Ada Yovanovich at the flag pole dedication held in Skidegate, December 5, 2008. L-R: Billy Yovanovich, Kim Yovanovich, Diane Brown, Joanne Yovanovich, Alix Goetzinger and Bev Yovanovich.

Respect and Dedication to Ada Yovanovich

About 100 people gathered at Skidegate, December 5 to witness the dedication of a flag pole at the Skidegate Haida Immersion Program. The flag was dedicated to Ada Yovanovich.

From the statement read at the dedication:

Ada had a dream. It was her strong belief that our school should have a flagpole to honourably fly the flag of the Haida Nation. It has been a long journey for us members of SHIP since Ada passed away — to get to this point today. The Elders of SHIP refused to forget about Ada's dream. Ada will be smiling now, with tears of pride and honour.

Jaadsangkinghliiyas dang ga t'alang k'uuga ga.

The staff and elders of HIGaagilda Xaayda Kil Naay on this day of December 5, 2008 at 11:30 am hereby dedicate this Flagpole to Jaadsangkinghliiyas – Ada Yovanovich.

A woman who dearly loved her family, clan, and village. A woman who spoke and taught in her language right up to her final days. A woman who had a dream. •

FOREST PEOPLE.3

by Tyler Bellis

It's been a while since the FOREST PEOPLE.2 article and I would like to apologize for that. But, getting married takes a lot out of a Haida man and I have just been swamped with work since I returned from my honeymoon in September. With that said, I would like to remind you all that the goal of the Forest People articles is to show the community what people at the Haida Heritage and Forest Guardians (HHFG) are doing for the Haida Nation and perhaps give you an idea or two about possible future career opportunities.

Owen Jones

Owen Jones started with the HHFG in July, 2002 as a GIS trainee. He had recently completed a civil engineering course at Camosun College in Victoria and had seen the job opening at the Forest Guardians office and thought that it was a perfect fit for him. Although GIS work was not the main focus of his civil engineering training, the courses did provide him with a solid background in the GIS and GPS fields, which allowed him to feel comfortable taking his career in that direction.

Owen grew up between Skidegate and Queen Charlotte before moving away to Victoria at the age of 8. He attended elementary school, high school and then college before returning to Haida Gwaii. This "move home" is a critical part not just in Owen's



Owen Jones

life, but also one of the largest challenges facing the Nation and its' young people today. With many of our youth going away to school and staying away to work, it is imperative that we start to attract them back to Haida Gwaii so that their skills can be utilized here for the community and the Islands. When asked, "Was the move home rewarding?" Owen said, "Yes, extremely. I am closer to my culture, my family in Skidegate, and I have become a member of the community up here in Masset." Owen adds this bit of advice to youth who are hoping to do the same thing; "Find the right training that allows you to come back to the Islands and have consistent work." He says that the transition was easier for

him because he, "was always coming back for visits and summers...keeping the connection alive while [he] was not living here."

Owen now is a full time GIS/GPS technician with the HHFG. His GIS duties include making a wide variety of maps for the HHFG and general public. A couple of examples would be the field maps he creates for our field crews when they are in the field locating Haida Land Values. He has also created trail maps for the Recreational Trail Committee he is a member of. Not only does Owen make the maps but he is also the leading authority in the HHFG for the use of GPS. This is the tool used to capture exact locations of



features on the ground (ie Haida Land Values, recreational trail location) which then can be translated by computer into positions on a map. He trains everyone in HHFG in the proper use of GPS, something that has taken up a considerable amount of his time since the recent acquisition of the Trimble GeoXT GPS unit. The Trimble GeoXT GPS unit is a completely new type of GPS for the HHFG, one that will take Owen a considerable amount of time to work out all the bugs so he can train us all in its proper use.

As if Owen did not have enough on his plate, he also participates on the Protected Area Joint Technical Team (PAJTT). This team's responsibility is the final creation of management guidelines for the new protected areas that are part of the Haida Gwaii Land Use Plan. Owen's duties have mainly revolved around "putting together maps and delineating boundaries for the team", but once the final boundaries are in place he expects to move into the development of the management guidelines for the Protected Areas. Like most jobs here at the Forest Guardians, Owen's duties are wide and extremely interesting.

Owen Jones has training in: Civil Engineering (3 years), ArGIS 1 and 2 training course, Geographic Positioning Systems certified, Red cedar Archaeology course, Karst course, Timber Assessment course, Timber Cruising, First Aid - Level 1, Transportation Endoresment, ESRI Regional User Conference training, Coastal Guardian Watchmen courses and has assisted in teaching GIS courses to other office staff. •



Marlene Liddle

Marlene Liddle

Marlene started with HHFG in August 2006. She was hired as a GIS trainee and hit the ground running! She was immediately tasked with the responsibility of the mapping data base (which is gigantic!) and the System Administration of the HHFG. This, along with her immediate training in GIS and Access Database Management, kept her very busy. Luckily, she had a strong background in computers, having received a diploma with Honors, in Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer at the Willis College of Business and Technology. She is also an accomplished photographer and says that her knowledge of photo-editing has been of real assistance to her when learning GIS programs, as they often use similar software.

Marlene has recently moved away from the systems administration of the HHFG with the hiring of a full time systems administrator, and has now taken over the Referrals Coordinator job in addition to her database duties. As Referrals Coordinator she is responsible for reviewing forestry applications submitted to the CHN and her technical review of the application is considered by the CHN in their response to those proposing development. In addition to this Marlene takes all information requests from the Haida Nation's executive and legal team and locates and compiles that information for them — a job which is of utmost importance for negotiations and the title case.

Forest People - continued next page

Forest People - from page 13

All of this equals one thing for Marlene: a new challenge! When asked what she enjoyed most about her job she said, "I love the new challenge and working in a whole new area." And, although the work load is great, she says, "I like the amount of work cause I work best with a full work load."

Outside of the office, Marlene sat as a New Massett Village councillor for the past 3 years but decided not to run in the most recent elections. Before that term she was an Old Massett councillor for 3 years! Marlene currently sits as chair of Haida Gwaii Commu-

nity Futures and is on the board of RCMP Aboriginal Policing. She says, "being involved with so many different projects and positions has really benefited the HHFG because I have strong communication and networking skills, and having sat at so many different tables I have been exposed to a greater variety of information sources, which have translated into funding opportunities for the HHFG."

Today, Marlene is upgrading her Grade 12 math, chemistry and biology skills. Like everything else she says, "it has to be done perfect or as close to it as possible." She has always had this way of thinking and it has been an asset throughout her life. "I am a First Nations woman. I want to show everyone what we can do and what a great job we can do of it." She continues saying that aiming for perfection is not easy, but she strives to do it because, "then I can go push young First Nations women out there to do it, and be

like ... look at me, I am doing it, why can't you?" These words of inspiration *are* Marlene, and they are words that we can all take to heart when thinking about what we can do for people in our lives!

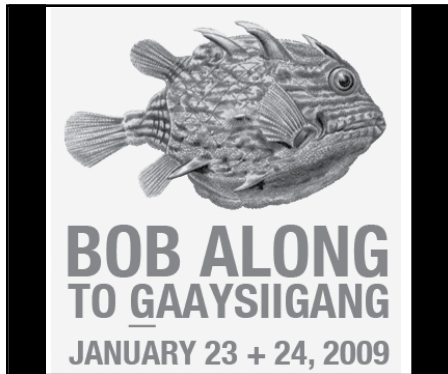
Marlene Liddle has training in: Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Diploma Programs which include: Ms windows core technologies, Ms windows nt server, Ms windows nt workstation.

She also graduated with honours from the Willis College of Business and Technology.

At Haida Heritage and Forest Guardians, training and upgrading skills are also available in-house. HHFG has provided opportunities for Marlene to complete Arc GIS 1, Arc GIS 2, which is Geographic Information Systems software and Access Data Base Management.

Of all the training Marlene has received she considers managing the gas station, Rachel's Haida Way, in Massett to be one of her most complete learning experiences. The position required dedication, flexibility — to be available for work at odd hours — determination, and a willingness to step outside her comfort zone.

Her duties included basic book-keeping, payroll, banking, scheduling staff, ordering, pricing and stocking products. These are all very useful skills to have, but Marlene said that what her work experience at Rachel's did most was to develop her people skills. These skills, she says, have served her well in the community and have been a huge asset in her political work sitting on councils and committees. •



Killer whale when closed.

Thunderbird when open.

COMMISSION UPDATE: In 2008, Haida Laas reported that Robert Davidson received a commission from the Vancouver Art Gallery to create a wall-mounted sculpture for the new Vancouver Art Gallery building. The concept has now been worked out and the sculpture depicting a Killer whale transforming into a Thunderbird will be approximately 10' wide and 3' high. It will be made from Red cedar, carved and painted. The artwork will be exhibited at the VAG in 2010 and become part of its permanent collection. •

URBAN FEAST



L-R: Arnie Bellis, Vice president, Council of the Haida Nation; Trevor Russ, Cynthia Samuels, Beryl Parke, Massett Regional reps; Lois Helmer-Rullin, Vince Collison, Vancouver Regional rep; Prince Rupert rep, Pansy Collison; and Guujaaw, President, Council of the Haida Nation.

Over 350 people attended the Urban Feast in Vancouver, November 29. It was a night enjoyed by all!

Vancouver reps, Vince Collison and Lois Helmer-Rullin, MC'd the event and were joined at the mic throughout the evening by Guujaaw, Arnie Bellis, Beryl Parke, Cynthia Samuels, Trevor Russ and Pansy Collison of the CHN. Chief 7idansuu, *Jim Hart*, also spoke at the gathering about the importance of salmon to our culture.

One of many highlights of the evening was a blanket dance that raised over \$700 for the Grade 3/4 class at Chief Matthews Elementary School. The class and

teachers are using the money to help defray the cost of traveling to Prince Rupert for the opening ceremonies of the All Native Basketball Tournament. This year is the 50th anniversary of the tournament.

How'aa to our invited guests: Chief Ian Campbell; Morris Nahanee and the Squamish dancers; and Ray Thunderchild and Michael Hunt of the Kwakwaka'wakw nation. How'aa to Bernadette Brown and Vera Douglas of the Coast Salish for blessing the feast.

There were many generous donations that contributed to the success of the evening. A greatly appreciated

feast - continued next page

VANCOUVER.08



Top left: Bobby Collison, Stella Brown; Top right: Selina Liddle, Courtney Bell. Middle: Tarah Samuels, Lois Helmer-Rullin. Bottom: Richard Baker, Alan Davidson.



How'aa to Tamara Davidson and Lois Helmer-Rullin for reporting on the Urban Feast, and photographers Allan Davidson and Cynthia Samuels for the use of their photos.

feast - continued from page 15

child's cedar hat made by Terry Russ; a Robert Davidson blanket from the Spirit Wrestler Gallery; gold from Sarber's that Jimmy and Sean Edenshaw carved into a beautiful ring; a print; a tour; a bentwood box from the Bill Reid Gallery; and, from Robert Davidson, a beautiful tablecloth and many shirts, hats and bags. Thank you to Anthony Seto for printing the bags, aprons and shirts.

No event is complete without lots of good food. How'aa to Trevor Russ for donating the deer meat for the stew; Arnie and Leslie Bellis for cockles; NaiKun Wind Farm for plates, cutlery and vegetables; Starbucks for donating some coffee, Old Masset Health Center donated the clams, Council of the Haida Nation for the salmon, and again to Arnie Bellis for the bottles of water for the elders, and desserts. How'aa to our cooks, Bobby Collison, Sandy Gagnon, Victor Thompson, Jimmy Edenshaw, Richard Baker and Sophie Davidson .

The team in Vancouver who helped organize the feast included Corrinna Russ, Delores Collison, Tarah Samuels, Charlene Lawrence, Patrika York, Victor Thompson, Dawn (Helmer) Cook, Tracy Moore, Andrea Davidson, Tamara and Allan Davidson, Jimmy Edenshaw, Vince Collison, Noel Abrahams, Bobby Collison, Trish Collison and Sean Edenshaw — and how'aa to everyone else who stepped forward and helped out.

The evening ended with lots of singing and dancing, which brought back many good memories. We hope to have another urban feast soon. •

URBAN FEAST, VANCOUVER, 08



Top left: The crowd enjoying themselves at the Urban Feast, 08.
 Top right - Andrea Davidson and Serenit.
 Middle left - Wilbur Abrahams; 7idansuu, *Jim Hart*; a Kitamaat elder and an elder of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation.
 Middle Right - Sean Edenshaw and Noel Abrahams.
 Bottom - Serving the guests at the feast. There was deer stew and clam chowder with cockles — all from Haida Gwaii.

URBAN FEAST, VANCOUVER, 08

New writers writing

One of the goals of Haida Laas is to employ Haida writers to cover local events, CHN politics and to reflect on the working of the Islands community. To this end, we have been fortunate to find two women, who in their own words, love to write! They are also very interested in covering the issues of the day and conveying that information to you.

In Massett, we welcome Florence Lockyer and, in Skidegate, Kwiaahwah Jones. Please contact either of them, or the editor, with story ideas or other information that you would like to see published in Haida Laas.

Massett - Florence Lockyer

My name is Florence Lockyer; I am Sdlukum Juut, Butterfly Woman. I am of the Tsiits Gitanee Eagle clan from Massett Inlet. My mother is Mavis Bell. My naanii was Mamie Jones. My great-grandmother was Lucy Frank. My father was Charlie Lockyer, of whom I know little.

I was born in Prince Rupert during the winter — and I still don't like the cold! My parents moved back to Massett when I was still very little; my father was a fisherman, bus driver, taxi driver, and barber. I have an older (maternal) sister and a younger (maternal) brother. I have many Haida brothers and sisters (my mom's sisters' children). And I have many, many cousins (my mom's brother's children). I am honoured to have two direct maternal aunts and uncles remaining and two aunties through marriage.

My life has been blessed with children. I have three daughters and two granddaughters. I have only one son. My children have attended schools in Massett, Chilliwack, Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Terrace and again here in Massett. My younger children have only experienced school here on Haida Gwaii. My oldest granddaughter is currently in kindergarten at Chief Mat-



Massett writer, Florence Lockyer

thews School in Old Massett. School has been a very important part of my life — even though I was unable to successfully complete my high school education in the traditional sense, I did receive my General Education Diploma (Grade 12) in 1987.

In 1988, I moved to Chilliwack to attend the first two years of the Native Indian Teacher Education Program through the University of British Columbia. We then moved to Vancouver for the remaining three years. Due to unforeseen circumstances, I was not able to complete the full requirements for my final year and I am still working at the remaining credits to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Education (Elementary).

I am also working towards a Master's of Education (Imagination and Cultural Inclusion) through Simon Fraser University and towards a Post Secondary Education Coordinator's Diploma through Nicola Valley Institute of Technology; I am about a quarter of the way through these courses.

Life so far has not been a smooth journey. Many barriers have



Council of the Haida Nation

**CHN First Quarterly
Thursday, January 15, 2009
Reporting & Recommendations from CHN**

Skidegate Community Hall
10 am - 4:30 pm
- lunch will be served -

placed themselves in my path and the completion of my goals has taken many a jagged and sometimes ragged turn. I have finally pulled myself up and am moving on with my life. My children and grandchildren have been a very strong motivation for me to change my lifestyle and life paths.

I believe that I can lead a strong, healthy life, no matter what lands in my way, even though it has taken me a long time to realize this. I love to write and I hope that I can place words in that just-right-place, to make a connection with issues in our community and in our homes.

If I can help you get a message out to the community, or if you would like to read about a specific event, please let me know. My email address is < flozone@telus.net >.

Skidegate - Kwiaahwah Jones

I gained my name from my great grandmother and belong to the Naagas Xaaydagaa and Nisga'a people. Born and raised on Haida Gwaii 25 years ago, I have lived and learned to be a Haida. Taught by my family, out on the lands of Haida Gwaii, I have been able to gain great knowledge both from my nanaay and chinaay, mother and father, and just by being out there. Although being Haida is a large part of my life, half of my lineage comes from the mainland Nisga'a. My maternal line celebrates the Ganada clan of the Nass, and knowing the heritage of my mother and grandmother remains a passion that I will pursue for the rest of my days.



Skidegate writer, Kwiaahwah Jones

I have many interests that capture my time and energy — from my awe-stricken, jaw-dropping admiration of the weavers and carvers, to learning our old stories and gathering of all of our foods on Haida Gwaii. I also love photography, cooking, fashion, reading, playing guitar, drawing, painting, singing, dancing, gold and people.

I have travelled and hope to do more, from the isolated places in Haida Gwaii to exotic destinations and connecting with other indigenous peoples throughout the world.

I work as the curatorial intern at the Haida Gwaii Museum. I hope to find ways to see what the world has to offer me, and, through being Haida, what we have to offer the world.

My email address is < kwiaahwah@hotmail.com >.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Council of the Haida Nation is seeking expressions of interest from people wanting to lease halibut quota and/or halibut licences for the 2009 season.

The Council of the Haida Nation is also seeking expressions of interest for people wanting to lease salmon licences for the 2009 season (5 troll, 6 gillnet licences available).

Preference will be given to persons of Haida ancestry with previous experience in these fisheries.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

Expressions of interest must be received by the following dates to be considered:

Friday, January 9, 2009 at 4 pm for halibut licence and/or quota.

Friday, February 20, 2009 at 4 pm for salmon gillnet or troll lease.

Mail or fax applications to:

Haida Fisheries Program

Attention: Irene Bruce
P.O. Box 98, Skidegate, Haida Gwaii
VOT ISO
Fax: 250-559-8951

After the closing date, the CHN may select individuals and enter into contract arrangements without further public notices.

The Last Word

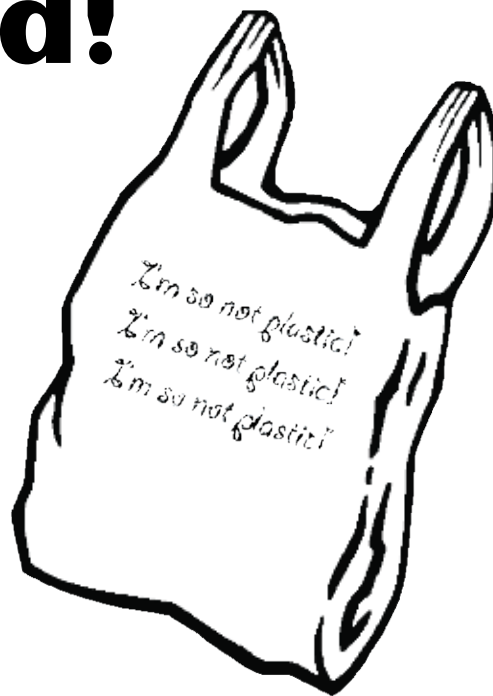
I'm so bagged!

by Amanda Reid-Stevens

Over the last short while, I've purchased more "green" bags than I know what to do with, because I keep forgetting to take along these cloth tote bags almost every single time I go shopping. So, when I trundle a cart up to the check-out counter, and the cashier asks me if I want my groceries put into plastic bags, more often than not I freeze. Red-faced and horrified, I tell them that, once again, I forgot my hundreds of tote bags at home but am willing to buy 2 or 6 more for my groceries. Then I casually glance around to see how many people in the line-up behind me are dazzled by how environmentally friendly I am.

I'm thrilled to report that this afternoon, though, I remembered to bring my tote bags to the Co-op. Actually, the only reason I didn't forget them was because I purposely hung them on the doorknob of my basement door last night so I'd remember to put them in the car before I went shopping today. Anyhow, when I proudly handed them over to the cashier, she counted them, turned back to the cash register, and rapidly punched in some numbers ... which made me wonder if she was charging me for the tote bags. So I said, "Excuse me, but I brought those bags from home, so I shouldn't be charged for them".

Whereupon the cashier looked me straight in the eyeball and calmly responded, "I didn't charge you



for your tote bags. I punched in the discount that shoppers get for not using plastic bags. You saved \$1.35 today." Well, not only was this a shock, but it was music to my ears. I had no idea I was being paid not to use plastic bags. Unfortunately, at that point, there weren't any shoppers lined up behind me to witness my environmental friendliness or my discount, so there was nothing left to do but thank the cashier profusely and apologize for having thought she might be charging me for my tote bags. A few minutes later, I put the groceries into the trunk of my car and, strangely enough, found myself whistling all the way home.

While it feels good trying to do something to help the environment, there's one problem with shopping tote bags that has become glaringly apparent to me: even if it's only half-filled with groceries, a single tote bag can weigh oh about nine times more than a completely full, plastic grocery bag. This is especially noticeable each time I stagger up the steep and lengthy flight of stairs leading from my basement to my second-floor kitchen, 40-pound tote bag in hand. And I don't know why, but sometimes I get it into my head to lug two bags at once — and then half-way up the staircase I start gasping, and pull a muscle in my back, and have to sit down on one of the steps to rest. It's at this point

Did you know!

Did you know that less than 1% of plastic bags are recycled? - Christian Science Monitor Newspaper

Did you know!

Did you know that if you use a cloth bag you can save at least 6 bags a week, that's 24 bags a month, which is 288 bags a year. That's 22,176 bags in an average lifetime.

that I like to rummage through the bags and snack on whatever I find that looks as though it would be a sure-fire cure for gasping or a strained back. Marshmallows on a bagel are good for treating both afflictions.

I've learned some other things, too, since I started using tote bags: First, it's important to be careful not to use one store's tote bags when shopping in another store. Think of it as proper shop-pers-etiquette. If you happen to be carrying the wrong bags, you have to run back home and get the right tote bags with the right logo on them because there's just no point in getting store man-agers' noses out of joint, or in hurting their feelings. (I'm lying through my teeth. Any day that you don't forget your tote bags is a great day, and it makes store people happy to see shoppers using any kind of tote bag.)

The second thing you'll want to do is colour-coordinate your bags with your wardrobe. For example, the bulk of my ridiculously-large tote bag collection is made up of midnight black, candy-apple red, and emerald-green bags, but I almost always use the black ones because they're starkly dramatic and don't clash with my blue jeans. Plus they match my flip-flops. However, that said, I do encourage you to use a striking combination of both red and green tote bags while doing your Holiday Season shopping this year. Everyone will think you look festive and jolly, and they'll copy you, fer sher.

If you, too, happen to have a massive shopping tote-bag collec-tion, you might be wondering if there are other uses for the bags,

"To be frank, there are times when I seriously miss the white plastic shop-ping bags that, until recently, I always had on hand and kept stuffed inside the broom closet."

so I want you to know that I've put a fair amount of thought and experimentation into coming up with answers to this conundrum. In a pinch, a tote bag can substitute as a baggy briefcase, and makes a wonderfully droopy carry-ing-case for a laptop computer. And, rolled up a bit, a tote bag can double as an extraordinarily

roomy clutch purse. Your tote bags are a must for taking to your post box if you haven't bothered to check your mail for a couple of months, and can make service-able diaper bags, beach bags, storage bags, and possibly saddle bags, too. But perhaps the most exciting revelation of all is that a tote bag simply can't be beat for hauling a giant watermelon all over the place.

To be frank, there are times when I seriously miss the white plastic shopping bags that, until recent-ly, I always had on hand and kept stuffed inside the broom closet. Among other things, they were useful for lining the trash baskets that I strategically place in vari-ous rooms of the house. They fit-ted neatly and securely and made me feel organized and in control

Bagged - continued next page



Council of the Haida Nation

CHN First Quarterly

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Reporting & Recommendations from CHN

Skidegate Community Hall

10 am - 4:30 pm

- lunch will be served -

Bagged - from page 21

of my life. But, now, because I can rarely scrounge up even one white plastic shopping bag, I'm reduced to using ancient, dried up, scrunched up, tiny little pink or blue useless bags (the kind you get when you buy a greeting card and inexplicably hang on to for the rest of your life) that are too small for my trash baskets. Therefore the trash winds up sit-

ting *beside* the bags in the baskets, instead of *inside* the bags in the baskets, and I no longer have any control whatsoever over my trash placement. The one thing I know for certain is that today I have way more tote bags than I ever had plastic bags, and they're all too flipping big to fit inside my flipping trash baskets.

While we're on the subject of plastic, here's a tip: When you bake a cake, you don't have to cover any leftovers with plastic wrap, or aluminum foil, to keep the cake from drying out. It works just as well to lay a fresh, non-fuzzy tea towel (you don't want bits of broccoli or lint stuck to the frosting) over the cake in the pan. Sadly, I can't in good conscience take credit for this discovery; a

couple of years ago I noticed a friend doing the tea towel thing, and decided to try it myself. On the other hand, who the devil can afford to bake these days, especially in light of the skyrocketing price of flour? Anyway, the point of this story is that we can do good things for Haida Gwaii by reducing the amount of plastic and other stuff that goes into our landfills, so try to remember to hang those tote bags on the door-knob the night before you go shopping. It'll make you feel virtuous, you won't have to buy another dagnabbed tote bag at the check-out counter, and it just might make you want to whistle, rather than groan, the next time you're paying for your groceries. •




YOUR LOGO HERE

This is a call to artists for submissions to design a logo for the
HAIDA GWAI
SUSTAINABLE LIVING FAIR

\$100 prize for winning entry!

Deadline for submissions is
January 10th, 2009

Contact Stephanie at 250.559.8454
< adventurebraids@gmail.com >



CHN First Quarterly Meeting - 2009

Thursday, January 15, 09
Skidegate Community Hall,
10 am - 4:30 pm.

The meeting will include program reports and CHN recommendations.



gaaysiigang - an ocean art show for haida gwaii
[the person who sizes up the waves so the boat can get out]

call to artists

gaaysiigang - an ocean forum for haida gwaii invites all Island artists to submit artwork inspired by the ocean for a show at the Haida Gwaii Museum Exhibitions Gallery, January 22 - February 4, 2009.

The show opens the evening of Thursday, January 22nd, marking the start of a two-day ocean forum on January 23rd and 24th at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay.

New and previously completed works are welcome.

For entry forms and/or more information about the show, contact:

Nika Collison
250.559.8133
nika@skidegate.ca

Lynn Lee
250.626.3302
lynn.lee@haidanation.net

The St'aawaas Xaaydagaay clan (Cumshewa) would like to take this opportunity to say haaw'a to the many people who so willingly helped us in planning, arranging, and on the day of the potlatch, made it possible for everything to go so wonderfully.

Haaw'a to the Kilslaay Ganga, and K'uljaad Ganga

Niis Wes, Chee Xial and Bonnie Jones, Satsan and Lyn-dale George, Bill Gamble and Vonnie Hutchingson, Iijuwas and June Russ, Dorothy Young, Mary Swanson, Crystal Robinson Molly York, Dolores Davis, Phyllis Dudoward, Laura Malacher, Guujaaw, Thasi and Barb, Gaathlaay and Carol Young, Elenore Russ and all people who honoured our new Iitllgaay, Gitkinjuwas and our clan in attending our potlatch, pole raising and headstone moving.

A special Haaw'a to Kilslaay Stethlda (Frank Collison) for holding his potlatch and the headstone moving on the 19th, thus enabling all to attend our potlatch the next day. Haaw'a, haaw'a, haaw'a.

To Kilslaay Niis Wes, Ernie Gladstone, Russ Jones and Dolly Garza, Steve Peckham, Aunt Lavada Wilson, cousin Laura Malacher, Greg Martin and Danielle Wilson – your financial assistance is greatly appreciated.

To: Kilslaay Gaahlaay, Carol Young, Vivian and Mike McNeill, - towels; Steve Langdon - blankets, towels, ribbon, sheets; Pearle Pearson, - crocheted wash cloths; Jeannette Wesley, - wash cloths; Janet Wesley, - doilies and wash cloths; Bob Turner, - jams, jellies, wallets; Linda Tollas, - jellies and jams; Steve Peckham - blankets, sheet— haaw'a for the donations for give-away.

To: Ernie Gladstone and Rene Wissink, haaw'a for the venison; Steve Langdon - haaw'a for the salmon; Elizabeth Condrotte – haaw'a for potatoes; Mike Gravelle, Audrey Pearson, Carey Bergman – haaw'a for the berries for dessert.

To: Aunty Dolores Davis, Becky Pearson, Linda Tollas, Brenda Russ, Lois Burkell, Preston and David Sloan, Aunty Phyllis Dudoward, Aunty Jeannette Wesley, Aunty Janet Wesley, Haaw'a for y our help when we were struggling to get organized with the “give aways”. Your help is remembered and greatly appreciated.

To all the men who helped Giitsxaa and Harold with the pole moving and putting up as well as, putting up of our late brother-Lawrence Charles' head-stone: Cal Crosby, Garner Moody, Wayne Wilson, Robert Cross, Tanu Luisgan, Lawrence Wilson, Chris Olsen, Rick Lansink, John Lansink, Steve Peckham, Marcel Russ, if we have missed anyone please accept our apology.

To Andrea Wesley for her help in making all the vests for the clan and her help in making the robe for Gitkinjuwas.

To Rose Russ for helping Kii'iljuus in the ordering of bags, blankets, and aprons Haaw'a for your help and patience. You are one in a million.

To all the singers: Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson, Robert Davidson, Guujaaw, Jenny Cross and the childrens group, to Nika Collison

and the “Friends” - you are the glue that holds our nation together and you make us all look so good. Haaw'a a million times over.

To Kay Watson, Verona Gladstone, Ernie Gladstone, Debbie Wilson, Aunty Dolores Davis, Pat Gellerman, haaw'a for helping us set up the hall and staying to supervise everything.

To Aunty Phyllis Dudoward and Becky Pearson, haaw'a for cleansing the pole, which now stands in the front yard of Kii'iljuus' home. Your generosity is much appreciated. Haaw'a.

To Debbie Gardiner, haaw'a for the gift of the picture of the “Sky House” and pole from Cumshewa. They helped us to remember why we do things. Haaw'a.

To Claire Menard and Anne Mountifield – haaw'a for finishing the binding on the quilts and the calligraphy – on each quilt. I appreciate you stepping in and offering to help me.

To Jacki and Chris Bromley, Mary, Donna Mae and everyone else who helped us get all the towels, blankets, etc. from the mainland to Skidegate. Haaw'a, Haaw'a, Haaw'a.

To Melinda Pick, Chini Ernie, Becky Pearson, Elizabeth Condrotte and other friends who offered rooms or housed family and friends while they were here for all the celebrations. Haaw'a.

To Peggy and Wayne Spencer, haaw'a for canning clams for us.

To Vi Husband, Clara Susan Zeller, Marge Parker and the rest of your helpers, haaw'a for all the cooking, ordering and planning for the potlatch.

To Mary Swanson, Crystal Robinson, Vonnie Hutchingson, haaw'a for helping with the names for our young clan members.

To Vonnie Hutchingson, Sue Wood, Guujaaw and GwaaGanad, haaw'a for taking the big responsibility of guiding us and being our spokespersons for our potlatch and prayers.

To Aunty Phyllis and cousin Vonnie, HAAW'A, HAAW'A, HAAW'A for honouring us with your presence, your help in putting on the robe and head-dress and announcing Gitkinjuwas' name.

To all the helpers who were there to help with the serving of our food – Mary Russ, Stephanie, Doris Rosang, Fran Pineault, Barb Robichaud, Sue Gladstone, Kwii Jones and Val.

To the group who sang the dinner songs and kept us moving. Haaw'a.

To the newspapers and photographers, haaw'a.

If we have missed anyone please accept our apologies, we have attempted to remember everyone who helped us in any way. From our hearts haaw'a haaw'a, haaw'a.

The preamble to the Constitution of the Haida Nation.



HLGAAGILDA XAAYDA KIL NAAY (Skidegate Haida Immersion Program)

As worded in the Constitution.

1. Our culture, our heritage is the child of respect and intimacy with the land and the sea.
2. Like the forest, the roots of our people are intertwined such that the greatest troubles can not overcome us.
3. We owe our existence to Haida Gwaii.
4. On these islands, our ancestors lived and died, and here too, we will make our homes until called away to join them in the great beyond.
5. The living generation accepts the responsibility to ensure that our heritage is passed on to future generations

Skidegate Haida translation.

1. Id kuuniisii asii id gii isda gan, tllga ad siigaay Gan t'aang aahxana ad yahguudang, huu tllguu Giidang.
2. Hlk'inxa gaang.ang xaayda hllng.aay gud giijaagids, gaay Gaaganuu gam gina daaGanga id gwii is hllnga Gang ga.
3. Xaayda Gwaay.yaay Gaaganuu id xaaynanga ga.
4. Asii gwaay.yaay guu, id kuunaasii xaaynanga, ad sing.gwa'ad gan,

Sah 'Laana tllgaay Gaa id gii kyaagang.ngaay Gaaw aan t'ang naaxang sgwaanang Gas ga.
5. Id sihlga ga xaayna.ngas Xaayda gina'ah gii t'ang t'aas.slas, asii kyang.gaay llgaay.'waagii kilxii gang ga.

English translation of the Skidegate Haida.

1. What our ancestors gave us is the child of respect and intimacy with the land and sea.
2. Like the forest, the roots of our people are intertwined such that the greatest troubles can not overcome us.
3. We owe our existence to Haida Gwaay.
4. On these islands our ancestors lived and died and here too, we will make our homes until called away to join them in the great beyond.
5. The living generation accepts the responsibility to ensure that our heritage is passed on to future generations.

Text and translations, courtesy of
HLGAAGILDA XAAYDA KIL NAAY
(Skidegate Haida Immersion Program)