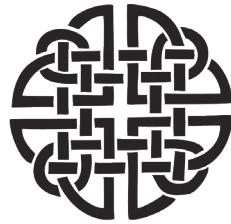
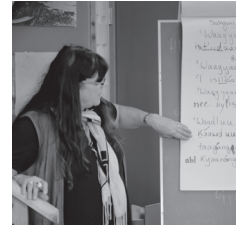




2015 HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY
pg 5



INTERLOCKING
PROGRESSIVE
CHANGE
pg 7



THINKING IN
HAIDA
pg 8

HAIDA LAAS

Newsletter of the Council of the Haida Nation

December 2015





HAIDA LAAS

NEWSLETTER of the COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION

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December 2015

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COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION POLLING PLACES & TIMES

Regular poll - December 12 (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

POLLING PLACES

Old Massett

Adult Day Program - 510 Nannii Street

Skidegate

Council of the Haida Nation office - #1 Reservoir Rd.

Prince Rupert

Highliner Hotel - 815 First Avenue West

Vancouver

Vancouver Pentecostal Church - 304 East 26th Avenue

The best of the season to everyone who loves Haida Gwaii.

from the Council of the Haida Nation representatives & staff



Cover Photo: Jags Brown – Photo above: Mary Helmer



Photo: Haida - Lars Graham Richard

Workshop participants included Stanley Swanson, Museum Director Scott Marsden, Archie Stocker, Nadine Wilson, Camille Collinson, Gid Yahk'ii Sean Young, Staast David Vanderhoop, Yaahl Xunjuaas Robert Kennedy, Jonas Prevost, and teachers Carole Dignard and Tara Grant.

New appointments



Cliff Fregin
HaiCo Chairperson



Bob Brash
HaiCo Chief Executive Officer



Theo Assu
HaiCo Board Member



Kelly Russ
HaiCo Board Member



Sk'aal Ts'iid James Cowpar
Gwaii Trust Chairperson

To have and to hold

The many Haida objects stored in collections around Haida Gwaii will now benefit from improved care since ten Haida took part in an Aboriginal Culture Centre workshop at Xaayda Sahlinda Naaya the Haida Gwaii Museum.

The students completed a two-day workshop held Oct 14-15 with instruction from teachers Carole Dignard and Tara Grant of the Canadian Conservation Institute. The participants learned how to recognize and slow the deterioration of aging cultural objects and how to handle, store, and

display them in ways to keep them safe. This included packing and shipping basics and some facility maintenance training.

“The course was great. We learned a lot about proper handling and storage, which is the most useful information for my line of work,” said Camille Collinson, Gwaii Haanas Cultural Resource Management Advisor. “Gwaii Haanas artifacts and archaeological objects are all stored in the Haida Gwaii Museum, so it was great to learn about all that.”

HaiCo extends a warm welcome to new board members Theo Assu, Kelly Russ and Chairperson Cliff Fregin. They will join HaiCo’s four other members; Tamara Davidson, Paul Wates, April Churchill, and Shawn Thomas. Leaving the board after years of service are Gahlaay Lonnie Young and Chairperson Roslyn Kunin.

HaiCo also announces that Bob Brash was the successful candidate for the position of Chief Executive Officer.

The Gwaii Trust welcomes Sk'aal Ts'iid James Cowpar as Chairperson of the Gwaii Trust Board of Directors. Mr Cowpar will be taking up the position in April 2016.



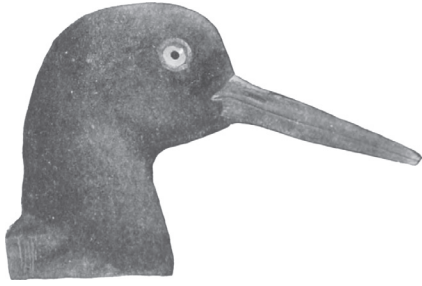
ATTENTION: Haida Nation Election December 12

The nation is preparing to elect its executive and representatives for the next three years. Nominations were opened October 26 and closed November 5. Four candidates were nominated for President and two for Vice-president. In Vancouver and Prince Rupert, three are vying for two seats each. In Old Massett nine are competing for four seats and in Skidegate seven are up for four seats.

An advance poll will be held on December 5 with the election following on December 12.



'Like' Council of the Haida Nation on Facebook!



Gaaw Xaad Kil: Sgadaang
HiGaagilda Xaayda Kil: Sgaada.nga
English: Black Oyster Catcher
Latin: Haematopus bachmani

Although there are over a dozen species of oystercatcher world-wide, sgadaang is the only member of its genus represented in the range covering the Aleutian Islands to Baja California. Mariners often spot their distinctive red beaks and long, bright legs, which never carry them far from the rocky shoreline where they forage for *taaxaw mussels*, *skats'aguu limpets*, *t'aa chitons*, *gawduuwal barnacles*, *ts'aa'am crabs* and *kunt'axung sand fleas*.

Although healthy, the sgaada.nga population is surprisingly small, numbering between 8,500 and 11,000.

Sgadaang are loyal mates and sometimes remain in pairs for much of their 15-year lifespan. Together the couples defend their territory where they dig small bowl-like nests which are lined with shells and pebbles. The two to three gray, speckled eggs can survive occasional submersion in the cold waters of Tang.gwan *the Pacific Ocean* during their 28-day incubation period.

Sgaad guuga

Solomon Wilson said this expression is used when sgaada.nga are noisy before it rains.



Photo: Farah Nosh

Tilgaay guu Glaay.yii

Peace on Earth

An experienced eye and well-travelled feet recently returned to Haida Gwaii. Farah Nosh, an Iraqi-Canadian war correspondent, came home once again to calmer shores where she seeks solace from the extreme violence she has documented in conflict zones around the world.

The award-winning photographer spoke at Xaayda Sahlinda Naay *the Haida Gwaii Museum* at the opening of her exhibit, Iraq to Haida Gwaii on September 25. The new exhibit portrays the striking contrast between Ms Nosh's worlds: everyday life inside a war-zone and everyday life in the Haida language community.

Initially, her tragic images of war from the Middle East appear to have nothing in common with the accompanying peaceful pictures of Haida language learning. However, Ms Nosh points out that the two scenes are not so disparate. In both, the legacy of colonization is palpable. Just as the Middle East struggles with foreign and internal strife, the Haida language strives to flourish in spite of historical traumas.

"Haida society was transformed through its colonial past," Ms Nosh explained. "I contemplated loss through the historic conflict of these Islands as I documented it in

the Middle East. Cultural devastation takes generations to heal. Today, post-war Iraq is a nation full of post-traumatic stress. As the years progressed photographing the conflict and loss in the Middle East, I wondered about the recovery and healing of nations. This transformed into a passion around Haida Gwaii's colonial legacy of language loss, and those that fight to revive it."

Experience of, and recovery from, tragedy is a familiar theme in Ms Nosh's travels.

"After each journey to the middle east, I would return to Haida Gwaii, trading the violence of Baghdad for the relative calm of Tlell in pursuit of a spirit balance," Ms Nosh continued. "My two passions, the Middle East and Haida Gwaii, were at opposing spectrums in war and peace. [...] This exhibition is my personal reflection on the experience of war, its subsequent traumas, and the path to regain solace."

Ms Nosh's images from conflict zones in Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria, the West bank, Gaza, and Egypt have been featured on CNN and in TIME, Newsweek and the New York Times. The exhibit runs until January 6.



2015 Annual House of Assembly

THE NATION'S BUSINESS

As a busy summer of harvesting berries and fish came to a close, Haida citizens gathered at Naagudgiikyaagangs *the Skidegate Community Hall* in HIGaagilda October 20-23 and 30. The assembly came together to review the work that the Council of the Haida Nation completed over the last year and to debate 29 resolutions, passing 16 of them.

Hakw'anaan

(Don't hesitate or waste time discussing something to much)

In June, the Council of the Haida Nation met again with Canada to discuss the reconciliation of Haida and Crown title. Over the last few years of talks, Canada has sent representatives to the table but with no mandate to negotiate. This, in addition to Canada's reluctance to affirm and fulfill the commitments it has already made in the Gwaii Haanas Marine and the SGaan Kinghlas/Bowie Seamount Agreements, has raised questions in Gaaw and HIGaagilda about Canada's commitment to a process of reconciliation.

The CHN hoped to address the issue this summer, but the parties were unable to agree on a framework by which to negotiate. Since then, letters have been exchanged 'with prejudice' outlining each parties' position. Labeling correspondence 'with prejudice' means that the contents can be used as evidence in court; labeling letters 'without prejudice' means that their contents cannot be used as evidence. Up to now, correspondence with Canada has been 'without prejudice'.

Haida Title

In light of persistent frustrations with the reconciliation process, the House of Assembly urged CHN to move forward with the Haida title case, passing Resolution 2015-11 on Friday, October 23. In it, the HoA resolved to "begin in-depth discussions to prepare a strategy to move the Haida title case forward to the next stage".

Since CHN's formation in 1974 it has accumulated an enormous collection of evidence in support of title. Throughout 2015 legal counsel has been strengthening the case with evidence found in Canadian archives, including Indian Affairs. A thorough review of Indian Affairs material uncovered many treasures including documents confirming that Haida Gwaii had a population of at least 30,000 prior to 1864.

With the Tsilhqot'in decision of June 2014 in mind the CHN has amended it's title case pleadings originally submitted in 2002. The new pleadings will be filed with the court in the near future.

Some Unique Discoveries

As legal counsel explores Council of the Haida Nations's archives they've come across some interesting material.

The finds include documents Skilay *Ernie Collison* compiled in the early 1970s when leaders established a Haida Lands Committee. In correspondence from that time, Canada said it took Haida title very seriously and promised to expedite the process and address the issue as soon as possible.

Other material shows that the Haida Lands Committee formally rejected the Law of

the Sea Treaty – an international agreement defining the rights and responsibilities of nations – asserting that the oceans around Haida Gwaii were part of Haida territory and not that of Canada. The HLC even outlined plans to protect the Islands from potential marine pollution spills, years before the Exxon Valdez disaster of 1989.

Herring

The work of going through boxes of documents is part of the extensive preparation required to win a court case, and such research paid off this spring when CHN successfully protected herring from over-fishing.

On March 6, 2015 the BC Court of Appeal agreed with CHN's position that opening the fishery would cause herring stocks irreparable harm. Furthermore the court concluded that DFO had mismanaged the herring fishery and that given the strength of the Haida title case, the agreements with other governments, such as the Gwaii Haanas Agreement, the Crown has higher duty to consult and accommodate the nation.

"The Haida nation has planned for various scenarios and is prepared to protect herring stocks this year," said President of the Haida Nation kil tlaats 'gaa *Peter Lantin*. "Our citizens have told us they are ready to safeguard our territory and our way of life. We are working with our allies, the Heiltsuk and Nuu-Chah-Nulth nations, and we will defend the herring stocks so that they can recover and provide sustenance for everyone in perpetuity."

As the 2015/16 herring season approaches the CHN anticipates that despite First Nations' opposition and scientific reason, Canada will seek to open the fishery again. The HoA directed CHN to keep the herring fishery closed in Haida Gwaii until management and conservation issues are addressed.

HoA continued on page 6



"When British Columbia was organized as a province, the British Columbia government knew all about [aboriginal title], talked about it, discussed the whole thing, but because it was a disagreeable sort of thing, it was dropped. [...] It was ignored, as you honourable gentlemen know. That thing has not been righted to this day."

Rev Peter R Kelly, Chair of the Allied Indian Tribes of British Columbia, presenting to the special joint committee, Ottawa, 1927

HoA from page 5

Enbridge

As the nation strives to protect its territory from over-fishing, it also continues to fight the risks of oil spills and noise pollution by opposing tanker traffic through its waters.

At the Federal Court of Appeal in Vancouver on October 6, CHN presented its case to overturn the Joint Review Panel's approval of Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline. In presenting its argument the nation worked with eight other First Nations, the labour union Unifor, and non-governmental organizations.

The nation's argument showed that Canada's consultation process was defective, disregarding and undermining 25 years of reconciliation protocols and agreements. After some confusion on the part of the court regarding the extent of its own power, the court determined that it does have the authority to change Canada's approval of the proposed pipeline. Now the court must determine how defective the consultation process has to be to overturn the government's decision.

The Northern Gateway Pipeline proposal faces widespread opposition from environmental groups, farmers, communities and First Nations along its route. Since the Liberal party won a majority parliament on October 19, the project is facing further uncertainty. This seems evident, as on Friday, November 13, the Prime Minister's Office directed Transport Minister, Marc Garneau, to institute a moratorium on crude oil tanker traffic for the North Coast.

Looking at the traffic now

Within the planning area called the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area (PNCIMA), an area which covers about 102,000 km² of the coastal environment,

towboats and tugboats account for 40 percent of all traffic, followed by carrier vessels at 26 percent. Passenger-related traffic (cruise ships and ferries) account for 18 percent, fishing vessels larger than 24 metres and not actively fishing account for 15 percent, and oil tankers account for one percent of all traffic

The *Simushir* Incident of Oct 17, 2014 revealed how vulnerable Haida Gwaii is to marine traffic today and the possibility of a wreck with resulting pollution. The Russian cargo vessel *Simushir* lost power and drifted within 5.6 nautical miles of Daawxuusda the west coast of Haida Gwaii. The vessel contained 654 metric tonnes of pollutants.

Daawxuusda features some very rough and rocky coastal terrain. With these hazards

VESSEL TRANSITS

(The approximate number of carrier and cargo transits in Haida waters each year.)

- Dixon Entrance - 550**
 - Nothorn Hecate Strait - 350**
 - West Coast of Haida Gwaii - 725**
-

come waves reaching over 25 metres and winds recorded at 118 kilometres per hour.

Following the *Simushir* near miss, the CHN joined federal, provincial, municipal and regional government representatives, independent consultants, and experienced west-coast mariners to consider all the factors of a worst case scenario in a workshop.

After two days of intense discussion and analysis, participants brought forward recommendations that emphasized prevention strategies. The recommendations included:



increase the distance of vessels transiting offshore from 25 to 50 or 100 nautical miles, the stationing of heavy-weather rescue tugs in the north and on Haida Gwaii, maintaining a west-coast coordination centre and locations where endangered vessels can take refuge when emergencies occur.

With these recommendations in mind the HoA directed CHN to examine the establishment of "an emergency response system to respond to any marine disaster in the waters of Haida Gwaii".

Haida Heritage Site Planning

Marine spills are of deep concern, as just one accident could destroy not only the marine environment, but also many coastal cultural sites. The Strategic Land Use Agreement and Haida Gwaii Land Use Plan identified eleven areas as Haida Heritage Sites in 2009. This year the Heritage and Natural Resource Program's Cultural Feature Identification Program will be heading out into the far reaches of Haida Gwaii to map and collect more detailed information about cultural plants, monumental cedar, heritage features, and culturally modified trees.

Over the next few years the program will have a steady funding base thanks to the Atmospheric Benefits Agreement and will enable the establishment of a good footing to build and design a management system for the heritage sites.

Cabin Completed

Gwaii Haanas announced that a local construction crew has completed the new Watchmen cabin at SGang Gwaay. In addition to the building, the crew also built a new storage shed and helicopter pad. BC Air Ambulance has already made use of the helicopter pad, proving its value as a safety upgrade.

The cabin replaces the original built by a crew led by Captain Gold, over 30 years ago.

www.haidanation.ca
programs : haida laas : directory : links : diplomacy : agreements

“This cabin served Watchmen, visitors and Gwaii Haanas staff well over the years, but it came time to provide the Watchmen a new summer home,” acknowledged Gwaii Haanas Cultural Resource Management Advisor Camille Collinson. “Come Spring we’ll hold a blessing ceremony for the new building.”

On the Line for Education

As history has shown, Heritage Sites can be vulnerable to damage and trespass from logging. Recent logging around Gawu Kuns Siiwaay *Mosquito Lake* roused the HoA’s concern with the threat of a proposed cut in an area around the Mount Moresby Adventure Camp.

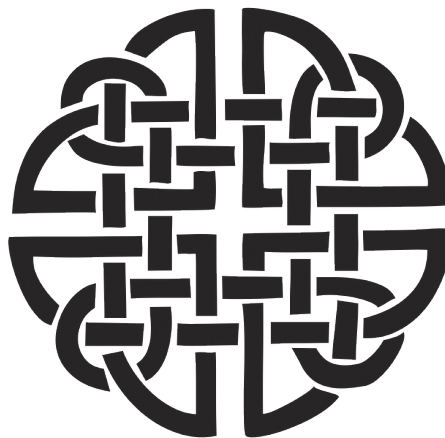
To preserve this culturally significant area the HoA resolved to create buffers around Gawu Kuns Siiwaay and to designate the watershed as an ‘area of importance’, protecting the area for use as a forest classroom for educational purposes and food harvesting. The initiative to protect the watershed has received letters of support from groups who use the area and CHN expects the issue to resolve to the satisfaction of the Islands’ communities.

Yaagun Yakoun Lake also garnered attention. The Haida Gwaii Land Use plan recognizes and protects the lake and watershed as a Haida Heritage Site. Even so, a company is logging land adjacent to the lake that is designated ‘private’ under provincial law. The HoA resolved that CHN talk with BC and private landholders to address the issue of logging on ‘private’ land on Haida Gwaii.

Of Slate and Mushrooms

The discussion about protecting harvesting areas also extended to pickers themselves. This season several incidents occurred where mushroom-buyers excluded local pickers from selling their harvest. To ensure that local pickers have a place in the business, the HoA resolved to approach communities about establishing a permit system.

CHN will also approach hereditary leaders and the Skidegate Band Council about a permitting system for access to Tllgadaaw K’yuu Slatechuck Trail. The HoA recognized that k’aas hlgaa argillite is a limited resource which may benefit from a permitting program similar to the long established cultural wood program.



Interlocking progressive change

by Graham Richard

The right to a healthy environment is constitutionally protected in more than 110 of the world’s 196 officially recognized countries. In his recently published book, *The Optimistic Environmentalist*, lawyer David Boyd found that enshrining the right to a healthy environment in a nation’s constitution resulted in better environmental laws, stronger enforcement, and higher accountability of the sitting government. And, as a result, citizens of such countries enjoy tangible benefits like better air quality, safer drinking water, less exposure to toxic chemicals, the recovery of endangered species and greener cities.

Of the 193 United Nation member-nations, only 16 nations have not recognized the right to a clean environment through their constitution, legislation, a court decision, or an international agreement. At this time, Canada is a member of this dwindling minority, presumably to keep North Korea, Afghanistan, and Cambodia company. However, Mr Boyd says that Canadians should feel hopeful.

“The constitution [of a nation] is the highest in supreme law. And there’s actually a huge grassroots movement in Canada to try to achieve the same [constitutional changes] here,” Mr Boyd explained in an interview with *Haida Laas*.

He pointed to an Angus-Reid poll showing that nine out of 10 Canadians would like to see similar constitutional amendments come to Canada. To achieve this vision, 14,000

volunteers across the country have recruited 85,568 Canadians to take part in the Blue Dot Movement. This movement has helped 89 municipalities pass declarations recognizing that fresh air, clean water, and healthy food are human rights. Among them are Gaaw Masset and Daajing Giids Queen Charlotte.

The movement is gaining momentum across the country with Manitoba and BC leading the way. This year the Union of BC Municipalities resolved to ask the Province of BC to create its own provincial environmental bill of rights. On October 16 Manitoba beat the union to the punch by signing the Blue Dot Declaration.

Once seven out of Canada’s ten provinces, representing over 50% of Canada’s population have implemented their own bills, they can then turn there attention to amending the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms at the national level.

“There’s a track record over the past 50 years of surprising environmental progress which should give people hope,” Mr Boyd explained in an interview with CBC’s Anna Maria Tremonti. “There’s also the fact that we’re on the cusp of a series of interlock[ing] revolutions. Revolutions in the way we generate electricity, in urban development, in construction, in transportation, and I would argue the very nature of the global economy are all at various – in some cases early stages – in the process of transformation.”



Gaaw Xaad Kil language class hard at work. L-R: Skilaa Lawrence Bell, Waahlahl Kanaas Louise Almquist and Xuhlyaang Rev Lily Bell.

Thinking in Haida

With just a slip of the tongue

Following up on the three-and-a-half-month intensive Gaaw Xaad Kil Bootcamp held in Spring 2015, a dozen intermediate Gaaw Xaad Kil Northern Haida dialect students are back at it. They are now taking part in a twelve-session course led by fluent speaker Hlgawangdlii Skilaa Lawrence Bell and Simon Fraser University linguistics professor Gulkiihlgad Dr Marianne Ignace from Oct 1 to Nov 28. Those enrolled have a basic understanding of Haida phonetics, orthography, grammar, sentence building, and a vocabulary of 1,000 or more words. This course, officially called “FNLG 335-3

Intermediate Level Grammatical Structures of Xaad Kil”, further explores Haida verbs, pronouns, phonics and shape classifiers

The class is studying *Gawa Sgalaangaa: Massett Songs*, a collection of songs and stories recorded by anthropologist John R Swanton and translated by John Enrico. Leaning heavily on Hlgawangdlii Skilaa’s fluency, the class examines a story line-by-line, breaking apart each sentence to understand it’s meaning, and practice pronunciation. One story they are studying discusses how the son of Xaaw North Wind went to marry Sgadaang Oyster catcher, the daughter of Xiw South East Wind. The story creates detailed portraits of Haida Gwaii’s winds, ancient landscape, social-customs and places.

This unique descriptiveness is part of what makes Xaad Kil so thrilling. Xaad Kil is highly ‘directional’, the language is constantly creating a picture of motion and place. This is done with a dozen or so, directional particles or suffixes like hlaa *up*, sah *upstream*, t’a *downstream*, k’aad *out to sea* and dii *into the woods*.

“These are the really fascinating parts of the language that give you how land is conceptualized,” Gulkiihlgad said. Rather than relying on map coordinates, addresses or street names for orientation, Xaad Kil prioritizes things like wind-direction, water-currents and ones own relative location to the ocean.

Xaad Kil is also oriented around ‘shape’ and uses a large set of tools called ‘shape’ classifiers that are absent in the English language. To provide an example, Sgaawangdlii Skilaa explains how using ‘hlguyu’ before a word implies that an object is wide and broad. He provides an example in the sentence. (see Fig. 1)



Fig. 1 Xaad kil

’L naas k’ ádguu nang tajaa hlguyuúdáayaan.

Literal English

His house seaward-facing-side there-was sand broad-and-wide-walkway.

“It means it was a natural setting,” Sgaawangdlii Skilaa clarified. “Like the tide went out and there it was. It wasn’t planned that way but that’s how nature created it to be, so it was used as such. ‘Hlgyuusdaáyaan’ implies it was wide and broad. It’s not just a skinny, narrow way.”

It is easy to see how efficiently Xaad Kil conveys ideas that are lengthy to explain in English. Together, the ‘directional’ particles and ‘shape’ classifiers enable speakers to describe ideas in highly concentrated forms.

The story of the marriage of Xaaw’s son to Sgadaang also offers a glimpse of Haida family structure. In particular, it describes how a husband would normally have to move into his wife’s house to live with his in-laws. This custom is part of the matrilineal structure of Haida society. As many students know, it is easy to make humorous mistakes as you are learning. The word for father-in-law, Kunaa, can easily be mispronounced as Kuunang, meaning foolish or crazy. “Ya! You shouldn’t put those two words too close together,” Gulkiihlgad exclaimed.

By taking this course, Gatgus *Erica Stocker*, Kilhguulans *Christian White*, Jaalen Edenshaw, K’aayhltla *Xuhl Rhonda Bell*, Guulang *Xuhlwaay Leona Clow*, Xuhlyaang *Rev Lily Bell*, Xyaahl *Gulaa’s Colleen Williams*, Guudee *Naan Marilyn Collison*, Waahlahl *Kanaas Louise Almquist*, Lucy Bell and Candace Weir-White, are earning credits from Simon Fraser University’s Department of Linguistics.

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Xaad Kil
Sahgwii ltl kaaydaang.

Literal English
Upstream-direction I’m going.

Colloquial English
I’m going up town.

Explanation
To get to downtown from Gaaw, you must travel upstream along Gaaw Kaahlil *Massett Inlet*. “That’s why we say uptown and not downtown like city people,” explained Rev Lily Bell.



HlGaagilda Xaayda Kil class enjoying games they created. L-R: Jaad Xaay.ya *Fallon Crosby*, Daall Jaad *Melody Gravelle* (back), Haahlginganguu *Joan Moody*, Sing.giduu *Laura Jormanainen* and Guud Xang.ngi *Melinda Pick*.

Thinking in Haida

Dii gwii kaahl! I win!

Laughter echoes through Stlaay Daw Naay *Welcoming House* at the Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay. Amid the shouts and giggles are the sounds of a recovering language, punctuated with wide smiles. This is what fifteen HlGaagilda Xaayda Kil *Southern Haida Dialect* students taking a course called ‘FNST 231’ sound like. From September 23 to October 24, teacher and fluent speaker Gwaaganad *Diane Brown* led the students through nine sessions.

“The school district says we need a speaker with a teaching degree,” language learner Gidin Jaad *Erica Ryan-Gagne* explained at the Haida Nation’s annual House of Assembly. “So I’m doing it along with fourteen other women! If I have to go back to school at thirty and spend five-and-a-half years towards a teaching degree, then that’s what I have to do for my children.”

The Skidegate Band Council’s Comprehensive Community Plan and the Haida Language Revitalization Plan inspired this University of Northern BC credited program. The students love to have fun as they learn and in class they presented games they had created to help them practice their speaking skills.

In the game of Halxa! *Harvest*, players raced each other to name a food and its

harvest-time in Haida, and then used small metal tweezers to retrieve tokens from below an electrified panel! After competitors scrambled to remember the Haida words, a tense silence would fall as they carefully tried to wield the tiny tweezers to fetch the tokens. If the tweezers touched the panel, an alarm sounded and all their work had been for nothing, sending the room into laughter.

“It’s really just a home-made version of Operation,” explained creator Jaad Tlaaw *Paula Varnel*. “It’s super-easy to make, I had no idea! I love this little doodad so much. I might like to make a bigger one.”

Xayna Jaad Kristy Alsop presented the game of Xaayda Kil *Ginhlgahl Haida Language Mix-Up*, a modified version of Scrabble. It featured nineteen more tiles than the regular game and the extra tiles are unique. Xaayda Kil sounds like k’, k, g, x, hl, and tll. And, because Xaayda Kil is more difficult to spell for beginners, each player gets to use nine tiles instead of seven.

Sing.giduu *Laura Jormanainen* presented a version of Go Fish! called Xaawin! with special cards. When someone played the Aaway.ya card, they could make another competitor xyaahl *dance*. The player holding

I win continued on page 10

I win from page 9



“We have fourteen dedicated women [learning] the language to get the degree. We have pre-schools. We have daycares. We have a language nest. We all believe in the language, you all believe in the language. [...]”

- Gidin Jaad *Erica Ryan-Gagne* at the House of Assembly 2015.

the K’uugaad *liar* card could lie to players about their cards before discarding it. When someone played the Haksda! *lets go* card, they could force another player to take a turn.

Students found themselves so taken up with the competition that games were allowed to go on for extra rounds.

“It’s been a very inspiring afternoon!” concluded Gwaaganad after a lot of practice, learning, and laughter. “I wanted to remind

you how great you all are. I want to remind you that when you love something, it heals you. It is necessary for you all to be proud. You all work very hard. It’s a good feeling. Everything about it for me is wonderful. I never even thought I’d teach again, and here I am!”

Students who completed the course included Jaad Tlaaw, Xayna Jaad, Sing.giduu, Gidin Jaad, Gaagwiis *Jason Alsop*, Jaad

Xaay.ya *Fallon Crosby*, Kuunaa Jaad *Jenny Cross*, K’una Jaad *Patti Gayle Gladstone*, Jaad Haana *Alix Goetzinger*, Daall Jaad *Melody Gravelle*, Haahlginganguu *Joan Moody*, Guud Xang.ngi *Melinda Pick*, St’aay Taw.waay *Carla Russ*, Gaajiaawa *Linda Tollas*, Siina *Cindy Williams*, and Jennifer *Dysart*. Kihlguaa Gaay.ya *Severn Suzuki* was teaching assistant.



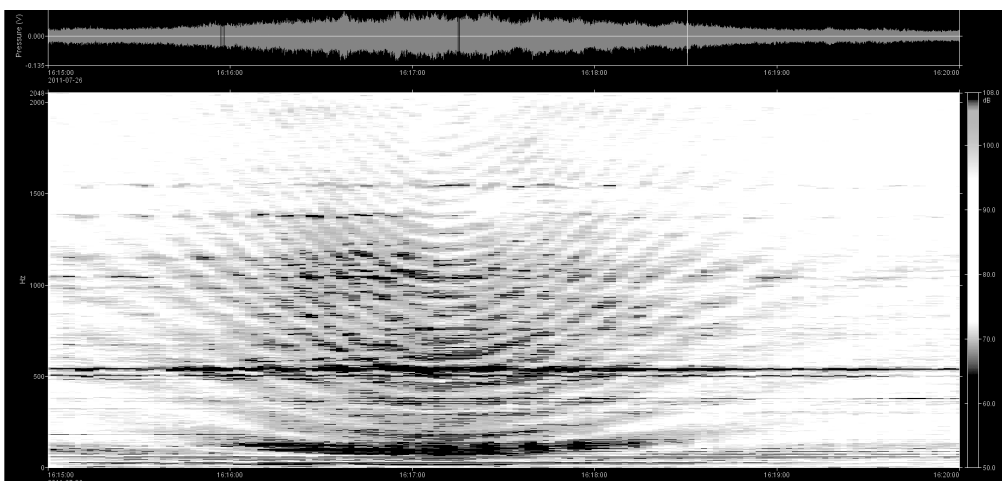
LEFT IN THE DUST

This year Brooklyn, New York resident and Reuters’ journalist Chris Taylor ran 26.2 miles to raise thousands of dollars for Haida language. His 49 supporters pledged \$2,754 to the marathoner’s Indie Go Go campaign, leaving his goal of \$1,000 in the dust. Mr Taylor made the run on October 18 at the Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

“I’m running not for myself, but to help save a language,” Mr Taylor declared on his webpage. “The language warriors of Haida Gwaii have been fighting valiantly for decades to preserve their language for future generations.”

The money will be put toward George M Dawson Secondary School’s annual language bursary, production and distribution of a Haida dictionary, and language boot camps at Xaad Kihlga Suu.u.

This is Mr Taylor’s second contribution to language efforts. In November 2013 he raised \$2,277 by running the Brooklyn Marathon. These funds helped Haida language workers to publish and distribute free Haida-language children’s books to elementary schools.



This spectrogram visually shows the sound of a vessel approaching and gradually moving away from the hydrophone installed at SGAan Kinghlas. Acoustic data courtesy of John Ford, DFO. Image courtesy of JASCO Applied Sciences.

Can you feel the noise?

by Molly Clarkson

SGaan Kinghlas *Supernatural Being Looking Outwards* is an enormous seamount located 180-kilometres off the west coast of Haida Gwaii. The 3100-metre mountain is submerged beneath the waves of the Pacific Ocean and supports an abundance of marine life. Rockfish, sablefish, crab, sea anemones, squid, octopi, sponges, corals and sea stars thrive at SGAan Kinghlas, which in turn attract large marine mammals such as Stellar Sea lions, orca, humpback and Sperm whales.

The Haida nation designated SGAan Kinghlas as a Haida Marine Protected Area in 1997 and in 2008 the Nation and Canada jointly designated SGAan Kinghlas Canada's seventh Marine Protected Area (MPA). The seamount is the first MPA in Canada to be co-managed by two governments. Currently, the Management Board for the MPA – consisting of two representatives from the Haida Nation and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans – is developing a plan for the management of the MPA. New research into ocean noise is providing information that will help the Board protect the beings that live around the seamount and manage human behaviour.

Research has shown that ocean noise can negatively impact marine animals, particularly marine mammals like whales, which depend on sound for communication, foraging and navigation. These impacts can be behavioural, such as a temporary halt to singing, changes in surfacing, heading and

diving patterns, and the abandonment of important habitat. They can also be acoustic, like a reduced ability to forage or locate mates, and physiological, such as diminished or loss of hearing and high stress. Fish and invertebrates can also be negatively affected by ocean noise.

Marine traffic is the most significant source of human generated noise in the oceans surrounding SGAan Kinghlas. The MPA is located along the route of oil tankers carrying oil from Prudhoe Bay and Valdez, Alaska, southwards to ports in the United States. A Tanker Exclusion Zone off Canada's west coast was established in 1988 in order to provide some protection to sensitive coastal ecosystems in the event of an oil or hazardous cargo spill. However, the summit of the seamount is located between 18-36 kilometres west of the Tanker Exclusion Zone and tankers continue to transit nearby waters. Marine traffic in the area is also expected to increase due to longer ice-free arctic navigation routes and planned port expansion along the west coast.

In order to evaluate the potential ecological impacts posed by marine traffic the Board is working with digital mapping expert Rosaline Canessa, director of the Coastal and Ocean Resources Analysis Lab (CORAL) at the University of Victoria. Dr. Canessa's interest in the seamount dates back to 2003, when she contributed to an ecosystem overview

of the area. In 2011 she was invited to participate on the SGAan Kinghlas MPA advisory committee, a multi-stakeholder group that provides advice to the Management Board regarding planning and management of the MPA. So when a research opportunity came up to study noise generated by marine traffic, Dr. Canessa suggested SGAan Kinghlas as a valuable case study. The Salish Sea and Sachs Harbor area in the Northwest Territories were also selected for the multi-year ocean noise research project.

The goal of the project is simple:

“Ultimately, we want to know how much noise is being generated from [human] sources and then what species are there that could be susceptible to impact from that noise,” said Dr. Canessa.

The research, however, is anything but simple. Dr. Canessa, assisted by Casey Hilliard of Dalhousie University and UVIC PhD candidate Ainsley Allen, have been busy over the past year analyzing Automatic Identification System (AIS) vessel traffic data and noise in and around the MPA. Results so far suggest that there is a significant amount of activity, mostly from fishing, cargo and tanker vessels.

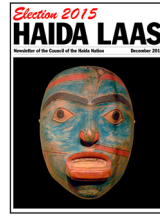
They found that the majority of tankers travel to the west and beyond SGAan Kinghlas' boundaries, in 2012 four tankers transited through the MPA. Cargo vessels tend to travel to the east of the boundary, while fishing vessels track back and forth across the MPA.

While the data shows more vessels transit near or within the MPA in the winter than in the summer months, the research team's early findings suggest that the amount of noise is much higher during the summer months, when good weather and calm seas reduce the amount of natural noise in the ocean.

The implication of these findings will be the next focus of the team's research. The project is expected to wrap up in March 2017, at which point Dr. Canessa will be working with the MPA Management Board to apply her research to management and monitoring practices.

A Huge Haawa from *Haida Laas*

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GAAW Old Massett – To our Haida owned and operated partners in Gaaw we thank the Haida Rose, Samuels Store and Sherri’s Gas Bar & Grill for always making *Haida Laas* available to visitors and to anyone who’s looking for news and food – a perfect combination.

MASSET – Since 2000, the Communications Program has faced difficulty in keeping the shelves of Delmas Co-op and Atwells adequately stocked with copies. No challenge keeps us happier, haaw’a for your years of partnership. Haaw’a also to Green Gaia and The Ground, who not only carry *Haida Laas*, but keep us caffeinated on our busy distribution route.

GAMADIIS Port Clements – Haaw’a to Bayview for sticking with us for many years, to the Vancouver Island Regional Library for posting our issues front and center, and to Gas Plus for keeping *Haida Laas* on the shelf and keeping us fueled on our travels north.

TLLAAL Tlell – Thanks to the Crow’s Nest staff, who are often the first to grab a copy from the pile, and to the Haida House for providing their guests with the scoop on what’s really going on around Haida Gwaii.

HLGAAGILDA Skidegate – Jags Beanstalk keeps the jitterati fueled with coffee and news, Gwaii Co-op always provides us with a place at their tills, the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay Llnagaay “inspires Understanding and Respect for All That Haida Gwaii is” as we reach out to museum visitors, and our partners at Gwaii Haanas ensure that adventurers get a look at the inside scoop.

DAAJING GIIDS Queen Charlotte – The Visitor Information Centre starts everyone’s trip right with a look at current news, at Queen B’s our readers can relax with a copy and a coffee, the Vancouver Island Regional Library helps us to inspire and inform its patrons, and Funk It is always happy to help with distribution.

K’IL LLNAGAAY Sandspit – A big Haawa to SuperValu, the Vancouver Island Regional Library, the Sandspit Community Office, and the Visitor Information Centre for bringing *Haida Laas* to the community and to the world as visitors arrive and depart from the Islands.

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