



HAIDA LAAS

Journal of the Haida Nation - March 9, 1995

FREE

Haida Nation moves to stop TFL 39 replacement.

The Council of the Haida Nation has filed a petition in the Supreme Court of B.C. to stop the Minister of Forests from replacing MacMillan Bloedel's Tree Farm Licence on Haida Gwaii. The Nation cites community and ecological stability as primary concerns.

"If we really want to make Treaty negotiations work and provide some economic certainty and options for our common future," said Miles Richardson, President of the Council of the Haida Nation, "we have got to get old mistakes out of the way."

The petition is based on Section 28 of the B.C. Forest Act which states that only unencumbered forests can be included in a Tree Farm Licence. "The land ownership dispute and the Title held by the Haida Nation clearly constitutes an encumbrance on these forests," says Greg McDade, counsel for the petitioners. Scientific studies are proving out a historical contention of the Haidas that they witnessed the growth of the first tree on the Islands, 14,000 years ago. Haida Culture is often associated with the great canoes and totem poles built from massive 500 year old cedars,

trees that are only found in old growth forests.

Even if the injunction is upheld, the existing licence held by MacMillan Bloedel would not expire until 2006. However if the replacement was to be implemented, the licence would extend to 2020, and theoretically in perpetuity. Since 1961 MacMillan Bloedel has held Tree Farm Licence 39, Block 6 which covers the most productive forest lands on Haida Gwaii. This licence which is called the "Haida Tree Farm Licence" by MacMillan Bloedel, permits the removal of in excess of one million cubic meters of wood each year. Over the years as the annual harvest of wood increased, as profits rose to record breaking levels, MacMillan Bloedel laid off hundreds of long term employees in all sectors of its operations.

In the 1950's when the Chief Forester of BC argued for the consolidation of timber rights in Tree Farm Licences, HR MacMillan, Chairman of MacMillan Bloedel was a staunch critic. HR contended that the stability and strength of small communities would be undermined by this public

continued next page

Aboriginal Guardians graduate

Twenty four First Nations members have graduated Phase III of Aboriginal Guardian training in Masset, of which seven Haida candidates successfully completed, at an afternoon ceremony highlighted by the graduates on parade and in full uniform to receive their certificates from CHN President Miles Richardson, Justice Institute of B.C. Director Phil Crosby-Jones, and DFO Director of Conservation and Protection Dennis Brock.

The intense, seven week phase III training was carried out by the Justice Institute of B.C. at the Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Masset facilities, in conjunction with Council of the Haida Nation (CHN), Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) and the Skeena Aboriginal

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HAIDA LAAS

Journal of the Haida Nation

The primary function of Haida Laas Journal is the dissemination of quality information that is accurate, issue oriented and reflects Haida life and changes.

Published bi-weekly by the
**Council of the
Haida Nation**

Letters

Letters are welcomed by Haida Laas. Letters can be about topics raised in the Journal or any other area of interest to readers. Please be brief. Letters should be 200 - 300 words in length. Letters may be edited for length and will be edited for material which is racist, sexist, libelous or contains profanity. Please include the writer's name, address and telephone number with each letter.

Make all correspondence care of:
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Haida Tribal Society
Attention: Haida Laas
Box 589, Massett,
Haida Gwaii. V0T 1M0

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TFL - continued from cover

give-away. The Council of the Haida Nation believes that HR's predictions have proven themselves to be uncomfortably accurate.

The Haida Nation has a long history of effecting change in the forest industry on Haida Gwaii. "Our obligation is to do our best for these Islands and those who call them Home" says Richardson, "the final analysis will show that this action is not only right but necessary."



Haida Guardian graduates

Guardians - continued from cover

Management Board (SAMB).

Graduates of the program represent the following Nations in B.C.: **Haida** - Ron (Champ) Brown Jr., Cullen Marks, Eric Olsen, Robert Russ, Brad Setso, George Wesley and Martin Williams. **Haisla** - Renzo Furlanetto, Lindsay Grant & David Shaw. **Heiltsuk** - David Wilson. **Kwakiutl** - Arthur Dick, Robert Mountain & Terry Wells. **Nuu-Chah-Nulth** - Andrew Jackson, Alan Ross Jr. & Eugene Touchie. **Tsimshian** - Glen Bennett, Russell Bolton, Harry Daniels, James Haizimsque, Keith Innes & Richard Roberts. **Salish** - Arnold Guerin.

The training is the standard RCMP and Fishery Officer Enforcement Course throughout Canada. The training is comprised of nine sections: human relations; operational training; driver training; drill & deportment; criminal law; firearms training; physical training; swimming; and self-defense. This particular class of Aboriginal Guardians maintained above average scores to the surprise of many. The class average was 86% for the course, each needing 70% to

pass compared to RCMP and DFO Officers needing 60% to pass.

The Aboriginal Guardians who have graduated have proven that they have the skills and determination to succeed as protectors of our fish and our waters. Now the crucial thing is to give them a mandate and authority to carry out their duties on behalf of our children and future generations that follow so that they may also have the privilege of enjoying our most precious resource - salmon.

CORRECTION

Haida Laas apologizes to Vice President Vern Brown. Due to a technical error part of Mr. Brown's candidates statement was misplaced. We apologize for any inconvenience to readers and to Mr. Brown.

....

President's Message

With our 1995 House of Assembly Constitution which reflect our and this year's CHN Elections desired governing structure and behind us, it is time to re-focus on the immediate challenges and process. opportunity's facing us as a Nation. For the Treaty Negotiations, we Clearly, the most important issue must not begin formal negotiations until all our people are comfortable facing us is UNITY. Working with our position and support it. together we can accomplish anything; divided we will accomplish nothing. If we are to continue to move successfully toward resolving the land question over Haida Gwaii, you who supported me as President we must move to a higher level of with your vote. I will continue to political unity. There are certain work to the best of my ability to specific things that we must do to earn the trust which you have accomplished this. placed in me. My congratulations to

our new vice-president, Vern Brown and each of the elected representatives in Council. I look forward to working cooperatively as a team in addressing the issues facing our Nation.

Miles G. Richardson
President
Council of the Haida Nation

First, all of the leaders in our Nation, including the CHN, the Village Councils and Hereditary Leaders must work to ensure that all Haida people have a voice that is heard and considered in the deliberations of our Nation. Also, all of our leaders must accept through their actions that we are accountable first and foremost to the people of the Haida Nation. Once we have fully discussed an issue and have made a decision then we must all stand behind that decision as we implement it. This is all so familiar and easy to say, but our success as a Nation depends on our ability to do it ... together.

Our 1995 House of Assembly demonstrated open dialogue. Many of our people offered strong views and opinions on the important matters of Haida Government and on the Treaty Negotiations process. The CHN must now consider this input, continue the dialogue amongst our Nation and not proceed until we are of one mind and purpose on these matters. For Haida government, we will continue to debate this until we are ready to consider changes to the Haida

I would like to thank all the Haidas in Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Skidegate and Massett regions for taking part in the 1995 Elections of the Council of the Haida Nation Executives and Regional Representatives.

I would also like to thank the three other candidates for letting their names stand for the position of Vice President. This shows their committment and willingness to work for the betterment of the Haida Nation.

In this election, we had a turn out of voters equal to, if not more than in past elections. This is a direct reflection of interest in the business and activities of our Nation.

PLEASE NOTE

Effective April 1, 1995
New Mail Subscription Rates Take Effect.

Canada - \$20.00 yr.
U.S./other - \$35.00 yr.

Payable to:
Haida Tribal Society
Attention: Haida Laas, Gilbert Parnell
Box 589, Massett,
Haida Gwaii. V0T 1M0

NOTICE

I am requesting assistance in identifying a list of Tlingit and Haidas who are involved with Sea Alaska, who live in Massett, Skidegate, Rupert or elsewhere in Canada.

Contact **Chuck Natkong**
by mail in Hydaburg,
Alaska, 99922.

Vice President's Message

As your Vice President, I am committed to work with and for the Haida Nation. Also, to promote unity for the strength required to improve our cultural and social structure. Unity is an important requirement as our Nation strives for self-sufficiency and self-government.

I will be moving home to Old Massett on March 1, 1995, to begin working with and for our great Haida Nation.

Again, I say a big Haaw 7aa for your support and confidence in me.

.GIT EE WANS

Secondary School Haida Language and Culture instruction begins

By John M.H. Kelly

Grade 8 students at Queen Charlotte Elementary Secondary School (QCESS) took part in an historic event Thursday: the first high school level Haida language and culture class offered to high school students in Haida Gwaii.

The class, taught by Joan Moody, Laura Williams, Roberta Olsen, Gladys Gladstone and John Kelly, combines Haida language instruction with Haida culture and history.

The class is the first endeavor in new secondary school level coursework to be implemented at the school. A QCESS Haida curriculum committee that began

meeting in December, currently is designing similar coursework for all secondary grade levels.

The course opened with a key figure in Haida history, the Reverend Minister Peter Kelly, a Skidegate Haida born in 1885. The Minister, whose Haida name was Roar of the Breakers, attained national acclaim in the early years of the First Nations fight for Native land rights and sovereignty.

The secondary level course is a part of a plan to meet emerging Ministry of Education standards in First Nations language instruction.

"This initiative is an important first step in the development of a comprehensive Haida Language and Culture curriculum for students Kindergarten to Grade 12 in this district," said Peter Corcoran, QCESS principal.

All 28 grade 8 students were riveted throughout the first class, as Gladstone read from Kelly's biography, Roar of the Breakers.

"The students were better behaved than they have ever been," said Joan Moody, who opened the class with a statement in the Haida language.

"dang gwaa'laa?" she said. "How are you?"

"7iid'laagaa," students answered. "We are fine."

The course will run through June.

Who Owns Our Land?

By Diana Recalma

The B.C. Fisheries Survival Coalition is a diverse group.

Although the group consists mainly of fishermen, the word 'coalition' seems to stand for more than just a coalition of fishermen. The group was seen, during the last federal election, aligned very closely with the Reform Party. The Coalition supported the candidate most likely to vote against any move to settle the long-standing claims of British Columbia's First Nations. It isn't a stretch of the imagination to see why the Reform candidates won their support, hands down.

MEDIA CONNECTION

The Coalition has teamed up with the media, with CHEK TV taking the lead role in this liaison in their single minded attack on the fishing rights of British Columbia's First Nations.

The latest chapter in this attack is the blatant disregard for the rights of First Nations people to decide who has the right to be on Reserve land. Several times over the past three months "sports fisherment" accompanied at different times by a lawyer who works for the Coalition, founding members of the Coalition and, of course, the CHEK TV cameraman (hiding behind a tree, hoping for a good sound bite for the appropriate Reform M.P. to use in question period), have been trespassing on the Qualicum Reserve.

NOTICE

Descendents of
Martha and Henry Edenshaw
Family Reunion - August of
1995, Old Massett village,
Haida Gwaii

For more
information contact:

Beryl Parke
650 Grenville St.
Victoria, BC V9A 6L4
- Phone 604-381-1046 -

TRESPASSING

The Qualicum People asked the R.C.M.P. for help in removing these uninvited people off their land.

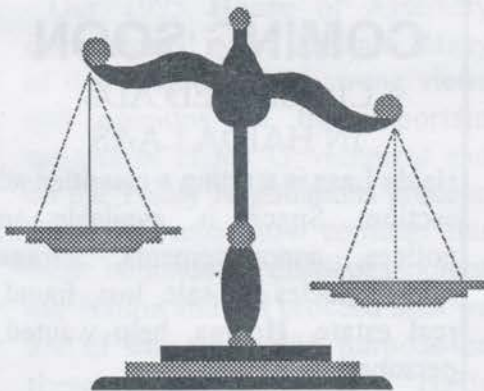
Warnings were ignored and six charges of trespass on an Indian Reserve were laid by the R.C.M.P.

On January 4, 1995 all six appeared without counsel and were given three weeks to seek legal advice. On January 25, 1995, the six appeared, again without Counsel. This time they were given five more weeks before entering a plea.

This case is not really about trespassing but is just another step in the escalating war on the fishing rights of British Columbia's First Nations by members of the Coalition.

We can only hope that when the manager of the Big Qualicum hatchery spoke to the Press on behalf of the "sports fishermen" and a staff member from the Nanaimo DFO office justified their actions to the press that this wasn't a formal liaison between the Coalition and DFO but was isolated to the Two staff members.

Reprinted from Native Voice



PUBLIC FORUM ON TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

Sponsored by
Council of the Haida Nation, Canada and the Province of British Columbia

Masset Community Hall
Tuesday, March 14, 1995
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Sandspit Lions Hall
Wednesday, March 15, 1995
7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Queen Charlotte Community Hall
Thursday, March 16, 1995
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Treaty negotiations between the Council of the Haida Nation, and the federal and provincial governments, will soon begin.

Members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the treaty process are invited to participate in a forum on treaty negotiations.

Those attending will have the opportunity to pick up written information and talk to representatives of the Council of the Haida Nation, the federal and the provincial governments.

The first half hour of each forum will be an open house.

For More Information Call:

Council of the Haida Nation: 626-5252 or 559-4468

Canada: 1-800-665-9320

Province of B.C.: 1-800-880-1022



Council of the
Haida Nation

Canada

Federal Treaty
Negotiation Office



Province of
British Columbia

Junior Boys All Native Basketball Zone Play

This year the Junior Boys All Antive Basketball Zone Play-Offs were held in Port Simpson, February 24-26. Port Simpson the host village put together a well organized tournament that consisted of seven north coast teams from Hartley, Bay, Kitkatla, Metlakatla, Prince Rupert, Skidegate, and Port Simpson.

The Skidegat Junior Saints-Jason Collinson, Aaron Hans, Warren Smith, Tyler Crosby, Mike Alton, Dustin Cross, and Shaun Smith played very well in 5 games over 2 days. Friday, February 24 the team played Hartley Bay and Port Simpson after two ferry rides. Skidegate 73 and Hartely Bay 36. Shaun Smith lead all scorers with (24) and Jason Collinson nothced (18) with his speed from the backcourt. The Port Simpson Hoyas were able to push by Skidegate 74 to 46 due to a longer bench and no injuries.

On Saturday, February 25 the Skidegate team started the day with one player ill and another out due to a foot injury. At 2:30 pm Metlakatla (50) couldn't handle the sixe and speed of Skidegate (75) who played with only 5 players - Shaun Smith and Jason Collinson paced the team wtih 26 and 19 respectively. The next test was Prince Rupert Fiendship House Cubs. Skidegate out rebounded and ran the Cubs to a 58 - 38 victory with Jason Collinson netting 18 and Shaun Smith 14 points each.

The third game of the day for the 5 players took its course against

Kitkatla. Even though the team had lots of heart and pride, the legs couldn't withstand all the running, jumping, defence and the physical play of Kitkatla for 32 minutes. Kitkatla won 57 to 45, Shaun Smith played a tough game at both ends of the court as he ended with 28 points and Mike Alotn added 10 points and countless rebounds and blocks.

The team departed Port Simpson before the final game was complete and all the awards were presented. In recognition of their efforts and talents, Shaun Smith was named to the All-Star team, Mike Alton was named Best Defensive Player and Jason Collinson was named Most Inspirational Player. It was a great weekend for the team of young boys who represented Skidegate, we all had great fun meeting new friends and competing in Port Simpson.

The team and I would like to say howa to the Skidegate Band Council for the \$500 donation which took care of travel, and we would like to mention that Port Simpson, as tournament hosts, was full of hospitality. Placing third, the Skidegate Junior Saints qualified for the BC Junior Boys All Native Basketball Championships to be held in Bella Bella between March 20 -24, 1995. Through fundraising efforts and practice we will be travelling to the tournament on March 16 and return on March 26.

*Skidegate Junior Saints and
Willis Parnell*

Council of the Haida Nation Election

Results

Miles Richardson has been re-elected to serve his sixth term as President of the Council of the Haida Nation and joining him as Vice President is Haida Hereditary Leader Vernon Brown of Old Massett.

REGIONAL COUNCIL

In Regional Council elections held in Skidegate the following were elected: Robert Dudoward, Gladys Gladstone, Tom Greene Sr. and Gary Russ.

OLD MASSETT

In Old Massett, the following were acclaimed: Ron Brown Sr., Frank Collison Sr., Dan Matthews and Charles York.

PRINCE RUPERT/VANCOUVER

Prince Rupert and Vancouver Regional Council's Representative positions are up for election during March 1995.

COMING SOON

CLASSIFIED ADS IN HAIDA LAAS

Haida Laas is starting a classified ad section. Space is available to notices, announcements, garage sales, vehicles for sale, lost, found, real estate, Howaa, help wanted, personals.

ONLY \$5 for the first 25 words and 20 cents for each additional word, per issue.

Sustenance hunters may have leeway under new legislation

If sustenance hunters find themselves on the wrong side of the new gun control legislation, there will be a way out. According to information released in a background information booklet on the new proposals from the federal Department of Justice, there are special measures being considered so that hunters who need firearms to feed themselves don't go hungry.

PARTIAL PROHIBITION

In cases of criminal misuse of firearms, courts could issue partial firearms prohibition orders. These orders will only be issued under exceptional circumstances with certain conditions attached. Those conditions as spelled out in the booklet are:

"They will only be issued in exceptional circumstances where full prohibition would result in extreme hardship for the accused; when public safety would not be endangered; and when the accused agrees to access terms set by the Court, for example, "while on the land to hunt for food" or "under supervision."

NO FEE

Also under the new proposed legislation is a guarantee that both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal sustenance trappers and hunters will be exempt from the fee associated

with the Firearms Acquisition Certificate fee. This exemption also applies to minors.*

ABORIGINAL OFFICERS

Aboriginal people will have to register their firearms but the government will consult with Aboriginal groups, and provincial and territorial governments to allow gun owners in remote areas to register their weapons.

Material for teaching the Canadian Firearm safety course will be developed in Aboriginal languages and tailored for areas where the course will be taught. For example, there could be changes to the course section on handguns in the N.W.T. or Yukon with more time spent on teaching wilderness survival. There will be measures taken to make sure Aboriginal people are selected as firearms officers.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The new restrictions and legislation are aimed at increasing public safety and allowing tracking of guns used to commit violent crime. Other goals of the legislation include the identification of firearms stored in a house when police respond to emergency calls and to prevent some individuals from possessing firearms.

The new legislation will mean the establishment of a National Firearms Registry where firearms will be tracked as they enter or leave Canada, are lost or stolen, or they are bought and sold. The registry will work similar to systems already in place to register drivers and their vehicles.

FIVE YEARS TO REGISTER

Under current legislation, firearms owners will have five years, beginning in 1996, in which to obtain the new Firearms Certificate (FPC) which will register them as a gun owner. The FPC replaces the old Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). Firearms will get a Firearms Registration Card (FRC). Applications will be available locally through post offices.

reprinted from Aboriginal Business

Vancouver Regional CHN Elections

The Vancouver Regional CHN Elections for Representatives and Council will be held:

Saturday, March 25, 1995

9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Vancouver Aboriginal

Friendship Centre

(formerly Vancouver Indian Centre)



**COUNCIL OF THE HAIDA NATION
HAIDA FORESTRY BRANCH**

Box 1451, Skidegate, Haida Gwaii V0T 1S1
Phone 604-559-8871 • Fax 604-559-8581

OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1995
4 PM TO 8 PM

The Haida Forestry office is located at 191b 3rd. Avenue in Skidegate. We would like to welcome you into our office to show you the projects we have all been working on.

The Watershed Restoration Project will have a video, maps, air photos and information on the progress of the project.

The Traditional Use Project will also have maps, an information package and a progress report on this project. Please join us for coffee and desserts to see what the Haida Forestry has accomplished.



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