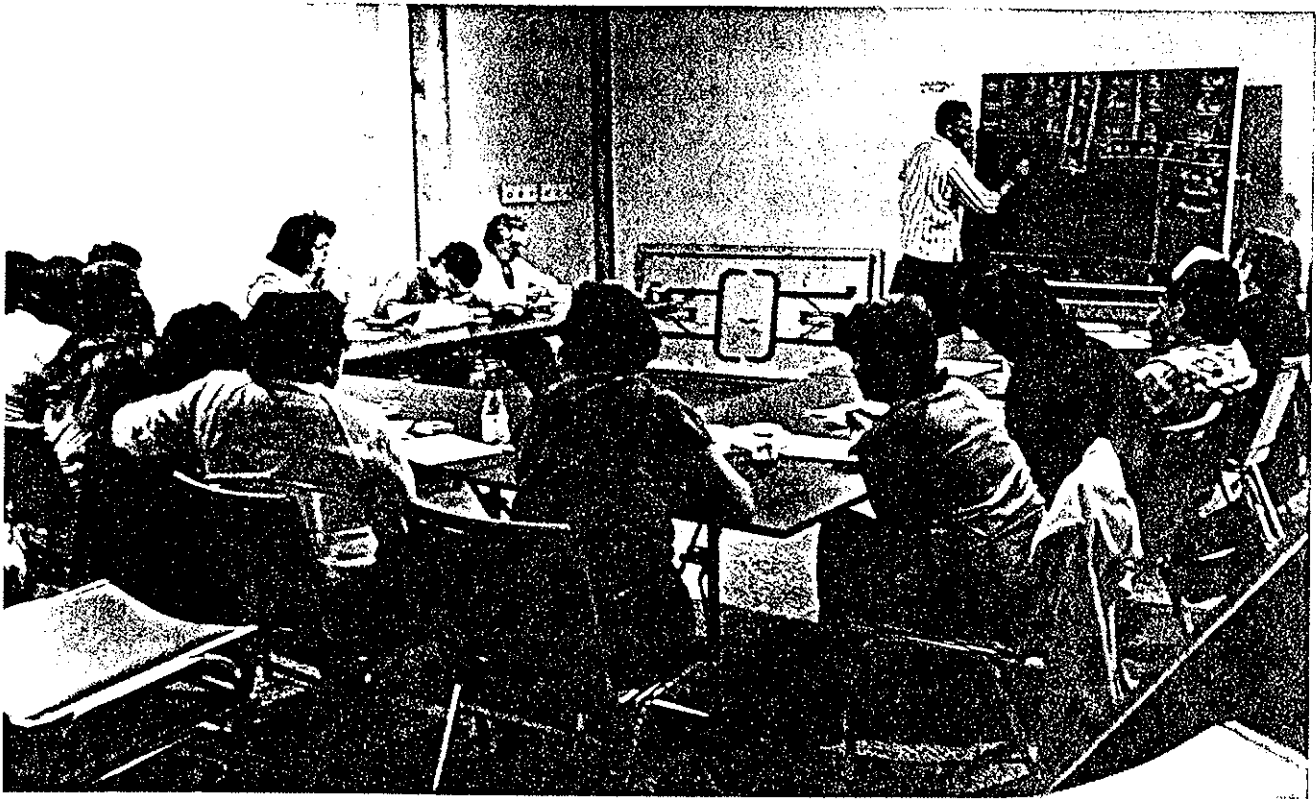


U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



THE KWAKWALA TEACHER TRAINING PROJECT in session at the U'mista Cultural Centre, with Jay Gwasdi Powell.



AUGUST 1984

MESSAGE FROM THE CURATOR

First of all, the good news! March 22, 1984 marked the tenth anniversary of the incorporation of the U'mista Cultural Society. In the ten years, we have accomplished many things and have much to be proud of. Very little could have happened without the support of our members, who believe in the aims and objectives of the Society. We're getting older and better!

The best news to report is that "Box of Treasures" our second film was sold to CBC Television, within two weeks after we signed the contract with Canadian Filmmakers Distribution West. Positive response to the film continues. The following is an excerpt from a review by Mark S. Fleisher, University of Washington, which appears in the American Anthropologist:

"Aesthetically and semantically this film is wonderful. Technically, the commentary is clear and sharp; it includes native opinions expressed in English and Kwakiutl, with subtitles, concerning the history of the Kwakiutl in Alert Bay and tidbits of contemporary ethnographic data concerning, for example, changes in their fishing industry and artistic revitalization. The soundtrack is beautifully blended with glorious visual imagery. There is careful juxtaposition of Kwakiutl art with the physical setting of Alert Bay which is entertaining and tacitly expresses the essence of the spiritual nature of Kwakiutl lifestyle as a blend of culture and nature."

In January, we offered the first in a series of Teacher Training Workshops. Initially, the course was set up for the six or seven language teachers in our area, but we ended up with 23 people, including art and dance instructors, a nursery school teacher, teacher aides and interested parents, as well as the language teachers.

The course ended in May, with all participants successfully completing the assignments. The second course was offered in July, to teach reading and writing Kwakwaka'wakw, with basically the same group of enthusiastic students.

We are fortunate to have Jay Powell, Vickie Jensen and Joy Wild as resource people for the Kwakwala Teacher Training Programme (KTTP) and look forward to the next course in the fall.

The response of the students indicates that the training programme is filling a real need for our people who are involved in education. The U'mista Cultural Centre is proud of this latest success story and we appreciate the support of School District #85 for this programme.

Because funding for this kind of training is limited, the students have undertaken their own fund-raising projects, such as Bingo, a bake sale and raffle with prizes donated by the Centre's Gift Shop.

As a joint project between the Nuyambalees Society and our own, we submitted a proposal under the Specific Claims office of Indian Affairs, which has approved a budget of \$27,025.00. The money will cover the costs of work necessary to negotiate the return of the balance of the Potlatch Collection, presently held by the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and the Museum of the American Indian in New York.

We welcome to our staff, as administrative assistant, Jay Lowe, who joined us on July 1st. Jay's previous experience at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria is a valuable asset to the operation of our Centre. Because Jay is taking over some of my responsibilities, I have more time for oral history recording, transcribing and translating materials we have already collected. I'm having a wonderful time!

Thanks to Gerry Ambers whose idea it was to develop a "Kwakwaka'wakw Hall of Fame". During the summer, we have had Patrick Alfred, John Bruce, A.J. and Leonard Scow and recently, Tanya Plourde working on the project. The students have selected a number of our people who have made significant contributions to our cultural survival.

Note: Our thanks to T.D. Nelson, member of the Board of Directors, for volunteering to type the Newsletter for us.

Gilakas'la, 'Maxwa'la'ogwa

Now, for the bad news:

We were not able to undertake a summer archaeology project, as the Nimpkish Band did not approve any funds for the continuation of the work. However, we hope that next summer, it will be possible to carry out further work on the Gwa'ni.

This week, we received word that the Nimpkish Band Council had withdrawn its support from the U'mista Cultural Centre. This support was in the form of the Cultural Education Centres Programme funding, which was used to carry out the cultural programme for the T̓isalagi'lakw School and to offer resources to other reserves.

The decision by the Nimpkish Band Council will not affect the overall operation of the Centre, but will restrict the programming we can offer, until other funding can be secured.

We wish the Nimpkish Band Council every success in operating its cultural programme, at the same time, we would remind everyone that whatever resources and services we have at the Centre, are still available to all Bands in our area.

In this, our fourth year of operation, we can look at all our accomplishments with great satisfaction and pride.

Board members whose terms have expired deserve our special thanks and we know we can count on their continued support.

We have much more work ahead of us and we can only succeed by working together as we have in the past.

Gilakas'la.

NOTICE

The History of Commercial Fishing

An illustrated lecture presented by Duncan Stacey, History Division, British Columbia Provincial Museum.

Tuesday, September 19th

7:30 p.m.

U'mista Cultural Centre

Board of Directors

The Annual General Meeting was held in June, with the following members elected for a two year term:

Willie Walkus
Frank Nelson
Eva Cook
George Hunt Jr
Stanley Hunt Sr

Board members either re-elected or serving the second year of their terms are:

Bill Cranmer - Chairman
Donna Cranmer - Secretary/Treasurer
Elizabeth Nelson
Peter Smith
Harry Walkus

The next meeting of the General Membership will be held saturday 6th October.

Highlights from Financial Statements
year ended 31 March 1984

Fixed Assets	\$708,847.00
Consolidated Surplus	89,594.00
Expenditures by Programme:	
Administration	72,843.00
Language Books	5,768.00
Cultural Education	34,328.00
Archaeology Project	37,030.00
Film - "Box of Treasures"	2,698.00
Big House Renovations	8,910.00
K.T.T.P.	4,376.00
Video & Photography	5,421.00
<u>SOURCES OF REVENUE:</u>	
Federal	112,365.00
Provincial	7,814.00
Nimpkish Band	19,452.00
Self Generated	20,570.00

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome and thank the following new members for their support:

Gerry Ambers	Al Speck	Connie Skinner
Andrew Alfred	DeeDee Alfred	Lynne Robyns
Tadeusz Miksa	Albert Hunt	Sonny Isaac
Dolly Lansdowne	Joanne James	Mary Plumridge
Sarah Child	Carol Wilson	Elaine Bruce
Mern Rosback	Margaret Denhoff	Tom Stone
Joy Wild	Bertha Larson	Stanley Walens
Wayne Cook	Nola Johnston	Byron Koke
Mary Dick	Sande Willie	Richard Kazanowski
Robert Boehnke	Tiiu McCormick	Gloria Snively
Yvonne Wilson	Dale Peterson	Jenifer Butterfield
Steven Jay Rudy	Donald Dodman	Phillip Alfred Jr
Dorothy Griffith	Phillip Ward	Gina Jolliffe

Membership is vital to the success of our Centre. It is an indicator to many funding agencies of our local support.

Although the quality of our programmes is the prime determinant for funding, local support weighs heavily in the decision to issue Grants to fund our activities.

Our goal is to reach 500 members from the present 300, by next summer!

So tell your friends to visit us and take out a membership, or, when you think of gifts for a friend think of a 'Gift Membership' in the U'mista Cultural Centre.

"GIFT SHOP"

Members get a 10% discount when buying at our shop! Come in often to see our selection of cards, books, sterling silver, prints, carvings, etc.

If you are a local artist, come in and talk to Davina Hunt about selling your work through the shop.

All profits from the shop are used to enhance our collection or furnishings as required.

CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRE ACTIVITY -

Fran Dick & Audrey Wilson - Kwakwala Teachers
Ethel Alfred & Agnes Cranmer - Resource People

We will continue to provide cultural programmes for the students of T'isalagi'lakw School, including language, dance and cultural history. (until March 31/85, see page 3.)

This is considered the most important of our many mandates.

Singing classes are Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm, the singing class meets to learn ceremonial songs which have been recorded with our Old People and transcribed by our Curator.

If you would like to join this class, please call the Centre and make arrangements. (974-5403)

ADMINISTRATION - BIG HOUSE RENOVATIONS

We have spent \$52,000.00 renovating the Big House to accomodate more people. \$26,000.00 came from Employment Canada and \$20,000.00 from the Province of BC. The balance was self generated income.

The Big House is now 70' by 70' with more comfortable seating and a new roof. All that remains is to repaint the design on the front of the building.

A 'special thanks' to the crew, who worked on this project at minimum wage and especially to Jake McDougall and Richard Prevost who saw the project through from start to finish!

Kwakwala Teacher Training Program

Vickie Jensen and Joy Wild will be back for the next session on the 13th and 14th of September 1984. The first class will be 3:00 pm on the 13th.

This session is equivalent to one (1) credit at North Island College.

"FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CENTRE"

As many of you know, we have had plans to add two more Big Houses to the Cultural Centre, one as a carvers' workshop and the other, as a classroom and meeting room.

We are proud of the record we have, as the leading Native education centre in Canada. Many Centres are using U'mista as a model for their own development.

We feel the addition of two Big Houses will help provide further learning resources and we will retain our leadership in the field.

The estimated cost of such a project is \$300,000.00. The Centre will have to raise approximately \$100,000.00 of this amount, in order to obtain Government support.

So please, start saving now for a 1984 tax deductible donation! We will be getting in touch with you later this fall with more details.

GENERAL INFORMATION - U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE

Staff

Gloria Cranmer Webster	-Curator
Jay Lowe	-Administrative Assistant
Davina Hunt	-Secretary/Receptionist

Summer Hours (1 May - 30 Sept)

Monday - Friday	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sunday	CLOSED

ADMISSION

Adults	\$2.00
Children (under 12)	.50
Senior Citizens	\$1.00

MEMBERSHIP

Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 20.00
Sustaining	\$ 100.00
Life	\$1,000.00