



T'sit'sak'alam (News)



Gwa'sala Village of Takus (Smith Inlet)

Photo courtesy British Columbia Museum UPN-00255

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Executive Director's musings

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Gilakas'la

Alert Bay Grads-NISS 2004

Julia Bruce
Linda Speck
Beverly Wadhams
Liz Mountain
Demicia Speck
Fallon Skinner
Hilary Lansdowne
Edgar Cranmer
Tommy Puglas
Justine Whonnock

Everyone here at the U'mista Cultural Centre would like to congratulate all the students that graduated June 2004
Good luck to you all!

How the Gwa'sala people began to fish at Long Lake

A long time ago the Gwa'sala people lived on the islands at the mouth of Smith Inlet. One day two brothers saw mergansers swimming by. They were beautiful with their red and black and white feathers. The brothers admired them and wanted to eat them. They pushed their canoe into the water and paddled after the birds.

That's how they learned about Smith Inlet. First they followed the mergansers into the mouth of the inlet. They saw a long beach there, and salmon. Then the mergansers swam far up the inlet to the head. The brothers saw a big river there, the Nekite, but the mergansers kept swimming on. They saw another river where small dog-salmon spawn late in the fall, but the mergansers swam further. The brothers followed the mergansers into a channel where the water ran fast towards them, but it was wide enough for them to pass through into the quiet water of a lagoon on the far side.

They paddled on after the mergansers, and soon they saw smoke across the water ahead. They were very surprised at that and said to each other, "Let's stop there and see what is going on." They let the mergansers swim away, tied up their

canoes, and went ashore. They started walking towards the smoke. There was a large, strong river there and they saw a man making t'rubakw (barbequed salmon) in a way they had not seen before. He had clamped the salmon horizontally on their stakes around the fire. They asked the man his name.

"I am Sugwalis," he said, "I am from the 'Nak'waxda'xw people." The brothers said to Sugwalis, "That's not the way of the salmon in our river."

"Then show me how the salmon are in your river," Sugwalis said. The brothers pulled out a stake and re-clamped the salmon on it, not sideways but vertically. "There," they said, "that's the way of the salmon in our river."

That is how the brothers began to fish in the river at Toksi, where the river flows from Long Lake into Wyclese Lagoon. The brothers returned to their people on the islands at the mouth of Smith Inlet. They told them about everything they had seen and said that everyone would be better off up the Inlet. Then all the people moved to Toksi. There at the river, they all came together.

As told by Harry Walkus

*Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Stories
Volume 1*



Lucy Joseph and Harry Walkus



Ernest Alfred
Kwak'wala Language Trainee

I came to the U'mista Cultural Centre in September as the Kwak'wala Language Program trainee.

I first started learning Kwak'wala, our songs, and dances as a young child at the T'lisalagi'lakw School. Big Granny, Auntie Ethel, Andrea Cranmer Wa Wasden became teachers of mine. We used to sing and dance in the Potlatch Collection Bighouse, here at the U'mista. I was taught to read and write Kwak'wala by Audrey Wilson and Pauline Alfred using the U'mista orthography. Many people have taught me about our culture and traditional ways in all areas.

When I came to work at the U'mista, I quickly realized that I still have a lot to learn.

I have joined the language classes held twice a week. Everyone's encouraged to join. I hope to see more children, and Kwak'wala speakers participate. We are having a great time learning together.

I am really happy and excited to be an employee at the U'mista. I am determined to learn as much as I can while I'm here with major emphasis on Kwak'wala.

I think we should all think about the current state of Kwak'wala. What are we, as individuals going to do to revive our threatened language? Potlatches and feasts will not have the same meaning without Kwak'wala.

You will find some sentences taken from the *Learning Kwak'wala series* on page 13 of this Newsletter.

All the learning language books are available at the U'mista gift shop. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the U'mista Cultural Centre
250 974-5403
E-mail:
umistastudents@cablerocket.com

K'wak'waba'las,
Ernest Alfred

Greetings to all, I started working in June and then I was badly injured playing soccer and my training position was put on hold. After returning in late August, getting back to the flow of things wasn't too hard. We have been very busy coordinating events and cultural activities.

During the last weeks of summer we had a paper mache mask-making workshop with a great group of kids. This was an amazing turn out, all participants participated in the



Trish Nolie
Cultural Activity Programmer
Trainee

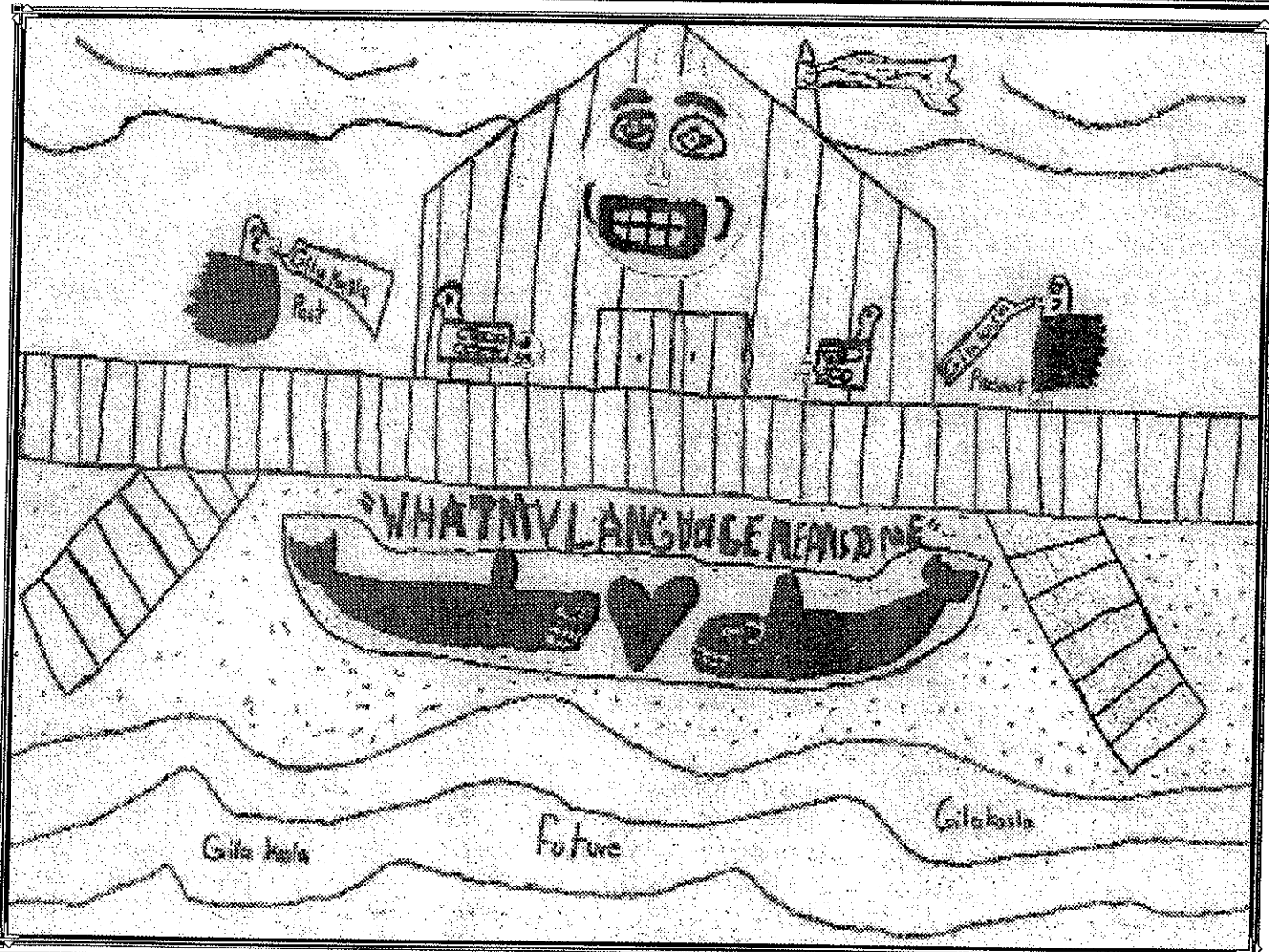
parade and also displayed the masks in the free art exhibit, here at the U'mista. We arranged for Eva Dick to come in and present legends and do a puppet workshop that was 4 days long. Many kids from the community participated. I have also been researching legends and traditions of our people.

For our cultural activities to be successful we need to work together with all Kwakwaka'wakw communities, to maintain our culture and language.

The U'mista Cultural Centre is here to enhance our knowledge. I am very fortunate to be learning and preserving our ways.

Gilakas'la,
Nage'ga
Trish Nolie

Drawing By Loni Anderson of Gwa'sala First Nation "WHAT MY LANGUAGE MEANS TO ME"



Won 2nd prize in the 8-11 year old category of the
First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres project.
Loni's drawing captures all the elements of her culture.
We are very proud to share Loni's drawing and achievement with you
Congratulations Loni!
Her original is very colorful and Loni won \$150.00 for her drawing.
It is now beautifully framed and hangs in the National office

Paddling To Where I Stand (UBC Press \$85)

book review by Joan Givner

No birth records exist for First Nations children born in the 1800s, but it's known that Agnes Alfred, the subject of *Paddling To Where I Stand* (UBC Press \$85), was born early in the last decade of the nineteenth century and she lived for more than 100 years.

Alfred's age and her position as a Qwiqwasutinuxw noblewoman meant she had access to a vast store of traditional knowledge. She did not speak English and she had no Western education, so she developed extraordinary skills in remembering and story-telling, as well as in memorizing myths, chants, and historical accounts.

Thus Agnes Alfred, who was forced by her family to convert to Christianity as a child, later took upon herself the task of passing her traditional knowledge to younger generations.

In a chapter entitled "Myth Time," she tells stories such as that of the girl who is dragged into the underworld to live among the Halibut people. This girl is retrieved years later by reaching for one of her father's halibut hooks, and so returns to her parents.

Women such as Agnes Alfred also functioned as mediators between the natural-human-profane realm and the supernatural-sacred realm.

Agnes Alfred's transmission of her knowledge might have remained in the realm of the oral, and possibly been lost eventually, had it not been for a remarkable collaboration that occurred between Alfred, the French-born



Paddling to Where I Stand
AGNES ALFRED, QWIQWASUTINUXW NOBLEWOMAN

Edited by Martine J. Reid · Translated by Daisy Sewid-Smith

anthropologist Martine J. Reid, and the matriarch's granddaughter, Daisy Sewid-Smith, a Kwakwaka'wakw language instructor at the University of Victoria.

After Reid came to UBC as a French Ph.D student in 1975, she began to

participate in a program to preserve the heritage of aboriginal peoples—and that led her to "Mrs. Alfred."

When Reid met Agnes Alfred, she was a widow of about eighty, but still independent and living alone in the big

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Hello to everyone, this is

Dimicia Speck. I am a member of the 'Namgis First Nation. I was this year's summer worker at the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council office, and also working alongside Lillian Hunt at the Tourism Alert Bay office/U'mista Cultural Centre. So far this has been a pleasant and gainful experience. I've learned a lot in the short time I've been here. Going out on the boat for the fish farm demonstration was very interesting, the amount of support given from various groups of people was amazing to see. I have also been learning a lot about the potlatch collection over at the U'mista. Going on guided tours with Lillian and being able to listen to the histories is very helpful and informative. I was also very fortunate to have the opportunity to go to the Offshore Oil and Gas information workshop held in Campbell River. The workshop was an enormous eye opener as to what the benefits would be in exploring offshore oil and gas, and also the environmental risks and hazards. Learning about these risks is very concerning, because as we all know, protecting the environment for the future generations is vital. It was nice to see familiar faces at the workshop, but also a bit disappointing to not see other youth in my age range there learning also. I believe it is very important for the youth in our communities to get involved and start learning about our current issues, because one day the issues will be put forth in front of us to deal with. These are issues that affect us now or may very well effect us in the near future. I would like to thank the MTTC for giving me the opportunity to work in their office this summer. It is definitely a pleasure to work with everyone here, it's great to work/learn and also have some fun while doing that. I hope everyone had a great summer!

Tourism Programs:

The tourism programs that we offer to visitors from around the world are posted here with fees:

Guided tour of the Potlatch Collection \$ 8.03 per person (group minimum 15)
 Traditional performance by the T'sasa'a Group \$15.00 per adult \$ 6.00 per child
 Traditional seafood feast \$20.00 per plate and incredible bag lunch \$10.00 per person
 Island walking tour \$10.00 per person by prearrangement.

We have developed letters of invitation to the tour operators who bring their guests into our territories to encourage the involvement of the Kwakwaka'wakw in their programs and also a thank you to the tour operators who are already working with us by bringing their visitors to participate in our tour programs.

We are members of the regional tour associations:

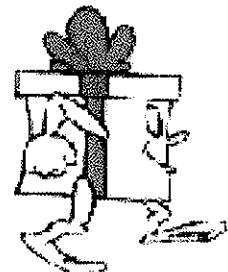
Vancouver Island North Visitors Association (VINVA)
 Tourism Association of Vancouver Island (TAVI)
 Aboriginal Tourism BC (ATBC)

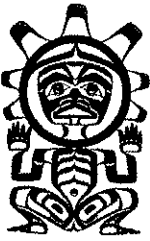
We also joined the Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce to encourage working together and to enhance the promotion of U'mista Cultural Centre. We are working cooperatively with the 'Namgis First Nation and the Village of Alert Bay to strengthen our marketing opportunities. The U'mista Cultural Centre has contributed the design of the ads we include in many tourism publications and websites. This is achieved with the much-appreciated volunteer efforts of Terri Bruce who also volunteers towards the publishing of our newsletter. Pat Anderson has also been volunteering with our newsletter production. Gilakas'la la Terri and Pat!

We will be including Tourism updates in our future newsletters.

Lillian Hunt,
 Tourism Alert Bay
 E: tourab@island.net

*Watch for
 our next
 issue. It will
 be out
 Christmas
 2004 which
 will have
 details about
 our fabulous
 annual
 Christmas
 Specials for
 your holiday
 gift giving*





U'mista Cultural Centre

P.O. Box 253, Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0
 Phone: 250-974-5403 - Fax: 250-974-5499
 E-mail: umista@cablerocket.com Web:
www.umista.org

Retail Price List: U'mista Cultural Society

Quantity	Description	PLU	Retail	Total
	CD - Rising From The Ashes Songs of the Kwakwaka'wakw	021-1207	\$20.00	
	CD - One Nation One Voice Songs of the Kwakwaka'wakw led by William Wasden Jr.	019-1209	\$20.00	
	CD - Laxwe'gila: Gathering Strength	24-1	\$20.00	
	Cassette - One Nation One Voice	019-1208	\$10.00	
	Video - I'tusto, Big House Documentary <i>rebuilding of our traditional Big House Destroyed by an arsonist</i>	009-1000	\$25.00	
	Video - I'tusto, Big House Kwak'wala version	009-1001	\$25.00	
	Video - I'tusto, Big House Opening Ceremony Highlights	021-1210	\$35.00	
	Video - T'ri'na: The Rendering of Wealth, An age-old tradition of the rendering of oil from Eulachon Fish	009-1210	\$40.00	
	Video - 'Qatuwas: People Gathering Together. 1993 Canoe journey to Bella Bella	00-1204	\$40.00	
	Video - Potlatch: A Strict Law Bids Us Dance. Tracing the history of the Potlatch	009-1201	\$50.00	
	Video - Box of Treasures A story of the survival of the Kwakwaka'wakw	009-1200	\$35.00	
	Video - gwishalaayt - The spirit wraps around you. Chilkat and Northern geometric weaving	009-1205	\$30.00	
	Video - Mungo Martin	009-1202	\$30.00	
	Video - Hamat'sa	019-1211	\$35.00	
	Video - Singing our songs	009-1212	\$40.00	
	Video - Laxwesa Wa	009-1203	\$40.00	
	Coloring Book - Color Kumugwe's World illustrations by Joe R. Wilson, Alert Bay, BC	007-800	\$8.95	
	The Living World: Plants and Animals of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Juanita Pasco	007-3097	\$29.95	
	12 books with CDs Kwak'wala Language Learning Series		\$240.00	
	Nugwa'am: All About Me- A language learning CD	019-1212	\$20.00	
	Sub Total			
	Tax (Where applicable)			
	Total			

U'mista Cultural Society

Canadian/ International Membership Form

Do you have Band Membership or can you trace ancestry to a Band member of Kwakwaka'wakw? Yes / No
 If yes, give Band Name and Number: (**If Band Number completed, G.S.T. is not applicable**)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Canadian Annual Fee: \$15.00 (Add \$1.05) GST if Applicable International Annual Fee: \$26.75 (GST Included)

(Payable in Canadian Funds, Cheque or Money Order to the U'mista Cultural Centre)

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Province: _____
 Country: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Res Phone: _____ Bus. Phone: _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Canadian Annual Fee: \$25.00 (Add \$1.75) GST if Applicable International Annual Fee: \$37.45 (GST Included)

May include up to two adults and children up to 19 years of age. (Payable in Canadian Funds, Visa, Mastercard or Money Order to the U'mista Cultural Centre)

Name: (Adult #1) _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ Province: _____
 Country: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Res Phone: _____ Bus. Phone: _____

Name (Adult #2): _____

Children Names:	Birthdate (YY/MM/DD)
Name: _____	D.O.B. ____ / ____ / ____
Name: _____	D.O.B. ____ / ____ / ____
Name: _____	D.O.B. ____ / ____ / ____
Name: _____	D.O.B. ____ / ____ / ____
Name: _____	D.O.B. ____ / ____ / ____

PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE AND MAIL TO: U'mista Cultural Centre
P.O. Box 253
Alert Bay, B.C.
V0N 1A0

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

























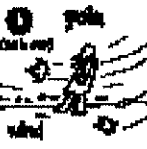









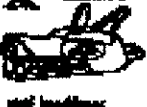




Payment Date _____ Expiry Date _____ Amount \$ _____

Membership Cards Computer Update

Newsletter Letter

Process Date _____ Processed by: _____

KWAK'WALA ALPHABET

						a ahalo 
a ahalo 	b baal 	d daga 	dt dtal 	dz dzagala 	e ega 	
g gah 	gw gwaga 	g gaga 	gw gwaga 	h haganan 	i itaga 	
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Illustrations by Mike Schreiber



T'sit'sak'alam (News)



Village of Takus (Smith Inlet)

Photo courtesy British Columbia Museum UPN-00255

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Executive Director's musings

Fall 2004.....it is hard to believe but here it is. We are now on to our winter schedule; open Monday through to Friday from 9am to 5pm. So, we will get back to our regular activities as well. Kwakwaka community language classes will start October 12 at 6pm at the Tl'isalagi'lakw School and then regularly on Monday, October 18th at 6 to 7:30pm at the Tl'isalagi'lakw School and at U'mista on Tuesdays at the at 3:30 to 5pm. We extend an invitation to everyone wanting to learn kwakwaka to join us on Mondays and Tuesdays. It is fun.....a lot of speaking, writing with the U'mista orthography and singing. Part of the kwakwaka language group had the "honour" of opening the 3rd Annual MusicFest. The Dulowas sang You Win Again in kwakwaka.

Namgis First Nation is planning to resume their *Learning Together* evenings at the U'mista. So, watch for their notices or contact Honey Jacobsen for more details at 974-5556.

On November 1, 2004 we will celebrate the 24th Anniversary of the opening of U'mista. This is a special celebration as the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, BC have agreed to a long term loan of 3 objects to the U'mista and these pieces will be shown to the guests at the celebration at the Big House. Celebrations will begin with an open house at the U'mista at 3pm and continue with dinner at 5:30 pm at the Big House followed by speeches, singing and dancing. All the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations, our members and the community are invited. Our cultural activities program trainees will be coordinating this evening and they will be contacting the community for your help to make this a very special event. Please do not hesitate to contact them as well. They are Lillian Hunt, Patricia Nolie and Ernest Alfred Jr. and they can be con-

Directors Update**Andrea Sanborn**

tacted at 974-5403.

Our Cultural Activities Programmer Trainees will be meeting with the School District to discuss our outreach programs that include all our of territories. We will also begin planning discussions for a regional schools "play potlatch" to be held in the Spring 2005. This will include everything from planning the ceremony, inviting guests and speakers, planning the gifting, fund raising and all else that goes into making this event a successful and meaningful one for all our students in the North Island.

We had many visitors this summer but hope to build upon this for next season with our growing *Wila'mola: we are all traveling together* program. As this program grows, so will the opportunities for those who choose to be a part of it within the Kwakwaka'wakw territories. U'mista leads this program to ensure the cultural authenticity and integrity are maintained by all participants including our visitors and suppliers. U'mista will ensure that First Nations operators and suppliers remain integral to this program and will continue to invite partners and visitors to be a part of *Wila'mola*.

Our Annual General Meeting was held September 25, 2004 and the elections resulted in all of the outgoing members being re-elected so your Board of Directors remains unchanged. We did have expressions of interest from others and encouraged them to remain involved and thank them for allowing their names to stand for nomination. We will include a copy of the Annual report in this issue of our newly designed *U'mista* newsletter.

Pat Anderson has been very helpful, working along side Terri Bruce and Lillian Hunt our Cultural Activities Programmer trainee, volunteering to bring a fresh outlook to our newsletter. Our other trainees are Trish Nolie and Ernest Alfred Jr. who have also been busy with the content for this issue.

I attended the BC Museums' Association conference held in Nanaimo October 14,15 and 16 and found it to be informative with lots of meaningful workshops and presentations. Although not the best of news, it was reassuring to find that we are not the only ones facing the tremendous challenges that the lack of operational funding brings. Representatives from BC Arts Council, Canada Council, Vancouver Foundation, BC Gaming and Canadian Heritage were present to try to provide enough information or contacts to make this process easier if possible. It certainly is evident that we must become more creative and innovative when developing our budgets and plans. We thought we had our building maintenance complete with the finishing touches of resealing the exterior siding against weather for this year and then discovered a leak in our roof over the ramp leading to the Potlatch Collection exhibit room. This is not the time of year to start any roof work so we will have to wait until Spring 2005 to deal with this. This gives us some time to search for funding to have this work

Continued on page 3

continued from page 3

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Good luck to you all!

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As told by Harry Walkus
Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Stories
Volume 1



Lucy Joseph and Harry Walkus

NAMGIS HOUSE UPDATE

by Barb Cranmer



Barb Cranmer
Namgis Band Councilor

The Namgis House Steering Committee continues to work hard towards the revitalization of the building. It's been stated that buildings like St. Mike's scattered through the province were designated to assimilate the natives and destroy culture, language and identity. Some of these buildings were torn down, while others are transformed into places of language retention, cultural tourism, economic development opportunities, while symbolizing the strength and perseverance of community groups such as the Steering Committee.

Plans are in place for a St. Mike's Gathering next August 2005, where former students can meet in Alert Bay, this is an important time for healing and transformation

To introduce the designation of St. Mike's as a historic place, because of its heritage value, which is embodied in its aesthetic, historic, cultural, social and spiritual significance. We are requesting the Government of Canada to list St. Mike's as a Historic Place on the Canadian Register of Historic Places,

where funds would be made available under this Federal Government program.

This would be a first in Canada put forward by a First Nation.

Plans are going ahead to a critical point in the project, a capital campaign will begin shortly to start raising the funds to revitalize the building

The Namgis House Steering Committee are: Barb Cranmer – Chairperson, Roy Cranmer, and Chief Bill Cranmer who represent Namgis First Nation Council, Andrea Sanborn, Lillian Hunt, Emma Tamlin, Donna Cranmer, Evelyn Voyageur, Lawrence Ambers, Genesis Hunt and Irene Isaac. We will keep you informed as plans and momentum are built for this very worthwhile project.

School District #85
First Nation Programs

Nugwa'am, Kathleen King-Hunt. I am the District Principal, First Nation Programs School District #85. I have a few items to share in this newsletter. EDUCATION FORUM, SD#85
On September 20, 2004 School District #85, Vancouver Island North's - First Nation Education Committee (FNEC), Alert Bay Interagency, NISS and Alert Bay Elementary School and community members participated in an EDUCATION FORUM to introduce and receive community input into a ministry initiative call an Enhancement Agreement (EA). The EA is to

improve all Aboriginal ancestry student achievement in our public schools. The forum and break-out sessions provided valuable information for an EA. I would like to thank the following people who helped organize the event: Presenters: Frank MacLean, Acting Principal at NISS; Maggie Sedgemore, FN Parent's Club co-ordinator at PHSS, Alert Bay Elementary School *Through Our Eyes Photographic Display*, Namgis First Nation for Recreation Centre and door prize, Namgis Recreation Centre for set-up and snacks, NISS for snacks and NISS students for putting away the tables. I would like to acknowledge individuals Alert Bay Elementary schoolchildren photographic work, Betty McCollough, Verna Ambers and Pearl Brothie for the assistance before the event.

FUTURE INITIATIVES, SD#85 & U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE

On Thursday, October 7, I met with the U'mista Cultural Centre, Lillian Hunt and Andrea Sanborn to plan a refresher course for SD#85 teachers and/or increase the awareness of UCC language tools for the school system. As a result, UCC will be presenting a workshop at our November 19th School District Implementation Day, First Nations New Directions, for teachers and staff. Dr. Joanne Archibald, UBC will be the keynote speaker.

In addition, an inter-school cultural event-total cultural experience will be planned for the spring at the Alert Bay Big House. I will keep you posted on the plans and details.

Gilakas'la
Kathleen King-Hunt
District Principal, First Nations
Program SD#85



Lillian Hunt
Cultural Activity Program
Trainee

Gilakas'la,
Nugwa'am Lillian Hunt, hedan
gayut'an 'Yalis.

The Cultural Activity Training program has generated a lot of community interest so I would like to share some of the process with you. A hiring committee of elders, community and board members was formed to interview and select the two positions offered. They follow the position description closely and ask related questions. The focus is definitely cultural and an ability or willingness to learn and participate in these activities:

- Developing and planning cultural programs and activities
- Fund raising activities to pay for the programs we offer here including the honorariums for presenters
- Act as a liaison for community members to communicate the programs offered here
- Develop educational outreach programs to our schools
- Leading volunteer recruitment and training

To date we have completed the following activities:

- Paper maché mask making workshop for the children in August
- Entered the Seafest walking parade with their finished products
(We won third prize, which went directly into our fundraising "tin")
- A storytelling presentation by Eva Dick featuring Dzunuk'wa and the Madam and Willie Kalawi T'ubukw workshop/fundraiser, we learned the technique of barbecuing salmon and then sold it at the Seafest
- Thank you to Brian Wadhams who shared his T'ubukw making technique with the group
- Outreach with Kingcome Village
- Met with Kathleen Hunt-King of School District #85 to initiate the education programs
Kathleen has submitted an article for this newsletter on pg 5
- Developed an active volunteer database
- Presented the Genealogy program to Marilyn Dawson's 4/5 T'isilagi'lakw School class
- Maintaining the membership database

We have been very busy developing these programs and activities, which will be ongoing. We have a lot more to achieve in this training program and are working on:

- Providing a community forum for information through cross-cultural days, village visits and school outreach
 - Publishing the U'mista Newsletter
 - Program budget development and basic bookkeeping
- These programs are being developed for all the Kwakwaka'wakw to access here at the Centre as well as building upon the village outreach programs

so please contact us for more information.

Lillian Hunt, Cultural Activity
Programmer Trainee
Ph: 250-974-5403

E-mail:
umistaactivities@cablerocket.com

Announcements

Some of the other ideas for upcoming newsletters are:

A request to the T'isilagi'lakw and Alert Bay School students to write why the Kwak'wala language is important to them and how we can all help to keep our language alive.

The trainee staff will be contacting you!

These will be developed into regular articles:

Ongoing interview opportunities to encourage everyone to share their ideas and participation in the U'mista

-Calendar of events, you can call us with your announcements!

-Kwak'wala class updates

-Kwak'wala words and phrases

Please feel free to contact U'mista staff to share any ideas you may have.

Gilakas'la

Lillian Hunt





Ernest Alfred
Kwakwala Language Trainee

I came to the U'mista Cultural Centre in September as the Kwakwala Language Program trainee.

I first started learning Kwakwala, our songs, and dances as a young child at the T'lisalagi'lakw School. Big Granny, Auntie Ethel, Andrea Cranmer Wa Wasden became teachers of mine. We used to sing and dance in the Potlatch Collection Bighouse, here at the U'mista. I was taught to read and write Kwakwala by Audrey Wilson and Pauline Alfred using the U'mista orthography. Many people have taught me about our culture and traditional ways in all areas.

When I came to work at the U'mista, I quickly realized that I still have a lot to learn.

I have joined the language classes held twice a week. Everyone's encouraged to join. I hope to see more children, and Kwakwala speakers participate. We are having a great time learning together.

I am really happy and excited to be an employee at the U'mista. I am determined to learn as much as I can while I'm here with major emphasis on Kwakwala. I think we should all think about the current state of Kwakwala. What are we, as individuals going to do to revive our threatened language? Potlatches and feasts will not have the same meaning without Kwakwala.

You will find some sentences taken from the *Learning Kwakwala series* on page 13 of this Newsletter.

All the learning language books are available at the U'mista gift shop. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the U'mista Cultural Centre
250 974-5403

E:mail:
umistastudents@cablerocket.com

K'wak'waba'las,
Ernest Alfred

Greetings to all, I started working in June and then I was badly injured playing soccer and my training position was put on hold. After returning in late August, getting back to the flow of things wasn't too hard. We have been very busy coordinating events and cultural activities.

During the last weeks of summer we had a paper mache mask-making workshop with a great group of kids. This was an amazing turn out, all participants participated in the



Trish Nolie
Cultural Activity Programmer
Trainee

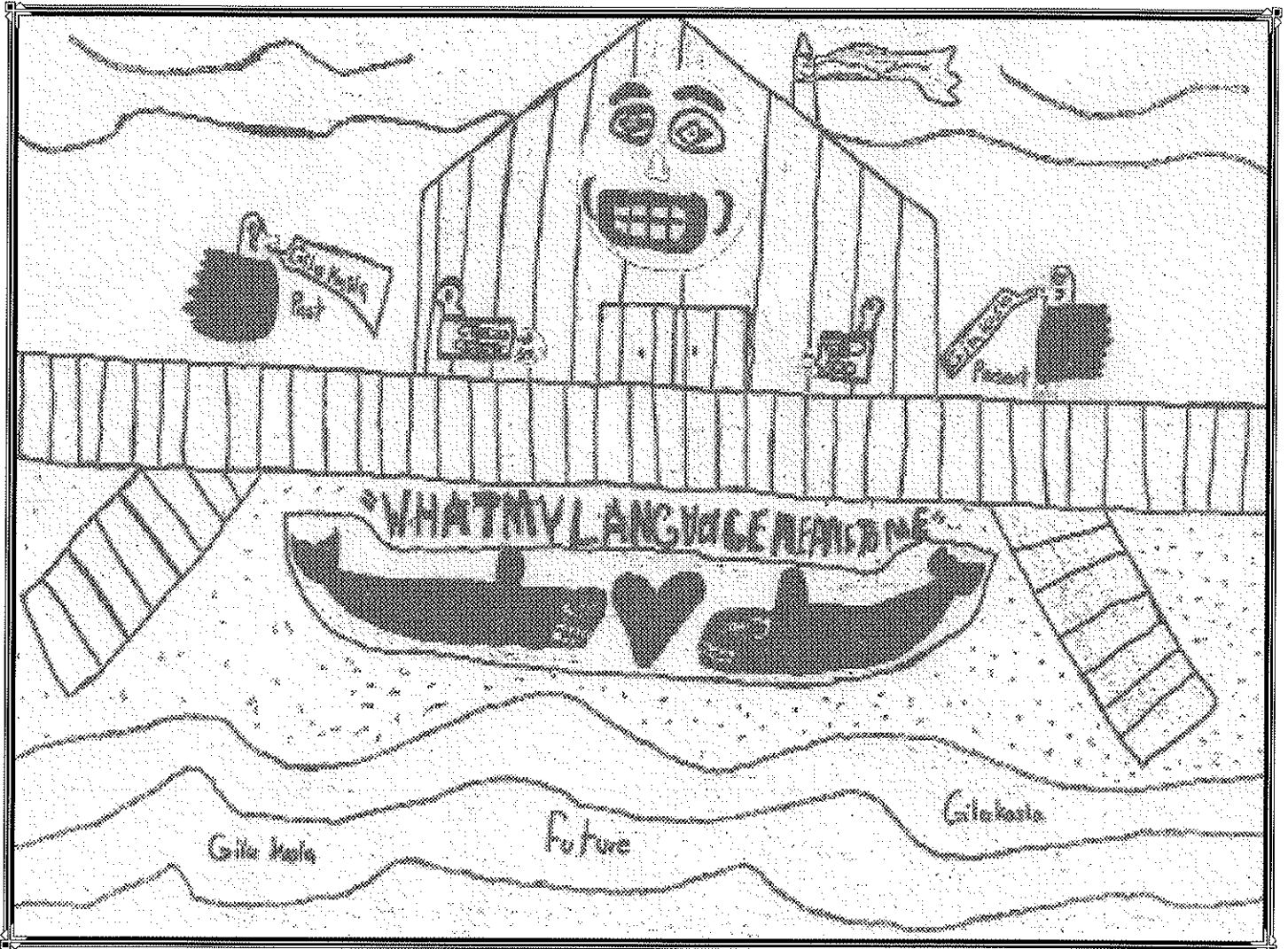
parade and also displayed the masks in the free art exhibit, here at the U'mista. We arranged for Eva Dick to come in and present legends and do a puppet workshop that was 4 days long. Many kids from the community participated. I have also been researching legends and traditions of our people.

For our cultural activities to be successful we need to work together with all Kwakwaka'wakw communities, to maintain our culture and language.

The U'mista Cultural Centre is here to enhance our knowledge. I am very fortunate to be learning and preserving our ways.

Gilakas'la,
Nage'ga
Trish Nolie

Drawing By Loni Anderson of Gwa'sala First Nation "WHAT MY LANGUAGE MEANS TO ME"



Won 2nd prize in the 8-11 year old category of the
First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres project.
Loni's drawing captures all the elements of her culture.
We are very proud to share Loni's drawing and achievement with you
Congratulations Loni!
Her original is very colorful and Loni won \$150.00 for her drawing.
It is now beautifully framed and hangs in the National office

The Descendants of Surpassing Traditions of the Gwa'sala

(Recorded by George Hunt)

Now I will tell another story about those who followed next to Surpassing, about his children, - Shelter, and his younger brother Great-body, - the ancestors of the north people. They were their first ancestors. I do not know why they lived on the island in mouth of the bay. There were two of them, - Shelter and his younger brother Great-body. They had been staying there a long time when they saw many gulls that had laid eggs. Then Shelter requested Great-body to go gather the eggs. Great-body went at once and gathered many eggs. Then he saw many kinds of shells; and he picked them up, and he carried them on his back to their house. As soon as shelter saw the many eggs and the many kinds of shells, he spoke to his younger brother, and said, "O brother! Let us alone have enough of this on this island. Now I will work so that they shall be our tribe." Thus he said, while he transformed all the many eggs into men, and he transformed all the many kinds of shells into woman. Now they were the numerous tribes of the brothers. Then Shelter again sent his younger brother to go and search for bullheads on the beach. In vain he searched for bullheads on the beach. Then he saw something like quartz, and he went back and looked at it; but the quartz that had been seen just disappeared. It was like the shadow of a man, what was seen by him. Now he saw really clearly that it turned into a man. Then the man, who was standing on the beach, spoke, and said, "Oh my dear! What are you trying to get on the beach, Great-body? I am Tide-Maker, the Chief of the tides of the sea that are running to and fro." Then Great-body became afraid. Therefore he jumped on a drift-log on the beach. Then he saw something like a woman standing on the water at the edge of the sea. He tried to see her clearly. Then the woman spoke, and said, "I am the one who is named Swell-Woman. (I

am) the woman (who controls) the swell." Then the woman said, "Come and take this for your supernatural power." Thus she said. Immediately Great-body went to the woman. Then the woman gave him a large crab. Then the woman said, "Oh, my dear! Your dance will be the war dance, and you will have for your super natural treasure this large crab. Thus she said; "and you will have this Tide-Maker for your dance in the winter dance." Thus she said. Then Swell-Woman disappeared, and Great-Body went home to his house.

Immediately he reported about the two things that he had met, - the Tide-Maker and Swell-Woman. Then he gave the large crab to shelter. Then he told about what Swell-Woman had said when she gave him the large crab. It was said that the crab was alive. It was the crab of the door of the house of Wealthy. Then Shelter felt glad on account of the report of his younger brother, and Shelter said that he would give a winter dance when the winter should come; for then was the time when the salmon-berry bushes were just sprouting: therefore the ancestors of the North people had no winter dance at that time. Shelter just kept it a secret. Shelter and his tribe were all sitting in their summer seats. They had not been long in their summer seats when many young sawbill ducks were seen swimming along. Then Shelter requested his tribe to launch their canoes and paddle after the sawbill ducks. Shelter knew that the sawbill ducks lay their eggs in the river; and therefore they paddled after the young sawbill ducks, because they knew that they would go back to the place where they had come from. Now all the canoes of the North people were on the water. Then the young sawbill ducks turned towards the lake. As soon as they arrived at the lake, the ancestors of the North tribe steered again for the river whose name is Narrow-Channel; and as soon as they approached it, Shelter saw smoke. Then they left the young sawbill ducks and steered for the smoke that was seen. As soon as they got near it, they saw a man sitting on the bank of a river.

Immediately they spoke to him, and questioned him (as to) why the man was sitting in the bank of the river. The man replied to them at once, and a silver salmon stood alongside the fire roasting, and that is what the man had in mind. The man said, "Oh my dear! How do you roast salmon, and what goes up this river?" Shelter replied at once, and said, "Oh, my dear! This way you roast your salmon is not the way I roast salmon, for we put the salmon across the roasting-tongs."

Then Shelter guessed that the silver salmon was going up the river, and he said, "Oh my dear! Silver salmon go up my river." Thus he said to him. Then he asked for the name of the man who was sitting on the bank of the river, and where he came from. Then the one who was sitting by the fire replied to Shelter, and said, "I am Worker, and I live in my house on the bank of my river here, and I come from Cherry, and I am 'Nak'waxdǫ'xw." Thus he said to him. Then Shelter questioned him, and said, "But where is your house?" Thus he said to him. Then Worker was just impressed on the account of this. Shelter went ashore from the river and speared some salmon; and as soon as he had four salmon, Shelter at once requested his young men to cut them. Then one of the young men took along roasting-tongs and put the four salmon across the one roasting-tong, and placed it by the side of the fire; and as soon as he had finished the work of roasting, Shelter spoke to Worker, and said, "Oh my dear! Now look at this. That is way (how) we North People roast this." Then Worker spoke to Shelter. "That is the way of our roasting salmon at Cherry." Thus he said to him. Then one of the attendants of Shelter hurriedly ancestors of the North tribe always fight about T'akus; but the North tribe say that they obtained it, and Shelter also obtained the war dance and the crab, and also Tide-Maker and the stone pile-driver.

That is the end.

Paddling To Where I Stand (UBC Press \$85)

book review by Joan Givner

No birth records exist for First Nations children born in the 1800s, but it's known that Agnes Alfred, the subject of *Paddling To Where I Stand* (UBC Press \$85), was born early in the last decade of the nineteenth century and she lived for more than 100 years.

Alfred's age and her position as a Qwiqwasutinuxw noblewoman meant she had access to a vast store of traditional knowledge. She did not speak English and she had no Western education, so she developed extraordinary skills in remembering and story-telling, as well as in memorizing myths, chants, and historical accounts.

Thus Agnes Alfred, who was forced by her family to convert to Christianity as a child, later took upon herself the task of passing her traditional knowledge to younger generations.

In a chapter entitled "Myth Time," she tells stories such as that of the girl who is dragged into the underworld to live among the Halibut people. This girl is retrieved years later by reaching for one of her father's halibut hooks, and so returns to her parents.

Women such as Agnes Alfred also functioned as mediators between the natural-human-profane realm and the supernatural-sacred realm.

Agnes Alfred's transmission of her knowledge might have remained in the realm of the oral, and possibly been lost eventually, had it not been for a remarkable collaboration that occurred between Alfred, the French-born



Paddling to Where I Stand
 AGNES ALFRED, QWIQWASUTINUXW NOBLEWOMAN

Edited by Martine J. Reid Translated by Daisy Sewid-Smith

anthropologist Martine J. Reid, and the matriarch's granddaughter, Daisy Sewid-Smith, a Kwakwaka'wakw language instructor at the University of Victoria.

After Reid came to UBC as a French Ph.D student in 1975, she began to

participate in a program to preserve the heritage of aboriginal peoples—and that led her to "Mrs. Alfred."

When Reid met Agnes Alfred, she was a widow of about eighty, but still independent and living alone in the big

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Paddling To Where I Stand

house built by her husband for her and their thirteen children in Alert Bay. It was her habit during the fall and winter to make a cycle of pilgrimages to visit her many relatives and descendants in Campbell River and elsewhere. As the friendship grew, Reid would accompany her on those annual visits, and thus she met Daisy Sewid-Smith, who had long been fascinated by her Native culture.

These three women eventually formed a trusting partnership—Mrs Alfred dictating her memoirs, Daisy Sewid-Smith acting as translator, and Martine Reid transcribing and editing.

The end result is a volume that defies easy categorization. It is an academic work, but the scholarly apparatus never overwhelms or drains the vitality of the subject.

Agnes Alfred's voice—by turns authoritative, humourous, poetic, and gnomic—rings out clearly throughout.

"Poor me; I was married at such a young age.... They sailed away with me right away, and they brought me to this logging camp.... I had not even menstruated yet. I was perhaps only twelve or thirteen. I was really young. I was married for quite some time before I menstruated."

A chapter entitled "Becoming a Woman," describes the onset of menstruation and an elaborate ritual that marked her passage into womanhood. She was secluded from the rest of her household for twelve days, concealed by a curtain in a corner of a room. During this time, she sat (wearing the hat reserved for nobility), and was cared for by her mother and the tribal elders.

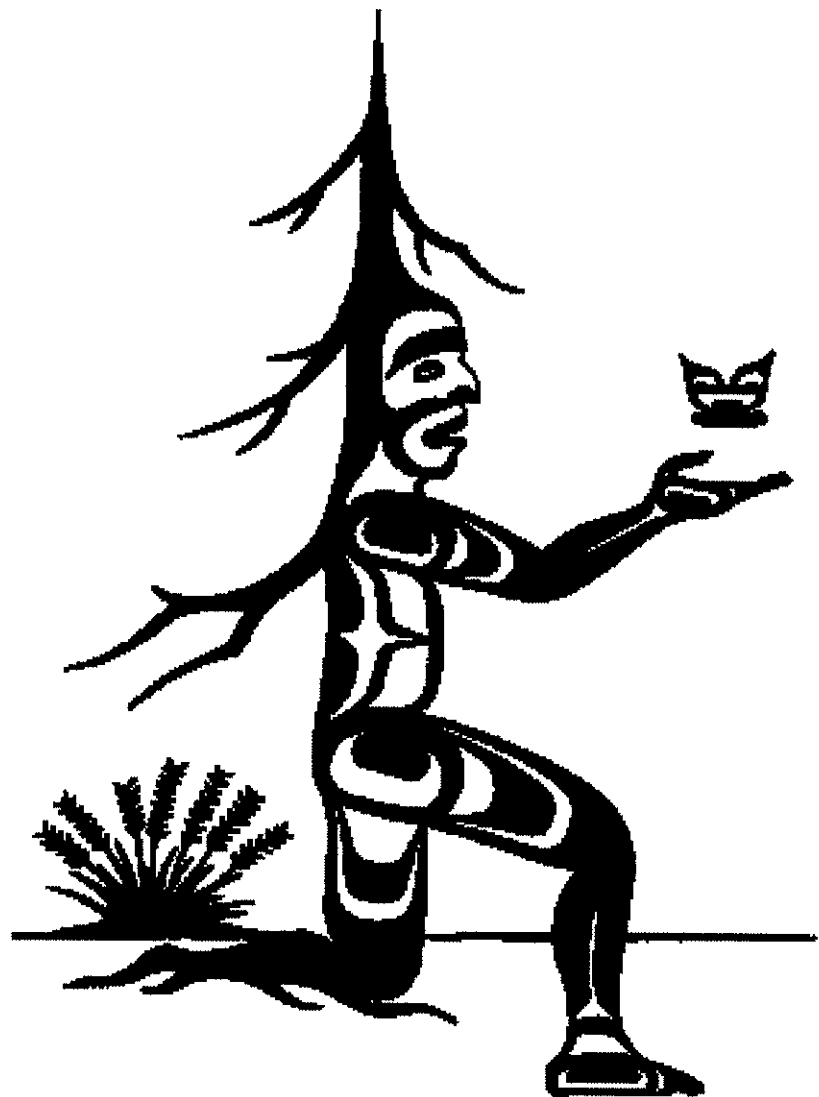
Besides the formal chapters, the editor has included a lively section of "Fragments of Recollections." These include such varied topics as "My First Baby Buggy," "My Washing Machine,"

and "I Dye My Hair."

The baby buggy was never used because "it looked so dreadful;" the washing machine was so overloaded that it toppled over and sent the wringer rollers scattering all over the floor; the hair dye, mistakenly applied like hair oil, dyed her hands black. Paddling To Where I Stand reveals that noblewomen played a significant role in their society beyond the perpetuation of lineages through child-bearing. Their dowries supplied men with very valuable privileges, both in tangible goods and in prestige, and the power and standing of the men were often derived from their wives.

Besides a preface, introduction, epilogue and footnotes, Paddling To Where I Stand has five appendices. These provide such information as a linguistic key to the alphabet, spelling, and pronunciation of the many words in the text written in the original language of the Kwakiutl people; an account of the Potlatch ceremony and the events surrounding its prohibition; and diagrams showing genealogy and kinship. 0-7748-0912-4

Joan Givner is a freelance writer who lives on Vancouver Island. This article is reprinted from the Autumn issue of BC BookWorld with permission.



Hello to everyone, this is

Dimicia Speck. I am a member of the 'Namgis First Nation.

I was this year's summer worker at the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council office, and also working alongside Lillian Hunt at the Tourism Alert Bay office/U'mista Cultural Centre. So far this has been a pleasant and gainful experience. I've learned a lot in the short time I've been here. Going out on the boat for the fish farm demonstration was very interesting, the amount of support given from various groups of people was amazing to see. I have also been learning a lot about the potlatch collection over at the U'mista. Going on guided tours with Lillian and being able to listen to the histories is very helpful and informative. I was also very fortunate to have the opportunity to go to the Offshore Oil and Gas information workshop held in Campbell River. The workshop was an enormous eye opener as to what the benefits would be in exploring offshore oil and gas, and also the environmental risks and hazards. Learning about these risks is very concerning, because as we all know, protecting the environment for the future generations is vital. It was nice to see familiar faces at the workshop, but also a bit disappointing to not see other youth in my age range there learning also. I believe it is very important for the youth in our communities to get involved and start learning about our current issues, because one day the issues will be put forth in front of us to deal with. These are issues that affect us now or may very well effect us in the near future. I would like to thank the MTTC for giving me the opportunity to work in their office this summer. It is definitely a pleasure to work with everyone here, it's great to work/learn and also have some fun while doing that. I hope everyone had a great summer!

Tourism Programs:

The tourism programs that we offer to visitors from around the world are posted here with fees:

Guided tour of the Potlatch Collection \$ 8.03 per person (group minimum 15)
Traditional performance by the T'sasaŋ'a Group \$15.00 per adult \$ 6.00 per child
Traditional seafood feast \$20.00 per plate and incredible bag lunch \$10.00 per person
Island walking tour \$10.00 per person by prearrangement.

We have developed letters of invitation to the tour operators who bring their guests into our territories to encourage the involvement of the Kwakwaka'wakw in their programs and also a thank you to the tour operators who are already working with us by bringing their visitors to participate in our tour programs.

We are members of the regional tour associations:

Vancouver Island North Visitors Association (VINVA)
Tourism Association of Vancouver Island (TAVI)
Aboriginal Tourism BC (ATBC)

We also joined the Port McNeill Chamber of Commerce to encourage working together and to enhance the promotion of U'mista Cultural Centre. We are working cooperatively with the 'Namgis First Nation and the Village of Alert Bay to strengthen our marketing opportunities. The U'mista Cultural Centre has contributed the design of the ads we include in many tourism publications and websites. This is achieved with the much-appreciated volunteer efforts of Terri Bruce who also volunteers towards the publishing of our newsletter. Pat Anderson has also been volunteering with our newsletter production. Gilakas'la la Terri and Pat!

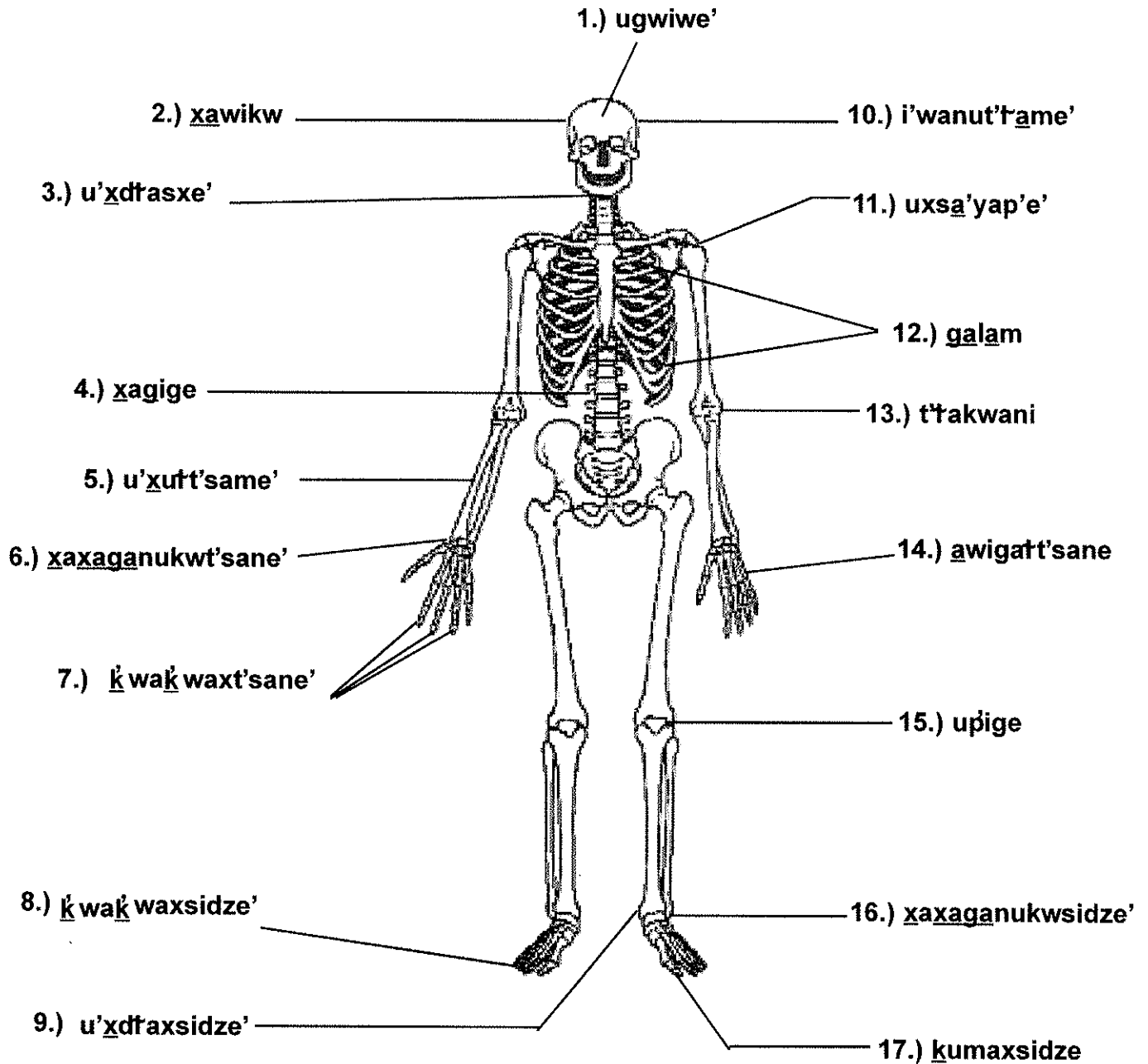
We will be including Tourism updates in our future newsletters.

Lillian Hunt,
Tourism Alert Bay
E: tourab@island.net

*Watch for
our next
issue. It will
be out
Christmas
2004 which
will have
details about
our fabulous
annual
Christmas
Specials for
your holiday
gift giving*



xatxak (skeleton)



- 1.) Forehead
- 2.) skull
- 3.) chin
- 4.) Backbone
- 5.) Forearm
- 6.) Wrist-bone
- 7.) Fingers
- 8.) Toes
- 9.) Heel

- 10.) Temples
- 11.) Shoulder
- 12.) Ribs
- 13.) Elbow
- 14.) Back of Hand
- 15.) Knee
- 16.) Ankle bones
- 17.) Big Toe



U'mista Cultural Centre

P.O. Box 253, Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0
 Phone: 250-974-5403 - Fax: 250-974-5499
 E-mail: umista@cablerocket.com Web:
www.umista.org

Retail Price List: U'mista Cultural Society

Quantity	Description	PLU	Retail	Total
	CD - Rising From The Ashes Songs of the Kwakwaka'wakw	021-1207	\$20.00	
	CD - One Nation One Voice Songs of the Kwakwaka'wakw led by William Wasden Jr.	019-1209	\$20.00	
	CD - Laxwe'gila: Gathering Strength	24-1	\$20.00	
	Cassette - One Nation One Voice	019-1208	\$10.00	
	Video - I'tusto, Big House Documentary <i>rebuilding of our traditional Big House Destroyed by an arsonist</i>	009-1000	\$25.00	
	Video - I'tusto, Big House Kwak'wala version	009-1001	\$25.00	
	Video - I'tusto, Big House Opening Ceremony Highlights	021-1210	\$35.00	
	Video - T'i'na: The Rendering of Wealth, An age-old tradition of the rendering of oil from Eulachon Fish	009-1210	\$40.00	
	Video - 'Qatuwas: People Gathering Together. 1993 Canoe journey to Bella Bella	00-1204	\$40.00	
	Video - Potlatch: A Strict Law Bids Us Dance. Tracing the history of the Potlatch	009-1201	\$50.00	
	Video - Box of Treasures A story of the survival of the Kwakwaka'wakw	009-1200	\$35.00	
	Video - gwishalaayt - The spirit wraps around you. Chilkat and Northern geometric weaving	009-1205	\$30.00	
	Video - Mungo Martin	009-1202	\$30.00	
	Video - Hamat'sa	019-1211	\$35.00	
	Video - Singing our songs	009-1212	\$40.00	
	Video - Laxwesa Wa	009-1203	\$40.00	
	Coloring Book - Color Kumugwe's World illustrations by Joe R. Wilson, Alert Bay, BC	007-800	\$8.95	
	The Living World: Plants and Animals of the Kwakwaka'wakw , Juanita Pasco	007-3097	\$29.95	
	12 books with CDs Kwak'wala Language Learning Series		\$240.00	
	Nugwa'am: All About Me- A language learning CD	019-1212	\$20.00	
	Sub Total			
	Tax (Where applicable)			
	Total			

It's very important to know all present, future, and past tense endings. Familiarize your self with the tenses, using the table below.

<i>Present tense</i>	<i>Future tense</i>	<i>Past tense</i>
<i>I -an</i>	<i>I -at<u>an</u></i>	<i>I -xd<u>an</u></i>
<i>You -as</i>	<i>You -at<u>as</u></i>	<i>You -xd<u>as</u></i>
<i>He/she -l'</i> <i>(not here)</i>	<i>He/she -at<u>l'i</u>'</i> <i>(not here)</i>	<i>He/she -xd<u>i</u>'</i> <i>(not here)</i>
<i>He/she -u<u>xw</u></i> <i>(here)</i>	<i>He/she -at<u>xw</u></i> <i>(here)</i>	<i>He/she -xd<u>xw</u></i> <i>(here)</i>

Practice the words below. Fill in the correct tense ending for each example.

l'axala, to work.

Amta, to play.

Kalka, to be tired.

Puska, to be hungry.

Tsaxka, to be sick.

Danxala, to sing.

Tsuxwa, to wash.

Taka, to be dirty.

I was washing

she (not here) was playing

he (here) is going to be tired

I was hungry

She (here) will sing

You are going to be dirty

He (not here) is working

U'mista Cultural Society

Canadian/ International Membership Form

Do you have Band Membership or can you trace ancestry to a Band member of Kwakwaka'wakw? Yes / No

If yes, give Band Name and Number: (**If Band Number completed, G.S.T. is not applicable**)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

[] Canadian Annual Fee: \$15.00 (Add \$1.05) GST if Applicable [] International Annual Fee: \$26.75 (GST Included)

(Payable in Canadian Funds, Cheque or Money Order to the U'mista Cultural Centre)

Name: Address: City: Province: Country: Postal Code: Res Phone: Bus. Phone:

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

[] Canadian Annual Fee: \$25.00 (Add \$1.75) GST if Applicable [] International Annual Fee: \$37.45 (GST Included)

May include up to two adults and children up to 19 years of age. (Payable in Canadian Funds, Visa, Mastercard or Money Order to the U'mista Cultural Centre)

Name: (Adult #1) Mailing Address: City: Province: Country: Postal Code: Res Phone: Bus. Phone:

Name (Adult #2):

Children Names: Birthdate (YY/MM/DD) Name: D.O.B. Name: D.O.B. Name: D.O.B. Name: D.O.B. Name: D.O.B.

PLEASE ENCLOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE AND MAIL TO: U'mista Cultural Centre P.O. Box 253 Alert Bay, B.C. V0N 1A0

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Payment Date Expiry Date Amount \$ [] Membership Cards [] Computer Update [] Newsletter [] Letter Process Date Processed by:

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The Last Word is Yours!

Do you have any suggestions for future newsletter items?

Or suggestions for activities or events you would like to see at the U'mista Cultural Centre?

Please write to us with your ideas and we will look into it.

Please include your name and your phone number so we can contact you.

Send your suggestions to:

P.O. Box 253

Alert Bay, B.C.

V0N 1A0

Or

E-Mail us at: umista@cablerocket.com

Or drop in and see us!

U'mista Needs You!

Can you spare a few hours to do some volunteer work for U'mista? We will be needing your help for a variety of things at different times. For example, volunteers are needed to:

- Help out with the newsletter
- Preparing the newsletter for mailing
- Help with tours through the centre
- Help put up and take down exhibits
- Do minor construction projects
- Provide transportation for elders to U'mista activities
- Help out with other miscellaneous things that may arise from time to time.

If you are interested, please fill out the form to the right and mail to us or bring it down to the centre, you will be contacted when your services are required.

Yes! I am interested in volunteering my services.

Name: _____







Address: _____

Phone:(H): _____ (W): _____

I would be willing to help out with:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Newsletter | Transportation |
| Museum Tours | Exhibit Assistance |
| Minor Construction | Other |

KWAK'WALA ALPHABET

KWAK'WALA ALPHABET						a a'glo 
a a'glo 	b b'at 	d d'igya 	dt dt'at 	dz dz'igya 	e e'glo 	
g g'at 	gw gw'igya 	g g'at 	gw gw'igya 	h h'igya 	i i'igya 	
k k'igya 	kw kw'at 	k k'igya 	kw kw'at 	k k'igya 	kw kw'at 	
k k'igya 	kw kw'at 	l l'igya 	t t'at 	m m'igya 	n n'igya 	
o o'at 	p p'at 	p p'at 	s s'igya 	t t'at 	t t'at 	
ts ts'igya 	ts ts'igya 	ti ti'at 	ti ti'at 	u u'igya 	w w'at 	
x x'igya 	xw xw'igya 	x x'igya 	xw xw'igya 	y y'at 	y y'at 	

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Illustrations by Miki Schreiber

Return to:

U'MISTA
CULTURAL
CENTRE
P.O. BOX 253
ALERT BAY, BC
V0N 1A0

U'mista Cultural Centre

Regular Hours:

Monday to Friday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Extended Summer Hours:

Saturday, Sundays and Holidays
9:00am - 5:00pm

P.O. Box 253
Alert Bay, BC
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