



# Tsitsak'alam

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**Seasonal Plants: Salmon berry**



Andrea Sanborn, Executive Director

### Notes from her desk:

I came to work this morning with the specific intention to write an article for this Spring 2007 issue and thinking of various topics I would write about. To my dismay a topic stared me in the face as I arrived at work. The front entrance of U'mista was strewn with litter, including empty beer cans. I was disheartened to think that this is the way some members of our community show a lack of respect for our community, our culture, other peoples' properties and the image we wish to portray. Please help keep our community clean and maintain our reputation as *people who strive to maintain our environment*.



**Please remember: fires are never permitted on the beach area in front of U'mista.** Apart from our day-to-day activities and responsibilities we have already been busy hosting visi-

tors and students this year. We are happy to receive all visitors and especially encourage our members and our North Island communities to come and visit the U'mista Cultural Centre. We appreciate your visits, especially when you become our ambassadors by inviting or bringing others to visit us. As of May 26 to the end of September 2007, the U'mista is open 7 days a week, 9:00am to 5:00pm. Although we have a very small staff, we can provide personal research time to you and answer your questions during your visit if you pre-arrange a time for your visit. Our staff continues to look for ways to better serve our members and our community. If you have any suggestions please contact us at [asanborn@umista.ca](mailto:asanborn@umista.ca). You may have an activity you want to volunteer for or have a particular craft you wish to share.

Our partnership in the Reciprocal Research Network (RRN) along with the Museum of Anthropology, the Musqueam First Nation and the Sto:lo Nation and Tribal Council continues to grow. We have hired two young men from the UBC Computer Engineering program to create a website for the RRN which allows you to follow the process and progress for the RNN development. They will also work to build a pilot workstation to showcase the RRN complete with interfaces for community based researchers and academic based researchers. We hope to have access to this workstation for community testing by the end of June 2007. In this project we will be looking for participants within our communities to participate in a survey for us to determine what community based researchers wish to access from the RRN. We will be asking a small cross section of age groups to participate. We will keep you updated. We have created a draft for discussion titled "*Research Guidelines and Appropriate Use Protocols*". The guidelines are based on principles laid out in the Project Charter and outline policies and protocols for reciprocal research." (cont'd. on page 3)

In a past newsletter I reported on the Michael Dutch memorial pole and how it went missing during the Second World War. It turns out that a few of the sailors on the navy ship who took the totem away from Alert Bay have offered their recollections of the incident. However, none of them know where the totem might be or if it still exists. The search continues and we hope to come to a conclusion to this incident in the next while. Bev Lundahl of Saskatchewan continues her investigations as well on this totem.

Our research team William Wasden Jr., Aaron Glass and Sharon Grainger traveled to Germany to conduct research on the Jacobsen Collection at the Ethnological Museum of Berlin. Between 1881 and 1883 Johan Adrian Jacobsen, a young Norwegian sea captain, seeking "primitive" objects from groups relatively uninfluenced by European contact and knowing the Kwakwaka'wakw held such a reputation at the time, sought out their villages and their ceremonial regalia. He purchased about 400 objects from the Kwakwaka'wakw. This is a collection that I first saw in 2000 after its return from Russia where it was taken during the war years. It sits in the research area of the Berlin Museum's Collections, unavailable to the public. I thought then how wonderful it would be to have all the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations be able to see it as well. So we put together a plan and a team to enable us to achieve this. They were very busy the whole month of April and into the first week of May photographing and documenting this collection and new discoveries with great enthusiasm. When they return home with the photo materials we will work with William to be able to present some of them at a special workshop to you soon.

Project development planning continues for the *"Restoring the Headhunters: A Project to Reunite Edward Curtis's Landmark 1914 Film With its Original Musical Score."* This project is generating a



lot of interest from other partnership opportunities. If our fund raising efforts are successful, this project will organize and execute a series of public film screenings of the original edit of Curtis's film which is accompanied by a live arrangement of the original score and a live song and dance performance by some of the Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl) descendants of the original actors.

The cast and crew will travel to Los Angeles, Vancouver, Chicago and maybe Washington, DC and/or New York to present the performances. We are cautiously optimistic that we will get all the funding required to undertake this big project.

Congratulations to Marianne Nicolson, Dzawada'enuxw, as one of the inaugural recipients of the first annual BC Creative Achievement Awards for Aboriginal Art. We are proud of you. Marianne and five of her peers will be recognized at a ceremony on June 5, 2007 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver. (Cont'd on page 4)

Each recipient will receive \$5,000 and be granted the use of the British Columbia Creative Achievement Award seal to signify their creative excellence. Currently she is completing a PhD in Linguistics and Anthropology that investigates how traditional concepts are embedded in First Nations' languages. Her works have been exhibited throughout the world including at the National Gallery of Canada, The Vancouver Art Gallery, the Smithsonian's George Gustave Heye Centre in New York, the Jordan National Gallery and the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. Marianne's contributions to the visual arts include painting, photography, mixed-media works, sculpture and installation. Marianne's traditional work involves regalia making, crest design and object creation for ceremonies. Her works in public spaces are contemporary extensions of traditional Northwest Coast artistic expressions and are her way of preserving and perpetuating Kwakwaka'wakw conceptual culture on a global stage.

Another part of our mandate is to promote and foster carving, dancing and other cultural/artistic activities engaged in by the Kwakwaka'wakw. This includes assisting the carvers where possible. We assisted in the commissioning of an artist to carve the entry sign for the Village of Port Alice. It's nice to know that our neighbors appreciate the culture and art of the Kwakwaka'wakw.



U'mista Cultural Centre, main entrance



Richard Gladstone

I started working at the U'mista Cultural Centre in the summer of 2003 to 2005 in the Summer Student Program and again this spring 2007 with the Skills for Success program. I love working here because of all the information that is available about our history. I have learned about retailing in the Gift Shop and have gone along on guided tours which have helped me better understand our culture and why it is so important to save our language. I attend Kwak'wala class for an hour each day here at U'mista. With the help of a program call "Skills for Success" which is offered through North Island Employment Foundations Society and the Government of Canada I am on a 12 week program that will allow me to find work that I am comfortable with and to train in new areas that will help build my skills in Tourism and Retailing. I started this year on February 12<sup>th</sup> and so far have my certificates in Community Work Safe, developed by the Workers Compensation Board of BC and St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid-Industry Level A CPR. My hope is to find work in our Kwakwaka'wakw territory. I would like to thank the U'mista Cultural Society and the Skills for Success Program for allowing me to come back to the museum and do more training. I hope to return to do some volunteer work and more research about our ancestors. Gilakas'la

Richard Gladstone, Gwagwaldit'sila

### Questions?

Call Shelley St. Marie or Turina Jensen at 949-5736



### A Team of Three Journeys to Berlin, Germany

The journey to Berlin was not just a long flight for Aaron Glass, William Wasden Jr. and I, adjusting to living in an urban environment, and working with people from a different country. It was a journey taking three colleagues back to mutual, old family connections. Aaron was very excited about showing us Berlin, a city he knew well. Both Aaron and I had a parent who had been born in this magnificent and vibrant city. William was coming to view, handle and describe regalia substantiating his family connections to dances and masks from the past, while he gathered vital information about his own living culture, preparing to bring that back to U'mista.

Each day we went by underground train for nearly an hour to an outer district of Berlin to the Ethnology Museum where the largest European collection of indigenous artifacts resides. Our task was to spend these next five weeks photographing and cataloging as much information as possible about the Jacobsen collection. Jacobsen was a Norwegian fisherman who journeyed several times during the late 1800's to the Pacific northwest coast and purchased thousands of pieces of tools, and artifacts from what ethnologists thought at the time, could be a vanishing culture.

William Wasden Jr., a Chief in the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation stood in the storage area of the museum, and began our collective work by singing amongst the Jacobsen pieces. His voice carried through out the enormous room that housed artifacts and tools from around the world. Letting most objects, especially the regalia important to his family and community know that he proceeded with respect, that a collective memory was heard, and would be carried back home. Not just in images and data, but the knowledge gathered would be an inspiration to all the family at home. New knowledge, new art and a continuum would follow between the old pieces, those ancestors who made them and all the community members who carry on those traditions today. We were a bit superstitious about not looking at the new treasures until the cart had been moved into the photographic studio. William would remove the covering and begin his long discussions with Aaron who spent hours bent over a computer entering each detail carefully following a strict code of ethnological collection techniques. Aaron explained that every detail, every

small bit of information that William could provide would be important to the final database we were compiling. Our working hours were long; over 500 hundred pieces had been photographed and cataloged. Finally, all three of us found a place where we could stop. As Aaron would say many times, the foundation of a huge project has been constructed. We now know just how much more work needs to be done to complete this enormous task. It was a good beginning. Fine meals were shared, language barriers were handled often with affectionate laughter, family ties were reestablished, Berlin was seen a little....showing us her great museums, flea markets, celebrations and just a glimpse into a city filled with an astonishing history.

My vision as a photographer shifted slightly in content. Each day I felt the project taking hold of me; changing not just how I saw, what I photographed but also how I saw the rest of the world around me. The smallest details of my surroundings were noticed and captured on film with very interesting results.



**Sharon Grainger, William Wasden Jr  
Aaron Glass** photo Berlin Museum

I felt the pull of Berlin, my family whom I had reconnected to and my mind continuing to swim with images of the many objects I had photographed over the last five weeks. I looked out the window, and saw an enormous billboard-advertising workman's clothing.... smiling; I saw the rickets blue of the fabric and said in a soft voice to myself, "it's a sign." I remembered early in the Berlin project, something William had told me his Auntie would write as a closing in a letter. Aaron laughed and explained the origin of the closing from an old Canadian radio program. As I moved away from Berlin physically, and in spirit and mind, I repeated that phrase to myself, "Stay calm. Be brave. Wait for the signs."

Sharon Eva Grainger, Photographer

On assignment in Berlin, for U'mista Cultural Centre

## Seasonal Food Plants:



Excerpts taken from:

### The Living World

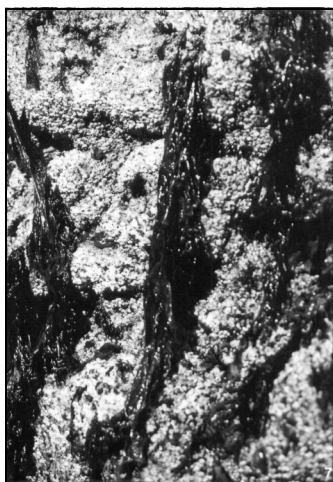
Available here at the  
U'mista Gift Shop for  
**\$ 29.95**

**Łakastan(K)**

**Łakasdi (N)**

**Łakast (G)**

Picked in May from rocks around the shore at low tide, covered and left to ripen for 4 or 5 days, sun dried until crispy. A highly Valued, nutritious and tasty food.



**Edible Seaweed**



**Salmonberry**

**Gulali (G,N,T)**

**Ƙamdzakw (K, L)**

The flowers, which are the earliest to bloom of all berry bushes, range in colour from pink to red or magenta (very dark pink). The berries ripen early and look like raspberries but are less flavorful. They are mashed, rolled up and stored in wooden boxes. The young sprouts are eaten fresh and sometimes dipped in sugar or eulachon oil along with dried salmon.

## Seasonal Medicinal Plants



**A'ma'xuli  
(G,N,Tfruit)**

**A'maxulimas  
(G,N-plant)**

**Tlakaxuli**

**(G,K-fruit)**

**Tlakaxuli'mas  
(K-plant)**

### Black Twinberry

Used to heal people, the leaves and roots were boiled with tobacco, yellow cedar tips, eulachon oil or sea water to make a variety of poultices, steam baths and powders. Berries were never eaten because it was believed that the people who did, lost their voices and became stupid.

**Dialect areas:**

**K-Kwakwala**

**L- Likwala**

**T'-T'atlasikwala**

**N-'Nakwala**

**G-Gut'sala**

**Soccer:** another seasonal marker for our community

Alert Bay has a vibrant soccer history and has captured the gold in tournaments in Alert Bay and around Vancouver Island. We house archival photographs that people donate to our collection like these ones here.

**Past:**



**Some of our local heroes in soccer.  
We have enjoyed many years of  
superb talent and sportsmanship!  
Thank you to all the dedicated  
coaches and volunteers.**



**Future:**

4-6 year old division  
practice with volunteer  
coach, Paul Mundy

Photos: Zabrina Svanvik  
April 2007





**Pewi Alfred: Language Curriculum Trainee**

For the past three years I have been working at the U'mista Cultural Centre as a Curriculum Development Trainee. I started teaching Kwak'wala in September of 2006 using the "Total Physical Response" (TPR) approach.

At the beginning of kwak'wala class, we started with very little vocabulary but slowly added three hundred words. Eight months into the program, the students need to completely internalize and comprehend the vocabulary before moving forward. How will I know they have comprehended lessons? If they are comfortable, the students close their eyes and physically move, point, touch the objects or do the movements with their hands. If students are not comfortable they can simply sit back with their eyes open and internalize. During the comprehension check, I observe to see what words need to be the focus of our next reviews before moving on. I then base my lesson on helping the students understand specific words and have the whole class participate.

For many years we have been striving for a strategy that suit us best, or that is comprehensible. I have taken many classes and courses where I had to read, write, recite and sing. Although I am not fluent, I am adapting very quickly. Teaching others has helped me become more focused with vocabulary and grammar. The TPR method is very similar to the way our ancestors used to teach. Here are a few examples: "Stand up" "Stand up fast" "Stand up slowly" "Stand up like a soldier" "Stand up like a totem pole" "Stand up and yell" "Stand up and smile" "Stand up with your arms raised in the air"

There are many ways that you can say the words

"stand up". The target command we are teaching is "stand up",. Other words are introduced in later units, slowly until each word is internalized .

We need to take baby steps towards learning kwak'wala. How do we learn to read and correctly pronounce , if we have never been introduced to the letters or symbols? Our people had no writing system until the late 1970's. Hands on experiences will help us permanently learn the words. There have been plenty of good times, excitement and laughter while learning the "TPR" way. Gin Alfred and Don Svanvik have been attending kwak'wala class since the beginning! Richard Gladstone and Patricia-Anne Alfred started attending classes later and have already caught on to this method of learning, and are doing an awesome job. I am proud of their achievements and their patience and I want to thank them for taking the time to learn.

I am still reviewing words that I introduced on the first day so whenever you choose to start the program it will become a very natural feeling to absorb kwak'wala and after a few days you will understand words easily. You only participate when you are perfectly comfortable, watching while still internalizing the vocabulary.

We have decided that we will have an evaluation class with eight fluent kwak'wala speaking people, from the different villages at least once a month to check to see how the Language program is going. I receive good evaluations of the program but I feel that more input and comments are necessary. We need to continue to do what it takes to have what we want and that is more fluency. We created a Kwak'wala CD of 20 songs made for children and adults and developed a kwakwala board game. In February Bryan Hunt started working here and helped me with the CD and the game. I appreciate Bryan for his help. It took us a long time to complete the CD, some nights we would be at work until 9:00 pm.



We had to edit so much for the CD because we know that pronunciation is very important. We made numerous copies of each song, and compared all of them, to be sure they were accurate. We had our list, and checked them twice! The game I created is called "Guess the Picture," our own version of "Pictionary." A lot of thought, making of flash cards, adding words to be used in the game, then editing the words was required. Then the game board and markers were created. I created a CD of game instructions and we listened to the CD over and over to ensure that the recording matched the list and pictures matched the words. When the game was complete we invited elders in to test the game. I prepared my game while they chatted it up in kwak'wala. During the game the elders had a chance to talk to me about the strategy I am using. Their input and advice means so much to us, and we appreciate them. Learning any language is challenging. It takes practice and commitment. We are always here if you have a word, story or song to share, please feel free to call me or stop by. Gilakas'la, Pewi.

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**Bryan Hunt: Museum Intern,  
Language Research  
and Data Entry**

I was hired to U'mista Cultural Centre on Feb 13, 2007 as the Museum Intern Trainee to be introduced to basic museum systems and develop techniques for community based research on our culture and traditions, data entry of research materials, scanning and digitizing photos for the data-

base, report writing and archiving kwak'wala language materials.

One of my projects is to scan and organize archival photographs from the 1800's to 1990's. There are about 5000 photographs that need to be entered into our database which we hope to have finished and become part of our digital archives available to the Reciprocal Research Network (RRN) for community based researchers. If you have old photographs of friends and family that you would like to share with us that would be greatly appreciated. The more photographs we can make public of our family, environment or culture the more of this resource we will have for our people!

I also update FirstVoices.ca website, the online Kwak'wala language resource that includes words, phrases, songs, stories, community pictures and local artwork. We add information and media to this website almost every day and are getting more familiar with technology and audio/video equipment. We work with elders recording kwak'wala for FirstVoices.ca, they tell us stories or double check that the kwak'wala words are correct. We make the work with elders and community comfortable, effective and most of all friendly.

Our people are known for keeping culture alive so naturally we are one of the top nations on FirstVoices.ca for language development. We are very proud of this accomplishment and are excited and ambitious to add to and expand what we already have.

I would like to thank U'mista Cultural Centre for providing us with opportunities to help keep our language alive for future generations. I would also like to thank my co-workers, community and elders for making the U'mista a great work environment by promoting a combined effort full of life.

Gilakas'la, tłattax'sa'wis (Bryan Hunt)

Please call us at 250-974-5403 or email:

students@cablerocket.com

## Cultural Education Programs:

submitted by Laura Ann Cranmer

"As I was marking papers, it occurred to me how consistently the students reference their visit to U'mista Cultural Centre in both their research papers and their final exam. This note is really to convey the profound influence the centre plays in shaping thought and responses to the colonial processes and practices—which brings alive our curriculum. Gilakas'la, Laura Ann"

Arts One First Nations (AOFN), one of Malaspina University College flagship programs, is a first year learning community of faculty, students and elders, providing an entry into a full range of academic disciplines and professional careers. This interdisciplinary program consists of three Aboriginal faculty, Dan McDonald (Metis), Laura Cranmer ('Namgis), Elder-in-Residence and Dr. Ellen White (Snuneymuxw). The Learning Community model lends itself to First Nations cultural protocols, pedagogy and teaching practices resulting in: discovery of individual learning styles, acquisition of critical reading and writing skills and a solid foundation for the rest of an undergraduate program in the student's chosen field. The Elder in Residence attends each and every lecture, opens with a prayer and more often than not, interjects with her life experience as a salient example of what we are studying, ie. colonial laws, land alienation and the Potlatch Ban. The program is accompanied by a dedicated English 111/112 class with First Nations focused readings.

For their fall project, the students will work on "Scrapbook Project" where they research into their family history in order to artistically represent their understanding of how their identities are shaped by cultural and societal processes which fits in with our course theme, "Narratives of Identity". For their spring project, the students work on their "Mask Project" that represents their role in connection

with community, which fits in with our course theme of "Community, Continuance and Renewal". After two weeks of intensive study of the Potlatch Ban in the spring, we bring our students to the **U'mista Cultural Centre in Alert Bay** to witness the effects of colonial laws as well as to witness the continued work to repatriate cultural treasures. AOFN hosts guest speakers who speak directly to the historical and contemporary issues of our communities. We have heard from Dr. Gloria Cranmer Webster, Dr. Robert Joseph, Eden Robinson, Chief Bill Cranmer, and Tomson Highway. We are honored that we can draw from a rich pool of talent, knowledge and expertise that enriches the AOFN experience and we extend our gratitude for their time and talent. Gilakas'la, 'Namgis Band Council as well as U'mista Cultural Centre staff for opening their doors to us and the generous billets who accommodated our students.

Laura Cranmer, born and raised in Alert Bay, earned her BA in English (in the Partnership program between UVic and Malaspina) and MA in Curriculum Studies at UVic. Combining her passion for writing and healing, Laura is also Director for the Limpfish Collective (an Aboriginal theatre company) and the recipient for Canada Council for the Arts grants of \$20,000 on two different occasions, to support the collective in theatre productions and activities. Elder and author, Ellen White, has been with Arts One First Nations since its inception in 1994, supporting students and faculty with her Coast Salish traditions. An elder of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, she grew up on Rice Island, schooled in both the male and female teachings of her elders, she is also a midwife and healer and widely beloved up and down the coast. Ellen also has had long involvement in Aboriginal politics, including the Bob & White case on hunting rights. At 84, she has just announced her retirement (for the 7th time) from Malaspina



**Power Of Education Award**

**Vancouver BC Canada March 14th 2007**

March 8, 2007

U'mista Cultural Centre

Congratulations on your Aboriginal Tourism British Columbia **Power of Education Award**. You have joined a number of successful Aboriginal tourism operators offering high quality products that exceed visitor's expectations. As a recipient, you will receive two (2) complimentary tickets to the awards presentations and ATBC will cover one night accommodations and travel to the awards (travel within ATBC guidelines). I have booked a room for you at the Marriott Pinnacle Downtown.

Sincerely,

Paula Amos, Executive Director

Aboriginal Tourism British Columbia

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Chairman Bill Cranmer and Lillian Hunt attended the awards ceremony held in Vancouver and received the award on behalf of U'mista. It is always meaningful to be recognized by ones peers and we do appreciate it.

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**What do we mean by Power of Education ?**

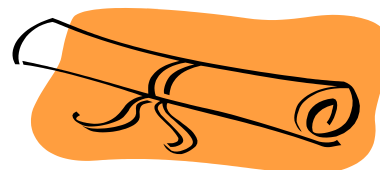
We feel that the more information we gain for ourselves about our culture and heritage, the better we can teach other people who we are.

The more everyone knows about us, the better they can understand us and our culture. The better they can understand us and who we are, the more respect we can gain from them. In return, we can learn more about others and give them the respect for their culture that we desire for our own. Education is a win, win situation. Encouraging the youth to want to learn more about their family roots is very important to this education process. The more they know about themselves, the more pride they will have when they convey any information about themselves. This is a healthy environment for them which they can use as a foundation for further learning and teaching. This is an important aspect of life for any culture and the healthy growth of all individuals. The more we can support our youth with positive information about themselves and their families the better off we all are. This must be our goal. Otherwise who are we saving the culture for?

This is the power of education.

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**GRAD 2007—congratulations!**



- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Alicia Barnes</b>     | <b>Anthony Pagani</b>   |
| <b>Florence Bruce</b>    | <b>Ashley Robertson</b> |
| <b>Daniel Coon</b>       | <b>Breanna Sanborn</b>  |
| <b>Carlene Gullstrom</b> | <b>Marie Seaweed</b>    |
| <b>Gavin Hanuse</b>      | <b>Ashton Souch</b>     |
| <b>Waylon Isaac</b>      | <b>Farron Soukchoff</b> |
| <b>Tommy Johnston</b>    | <b>Terian Whonnock</b>  |
| <b>Curtis Lockhart</b>   |                         |

**Your community is proud of you all.**

## Alert Bay honors Wasden

*Mar 08 2007 (North Island Gazette)*

Wa Wasden has been named Citizen of the Year in Alert Bay.

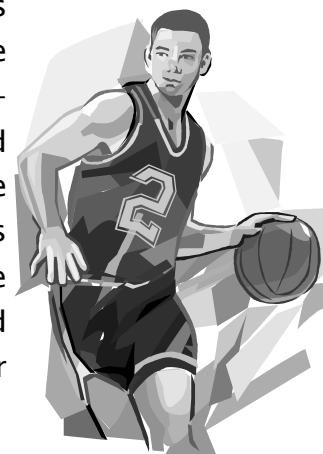
"We would like to nominate William 'Wa' Wasden Jr. as Citizen of the Year for Alert Bay," says the nomination from Stella Beans, Verna Ambers and Maureen Wright.

"Wa is a civic-minded individual who volunteers for so many community initiatives," they say. "He is well known for his work with elders," and "helps families prepare for their potlatches.

"He works with our youth and accompanies camping trips into traditional territories of the 'Namgis," and "also keeps active in cultural traditions by making 'T'lina (grease) each year at Knights Inlet," they say.

Wasden was instrumental in developing the Christmas Cross-court Basketball Classic, held at the Lawrence Ambers Memorial Recreation Centre. This past December marks the fifth year for this special community event, which is free of alcohol and drug-free.

Wasden wanted the focus of this tournament to be on youth, with emphasis on sportsmanship and healthy competition. He and fellow organizers want to reinforce these values by making good things happen for our youth.



"Wa also works at the U'mista Cultural Centre, where he is doing important research work to not only help preserve our language and traditions, but to restore little-known aspects of traditional rituals that are in danger of being lost," says the nomination.

"Wa is also responsible for initiating and sustaining the activity of a professional dance group in Alert Bay. The Gwa'wina Dancers is a large group of talented individuals performing to a professional standard to offer traditional songs, dances, and related cultural performances for special community events." William Wasden was presented the award by Mayor John Rowell in February, 2007.

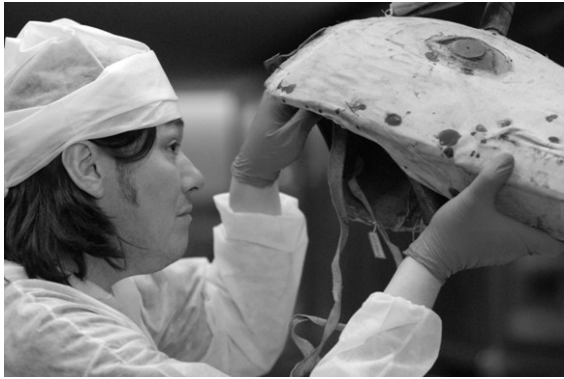
**Alert Bay Mayor John Rowell presents William 'Wa' Wasden with Village of Alert Bay, Citizen of the Year Award**

Photo: Bob Walden



**William with Gwa'wina Dance Troupe In Banff, AB**

## Cultural Research and Repatriation



Gilakas'la Ni'nal'namwiyut! Hi'amastlan

I had the opportunity this April and May to travel to Berlin, Germany and London, England. The purpose was to assist in photographing and documenting the Kwakwaka'wakw portion of the Johann Jacobson Collection in Berlin that was collected between 1881 and 1883. This collection is now going into storage and may not be seen for some time. Thus the urgency to have the objects and information properly recorded for U'mista archives. I was part of a team that included anthropologist Aaron Glass and photographer Sharon Grainger. The days were long and we documented 530 objects. The objects covered many aspects of our former lifestyle on our coast. My goal is to have a Power Point presentation in the near future at U'mista to share and gather any further information regarding the photos.

Before coming home, I stopped at the British Museum in London to look at the objects they have in storage as well. This final week, I was in their storage areas identifying what I could see was Kwakwaka'wakw and separating them from other coastal groups. Ceremonial objects are the easiest to identify because of the artwork. At this time I would like to honour my art teacher, the late Hereditary Chief and Master Carver Douglas

Cranmer. His strict and inspiring teaching has enabled me to recognize coastal art styles as well as numerous crests and designs. I would not have the knowledge I have regarding artwork if it wasn't for him, "Gilakas'la" to a great man and an amazing teacher.

The thought reinforced on my trip that I would like to leave you with is the importance of *us* telling *our* own story. I am encouraging all of our nations to educate and teach each other, especially our youth, about who we are and where we come from. There is nothing worse than "anthros" and other researchers who study our people in books and think they know us and have the right to tell us who we "are"! To start: The Kwakwaka'wakw are the descendants of ancestors that have always occupied the central northwest coast and survived the Great Flood due to our connection to our Creator "Iki Giga-me". We have never walked from anywhere to get to what is *our* home and native land. The "land bridge" theory is more propaganda about our people with shady evidence to support this "story" by bigots in Canada to justify their taking lands from its original occupants, the first peoples of this land. We have our own origin stories and there is a wealth of evidence and information to support our truths.

I would like to thank the U'mista for the opportunity to travel and learn. I will now be working hard at getting the information out to our people. Also a big, "Thank You" to my friends in Berlin, Rainer and Mareen, Andrew, Sally and Peter. In London, Robert and Anoushka, Ian, and Jonathan. You made my visit a memorable experience. Gilakas'la.

William Wasden Jr

U'mista Intern and Community Researcher



Lillian Hunt

### Outreach Programs

We were invited to speak in the Business category. I discussed Cultural Tourism as a business and what



you need to be successful in the

Tourism Industry. Customer Service is very important to any business

and we offer SuperHost certified training here at U'mista Cultural Centre. Another key to success is partnerships, our most recent with Mothership Adventures shown on next page .

An array of topics and speakers were available:

**Trades & Technology:** Sonja Wamiss NICC Forest

**Health & Sciences:** Maggie Sedgemore

**Social Services:** Helen Hunt

**Business:** Lillian Hunt, U'mista Cultural Tourism

Sandra Willie, Musgamawg Tribal Council

**Law:** Les Taylor, Constable Art Shaughnessy

**Governance:** 'Namgis Chief, Bill Cranmer

**Education:** Trish Rosborough

# Aboriginal Career Fair



## LifeLong Learning



**Keynote Speaker,  
Susan Aglukark**

Award-winning Aboriginal singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark is one of Canada's most unique artists. She blends the Inuktitut and English languages with the contemporary pop music arrangements.

The Fair was held at the Port Hardy Civic Centre on Friday, March 23, 2007 and was coordinated by Charlene Millar

Brought to you by: Quatsino Band Council, Kwakiutl Band, NIC Learning Circles for Aboriginal Nursing

Thank you so much for your participation at our Aboriginal Career Fair. The evaluations were reviewed and everyone really appreciated our presenters and panelists participation. The success shared were with your assistance and contribution. Gilakas'la,

Charlene Miller

**Kwakiutl Band**

**Quatsino Band**

## On the U'mista Book Shelf



Many of our visitors arrive to our island on their own floaty devices. Some of these sailors happen to be authors as well.

A message from the The Dreamspeaker Team: Spring is here and its time to take boat covers off and plan the cruising season. Volume 5 'The Broughtons' is available and selling like hot cakes, with excellent reviews in Pacific Yachting Magazine, Boat Journal and Cruising World, with another in the May edition of Sailing Magazine. Laurence and I are excited by our next adventure this season—we signed a contract to produce Volume 6 'West Coast of Vancouver Island' by January 2009; we will be researching and working on the book during the summer of 2007 and 2008. We will begin our trip early June via the Broughtons so hope to see many of you there.

Best Regards,  
Anne and Laurence

"The Broughtons": \$ 49.95

## First Nations Cultural tour in the Broughton Archipelago with Lillian Hunt



Born and raised in Alert Bay, Lillian Hunt, 'Namgis First Nation, Cultural Tourism Guide, U'mista Cultural Centre for 7 years. With extensive knowledge of her Nation's history, Lillian will bring to life the rich cul-

tural heritage of the Kwakwaka'wakw. Intimately experience the beautiful coastal rainforest home of the First Nations people, past and present.. We are very excited to be offering this unique collaboration between Mothership Adventures, the U'mista Cultural Centre of [Alert Bay, British Columbia](#).



The Columbia III departs from Port McNeill at 5pm on Thursday July 5th, 2007 and returns to Port McNeill four nights later on July 9th between 2-3 pm in the afternoon after a fascinating and in-depth introduction to the world of the

Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations. Trip size limited to 8 - 10 participants. Our trips are all inclusive from the point of departure. Trip prices are in Canadian dollars. US prices are approximate and will be based on current exchange rate at the time of booking. Rates do not include the Canadian 6% GST



### Contact Mothership Adventures:

Toll Free: 1-888-833-8887 Phone: 250-202-3229

Email us: [info@motheshipadventures.com](mailto:info@motheshipadventures.com)

## Special Annual Events @ U'mista 2007

June 21st                      Aboriginal Day

*June 22nd    special presentation by William Wasden Jr.  
at the U'mista. Call for details.*

November 1st                27th U'mista Anniversary

### Events in our community:

June 15th–17th              Soccer Tournament

July 20th–22nd              Sea and Music Festival

December 1st                Craft Bazaar

### Extended Summer Hours:

Seven days weekly from 9 am to 5 pm

May 26 to September 30, 2007

#### Admissions:

Adults \$5.30 ● Seniors and Students \$4.24 ● Children under 12 years \$1.06 ● GST included

Group rates apply for groups of 15 persons or more, please call for an appointment

Is your membership up to date? Do you want to become a member? Do you know what a membership will give you? Find out more about membership details.

**Contact** Lillian Hunt at 250-974-5403 or by e-mail: [lhunt@umista.ca](mailto:lhunt@umista.ca)  
and become a member.

U'mista Cultural Centre

Box 253, Alert Bay, BC, V0N 1A0

tel:250-974-5403, fax:250-974-5499, e-mail:[info@umista.ca](mailto:info@umista.ca)

[www.umista.ca](http://www.umista.ca)

55                      \$3.00