



Tsitsak'alam



Sights to see! Alert Bay, British Columbia, Canada

Extended Summer Hours:

9-5 Daily to May to September

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Andrea Sanborn, Executive Director

Notes from her desk: Summer is here but the summer weather is just arriving today, July 30th. Hopefully this will mean that we will have a wonderful *Indian Summer* this year. We do most years. I often wonder why everyone rushes off home immediately after Labor Day when the best weather is yet to come, especially for the boaters. Early Fall each year is a wonderful time of year with all the colors the Fall season brings.

We have received many visitors this year from all parts of the world. It has been very interesting talking with as many as I have been able to. Most of them are coming to find out more about



Bakwās as danced by a young member of the Tsasala Cultural Group

our culture and are eager to participate in parts of our culture. The Tsasala Cultural Group are always a great experience that is appreciated by our visitors. I enjoy having them dance here amongst the Potlatch Collection and audiences enjoy this too. They are excited to see the ages of those who participate from the babies, the



Vera Newman leading the audience in a Fun Dance

children, the youth and the adults. It is a great example of how the culture is taught and passed on for future generations.

There are times when the Tsasala dancers have to perform here at the U'mista because a traditional ceremonial event is taking place at our Gukwdzi. Big House. In the photographs, taken by U'mista staff, you can see our precious artifacts of the "Potlatch Collection" in the background.

As our summer season comes to a close we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who took the time to go to these

performances, visit us at the Centre and just enjoy your time in Alert Bay and thank you to all our members who continue to support the U'mista. We do appreciate your support. Gilakas'la

During the busy summer months we sometimes have some unexpected visitors that most of us know. On August 4th 2007 Oprah Winfrey dropped in to visit. She also visited the Gukwdzi during the Charles Smith potlatch, she said a few words, danced and agreed to photo ops for the local people. I was not at the Centre when she arrived but everyone who was able to talk to her said she was very gracious and interested in our culture.



**Chief Bill Cranmer, Oprah,
and Richard Gladstone**



**Roland Gaudet, Sean Whonnock,
Oprah, Sylvia Gaudet and Liz Isaac**

On July 8th William Wasden Jr. and his technical assistant, Bryan Hunt showed the Johann Jacobson Collection Power Point presentation of just a small part of the research conducted by William and colleagues while in Berlin, Germany. All those who attended this presentation appreciated the content of photos and descriptions and the dialogue with William. For those of you who missed it or were not able to stay for it, we will do another presentation in the Fall. It seems that there is a lot of interest in this project and there is still a lot of work to be conducted before it is considered to be complete. Further research will be conducted in the east United States, possibly in, Leipzig, and in other museums in Europe (including Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Stuttgart, Lübeck, Oslo, Copenhagen, and Stockholm).

I attended another Reciprocal Research Network Steering Committee meeting in Vancouver on July 20th and I'm happy to report that ongoing planning is moving forward. We have the two young computer sciences graduates working on the database, setting up a web site and planning the infrastructure required for the Steering Committee partner workstations to be housed at each of their institutions. In early Fall we will invite members of our community to come in to preview and test the RRN site and offer your comments on its capacity to serve your research needs. Then, the work continues as we incorporate these comments into the development plans.

See something new that we will be doing in each future newsletter, "**Kwakwakawakw Wisdom**". This will include some piece of historical information for you.

Have a wonderful summer, whether it is at work or at play. Keep safety in mind in all that you do.

2007 Annual Elders' Conference:

August 8th –10th, Vancouver BC

This year's Elders' Gathering was hosted by the Squamish Nation with the theme "It's About Time" and was held for the first two days at Canada

Place in Vancouver. The first day was the Grand Entry which stretched from the second level down to the main foyer and then into the big hall. There were Elders representing all corners of Canada from North to South and East to West, literally! The total count of attending Elders was two thousand four hundred. This did not include vol-



Alti Speck with Sisiyutł print at her sales table

unteers and organizers. Day One was mostly tours around Vancouver's tourist attractions and these were free for the Elders. It did not take long for all the tours to fill up. The tours included China Town, Stanley Park, Capilano Suspension Bridge among other places. The workshops included wool and cedarbark weaving conducted by experienced tutors. There were also quiet rooms for meditation, body and foot massage, smudging, etc. These sessions also filled very quickly. There was also a fun and games room which was well attended. This was a good way to meet Elders from other nations to play games like



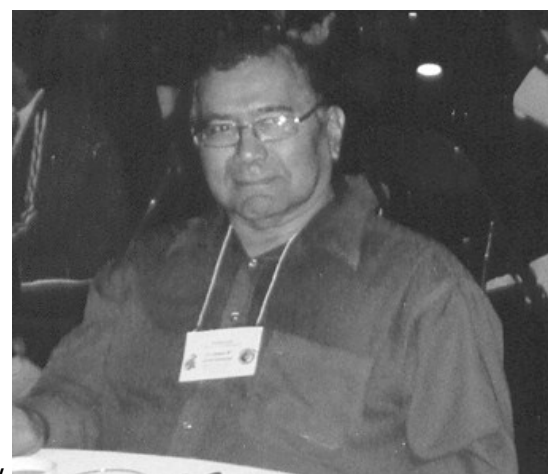
Scrabble, Crib, Yahtzee, Texas Holdem for those hardcore gamblers!. I played a rowdy two games of crib with a woman from Chase,BC. She was pretty darn good but I put up a good fight and won one game! She was a great lady and we said we would meet again at next year's gathering. Pam Baker hosted a Fashion Show with many of her designs as well as other great designers. The Elders were treated to a great dinner that evening while they waited for the show to start. Entertainment was provided by songster Fara who was well received and sold her latest CD afterward. All catered meals were very healthy and nutritious with Diabetics in mind. Water and juice were always at hand and coffee and tea were available at snack time. Volunteers served the Elders with honor and respect and were at our beck and call at all times. It was great being an Elder!



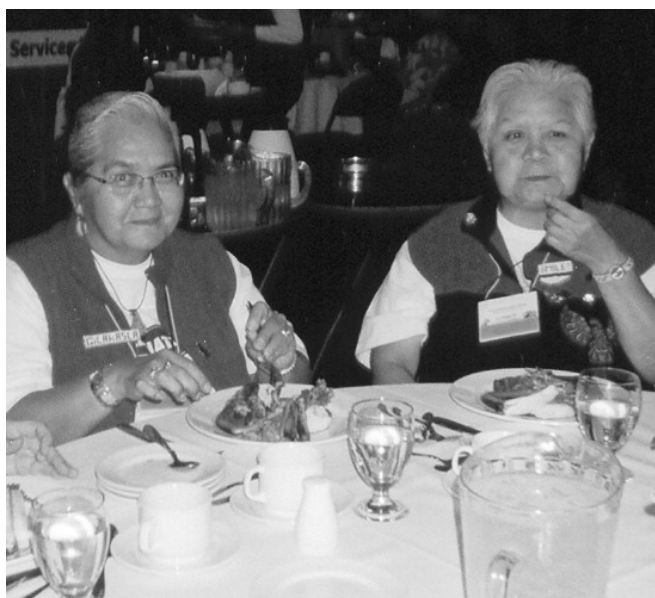
Aunties Jane Harris, Christine Enick, enjoying one of the delicious meals served at Canada Place.

Downstairs in the huge auditorium many Elders were treated to various levels of entertainment including Traditional Dance Groups from the West Coast, Metis, Yukon and other nations. A group of singers from the Downtown Eastside called the "No S@#**% Shirley's" wowed the crowd with their Acapella style of music. They were wonderful. The comedy was side splitting! It was so good to see the Elders enjoy a good laugh. What was even more wonderful to see was hundreds of Elder Grannies literally swarming the stage with screams of delight when "Elvis" appeared! He was such a good sport, giving out Roses, hugs and kisses. It was great to see the smiles on their faces when returning to their seats. Priceless! It was so funny to see their daughters and sons squirming in their seats instead of the other way around when Elvis was on stage. My goodness they even had a Bingo game. These people thought of everything! The final day was held out at the Squamish Nation Big House and field. The sun came out just for the occasion. The Elders were treated quite royally by the Squamish who served a traditional meal of seafood and other delectable items, the food was never ending!

It was so good to see Elders from Alert Bay, Kingcome, Gilford, Fort Rupert, Port Hardy, etc. I enjoyed seeing all the people I know from our various villages. They all raised money by holding bingos, bake sales, raffles, etc. By the way, my auntie Christine Enick won First Prize and Fifth prize in our Red Cedar Hat Women's Circle Group. Her prizes are a beautiful hand made vest with beaded roses, and a dream catcher, congratulations!



Ed Dawson, Dzawada'neux, Gwa'yi (Kingcome Inlet) now resides in Alert Bay



Aunties Eleanor and Eliza (nee Salmon)

'Namgis First Nation



Sonny and Kathy Isaac with Helen Campbell in centre

Thanks to everyone from home who bought tickets, sorry you couldn't all win a prize. See you all at next year's Gathering which will be in July at Prince Rupert.

Ruth Alfred, Elders' Program

Pacific Westcoast Women's Association

Ruth Alfred, Namgis First Nation, born and raised in Alert Bay now living in North Vancouver, BC

Tłisilagi'lakw School Nursery Graduation 2007



Top- Thomas Barnes, Talia Brown, Devery Svanvick, Kevin Brown, Jacob Williams, Angus Glazouv, Justin Smith

Next- Brennan Sawyer, Kenneth Jolliffe, Ethan Thomas, Darryl Uhl, Destiny Speck, Tyson Treibwasser

Next- Jordan Jolliffe, Tamika-Anne Mountain, Alexander Alfred, Kiana Hunt, Beverley Mountain, Daysha McKinney, Keith Dawson, Kyle Issac

Here they are! The future generation looking so fine in their ceremonial attire. I was fortunate enough to attend the ceremony to witness this fine show of energy, learning, respect, and culture. My grandson Brennan Sawyer was one of the graduates and he very proudly showed his cultural heritage with his colleagues, most of which are his cousins. The stage was set, the audience full of daddies, mommies, aunties, uncles, grandmas (I was one of them) and granddads who were poised to enjoy watching the children display the cultural activities that they have learned throughout the year.

The event began with Tłisilagi'lakw School Cultural Teacher, Sandi Willie who introduced the children's achievements, abilities and successes.

Tłisilagi'lakw School Nursery Teacher, Marion Warner accompanied the children to the various locations of the ceremony and the crowd was heard exclaiming how well behaved all of the children were.

Cultural Celebration!



Here the young ladies are displaying our Salmon Dance performed with feathers and is also represented by twins significant our legends.

Tomica Mountain , Jordan Jolliffe, Daysha McKinney, Bev Mountain



Here the children are at the ceremonial drum log. Unfortunately we were unable to take a full picture of everyone due to the stage layout. As you can see from this photo, the young children are singing their hearts out to their families delight and followed by thunderous applause. Cultural teacher, Sandi Willie explained to us how extraordinary it is for children to display such confidence at this early age

Cultural Education Programs

Every year for the past 5 years David Pinel has brought students to the U'mista Cultural Centre for the First Nation component of the North Island College (NIC) : Coastal Adventure Tourism program.

Students learn about our traditional culture, history and protocols. NIC offers a 5-month Coastal Adventure Tourism Certificate (CAT Certificate) and a 2-year Adventure Tourism Diploma program (AT Diploma). The CAT Certificate is a required component of the Diploma.

Vancouver Island is Canada's hub for marine-based, eco- and adventure tourism. We have quick access to the central, north, and west coasts of the island – places renowned for a rich and complex interplay between ocean, land and people. Our marine focus, Aboriginal integration, diverse courses and industry-leading instructors provide a well-rounded and intensive education for immediate employment as an entry-level guide. Diploma students are further prepared with entrepreneurial and management training and advanced guiding skills.



Thanks from CAT 2007: “for the warm welcome” – “uplifting to see your community connecting to the past” – “unforgettable experience to meet the Kwakwaka'wakw” – “I'm coming back!”

<http://nic.bc.ca/departments/tourism/ATprograms>

Donations



Myrna McKenzie photographed here @ U'mista Giftshop with wolf mask owned by her and her late husband Brian



Brian McKenzie

We are certain this mask was carved by the Late Chief Willie Seaweed of Blunden Harbor. A great addition to our Collections.

****Kwakwaka'wakw Wisdom****

Tłakwa	“copper”
Ugwame'	“face”
Ga'las	T' of the copper (cross-piece)
U'xsde'	“whole lower part of copper except the ‘T’”
Unutłame'	“sides of the face of copper”
Unutłaxsde'	“sides of lower part of copper excluding the ‘T’”
Kalta	“cut off with a chisel”
Kukwa	“break in two”

(Continued on page 9)

**** Kwakwaka'wakw Wisdom ****

Tłakwa "Copper"

The information on the Copper is from a letter written on April 16th, 1919 by a man named Wawipigesawe' on behalf of the 'Namgis First Nation, petitioning the anti-potlatch law. The portion referring to the importance of the copper in our culture is as written:

"We now come to the part that affects us most in this custom, not only ours, but all the other tribes. In those days people that had sons to marry or maybe wanted a wife himself would hear of another man's daughter, and would want to marry her, particularly if she was of a Chief's family. When the young couple is married the father of the woman would give to his daughter's husband canoes, food, a name and other different things, which have a part in our dances and a copper. This is what a man gets when he is married to a woman and that is what has been passed on until today. The bridegroom would give a feast with what he got and would invite everybody from his own tribe or other tribes to partake of what had been given to him, and we wish to continue this custom as it helps our old people and young people as well, each one gets his share and can use it for his own purposes, either to get clothing or other things. The coppers that we got in the old days were different from those we got from the white men. These coppers were as they were found, only beaten out with a hammer and we have a lot of money invested in them.

The copper is the main holder of our customs because the value of them is rising and as they are passed on to others they increase in value, the copper forms the Chief strength of a man who intends giving a feast and he sells the copper and what he gets for it he uses to make the feast. All the other things that we have would sold for a large sum of money, and no one will force a person who sells it to give it all away, so that he always has considerable left for his own use. When a man buys a copper he pays a deposit on it and the next man may buy from him and pay a deposit on an increased valuation and so it may be through the hands of four or five and still payment not be completed. If our custom is done away with these coppers will be useless, and will entail a big loss, as all those who have an interest in them will lose all they have put in. Each tribe has its own coppers, and each copper has its own value. In the old days there was no money and these coppers were a standard of value but increased in value each time they changed hands. When the white man came and we could earn wages in cash for our labor we invested our savings in coppers and used them the same as a white man would do with a bank and would always expect more back then we put in. We are giving you a list of the coppers belonging to the 'Namgis Tribe and their values, other tribes have their own coppers so that you will see the great financial loss that would entail on us if our custom is suppressed".

Cultural Research and Repatriation



Gilakas'la Ni'nal'namwiyut! Hila mastlan

Ki'kasu "Crests" of the Alert Bay **Gukwdzi** "Big House"

Information from the Artist / Chiefs leading in the construction of the house in "Kwakiutl House and Totem Poles" by S.W.A. Gunn, M.D.

Principle Architect - Chief **Ol Siwid** - James Sewid. Head Artist - Chief **Udzistalis** Henry Speck. Master Carver - Chief **Pudhidagama'yi** Charlie George.

Front House Posts:

Kulus "Supernatural White Down-Covered Bird"

Kulus is the crest of the **Ma'amtagila** "Those who come from Matagila". **Matagila** "Flyer" the Ancestor of the tribe came down from heaven in the form of a **Kulus**. In time, Matagila was sent a message that the Great Flood was going to come and cleanse the World. To prepare, Matagila built himself a waterproof house and gathered his family inside to escape the disaster. The terrible flood covered the house completely, but Matagila and his family were spared. After many days, Matagila breaks a hole in the roof of his house and releases one of four birds that he had caught prior to the flood. The first three birds that were set free did not return, but the fourth, returned with a twig of green cedar, signifying that the flood had completely gone down and it was safe to come out. Eventually,

Matagila sends his sons to travel about and repopulate the world. When Matagila believes his work is done, he transforms back into a **Kulus** and returns to his home in the heavens. His constructive, building spirit and helpfulness are respected and honoured in ceremonies practiced by the **Ma'amtagila** today.



Richard Gladstone
Gift Shop
Clerk

Yo 'Nugwa'am **Gwagwaldit'sila**. I was born and raised in the Village of Alert Bay. My mother is from 'Mimkwamlis, Village Island and my father is from Kitkatla. I am part **Kwakwaka'wakw** and Tsimshian. I love it here in the summer, my friends and I used to have log rolling contests and play a game on the top dock called the car game. We would each choose a colour of a car and every time our colour drove by we would have to jump off the top dock right out front of U'mista..

The month of August is very important to our people. This is the time we work at jarring salmon. I remember when I was younger, before most of my family went on to the spirit world, we would all go to one house and work on fish until 4:00 - 5:00 am. Today we don't get as much fish anymore and now we usually just do it at our house with my mom.

This is my 5th year working part-time at U'mista Cultural Centre. This year I am providing guided tours of our Potlatch Collection with the supervision of Lillian Hunt. I am also working in retail, hosting guests from all over the world, assisting them, answering questions about our history and what went on in our territory in early to late 1900's. One of the most popular questions that I get asked is "Do you still celebrate in potlatches as you did in the earlier days?" The answer is yes. Gilakas'la.



Stephen Bruce Jr.:
Summer Student

Hi, my name is Stephen Bruce Jr. My parents are Stephen Bruce Sr. and Lily Speck and my step-mom Terri Bruce. I have many grandparents, John Bruce and Dixie Buchanan (Denis Buchanan) on my paternal side, Edna Speck and Richard Prevost on my maternal side, my dear great grandfather and grandmother, Ronnie Speck and the late Martha Jacobson, Marge and the late Gilbert Popovich on my mom Terri's side. I have 2 sisters, Charlene and Abigail and one little brother named Dylan Jagger. I was born on September 15, 1991.

I began work at the Umista Cultural Centre as a summer student on Thursday July the 5th. I managed to come across the job thanks to Randy Bell of the 'Namgis Youth Employ-

ment Program. Some of my duties include: inside and outside clean up, including the beach area, gift shop sales and maintenance, pricing new product, stocking shelves and handling visitor inquiries. Working here at the Umista Cultural Centre is a wonderful, fun job where I get to meet new people and have the opportunity to learn more about my culture. I really like working here and hope to have the opportunity to work here again next summer. Thank you to Andrea Sanborn for hiring me and thanks to Randy Bell for recommending me for the position.

I am being mentored on the Potlatch Collection Tour and hope to provide guided tours should I continue this summer job placement for 2008. I work mostly with Lillian Hunt and Richard Gladstone but Andrea Sanborn is always here to provide direction. I also get to work with my mom Terri for a few days in August as she is temporary support staff for the Gift shop.

It's great to have William Wasden, Pewi Alfred and Bryan Hunt here as well; they're always willing to help out should I have any questions.



Another favourite beach activity:

Tłubukw, sockeye salmon expertly placed in cedar sticks and cooked over an open fire. Nothing tastes better.



Lillian Hunt:

**Outreach Programming
June 21st Summer Solstice**

First ancestors around the world have recognized the significance of this date as the longest day of the year. Now it is recognized as National Aboriginal Day, so mark your calendars!

In July and August, summer days are fabulous in Alert Bay, especially for children. They don't seem to mind that our ocean waters are considered sub zero! Well ok, maybe not but still very cold indeed. The children featured in this article are enjoying kayak lessons offered at "Namgis Summer Day Camp. We have easy access to several beach areas on our island. This has become more important to me as I travel to other places with my family and look for a beach to enjoy. On our last journey with my grandchildren we wished to go to a beach only to find out that there were none nearby and that we would have to drive 30-45 minutes to the nearest beach! We were not impressed and quite disappointed and now we certainly appreciate our beaches a lot more!

Summer on the beaches of Alert Bay!



Gordon Brown and Shantel Cook kayaking like pros.

We also have a myriad of connecting trails throughout the island. Some have direct access to beach areas. Our beaches for such a tiny island are very diverse and offer an extraordinary experience. Memories are made of this.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR BEACHES CLEAN!



"Namgis Summer Day Camp Program outside U'mista Cultural Centre, Photographs: Christina Cook, Director of 'Namgis Recreation Centre

Alert Bay Sea & Music Festival: Culturally significant annual community event

July 20—22 2007

2007 Salmon Princess, Christie Gullstrom

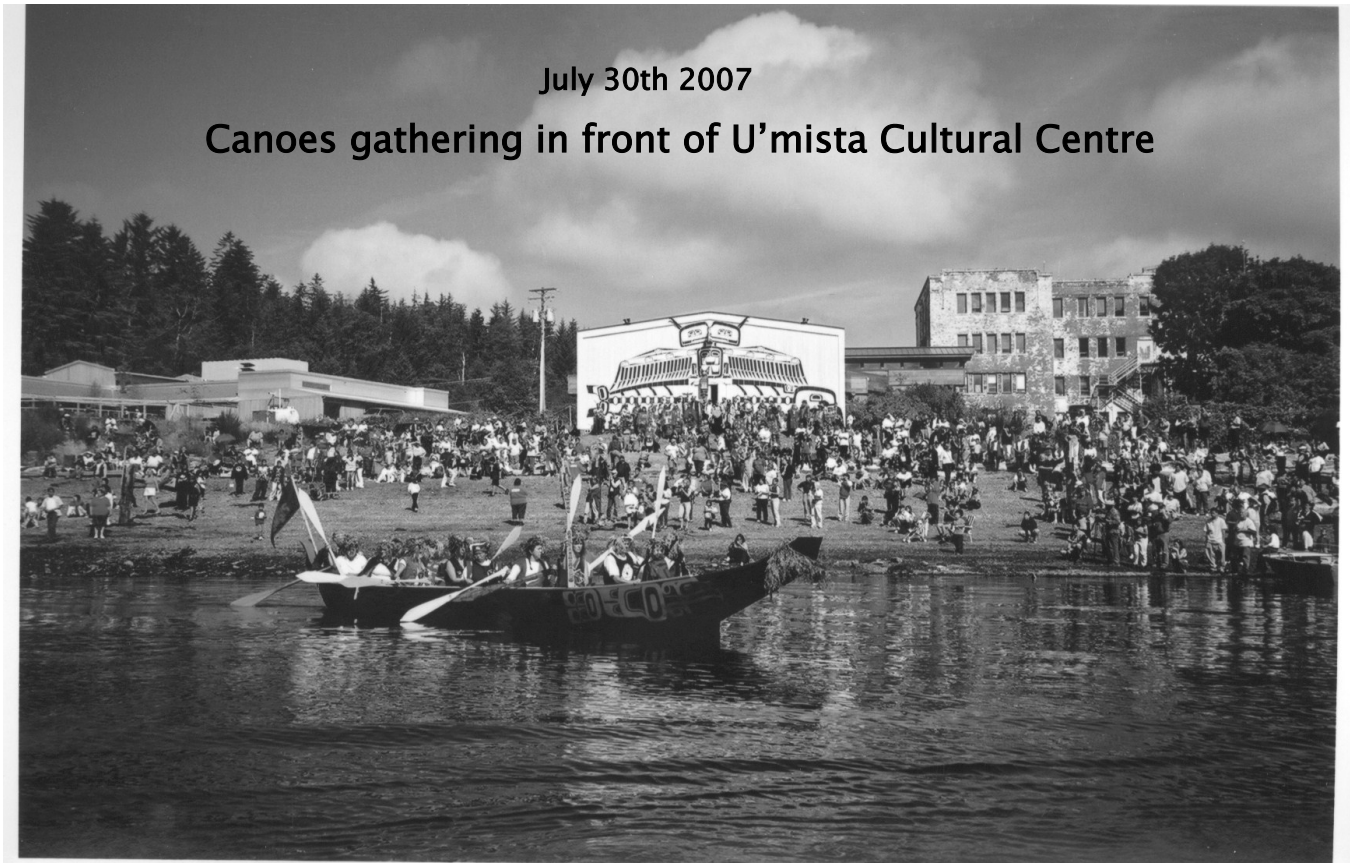


There is always something fun and exciting going on in Alert Bay. Like the Sea Festival. Activities include, cultural displays, family games and contests, local artisans and musicians. The Salmon Pageant takes place in our Gukwdzi Thursday evening, where youth display their cultural knowledge. The winning contestants will wear the special carved cedar bark head piece at ceremonies throughout the weekend. The weekend is topped off with a great Musicfest which takes place up on the hill at our baseball field with a spectacular view of the bay.

Some events are culturally significant to our history and take place on our beaches. The Canoe Gathering commemorates visiting tribal groups dating back to our earliest history through Potlatch and commercial trading activities.

July 30th 2007

Canoes gathering in front of U'mista Cultural Centre



Gift Shop Features:

Episode 2: Raven and the First People

6 assorted titles at \$20.00 each.



The world is now filled with life: birds clamor merrily and fish swim and jump in the waters. Raven and Eagle walk among the new animals, instructing them on how they should behave but the animals ignore them or make rude gestures. They meet Frog, who tells them of a great clamshell with a wondrous surprise inside. Raven, ever curious, finds the clamshell on the beach, but it just sits there doing nothing. Frustrated, Raven kicks at it and he hears a cry issue forth. Eagle is uneasy and suggests they walk on but Raven ignores him. Prying open the shell he finds tiny men inside. Eagle finds the men quite unpleasant to look at, but Raven is intrigued. They turn, walk over a hill and... run smack into a village of people with their children.

Aboriginal Tourism British Columbia Awards Ceremony, March 14th 2007 U'mista Cultural Society

is presented the “Power of Education” Award

by Don Foxgord of Tourism British Columbia

Norman Lee, Ministry of Tourism Sport & the Arts

Don Foxgord, Tourism BC

Trevor Keir, Tourism BC

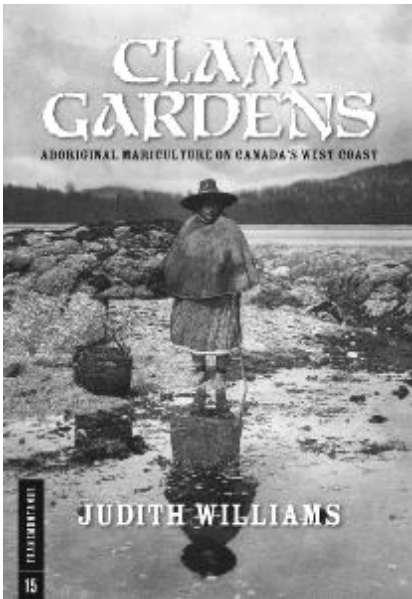
Chief Bill Cranmer, Chair, U'mista Cultural Society

and Lillian Hunt, Staff, U'mista Cultural Centre

accepted the award together.

On the U'mista Book Shelf

Clam Gardens by Judith Williams



Aboriginal Mariculture on Canada's West Coasts is Number 15 in the Transmontanus series of books edited by Terry Glavin

For many years, archaeologists were unaware of the ancient clam terraces at Waiatt Bay, on Quadra Island. Author Judith Williams knew no differently until she was advised of their existence by a Klahoose elder named Elizabeth Harry (Keekus). By liaising with other observers of clam gardens in the Broughton Archipelago and conducting her own survey of Waiatt Bay and Gorge Harbour on Cortes Island, Williams has amassed evidence that the rock structures seen only at the lowest tides were used by native peoples for the purpose of cultivating butter clams. Her research does much to challenge the notion of pre-contact West Coast indigenous peoples and hunters-gatherers alone. The clam gardens whose existence she reveals here might also be unique in the world.

In the U'mista Giftshop



Good looking backpacks with wolf design by Beau Dick

\$ 30.00



There are a many carvings for sale in the U'mista Giftshop created by various local artisans , many of whom are recognized world wide. This Eagle plaque is by young and upcoming artist Morris Johnny of the Gwa'sala First Nation.

\$ 300.00

Special Annual Events @ U'mista

November 1st U'mista 27th Anniversary
 March 21st Grandparents Day
 December 5–24th U'mista Gift shop Christmas Sale

Annual Community Events

May Day Crafts–Races–Parade–Family Night
June 13–15 50th June Sports Soccer Tournament
 July (3rd weekend) Sea and Music Festival
 December (1st Saturday) Christmas Craft Bazaar

Extended Summer Hours:

Seven days weekly from 9:00 am to 5:00 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 reservations.

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. Become a member

Contact: Lillian Hunt at 250-974-5403 or e-mail: lhunt@umista.ca

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The mandate of the U'mista Cultural Society is to ensure the survival of all aspects of the cultural heritage of the Kwakwaka'wakw