



Tsitsakalam



Tłi'linuxw-Flora Dawson



He'masi'lakw-Chief Patrick Alfred

Issue Content

Pg 2-5	Executive Director
Pg -5	Tłisalagi'lakw visit
Pg 6-7	Farewell treasured ones
Pg 8-9	Cultural Events
Pg 10	Kwak'wala Curriculum

Pg 11	Research/Data
Pg 12	Research/Repatriation
Pg 13	Kwakwaka'wakw Wisdom
Pg 14	Giftshop Features
Pg 15	U'mista Bookshelf



Andrea Sanborn, Executive Director

Notes from the Executive Director's desk:

Greetings to all.

Another winter came upon us in a fury at times and yet at other times it has been beautiful, fresh, clear and crisp. It certainly wakes us up to the power of the elements and yet leaves us with an appreciation of where we are fortunate enough to live.

Many of our readers might believe that winter is a slow time of year for us at the U'mista. It might look like a slower time with less visitors. However, it is almost as busy in other ways as it is during the tourism season. At this time of year we are often hosting visiting students and instructors from other education institutions, we respond to many inquiries from around the world regarding research, travel, education, etc. Much of our annual planning is being conducted with the Board of Directors and staff as we prepare to determine our focus for the next fiscal year and then begin our proposal writing to the many funders we work with and continue to look for others. If you listen carefully outside our door you might even hear the number crunching going on inside.

We are most appreciative of the support we continue to get from the BC Arts Council, Canadian Heritage, North Vancouver Island Aboriginal Training Society, First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council, BC Gaming Commission, First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres, the Vancouver Foundation and Canada Council for the Arts for all our project development. We are also very appreciative of the support of our membership and our visitors as well as our partnerships in projects with the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver and the University of British Columbia. Gilakas'la. It would be very difficult to continue our work without all of this support.



Tying the bands of life Photo: Dale Hamilton

My husband and I were very fortunate to have been invited to witness the Hiługwila ceremony for the child of Chris Willie and Tina Wasden. At this ceremony their child who has reached the age of "ten moons" is now ready for her name which will represent her joining our circle of life. The ceremony is a beautiful

one with profound significance. It is marked with traditional practice such as is included in the following text as researched and written by Hiłamas (William Wasden Jr)

Ten moons after birth a festival is celebrated to honour the child, at which time straps are put around the ankles of the child, under the knees, around the wrists, and above the elbows, and at which his or her face is painted with red ochre and the hair singed off. The paint and the smell of the singed hair is protection against disease and pains. According to tradition, this custom was instituted by the Thunderbird when the animals made war upon him, hiding in an artificial whale. In vain the Thunderbird's four sons had tried to lift the whale, but had been drowned by it. Then, before he and his wife tried to lift the whale, he put the "Thunderbird straps" on his infant, which was just ten months old, saying that future generations would do the same. At the same time the child's hair is singed off over a comb that is held close to the scalp. Then the whole head and face are painted with red ochre. This is believed to be a protection against scabs and boils. At this festival a name is given to the child (ganlaxdle' hiługwila). After the ceremony the child's parents must distribute red ochre among all the invited guests, men, women, and children, and give to all of them handkerchiefs to tie around their heads. Finally a handkerchief is also tied around the child's head. This completes the ceremony and signifies that the child is now joining our circle of life.

There is a saying that every person's head is painted twice, once when he is ten months old, and then when he is dead.



The new generation

Photo: Dale Hamilton

As witnesses to this ceremony we are also accepting the responsibility to help care for this child, keep her safe, remind her where she belongs and who her family, as well as her ex-



Reaffirming care obligations Photo: Dale Hamilton

tended family are and provide guidance to her as she continues to grow in our community. This is a moving and joyful ceremony and I thank Chris and Tina for the invitation to be a part of it.

Thank you to Chris for allowing me to report on it in this issue. I personally believe that this generation of Chris' has a solid foundation of cultural understanding and a strong commitment to ensure it remains strong for generations to come. They have a good understanding of the kwak'wala language and I believe that the language will never become extinct because this group of young people have the desire to maintain it. This is not to say we do not have a lot of work to do but only to say Chris' generation has the tools to do it. We have here at the U'mista others such as Pewi Alfred and William Wasden Jr. who continue to maintain and document our culture and language in their work here. We have Lorraine Hunt who works closely with them verifying language materials. We also have a number of fluent speakers who share their knowledge with them and guide them as they move forward in their work. Again, gilakas'la for your contributions to support these young people.

Another important aspect of our culture is the art that is created for ceremony as opposed to art created for the marketplace. Often the contributions of our artists to the community are over looked. I am sure many people do not realize what these contributions are. The artists are often called upon to create "new" dance masks, headdresses, rattles, etc. for family ceremonial use at potlatches and feasts. They are asked to help in preparing the big house for ceremony. They are asked to help renew some family pieces of regalia. They are often asked to create crosses for funerals. Often they will do this on their own time and their own dime. I for one thank them for their contributions and appreciate their work. If you do too,

let's tell them this. I think they will appreciate it.

As we move forward towards Spring we ask you to stay tuned to what is developing at U'mista. We are planning on developing exhibits, workshops and more language materials. We are also presenting a concert on March 11, 2008 featuring Michael Waters and Kinobe Herbert at the U'mista at 8 pm and the ticket price is \$10 per person. Michael and Kinobe have been planning this tour ever since they met in Uganda in 2005. I have heard brief segments of their music and it is beautiful. I know you will enjoy it.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff at the U'mista, we extend our deepest sympathies to the families losing loved ones recently. We especially extend our sympathies to the family of Chief Pat Alfred who was taken from them suddenly in a fishing accident.

In closing I want to say how concerned I am, as many of us are, about the decline of our salmon stocks. This year brought the issue up dramatically as many of us were not able to secure our usual supply of fish for our freezers, especially our Elders. My question is: Are we doing enough about this? Or, are we going to sit by and wait to see what happens? I cannot accept that we sit by and wait to see what happens but then I also do not have the skills or training to determine what steps can be taken to stop this trend or reverse it. All I can do is ask where all our scientist partners are in this issue, they seem to be unnaturally quiet on this. Salmon is the fundamental resource for our well being and to our circle of life. What will we do when it is gone? I will write more about this in the next issue.

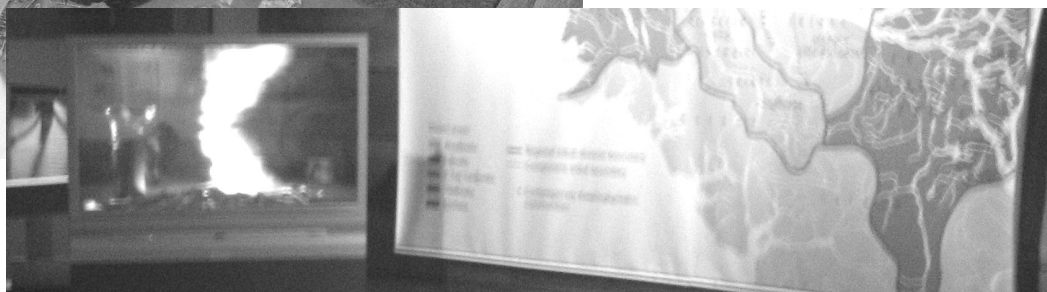
Tłisalagi'lakw School Kindergarten students come to U'mista Cultural Centre .



Students hard at work for their research project

We often host school groups to our centre. They can access information on our culture through videos and tours.

Thank you to the teachers and assistants who prepare the students about what to expect at the centre. Their students are all very well behaved and especially respectful of the artifacts in our Potlatch Collection.



Students, enraptured by the film, "Spirit Lodge" as part of their research for the annual Christmas concert.

We have a selection of cultural videos and DVD's for your class to access for their special trip to U'mista.

The big screen TV was purchased through fund-raising and generous donations.



The concert was fantastic and well received by the standing room only audience.

We are looking for any still photos taken at the concert that you wish to share.

Please contact us 250-974-5403.



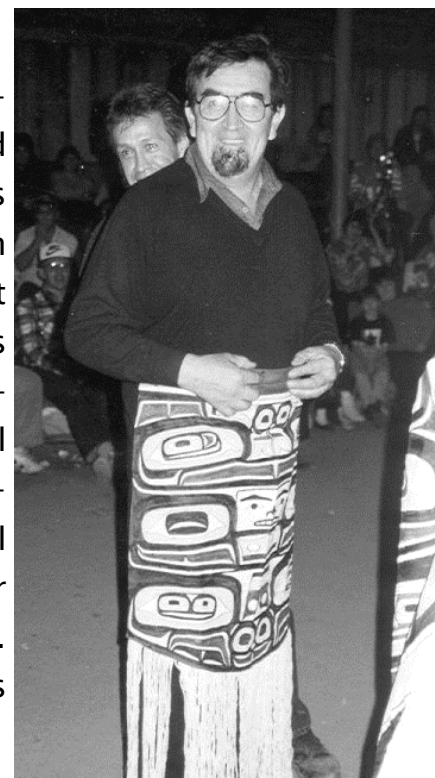
Patrick Eugene Alfred He'masi'lakw

March 9, 1937—January 8, 2008

Please note: the following text is extracted from the eulogy prepared by William Wasden

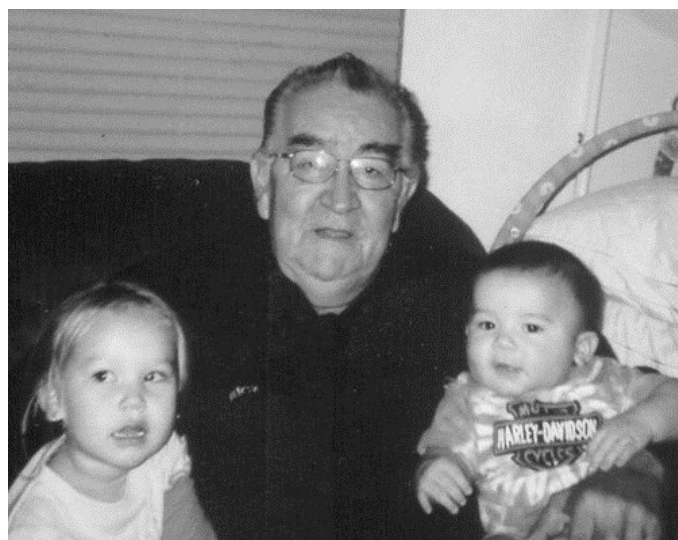
Patrick Eugene Alfred was the oldest son of George William Alfred (Kwamaḡalas) and Hazel Louisa nee Hunt (Da'k'alaḡameḡa) "Laudie". Pat's paternal grandparents were Moses Alfred - Head Chief Udzistalis of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Kwagu'ł Proper / Head Chief K'odi of the Siḡant'la'yi 'Nāḡḡis. His grandmother was Agnes nee Joe (Yaku'ya'ogwa) "Aḡu". Pat's name He'masi'lakw came from his grandfather Johnathan "Odi" and he was strongly connected to his Fort Rupert family. Odi was the son of Chief 'Maḡwalaḡalis/ Chief K'ixitasu George Hunt who was English and Tlingit, and Lucy Ho'miskānis (T'laḡi'lakw) from the Ha'anad'ḡan K'umuyo'yi. George was the son of Robert Hunt a Hudson Bay Factor believed to be from Dorsetshire England and Mary Ebbetts (Aniḡalaḡa) a Tlingit noble woman.

One of Pat's greatest interests and pleasures in life was our culture. When Pat saw the spirit and desire of his children and grandchildren, he did all that he could to ensure that they all had a place in our traditional society. Shown here with his Chilkat apron.



Chief Giḡgiḡalisama'yi 'Nāḡḡwis,

Pat is survived by his wife of 52 years Pauline.



Pat with two of his great grandchildren Nora and Xander

Thanks to Gina Wadhams and other family members for submitting photos.



Tłi'linuxw, Flora Dawson

January 28, 1928–February 5th, 2008

It is with regret that we report on losing another cultural and community treasure. Flora Dawson passed away on February 25, 2008 at her home in Ukwānalis or Kingcome.



Early shot of Kingcome Village

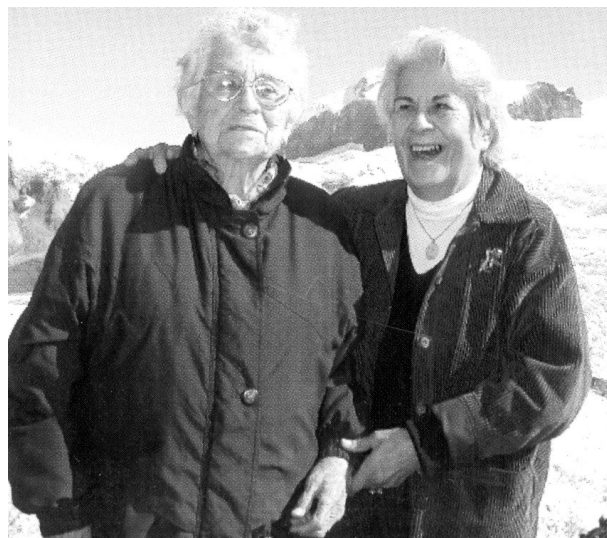
member of your Board of Directors at the U'mista. Her interests were wide spread but her focus was our language.

She devoutly believed that our culture is rooted

in our language. She wrote many letters to many people and organizations looking for support for preserving our language from becoming extinct. Flora's background as a teacher highlighted the need to maintain our language.

Flora was always willing to share her ideas for language maintenance with the Board, always willing to assist in survey developments about the fluency of our membership and community. She would often speak on our behalf to persons she felt might want to help us identify resources to allow us to continue language maintenance. Flora encouraged young people to consider advancing their education so they could return to our communities and carry on this much need work on language.

Flo-
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Sisters on a glacier photo: Nimmo Bay

Aunties Ethel Alfred and Flora Dawson

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our staff, we extend our sincere condolences to the family of Tłi'linuxw. We will miss her calls to the U'mista from time to time to check up on us to be sure we were O.K. and our work with language was carrying on.

**May we please have your
Attention?**

Please note that we are hosting an interactive workshop with Kinobe Herbert prior to the evening performance. Please bring your instruments with you if you wish to participate.

Thank you.

AFRICAN ODYSSEY

An interactive African music workshop with Kinobe Herbert from Uganda

Tuesday March 11 1 - 4 pm
U'mista Cultural Centre

World music star Kinobe will cover spiritual and historical aspects of African music, including percussion, kalimba (thumb piano) and stringed instruments. Bring your drum!

We are planning on a meeting of interested community members in the delivery of various cultural workshops. We need to determine levels of interest for these workshops that we list below. Your input is valued and filling out the survey below will be very helpful and appreciated by us.

Type of workshop	Interested Y/N	Best time to attend workshops	Best start date	Cost /workshop
Spruce root weaving				
Singing				
Dancing				
Language				
Legend nights				
Understanding Art styles				
Sewing regalia				

"...without a doubt, a genius on acoustic guitar"
Bridge Guitar Reviews

"...Uganda's world music star!"
ARTmatters

MICHAEL WATERS



KINOBE HERBERT



RECLUSIVE GUITAR MYSTIC

UGANDAN KORA MASTER

THE MEDICINE WIND

Two acoustic virtuosos on the same wavelength, Michael Waters and Kinobe Herbert have planned this tour ever since they met in Uganda in 2005.

Kinobe is recently returned from a 17 country Pan Africa tour with his roots band *Soul Beat Africa*. He blends traditional and Afro-folk sounds in a deep homage to the red earth and wide skies of his homeland. He is a master of the Kora, a traditional 26 string instrument, which he builds himself.

Michael has spent the last two years as an emerging artist developing his solo show, after 33 years playing as a spiritual practice. He has performed in Africa, Arabia, Europe and America. His encounter with the medicine ceremonies of the Peruvian Amazon triggered a 16 month wave of virtuoso composition and the decision to begin playing publicly.

Alert Bay Performance

MARCH 11

U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE

8 pm (Doors at 7:30 pm)

Tickets: \$10 at the door



PRESENTED BY THE
U'MISTA CULTURAL SOCIETY

WWW.LADYBIRDMUSIC.COM

WWW.NOMADROOTS.COM



Pewi Alfred: Language Curriculum Trainee

and much easier to have many elders in one room sharing with each other. My time with the elders is always more than working on our language. It is about sharing their life experience, protocol, stories of how things used to be, through our culture and traditions. I am concentrating more on their accent and pronunciation. Speaking our language without the accent would sound different all together. I recently started what is referred to as a language nest at the Amlilas Day Care. I had a hard time reviewing my list of elders and who would be available during this time. I asked Norman Glendale who has been one of my resources for 3 years whose contribution is much appreciated, Emma Tamlin was my other choice, unfortunately she is ill. My uncle Tommy Speck goes to Amlilas with his granddaughter and was sitting speaking kwak'wala with Norman, so I asked him to fill in until I found a replacement. He agreed. Now he is a full time resource. Irene Cook was also recommended and she also agreed! Now I have 3 kwak'wala support workers who are familiar with the TPR method. My challenge is that I am not fluent, and with my minimal vocabulary, I have a hard time **not** speaking English. I know that being more committed to putting my language into my life then I shall succeed.

I have been given the opportunity to work with some of our community elders to speak about our kwak'wala language. They were my grandparents Pauline, and Pat Alfred, Audrey Wilson, Lorraine and Fran Hunt, Douglas Scow, Andrew Webber,

Emma Tamlin, Gi'ya'ka, William Wasden and me. It is amazing to hear the different ways of introduction

Children see, hear and copy our every move. We spend 15 minutes each day using the Total Physical Response method that seems to be working well with the children. It is easier for children to internalize at this stage. My explanation to the parents, elders and workers is; "please don't translate", don't expect anyone to speak immediately, which will come later after the material is learned. The TPR web site explains the method that I find successful.

www.tprsource.com

WHAT IS TPR? IT'S ALL IN THE WAY WE LEARN...

TPR is based on the premise that the human brain has a biological program for acquiring any natural language on earth – including the sign language of the deaf. The process is visible when we observe how infants internalize their first language. The secret is a unique "conversation" between the parent and infant. For example, the first conversation is a parent saying, "Look at daddy. Look at daddy." The infant's face turns in the direction of the voice and daddy exclaims, "She's looking at me! She's looking at me!" Dr. Asher calls this "a language-body conversation" because the parent speaks and the infant answers with a physical response such as looking, smiling, laughing, turning, walking, reaching, grasping, holding, sitting, running, and so forth. Notice that "conversations" continue for many months before the child utters anything more intelligible than "mommy" or "daddy." Although the infant is not yet speaking, the child is imprinting a linguistic map of how the language works. Silently, the child is internalizing the patterns and sounds of the target language. When the child has decoded enough of the target language, speaking appears spontaneously. The infant's speech will not be perfect, but gradually, the child's utterances will approximate more and more that of a native speaker.

See photos page 15



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

We have been busy here at the U'mista this winter, continuing to expand our cultural resources. We were excited with our presentation on the Reciprocal Research Network (more info below) that we had a few weeks back and are eager for spring with great events we are preparing for such as National Aboriginal Day on June 21st

A new project I have been working on is the U'mista website, updating and improving various sections. One new addition we will be adding is an **Artist Biography section** for many of the Kwakwaka'wakw artists. This section will include a picture of the artist, written information on the artist's family and carving history and eventually previous artwork by the artist. We are excited about this addition to our website because we will be able to represent our artists. If you are not on the list please let us know so we can add you or if you would like your biography/picture changed or edited please let us know. Coming soon - www.umista.ca

Just a reminder: if you have any old photographs you would like digitized and added to

our database that would be greatly appreciated. We are adding these photographs on a site called the Reciprocal Research Network, which is a network that will be at the U'mista and different institutions such as UBC and various other cultural centers such as Sto:lo Nation. On the website users will be able to search for artifacts from many of the Nations around Canada. This network will be accessible to participating institutions to get a better understanding on different tribes.

Reciprocal Research Network



Coming in 2009 - www.rrndevelopment.ca

I would again like to thank the U'mista Cultural Centre for providing us with these opportunities to help keep our language and culture alive for generations to come. 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,

Bryan Hunt, Tłatłatł'wis



FirstVoices is a group of web-based tools and services designed to support Aboriginal people engaged in language archiving, language teaching & culture revitalization.

Cultural Research and Repatriation



Ni'nal'namwiyut! Hiłamastłan
William Wasden Jr.

Gilakas'la! A Special Thank You! To Janice Klein from the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian for her generous gifts of books to our center. During a dance trip to Chicago a few years ago through our very own 'Namgis film maker Barb Crammer, we had the fortunate opportunity to visit the Mitchell Museum. While at this home-style and warm welcoming institution, we had an incredible time and met some real fine people. As we were permitted to look and get personal with some of the northwest coast pieces, we later saw volumes of ethnography books by Franz Boas. As K'odi Nelson and I rifled through the ones we knew applied to our area, the museum staff asked us the significance of these books to us. We told them that we had many of the collection back home at the U'mista but not the entire set. Through some discussion, Janice told us that they were going to donate the books to some not yet decided nonprofit organization or some school that might need them. So it

seemed that fate had brought us to their giving location. So K'odi then told them about our U'mista Cultural Center and how many of our people could benefit from the information that these books contained. A few months later, we received boxes of these fine books and we are very grateful. So we wanted to publicly acknowledge our friends in Chicago and their well appreciated generosity to our cultural center. Thank you once again Janice Klein, and we hope that you and some of your staff will someday make it out to the BC Coast so we can repay your hospitality and generosity!

In Kwakwaka'wakw culture as part of our potlatch system we are named for our ancestors, a legacy that we must pass on to future generations.



Hiługwila ceremony for the daughter of Chris Willie and Tina Wasden

Photo: Dale Hamilton

Kwakwaka'waka Words

Ade' – a title of respect meaning “Sir” or “Lord”.

Dłə'wəlgəme' – “prince”, the title for the eldest son of a Chief.

Kidił – “princess”, a title for daughters of a Chief.

Długwe' – “treasure”, a name that the Chief of a 'namima (clan) refers to his eldest son.

Gi'yi – a term of endearment for the eldest child of parents and other children; as well as lovers to each other.

Gi'game' – “chiefly”, a term used for anyone of noble rank.

Xaməgame' Gi'game' – “Leader Chief”, a title for the Head Chief of a tribe or 'namima (clan).

Wawəxsgəmgilakw Gi'game' – “born to be a double-faced Chief”. A title for War Chiefs that have taken four heads in war.

Kəgwidi – “I am your slave”. A term used by people of a humble birth when addressing a noble.

'Wadzidi – “dog owner”, a title used for the eldest member of a family by all the other members.

Origin of the Sisəntlə'yi “Sun Beam Clans”

Səntlə'yi came down from the sun and descended to the earth. He came in the shape of a bird, then changed into a man and built a house at Yikəman. Afterwards, he wandered to the Kūmuxs (Comox), then visited the Lawitsis, then to the 'Namgis, then the 'Nakwaxda'xw, and finally came to Dłəxsiwa'yi in the country of the Kwagu'ł, where he settled at Giyuxw. He took a wife from each tribe and his clans all carry the name Sisəntlə'yi. The house that Səntlə'yi built

has a huge sun painted on it. The posts of the house are men carrying suns, these men are the slaves of Səntlə'yi. The crossbeams above the posts also represent men, and the longitudinal beams are sea lions. The steps to the house are three men laying down, they are also slaves of Səntlə'yi. In the scared winter dance, the Si-səntlə'yi use the sun mask, and the dog mask, for he had a dog named Kuluksa that came down from the sky with him. The totem pole of the Si-səntlə'yi represents a number of coppers one above the other. Above them is a man called “He Who Only Gives to Strangers”, that is raising his arms for a speech; at the top is a sun mask surrounded by a halo.



Potlatch Collection

photo: Umista Cultural Centre



Lillian Hunt, Gift Shop Services

It doesn't snow much in winter on Cormorant Island anymore. I remember as a child playing in the deep snow quite often. Now the children have to hurry up—get their snowsuits on and get out side quick, quick before it melts!

Now that the weather is showing signs of spring-time; sunny days, warmer weather we are enjoying the outdoors, going for walks along our village, hiking through our trails, climbing rocks along our beautiful beaches. I had the pleasure of climbing rocks and beach combing with my grandchildren this weekend and it reminded me of the great childhood I enjoyed on our little island. Renewing my beach interests through their eyes is a wonderful gift and a great way to keep happy and healthy. Highly recommended!

We enjoy hosting colleges for our Cultural Education Programs at this time of year.

North Island College Coastal Adventure Tourism have included the U'mista Cultural component to their program for the past 6 years.

Malaspina College have included U'mista in their First Nation Studies Program for the past 3 years. We have included a letter submitted by their instructor, Laura Cranmer.

Capilano College Tourism students arrive March 13–14th for their cultural experience. Contact us for details: 250–974–5403 or lhunt@umista.ca

Hi Lillian,

We in the Arts One First Nations, thank U'mista for its generous reception of our annual visits. Our Feb 21st–24th visit marks the third annual field trip to Alert Bay. This year, our group consisted of 17 people altogether. Students are welcome to bring their family members and only one student brought her husband and their son, as well as students from other disciplines such as Tourism and Recreation. I think our group numbers are generally consistent from year to year, give or take one or two people.

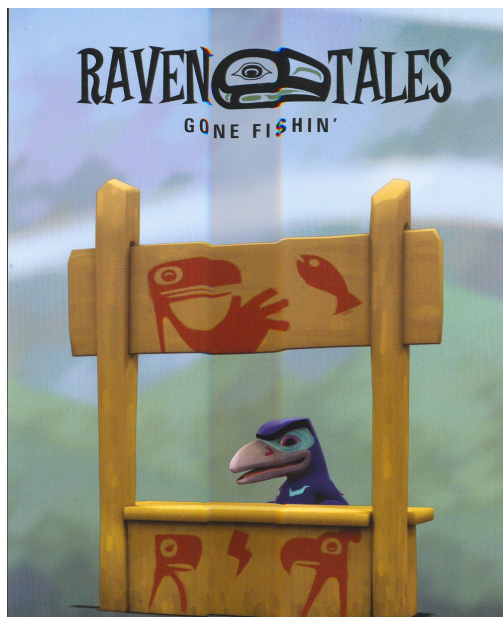
Also, we welcome scholars and/or guests from other institutions. This year we were accompanied by a visiting scholar from McGill University (Joan Russell), Malaspina's newly hired Vice-President (Leslie King) and our BA Advisor (Lynda Patterson) last but not least, my grandson Seth and my partner Bill.

In closing, without the generous community support in the form of student billets, we wouldn't be able, as a program, to afford to make the annual trip to Alert Bay. If memory serves (from my research last year, into rentals for our entire group), I think for our group to rent the Elders' Hostel space for two nights, it would have cost us in the neighborhood of \$1,100.00—money we simply don't have. So as Dan says, the billets for our students provide more opportunity for exchange of ideas and relationship building between our communities. And for that, we especially thank Andrea for opening your home to our students.

Gilakas'la, Laura Ann

Laura Cranmer
Arts One First Nations
Malaspina–University College
900 Fifth St
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5S5

U'mista Gift Shop Features:



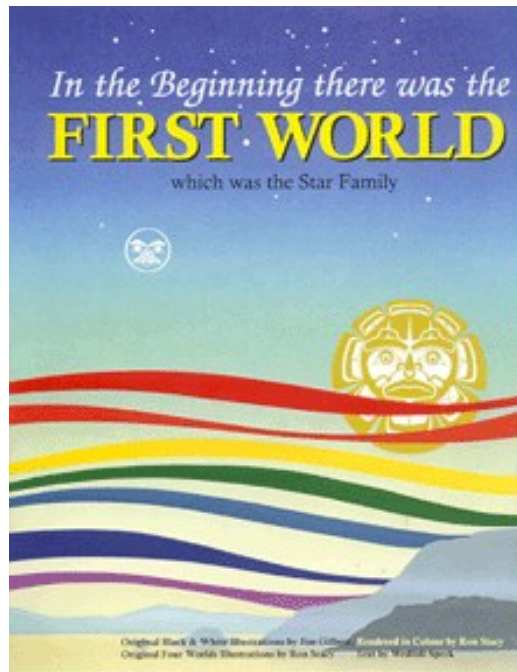
The fourth episode of Raven Tales series continues to entertain children of all ages.

Raven Tales is majestic in scope, rich in color an excellent source of traditional story telling.

DVD \$20.00

In this episode Raven teams up with Qos and Widi to throw a fishing contest between Eable and a mysterious giant bird who Frog calls the Kulos.

On the U'mista Book Shelf



Pewi Alfred: Language Curriculum continued from page 10



Pewi with Amlilas Kwak'wala language learners

Please contact Pewi @ Umista for more information:
250-974-5403



Kwak'wala speaking elders

Mrs Irene Cook and Norman Glendale:
Laughter is a huge part of the teacher/student relationship

Special Annual Events @ U'mista 2008

March 26 th	Grandparents Day
June 21 st	Aboriginal Day
November 1 st	28 th U'mista Anniversary

Events in our community:

June 12 th –15 th	50 th Annual June Sports and Soccer Tournament
July 20 th –22 nd	Sea and Music Festival
December 1 st	Annual Craft Bazaar

Extended Summer Hours:

Seven days weekly from 9:00am to 5:00pm

May 24th to September 27th, 2008

Admissions:

Adults \$5.25 ● Seniors and Students \$4.20 ● Children under 12 years \$1.05 ● GST included
Group rates apply for groups of 15 persons or more, please call for an appointment

Membership: 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 E-mail: lhunt@umista.ca

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

www.umista.ca

55 \$3.00