

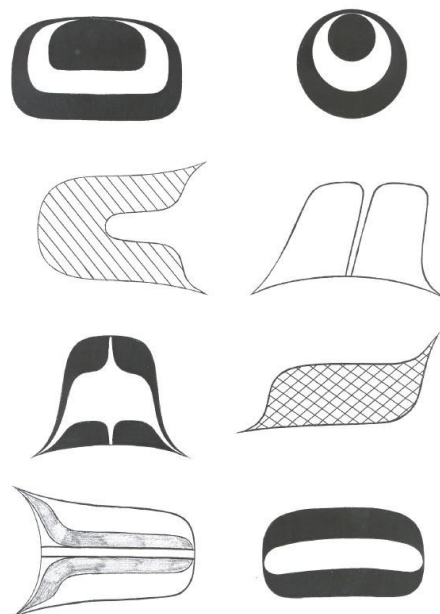


Tsitsak'alam

Singing & Dancing Class



ART CLASS



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**Andrea Sanborn,
Executive Director**

the exhibit "Listening to Our Ancestors" are being returned and should be back in our gallery in April.

RRN

Dresden project – The U'mista Cultural Centre have entered into an unique partnership with the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections) with their museum the Staatliche Ethnographische Sammlungen Sachsen (State Ethnographic Collections) to put on a joint exhibition about gift giving cultures entitled "The Great Potlatch – Gift Giving Customs and Economies of Plenty." This partnership will involve an exchange of items from our collections, with objects from U'mista being displayed in Dresden, and objects from Dresden being displayed at U'mista. This exhibit will take place in the summer of 2011.

In February, Chief Bill Cranmer and Karen Estrin traveled to Dresden, Germany to meet curators, see the collections and the gallery space and discuss concepts and ideas for the exhibitions.

On March 19, a formal signing ceremony was held at the Saxony House in Vancouver during the Olympic Games. Many of our friends and colleagues joined us for the event where Chief Bill Cranmer and Prof. Dr. Martin Roth, the Director General of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden signed a letter of intent for the project. The Prime Minister of Saxony, Stanislaw Tillich spoke at the event. Chief Bill Cranmer with Kevin Cranmer, Tyler Cranmer, Edgar Cranmer and Eli Cranmer performed a Peace Dance and a Feast Dance.

Notes from the Executive Director's desk:
(submitted by U'mista staff)

Activities at U'mista

First Voices Language Tutor – Mariah developed eleven 'Online Tutor' lessons. Each lesson was based on conversational phrases. Pewi Alfred edited content and was a resource contributor with Lily Jolliffe.

First Voices – Words are continuing to be added and edits made.

Art Classes – William Wasden Jr. has been leading afternoon art classes.

Song and Dance Classes – Tuesday and Friday afternoons U'mista has been hosting traditional song and dance classes for both genders and all ages. Elders have been involved.

Exhibits – William Wasden Jr. is preparing an exhibit of ceremonial robes and button blankets for the Big House Gallery. For this exhibit, Lois Beans is working with Wa on a blanket featuring a Tree of Life. There will also be two additional new displays in our galleries with works from the art classes shown, and the bottom gallery is going to be renewed. Objects that were loaned to the National Museum of the American Indian for

Canadian
HeritagePatrimoine
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CANADIAN CONSERVATION INSTITUTE



Caring for Totem Poles **New Advanced Professional Development Workshop**

October 6 - 9, 2009 U'mista Cultural Centre, Alert Bay, British Columbia.

Totem poles play important roles in the families and communities of the Pacific Northwest, but they have also become iconic symbols. Some have travelled far from their place of creation, representing First Nations peoples and culture in far-off places. Totems present special challenges: How do we best respect the traditions and knowledge of the peoples who own or create totem poles? What can we do to help maintain and care for totem poles? What causes the poles to deteriorate and what are the best things to do if we want more time to understand the poles before they return to nature? This workshop will address these questions in an open and thoughtful manner.

The issues of indoor and outdoor display of poles will be discussed, as will the broad range of cultural considerations that encourage, or limit, treatment of poles. Included will be a detailed, systematic approach to assessment, planning, documentation, and hands-on maintenance and treatment of poles. All participants will gain an in-depth understanding of the deterioration, care, and ethics involved in caring for poles. There will be room and respect for a range of approaches from do nothing, through simple site measures to reduce risks, to more intensive preventive maintenance.

There will also be opportunities to get to know the host community (U'mista Cultural Centre, Alert Bay, British Columbia) through special evening events.

Format: This interactive workshop will provide both lectures and hands-on practice designed to transfer a balance of scientific and practical information about pole preservation from conservators to custodians, from carvers to conservators, from one generation to another.

Target Audience: Conservators, owners and custodians of poles, mid-career artisans, and professionals experienced in making and/or caring for totem poles.

Enrollment: Minimum 10; maximum 20 (we reserve the right to limit numbers to ensure a good representation from West Coast communities who create or are the custodians of poles)

Facilitators: The workshop will be presented by CCI in partnership with U'mista Cultural Centre and Parks Canada.

Facilitators include:

- Andrew Todd, Andrew Todd Conservators Ltd
- James Hay, Senior Furniture Conservator-CCI and
- Michael Harrington, Manager, Preservation Services & Training
- Rick Lair, Historic Sites Resource Planner, Parks Canada

For more information contact:

Julie Stevenson, Learning and Development Officer
1-866-998-3721 ext. 114 E-mail: julie.stevenson@pch.gc.ca

The workshop was well received by the visiting participants and shared their positive comments with the U'mista staff; how much they enjoyed their stay in general and more specifically how much they enjoyed being in a First Nation village (the first for some participants) meeting Kwakwaka'wakw and being honored that some of our people participated in the workshop.



Above left: Bruce Alfred, 'Namgis artist and master carver speaking with the group about the history of memorial poles in the burial site.



Right: Wayne Alfred, 'Namgis master carver also addressing the group in the 'Namgis burial site.

Providing history of standing poles and also the fallen poles and how they are allowed to go back to nature without being altered like we do when we pass on. Live through a natural cycle as all things .

Below: Sean , 'Namgis carver in the "other" burial at the top of the hill talking about his family memorial poles. The present day use of memorial poles continues to be part of our historic culture. *** crosses and other painted grave markers** struggle to strengthen our culture





William Wasden Jr.



David Houghton laying it down



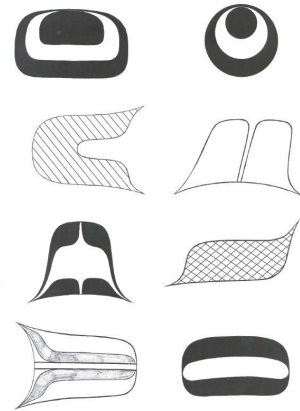
William (Wa) watching over his students



Bruce Alfred providing extra coaching

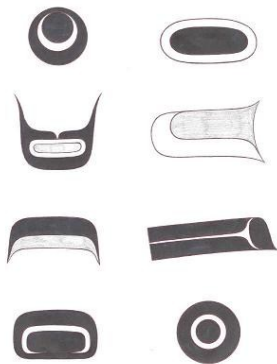


William Wasden Jr. Salmon Trout Head

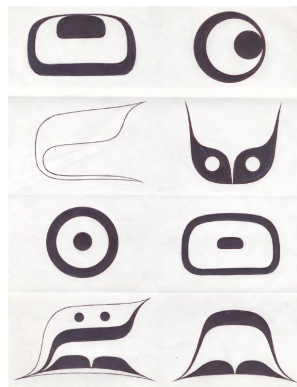


Bob Harris elements

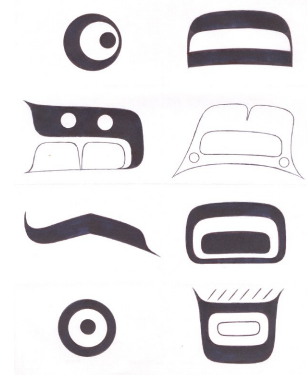
Bob Harris shown here in costume for public performances at the Chicago World's Fair in 1904. Chief



Herbert Johnson Elements Eight.



Mungo Martin style of elements



Willie Seaweed Elements



Vancouver Island Arts Summit

Nanaimo, BC

Shifting Ground:

New Realities, New Ideas, New Opportunities





**Pewi Alfred:
Language Curriculum
Trainee**

For the past three years I have been participating in a Master Apprentice Program (through U'mista? 4 yr term) with my Grandmother Daisy Sewid-Smith.

I was very nervous and anxious, but happy for the honor of working with this respectful and knowledgeable woman. My grandmother is a very patient person. We began the immersion program by checking to see how well I knew our language. At first I was very limited, only able to answer her questions in kwakwala with a "yes" and "no". We slowly built up my vocabulary through listening, repetition and consistently working on specific parts of grammar. I thank her for all of her time and knowledge.

This program was a great opportunity. Every other week during the three-year term four elders and resource people came in to observe and comment on what I had learned, how well they could understand what I was saying, was I pronouncing the words and phrases properly in kwakwala. They would identify if I was speaking in the right context and if I was able to answer their random questions. The elders and resource people were my grandmother Pauline Alfred, my uncle Tommy Speck, and my aunty Lily Jolliffe and the late Lorraine Hunt. I would also like to thank them for taking their time to help!

At this time I have completed four terms of the immersion program. Learning kwakwala is very challenging but the best thing that I have ever taken part in. There was so much to internalize with learning our language, but I will hold what I have been taught close to my heart and will also pass on the knowledge to others with kindness and love.

Since I finished the Immersion program I have been thinking about our language and where it is going! I feel that it is important to have the right accent and pronunciation while speaking kwakwala. Otherwise we may not express ourselves properly as it might not be the right word, or we might not be understood by other people. We have an accent that comes with the language and I feel that working directly with a speaker is important so that you don't miss any steps.

When kwakwala is spoken we speak harmoniously. Our language is so beautiful and we should concentrate more on how it is said, and exactly how the speaker has taught us. The message is; let us all speak our language and work harder at learning it. We cannot live without kwakwala and must take it more seriously. . I have been working with our language for many years with linguists and elders, and I have attended many schools, workshops, training and university programs in hopes to help save our language.



Terri Alfred and Pauline Alfred

Writing system: I feel that it is important that we learn to properly write kwakwala by following the writing system that our people helped develop/create along side Jay Powell. It is our respected language and writing system that the elders contributed to and they felt it will help us through our lives. This project has been the greatest contribution, and has definitely been beneficial for the kwakwaka'wakw. We should all respect and appreciate the time that our beloved elders put towards kwakwala.

Pronunciation: While working with the language there have been many people who have corrected how I have pronounced words while learning our language, and i want to say to everyone that I appreciate and respect your help. I can take it! :) I feel a language cannot survive without the proper writing system and a writing system cannot survive without a language. If it is written wrong then it will be said wrong. This is where proper pronunciation comes, and should be just as important. I do agree that kwakwala may have been an oral language before the U'mista orthography was developed in 1980, and with that we must respect that was put forward for us. We do need work harder at keeping our language alive just as much as they did/have. We also need to pay a lot more attention to the resources what we have. We can begin to record, participate in classes, Make our bighouse events all in the language, whether understood or not (strictly immerse the people), practicing more, and doing our best to preserve it. There are many elders/resources out there and we must utilize Them with the respect that they deserve.

Annunciation: I feel that it is important to have the right accent while speaking kwakwala. Otherwise it may sound way different then it should actually be said. That is one example that I was corrected saying. The 1st example is correct. The stress mark “[]” is on the first syllable “[la]”, which translates to “one hundred”. It seems like

a minor mistake to most but, my loving uncle Douglas corrected me and said it to me a few times and I realized that I really does matter and is important or it would not be the right word, or understood by other people. We have an accent that comes with the language and feel that working directly with a speaker is important so that you don't miss any steps.

Example: [la](k̄an)(d̄an) or (la)[k̄an](d̄an)

For many years learning our language I have been corrected in all of the areas. Carefully working with Lorraine Hunt and my Grandmother Pauline Alfred and Daisy Sewid-Smith and many other speakers. I want to thank them and let them know that they are appreciated. Appreciate for all that they teach us, for their contribution towards language, culture and traditions, and all the teachings that come along with it.

I am doing my best to encourage all of us to learn to speak our language. When learning we are not working in translations yet, and we are strictly immersed in kwakwala. We cannot live without kwakwala and we must take it more seriously.



Daisy Sewid-Smith and Lily Jolliffe



I have been as intuitive as possible for the average person working with Lawrence and Lillian for the RRN (Reciprocal Research Network). In October we attended the partner institutions meeting that got all the people connected with the RRN together. People were in attendance from all over the world. It was a chance for the partners to see what work has been done so far and of course what was left to be done. The RRN encompasses such a large cross section of professions. Curators: IT technical people; students and community liaisons to name but a few.

There was a lot of business to get through, and it was a hectic weekend of meetings, brainstorming and planning. Technical data from the holding institutions from around the world needs to be put into a database, which is then mapped over to the RRN. This then gives us access to all the items from all of the partner institutions. Our focus was to work on all the features the RRN website has to offer. It is now time to refine what is in place and concentrate on getting it as intuitive as possible for the average person working with Lawrence and Lillian for the RRN (Reciprocal Research Network). In October we attended the partner institutions meeting that got all the people connected with the RRN together. People were in attendance from all over the world. It was a chance for the partners to see what work has been done so far and of course what was left to be done. The RRN encompasses such a large cross section of professions. Curators: IT technical people; students and community liaisons to name but a few.

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UBC

October 24–25, 2009

U'mista Cultural Society Liaisons David Houghton, Lawrence Isaac and Lillian Hunt. They have had many valuable experiences and met many excited and interested individuals. The team travelled to Terrace for the BC Elder's conference this year to represent the RRN (along with all other Liaisons). They were able to demonstrate the RRN to individuals who were connected with items available through the RRN, making the experiences truly memorable. Dave presented his understanding of the Aboriginal perspective, and how the RRN gives people a chance to establish a relationship with their ancestors through the pieces online. It also allows other people to understand First Nations cultures from their own perspectives. Lawrence shared a story from their recent RRN trip to Kingcome Inlet. While he was there, he had the opportunity

to show the RRN to the son of Sam Weber (who made pieces available on the RRN). Lawrence shared his sense of personal fulfillment from these experiences, and the emotions from the community. He also looked forward to how the RRN will continue to foster these relationships, as well as provide access in isolated communities like Kingcome Inlet. Lillian Hunt told of her experiences with community members and how her own personal history is connected with objects accessible through the RRN.

My name is Shonna Welsh. I started working at the U'mista Cultural Centre on Oct 19th, 09. I was originally hired to assist Pe-wi Alfred, Kwak'wala Language Instruction Trainee while she continued her total immersion activities.

The program includes coordinating community dance and singing classes to be held here at U'mista. How fortunate am I? I feel blessed to be working in this environment. There is so much culture around us at all times and I have so much to learn.

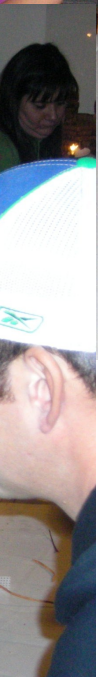
The dance and singing classes started on Tuesday January 12th 2010 and will finish on Tuesday March 30th 2010. The classes are held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 3:00 to 5:00 here at the U'mista Cultural Centre.

If you have regalia feel free to bring it, if not come anyway. These classes are for everyone young, old and in between. I really hope to see a lot of smiling faces showing up for these classes. This is such an awesome opportunity. You are welcome to come on out and give it a try.

We are also developing a contact list so please call to register and we will email or phone you of any further details or changes.

If you have any questions give me a call at the U'mista 250-974-5403





Culture and Tourism:



U'mista Cultural Tourism and Communication Coordinator, Lillian Hunt (on right) with Linda Epp, Capilano University.

As a member of the Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC, U'mista had the opportunity to participate in the first annual Indian Summer Festival hosted by ATBC in September 2009.

The festival was made possible by funding from the provincial and federal governments.

The festival was deemed such a success that it has become an annual event. See you in September 2010!



Keith Henry CEO for ATBC in front of festival banners at Robson Square, Vancouver BC

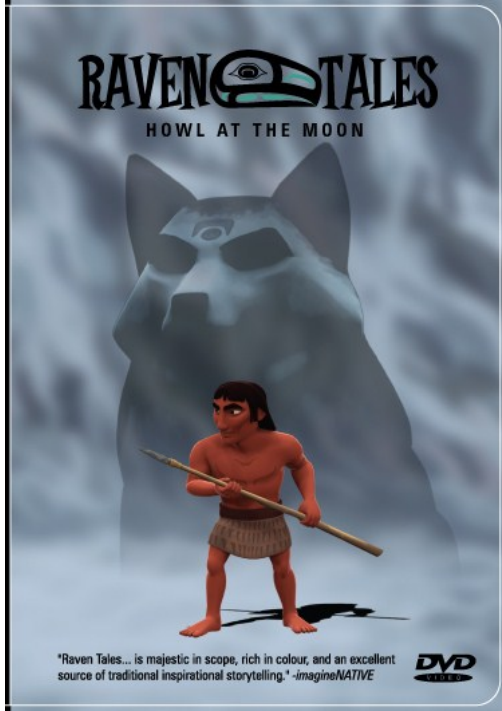


Above: young dancers from Ni'sga First Nation being prompted by elder Ernie Photo: ATBC

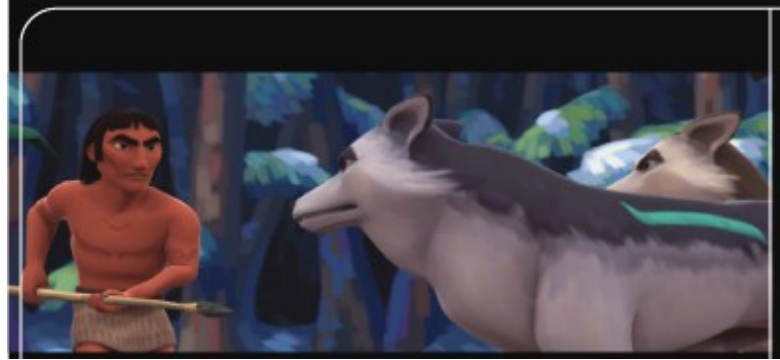


Above: Andy Everson and Justin Taylor performing with the Le La La Dancers Photo: ATBC

Culture and Animation: Raven Tales 8th episode: Howl at the Moon



\$20.00



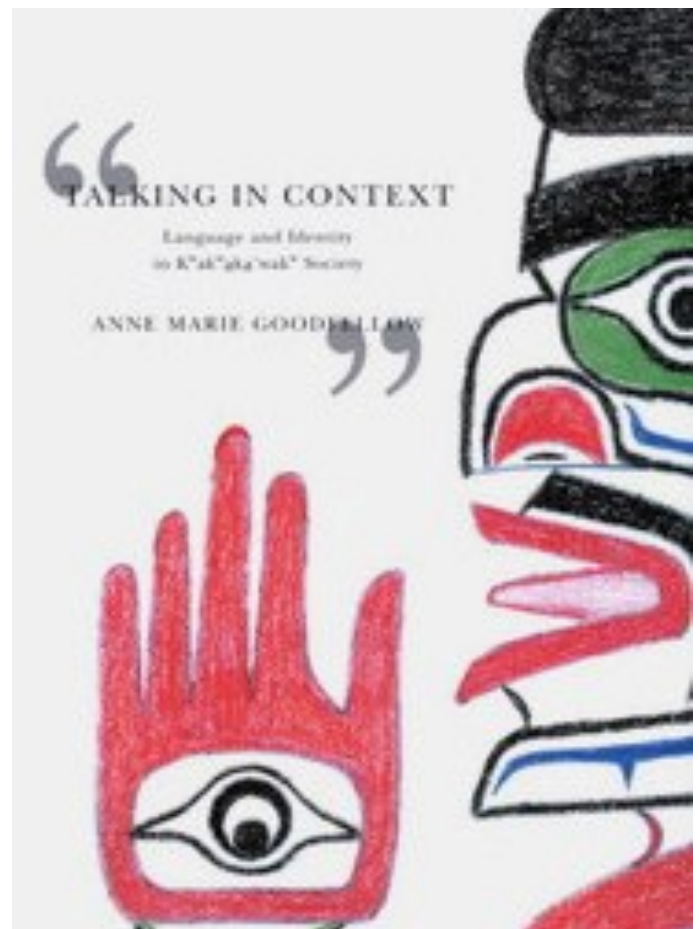
The people of the village have been kept awake from the howling of the wolves, so they decide to send a party into the woods to flush them out and burn their dens. During the hunt, Wina becomes separated from the others in a sudden storm but he is rescued by a pair of mysterious strangers who nurse him back to health. After the storm, he reappears in the village and tells the stunned villagers about his new friends...

On the U'mista book shelf:

Talking in Context by Anne Marie Goodfellow

A unique study of the relationship between language - and the erosion of a language - and cultural identity in heritage-language communities. CA \$95.00 | US \$95.00

Though linguists estimate that hundreds of languages are in danger of extinction, everyday use of Kwak'wala, an indigenous language spoken in British Columbia, reveals that it has been strategically maintained even among young speakers as a marker of cultural identity. Anne Marie Goodfellow explores the relationship between language, culture, and identity through a case study of the current use of Kwak'wala in two communities, Quatsino and Kingcome Inlet. Talking in Context demonstrates the importance of cultural contact on the structure of languages and addresses the socio-cultural aspects of indigenous language use in the modern world. Goodfellow's analysis of linguistic data from three generations of Kwak'wala speakers shows that English has greatly influenced grammar and phonology. Even though Kwak'wala is being replaced by English as the language of communication, Goodfellow found that speakers with varying degrees of fluency use the native language tactically to signal Kwak'wala identity and for ceremony. Talking in Context shows the ways in which indigenous languages may one day be restored to broader uses in the communities to which they are significant.



CA \$95.00

Special Annual U'mista Events 2010:

March 21st	Grandparents' Day
November 1st	U'mista 30th Anniversary
December 8th–24th	U'mista Annual Christmas Sale

Annual Community Events 2010:

June 18–21st	Pageant, Parade, Soccer Tournament
June 21st	National Aboriginal Day
July 24–26th	Sea and Music Festival
December 5th	Christmas Craft Bazaar



New! Regular Hours now:

Tuesday to Saturday–9:00am to 5:00pm

Extended Summer Hours:

May 19th to September 27th, 2009

Daily 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Admissions:

Adults \$8.00 ● Seniors(65+)/Students \$7.00 ● Children –12 years and under \$1.00

●GST not included

Group rates apply for 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? Become a member. Find out more about membership details.

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

U'mista Cultural Centre

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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