

Haida Laas

News from the Council of the Haida Nation

November 2025

Taanuud · Cháanuud
Fall



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K'UUGA KILJUU T'AA GUUDADAAL
WALKS LIGHTLY WITH A BIG HEART

Exhibition opening at Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum
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Haida Laas

News from the Council of the Haida Nation

PUBLISHED BY

the **COUNCIL of the HAIDA NATION**

info@haidanation.com

250.559.4468

Gaw Tlagée Old Massett

504 Naanii Street

HLGaagilda Skidegate

1 Reservoir Road

COUNCIL of the HAIDA NATION

GAW TLAGÉE

PO Box 589, Massett

Haida Gwaii, V0T 1M0

250.626.5252

chn.massett@haidanation.com

COUNCIL of the HAIDA NATION

HLGAAGILDA

PO Box 98, Daajing Giids

Haida Gwaii, V0T 1S0

250.559.4468

chn.skidegate@haidanation.com

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

MANAGER

Gaad Gas Raven Ryland

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Gudangée Tláats'gaa Tanya White

ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Guud T'suuna Michael Hughan-Blazic III

WRITER

Elim Sly

EDITOR

Katherine Powell

MEDIA

Dwyer Cross

WEB DESIGN

Kennedy Jones

  [haidanation.ca](https://www.haidanation.ca)

The year 2025 has been a time of peaks and valleys for the Haida Nation. We have reached the mountain top of Haida title recognition through achieving the **Chiixuujin • Chaaw Kaawga Big Tide (Low Water) Agreement** with Canada and the Haida Land Title consent order through the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

This accomplishment has been many years in the making. Many people have worked together to have our title to the land recognized and protected by section 35 of the Canadian constitution in a way that cannot be undone by any current or future crown governments. This is now the foundation that current and future generations of Haida citizens will work from in upholding our responsibilities to Haida Gwaii. From here, we shift to a position of governing Haida Gwaii through our ways of being, and without any question of our inherent title.

As we forge ahead, our responsibility to uphold the Haida constitution remains. This responsibility means striving for full independence, self-sufficiency and sovereignty while maintaining peaceful co-existence; striking a balance between stewardship and commerce to meet our spiritual, cultural, ecological and economic needs.

While we have delivered success on the political front, we have also experienced tragic losses within our nation that have left deep impacts on us all. In this sorrow, we continue on, seeking to find meaning and to learn from tragedy to prevent future harm in a lasting way. With each passing of loved ones young and old, we all struggle at times to keep paddling strong. It is important that we continue to step in to hold up those who need a break to regain their strength. This is what it means to be a nation. To stay together, as a collective, and help each other in our own ways, sharing our gifts and greatest strengths, while watching out for one another. Still, we are human. We make mistakes, and we must continue to learn and be kind to each other in the process of striving to be better each day.

In our continued journey toward self-sufficiency and sovereignty, we are not alone. Despite our distance from the mainland, we exist within the broader story of BC, Canada, and the rest of the world. Decisions made far from here still have impacts and ripple effects that eventually arrive on our shores. Tanker traffic is increasing around us as the demands of the world call for energy and critical minerals, and the noise for an oil pipeline to the north coast has begun to echo once again. Our responsibility is clear: to look after Haida Gwaii and our surrounding waters. Again, we will need to rise and rally with our allies to protect our coast from the threats of bitumen to our way of life. In the face of climate change, we must consider what solutions we support in the complex world of energy security.

As the world changes around us, we celebrate our wins, while persevering through our challenges. We carry on, as our ancestors have before us, seeking balance and meaning in it all.

Throughout this transformation and with all the highs, lows, trials and tribulations it brings, humility and humbleness will carry us through, together.

Gaagwiis Jason Alsop
President of the Haida Nation

TITLE CASE MILESTONE Consent Order

September 5 marked a historic day for the Haida Nation, as Haida delegates gathered in **T'agwan Vancouver** for another step in the journey to have Haida Title formally recognized by the BC Supreme Court. Proceeding to the courtroom in full regalia, they sang the National Anthem of the Haida Nation. A prayer was then offered by CHN's lead counsel, **Gid7ahl Gudslaay Lalaxaaygans Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson** before Justice Giaschi entered the courtroom to begin the hearing.

The delegation included CHN President Gaagwiis; CHN Vice-President Stephen "Buck" Grosse; Hereditary Chiefs, **Stiihda Frank Collison, lidansuu James Hart, Gaahlaay Lonnie Young, SGiidagiids Sidney Crosby**; and Skidegate Band Chief Councillor, William "Billy" Yovanovich. Other Haida citizens were also in attendance to witness the proceedings.

To summarize, the order affirms the following:

1. The Haida Nation holds Aboriginal title to terrestrial Haida Gwaii to the low tide mark.
2. Haida Title is recognized and affirmed and protected under the Canadian Constitution.
3. This order cannot be undone by future governments or policy changes.
4. The **Gaayhlxid • Giihlagalgang Rising Tide Agreement** with BC and the **Chiixuujin • Chaaw Kaawga Big Tide (Low Water) Agreement** with Canada will guide how implementation of Haida Title will be carried out.

Granting the order marks the first time in Canadian history that Aboriginal Title to an entire Indigenous terrestrial territory to the low tide mark is formally recognized by the court. ■

Learn more about how we got here by reading the Spring 2025 Special Edition of the Haida Laas:
50 Years of Stewarding the Lands and Waters of our Haida Territory.



SCAN ME





Official Response to Canada and BC's approval of Ksi Lisims LNG project through Haida Territorial Waters

September 17, 2025

Summary

- On September 15, 2025, Canada and BC both released their decision to approve the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG project.
- If constructed, the Ksi Lisims LNG Project would add 148 liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker transits to Haida Territorial Waters.
- CHN strongly opposes the Ksi Lisims LNG project and has not consented to any transport of LNG or LPG through Haida Territorial Waters.
- CHN respects the Nisga'a Lisims Government self determination. We remain concerned about the negative impacts this project will have on the Haida Nation's title and rights.

Key Concerns

- CHN has expressed its concerns to Canada and BC surrounding the anticipated impacts of the project (and all commercial shipping) on Haida Gwaii and the Haida Nation. Concerns include:
 - Environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts on our open water areas and beaches, which will affect our fishing and tourism industries
 - Increased number of vessel loitering in **Siigée Gadsguud McIntyre Bay**
 - Increased risk of whale strikes
 - Increased noise pollution effects on fish and marine mammals
 - Impacts of gas extraction, distribution, and export on our shared ability to meet climate change mitigation goals
 - Increased risk of environmental emergencies as large vessel traffic
 - Increases between the shallow waters of **Tsaan Kwaay Learmonth Bank** and **K'iis Gwaay Langara Island**
 - Environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts of a catastrophic event, such as an LNG grounding, or an explosion
- A recent study by Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Shipping found that there will be a 217% increase in shipping between Canada and Asia, from an average of 529 international vessels per year to 1,676 vessels per year by 2040.
 - This increase will be driven by tankers transporting LNG as well as liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

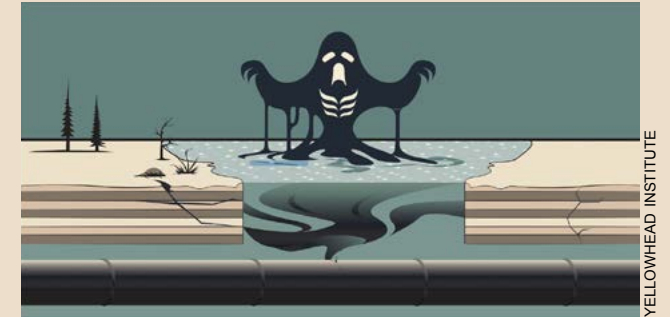
Process

- Governments of Canada, BC, and CHN have been discussing this project for several years through the Crown environmental assessment process to seek our views on the proposed project.
- CHN, Canada and BC have all agreed that the Haida Nation holds Aboriginal title to all of Haida Gwaii from the mountain tops to the low tide mark.
- CHN continues to exercise Haida title to the marine space through our government-to-government arrangements, and as a Nation, as we continue to build our Title Case for Haida Marine Territory. However, impact assessments for major projects are not part of our established co-governance tables with Canada or BC.

Looking Into the Future

- CHN will continue to exercise Haida Title and Rights to Haida Gwaii, including Haida Marine Territory.
- We will continue to seek out government-to-government approaches to do this effectively.
- CHN strongly advocates for increased response capacity, including the continued presence of dedicated Emergency Tow Vessels in response to increases in marine traffic transiting to and from the North Coast of BC, and Canada and BC's shared interest in fast-tracking major projects that include marine shipping.
- CHN will continue to work with Canada through our government-to-government tables, including the Reconciliation Framework Agreement for Bioregional Oceans Management and Protection, to find solutions to marine shipping issues, including accident prevention and enhancing preparedness and response capacity in the event that accidents do occur.
- CHN maintains our strong opposition to any proposed oil tankers and strongly supports the federal government continuing to uphold the ban on oil tankers through the North Coast Oil Tanker Moratorium Act. ■

BURIED BURDENS: THE TRUE COST OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS OWNERSHIP



A special report was published in July by the Yellowhead Institute on the implications of LNG project ownership and the potential environmental, political, economic, and cultural impacts of the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) pipeline project.

Scan the QR code to read the full report.

SK'AA.AM SEA STAR WASTING DISEASE

By Katherine Powell



HUMMINGBIRD STARFISH BY FRANK E. WILLIAMS

For over a decade, sea star wasting disease (SSWD) has been ravaging **sk'aa.am • sk'áam** sea star populations along the Pacific coast of the continent, leaving scientists puzzled as to its origins. On Haida Gwaii, many have witnessed the gruesome effects of the disease firsthand, as the intertidal creatures effectively 'melted' away before their eyes. Beachcombers recall when pacific blood stars could be found in every tidepool at Taaw Tldáaw, and when sunflower stars dotted the beaches at low tide.

Today, those scenes have largely disappeared, and cascading effects on marine ecosystems have been, in a word, devastating. With so few predators left in existence, **guuding. ngaay • gúudangee** sea urchin populations have exploded, leaving critical kelp forest habitats unstable. With

little hope of recovery, these once-rich environments have been reduced to grim swaths of barren rock.

Finally, in July 2025, an exciting breakthrough came when researchers at the University of British Columbia identified a causative agent of the disease — a strain of bacteria known as *vibrio pectenicida* FHCF-3. The strain has long existed in the ocean, but scientists are now asking: what caused it to suddenly target **sk'aa.am • sk'áam**? Going theories point to factors like rising ocean temperatures, decreasing oxygen levels, and general impacts of pollution and chemical run-off.

The results of this study are a major advancement in understanding SSWD and will serve as a foundation for future efforts to restore populations. ■

Women of High Esteem: Another Haida Doctor

Jaad Gudgihliwah *Michaela McGuire*, PhD



PHOTO: MICHAELA MCGUIRE/SFU

Following a successful thesis defence on August 15, award-winning researcher, writer, educator, and Haida citizen **Jaad Gudgihliwah Michaela McGuire** now holds a PhD in Criminology from Simon Fraser University.

The Haida Nation congratulates Dr Jaad Gudgihliwah of the Gaa K'yaals KiiGawaay clan on this monumental accomplishment.

She is currently teaching remotely for SFU Indigenous Studies and plans to publish her dissertation as a book. A detailed summary of her research will be included in an upcoming edition of Haida Laas. ■



ID 'WAADLUXAN GUD AD IS 'WAGEN UU ID DAAGWIIYAH GA: WE ARE ALL TOGETHER, THEN WE ARE STRONG

Abstract:

A sense of belonging is a key human right (United Nations, 2007). Colonial, genocidal, and racist actions and legislation have impacted Indigenous Peoples' identity and belonging. The Canadian state has used multiple methods to eradicate, assimilate, and legislate Nation-based identities. Canada's Indian Act targeted identity and belonging, displacing thousands of Indigenous Peoples. These eliminatory actions are not just violations of human rights but crimes. Their prolonged, genocidal, destructive, and festering nature justify examination as a state crime.

Existing studies demonstrate that the Indian Act continues to impact Indigenous Peoples' sense of identity and belonging. However, there is limited Nation-based research, framed within a decolonization lens, that considers identity displacement and belonging as state crime.

Accordingly, this interview-based qualitative research project employs a theoretical and methodological framework grounded in Haida values. Through semi-structured interviews with 42 Haida citizens, the following research questions (RQ) were examined: (1) What is the importance of a sense of belonging for the Haida? (1a) How do the Haida conceptualize belonging? (2) What role does a sense of belonging have in resurgence, governance, and self-determination? and (3) How have colonialism, genocide, and internalized racism resulting from colonial control over Indigenous identity impacted the Haida?

Data analysis resulted in eight themes that addressed the research questions. Belonging for the Haida is multifaceted and encompasses Haida Gwaii itself, as well as clan, lineage, culture, and language (RQ1). A deep sense of responsibility exemplifies the importance of belonging (RQ1). Participants emphasized the intergenerational and compounded impacts of colonial genocidal systems (residential and day schools, the Indian Act, and the child welfare system) and racism on their identity and sense of belonging (RQ3). The reverberation of these systems contributed to the internalization of racism and colonialism, exacerbating division among Haida (RQ3). These impacts need to be addressed to strengthen Nationhood and self-determination (RQ2). Together, the Haida Nation can work towards Tll Yahda *making things right* for those who do not feel like they belong or have been impacted by intergenerational displacement.

The full thesis is available to read online through SFU's Summit Research Repository <summit.sfu.ca/item/39771>.



PHOTO: GAAD GAS

For Those Lost at Sea

On the misty morning of August 30, a memorial pole—in honour of those lost at sea—was raised on the beach of **Tl'Isiguda "Startup" coastline** near **K'ay K'iidaads Kun Skidegate Point**. More than 30 boats made the journey, more than 50 people watched from shore, and many others joined via livestream. The pole was carved by William "Billy" Yovanovich Jr, with invaluable support from his family and friends.

The 18.5 ft pole features a **Guud eagle** holding a **xaaguu halibut** (bottom), a **xuuya raven** holding a **taaGun spring salmon** (middle), and three **tllga kyahts'as xaaydaGaay watchmen** (top). The Watchmen are dressed in PFD collars. Red paint marks the left Watchman's hat and green marks the right, representing the port and starboard beacon lights of a boat. ■



PHOTO: ELIM SLY

Pole Raising at Kungeilang

A pole, carved by Jaalen Edenshaw and apprentice John Bennett Jr, was floated to Kungeilang on August 22. The 30 ft monumental pole, which depicts **hiilang thunderbird** (bottom) and **ts'illi yaalaas raven-finned killer whale** (top), was commissioned by St'langng Laanas Chief, **Skil Hiilans Allan Davidson**. On September 20, a boat shuttle service transported hundreds of attendees to the site. The pole was raised under sunny skies through an impressive community effort. ■



PHOTO: ELIM SLY

THE WEAVING OF AAY AAY

K'UUGA KILJUU T'AA GUUDADAAL WALKS LIGHTLY WITH A BIG HEART

by Gaad Gas

Anticipation filled the air in the **Xaaydas Giinaa.ah 'Laana Haida Heritage Centre** for the opening of a new and exciting exhibition: The Weaving of Aay Aay. Considering his impressive body of work and famously generous nature, it was no surprise that the opening was one of **Saahlinda Naay Haida Gwaii Museum's** best attended.

Aay Aay Gidins belongs to the Gidins Naa 'Yuuwans Xaaydagaay of HIGaagilda. Aay Aay carries three names: **Aay Aay Land Owner, S'Gidgyaagans House Boy** and **K'uuga kiljuu t'aa guudadaal Walks lightly with a big heart.**

At the opening, as final touches were being completed on the robe that would soon be unveiled, people were invited into the gallery before opening speeches were made. When Aay Aay arrived with the nearly finished robe, attendees funneled into the **Gina Guu Aahljuu Naay Performance House**. While Aay Aay and his students continued to weave on the sideline, the opening ceremony was led by **Hltaaxuulang Gud Ad K'aajuu Friends Together Singing**, who performed multiple songs and dances. One of the songs was dedicated to Aay Aay's sister, Aimee, who Aay Aay acknowledges in all his weavings since her passing, by incorporating a red weft at the bottom of every piece.

August 2025 marks Aay Aay's 20th year as a Haida weaver. He started



Aay Aay's mentor Kuujuuhl Evelyn Vanderhoop dances the newly completed Raven's Tail robe.

learning red cedar weaving with his **naanGa grandmother (talking about)**, Dr **S'Gaanajaadsk'yaagaxiigangs Golie Hans**, at **Gandll K'in Gwaay.yaay Hot Spring Island** in 2005. He then began learning the Raven's Tail technique in 2008, and then Naaxiin in 2013 from **Kuujuuhl Evelyn Vanderhoop**. In 2023, Aay Aay began learning to weave spruce roots from Dr **llskyaalas Delores Churchill**, **Xiihliikingang April Churchill** and **Jaad TI'aaw Paula Varnell**. After

mastering each weaving technique, he began to share his knowledge with his students.

Aay Aay was humble in asking his mentors not to give him any praise, but Kuujuuhl and Xiihliikingang still each took a short moment to acknowledge his significant achievements throughout his weaving journey. Kuujuuhl then discussed the history of Raven's Tail weaving. She spoke about the origins of



Portrait of Aay Aay Gidins. PHOTO: TAA.YAN.NUHL COLLISON-ROBERTSON

Naaxiin and Raven's Tail pouches. PHOTO: XUUD JOHN WILSON

the craft, clarifying misconceptions surrounding its history. She shared that, although mountain goats are not found on Haida Gwaii, Raven's Tail weavings are traditionally made from mountain goats' wool. For a time, it was assumed by others that the Haida were not the first to create these intricate works of art. However, thanks to Kuujuuhl's extensive research and understanding of our long history of trade, it is now recognized that we were most likely the first Nation to produce these remarkable pieces.

When **Taa.uu 'Yuuwans Nika Collison** invited Aay Aay to say something, he showed his cheeky sense of humour, and asked the crowd if they'd received a door prize ticket for his stunning Raven's Tail pouch. Chatter broke out, as no one was aware there had been a door prize to enter. Holding the pouch, Aay Aay reached in, noting that there was only one ticket inside. He pulled a small piece of paper from the pouch

and read out the name **Taay.yan.nuhl "Taay" Collison-Robertson**. Aay Aay told the audience that, while he was still weaving the pouch, he asked Taay what he should do with it if it didn't sell. Taay jokingly suggested that he could gift it to him—and that was exactly what Aay Aay did.

Another item Aay Aay gifted at the opening was his own spruce root hat. He spoke about it, saying that he harvested the roots himself, and that it was woven by his aunt, Dr **Jiixa Gladys Vandal**, and painted by **Yaahl 'Aadas Cori Savard**. The hat went to his niece, Alexis Buxton. He mentioned that he decided to gift the hat because he had earned the **skil status rings** on a new spruce root hat (made by Isabel Rorick) for weaving and giving away three Raven's Tail robes.

The robe and the two gifts were danced. **Kuuyas**, Taay's sister, danced the pouch, Alexis danced her hat and **Kil Hltaanuwaay**

Taylor Brown (a representative of the host clan, Ts'aahl Laanas, of **Kay Llnagaay Sealion Town**) danced the newly woven Raven's Tail robe. Dancing alongside them were Aay Aay's mentors, Kuujuuhl, Xiihliikingang and Jaad TI'aaw.

As Kuujuuhl danced, Aay Aay seamlessly removed the robe from Kil Hltaanuwaay and placed it onto Kuujuuhl as a way of gifting it to her, making it the third robe he had given away. Overcome with surprise, Kuujuuhl expressed immense gratitude to Aay Aay the incredibly special gift.

If you are on Haida Gwaii, make sure to see the exhibit at Saahlinda Naay from July 13, 2025, to March 28, 2026. Aay Aay will be weaving a transition piece, which is a mixture of Naaxiin and Raven's Tail techniques in the gallery every Thursday from 11am – 3pm. ■

2017-63: Healing and Treatment Centre for Haida People

CHN's Culture, Community, Commerce, Connection Committee mandate includes supporting Band Councils, Health Centres, and other Haida led organizations in various health and well-being initiatives. The committee will continue to support the advancement of House of Assembly (HoA) resolutions that fall under these categories.

In 2017, resolution 2017-63: Healing and Treatment Centre for Haida People was passed at the annual HoA. The resolution proposed that CHN work in collaboration with the **Gaw Tlagée Old Massett** and **HIḠaagilda Skidegate** Health Centres to evaluate the viability of converting one of the Nation's sport fishing lodges into a healing and treatment centre for Haida citizens. Current addiction recovery

support options are far away and challenging to access for those seeking supports closer to home and family.

After meeting in July, the committee agreed that community outreach would begin as soon as possible. Plans for health and wellness discussions to explore different options regarding the proposed treatment centre and other supports for health and wellbeing will take place in partnership. The committee will ensure the evaluation incorporates traditional Haida values.

If you are interested in supporting resolution 2017-63, please email CHN's Communications department at info@haidanation.com. ■

Community Support

Mens' Groups:

Niislaa Naay's Traditional Wellness and Mental Wellness Departments provides support to a mens' group in Gaw Tlagée while the Skidegate Health Centre contributes to another in HIḠaagilda. These groups allow participants of all ages and backgrounds to share space, food, and to participate in hands-on activities. The Gaw Tlagée mens group has lead exercises in knife sharpening, bead making, knot tying, and more. HIḠaagilda's ḠaaḠagaay Canoe Pathway Mens' Group hosts occasional workshops, one of which has included famous author, speaker and physician, Dr Gabor Maté.

Niislaa Naay:

In addition to Gaw Tlagée's regular mens' group, Niislaa Naay's traditional wellness team hosts a medicine group and offers classes in traditional practices such as regalia making, paddle making, boat building, net making, cedar weaving, and food gathering/processing. Their mental health team offers child and youth therapy, art therapy, trauma informed counselling, harm reduction support, and a meal program at the Wellness House.

Niislaa Naay asks that those interested in these programs contact the reception for more information. ■

ḠAW TLAGÉE MENS' SUPPORT GROUP:

Date(s): Mondays 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: Ḡaw Tlagée Youth Centre
150 Raven Ave, Ḡaw Tlagée

Contact Info:

Brodie Swanson
(778) 791-8118

brodie.swanson@haidahealth.ca

ḠAAḠAGAAY SKIDEGATE MENS' GROUP:

Date(s): Mondays 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: 260 2nd Ave, HIḠaagilda
(across from the old health center)

Contact Info:

Percy Crosby
(250) 637-1944

NIISLAA NAAY:

Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Location: 347 Eagle Ave, Ḡaw Tlagée

Contact Info:

Reception
(250) 626-3911



PHOTOS: GAAD GAS

Invasive Plant Removal of Yellow Iris at Cape Fife

by Gaad Gas

The cruise along the beach around Née Kún was a foggy one, but the skies were clear by the time we arrived at Cape Fife. In preparation for the day, Elijah Morigeau, Council of the Haida Nation Stewardship Technician, and Chris Ashurst, Senior BC Parks Ranger, explained that our aim would be to remove as much Yellow Flag Iris from the area as possible. They shared that the invasive iris was first reported to BC Parks seven years ago. Although it had been planted in a few places as far back as the 1970s, it hadn't spread very far at the time.

With the help of Travis Abrahams and Emrin Ouschan from CHN, and Lucy Stefanyk from BC Parks we set out to Kumara Lake to begin mapping and removing the yellow iris from the area. "The concern here is around the one lake, as it's a **hik'yáan k'ust'áan** toad habitat. If the surrounding creeks get it, it will be bad for the entire area," explained Eli. "There are lots of invasives and if you get ahead of the game then you can prevent it from being a bigger problem."

Eli noted ways to properly identify the iris. The leaves are a bit broader than the more common **k'án tl'angandaa dune grass** in the area, and if the iris is in bloom, you will

SPECIES AT RISK: HAIDA GWAII WESTERN TOAD



Canada's Species at Risk Act classifies the Haida Gwaii Western Toad as a Species of Special Concern. Citizen scientists are doing their part to ensure the survival of Haida Gwaii's only native amphibian. To get involved, visit haidagwaitoads.weebly.com

PHOTO: ROSEANNA GAMLEN-GREENE

see bright yellow flowers. It is important to remember that the plant is technically aquatic and therefore could be growing in the water as well.

Methods to remove the invasive plant include both digging it out by hand, and a process known as *tarping*, where sheets of plastic are stretched over large patches of the plant to cut off sunlight. The preferred method is to dig, but if they are in a spot that is hard to access, tarping is used. These methods are successful because they damage the seed packets and roots of the plant, preventing them from spreading. The depth of the roots can vary, and the digging method can pull out an enormous amount of roots.

(cont. next page)



Lucy Stefanyk and Chris Ashurst from BC Parks

(Yellow Iris cont'd)

mous amount of soil along with the root system. The iris spreads two ways: with the seeds as they mature and float to other places, or by creating a patch of multiple plants stemming from the same root system.

European beach grass is another invasive species we saw in this area. It can be seen as far as the tip of Née Kún. So far, it hasn't reached North Beach, but it remains a real concern, as the grass could threaten the nearby **hildáang** strawberry fields. Effective removal methods are limited and labour-intensive. One of the few options is to dig down about ten metres, but doing so efficiently requires the use of an excavator, which comes with its own environmental impacts.



Elijah Morigeau and Travis Abrahams disposing of Yellow Flag Iris.

Mapping is a key element of this work. Outlining the spread of the invasive species will allow us to see how big of a problem it is, and the effectiveness of these removal efforts year to year. There is a code system that marks how large the patches are, and by drawing a shape around each patch and visiting the site annually, CHN and BC Parks can continue to monitor and mitigate collaboratively.

After removing 40+ iris bushes, Eli and Chris circumnavigated the lake and manually took seed packets off the harder-to-reach plants, flagged them, and mapped them out. After packing up our camping gear and loading the truck, we headed to our second removal site, Post Office Creek. There the iris was growing on logs, making it difficult to dig out, so the seed packets were removed by hand, and the plants were tarped. The Lands crew will check the site again in 70 days.

Other invasive species that have been a focus for the Lands Department include scotch broom, gorse, and knotweed. Broom and gorse are highly flammable and are more easily removed than knotweed, which is a bit trickier as it involves both cutting and the use of herbicides.

Please do not plant non-native plant species on Haida Gwaii unless it is within a well-monitored, enclosed space owned by yourself. **If you find an invasive species, please report it to invasives@haidanation.com.** ■



VIRL staff and representatives with members of the Xaad Kil Née Authority Committee at the library opening ceremony. PHOTO: JACK LITRELL

TWO UNDER ONE ROOF by Elim Sly

Xaad Kil Nee and Vancouver Island Regional Library

The doors of Masset's new library officially opened at 1700 Hodges Avenue on September 13, 2025. Eager to get a peek, attendees poured in for the opening event. First to speak, Reverend Lily Bell began by asking attendees to think of and uplift the precious family grieving a recent loss within the community. "**Háwsan dǎng Hi kingsaang**. *We will see you again*," said Lily. With respect to the family, things were kept short, and the **Sgadaang gyaa Gyaahlangée** *Story of Oystercatcher* puppet show was rescheduled.

Although it was the first day the building was open to the public, the library had already been in use for three weeks, supporting a pilot language immersion program run by Old Massett Village Council's (OMVC) Xaad Kil Née. The program will continue to run from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday through Thursday in the dedicated language lab and results from a successful partnership between OMVC and Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL).

"It was a unanimous decision to build this library," remarked Board Chair of VIRL, Erin Hemmens. "Thirty eight member trustees from all over BC agreed. This never happens! We are honoured to be launching this partnership with Xaad Kil Née."

About the immersion program:

Established in 2018, Xaad Kil Née offers language strengthening programming and resources for the **Gaw Xaad Kil Old Massett dialect**. Xaad Kil Née is overseen by the volunteer-run Xaad Kil Née Authority Committee composed of Elders and other community members. Xaad Kil Née's focus is to provide opportunities for learning and speaking Xaad Kil. Introduced in August 2025, the nine-month-long pilot immersion program is underway at the new language lab.

Jaasaljuus Yakgujanaas is Xaad Kil Née's Team Lead and a co-instructor of the language immersion program. "It all started with a small act on the part of the library, asking OMVC what they could do to support the Haida community," said Jaasaljuus. In this initial discussion, the library was encouraged to create a dedicated space within its new building for language revitalization. That was when Jaasaljuus began working with former VIRL Executive Director, Ben Hyman, to achieve this goal. In 2023, OMVC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with VIRL, stating the purpose of this space.

"I feel very honoured to carry on the language of the **Gaw** (cont. next page)

(Immersion cont'd)

Tagée Haida people,” said **Skil Jaday Danielle Allard** in an informal interview. “I am taking it quite seriously, despite the fun and lively learning space.” Skil Jaday is one of seven language immersion students.

Xaad Kíl Née developed the immersion program alongside Elder advisors **Ilskyaalas Delores Churchill**, **San'laa gudgaang Merle Andersen**, and **Xiihliikingang April Churchill**. The program incorporates the *Where Are Your Keys?* (WAYK) language-learning method. Developed by Evan Gardner, WAYK uses American Sign Language (ASL) and other interactive tools to support immersion.

“Beginners will use props, pictures and ASL to explain what we’re talking about instead of using English. This

keeps our brains in tune with the learning process of Xaad Kíl,” explained Skil Jaday.

“The way this program is structured is that anyone who takes it will be provided the opportunity to pass on what they know or have learned. They’re learning the language but also learning techniques to share the language. That’s what makes this program so brilliant and unique,” said Jaasaljuus in an impromptu interview during the opening.

Dr Jaskwaan Bedard, co-instructor, spoke at the opening on behalf of Xaad Kíl Née Authority Committee. “This partnership between OMVC and VIRL is a wonderful act of reconcili-*action*.” ■

Sgadaang gyaa Gyaahlangée Story of Oystercatcher



The young audience pays close attention to the North Wind. PHOTO: ELIM SLY

The house of the North Wind, where the *Sgadaang gyaa Gyaahlangée* begins, is cold and floored with ice. His fingers grow as icicles which cling to the roof of the longhouse where his family lives. Despite this, it is said that inside, it is warm.

Sgadaang gyaa Gyaahlangée Story of Oystercatcher puppet show debuted before a full audience at the Tluu Xaada Naay longhouse in Gaw Tagée on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The play comes as a collaborative effort between Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) and Xaad Kíl Née’s language immersion program. It has been adapted from various reference materials, including *Haida Texts - Masset Dialect* by John R Swanton, and audio transcriptions from conversations with John Enrico, Dr **Gulkihgad Marianne Ignace**, and Jaasaljuus Yakgujaanas. It has a runtime of approximately 30 minutes and was narrated in both Xaad Kíl and English by Jaasaljuus Yakgujanaas, Jaskwaan Bedard and **St’igiinii Harley Bell-Holter**.

“It all began in June of this year,” said Jaasaljuus. “In talking with VIRL’s Community Support Technician, Etchi Zaleski,

we discovered a shared desire to do something special to celebrate the opening of the new library, and we landed on this. Gwaai Edenshaw was the lead creative mind behind this project, but many others contributed to its construction; either assisting with mask-making, set design or the Haida language component around which this play revolves. It is also important to say that it couldn’t have been done without the support of the Masset Library, which provided the funds.”

During the performance, the stage crew danced stealthily around the space. Configuring the set for different scenes, they provided meticulous visual aids: clouds, driftwood, and miniature trees. Through careful movement and thoughtful approach, the puppeteers excited life and transferred emotion to their ornately dressed and masterfully crafted figurines.

Following the performance, the house filled with haida singing and chatter, and people shared delicious food, courtesy of Geraldine Russ. For those who could not attend, the hope is to be able to bring the show to **HIgaagilda Skidegate** next. ■



Etchi Zaleski, VIRL’s Community Support Technician and *Sgadaang gyaa Gyaahlangée* puppeteer. PHOTO: ELIM SLY

Wildlife Visioning Forum by Guud Ts’uuna Michael Hughan-Blazic III

The fifth Wildlife Visioning Forum of the year was hosted by the Council of the Haida Nation Lands Department in September, with sessions held in both **HIgaagilda Skidegate** and **Gaw Tagée Old Massett**. The forum covered several topics, focusing especially on stads k’un **Haida Gwaii goshawk** conservation and habitat protections, and **k’aad • k’áad Sitka black-tailed deer** population management efforts.

K’aad • K’áad

Tyler Bellis and Catch Catomeris delivered presentations outlining the effects of **k’aad • k’áad** on the ecosystems of Haida Gwaii. Starting in 1878, **k’aad • k’áad** were introduced at several different points. Populations have since increased substantially, with a 2008 study showing numbers between 110,500 to 255,000 across the archipelago. Tyler explained how plant diversity has been significantly altered over time due to over-grazing, and many of our culturally important plants are becoming more difficult to find. For example, **ts’uu • ts’úu Western Red Cedar** is highly palatable to **k’aad • k’áad** because it didn’t evolve around cervidae and hasn’t been able to develop sufficient defenses.

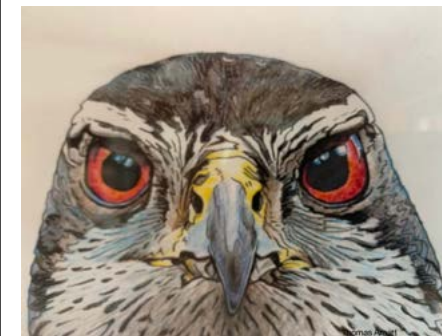
Numerous research efforts, including fenced enclosure zones, culls, and island-to-island comparisons, all find the same results: **k’aad • k’áad** have a negative impact on Haida Gwaii’s ecology. Images were presented to highlight the effects of over-grazing. One photo showed an enclosure zone where the understory was nearly pushing over the surrounding fence, while the other showed a mossy forest floor with far less plant diversity.

Catch spoke about the effects **k’aad • k’áad** have on soil properties throughout Haida Gwaii. She noted that impacted areas see increased soil compaction, lower organic soil levels, and soil nutrient levels differing from uninhabited areas.

It was noted that over time since

their introduction **k’aad • k’áad** have come to play an important role in Haida culture. Many now consider them a traditional food source, and an integral part of food security on Haida Gwaii. Research into appropriate population management solutions is ongoing.

Stads K’un



ARTWORK: THOMAS ARNATT

The next presentation was delivered by Kiku Dhanwant, Elijah Washington, and Damian Shaw who covered general information about stads k’un and the work being done by CHN and partner organizations to locate and protect these rare birds. In 2025 alone, over 2500 hours of work has been dedicated to surveying potential and known nest sites across 600 km of forest. Despite this effort, and the deployment of over 200 audio recording devices, only one active nest site was identified. Over the last thirty years, only thirty-two nests have been found, with just one active nest being monitored today.

Stads k’un is considered a living representation of a key Haida principle, **gina 'waadluxan gud ad kwaagid • gin 'wáadluwan gud.ahl kwáagiidang everything depends on everything else**. Found only on Haida

Gwaii, the rare species was named the Haida Nation’s national bird in 2017. While various introduced species have changed the forest environment, threatening the stads k’un population, the most endangering factor has been industrial clear cut logging.

Stads k’un thrive in old growth forests, where they nest and breed. They hunt their prey below the canopy and do not excel in open areas like those that have been clear cut. It was noted that the inherent issue is not with the logging industry itself, but rather with unsustainable practices that are harmful to the environment.

The final presentation was given by wildlife biologist and stads k’un expert, Frank Doyle, who spoke about interim habitat management. Frank has dedicated thirty years to studying and developing stads k’un management strategies with a working group throughout Canada and on Haida Gwaii. He explained that these birds are especially territorial, with their nests typically being spaced approximately 5.5km apart. Their territory spans a circular area of about 4,000 hectares of old growth forest, with an inner area of around 200 hectares that serves as their breeding ground. If old growth forest structures are retained, and second growth trees can age past 80 years, the population will increase. But it is important to understand that the current numbers are declining urgently. It is very possible that this species will be lost if we don’t act now in giving these birds the protections they require to thrive.

Due to the critical population status of stads k’un, and to prevent extirpation, an interim management strategy plan has been developed. Details regarding the plan will be released soon. ■

YOUTH

Youth Fellowship Gathering in 'Laana DaaGang.ngas

by Gaad Gas

Swilawiid's Youth Climate Action Fellowship Summer gathering happened at 'Laana DaaGang.ngas Swan Bay from June 27-30. Of the 11 fellows, five were able to attend this gathering. The fellows in attendance were **Yaahl Kuuyas Kwiadda McEvoy**, **Gwaay K'iiyanda Aaliyah Arens**, Gabrielle Brillon, **Xuuts St'aasil K'yuuwas Derek White**, and **Jaad Gaadaawaas Samantha Derrick**. The youth were joined by special guests **GwaaGanad Diane Brown** and **Gangxwaat Dull Brown**, who were invited to share stories and harvesting knowledge with the group. They were joined by their young grandson, Tiisan, who came to support them and take part in the seafood harvest. Chloe Bennett came with her nonnie, Joyce Bennett, adding another young voice to the group. **Guusdagang Mary Hart**, Swilawiid's new Executive Director, also joined with her son Carl. Camp Lead, **Gulkihlgad Yakgujanaas**, and boat captains **Dan Harris** and **Nan-gkilslas Trent Moraes** kept us safe, while **Carla Young** kept us fed, and **Jessica Fairweather** photographed the whole experience.

On the first day, after an exciting boat journey, we arrived at 'Laana DaaGang.ngas. With many new faces in the group, the day mainly consisted of being introduced to the site, learning about *camp contributions*, and getting to know each other's names. We tucked in early, in anticipation of a big next day.

On day two we got an early start, as the tide waits for no one. A low tide was essential for harvesting our seafood for dinner. We quickly ate breakfast and headed to the boats. Arriving at "Spot X," some of the group went onshore, while some stayed in the



Longhouses at 'Laana DaaGang.ngas. PHOTO: JESSICA FAIRWEATHER



Gabrielle Brillon showing off *guuding.ngaay* and *hik'wii*. PHOTO: JESSICA FAIRWEATHER

boats, and others took to the water to harvest *guuding.ngaay sea urchin*, *hik'wii rock scallops*, *t'aa chiton*, and even a *Giinuu sea cucumber*.

We spent the third morning at camp for some indoor activities. The fellowship identified three main goals they would like to accomplish together in their work. Their goals were to create a youth visioning document, host a

celebration feast, and create a youth organization. With these goals in mind, the fellows identified teams for each goal, with tasks they would need to complete within a certain timeframe. In the afternoon, the group went to **Gandil K'in Gwaay.yaay Hot Spring Island** to take a dip in the pools.

On the final night, the group gathered on the beach for a fire cere-



Yaahl Kuuyas harvesting *guuding.ngaay*. PHOTO: JESSICA FAIRWEATHER

Celebration of Visions Gala

by *Guud Ts'uuna Michael Hughan-Blazic III*

The first annual Celebration of Visions Gala took place on July 11 at **Naagudgiikyagangs Skidegate Small Hall**, hosted in cooperation with Old Massett Village Council, Skidegate Band Council, the Council of the Haida Nation (CHN) Policy Department, and the Youth Governance Program. The gala connects graduating high school students with current post-secondary students, allowing them to make connections, hear more about life away from home, and learn about schools they may be interested in attending in the future.

The evening began with an introduction by MC Kiefer Collison, who welcomed attendees with a congratulatory speech. CHN President, Gaagwiis, then spoke to the youth about his personal experience with academia. He offered perspective on the kinds of problems students may face in school, and how to persevere when things get tough. He urged the young crowd to never quit, and to remember it's a privilege to be where you are in your studies. He made a point to emphasize that no matter

how difficult things may seem, you will always succeed if you stay dedicated.

many, which began with everyone answering three questions: What was the highlight of your experience here? What did you learn? And what are you grateful for? Many noted the harvesting day and the trip to **Gandil K'in Gwaay.yaay** as their highlight, as these were new experiences for most of the group. Many expressed gratitude for the Elders who were able to come, recognizing the value in the generational knowledge that was passed down to them. **Gulkihlgad** ended the ceremony with a song – a tradition she started through working at 'Laana DaaGang.

ngas. The lyrics translate to "you're so sad, I'm so sad, because we are leaving each other." A few then went off to sleep after an incredible few days, while some stayed to continue singing songs by the fire into the later evening, enjoying each other's company. ■

KEEP UPDATED ON THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP through Swilawiid's channels on Facebook, Instagram and their website at swilawiid.org



The beautifully decorated hall for the Celebration of Visions Gala. PHOTO: CHN

how difficult things may seem, you will always succeed if you stay dedicated.

The next speakers were Zachary Mosse and Madison Brown, representing the CHN Youth Governance Program. They shared their hope that students studying away from home will one day return to use their new knowledge to support the Haida Nation and Haida Gwaii as a whole. Zachary stated, "When I envision the future of Haida Gwaii as we delve into the era of Haida title, I see people like all of you taking the lead, bringing the Haida to new levels of success, creating better expectations for wildlife protections, and taking the Haida Nation to heights never before imagined."

Award winning writer and university instructor, Dr **Jaad Gudgihliwah Michaela McGuire**, spoke next about her academic journey. As many journeys go, there were plenty of setbacks along the way. She experienced failures, and, unfortunately, racism and discrimination against her as a First Nations person throughout her academic career. She became motivated to use education as a tool to fight back against racism and ignorance—to *speak back to hate*. Her education journey was not a linear one, as she took a few breaks to focus on work. Through her work, she met people who encouraged her to go back to school and pursue her academic goals. **Jaad Gudgihliwah**

(cont. next page)

(Visions Gala cont'd)

said, “if you don’t know what you want to do, don’t rush into it. Take some time to figure out what you care about. That will direct you to where you want to go in life.”

The final speaker was **Gid7ahl Gudslaay Lalaxaaygans Terri-Lynn Williams Davidson, KC**, who serves as Principal and Senior Legal Counsel at White Raven Law Corporation. She shared that her family’s combined experiences heavily impacted the trajectory of her education and career. Beginning her studies in e-commerce, she eventually moved into a Bachelor of Science in computer science where she learned to code, working on early email and AI programs. Eventually she decided to go to law school, chasing her childhood dream of becoming a lawyer. After graduating, she found a passion in fighting for Indigenous rights and eventually came to work with CHN. After 20 years of practice as a Juris Doctor, she decided to go back to school to earn her master’s degree. When starting law school, she was 28, and 52 when she eventually went for her master’s. Her message to attendees was clear: if you want to do something with your education, it is never too late to pursue it.

Following the inspiring speeches, attendees shared a meal, catered by Brodie Swanson. After dinner the mic was passed around the tables to each person in attendance, allowing everyone the opportunity to introduce themselves and share their academic goals. Students learned where others were planning to attend school and were able to invite new connections for when they are away from home.

If you’re a high school student graduating next year, and are planning on leaving for post-secondary school, keep an eye out during the summer for the next Celebration of Visions Gala, where you can build connections before taking your next steps. ■

A STEP TOWARD ENDING TRAWLING IN HAIDA WATERS: REMOVING TRAWL SURVEYS FROM GWAII HAANAS

August 28, 2025 – CHN stands firmly in opposition to the trawl fishery on Haida Gwaii and has been working to push trawl out of Haida Territory. This work includes the removal of trawl surveys from protected areas, such as Gwaii Haanas, where CHN has advocated and worked with management partners to prevent bottom trawl surveys

Synoptic bottom trawl surveys are conducted in three different parts of Haida territorial waters: **Duu Gúusd • Daawxusda** the west coast of Haida Gwaii, **Siigee • Siigaay Dixon Entrance** and Hecate Strait. Synoptic bottom-trawl surveys are done with the objective to provide fishery-independent data with insight into the abundance of all groundfish species available to bottom trawling, and to collect biological samples of selected species. These surveys can take place outside of the bottom trawl footprint (which was established in 2012 to limit where trawling can happen), which means they have a higher likelihood of damaging sensitive benthic ecosystems such as cold-water corals and sponges.

Previously, the synoptic bottom trawl survey took place in Gwaii Haanas every other year, surveying blocks that were randomly selected from within a defined area. This survey occurred in odd years from 2003 to 2017, prior to the establishment of the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) in 2019.

In 2019, DFO submitted a survey request to the Archipelago Management Board (AMB), however, the AMB did not come to a consensus recommendation on whether the survey should occur. Therefore, there was no survey in Gwaii Haanas in 2019 and the issue was tabled for a future decision. In 2021, CHN conditionally approved the request with the stipulation that the survey only took place in the Multiple-Use Zones (where commercial fishing is allowed) and not in the Strict Protection Zones. In 2023, CHN did not approve the survey. As a result of the non-consensus, the issue was put to the CHN-DFO Joint Halibut and Groundfish Technical Committee, which reviewed habitat impacts, catches, and frequency of the trawl survey. Based on this information, CHN maintained opposition to the survey, and is awaiting DFO’s response. In absence of a joint decision, the 2025 Synoptic Bottom Trawl survey did not proceed in Gwaii Haanas.

CHN supports non-destructive survey techniques, such as hydroacoustic surveys and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) surveys that capture video footage. In August 2025, the Pacific Hake Acoustic Survey requested to conduct hydroacoustic and opportunistic mid-water trawl surveys in Gwaii Haanas. Following direction from Haida citizens, the AMB came to a consensus recommendation to not allow the mid-water trawl survey method to occur within Gwaii Haanas, but to allow the non-destructive methods (hydroacoustic surveys) to continue to help inform the distribution of Pacific Hake.

Trawl surveys are highly destructive. Their impacts on benthic habitats, nonselective harvest, and industrial scale are in direct conflict to Haida laws and values, which guide the management of Gwaii Haanas. CHN continues to oppose this fishery, and advocates for more sustainable and less invasive survey techniques in all Haida territory. ■



OUT OF THE BLUE

Aiden Dives

by *Elim Sly*

Aiden dives into the cool, oceanic blue. Beneath the surface, it is calm. Aiden notes down what he sees. Accompanied by a colleague, he surveys his surroundings. Though submerged for only ten minutes, Aiden’s diving slate has already amassed a full page of notes. Today, he monitors abalone.

In October 2024, Haida Watchman Aiden Moraes travelled to Campbell River, to attend a six-week-long commercial dive course with Divesafe International. Aiden, who had no prior experience diving, jumped right in. “I was overwhelmed at first,” he shared. “I questioned whether I could complete the whole six weeks of training, as it was something that I had never done before. I went from zero to hero, just like that. The largest difficulty was learning to be comfortable with discomfort. I had to remind myself to take a moment when I needed it, that the work could wait and to focus on controlling my breath.”

Following his commercial dive training, which earned Aiden the title of Occupational Scuba Diver, Aiden returned home to begin his first season the following February as a Program Diver with Haida Fisheries. Here, he conducts biological monitoring surveys on a variety of species including **iinang • iinang** herring, **Gaalahlyan • gálgahlyaan** abalone, **guuding.ngaay • gúudangee** urchin, **t’aanuu • t’anúu** eelgrass, and **sGyuu • sGíw** seaweeds.

In July, Aiden was presented with an opportunity to further his dive train-

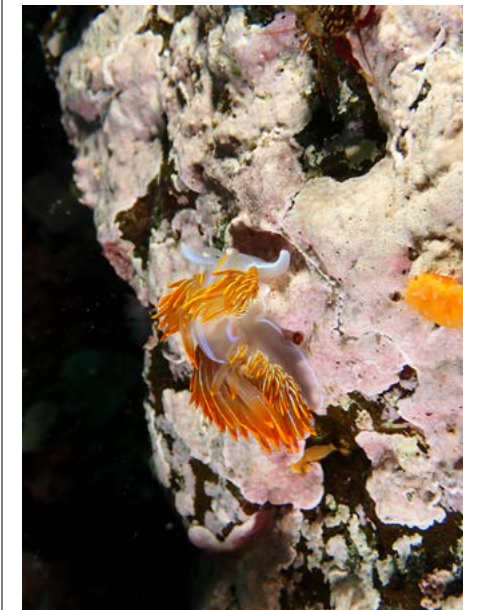


Aiden Moraes dives for the perfect **guuding.ngaay • gúudangee** hat. PHOTO: QUINN ANDREWS

ing when a liaison for Hakai Institute invited a CHN staff member to participate in a scientific methods workshop for Indigenous divers on Calvert Island, just south of Bella Bella. Aiden’s name was put forward. The workshop, organized by the Hakai Institute, Kelp Rescue Initiative, and Reef Check, ran from September 7 to 13. Six professional scientific divers worked closely with 12 students to provide training in species identification, data collection methods, underwater camera use, and other skills related to underwater data collection. “I learned how to ID 70 new species,” stated Aiden proudly. That’s not an easy feat. While this workshop mainly focused on kelp beds, it is transferable to habitats like rocky reefs and seagrass meadows. Expenses were jointly funded by the organizers.

“If I could leave any parting thoughts, it would be, if you have an opportu-

nity to get into diving, take it! Being able to exist underwater is surreal. To see what so few get a chance to see is a special experience.” ■



Opalescent Nudibranch. PHOTO: QUINN ANDREWS

“I like being able to ID the different things I see in the water. I can swim up and ask one of the biologists what crazy thing I’m looking at. A lot of these things are entirely new to me. I am learning every day.”

SUMMER FILM SCREENINGS

Saints and Warriors Screens on Haida Gwaii

by Katherine Powell

It was a full house at the small hall in **HIḠaagilda Skidegate** on July 31, as people gathered in attendance for the first local screening of *Saints and Warriors*, a new documentary from award-winning Haida director, **Nang K'uulaas Patrick Shannon**. The inspiring film, which is set to reach streaming platforms later this year, paints a picture of the powerful and subversive history of Haida basketball, and its cultural impacts on Haida Gwaii.

Following an initial community screening in **Kxeen Prince Rupert**, the film officially premiered in February at the Big Sky Film Festival in Missoula, Montana. Since then, the film crew has taken the documentary on the road, sharing it with audiences in cities across Canada and the US. Still, the most important audience was the one at home. With an air of both pride and vulnerability, Nang K'uulaas shared, "This is definitely the most nervous I've felt at any of the screenings. But it's still the one I was excited for most. This is the reason I became a filmmaker: wanting to be a part of making sure our stories are told the right way, and that it's not always just people from the big cities coming up here and telling our stories."

Not your average sports documentary, *Saints and Warriors* speaks to themes of ongoing colonial resistance and illustrates how the sport of basketball came to be a symbol of community strength and resilience on Haida Gwaii. Through a cross-generational lens, it traces the game through changing times as players grapple with the pressures of living up to a winning legacy. Featuring interviews with plenty of familiar faces, the film shows how



It was a full house for the HIḠaagilda screening. PHOTO: PATRICK SHANNON

players manage personal relationships while honouring sportsmanship as layered tensions arise.

The closing scene was met with a standing ovation. The room quickly filled with singing as everyone joined in for the National Anthem of the Haida Nation. All smiles now, Nang K'uulaas took the stage, expressing gratitude to his home community for their support, and to the many people on and off-screen who helped bring the story to life. He noted that a forthcoming companion series promises to delve into various other stories that emerged during the filming process.

"We conducted dozens of interviews—so many powerful stories—we really had to slim it down to fit the 1.5-hour timeline. But we will have additional short films that will be added when this film comes out on Crave that tell other stories, like the origin of the Saints' name, the women's teams, our cousins up in Masset and Hydaburg, and so much more that we have yet to share with you all." ■



Film Premiere: The Haida Soul

On August 7, another local film screened in HIḠaagilda. Local musician, Mitch Wilson, premiered his debut film, *The Haida Soul*. The energetic and heartwarming film, which was beautifully shot at last year's Edge of the World Music Festival by local videographers Benson Hilgemann and Elin Dieme, offers an immersive Chini Har concert experience. Being one of Haida Gwaii's major music legends, Har's talent and pizzazz shone through the screen, lighting up the room and inspiring the audience to cheer and sing along as though they were listening live. Mitch, son of Chini Har, noted how proud he was of the film, and how special it was to him to be able to perform on stage with his father. ■