



Sayt-K'ilim-Goot

one heart, one path, one nation



Nisga'a Lisims Government Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 1

Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a



On behalf of Nisga'a Lisims Government and the Nisga'a Nation, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal appreciation and

thanks to the many individuals who contributed in one way or another to the completion of Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a – the Nisga'a Museum.

In order for us to marvel, honour, celebrate and breathe life into the Ancestor's Collection - Anhooya'ahl Ga'angiatgum – it took the hard work, dedication and commitment of many people at various stages and in many areas of expertise to make the Nisga'a Museum the state of the art facility it is today.

We would like to pay tribute and thank the individuals and companies in the areas of construction, exhibit design and installation, administration and event coordination.

We would especially like to thank the families of all of these people, for the sacrifice they made by way of time away from their loved ones who so generously gave their time and commitment to the completion of the Nisga'a Museum.

The completion of the Nisga'a Museum is the realization of a long-standing dream of many generations of Nisga'a leaders. Our ancestors, whose collection the Museum now houses, would be proud.

The compilation of this Special Edition Newsletter is intended to provide recognition for the hard work and dedication of the many men and women who worked so tirelessly on the completion of the Nisga'a Museum.

On behalf of the Nisga'a Nation I would like to thank everyone who worked on the project.

Respectfully,
Nisga'a Lisims Government
H. Mitchell Stevens, President



Thank You

We would like to recognize the many people who worked very hard to complete the Nisga'a Museum.

Administration

Wilp Si'ayuuḵhl Nisga'a, NLG Executive, Capital Finance Commission

Nisga'a Museum Staff: Nicholette Prince, Esther Adams

Nisga'a Art Collection: Eva Clayton

Laxgalts'ap Village Government: Angus Stevens, Bonnie Stevens, Receptionist

Elan Travel: Barb Petrick

Construction

Project Management: Dan Schweng, Dennis Palmu, Gene Miller, Melvin Leeson

Hillel Architecture Inc.: Peter Hardcastle

Adventure Paving: Dante Massari, Devin Griffin, John Franco, Carroll Swim, Gary Dickinson, Chris Kerpil, Ken Pipe

West Fraser Concrete: Jeff Leason, Daniel Ridsdale, Steve M., Cole R., John Riddell

H.J. Construction: Jerry Deboo, H. Munk, Greg Deboo, Lyle Stevens

101 Industries Ltd.: Mark Harnadek, Gerry Lamming, Maurice Fugere, Larry Glover, Jason Precepa, Eugene Adams, Brant Pritchard, Gordon Birch, Larry Gagnon, Bill Thornton, Cody Pritchard

All West Glass: Terry Dickerson, Nathan Perry, Rob Chappell, Norm White, Keith Fell, Jamie Krenz

West Cana: Doug Engstrom, Graeme Laurson, Brett Kehler, Mark Dow

West Isle: Doug Wallis, John Houle, Yos Iruretagoyena, Mike Kent, Mel Leeson, Matthew Locke, Darren Parker, Jim & Patty Ruston, Derrick Thompson, Morgan Wight

Leviton: Gord Rose

Detec Moisture Intrusion Solutions: Francis Perez

Graydon: Murray Schwenning, Sandor Komlos, Bob Turner, Robin Casey, Jr., Brett Walker, Laudo Botelho

Your Décor: Rob Nomandy, Gerry Gagnon, Rod Steele, Keith Webb, Jason McClellan

Control Solutions: Stephen Guise, Norm Smith, Will Puckering

Eby & Sons Construction

Ex Cel Acoustic: Guy Fulljames, Michael Fulljames, Duane Eastman, John Scanlon, Jeff Bartram, Merv Padalec, Cody Leslie, Dave Cake, Myles Richard, John Castle, Tim Tobin, Rob Hebb

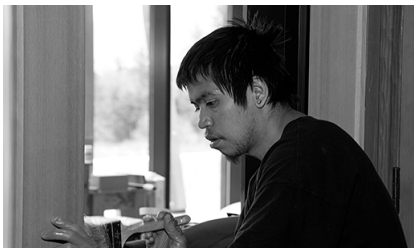
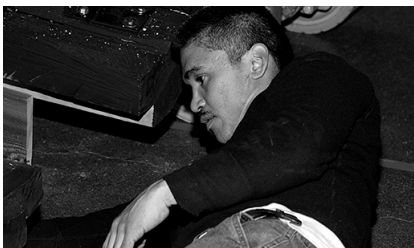
Casey's Welding: Robin Casey, Sr.

Site Coordinator: Melvin Leeson

Local Labourers: Charlene Ousey, Russell Woods, Collier Bright, Randy Peters, Marvin Stevens, Darren McNeil, Aaron Martin, Marlene Moore, Mark Wilson, Hugh Woods, Blair Davis, Lloyd Mercer, Barry Morven, Edward Adams, Russell Guno, Jalen Bright, Paul Martin, Lester Robinson, David Robinson, Harvey Bright, Calvin McNeil, Gerald Robinson, Albert Stephens, George McKay, Lawrence Stephens, Leon Stevens, Elton Stephens, Brian Scow, Ray Scow, Dakota Ousey, William Morrison, Robert Moore, Don Moore, Mark Davis, Michael Ousey, Ron Sampare, Stuart Stephens, Tyson Morgan, Dan Moore, Conrad Campbell, Chelsie Sampare, Larry Martin, Jason McKay, Lewis McKay, Randy Sampare, Lorne Haizimsque, Gerald Stevens, Bill Leeson, Thomas George, James Lincoln, Jeremiah Moore, Alfred Stewart, Trinity Stephens, Barb Edgar (volunteer), Cheyenne Edgar (volunteer), Garret Schweng (volunteer)

NLG Maintenance: Hugh Woods, Dean Haizimsque

Greenville Log Home Project: Norman Brown, Leah Percival, Jason McKay, Paul Mercer, Jr., Walter McMillan, Francis Morven, Gary Marvin Guno, Dean Haizimsque, Quentin Moore, Danny Guno, Duane Eli



A Spiritual Journey to Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a

My work with the Nisga'a artifacts proudly goes back to the years of 1996-1997 where I was introduced to them during my eight month Internship at the Royal BC Museum, Victoria. I was encouraged to apply for this Internship by a woman whom I worked with awhile back, Shirley Morven, I thank her for this, she told me I had what it took and that my heart was in the right place, she believed in me, T'ooyak_siy' _niin Sigidimnak.

At the beginning of my Internship talks were strong about the repatriation of these objects and photos were needed by Nisga'a Tribal Council, it was at this time I met Gary Feighen, Photographer and viewed the pieces for the first time. Not knowing what to expect I walked into the storage room where they were spread out on tables and it felt as I was walking into a crowd of people, I felt like people were looking at me and trying to say something. I have to admit not understanding at the time, that these pieces were not just objects but the spirits of our Ancestors. It was then that I knew, as elders say today, there was a reason why that happened at that time and why I was drawn to the pieces. From then on I continued to keep track of the pieces and do research, and I took every opportunity I had come my way to work with them.

Working on the Nisga'a Museum project was indeed a spiritual journey, it has opened my eyes and has made me fully aware of who I am, how strong I can be, and to be very proud of it. I worked with many people and learned a great deal of our Nisga'a ancestry. In the beginning of the project I was a liaison on behalf of NLG in which I worked with Kevin Neary on the storyline which required gathering resources, discussions, setting up meetings and assist in moving written drafts forward for approval.

As the pieces were returned and placed in the building in September 2010 once again I utilized my skills and did hands on work with each piece that was returned. I worked with staff members of the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Royal BC Museum to complete the Condition Reports of each piece after being transferred. This job took five days to complete as each piece had to be unpacked, examined, reported and repacked, a very spiritual experience.

As the planning moved on to the opening of the Nisga'a Museum I had the privilege to work on the Mask Exhibit with Patrick Scott and Alice Clayton as well as assisted in the installation of many pieces throughout the museum. Our Team leaders for the Installation were Kevin Neary and Alan Graves.

I was very apprehensive about the mask exhibit as this section was first part one would see when you walked in to the exhibit. The first part of the mask exhibit required sewing costumes as each mask was to be placed on a mannequin. I worked with Alice Clayton, I designed each costume according to the mask and layout and Alice assisted me with the sewing. The sewing project took 77.5 hours with my time being volunteered. The second stage of the exhibit was the fitting of the mask and costumes in which I worked with Patrick Scott who had a Theatre background as well as his museum work experience. The third stage was putting the mannequins in place, dressing and putting the mask on, and the final stage was the final touch ups. During the last phase of the whole Exhibit it was a great privilege to work with the people I did. From them I have learned many things as they had from me.

Upon completion of this project and after long hours, I was overwhelmed and had mixed emotions of happiness, sadness and being very proud of the accomplishments had by all. We walked forward with great pride and lifelong friendships. The overall project would not have been a great success without the great team that we had.

As the elders say, "there is a reason why things happen as they do!"

T'ooyak_siy' _niisim!



— Fran Johnson, Manager, Ayuukhl Nisga'a Dept.



T̓xeemsiṃ as Raven

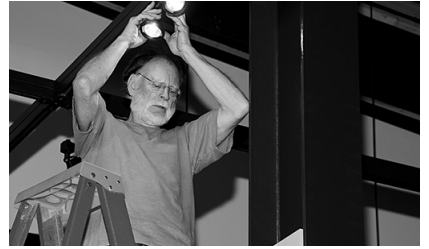
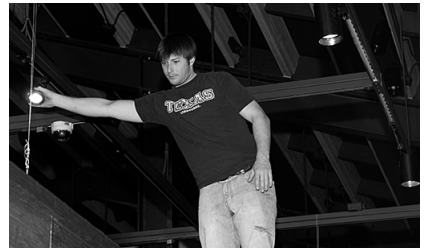
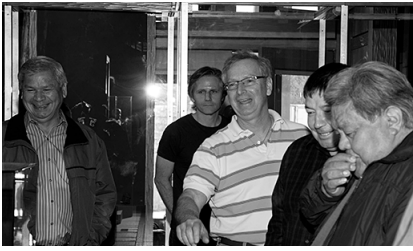
Lead carver Calvin McNeil and carvers Gerald Robinson, Albert Stevens Jr. and George McKay (with Mel Leeson's technical assistance and support and Collier Bright's help) worked straight through for 3 weeks (12 hour days) to carve the massive raven's beak and human figures above the entrance to the Ancestors' Collection. A work of this size and complexity would usually take about 3 months to finish.

The entrance to Anhooya'ahl Ga'angigatgum, the Ancestors' Collection, is through a stylized Nisga'a longhouse front featuring T̓xeemsiṃ as Raven. T̓xeemsiṃ is the grandson of K'am Ligii Hahlhaahl, the Chief of Heavens. Transformer extraordinaire, T̓xeemsiṃ has played a central role in Nisga'a culture. He brought light and many other gifts to the Nisga'a. His journey shaped the course of the river and the lay of the land.

The Nisga'a carvers based this important work on the Pym Compton watercolor (circa 1858-1863) of the Ni'isjoohl longhouse that was located near present-day Laxgalts'ap.

Interestingly, while working, the carvers were often visited by three ravens one of which had a white trim of feathers around its neck.





Thank You

Exhibit Design and Installation

NLG: Fran Johnson, Charlene Ousey

Payton Communications: Brian Payton

Printing Ink. Bonnie Spence, Lee Edwards

Permel Engraving Ltd. Graig Fotheringham

Alan Graves Design: Alan Graves, Nickolas Graves, Pat Scott, Robert Byers, David Seager, J.K. Hutchins

Nisga'a Carvers (Raven Beak): Calvin McNeil, Gerald Robinson, George McKay, Albert Stephens Jr., Eric Clayton, Gerald Clayton

Skipp Design Inc. Jim Skipp, Kirsten Skipp, Alice Clayton, Lily Harned

Blanchette Press: Kim Blanchette, Marke Blanchette, Matt Blanchette, Nick Knowlden, Jack Philips, Lora Clark

Star Led & Print Corp. Verne Fidis, Andrew Lau, Garry Hubbe

Trim-Time Signs: Larry Graig

Traditions Consulting Inc.: Kevin Neary, Brendan Neary

Photography: Gary Fiegehan, Jim Stone

Nisga'a Language: Ts'aa Gabin – Verna Williams

Event Coordination

Nisga'a Lisims Government: Council of Elders

Communications: Bobby Clark, Eric Grandison, Jim Stone, Shelley Johnson

Human Resources: Pamela Wright, Cindy Clayton

NLG Staff Volunteers: Daphne Robinson, Nita Morven, Maxine Azak, Faith Tait, Renata Moore, Jacqueline Gosnell, Elizabeth Robinson, Selina Fisher, Sally Nyce, Roberta Clayton, Ben Davidson, Winnie Morven, Bert Mercer, Kristy Johnson, Josie Casey, Marietta McKay, Alicia Stevens, Akimi Okabe, Tanya Clayton, Paul Mercer, Edna Tait, Sam Coggins, Cheryl Tait, Pamela Grant

Nisga'a Youth Councils: Micheal Morgan, Kim Azak, Simon Calder, Jolene Sampare, Arthur Johnson, Gitlaxt'aamiks Youth Council

Laxgalts'ap Village Government: Gloria Murdoch-Smith, Angus Stevens, Nancy Moore, Work Program Employees

Food: Women of Laxgalts'ap

Parking & Security: Gitxat'in Volunteer Fire Dept.

Shuttle Service: Nisga'a Village shuttle buses

Entertainment: Nisga'a Cultural Dancers, Nisga'a Mass Band, NESS Band

Canadian Forces: LS Arnie Stewart, Jr., LS Katerina Stewart, LS Tyrel Janzen, LS Erwin Alexander Jr., AS Greg Moore, Cpl Jonathan Moore

Webcast & Video Footage: School District #92 (Nisga'a)

Gingolx Media Centre: Charles Moore

Gift Art & Design: 2009 NLG Cedar Crafts Project, Merlin Robinson

Cedar Ribbon Donors: Daniel Wilson, Peter McKay

Easy Rent Tents, West Point Rentals, Sight & Sound

Did You Know?

- The glass in the building meets the new architectural hurricane standard and can withstand impacts from objects travelling 150 mph.
- Special consultants were hired to ensure the indoor environment exceeds international museum standards.
- The wooden beams that create the sweeping roofline were only 1/8th of an inch from being perfectly aligned from front to back.
- The building sits on nearly 27ft of compacted gravel which was needed to raise the Museum above 200 year flood levels.

Les Clayton Retires from NLG



It is with regret that I write to inform you of the recent retirement of a valued, senior, long-serving employee of Nisga'a Lisims Government.

G. Les Clayton joined the then Nisga'a Tribal Council in January 1997, a pivotal time during the negotiations of what eventually became the Nisga'a Final Agreement. Les' very diverse curriculum vitae, which includes among other things, his experience with the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples' (RCAP) was and has been of great benefit in the transition and evolution of Nisga'a self-government and in the implementation of British Columbia's first modern Treaty.

More recently, Les' leadership in the development of the Directorate of Communications and

Intergovernmental Relations has ensured Nisga'a Government has implemented an evolving system of how we communicate with our citizens, intergovernmental agencies and the wider general public in the areas of emergency preparedness and response, media relations, large event planning and coordination, including the biennial Special Assemblies of the Nisga'a Nation.

Les' last day with Nisga'a Lisims Government was Thursday April 28, 2011.

Mr. Clayton's Significant contributions, through his many years of service to the Nisga'a Nation is much valued and appreciated. I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing Les and his wife Alice the best in a well-deserved retirement.

Respectfully
Nisga'a Lisims Government
H. Mitchell Stevens, President
Sim'oogit K̄aw'een

Museum Staff



Nicholette Prince, the Interim Director, is Dakelhne and a member of Nak'azdli Band, Fort St. James. She belongs to the Lisilyu Clan (frog) and has the name Nataban.

She is the daughter of the late Nick and Irene Prince and has two children, Dylan (16) and Brianna (11).

Nicholette is currently working on her PhD in Cultural Mediations at Carleton University. She has a BA (Hons) in Art History from the University of Victoria and a MSc. in Clothing and Textiles from the University of Alberta. She worked at the Canadian Museum of Civilization from 1992-1996 and 1998-2010, as a Researcher, Curator of Plateau Ethnology, and Assistant Director of Ethnology and Cultural Studies.



N'it. Esther Adams-hl way'. Ksim Gisk'aast n'iiy' ii wilps Wisin Xbil'tkw wil w'it-gwiy'.

Hello. My name is Esther Adams. I am killerwhale from the

house of Wisin Xbil'tkw.

I come to Nisga'a Lisims Government as the Nisga'a Museum Gift Store Coordinator with many years of experience as an entrepreneur. I am very excited with this opportunity to apply the knowledge and skill-set that I've accumulated in all aspects of small business management and retail operations and I look forward to providing the best possible service to everyone who visits the museum.



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