

Strengthening Our Gwalx ye'insxw

Gitksan Summit 2008



Gax Yip
Our Land, Our Resources.

Luutkudziiwus: Gordon Sebastian



I am from Wilp Luutkudziiwus of Gitanmaax. My mother is Elsie Sebastian (Gitanmaax) and my father is Joseph Sebastian (Hagwilget).



My mother was born on March 29, 1927 in Gitanmaax. She is the daughter of Helena Green and her stepfather was Alec Green (Miluulak). Helena Green is the daughter of Matilda and James May (Yago sip) of Gitanmaax. The Mays had a home near the spot where Robert Campbell has a home today. Alec Green is from Kisgagas and their home was where Mary Smith's home is now.

Helena Green's mother Matilda had two other sisters, Kate McKenzie and Sara. Kate lived on the Lax Yip in the Suskwa where she raised her son, Ben McKenzie and nephew, Art Ridsdale. As a result, Helena and Alec regularly lived at Cottonwood Camp.

As an infant, my mother lived with relatives in Gitanmaax, Kisgagas and at Cotton Wood Camp in the Suskwa. My mother remembers being carried around by Moses Green at the camp. My mother was 6 years old when she was sent to residential school in Edmonton. She didn't return until she was 15 years old in 1942. Grade 9 was the highest grade that my mother and other aboriginal students were allowed to reach.

My yuuthlimox on our rights to the Lax Yip began in 1972 in meetings with the Hagwilget Council and chairman, Ray Jones in Glen Vowell. As a lawyer I argued for acceptance of Ayookim Gitxsan in the care for our children, criminal trials and litigation for rights on the Lax Yip – volunteered services to chiefs from 1982 to 2003.

I inherited Luutkudziiwus on October 17, 2002 at the death feast of Art Ridsdale.

*As a lawyer I argued for acceptance
of Ayookim Gitxsan in the care for our children*

Advances Made By The Gitxsan

By Gordon Sebastian

Gitxsan Governance is being implemented on each Lax Yip, in each watershed. The huwilp are in various stages of participating in the economic activity of their Lax Yip. In this new stage of our lives, the wilp is proving to be a very good foundation for Gitxsan Governance.

Some Simogyat are engaged in rebuilding their wilp and actually benefiting from the resources on their Lax Yip. In terms of economic development, most Simogyat are:

- ✓ making strategic decisions and focusing on the vision of independence
- ✓ assessing the wilp's capacity as participants in activities such as mining or forestry
- ✓ Strategizing with their wing chiefs, the Sigidimhanak and wilp members to lay the foundation for governance capable of taking part in economic activity.

In 1982, negotiation wasn't an option, so the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs sued the Province of British Columbia in *Delgamuukw v. HMQ* and many roadblocks were set up to protect the Lax Yip. In 1994 during negotiations, it was established that the Gitxsan were not giving up the Simogyat, the Wilp and the Lax Yip. The Province walked away from negotiations in 1996 in an attempt to force the Gitxsan off their Lax Yip and back to reserves! In 2002, the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs successfully litigated that the interests of the wilp must be accommodated before any resource extraction could occur on the Lax Yip. The result was the STFA recognized the connection of the Simgiigyet to the Lax Yip (33,000 sq. km.).

Many huwilp are benefiting from their resources on their Lax Yip and entering such agreements with various corporations. Furthermore, the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs have successfully moved the province and Canada from their mandates that the Gitxsan must only live on

My ancestors, Helena Green, Alec Green, Ben McKenzie and his mother Kate McKenzie would be so happy that we are back working on our own lands. .. We are taking back our Gwalx ye'insaw – the Lax Yip.

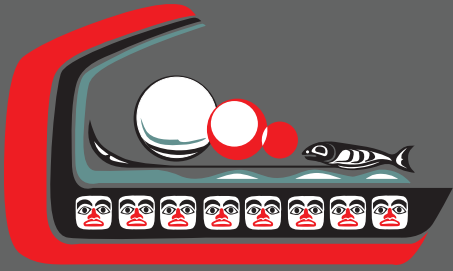
reserves (to be called treaty settlement lands). At this point (2008), the province is accepting that Gitxsan Governance must at least be 50% Simgiigyet and the alternative to bands!

Many of our people are taking advantage of this new opportunity. There is good work being done in our communities, however, the Lax Yip is proving to be another alternative for our people to become economically independent. This alternative will help us contribute to this great province and in return will benefit our people by providing them with services such as health, education and housing equal to the rest of the Canadians.

My ancestors, Helena Green, Alec Green, Ben McKenzie and his mother Kate McKenzie would be so happy that we are back working on our own lands. The law supports us by providing us with authority to make sure that our interests as decision-makers are accommodated. Ben McKenzie never gave up his control in the Lax Yip to any government and we know that each Simogyat has done the same. We are taking back our Gwalx ye'insaw – the Lax Yip.



Gitxsan Summit 2008



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Inside This Booklet

- Negotiations Summary p.7
- Gimlitxwit Summary p. 9
- Elmer Derek p. 12
- Communications p.13
- Watershed Reports p.14-15
- Honouring Irene p.16
- Honouring Walter p.17
- Ayook Team p.18
- Support Staff p.19
- **Agendas** p.20-21
- Sponsor Thank Yous p.22

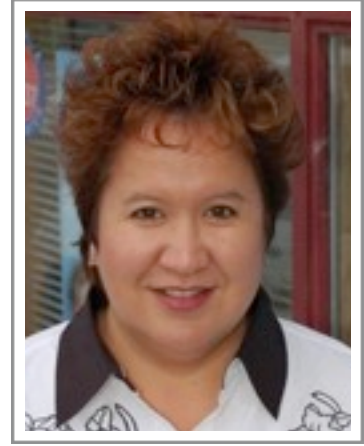
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Gwaans: Beverly Clifton Percival

My name is Gwaans (Beverley Clifton Percival). I was born in Prince Rupert, and I come from Wilps Hanamuuxw of Gitsegukla, my mother was Alaist (Barbara Clifton), my grandmother was Gwaans (Olive Ryan), a name previously held by Peter Milton. My father is Andrew Clifton, son of George and Violet Clifton of Gitgaata (Hartley Bay, BC) Each day I remember my family's contribution to the Gitxsan Nation and to the Delgamuukxw Court Action. Both Gwaans and Hanamuuxw testified for us and my uncle, known then as Maas Gaak, gave his leadership to the cause of protecting the people, the culture and the land. Their strength and courage has played a large part in my life and my oojin.



After I graduated from high school in 1981, I received a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology from SFU in 1987. I have worked as a sessional university instructor for UBC and UNBC in Gitxsan Culture. I also have a diploma in Adult Instruction from Vancouver Community College. More recently I have completed my course work for an M.A. at UNBC but have not completed my project due to the death of my aunt as well as my mother. My project outlines in gitxsanimx our wilp LaxYip and resources that form our gwalyeinsxw.

I have also volunteered on many Boards, such as; the 'Ksan Association, Hazelton Public Library, Upper Skeena Health Council, First Nations Council (Northwest Community College), and the Upper Skeena Community TV Board. I supported the Delgamuukxw Court Case, attending meetings with my grandmother. I am also active in the Lilligit; our Wilp raised a pole in 1991 and carried out our obligations within our system. I have held my grandmother's name since 1998 and have been taught our history, adawak, laxyip boundaries, ansilinisxw, and en'aat along with other knowledge necessary to carry out my responsibilities as a Gitxsan.

Negotiations Summary

by Beverly Clifton Percival

We have made significant progress in negotiating and trying to achieve agreement on chapter language. We now have 24 chapters, but encounter challenges with wanting reconciliation of our rights and title to our entire Lax Yip (territory) 33,000 sq km, our unwillingness to give up our identity in terms of language and culture, and no modification of our rights and title. This leads to the inevitable discussion of governance. Delgamuukxw defined our society and structure, along with our laws and decision-making ability based on being an oral society. In the Standard treaty model, they expect that we would give this up for little land and little money.

We have begun to explore a new mechanism of reconciliation that would lead to a protected government-to-government agreement without losing the people, language culture and land.

We have begun to explore a new mechanism of reconciliation that would lead to a protected government-to-government agreement without losing the people, language culture and land. A third-party facilitator helped us examine the areas of conflict relating to governance, as it impacts all chapters that we have made effort to achieve tripartite agreement.

The “Alternative Governance Model” is part of the negotiation process that sets out the intent of all three parties to identify issues for negotiation. There has been a lot of discussion and interpretation of this document. It lends itself to leveling the playing field of the Gitxsan Simgiigyet with the Crown and is meant to be an evolving and changing

document that will accommodate the Gitxsan Rights and Title and this is meant to be an agreement with legal protection under Section 35 of the Constitution.

Any agreement will involve ratification and acceptance by the Simgiigyet, but we need mandate and policy changes for the Crown Right of Canada and BC to see the Gitxsan Rights and Title accommodated into today's society. We are pushing the Crown to move into a new arena with us to see the possibility of Reconciliation with the Gitxsan based on the foundation of our Ayookw, language, culture, lands and resources.

We are continuing on the path set out by our ancestors and the worldview that was presented to the lixsgigyetim gyet in Delgamuukxw 1987, 1991 & 1997. We respect and honour all those who gave their time, resources and knowledge to advance the strength of our Gitxsan Nation. I will never abandon my identity as Gwaans, nor will I forfeit the gwal'yeinsxw of the Gitxsan Huwilp and our Lax Yip. My commitment is to give my best effort and conduct myself in the honor of our Ayookw, as was passed on to me by my maternal family.

Gabith He'e



Sa Anx gwanks: Barbara Huson



My name is Sa anx gwanks – Wilps Gutguunuux – Wilnahtahl's Anda Ap. I am one of the daughters of the late Tsogoslee (Walter Wilson Sr.) and Dimdiigiibuu (Doris Wilson). I am married to Sii hlaa gi'insxw - (David Huson, Wilps Nikateen) and have two beautiful boys Brett (Hetxwimsgyatxw) and Grant (Wihlgusmaaxii).

I attended Hazelton Amalgamated High School from Grade 1 to Grade 10 and was sent to the Queen Elizabeth Secondary in Surrey, where I graduated in 1971. During the course of my education, I received a Social Service Counselor Diploma and also became a qualified Court Interpreter. I also received and levels of training for Employment Counseling and have a Native Adult Instructor Diploma. The most valuable qualification I carry with me today is my true teachings from my father, mother, grandfathers, and grandmothers.

I was born and raised here in Gitxsan territory and take great pride in my knowledge of our culture, processes, protocol, and most importantly...our language. It is a pleasure to work for the Simgiigyat. Without the knowledge they have given me, I would not be where I am today. I have worked with Gitxsan people for the last 30 years in many capacities, but the job of Gimlitxwit Coordinator has been the most enjoyable!

Some of the processes or paths that have been laid out for us to follow are still in tact, however at times we stumble and we just need to regroup and continue. We always have to listen to the echoes of our Ye'ehs and our Tseets –

“Walk slowly...walk gently...on the breaths of our Grandfathers”.



Gimlitzwit Summary

Our daxgyet is with each and every Simoget and the blanket they wear. The principals of power, respect, and honour that are passed on with these blankets are our strength.

SIMGIIGYAT

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for the support that you have given me, my husband and family throughout the year. To be successful in the work I do for the Gitxsan, I must be healthy in Body, Mind and Spirit, which has been a great challenge this year!

I chose the theme for our 2008 Gitxsan Summit T.E.A.M. – Together Everyone Achieves More – as it is important to continue to show the world that the Gitxsan are unique and follow our hereditary system strongly. We must show the Lixsgyetimgyat (Non-Gitxsan) that we are a united Gitxsan Nation. Our variety of opinions contributes to us working together, reaching our goals, and coming out with decisions.

I have been involved with the Gitxsan since 1977. I have seen the different structures we have attempted, and most importantly, the stumbling blocks and challenges of different stages. I am proud to say that the Gimlitzwit has been the longest surviving governing body and will continue to flourish for time immemorial. Our daxgyet is with each and every Simoget and the blanket they wear.

The principals of power, respect, and honour that are passed on with these blankets are our strength. At the beginning of each year the Gimlitzwit have their annual retreat/planning session. This is where we put our heads together and develop our work plan for the year. Every

voice is heard and every concern is documented. The Gimlitzwit prioritize the issues and they direct the staff and Board to implement it.

These are some of the priority issues for 2008:

1. Develop Media Strategy
2. Develop Pool of translators
3. Gimlitzwit to ratify Resource Policies
4. Erect Highway Signposts
5. Fly Gitxsan Nation Flags
6. Develop Negotiating Strategy
7. Develop Investment Strategy
8. Develop strategy to Educate people on successes

The work plan that the Simgiigyat has developed was presented in April. It is important to review them on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, to ensure the priorities are still on track. It is also important to have regular meaningful discussions of the work plan. To that extent, we hold our monthly Gimlitzwit meetings, with the exception of July and August when we take a recess to prepare our fish and berries.

Our meetings are a great opportunity for various groups to cater. Most of our meetings are catered by young people in Sports, Health, and Education. Sometimes we also receive requests to cater from families for medical and financial reasons. This is just one way we support the needs of our Gitxsan members.

Thank You

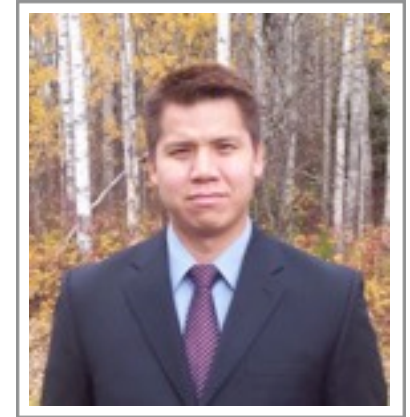
SA ANXGWANKS

Barbara Huson

Ts'aasK'aax: Cameron Stevens



My name is Cameron Stevens of Wilps Luus. My Gitxsan name is Ts'aasK'aax. I grew up in Kispiox and have many family members in the area. I am a proud Gitxsan and enjoy working for the Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs, the Simgiigyet. I am an enthusiastic soccer player who strives for excellence through hard work and dedication. I apply this to other aspects of my life and strongly believe attitude is everything when it comes to winning and of course, no excuses please.



I successfully completed the Natural Resource Management Program at University of Northern British Columbia where I obtained my Bachelor of Science Degree. Prior to attending UNBC, I was enrolled at Northwest Community College in the Forest Technology Program where I received my Forest Technology Diploma and Natural Resources Certificate. In September 2009, I plan to advance my learning and take the MBA program.

For the last 2 and a half years with the Gitxsan Chiefs' Office, I have gained considerable knowledge from the Gitxsan Simgiigyet, as it relates to Lax Yip and Gwalyeinxsw. Although it has taken the Province over 10 years to change the status quo for the forest management practices, I am optimistic they will open their minds to the possibilities and opportunities available to the Gitxsan. As stated in STFA, the Province will accommodate our Gitxsan Interests. The changing attitudes are a result of the persistence and perseverance of the Simgiigyet, the holders of our daxgyat for the land and resources.

Forestry Summary

By Cameron Stevens

I have served as a Board of Director for Gitxsan Forest Enterprises Inc. since August of 2007. During the past year, the forest industry has been affected by poor markets and the financial crisis in the United States, which has created problems for the Gitxsan. Some of the main reasons are low lumber prices, the poor US housing market, the high Canadian dollar, and the softwood lumber agreement for trade purposes.

I strongly believe this will provide an opportunity to diversify and be innovative. GFEI will need to refocus and change the current direction of the company and create a sound strategic plan that identifies a Vision, Mission and 5 year objectives. We need to take action by capturing and creating value for our timber from Gitxsan Territory; this can be accomplished by implementing our Gitxsan fibre map, which is a comprehensive road map of better utilization of the fibre supply. This would entail using modern technology that reduces waste and green house gas emissions which is better for the environment. This philosophy is in line with taking care of the land so the land can take care of us forever.

This is the last year of the NWFREP program but I am pushing for the continuation of the program. This would help the Gitxsan become more involved with the program early on in the process rather than being notified about their plans. The Gitxsan will have early engagement to be a part of the planning, budgeting, management, decision making, and employment opportunities. I will send a letter proposal to MFR and Licensees about this initiative; I don't foresee any of them opposed to idea as it will provide an effective and efficient means of consultation for the resource development activities.

For the Job Opportunity Program, I have submitted two Expression of Interests to Pricewaterhouse & Coopers for funding. The submissions were for capacity building and Trail & Cabin Enhancement for

We have an opportunity to diversify and be innovative.

unemployed forestry workers. This funding source is the Community Development Trust. I will keep you posted about status of the projects.

We sent a letter to MFR about moving forward with STFA Tenure. We would like to identify operating areas that are economically viable. This exercise will assist with determining profitable operating areas and reducing the economic barriers associated with the resource development activities. At the moment, BC Timber Sales' is the only player operating which does place the STFA Tenure and FL A16831 at a disadvantage due to lower stumpage and readily accessible timber.

The Gitxsan and BC Timber Sales' are working on a forest development partnership to adequately deal with the issues and concerns. We have decided to draft a partnership which will address the problems we have with BCTS operating on Gitxsan Lax Yip. My goal is to have a draft document by end of the year. An idea is to use BCTS AAC and STFA Tenure volume to make the partnership a reality; this will provide Gitxsan involvement, capacity building, cultural heritage resource policy implementation, and contract opportunities for timber and silviculture.

The Climate Action Secretariat, Office of the Premier has been slow to get a cooperative agreement with the Gitxsan, although they have said we have a great submission. The plan was to present our projects to the Cabinet Committee on Climate Change with the goal of being funded for the projects. Another option is to seek out financial investors and /or banks to fund our forest carbon management projects. I am hopeful the projects will be funded for the 2009 fiscal year.

Yoobx: Elmer Derrick



My colleague Simgiigyet know me as Yoobx. I provide leadership to Wilp's Wiighet of Gitsegukla. My father was Wii hlamii (Jonathan) of Gitanyow. My grandfathers were Gwass'lam (Walter Douse and Wii'xaa (Walter Derrick) of Gitanyow. I was born and raised in Kitwancool.

Like most of the Gitxsan people my age I attended Day school. I graduated from Jasper Place Composite High School in Edmonton in 1965. Following graduation I went to the University of Alberta on

scholarship from the Government of Alberta. I earned a Bachelor of Education degree. I also attended Carleton University, the University of Ottawa, and Simon Fraser University. My critical education was what I learned from the elders in the Gitxsan communities. All the men and women that kept me focused have all gone to the other side. When I compare what I learned from the people at home to the formal theory that I learned from institutions of learning I give thanks for being Gitxsan. My working journey has taken me throughout the fishing and forestry industries. I have worked for the Crown through the Governments of Alberta, Canada, and British Columbia. I have taught in High Schools in Edmonton along with the Northwest Community College and the University of Northern British Columbia. I have been a guest lecturer in twenty three different colleges and universities across North America and around the world. I have been a board member on college and corporate boards. I have coached hockey, soccer, basketball, and played a lot of billiards.

My political work has enabled me to spend precious moments with aboriginal colleagues around North America. I have worked with most members organizations of the Assembly of First Nations. There are some Gitxsan principles that I grew up with that I will die with. Get up with the sun; live within your means; and do unto others as you would have done to you.





I was born in 1948. When I was old enough, I went to school at the Kispiox Indian Day school. My schooling was interrupted sporadically as my friends were being sent away to residential schools. I moved around a lot growing up. I lived with my grandparents, and in my dad's pole camp. I also lived with Jonathan Johnson on the territories, who was 'Wii Muk'wilixw during the 50's.

My work experience includes peeling poles in Kitwancool for the Derricks, commercial fishing for North Pacific, and working in sawmills in Houston, South Hazelton and Terrace. I also worked as a log building supervisor in Kispiox and Moricetown (the hatchery and three houses in Kispiox) and bucked logs for Norman Hagen. Later, I took beginner and advanced carving at K'san and contributed art work and travelling time to help raise funds during the Delgamuukxw case. I also built the Galdo'o Camp and Shelter for kids, and have worked off and on for the Chief's office. I currently work as a Communications Officer at the Chief's Office.

Last summer, I took a three-month leave to take a job as a Camp Elder. I went on field trips and attended classes and acquired five tickets in mining and exploration. Overall, my life has been quite eventful. My attitude in life has been to learn as much as I can because that is the way I build my credentials. At the age of 60, I'm quite satisfied to have done a lot. I hope that I continue to learn more, and my current job allows me to do that.

Communications Report

Since the last Summit, I have compiled a binder with an index of important information, such as, radio and newspaper media contacts, Band offices phone and fax numbers, the Commission, hospitals and morgues, and a staff directory. I have also prepared fax information sheets that are ready for distribution. I'm currently working on gathering e-mail addresses for some urban Gitxsan. Doug Donaldson has also helped me post information on the internet. I've had help for this Summit's preparation from Richard Sampson, and from CopperMoon.

I create and distribute a Gitxsan Update on a weekly basis; the material is usually of general interest to the Gitxsan. I also sit through various meetings, from Gimlitxwit, to Board meetings, to related Ministry activity, in order to keep myself well-informed of current events and recent developments. I take photos as a means of documenting history to have as a visual catalogue to refer back to, in the future. I also take notes and make them available to the secretary to use as cross-referencing.

On occasion I have gone on helicopter flights to visually record, and collect information on mining proposals. My training in that area helps me understand the industry jargon. I am also able to provide answers to questions other staff members may have on Culture, such as family connections, protocol etc. Many times, Industry connects with me first and I redirect them to the appropriate Watershed co-coordinator. When there are major documents that need to be distributed, my co-workers help me find individuals that will help distribute the Community handouts, so the community members get that information the same day. On occasion, I also try to be helpful with Residential school survivors.

It's never a dull day and I'm enjoying my work. Thank you.

Susat Watershed



First of all, I am Cliff Sampare (Oo'Yee) from the House of Nii Kyap. My mother is Josephine Sampare (McLean) (B-26-05-21) daughter of Mariah McLean (Nii Kyap) (B-1897), first born from Sarah Negep (Nii Kyap) (B-1870)

I began work as a facilitator for the Susat Region in June 2008. At that

time, the nine other Watershed Facilitators updated me on a meeting with the

Northwest FREP, consisting of Agencies from; the Ministry of Forests, Ministry of

Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Resources, and other Ministries involved within the Gitksan Territory. This was one of the successes that our Executive Director (Gordon Sebastian) and the Chief Negotiators had agreed upon with the Province to ensure consultation and accountability within each Lax Yip.

There was an issue with Ministry of Environment that I brought to the respective House Chiefs' attention regarding our Ungulate Winter Ranges, our traditional source of yearly sustenance, especially with the number of mountain goats declining in specific areas. These areas of concern were expressed by the Gitksan Chiefs and are now been immediately put on a protective zone by the Province. The Province is not only starting to recognize our traditional lax yip, but they are actually approaching the Watershed Facilitators for permission for new ore-renewed tenors, permits, and hunting guide-outfitters permits, which are in effect for a period of five years. The facilitators have to

bring this to the House Chiefs' attention for recommendation and direction.

I am presently busy with two other facilitators, Alice Jeffery (Babine) and Sheila Joseph (Upper-Skeena) in finding funding for Trail Restoration. We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel; this project will create year-round employment upon completion. I have contacted agencies that may cover tuition costs for 18 Gitksan people to enter training in the Wilderness Guiding & Wrangling Program in spring of 2009, I will need names as soon as possible to fully secure the tuition costs. I have also contacted the Ministry of Environment regarding the Gitksan Chiefs Office's interest in applying for a "Guide Out-fitters License" within the Gitksan Watersheds.

The Provincial Mining Office is an area that we need to focus on, due to the fact that they are giving out Tenors and Permits with no consultation with the Gitksan Chiefs. I believe our Executive Director and Chief Negotiators are informing them consultation has to take place with the respective House Chiefs. In talking to some of these companies, they are in agreement that compensation has to be secured for the Lax Yips involved. They stress that they are prepared to work in partnership with us, but we do not have full support from the Provincial Government. I will be attending the three-day First Nations Conference on Mining in Prince George to address all areas of concerns. Ama-yaa...



Upper Skeena Watershed



I joined the Watershed team as the Upper Skeena Facilitator in May 2008. It has been an enlightening journey from my previous work in administration and as an education coordinator. I have had great guidance along the way, particularly from George Muldoe, Angie Olson and Larry Skulsh, who have shared their knowledge and wisdom with me. I thank them for their expertise.

The previous watershed coordinator had wanted me to get involved with watershed activities and I used to tell him that it was his area of expertise, not mine. Little did I know that I would be filling his shoes in the work he was dedicated to; the protection of Gitksan culture and ensuring that his house members were always looked after. I have learned a lot in my short time here and look forward to coordinating strategies that strengthen our membership and territories, the heart of Gitksan people.

Suskwa Watershed



Mas Gibuu (Alvin Sampson) comes from Wilps Djogaslee/ Axtii Tsex of the Frog clan. His parents are Aspaya (Patricia Sampson) and Xhiimadum (Abel Sampson) Wilps Nii kap. He has two sisters and four brothers. Alvin has two wonderful children; Alvin Jr. and Brad with the love of his life Loretta Greene. Alvin's family, as well the Gitksan people as a whole, has had the biggest positive impact to his life.

Alvin completed the First Nations Land Stewardship training and helped create jobs within the silviculture sector at the Band level and at the wilp level. He was also the driving force in constructing the Djogaslee/ Axtii Tsex Consultation policy used and adopted by several Gitksan Huwilp. Alvin has spent many hours learning and understanding federal and provincial law pertaining to the Gitksan (Delgamuukw and others) to find a way that these laws can be used to help the Gitksan in the struggle for self-determination.



Honouring Alax Nisxw: Irene Courmoyer



Wilps: Wii Eelast

Irene was born September 03, 1927. She was raised by her grandparents Alice Williams (Alax Nisxw) and George Williams (Tsiabassa). Irene was one of four girls her sisters names are Violet Brown; Pauline Elchuck; and Flora Williams. Irene has three children of her own: Beatrice Rabocz; Jacqueline Smith; and Edward Tait.



While growing up in Kispiox Irene had many passions: Gardening; United Church Ladies Aid; Fundraising for seniors; Baking; and playing softball. She also knew it was necessary to take part in the preserving of canned goods for the winter months; preserves such as: canned fish; berries; moose and picking berries. Irene was also an avid baker she loved to bake pies and bread and still does to this day.

Irene started working in the cannery at the age of twelve; and since has had a number of occupations throughout her life such as: Tree planting; Raising Grandchildren; Home Care Worker; and finally retiring as a Tour Guide at the K'san Village.

When Irene was asked "what has had the biggest impact on the Gitxsan in her lifetime?" She answered "Drugs and Alcohol play a big part with the younger people; you hardly see younger people trying to help elders like it use to be. When we were young we helped Elders with wood and water etc. Now it is so different; the younger generation does not understand our ways and need to be told how respectful young people use to be.

The two things she has cherished her whole life were to take part in the Feast and her family. She believes her most important accomplishment has been to assist in the continued matrilineal leadership to interested Gitxsan membership.

Honouring Geel: Walter Harris



Walter Harris was born to Chris and Clara Harris, both parents from prominent families. Walter was raised in Kispiox. In 1957 Walter received his uncle's Hereditary Chief name Geel. Walter and his wife, Sadie have five children that have grown with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Before his career as an artist, Walter's energy, talents and determination contributed to his success in various industries such as mining, carpentry, commercial fishing, and owning and operating a sawmill.

Walter's belief in preserving and creating the traditional form of northwest coast art contributed to his decision to dedicate his time to his art. As Walter mastered his art he created his own unique style which adhered closely to Gitksan tradition. Walter is world renowned for his exquisitely detailed master pieces, he keeps rubbings of all his jewelry to ensure that each engraving is a "one-of-a-kind" piece.

One highlight of his career came in 1978 when he was appointed to the Fine Arts Committee of Canada which selects significant artifacts to be purchased by the Federal Government of Canada.

Throughout his career he has worked and assisted family members and other up and coming artists in designing, woodcarving, jewelry making and silkscreening. Numerous artists have studied under his tutelage and have gained from Walter's expertise.

"I have been an artist for almost half a century, and I want my work through the many pieces I have created, to live and carry on the rich traditions of our people. I have always felt the importance of passing my knowledge and my skills to my sons, my family, and any person interested in learning.

We cannot allow our art to die out, for it connects us to our past and intertwines us in the present and makes way for us into the future."

- Walter Harris

*Dim Lipyathl Humwilphl
Gitxan: Freedom to be Gitxan*



Gitluudaahlan --- Alvin Weget

'Niist --- David Blackwater

Denimget --- Art Mathews

'Wii xsgyaak --- Rennie Wright

Denii --- Fern Weget

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2008 GITXSAN SUMMIT
DAY I
Wednesday October 22, 2008
“Together Everyone Achieves More”
“TEAM”

- 8:00 Registration
- 9:00 Official Opening of the Summit - Simoogit YAGAL AHL (Dora Wilson)
Opening Prayer
Introduction of the Chairpersons:
NIITSXW (Larry Moore) & GWIIYEEHL (Brian Williams)
- 10:00 Opening Remarks from the Huwilp Gali Aaks
• Lax Seel / Ganeda
• Giskaast
• Lax Gibuu
• Lax Skiik
Nutrition Break (provided by Virginia Murrell & Family)
- 11:30 Message from the Gaayuhadiit –WII EELAST (Jim Angus)
- 12:00 **LUNCH BREAK** (provided by Helen Joseph & Family)

Keynote Speaker: TBA
- 1:00 Gitxsan Treaty Negotiations Update
• Yoobx (Elmer Derrick), Chief Negotiator
• Gwaans (Beverley Clifton Percival), Negotiator
• Luutkudziiwas (Gordon Sebastian) Negotiator
- 2:15 Common Table Presentation (Dr. Tim Raybould)
- 3:00 *Nutrition Break (Provided by Virginia Murrell)*
- 3:15 Office of Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs (Glen Williams)
- 3:45 Presentation by Hagwilget Village Government
- 4:30 Closing Prayer

2008 GITXSAN SUMMIT
DAY II
Thursday October 23, 2008
“Together Everyone Achieves More”
“TEAM”

- 9:00 Opening Prayer
Recap of Day I: Chairpersons NIITSXW & GWIIYEEHL
- 9:15 Ridley Island Terminal Inc. – Dan Veniez
- 10:30 *Nutrition Break*
- 10:45 Pacific Bio-energy – Wayne Young, President
- 11:15 Gitxsan Eco Resources– Lonnie Hindle, Cam Stevens & Joseph Derrick
- 12:00 **LUNCH BREAK** (provided by Virginia Murrell –Chinese Cuisine)

Keynote Speaker: Janine North, Northern Initiatives Trust
- 1:00 Question and Answer Period
- 1:30 B.C. Transmission Corporation – Doug Little, V.P.
- 2:00 Suskwa Chiefs Economic Corporation Cogen Project – Rick Connors
- 2:30 West Hawk Development Corp. - Roger Bear, and Dawn Heartford
- 3:00 *Nutrition Break - Rachel Murrell*
- 3:15 Seabridge Gold Inc. – Brent Murphy, V.P.
- 3:45 Enbridge - Roger Harris, V.P.
- 4:00 Closing Prayer
- 5:00 Banquet (Catered by Helen Joseph and family)
M.C. for the Evening : GAMANHOOT (Lonnie Hindle)
Honoring: GEEL & ALAXNISXW
Entertainment: **Shane Yellowbird**

2008 GITXSAN SUMMIT
DAY III
Friday October 24, 2008
"Together Everyone Achieves More"
"TEAM"

- 9:00 Opening Prayer
- 9:05 Recap of Day II: Chairpersons NIITSXW & GWIYEEHL
- 9:15 Audit Report
 - Edmison & Mah
- 10:30 *Nutrition Break (provided by Tammy Murrell)*
- 11:00 Pierre Gratton, President/CEO , Mining Association of B.C.
- 12:00 **LUNCH BREAK** *(provided by Vera Dominic –Hagwilget Cuisine)*
- 1:00 Calvin Helin
- 2:00 Impacts of Historical Trauma – Gali Skalun
- 2:45 Closing Remarks
Official Closing of the 2008 Gitxsan Summit

**Thanks to our Summit 2008
Chairs, NIITSXW(Larry Moore) and
GWIYEEHL(Brian Williams)**



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- ROYAL BANK – TERRACE BRANCH
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- COMMUNITY ACTION BINGO
- GITANMAAX FOOD AND FUEL
- KISPIOX GAS STATION
- VANDERGAAG & BAKKER
- RAS FINE ARTS
- NORTHWIND ARTS
- STAPLES - TERRACE
- MERCEDES BEANS & MODEL TEAS
- FIELDS STORE – NEW HAZELTON
- SPEEDEE PRINTERS
- ROBBERS ROOST
- WILP SASATXW
- KISPIOX BAND COUNCIL
- DELLA GLADUE
- WESTHAWK
- TIP OF THE GLACIER

2008 Gitxsan Summit: TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)