



“Working together to plan and promote visitation to Haida Gwaii/the Queen Charlotte Islands in such a way that benefits all communities, while protecting and enhancing the culture and lifestyles of all islands peoples, in a sustainable and friendly manner”.

HAIDA GWAII TOURISM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SPRING NEWSLETTER

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Culture Revived at Haida Heritage Centre

Submitted by Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay

The carving shed at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay has been a hive of activity leading up to the Centre’s grand opening August 23rd. Three dugout canoes were made from start to finish at the site in full view to all who passed through the centre this past year.

These canoes were the first to be carved in Skidegate, since Bill Reid carved the famous Loo Taa canoe for EXPO 86 and was a popular stop for visitors getting an early look at the centre in 2007.

The Haida dugout canoes were carved by: Master Carver

Guujaaw with apprentices Jaalen Edenshaw and Tyler York; Master Carver Garner Moody with Matthew Ridley and Burt Crosby; and Master Carver Billy Bellis with Tyson Brown and Robert Vogstad.

The maiden voyage of these canoes will take place during the Grand Opening celebrations for the Centre.

The Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay was presented with the **Tourism Conservation Award** from the Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC at their Awards Gala in March at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

The Award recognizes an Aboriginal tourism enterprise that is committed to preserving the natural environment and traditional lands through education, sharing and commitment to community.

www.haidaheritagecentre.com



3 Totem poles were raised at the Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay leading up to the Centre’s opening on August 23rd

Special Events in 2008!

- Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay—Grand Opening August 23rd
- Masset Harbour Days—May 16th to 19th
- Totem pole raisings in Old Massett—throughout the summer.
- Hospital Days—Queen Charlotte—June 21st
- Canada Days—July long weekend—Port Clements
- Skidegate Days—July 24th—26th
- Tlell Fall Fair—Aug. 3rd
- Edge of the World Music Festival—Aug. 8-10 Tlell.
- Loggers Days—Sandspit—August TBA

Edge of the World Music Festival

The Edge of the World Music Festival will be held on August 8, 9 and 10th 2008 at the Fall Fair Grounds in Naikoon Provincial Park near Tlell.

The theme of this years festival is “Home on the Edge” and will again host an abundance of top quality entertainment over three fun-filled days.

This years first confirmed headline act was “*The Higgins*” a country roots rock trio blending Celtic harmonies. The Higgins were nominated Group of the Year at the BC Country Music Awards.

Other confirmed acts include “*Tambura Rasa*”, featuring a dynamic synthesis of Gypsy Violin,

Flamenco Guitar, Balkan Rhythms and Afro-Cuban Percussion in nearby Misty Meadows Provincial Campground.

Local acts will also headline this year, and the successful Sunday morning gospel group will continue. Other local and off-island talent, will round out the musical experience.

There are also special events occurring during the festival including; workshops, fringe events, a children’s tent, and vendors all to add to the festival atmosphere.

The Edge of the World Music Festival is a family event, alcohol and drugs are not permitted.

Camping is not permitted on the Festival Grounds but is avail-

Check out our website for more details.

www.edgefestival.com



This festival theme for 2008 is “Home on the Edge”

New Ferry Services the North

After many months of waiting the MV Northern Adventure is now servicing the BC coast. The vessel that was acquired from Europe and underwent extensive refitting to make it conform with Canadian Safety Standards and is now servicing the Inside Passage and Queen Charlotte Islands routes.

The inaugural voyage of the MV Northern Adventure took off from Port Hardy in April 2007 and HGTA President, Andrew Merilees was one of several guests invited to take the initial voyage with Minister

for Tourism Sport and the Arts, Stan Hagen.

“The Northern Adventure is a great step up in comfort and service to Haida Gwaii and the North Coast. We look forward to continuing the forward momentum gained from the arrival of this new vessel to spark increased visitation to our north coast” said Mr. Merilees during the closing dinner in Prince Rupert. “We are looking forward to its arrival on the Islands”

The Northern Adventure will begin to solely service Haida Gwaii /the Queen

Charlotte Islands in the summer of 2009 after BC Ferries receives its newest vessel which is currently being built in Germany. This vessel will replace the well used and loved Queen of Prince Rupert which was built in 1966 and currently provides summer service to Haida Gwaii/QCI.

The Northern Adventure will service the popular and scenic inside passage route along the north coast during the 2008 summer season before moving to regular crossings of Hecate Strait.



MV Northern Adventure



HGTA President, Andrew Merilees and Minister of Tourism Sport and the Arts, Stan Hagen on board the MV Northern Adventure in April.

Media Partnership increases Islands Profile

Did you see the Islands mentioned in print last year? We were pretty hard to miss with all of the exposure gained through our Northern BC Tourism partnership.

Last year the HGTA supported more than a dozen media and familiarization tours for travel writers, tour leaders, visitor centre workers and other Industry professionals.

Articles that featured the Islands were included in Westworld magazine, Western Living, Canadian Surfer, the Edmonton Journal, Times Colonist, Washington Post, and the Gulf Islands Driftwood to name a few.

This increased profile was due to the Haida Gwaii Tourism Associations partnership with the Northern BC tourism Association and Victoria-based Tartan Public Relations.

In addition to hosting media writers the HGTA also sponsored two Visitor Councilors from the Visitor Centre in Prince Rupert for a three day Familiarization Tour of the Islands.

With the generous support from many HGTA members the Councilors came across with BC Ferries early in the season and traveled around the Islands visiting the attractions and communities before flying home with North Pacific Seaplanes with a better understanding of our Islands and our tourist infrastructure.

Thank-you to everyone that assisted to make these Tours a success we are sure that these visits will be of considerable benefit to increase our Islands profile and to provide travelers with up to date information on our Islands.

“Last year the HGTA supported more than a dozen media and familiarization tours for travel writers, tour leaders, visitor centre workers and other Industry professionals”



Visitor Councilors from the Prince Rupert Visitor Centre enjoy the scenery along Tow Hill Road during their Fam tour in June.



NORTHERN BC
it's all in our nature

www.northernBCtourism.com

Island Art and Artisans

Submitted by the Queen Charlotte Arts Council

The Islands have been an inspiration for artists since people first arrived here many thousands of years ago and it should be no surprise that the Islands are thriving with creative artists and artisans.

To assist visitors and Island Artists make contact, the Queen Charlotte Arts Council has developed and produced the Islands *Art Route*.

The *Art Route* is a small multi page brochure listing by

community and medium the Islands' Galleries, Artists and Artisans willing to have visitors drop by to observe their talents and purchase their unique creations.

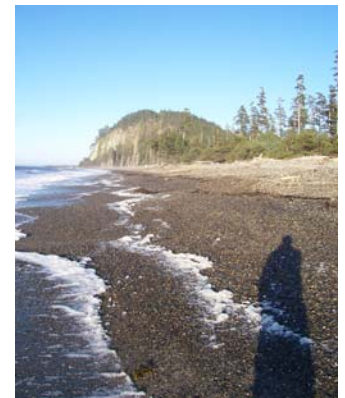
Through the *Art Route*, visitors are invited by artists and artisans to their studios to see their works in progress and to hopefully take home a unique souvenir of their Islands visit.

Anyone wanting more in-

formation about the Queen Charlotte Arts Council can find their website at

www.qciarts.com

An *Art Route* Brochure can be picked up free of charge from any of the Islands' Visitor Centres.



Tow Hill from Agate Beach Campground

Naikoon Provincial Park

Submitted by the Old Massett Village Council Economic Development Department

Naikoon Provincial Park covers an area over 73,000 hectares and protects some of the Provinces most sensitive coastal eco-systems. It also offers Visitors wonderful opportunities for recreation and adventure while visiting the Islands.

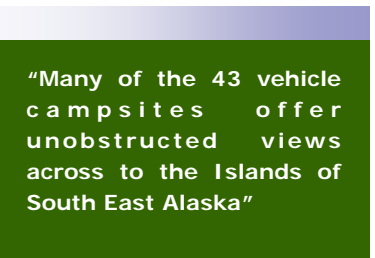
Visitors to Naikoon Park are often attracted to North Beach along the Parks northern boundary to roam for kilo-

meters along the Provinces longest sandy beach, to hike to the top of Tow Hill, or just relax and watch the sunset from the Agate Beach Campground, where the 43 vehicle campsites have unobstructed views across to the Islands of South East Alaska.

At the Parks southern boundary in Tlell, the Misty Meadows Campground offers quiet contemplation in a forest

setting only a minutes walk to the Islands east coast. The Misty Meadows Campground is popular in the Fall when anglers are lured to the Tlell River for Coho and Steelhead fishing.

The Parks HQ is located just south of the Misty Meadows Campground and operates a Visitor Centre during the peak of the summer holidays.



Gwaii Haanas Summer Outreach Program

Submitted by Parks Canada

For those who want to learn more about the natural and human history of the Islands, opportunities will be available all summer long. Gwaii Haanas staff are busily planning for the 2008 summer outreach program to bring visitors into contact with the history that makes these Islands so special and unique.

Once again interpreters will be offering evening slideshows at the Queen Charlotte Visitor

Centre, guided forest walks and beach explorations. A speakers series will also feature visiting researchers.

Daytime programs will be held at the new Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay'lnagaay – and at events throughout summer in the Islands communities.

Regular summer programs run from mid-June into September, but special programs can be arranged for groups at

other times. Enquire with Parks Canada at

(250) 559-6319

To find out what's going on watch for posters and flyers around the Islands or check the calendar of events on the Queen Charlotte Visitor Centre's website –

www.qcinfo.ca



Skung Gwaii, (Ninstints) UNESCO World Heritage Site

Haida Gwaii Tourism Association Queen Charlotte Islands

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We're on the Web! Check us out at

www.haidagwaiitourism.ca

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A Message from the President



*HGTA President,
Andrew Merilees*

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May 1, 2008

Thank-you for your interest in Haida Gwaii / Queen Charlotte Islands and for your support of the Haida Gwaii Tourism Association.

If you have been considering a visit to the Islands, 2008 would be a terrific year to fulfill your goal. With the Grand Opening of The Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llna-gaay and the Edge of the World Music Festival in August as well a host of community events occurring throughout the year, anytime that you visit will be filled with opportunities for fantastic memories and cultural experiences like never before.

Our islands offer the perfect getaway from the rigors' of everyday life . Let our breathtaking natural environment sooth your soul and provide you with the scenery to relax and enjoy the magical feeling of serenity found on our Islands. For those wanting a more educational or active holiday, any one of our community museums offers excellent opportunities for local discovery. A highlight for many visitors includes a charter with one of our many professional sport fishing outfits or a boat or seaplane tour into the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Protected Area. Whatever you decide I'm sure our Islands will provide the setting for experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

This newsletter will give you a look at some of the highlights and activities occurring throughout the summer season on Islands. Many more events are also occurring for your discovery in all of our Islands' communities. 2008 will be an exciting year to visit the Islands. I look forward to seeing you here.

Sincerely,

Andrew Merilees, HGTA President