



Old Massett

News *by Nijong legas ayah*

Good day, Good People; this week is full of news from the Old Massett Village Council. Those hard working ladies and gents have compiled a list of some of the major activities ongoing and upcoming as well. There was just too much information to list in the small space provided here so check out their submission in today's paper.

Monday gave me a chance to check out the carving of the totem poles in the mentoring program. Jaalen Edenshaw made himself available to give insight on the long and tedious work involved in undertaking such a large project. Many hours and hard work is spent in just finding a log. The logs being used here are both western red cedars. Red cedar is a very rot resistant tree and easily outlasts other common species found here such as western hemlock, sitka spruce and lodgepole pine. When the poles arrived at the carving site outside of Donnie Edenshaw's house, a home had to be found for them. They had to construct a temporary carving shelter that measures 96 feet in length, large enough for the two poles. With Donnie starting on one pole, Jaalen

started on the other. Jaalen, who has been carving for about 15 years, now has worked on poles and was a big part of the canoe launching last summer in Skidegate. He has carved masks and



bowls, and has worked copper metal and a little argillite. He has apprenticed under master carvers such as Jim Hart, and Council of the Haida Nation

President Guujaaw, who is also Jaalen's father. Another person who has had an influence on Jaalen is his brother Gwaii, also a noted carver in his own right. Mr. Edenshaw stated that a pole of about 30 feet which this one will end up being, can usually take about 4-5 months for a carver to finish. It really depends on the amount of figures and the detail involved. The pole he is working on will have watchmen on top and the figures of a bear, commorant, and also an eagle. Jaalen has a piece of his work in Pearson International airport in Toronto and other pieces are shown in collections. He is currently living in Delkatla and he can be found working on the pole outside of 232 Eagle Ave. Old Massett.

A belated birthday wish goes out to Tammy Gates, who turned 30 something Saturday and told no-one about it. We caught you Tammy. Canuck fans, don't forget the dinner Wednesday Apr. 15 with Gino Odjick. The scheduled start is 6:00 pm. It promises to be a very popular event with people talking all over town about it. Bring your Canuck paraphernalia or just yourself to the autograph signing following dinner.

Remember to send any notices or birthday wishes you wish to have in this article to 133 Raven Ave., or phone 626-3831 before noon Mondays. Any sports scores as well will be covered. How'aa Salaannaas.

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Ultrasound available in Masset

Going for an ultrasound just got a whole lot easier and cheaper, now that Haida Gwaii has an on-island facility.

Islanders used to spend an estimated \$65,000 a year going off-island for ultrasound tests, according to a study undertaken by student researcher David Creighton. "Island residents needing diagnostic ultrasound have to travel by

air or ferry at great expense to Prince Rupert, Terrace or Vancouver," he said.

Now, thanks to funding from three bodies, the Gwaii Trust, Hospital Days and Northern Health, who each contributed \$25,000, a portable ultrasound was purchased for the Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital in Masset.

Having the machine on the islands will save 140 residents from having to travel to receive the diagnostic service.

The unit will operate on two to four scheduled days each month. Scans are performed in Masset and sent electronically via Northern Health's Picture Archive and Communications System for reading by either Prince Rupert or Prince George radiologists.

The tool is used to examine soft tissue structures, including obstetrical images and heart examinations.

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