

Haida Gwaii News

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FREE

Province paves path forward towards 911 services

By Stacey Brzostowski

Haida Gwaii communities that still rely on local 10-digit emergency numbers could eventually move to standard 911 service under a new provincial funding program.

The province announced Sept. 11 that as much as \$5 million in Next Generation 911 funding will be available to help eligible rural, remote and Indigenous communities make the transition to three-digit emergency calling.

Most communities in B.C. already have access to 911, but some rural and remote areas still rely on separate local numbers for police, fire and ambulance services.

The new funding will be administered through the Union of B.C. Municipalities and can be used for the one-time technical and administrative work required to establish 911 service. That includes mapping, signage, public education, contractual work and preparing local fire departments for the transition.

The announcement does not provide a timeline for when 911 service could become available on Haida Gwaii or identify which individual communities will receive funding.

Gaagwiis Jason Alsop, president of the Haida Nation, welcomed the announcement.

"People here are located in a geographically and culturally unique place, so modernizing emergency services for 911 dialling is welcome progress," Alsop said. "I am pleased that the Province is making funding available for communities throughout Haida Gwaii to improve access to emergency services."

North Coast-Haida Gwaii MLA Laanas-Tamara Davidson said the move would make emergency services easier to access in rural and remote communities.

"Three-digit dialing will improve quality of life, peace of mind and community safety for people on Haida Gwaii," Davidson said. "The ease of remembering three digits instead of having to search for 10-digit numbers could make the difference for people in life-threatening situations."

Continued on page 2.



Eyes on the line: Owen Ismay prepares to putt during Hekate's Cup. More photos on page 10.

Sam Ismay Photo

Harbour Air to buy Pacific Coastal Airlines

By Vince Brzostowski

Harbour Air has reached an agreement to purchase Pacific Coastal Airlines, the regional carrier providing direct flights between Masset and Vancouver.

The two B.C.-based airlines announced the deal Sept. 15, saying they plan to create a new regional airline group combining Harbour Air's seaplane network with Pacific Coastal's wheeled aircraft operations.

For Haida Gwaii travellers, there are no immediate changes.

Pacific Coastal currently operates direct service between Masset Airport and Vancouver International Airport's South Terminal. The companies said existing routes will be maintained and Pacific Coastal will continue operating under its own name.

Pacific Coastal has also told passengers that existing bookings will not be affected and flights will continue as scheduled while the deal moves through the approval process. The airline is expected to keep its own operating certificate and operating team after the sale is completed.

The acquisition still requires regulatory approval. Until the

deal closes, Harbour Air and Pacific Coastal will continue operating as separate, independent airlines.

Financial terms of the sale were not disclosed.

If approved, the combined airline group would operate 59 aircraft serving 25 communities. Harbour Air said Vancouver would become a major hub for the combined network, with the company looking at additional connections between regional services and other airlines operating through Vancouver International Airport.

The companies also said they plan a combined loyalty program and hope to offer passengers more connecting options and more low-fare choices across parts of the network.

They have also said the larger airline group would invest in fleet renewal, maintenance capacity, infrastructure and updated systems, although no specific investments or changes have been announced for the Masset route.

Pacific Coastal serves 19 destinations in B.C. from its Vancouver South Terminal base and provides

scheduled passenger, charter and cargo service. Its Masset route is one of the primary air links between northern Haida Gwaii and the Lower Mainland.

Air Canada currently provides the other direct scheduled Vancouver connection to Haida Gwaii through K'il Kun Sandspit Airport.

Harbour Air operates seaplane and wheeled aircraft routes primarily around the south coast of B.C. and Vancouver Island. The company said the acquisition would give the new group a combined workforce of more than 900 employees and up to 300 flights per day.

Harbour Air CEO Bert van der Stege said the company plans to invest in Pacific Coastal while building what he described as a leading regional airline group in Western Canada.

Pacific Coastal president Quentin Smith said the airline would maintain its brand under the new ownership and continue investing in service to the communities that depend on it.

No date has been announced for completion of the sale.

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911 Cont.

The funding is part of a larger \$60-million provincial package announced in 2023 to support the transition to Next Generation 911 infrastructure across B.C.

Next Generation 911 is intended to modernize emergency communications infrastructure and eventually allow communities to access emergency dispatch services through a more consistent province-wide system.

For Haida Gwaii, the immediate change is not that residents can suddenly dial 911. The announcement instead creates a funding path for communities that still use local emergency numbers to do the work required to make that service possible.

Port Clements infrastructure projects move ahead

Several Port Clements infrastructure projects are nearing completion, including the Village's new sewage lagoon, community playground and work at the local clinic.

Chief Administrative Officer Marjorie Dobson reported that the new sewage lagoon is now substantially complete and operating, although some remaining work will carry into next year.

Because of the nature of the outstanding work, the Village has requested an extension from the project's funding agency to allow it to be completed in 2027.

Work is also moving ahead at the Port Clements Community Park.

New playground equipment has arrived and crews have begun clearing the site. Installation was expected to follow, with the Village aiming to have the project completed by the end of September.

At the Port Clements clinic, most of the planned work is now complete.

Electrical work is still underway and the Village is addressing additional specialized requests from Northern Health.

The clinic work follows an earlier assessment that found extensive plumbing repairs and new fixtures were required before medical staff could use the facility.

The Village also reported that the Port Clements campground continued to see heavy seasonal use, reaching full capacity at times.



Haida Gwaii News Photo

Wild Harvest Festival returns to K'il Kun Oct. 10–11

The Wild Harvest Festival is back in K'il Kun/Sandspit next month, with a free Saturday festival followed by a registered mushroom and ecology outing on Sunday.

The festival runs Oct. 10 and 11 at the Sandspit Community Hall. First held in 2015, the event brings people together to share knowledge about harvesting, preparing and using local foods and resources responsibly.

Saturday is the main festival day, running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, with donations welcomed.

Sunday's event is a four-hour guided mushroom foray and ecology outing to Skidegate Lake and Copper Bay. The outing costs \$30 for adults, \$15 for youth, and is free for children under seven. Space is limited to 36 people and advance registration is required.

Participants will spend part of the day looking for wild mushrooms around Skidegate Lake before taking part in mushroom identification and meeting a buyer from Bush Foods. The group will also stop at Copper Bay/Copper River to see the coho run and talk about the salmon life cycle, with more forest ecology interpretation along the way.

The Sunday outing runs from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and leaves from the Sandspit Community Hall. Transportation and guiding are included.

OLD MASSETT HOME COOK STEPS INTO MASTERCHEF CANADA KITCHEN

A Haida Gwaii home cook traded her island kitchen for one of the most recognizable kitchens on Canadian television this week.

Geraldine Russ, 52, of Gaw Tlagée (Old Massett), made her debut on the ninth season of MasterChef Canada when the show returned to CTV on Sept. 22.

Russ is one of 16 home cooks from across the country competing for the title of MasterChef Canada and a \$100,000 prize.

An educational assistant and mother to a blended family of 13, Russ told the show that growing up on Haida Gwaii helped shape both the way she cooks and the way she thinks about food.

Picking salmonberries and eating fresh sea urchins were part of growing up, while game, seafood and foraged foods taught her to work creatively with what was available.

According to her contestant profile, Russ now combines those roots with new flavours and techniques. Her stand-out dish entering the competition was pan-roasted chicken breast with creamed yams and nutmeg, miso butter fennel and a Dijon pan sauce.

Her first trip into the MasterChef Canada kitchen was no gentle introduction.

The season premiere, titled "Battle Wellington," brought all 16 contestants face-to-face with a challenge from celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay: make his signature Beef Wellington.

The four strongest cooks earned white

aprons, while the remaining contestants had another chance to secure their place in the competition by preparing a dish inspired by a memorable restaurant experience that helped spark their love of cooking.

By the end of the opening competition, the field was set to be narrowed from 16 cooks to 12.

Russ is representing more than her own cooking ambitions while on the show. In her contestant biography, she said she is proud to represent the Haida Nation and wants young people in her life to see that their possibilities are not limited by where they come from.

Her longer-term dream is also food-related, although considerably more mobile than the MasterChef kitchen.

Russ hopes one day to travel across Canada in her own food truck, visiting Indigenous communities and sharing food, recipes and stories along the way.

Season 9 is judged by Mary Berg, winner of MasterChef Canada Season 3, chef and author Hugh Acheson and chef-restaurateur Craig Wong. Ramsay makes a special appearance during the season.

The 11-episode season airs Tuesdays on CTV, with episodes available to stream the following day on Crave.

For Haida Gwaii viewers, however, there is now a considerably more local reason to tune in.

One of the cooks under those MasterChef lights is from Gaw Tlagée.

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LOCAL NEWS

B.C. voters heading to polls twice in one week

British Columbians will head to the polls twice in one week this October after Premier David Eby called an early provincial election for Oct. 24.

Eby met with Lt.-Gov. Wendy Cocchia at Government House in Victoria Tuesday, Sept. 22, asking that the legislature be dissolved and launching a provincial election campaign less than two years after the last vote.

The timing puts the provincial vote just seven days after B.C.'s general local elections on Oct. 17.

On Haida Gwaii, voters will first choose municipal councillors and mayors, regional district directors and school trustees before returning to vote for an MLA in the North Coast-Haida Gwaii riding the following Saturday.

The next scheduled provincial election had been Oct. 21, 2028, but B.C.'s fixed election date law allows an earlier election to be called. Elections BC had already prepared contingency calendars for a possible fall 2026 election.

Eby said Tuesday the provincial election was being called in response to what he described as an "existential" economic threat to B.C. from U.S. President Donald Trump and the ongoing trade dispute.

The election also comes during significant change within the Official Opposition. BC Conservative leader Kerry-Lynne Findlay resigned Sept. 20, with Lorne Doerkson taking over as interim leader.

North Coast-Haida Gwaii is currently represented by BC NDP MLA Tamara Davidson of Haida Gwaii, who was first elected in 2024 and serves as minister of environment and parks. Davidson won the 2024 election with 4,863 votes, or 64.9 per cent of valid ballots.

Candidate nominations and local voting information for the Oct. 24 election will be updated as the campaign gets underway.



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Jags Brown Photo

EDITORIAL

I just want a playground in Tlell.

This has been a personal campaign of mine since some of my Tlellian friends started having children. For families in communities with a playground nearby, taking the kids out to play can be as simple as walking down the road. In Tlell, it can mean loading everyone into the vehicle and turning it into a half-day or full-day trip, usually paired with groceries, errands or other town chores just to make the gas feel worth it.

A playground seems like a simple enough idea. At one point, there was even government money available for this kind of thing, and other communities took advantage of it. Some now have amazing playgrounds to show for it.

When I started my own family, I kicked up my campaign for one in Tlell. Well, kind of. Mostly I started feeling it out in the community, trying to figure out who would have to be involved and how something like that might actually happen.

For such a small community, Tlell can suffer from some surprisingly large communication breakdowns, even between the post office and Wiggins Road. One of the first problems is simply figuring out who is responsible for what. There are several groups connected to the soccer fields and surrounding space, all with different roles, capacities and ideas about who should be consulted when changes happen.

Case in point: the paving of the parking lot. Why was that a surprise? If you read the paper, it probably wasn't, but that is beside the point. One group using the space had the capacity to write grants, organize work crews and get improvements moving. Others had different roles and fewer resources. I spent time with the Tlell Community Association trying to understand where a playground might fit into all of that, and quickly learned that even getting everyone into the same conversation can be a project of its own.

That is not a criticism of the volunteers doing the work. If anything, it is the opposite. Small community organizations are often expected to do an enormous amount with very little time, money or administrative support. Eventually, I realized the playground was not something that group could simply make happen because I wanted it to.

I generally try to keep my own wants and personal agendas out of this newspaper. I have plenty of them, but owning the paper does not make mine more important than anyone else's. Election time makes that line particularly important. Newspapers have a long tradition of endorsing candidates, but that isn't something I have done with HGN and I don't intend to start now. I'd much rather use this space to complain about wanting a playground in Tlell than tell anyone where to put an X on their ballot.

During this election call-out, I briefly thought about running for the North Coast Regional District position. Then I pictured myself asking people in Tow Hill to vote for me because I really, really want swings in Tlell.

Why would someone in Tow Hill give a seesaw about my swing?

The bigger problem, though, has become obvious every time I look at what community organizations are expected to deal with now: policies, insurance, liability, risk assessments, user agreements, codes of conduct, supervision requirements, grant applications, reporting requirements and maintenance plans.

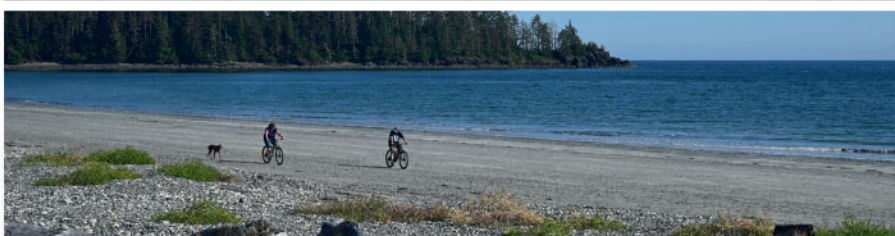
I was reading through the agenda for the Daajing Giids Youth Centre Advisory Committee Meeting recently and found myself staring at the number of policies and procedures they are expected to create, update and follow just to provide a place for young people to go. None of those things necessarily exist for a bad reason. We want children to be safe. We want organizations to be accountable. We want public spaces properly maintained. But somewhere along the way, the basic act of doing something useful for a community has become incredibly difficult.

There was a time when a community group could decide kids needed somewhere to play, dig some holes, put up a swing set and monkey bars and call it a Saturday. I understand why we don't do things quite that way anymore. Still, I can't help wondering whether we have gone so far in the other direction that the red tape now requires more time, money and mental capacity than many small communities actually have available.

Every requirement may sound perfectly reasonable on its own. Add them together, though, and suddenly nobody has the time, authority or appetite to take responsibility for anything. The volunteers burn out, the organizations struggle to coordinate and the playground remains a conversation as the kids grow up.

I am not giving up on it. I still just want a playground in Tlell.

Stacey



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

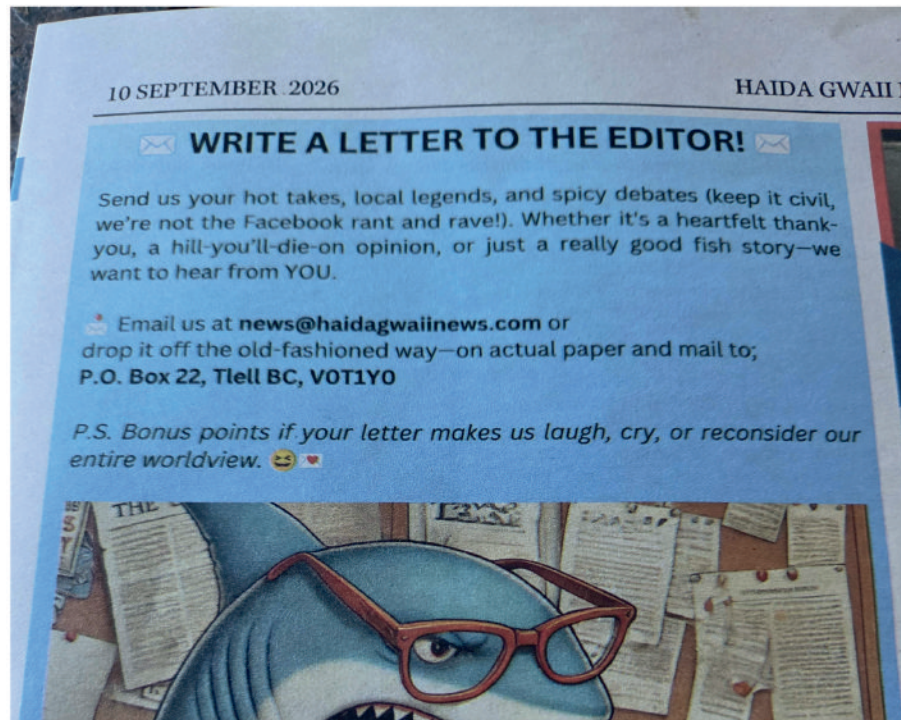
Grew up with the Observer and have always loved it!

Not a big fan of the use of GenAi in it - please reconsider this usage and hire one of the many amazing artist that live here!

Hawaa

Kayla Scheck

Editor's note: Haida Gwaii News is a separate publication from the Haida Gwaii Observer.



DID YOU KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A WRITER TO CONTRIBUTE TO HGN?

We'd love to hear from creative people who want to add a little something to the paper.

Send in a word list for a crossword or word search. Help keep the coming events straight. Dream up a silly puzzle, game or other bit of newspaper fun.

You could even draw me a shark to put beside the Letters to the Editor call-out, because apparently AI sharks have opinions written about them too.

You don't need journalism experience. You don't need to write an article. You just need an idea you think would make the paper a little more fun, useful or local.

Pay: \$0.

At least for now. If HGN ever finds a magical pot of contributor money, writers are first in line.

And yes, people really do love those crosswords.

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LIVING OUT LOUD

BY SUSAN MUSGRAVE

THE ORGAN RECITAL

I am afraid to ask anyone I meet these days, *how do you feel?* Everyone has a complaint: the double knee replacement, kidney stones, bad back, incarcerated hernia, flu-like symptoms, a rare tropical parasite that has a 98% mortality rate in badgers. And that was just last week.

In early August I went to the Masset Clinic for my annual checkup. I spend the rest of year preparing myself for the news about...pick an organ, any organ...a vital organ that has reached its expiry date. I cough up numerous vials of blood for the lab technician and book an appointment to discuss the results with a doctor.

Of course it is a locum, one in the blossoming stages of her career. She asks if I mind if she record herself asking me questions and giving me, she hopes, answers; she wants to review her body language when we are done. She smooths her hair, turns on her phone, then says, "Would you like the good news first, or the bad news?"

But doesn't wait for an answer. The good news was all my tests were normal. The bad news was one of the tests hadn't shown up yet...a test for celiac disease, which I knew I didn't have as I live on a diet of gluten and have no symptoms. Still, you can never be too careful when it comes to testing for syndromes you have no symptoms for.

The locum need not have worried how her selfies turned out, but might want to

consider what used to be called (when doctors came to the house and the patient was in her ebbing bed) a bedside manner. I was so rattled that I left the office without asking if there had been further hardening of the arteries. A week later I called the clinic to make another appointment to discuss my test results.

The first obstacle was the blood pressure procedure. I get so anxious thinking that my hands are going to explode and all my blood will burst out through the ends of my fingers, that my blood pressure is usually higher than Einstein's IQ. This time I tried deep breathing, thinking of a Dublin friend whose daughter refused to have blood work done until my friend found her a Zoom therapist down in Wexford, "and now she does breathing and she's grand," but after the first attempt the nurse was unable to get a "proper reading." I suggested the machine mightn't be co-operating, but she said I was the 9th patient of the day and the machine had worked perfectly for the first eight. I didn't want to be difficult and say *what's to stop it malfunctioning on patient #9*, but when she tried again my blood pressure had fallen to 92. "You could be dead," she said. Talk about "cutting to the chase." Not grand.

I had always wondered what the afterlife would be like, and now I knew. It meant being condemned to sit in a windowless room having my blood pressure

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taken for by a nurse who tells me I appear to be unalive.

Trying to stay positive, I suggested she try again. This time there was nothing at all. She wondered what she should write on my chart and decided upon, "No reading available," which I thought preferable to "death," as I didn't want to spend the weekend in the morgue waiting to be buried alive on Monday.

When the doctor arrived, I mentioned the missing test — the one for celiac disease I knew I didn't have — and she asked why the previous doctor had ordered a blood test for a disease I knew I didn't have. Recently I'd read *Sick Chic* by Barabra Ehrenreich. "There are times when you want to have a disease," she wrote. You have symptoms, but you need a label for your ills."

Ehrenreich had symptoms — headache, chest pains, loss of appetite, numbness—

but for the longest time, no label. She had developed PMVS, a disease where one of the valves in the heart doesn't close properly, although not until the medical profession found a name for it did they begin to take it seriously.

That is, they began to look for it. And they found it: mostly in women who are thin and fair, and — this is the sad part — mostly in people *who did not have any symptoms at all*

That could be me, excluding the thin and fair part. But the article had given me a new terror to make myself sick over — the diseases I didn't have any symptoms for — yet.

The doctor sighed and said there was no blood test available for symptoms that didn't exist. At least I had something to tell the next person who asked me, *how do you feel?*

SCIENCE MATTERS

BY DAVID SUZUKI

On love and legacy: Shifting baseline syndrome strikes home

When my wife Tara and I arrived on Quadra Island in the late 1980s, we were awestruck. Forests stretched to the horizon, fishing boats chased salmon, scores of herring rushed about as eagles circled above. Coming from Vancouver, the cove where we bought our cabin seemed like a secret oasis.

Our neighbours told a different story. Having lived there for 50 years, they recounted a version of Quadra Island that no longer existed: coasts teeming with red snapper, abalone, herring and cod as long as an arm. The schools of fish we saw on our arrival paled in comparison to decades past. It was hard to reconcile the natural vibrancy we saw with the losses we didn't.

In 2020, I spent early lockdown mornings on Quadra walking outside with my grandkids. At my old age, I remarked, "Look at that! They just cut that tree down. Look at the garbage on the shore here!"

My grandkids saw something different. When I found a salamander in a rotting log, you would've thought I had won a Nobel Prize. To them, the natural world is magical. It was hard to reconcile the awe in their eyes with the losses I catalogued through mine.

That's the dizzying cognitive dissonance of "shifting baseline syndrome."

A socio-psychological phenomenon, shifting baseline syndrome describes how environmental information is lost from memory over time, so changes go unnoticed. Marine biologist Daniel Pauly coined the term in 1995. He observed that fisheries scientists were measuring fish population sizes with reference to those present at the beginning of their careers. Fish stocks declined, and when the next generation of scientists started their monitoring, that declined state became the baseline. "We transform the world, but we don't remember it," Pauly remarked at a TED Talk two decades later.

The generational amnesia observed by Pauly, my Quadra neighbours and me is a main cause of shifting baseline syndrome. Younger generations inherit degraded environments with no memory of what existed. The baseline shifts, and the cycle repeats.

In this way, shifting baseline syndrome deceives us into thinking the history of a place or species only extends as far back as our memory of it.

Nature doesn't adhere to human memory spans, but our sense of urgency does. As baselines shift, we get more tolerant of degraded environments. We feel less pressure to push politicians to implement policies aimed at conservation and restoration. We may not feel action is

necessary.

After all, if the news reports that fish are large even when they're only a fraction of their previous generations' size, did they ever shrink? If my grandkids don't notice anything ominous about a clean windshield after a summer road trip, did insect populations actually plummet?

If all this has been happening unnoticed, is it really that bad? If it is, is there anything we can do about it?

It's a slippery slope from skepticism to cynicism to fatalism. Proof is in the subtleties, and shifting baseline syndrome proves that fatalism becomes fatal. In one human lifetime, we're left with shrunk fish and shrunk ambitions, polluted ecosystems and polluted politics, extinct species and extinction of experiences with nature. What we forget or forego is killing us.

It raises an important tension I wrestle with.

This year, touring the country with Tara for our play *What You Won't Do for Love*, releasing my latest book *Lessons From a Lifetime* and celebrating my 90th trip around the sun have forced me to confront love and what others would call legacy in surprisingly sentimental ways.

When I think of legacy, I think of how many old-growth cedars or pollution-free shorelines I'm handing to my kids and grandkids. Will the world still look magical to them when they're my age?

Shifting baseline syndrome lays bare

all the ways past generations failed future ones. It also reminds us that we can shift baselines in another direction.

The world acted in the 1970s and '80s, banning chemicals that damage the ozone layer, and we're now seeing signs of recovery. It takes longer to heal than it does to harm, but healing is possible. The best way I can tell my grandkids "I love you" is to fight for a world that heals, a world that maintains their awe.

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with David Suzuki Foundation Communications Specialist Brandon Wei.

Learn more at davidsuzuki.org.



ON THE RECORD

Your Vote, Your Voice: Who Can Vote and How to Read Campaign Promises

By Beng Leng Favreau, Literacy Haida Gwaii

As Haida Gwaii prepares for British Columbia's local government elections on Oct. 17, civic literacy is once again at the centre of community conversation. Beyond knowing who is running, residents benefit from understanding who is eligible to vote and how to separate campaign promises from practical reality. These skills strengthen democracy and help ensure that every ballot cast is informed and intentional.

Unlike provincial elections, local elections are not administered by Elections BC. Each local government runs its own election, including voting, counting, reporting results and accepting candidate nominations. Elections BC administers campaign financing and election advertising rules.

Local elections are open to two groups: resident electors and non-resident property electors. Most voters fall into the first category. To vote as a resident elector, a person must be 18 years of age or older when they register, or turn 18 by general voting day, be a Canadian citizen and have lived in B.C. for at least six months immediately before registering to vote. They must also live in the municipality or regional district electoral area where they are registering to vote and not otherwise be disqualified from voting.

Non-resident property electors may also be eligible to vote in a jurisdiction where they own property but do not live. They must meet the age, citizenship and B.C. residency requirements and have owned the property for at least 30 days before registering. Where a property has multiple owners, only one may vote as the non-resident property elector, with the written consent of the majority of the other owners. Property owned wholly or partly by a corporation does not qualify for a non-resident property vote.

Civic literacy is not simply about voting. It is also

about evaluating information. Being an informed voter does not mean agreeing with one particular candidate. It means taking the time to compare candidates fairly and learn what each position is responsible for. During an election season, candidates often share ideas, priorities and promises. Understanding how to assess these claims is a key part of responsible citizenship.

It is important to know what local governments actually control because they have specific responsibilities, budgets and legal limits. Depending on the jurisdiction and services provided, municipalities and regional districts may have authority over areas such as land-use planning and zoning, infrastructure, water and sewer services, recreational facilities, emergency planning and local bylaws. They do not control areas such as provincial health care, federal immigration or provincial highways. A board of education governs the school district and oversees areas including school facilities, student transportation and supports, staffing, education programs and district budgets. When a candidate makes a promise, voters should ask whether the issue falls within the authority of the position they are seeking.

Every election promise has a price tag. Local governments must balance priorities within their financial plans, and new initiatives may require reprioritizing existing spending or finding additional funding through taxes, fees, grants, reserves or borrowing where permitted. If a proposal sounds ambitious, consider whether it fits within the community's financial capacity.

To turn a strong idea into reality, other factors such as staff capacity, community consultation, regulatory approval, a realistic timeline and long-term maintenance should also be considered. Promises without a clear path to implementation may be more aspirational than practical.

If a candidate has served before, look at their past voting record, attendance at local government meet-

ings, involvement in committees and follow-through on previous commitments. Past behaviour can offer useful information when considering future performance.

Relying on one source, whether social media, a single conversation or a campaign flyer, can create blind spots. Civic literacy means gathering information from candidate forums, local newspapers, municipal and regional district websites, community organizations and direct questions to candidates. The goal is not to judge personalities but to understand the feasibility of ideas.

A strong democracy begins with informed voters. Haida Gwaii's communities thrive when residents participate fully and thoughtfully in local elections. Understanding voter eligibility and evaluating campaign promises with a critical eye are all part of civic responsibility.

On Oct. 17, voters will have the opportunity to help decide the direction of our communities. Every ballot helps shape the future of our islands. Civic literacy helps ensure those choices are grounded in knowledge, clarity and community care.



MASSET MATTERS

BY SHERI DISNEY

When I saw the result of the municipal election nearly four years ago, I never imagined where four years of public service would take this community, or how deeply it would change me. As my single and only term as your mayor draws to a close, I find myself looking back at the winding gravel roads, the misty mornings and the quiet resilience that makes our islands feel unlike anywhere else on earth.

Stepping into municipal politics was never a lifelong ambition. At the time, I was simply considering which local boards, committees or community organizations I might want to become involved with. A little encouragement was enough to push me toward something much bigger.

That leap taught me a fundamental truth: you do not need to be a career politician to make a difference. You need a fresh perspective, an open mind and the willingness to show up.

Looking back, I am proud of what was accomplished during this term. Conversations that needed to happen began happening. In places where Masset had reached a standstill or an impasse, progress was made.

We tackled important infrastructure work, including aging waterlines and road improvements. We also saw

a brand-new library come to life, an achievement I was profoundly honoured to be part of during my time on the executive board of Vancouver Island Regional Library.

I believe having a new voice at the table helped move some of that work forward. My role was often to keep repeating the requests and concerns I was hearing from the community until they were heard.

One of the lessons I take from this term is that municipal governments cannot simply rely on the way things have always been done. Policies, bylaws and long-standing practices should be revisited as communities change. Fresh eyes can be valuable, and sometimes asking why something is done a certain way is enough to start a useful conversation.

There were also moments of disagreement.

At a public meeting in August, council decided that only members intending to run again would attend the upcoming Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention. Because I had already announced I would not seek re-election, I was not included in the delegation.

I disagreed with that decision. In my view, a sitting mayor still has a responsibility to represent the community until the end of the term, regardless of whether they are seeking another one.

UBCM is an opportunity for elected officials to meet with provincial representatives, advocate for their communities and bring local concerns directly to decision-makers. Residents should expect their representatives to make good use of those opportunities and to report back on what was accomplished.

More broadly, I hope residents continue showing up to public meetings, asking questions and paying attention to the work of council. Local government works best when the public stays involved.

My deepest appreciation goes to our CAO and the administrative staff at the Village of Masset office. The work that happens behind the scenes is enormous. Political terms come and go, but staff are

responsible for carrying projects forward, implementing decisions and keeping the day-to-day work of the municipality moving.

To the incoming council: you have an incredible opportunity. Lead with courage, listen to your staff and remember that the role is to serve the public.

Fresh voices matter. So does experience. The best councils make room for both.

I am only a phone call away if future members of council ever want historical context from my time in office, and I will continue watching with interest as the next chapter unfolds.

Haw'aa, thank you and merci, Haida Gwaii, for the honour of a lifetime.

EVENTS

Daajing Giids Sends Summer Off in Style

Daajing Giids marked the end of summer with its second annual End of Summer Street Party on Sept. 11, bringing the community together for an evening of sunshine, music and celebration.

The event also recognized recipients of the Order of Daajing Giids: Bonnie Olsen (2023), Larry Duke, Dorothy Garrett, Kelly Vogstad, Jenny White, Wendy Malesku, Patricia Jones, Robert Russ, Leslie Foster, Dean Nomura, Billy Galt and Lloyd McKenzie.

Photos by Stacey Brzostowski



NON-PROFIT OPEN HOUSE

Learn About Local Non-Profits • Explore Volunteerism & Careers • Build Partnerships



WHERE:
**SKIDEGATE
SMALL HALL**

Skidegate, Haida Gwaii



WHEN:
**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 8TH**
1:00PM – 7:00PM



ENJOY:
**SNACKS, DINNER &
DOOR PRIZES**
Everyone Welcome!



NETWORK

Meet local non-profits,
board members,
volunteers, staff
and community
members.



SHOWCASE

Non-profits:
Share your services,
programs, career
and volunteer
opportunities.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Hear from leaders
and learn about
community impact
and collaboration.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gain tools, insights
and inspiration to
strengthen your
work and impact.



Interested in joining
a board? Come
explore what it's
all about!



Questions? Contact Haida Gwaii Community Futures
business@haidagwaiifutures.ca • 250-626-5594



THANK-YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS & ORGANIZERS



SPORTS

BY VINCE BRZOSTOWSKI

Captain Darcy Claims Hekate's Cup

A little friendly rivalry, a lot of laughs and some very serious golf took over the course for Hekate's Cup this past weekend.

Captains Darcy Pearson and Ken Kowalchuk led teams of 10 through a closely fought tournament that stayed up for grabs right to the end. Sarah and Rhea were the only women in the field this year.

Heading into the final one-on-one match play, the Cup could still have gone either way.

In the end, Pearson and his team held on to claim the Hekate's Cup, allowing the returning captain to retain the trophy for another year.

Even those sidelined from play still found a way to take part, with the weekend drawing plenty of cheering, heckling and a few beers from the sidelines.

Photos by Sam Ismay



OFF ISLAND ANTICS

BY VINCE BRZOSTOWSKI

The Cat Came Back, and RCMP Would Like a Word

A walk through a West Kelowna neighbourhood took a distinctly Dr. Seuss turn when a teenage girl reported being chased by someone dressed as the Cat in the Hat.

Unfortunately, there was no rainy day, no Thing One or Thing Two, and police aren't particularly amused.

The incident happened at about 9 p.m. Aug. 24 in the 2000 block of Shamrock Drive. West Kelowna RCMP said the girl was walking in the area when an unknown person wearing a costume resembling the famous children's book character reportedly began chasing her.

She made it home safely.

Police released a grainy security-camera image Sept. 8 showing the costumed figure standing on a residential street at night, complete with the Cat's oversized head and unmistakable red-and-white striped hat.

West Kelowna RCMP described the incident as a concerning prank, although investigators had not determined who was inside the costume or what their intentions were.

"Regardless of whether the individual intended the behaviour as a joke, follow-

ing a young person and causing them to fear for their safety is extremely concerning," Cpl. Devon Gerrits said.

"People should understand that behaviour intended as a prank can have serious consequences when it causes another person to reasonably fear for their safety."

Police pointed out that dressing like the Cat in the Hat is not, by itself, a crime.

There is apparently no section of the Criminal Code prohibiting enormous striped hats.

Chasing people while wearing one, however, is another matter.

RCMP said following or pursuing someone in a way that causes them to reasonably fear for their safety could amount to criminal harassment. Depending on the circumstances and evidence, other offences including assault, uttering threats or intimidation could also be considered.

By Sept. 10, the West Kelowna incident had become part of a much stranger story.

Police and media reports were connecting it to a social-media trend that had turned the normally mischievous Dr.

Seuss character into something considerably creepier.

AI-generated images and videos showed sinister versions of the Cat outside homes, schools and other recognizable locations, sometimes accompanied by threatening messages.

The Nechako Lakes School District also warned families about the online trend after posts surfaced in the region. B.C. RCMP spokesperson Staff Sgt. Kris Clark confirmed police were aware of a related case in Fort St. James.

Unlike the West Kelowna incident, there was no confirmed report of someone in costume chasing anyone in Fort St. James. The concern there centred on the online trend, which has included AI-generated images of the Cat outside schools and other recognizable locations, sometimes paired with names or threatening messages.

Clark said possible offences could include uttering threats or criminal harassment, although any charges would depend on the circumstances and evidence.

As of Sept. 10, Clark said he was not aware of any other incidents in B.C. RCMP jurisdictions beyond Fort St. James and West Kelowna.

The strange trend appears to draw heavily from the furry version of the Cat played by Canadian actor Mike Myers in the 2003 live-action movie.

Adding another layer to the story, the screen-used costume from that film recently went up for auction. Images of the empty suit circulated widely online, where some viewers apparently decided the children's character looked less like an entertaining house guest and more like something that should remain securely locked in a warehouse.

Whether the West Kelowna Cat was actually connected to the online trend remained unknown.

As of Sept. 10, RCMP said the investigation was still underway and they had not identified any immediate risk to public safety.

For now, the Cat remains at large, which is not a sentence police likely expected to use in 2026.

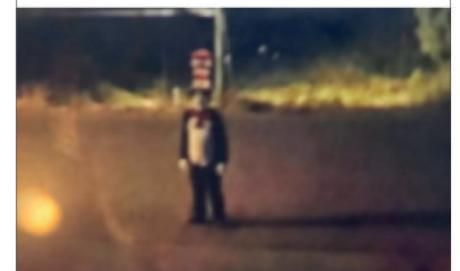


PHOTO: WEST KELOWNA RCMP

West Kelowna RCMP released this security-camera image while trying to identify a person dressed as the Cat in the Hat who reportedly chased a teenage girl Aug. 24.

Got an Event?

Send it in for the next edition
news@haidagwaiinews.com

Haida Gwaii Happenings

DAAJING GIIDS**Walking Group (All Ages)**

Community Hall
10 a.m. - Noon

Taoist Tai Chi

Community Hall
Wed, 5 p.m. Sat 10 a.m.

Drop-in Pickleball

GKN School Gym
Mon 6-8 p.m. Tues 8-10 p.m.

Drop-in Badminton

GKN School Gym
Wed, 8-10 p.m.

Total Body Conditioning

GKN School Gym
Wed, 6-7 p.m.

Comfort & Tea Drop-In Group

Island Wellness Society
Thursdays, 3-4:30 p.m.

Playgroup

DG Child Centre (Yellow Door at
the Community Hall)
Fridays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Seniors' Social Gathering

Seniors Room (next to VIRL)
Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.

Art Jam.

Monday's except holidays
Seafoam Studio from 7:30-9p.m. \$5
per person. Everyone welcome.
Bring a project to work on.

PORT CLEMENTS**Soccer (ongoing)**

Port Clements Fields
Sundays at 1 p.m.

Karaoke Nights (ongoing)

Axe and Anchor Pub
Fridays at 9 p.m.

Port Rod and Gun Club

Thanksgiving Meat Shoot Oct. 4th

Pumpkin shoot Nov 1st

SANDSPIT**Badminton (Grade 5+) (ongoing)**

ALM School Gym
Sundays 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Wild Harvest Festival

Oct 10-11

MASSET**CCR Playground Playgroup**

(ongoing)
1648 Orr St.
Tuesdays 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Harm Reduction Lunch

(ongoing)
Wellness House
Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Iyengar Yoga with Jenn
Masset Playhouse
Mondays, 5:15 to 6:45 p.m.

SKIDEGATE**Haida Gwaii Elders Gatherin**

149 Front St.
Tues and Thurs, 1 to 3 p.m.

WEEKLY MEETINGS**Big Book Meeting (AA)**

Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m.
Skidegate United Church

Wellness Wednesdays

Wed, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Daajing Giids Firehall

AA Meeting

Thursdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Alder House, Daajing Giids

AA Meeting

Saturdays, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Skidegate United Church

AA Meeting

Wednesdays, 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Masset Soup Kitchen



Photo by Sylvan Daugert

Three shooters take aim during the Port Clements Rod and Gun Club's trap shooting event Sept. 20. The club skipped formal scoring this time around, handing out random prizes while clay targets flew from the trap bunker at more than 100 km/h.



Photo by Stacey Brzostowski

A coven of paddling witches made their way across Mayer Lake Sept. 12.



TAMMY/AUTUM GATES

For School District Trustee
Masset/Tow Hill Area

A vote for me is a vote for all our
children/students' future!!
Vote Local! Vote Haida!
Vote Community!
Vote for me on Oct 17th !

FERRIES SCHEDULE				
Moresby Island (Alliford Bay) to Graham Island (Skidegate)				
Sep 08 2026 - Mar 31 2027				
DEPART Moresby Island (Alliford Bay)		STOPS/TRANSFERS	ARRIVE Graham Island (Skidegate)	
7:00 AM	Fri	Except on Dec 25 & Jan 1	Non-stop	7:20 AM
7:00 AM	Mon - Thu, Sun, Sat		Non-stop	7:20 AM
8:00 AM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	8:20 AM
8:50 AM	Thu	No passengers permitted - DG Sailing only.	Non-stop	9:10 AM
8:50 AM	Wed		Non-stop	9:10 AM
9:00 AM	Sun, Mon, Tue, Fri, Sat		Non-stop	9:20 AM
9:30 AM	Thu		Non-stop	9:50 AM
10:30 AM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	10:50 AM
11:30 AM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	11:50 AM
12:30 PM	Mon - Wed, Sun, Fri, Sat		Non-stop	12:50 PM
12:50 PM	Thu	No passengers permitted - DG Sailing only.	Non-stop	1:10 PM
1:30 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	1:50 PM
3:30 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	3:50 PM
4:30 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	4:50 PM
5:30 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	5:50 PM
7:00 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	7:20 PM
9:00 PM	Thu		Non-stop	9:20 PM
10:00 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	10:20 PM

Graham Island (Skidegate) to Moresby Island (Alliford Bay)				
Sep 08 2026 - Mar 31 2027				
DEPART Graham Island (Skidegate)		STOPS/TRANSFERS	ARRIVE Moresby Island (Alliford Bay)	
7:30 AM	Fri	Except on Dec 25 & Jan 1	Non-stop	7:50 AM
7:30 AM	Mon - Thu, Sun, Sat		Non-stop	7:50 AM
8:30 AM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	8:50 AM
9:10 AM	Thu	No passengers permitted - DG Sailing only.	Non-stop	9:30 AM
9:30 AM	Sun, Mon, Tue, Fri, Sat		Non-stop	9:50 AM
10:00 AM	Wed, Thu		Non-stop	10:20 AM
11:00 AM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	11:20 AM
12:00 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	12:20 PM
1:00 PM	Mon - Wed, Sun, Fri, Sat		Non-stop	1:20 PM
1:10 PM	Thu	No passengers permitted - DG Sailing only.	Non-stop	1:30 PM
2:00 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	2:20 PM
4:00 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	4:20 PM
5:00 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	5:20 PM
6:30 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	6:50 PM
7:30 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	7:50 PM
9:30 PM	Thu		Non-stop	9:50 PM
10:30 PM	Mon - Sun		Non-stop	10:50 PM

SEPTEMBER TIDES					
MASSET			DAAJING GIIDS		
Day	Time	Feet	Day	Time	Feet
1	0505	10.0	16	0550	8.9
Tue	1058	2.6	Wed	1121	4.3
	1716	11.7		1735	10.8
	2355	1.9			
2	0551	9.2	17	0029	2.7
Wed	1132	3.4	Thu	0645	8.1
	1757	11.5		1153	5.1
				1813	10.2
3	0047	2.2	18	0126	3.2
Thu	0648	8.3	Fri	0759	7.5
	1212	4.2		1234	5.8
	1843	11.1		1859	9.5
4	0152	2.5	19	0242	3.5
Fri	0809	7.7	Sat	0936	7.3
	1304	5.1		1346	6.3
	1941	10.7		2017	9.1
5	0316	2.6	20	0359	3.4
Sat	0951	7.6	Sun	1107	7.6
	1425	5.7		1613	6.2
	2109	10.5		2205	9.1
6	0438	2.3	21	0506	3.0
Sun	1121	8.1	Mon	1202	8.2
	1618	5.6		1723	5.5
	2241	10.8		2313	9.4
7	0552	1.8	22	0601	2.6
Mon	1223	9.0	Tue	1236	8.8
	1740	4.8		1811	4.7
	2350	11.4			
8	0654	1.3	23	0004	9.9
Tue	1307	9.8	Wed	0644	2.2
	1844	3.8		1305	9.5
				1852	3.8
9	0047	11.9	24	0047	10.4
Wed	0742	1.0	Thu	0720	1.9
	1342	10.7		1331	10.1
	1939	2.9		1931	3.0
10	0137	12.2	25	0127	10.8
Thu	0822	0.9	Fri	0752	1.8
	1415	11.4		1356	10.8
	2028	2.2		2010	2.2
11	0222	12.2	26	0206	11.0
Fri	0856	1.1	Sat	0822	1.8
	1447	12.0		1424	11.5
	2113	1.7		2049	1.5
12	0305	11.9	27	0246	11.0
Sat	0927	1.5	Sun	0852	2.0
	1520	12.3		1455	12.0
	2154	1.5		2129	1.0
13	0345	11.3	28	0327	10.8
Sun	0957	2.0	Mon	0922	2.3
	1553	12.2		1529	12.4
	2231	1.6		2210	0.8
14	0424	10.6	29	0409	10.4
Mon	1025	2.7	Tue	0954	2.7
	1627	11.9		1607	12.4
	2307	1.8		2252	0.8
15	0505	9.8	30	0454	9.8
Tue	1053	3.5	Wed	1029	3.3
	1701	11.4		1647	12.2
	2345	2.2		2337	1.1



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@isabelcreekstore



Haida Gwaii News

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FUN & GAMES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 19

Around Haida Gwaii

N G Y U C S H B E R W C S F Y U D A N R
D S I P W O O N A Q J R O F Y I Y B B L
H F I M Y C P G G C Z A R O K P N E I J
R R Q L A E O P L N K K W A N D T O W D
J Y Z I B A Y L E S A S V T V Z L L L J
V J M P S N B D J R P A I V I E M U A J
K B Z B N V T O B C E N N O L T N I R K
L R V Z I I W A R D G S Z I N I C Z R G
M C F U G E I J Z L R Y M R I T N O R F
B M Q T G W W K E C B B R O K J Q U V D
W R V G I V H Y P K E M E Z L V W P H J
T E T M W I D C Y R A O L Q P W Q D S W
J T L L L A E R L T C I A U F Q I T W L
D E W L N M R O O D H P X P P E Z C E Q
M P T R E F S A J F G E R X N Z I B I Z
A M T T F T P D A A I T J O Y W K J V L
N U E L R F L L D T K L L A S P I V Y S
Y R F L E C E T R S U L L R R T Q H A L
Y T H J N R J H X K G A M A V B P H B K
R Y R H R A D E C S W D H Y K M Q E J W

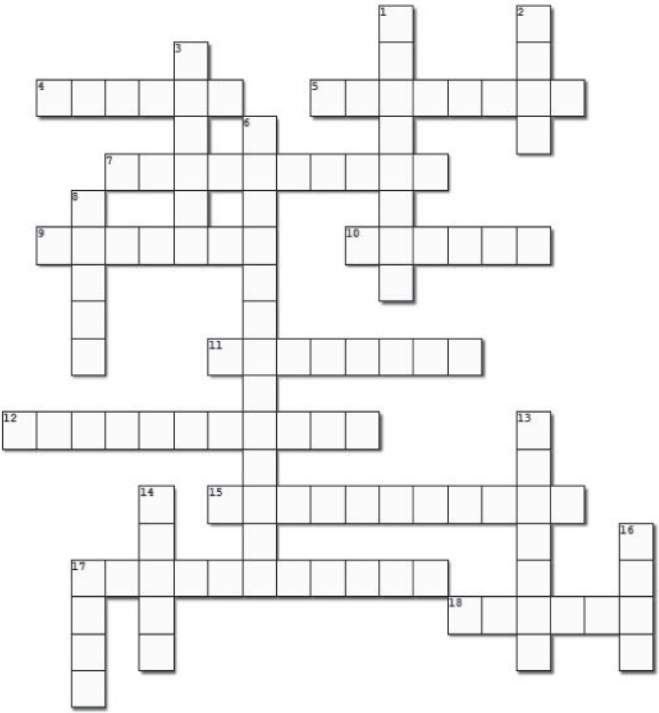
TOW
OCEANVIEW
LIMBERLOST
COPPER
ALLIFORD
TINGLEY
NAANII

HILL
BAYVIEW
BEACH
BAY
BAY
CEDAR
EAGLE

WIGGINS
FRONT
CEMETERY
NADU
RELAX
TRUMPETER
RAVEN

Harvest Festival

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Across

4. Famous coastal fish and favourite local food
5. A celebration bringing food, people and community together
7. Dark berry that fights back with thorns
9. Edible plants gathered along the shoreline
10. Where many wild foods are found
11. Wild Harvest Festival host community
12. Small wild berry found in the forest
15. Soft orange or red berry common on Haida Gwaii
17. Golden forest treasure prized by mushroom pickers
18. Shellfish often found clinging to rocks

Down

1. Fungi found on the forest floor
2. Shellfish dug from the beach
3. Search the wild for something good to eat
6. Local lake surrounded by forest and wild food country
8. A very good reason to gather around a table
13. Gathering nature's seasonal bounty
14. Where the tide leaves plenty to discover
16. Large seaweed growing in coastal waters
17. Crustacean caught along the coast

1				5		4		
4	7		1					
			4					8
	4		5	2		3		
	2						6	
		5		9	3		2	
3					1			
					7		4	6
		9		4				1

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2	4	1					9	
						8		
5				4			3	
	6				5			3
	5	2	9		3	4	8	
7			4				1	
	9			6				1
			5					
		6				2	9	5

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IN THE LATEST
HGN POLLS!



SCAN TO VOTE

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JOB AND CAREERS



Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace Employment Opportunities

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Tlaa Juuhldaa Naay Transition House

Casual/On-Call | Variable hours

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PEACE Child and Youth Program Coordinator

Permanent Part-Time | Masset

Children Who Witness Abuse Counsellor, Level 13-P

\$40.82-\$52.75/hr + benefits after probation.

Find more details and opportunities here
<https://hgscpeace.ca/employment>



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full-time, part-time, and casual positions

\$24.00 day

\$25.00 night

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778-260-3420
jessa.griffith@alderhouse.ca

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- Competitive wages & Northern living earnings
- Comprehensive benefit plan, featuring **Sparrow Health Services** (24/7 access to a doctor or nurse practitioner)
- Indigenous Mental Health Support via **Noojimo** Health: Canada's first all-Indigenous virtual mental health clinic integrated into the **Sparrow app**. Culturally safe, trauma-informed
- individual, family, and group counselling led by experienced Indigenous health professionals.
- Wellness hour (1 paid hour per week)
- 5 extra statutory holidays per calendar year (on top of regulatory stats)
- Municipal Pension Plan
- Monthly full staff gatherings
- Annual training & development budget

Join Our Team: HR@HAIDACHILD.CA

Recruitment is managed by Lantern HR & Leadership, who may contact you about your application.

haidachild.ca



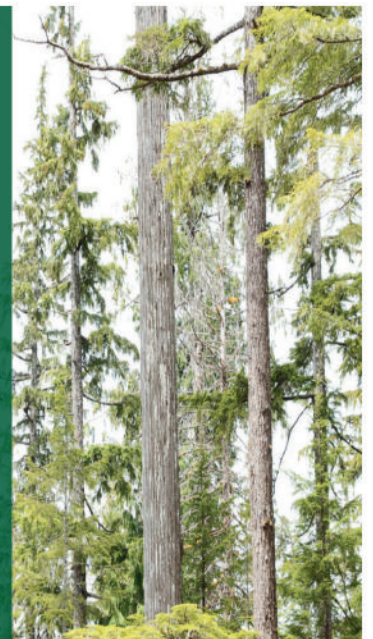
Seeking ocean swimmers interested in crossing from Skidegate to onward point summer 2027. Hoping to train through fall and spring.
Ryan - rfb@skyscraper.nu

REVIEW AND COMMENT

Haida Gwaii Licensees are seeking comments from the public on proposed Operations for all tenures across Haida Gwaii from September 24th, 2026 to October 24th, 2026. In accordance with Section 15.1 of the Forest and Range Practices Act, we are requesting your comments on proposed developments for 2026/2027/2028.

The Forest Operations Maps is available for review and comment at:

- Forest Operations Map website Forest Operations Map (gov.bc.ca)
<https://fom.nrs.gov.bc.ca/public/projects>
- Ministry of Forest Office - 1229 Oceanview Drive, Daajing Giids (computer access to review/comment via Forest Operations Map portal)
- At Licensees office as detailed below



Taan FOREST

Taan Forest

(www.taanforest.com)

Office Review available at: Unite #3 Commercial Centre Highway 16 Skidegate BC.

Office hours Monday to Friday: 9am - 5am

Comments to: Taan Forest Unit 3 Commercial Center Box 848, Skidegate, BC, V0T 1S1

Email: FOM@Taanforest.com



A&A Trading Ltd.

A&A Trading (Haida Gwaii) Ltd.

(www.aatrading.com)

Office Review available upon request at: 207-1100 Island Hwy Campbell River, BC. V9W 8C6

Comments to: A&A Trading (Haida Gwaii) Ltd. 207-1100 Island Hwy Campbell River, BC. V9W 8C6

Email: FOM@aatrading.com



VILLAGE OF
Daajing Giids

September 17th, 2026

Notice of Tax Sale

Notice is hereby given that the following described properties will be sold by public auction, to be held under the provisions of Part 16, Division 7 of the Local Government Act.

The auction will be held on **Monday, September 28th 2026 at 10:00 AM** in the Village of Daajing Giids Council Chambers, 903A Oceanview Drive, Daajing Giids, British Columbia.

Roll #	Civic Address	Legal Address	Upset Price
2854002	4806 OCEANVIEW DRIVE	PLAN PRP948, LOT 1-3, BLOCK 4, DL 3	\$18,358.71
2868001	4903 VANCOUVER AVE	PLAN PRP948, LOT 36, BLOCK 21, DL 3	\$1,190.49
2869000	4837 VANCOUVER AVE	PLAN PRP948, LOT 19, BLOCK 22, DL 3	\$1,190.49
3073012	402 2ND AVENUE	PLAN PRP934, LOT 12, BLOCK 13, DL 16A	\$7,689.14

Properties will be withdrawn from the Tax Sale upon payment of delinquent taxes, plus interest from January 1, 2026.

Deadlines: To allow for processing, the following deadlines apply to various payment types:

Payment Type	Received By
Personal Cheque	4:30pm Friday September 18th
E-transfer	4:30pm Friday September 25th
Cash, bank draft or certified cheque	9:59am Monday September 28th

www.daajinggiids.ca/taxes

HOROSCOPES

♈ ARIES (March 21st - April 20th)

Taking a risk will help you to get what you want out of life. You need to push ahead with a long-term plan: the sooner you get started, the better! Romance. A favourable aspect to Venus around the beginning of the week will help you to move your relationship to centre-stage.

♉ TAURUS (April 21st - May 21st)

Your self-confidence may be a little lower than usual at the moment. Be firm with people who try to take advantage of your kind nature. Romance. Do your best to create a supportive atmosphere or you may miss an important clue which tells you how your partner is thinking.

♊ GEMINI (May 22nd - June 21st)

A powerful aspect to Jupiter later in the week will help to make this a lucky period for you. Don't hold back from starting a new project just because you are uncertain about the outcome: you may be in for a pleasant surprise! Romance. Time spent with a colleague at work will bring you closer.

♋ CANCER (June 22nd - July 23rd)

A favorable aspect to Neptune will help your powers of intuition. Don't be afraid to trust to your gut feelings: a hint that things are wrong should be taken seriously. Romance. You will be extremely sensitive to changes in your partner's emotional state. A favourable aspect to Venus will help to strengthen communications between you.

♌ LEO (July 24th - August 23rd)

A friend whom you haven't seen for some time will shortly be getting in touch with you. This person needs your help, and you shouldn't be slow about giving it. Romance. You will be able to look forward to a few romantic evenings at home with your partner. A trip away from home later in the week will be worth looking forward to!

♍ VIRGO (August 24th - September 23rd)

A meeting with friends will help you to relax after a stressful week. You have a lot on your mind at the moment, and need a chance to take things easy. Romance. A recent frustration may make you reluctant to get involved more closely with a recent admirer. You will be on the defensive and will want to wait to see what comes next.

♎ LIBRA (September 24th - October 23rd)

A person who tries to interfere in your life is unlikely to change you as much as they hope. You are in a stubborn mood at the moment, and won't want to take advice from anyone! Romance. A powerful aspect to Mars may bring some passion into your life. Don't hold back, even if you are not sure where this is leading!

♏ SCORPIO (October 24th - November 22nd)

A secret which affects a friend of yours may finally come out into the open. Don't be too quick to judge this person: until you have all the facts you should believe their account of what happened. Romance. A person whom you meet at work will be surprisingly persistent. This new admirer is not going to give up easily!

♐ SAGITTARIUS (November 23rd-December 21st)

Find out if a recent offer is as genuine as it seems before you take the plunge. You are not in the mood for being messed about at the moment and will want to know that you are not going to be let down at the last minute. Romance. A difficult aspect to Saturn will help you to keep your feet on the ground, even if your imagination is running wild!

♑ CAPRICORN (December 22nd - January 20th)

A meeting with a person whom you hardly know will bring you into contact with a new circle of friends. You will be surprised how much you have in common with these people. Romance. A meeting with a long-standing admirer will be worth looking forward to. Take things one step at a time, though.

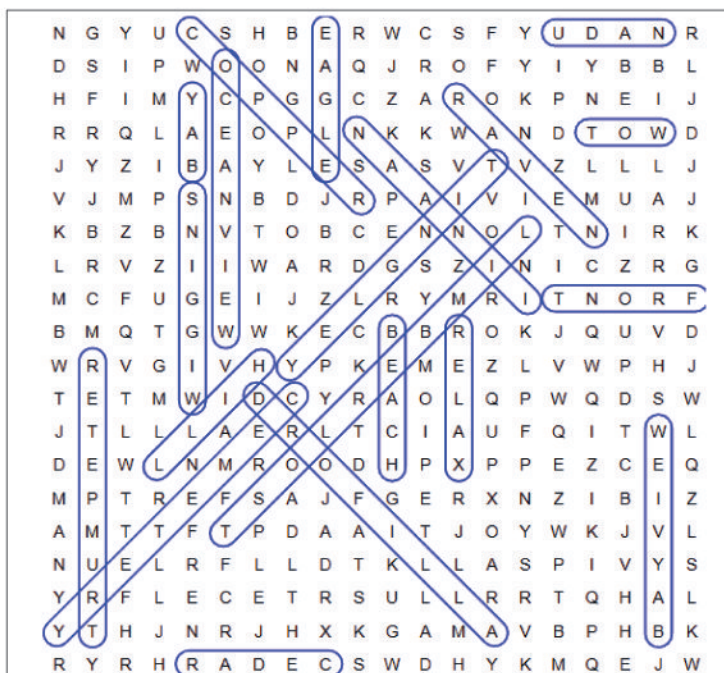
♒ AQUARIUS (January 21st - February 19th)

Chores around the house are building up and need to be dealt with as soon as possible. A burst of energy later in the week will help you to get everything sorted out. Romance. Be careful not to let money worries create problems with your relationship. There might have to be more give-and-take between you.

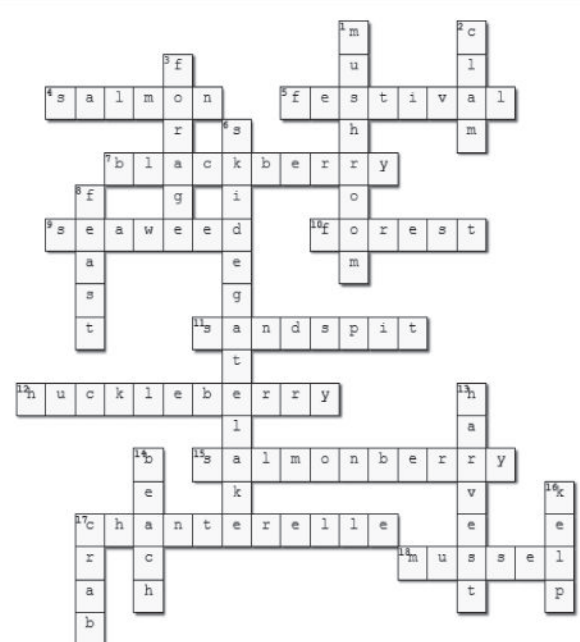
♓ PISCES (February 20th - March 20th)

Something which you say to a friend may be taken the wrong way. Be especially careful not to criticise somebody who you know is very sensitive. Negative comments about this person won't help them and could easily backfire. Romance. Don't let an argument about money come between you and your partner.

GAMES ANSWERS



1	9	8	3	5	6	4	7	2
4	7	2	1	8	9	6	5	3
5	3	6	4	7	2	1	9	8
6	4	7	5	2	8	3	1	9
9	2	3	7	1	4	8	6	5
8	1	5	6	9	3	7	2	4
3	5	4	2	6	1	9	8	7
2	8	1	9	3	7	5	4	6
7	6	9	8	4	5	2	3	1
2	4	1	6	3	7	9	5	8
6	3	9	2	5	8	1	4	7
5	7	8	1	4	9	6	3	2
9	6	4	8	1	5	7	2	3
1	5	2	9	7	3	4	8	6
7	8	3	4	2	6	5	1	9
4	9	5	3	6	2	8	7	1
8	2	7	5	9	1	3	6	4
3	1	6	7	8	4	2	9	5



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