

OBSERVER

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Thursday August 14, 2008

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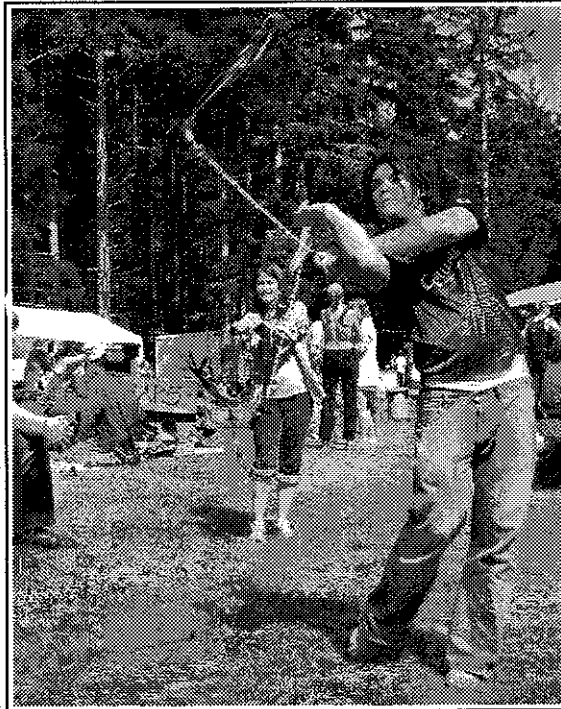
Logger Sports Day in Sandspit Saturday

It's Logger Sports Day time again, with everything kicking off with the parade at 10 am. The theme is "Sandspit through the years", and if you want to be in it and not just watch it, be at the SuperValu parking lot at 9:30. The newly formed 'Broads on Quads' will be participating. Check it out!

At noon, the events begin at the community field, as do the food booths (no one goes hungry in Sandspit), the dunk tank, face painting, splicing demo, the bounce house and more. Then at 1 pm, the beer garden opens.

It all wraps up with the dance, starting a 9 pm at the hall, to Sandspit's favourite Kiwi DJ.

Come on out. You could be the next King or Queen Logger.



The Edge of the World Music Festival was the place to be last weekend. More, pages 16-17.

Heather Ramsay photo

Big decline in investments led to GMDC closure

By Alex Rinfret

The Greater Massett Development Corp. experienced a dramatic decline in investment income in 2007, a decline which led to a much larger than normal loss that year and eventually to last month's decision to close the rec centre, according to financial statements presented at the organization's annual general meeting Sunday (Aug. 10).

The GMDC's two trust funds, which were worth \$4.7-million at the end of 2007, generated only \$42,000 worth of investment income over the year. During the previous year, the corporation made \$453,000 in investment income – more than 10 times as much.

Although GMDC trimmed spending, it still ended up with a \$623,000 deficit for the year, compared to a loss of \$231,000 in 2006. That, directors told


the public, coupled with a sharp rise in the cost of heating fuel which has continued, led to the decision to close the rec centre.

"We're bleeding all over the place," director John Disney said. "That swimming pool is ancient technology... It will soon cost \$1,000 a day to heat."

The rec centre, with the pool, sauna, gym, weight room and small bowling alley, cost \$367,000 more to run last year than it raised from fees, rentals, and investment income. Unlike most public recreation centres, it receives no support from any level of government, except for a grant in aid from the village of Masset to cover the municipal portion of its property taxes.

Directors told the 81 people who packed the community hall to hear why their rec centre is closing that only by shutting

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Noted scientist to speak in Old Massett

It's not every scientist that's featured in a photo spread of Vanity Fair. Especially when your specialty is fish.

But Dr Daniel Pauly was this May. He has also been featured in Nature, Science and the New York Times; was voted one of 2003's 'Scientific American 50' for outstanding leadership; and won the 2005 International Cosmos Prize for "work that has achieved excellence and is recognized to contributing to a significant understanding of the relationships among living organisms, the interdependence of life and the global environment".

All because he speaks out about our ocean and our fish.

His message is simple. We cannot go on the way we are and expect to have fish. The oceans, he says, are no different than our forests, except we know a lot less about them. They are an ecosystem, and we are affecting them in a way that may soon be irreversible.

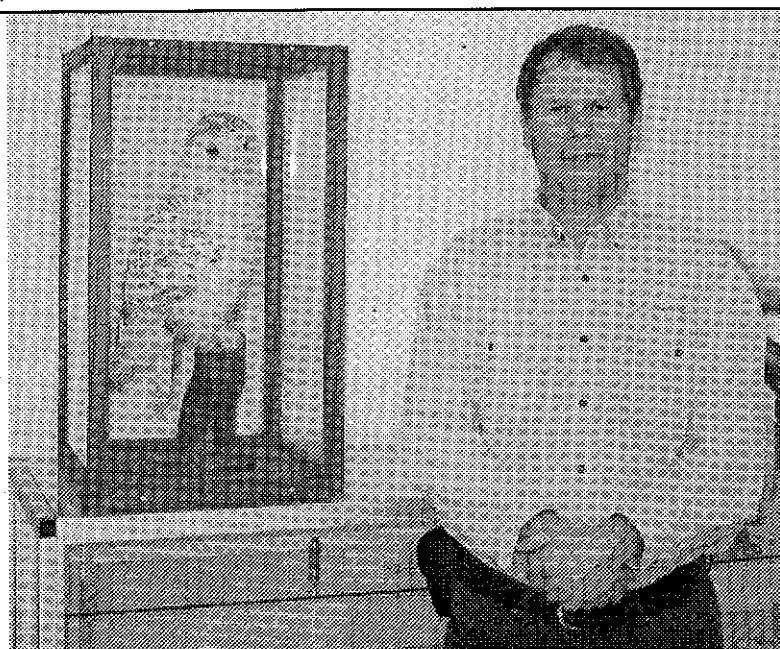
Scientists do not always speak about public policy. Dr. Pauly does. And he doesn't mince words. This makes him, depending on who you speak with, brilliant, aggravating, inspiring. He has the gift of the big picture and the chops to make his visions into reality. Despite his scientific background, he has developed research methodologies that are simple and accessible. The database he spearheaded, www.fishbase.org, is free, has information in multiple languages on 30,600 fish worldwide and gets 23 million hits per month.

Among his solutions is a dramatic reduction in the scale of global fisheries and the establishment of 'large marine 'no-take zones' where fish can live, undisturbed, to replenish.

Dr. Pauly speaks here Thursday, August 21 at Tluu Xaada Naay in Old Massett. Doors 7pm, the talk begins at 7:30.

Paul Hammond stands beside the newest addition to the Port Clements Museum, a snowy owl bequeathed by his uncle, the late John Carlson of Port.

Photo by Joan Hein.



Quiet weekend in Masset

Masset RCMP had a relatively quiet week but did stop a couple of impaired drivers after receiving calls from concerned members of the public, says Sgt. Grant MacDonald.

Both vehicles were stopped in the

Masset area over the past week, he said.

In one case, police are recommending impaired driving charges. In the other case, police gave the driver a 24-hour driving suspension.

bang

new art by
Don Hancock
and
Alex Rinfret

Queen B's
Queen Charlotte

Opening August 15
7 pm

Artists in attendance
Tapas and beverages
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Action needed to avoid long-term decline in fish stocks, says world-reknowned scientist

By Judy McKinley

Will our grandchildren have enough salmon and seafood to feed themselves? "Scientific studies show that if fishing practices around the world do not change, the seafood we depend on may be gone in 40 years," says the introduction to the 2007 CHN discussion paper Towards a Marine Use Plan for Haida Gwaii. (MUP)

In a way, the answer is simple. "It sounds glib, but it's actually quite profound", said Dr. Daniel Pauly of the Fisheries Centre at UBC, an internationally renowned researcher who has looked at fish numbers all over the world. "There are problems when there are people making more and more demands of a system. That can't stabilize. You run out of resources." "In the Java Sea, in Indonesia, I have seen six fishermen go out and come back with five pounds of fish.... These people cannot feed their families. That's where it stabilizes."

But knowing fish numbers are diminishing doesn't mean action will be taken to prevent fisheries from collapse. One problem might be multiple means of data collection, and the multiple jurisdictions under which fish fall. Compiling and combining research and acting in uniform, effective ways can present a huge challenge. Witness the predictable collapse of the Atlantic Cod Fishery.

Another problem seems to be that as a public we cannot seem to believe in time that something so fundamental can come to an end. Contributing to this is what Dr. Pauly calls a 'shifting base-

line', where each generation adjusts its baseline of measurement to the times, so we get a skewed vision of history.

So can we tell if there's a problem with salmon and other seafood?

Salmon and other sea life are not conscious of political borders. Chinook we get here could be passing through from Washington or Alaska. That has resulted in the sometimes acrimonious Pacific Salmon Treaty between Canada and the US that attempts to conserve and share migratory salmon. In Washington,

Nass River was the worse she'd ever seen, and that the Skeena didn't look good either. The Sto:lo fishery in the Fraser River is likely to close with stocks down to one-quarter of normal.

The numbers of other species can also be an indicator, either about our habits or about the demands on our eco-system.

"In other species here on Haida Gwaii, we have already seen a decline", say Russ Jones of Skidegate, who works with Haida Fisheries, manages a marine use planning project, and is a UBC

Fisheries Centre Associate who has worked with Dr. Pauly. "Herring is at a low level, it has been for more than a decade. Rockfish are scarce, abalone is threatened and the Pacific cod fishery in Hecate Strait collapsed about a decade ago and has not yet recovered."

Data like DNA testing and hatcheries monitoring are expensive. There are simpler ways to get a good picture. "Look at the size of 'trophy' fish over the last 20 or 50 years", says Dr. Pauly, "and you will see the decline in size. And ask your elders."

The diminishing size can mean that all of the larger fish are gone.

And smaller predator fish also mean less spawn. For example, a single ripe old female red snapper, can lay the same number of eggs (9,300,000 or so) as 212 younger females.

What's been found all over the world is a general decline in 'trophic level', essentially catching fish lower and lower on the food chain. "What we could end up with, if we continue the way we are going", says Dr. Pauly, "is a diet of jel-

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a majority of chinook stocks are threatened or endangered.

West coast Vancouver Island chinook have been restricted for almost a decade to attempt to rebuild stocks.

Also close to home, in June, federal officials declared that 2008 would be BC's worst sockeye catch in 50 years. In Alert Bay, Art Dick of the Namgis nation says "We're down to 4 fish per person now." In July a United Fishermen and Allied workers representative said the

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Charlotte Communiqués *by Evelyn von Almassy*

I'd like to congratulate Angus Wilson, Principal of Queen Charlotte Secondary School, the successful candidate for the Superintendent position in School District 50. I've known Angus and his family since they arrived on-island, and I spent a month commuting with him from Massett when I first began working here. He has a wicked sense of humour; (sometimes he even laughs at my jokes) and really connects with the students he works with. We all wish him well in his new ventures.

Another new venture begins Sunday, August 17 at Sitka Studio. Vernal Bogren Swift's new work "Hecate at Home" will be up for a few weeks. The opening begins at 1:00 pm, goes until 5:00. Vernal has worked with batik for twenty-five years but this is different, as she only used a couple of synthetic dyes, with the rest being natural. The natural dyes are better for her, and for the environment.

Batik is a tradition, which as Vernal says "...holds the beauty". The word may come from "ambatik", meaning a cloth with little dots. There are samples of batik found in Egypt and the rest of the Middle East from 1,500 years ago. Turkey, India, China, Japan and West Africa also have batik in their history.

Vernal spoke with me about the memory of things in the natural world, which was intriguing. She stated that "maybe everything has memory of what it used to be." Indigo dye, for example attaches to the cloth by a process of oxidation. This means that indigo breathes, as plants breathe.

Vernal will give a talk that day on natural dyes and the memory of plants. Sitka Studio is at 845 Richardson Road in Tlell.

Another show coming up is Bang at Queen B's in Queen Charlotte. The artists are Alex Rinfret and Don Hancock of Tlell. They create art using metal from old appliances, which saves them from the dump (the appliances, not the artists). They then embellish the work with shotgun and rifle fire.

The artwork is weather-proof so you can hang them outside (Sergius-style) as well as inside. The show opens Friday August 15, 7 pm at Queen B's.

Northern Savings Credit Union

Queen Charlotte (110 Causeway St.) is closing at 11:00 am Saturday, August 23 in recognition of the grand opening of the Haida Heritage Centre. It re-opens Tuesday, August 26 for regular business hours.

An early announcement of William Deverell's writing workshop at Sitka Studio on Saturday, Sept. 6, 10:00-2:00 pm. \$40, reserve by sending a cheque to QCI Arts Council, c/o box 921 in Charlotte.

"Paws for the Cause" happens September 7, Sunday, put that annual SPCA fundraiser on your calendar. It

works like this: you collect pledges before, then take a walk with your dog (and about sixty other dogs and their companions). The money goes to this worthy, much needed organization. It's really fun, good exercise and a great way to meet people and share tips about dogs. The group photo prior to the walk may even get into this paper, so you could become famous as well!

I know Gerry Whittle is organizing a big day for Friday, September 12. It involves men getting their chest hairs waxed and legs shaved, for a good cause of course. This is another event to put on your calendar, because it will be wild and very funny. I'll let him tell you the rest soon.

The Dragon Boat Society will be happening; we have to get those boats in the water. Call Lisa Pineault 559-8644.

Pass your news around by calling 559-8049 or email almassy@qcislands.net.

YOU ARE WELCOME to an informal talk with renowned marine scientist Dr Daniel Pauly - he will offer a global perspective on fisheries and ways to sustain healthy oceans.

THE STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES & WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Thursday, August 21, 2008

Tluu Xaada Naay (Christian's Longhouse), Old Massett
Doors open at 7pm, talk at 7:30pm. Refreshments served



Upcoming Summer Programs

All Island Swim Program:
CANCELLED due to lack of registration.

Kids and Teen Kayaking:
Tow Hill Road
Monday, August 18
Cost: \$32.00 per participant
Tlell
Wednesday, August 20
Cost: \$32.00 per participant
These classes are dependent on the tides; the times will be between 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Call the QCI Rec. Office for locations, registration and exact times.
Look for the QCI Rec

Booth for crafts and fun at Logger Sports Day in Sandspit and a chance to draw a \$25.00 gift certificate for a QCI Rec. Program.

The winner of the Tlell Fall Fair "gumball count" was Terry Mitchell of Tlell and the draw for the \$25.00 certificate went to Leann Seifert of Massett.



Do you have a special talent or certifications to teach members of your community? QCI Rec. is looking for you! We set up, advertise and pay you to teach. We are currently looking for Aerobics instructors, pottery instructors, carving teachers, skateboarding specialists, music talent, photography and much more.

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lyfish and plankton stew."

Listening to elders can counterbalance the shifting baseline. "It's especially important for our young people to hear these stories", said artist and father Jim Hart. His mother Joan worked in the cannery here for 50 years. "I think it's disappearing too fast myself. I could notice it because my dad was a seiner, they used to really load up plentiful. We would work day and night in the cannery, I doubt you could do that anymore."

"We used to go out there and get 15/20 springs in a day. Now we're lucky to get five or ten", says Vernon Williams Senior who fished all his life commercially and as a guide. "Years ago we could fish from the 1st of May right until the end of September", says 85 year old Stephen Brown. "Even right out here, a few times I pulled 15 or 18 spring salmon, and it wasn't hard to do. Now we're lucky with two or three."

Establishing there's a problem is one factor, putting our finger on exactly what causes it is another. "It's difficult to say what the exact cause is," says Mr. Jones. "Fishing is certainly a driving factor, but we see problems even when we have regulations in place."

There are many factors that can contribute to diminishing fish: climate change, sea farming, difficulties coordinating categories of fishing (commercial, sport, aboriginal for example), and multiple jurisdictions and interests (aboriginal, provincial, federal, inter-departmental), logging, environmental factors, and catch and release are some.

One of the main problems might be the differing values placed on fish. In the MUP, there is a list of Haida Ethics, qualities like respect, and giving and receiving. "It wasn't something to play with, it was for the survival of the human race", says Mr. Brown. "Nobody needed to get too carried away", says Mr. Williams, "They'd get for themselves and share. Now they don't, do they?"

Another concern is about off-islanders. "Even in an area as remote as Haida Gwaii" says Dr. Pauly, "you are exposed to what is going on in the nation as a whole: when fish stocks go down elsewhere, it sends a demand for sports and industrial fishing there".

"My largest concern is this corporate Disneyland aspect of what's happening in these waters. It's faceless," says Jusquan Bedard, a mother living

in Masset. "And we see thousands of pounds going out at the airport but no real commitment to this place. We are worth more than that". Sports fishing is an odd category because numbers are obtained largely by interview, they practice catch and release (not counted as catch); and limits are placed on individuals not lodges. "In Alert Bay right now, sports fishers can get more than us for food," said Art Dick.

Catch and release is also a concern. Oliver Bell of Port Clements who was part of the small meeting, says those fish are exhausted, and have less chance to survive. "It's definitely a Haida value to limit catch and release" said Mr. Jones.

Environmental and climate changes are real and predictable. As seas warm, species move north. The giant squid from Mexico has already been seen in Southern BC. "You can predict that you'll see one here," says Dr. Pauly.

In some ways, it's a pretty dire picture. But fisheries can recover. Marine reserves are one solution.

In Haida Gwaii, the Haida are participating in several initiatives that could make a difference, said Mr. Jones. In Gwaii Haanas the Haida and Parks Canada are working together to develop a management plan. The Haida are also preparing to engage in a public marine use planning process for northern B.C. There are sustainable use initiatives all over the coast.

Will these plans be implemented soon enough? Dr. Pauly's thoughts: "Haida Gwaii is a small island in a stormy sea. Hang on to everything you have as long as possible until this crazy storm of consumption subsides and this crazy population growth diminishes."

"It's like there's a candy bowl in the centre of the room", said Gwaliga Hart, "and everybody dives in, not thinking of anyone else. There's hardly any left for me and the rest of us. How do you regulate after the fact? In my eyes, it sometimes feels like we're done for."

4 year old Haana Edenshaw holds faith. "It's sort of a bad thing. You can go other places and fish in other places. But I think there will be fish. Fish Fish Fish. Fish all over because I think there will be."

Maybe she's right.

A talk will be given by Dr. Daniel Pauly August 21 in Old Massett. The draft Marine Use Plan can be read at

http://www.haidanation.ca/Pages/Splash/Documents/Towards_a_MUP.pdf



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The Observer
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The **HAIDA GWAII BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** meets monthly but we are always available to provide support, information, and/or conversation for anyone who is touched by breast cancer. If you would like to connect with one of us, call any one of the women listed below:

Dory Spencer	Masset	626-3807
Ellen Woolverton	Port Clements	557-4690
Margaret Condrotte	Tlell	557-4418
Donna-Lee Larocque	Tlell	557-4582
Isabel Brillion	Skidegate	559-8856
Skye Cantin	Queen Charlotte	559-8160

Remember, we've been there and we're still here, going strong!

Out-patient lab services at QCIGH will temporarily close Wednesdays

The QCI General Hospital lab in Queen Charlotte will temporarily close for out-patient services on Wednesdays, starting April 2, 2008.

Out-patient lab hours on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri will remain the same:
8:00-10:00am and 1:00-2:00pm

Emergency and in-patient lab services will not be affected.

For more information, please call Kerry Laidlaw at 250-559-4302.


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