

# ARFL NEWSLETTER

Association of Retired Faculty  
and Librarians of York University

Website: <https://yuarfl.wordpress.com>

**ARFL IS A MEMBER OF**

College and University  
Retiree Associations of Canada



Associations de retraités des  
universités et collèges du Canada



## 2017 ARFL AGM & Presentation November 10, 2017

Coffee & Conversation: 10:30 am  
*Meeting: 11:00 am to Noon*  
*Lunch: Noon to 1 pm (catered)*  
*Presentation: 1 to 3 pm*

Harry Crowe Room  
109 Atkinson Building

The presentation (described on p. 2 is open to all).



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## Agenda – 2017 AGM

1. Call to Order (11:00 am)
2. Amendment/Acceptance of Agenda
3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, November 11, 2016
4. Election of ARFL Executive (please see nominations below)
5. President’s Report
6. Vice-President’s Report
7. Treasurer’s Report
8. YURFL Trust Report
9. ARFL Scholarship Report
10. ARFL/YURA Report
11. Other Business
12. Adjourn for Lunch (Noon)
13. Our Featured Speaker (1:00 pm)

## Election of ARFL Executive

### Nominations to date

President:

Vice-President: Saber Saleuddin

Treasurer: Gene Denzel

Secretary: Marianne Rogers

Newsletter Editor: Fred Fletcher

Members-at-large: John Crozier

Stan Jeffers

Vivienne Monty

Glen Norcliffe

Brayton Polka

Elizabeth Sabiston

**Nominations, including self-nominations, can be sent to the President ([robertd@yorku.ca](mailto:robertd@yorku.ca)) or Secretary (Marianne Rogers; [mrogers@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:mrogers@osgoode.yorku.ca)) at any time prior to the November meeting (and made from the floor at that meeting).**

## ARFL Presents

### **Gots’udi níde Dene xedá t’áodé?a: Indigenous Language Resilience in Canada**

**Keren Rice, University of Toronto**

#### The Talk

In December 2015, the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was released, containing 94 Calls to Action, some of which involve language. In this talk, I start with the Calls for Action, and then review what happened in the decades leading to these calls, focusing on government, Indigenous institutions, and local community initiatives. I discuss what it takes to effect change, and speculate on what the future might look like.

#### The Speaker

Keren Rice is a University Professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Toronto. She is currently Chair of the Department of Linguistics and served the past two years as Interim Director of the Centre for Indigenous Studies, and she was founding director of the latter.



Keren Rice's theoretical work is in the areas of phonology and morphology. She is concerned with variation in phonology, asking questions about markedness, contrast, and the role of universal substantive features in phonology. She has long been involved in research with speakers of Dene languages in the Sahtú region of the Northwest Territories of Canada, and she has contributed to the understanding of these languages. She has been involved in work on language revitalization, and has written on fieldwork and the ethics of fieldwork.

## **President's Report to the AGM**

*Robert Drummond*

Since the last AGM in November 2016, ARFL has been occupied by two main tasks – gathering information and conveying advice to YUFA concerning retiree benefits in preparation for negotiation of a renewal Collective Agreement in 2018, and gathering information and conveying advice to the University administration concerning the scholarly contributions of emeriti and our requests for recognition and support.

In respect of the first task, we conducted a brief survey in the spring and prepared a list of recommendations that were conveyed to YUFA last month. YUFA is in the process of developing primary negotiating positions and selecting a bargaining team. I have indicated my willingness to be consulted on your behalf as the process unfolds, and I will keep you apprised of any information that can be released as negotiations proceed. In respect of the second task, we conducted a brief survey of emeriti activity last year, and Glen Norcliffe prepared a report for Executive on activity and needs of continuing scholars in retirement. After some minor amendment by Executive, the

report was conveyed to the President, the Vice-President Academic, the Vice-President Research and Innovation, and the Deans. We have requested meetings with the President and the Vice-Presidents. To date, no such meetings have been arranged.



I have also had occasion to answer some queries from members about benefits, especially as CURAC has now entered into an agreement with RTO for health benefits and with Johnson Insurance for out-of-country medical coverage. The CURAC arrangement may not be of much interest to most of us who have accepted the York benefits through Sun Life, except perhaps as supplementary insurance, but if you are interested, you should look at the RTO website to see what they offer. The YURFL Benefits Trust will report separately to the AGM, but you should be advised that our failure to secure an improvement in dental coverage in the last round of bargaining, combined with rising costs of care and declining rates of return on conservative investments, has meant that the Trust has had to dip into capital to pay the dental bill from the University. The Trust agreed to cover the difference between \$950 and expenses up to the cap of \$1250 per person per year for dental care.

I am determined to step down from the Presidency of ARFL at the November meeting, but I am still looking for a replacement. Volunteers and nominations are encouraged.

## Treasurer's Report 2015/2016

ARFL's financial statements for the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 have been submitted to our Auditor Mr Bruno Bellissimo . His evaluation will be made available when it is ready

### Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University Balance Sheet as of June 30 2017 (with comparative figures for 2016)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Account(s)	\$7,022	\$7,270
Savings Account(s)	\$18,290	\$18,457
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>\$25,312</b></u>	<u><b>\$25,726</b></u>
<b>Liabilities and Accumulated Surplus</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$279	\$0
Membership Dues in Advance	\$2,324	\$2,125
Other*	\$2,603	\$210
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<u><b>\$22,709</b></u>	<u><b>\$23,391</b></u>

\*Notes: This is the amount of cheques issued but not yet cashed

### Statements of Revenues and Expenses For the year ended 30 June 2017 with comparable figures from 30 June 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Membership Fees	\$5,836	\$3,975
Interest	259	212
Gifts		
<b>Total Income</b>	<u><b>\$6,095</b></u>	<u><b>\$4,187</b></u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
York Faculty Association	\$930	\$1,065
Honorarium - Speakers	400	200
CURAC Membership Fee	158	118
CURAC Conference	1,093	729
Meeting Catering	1,522	1,130
Printing/Photocopying		

Postage and Office Supplies		
Honorarium - Auditor	150	150
Banking Fees	50	12
Paypal fees		75
Website	472	326
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,775</b>	<b>\$3,804</b>
<b>Excess Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,320</b>	<b>\$383</b>

**External Auditor’s Review (August 31, 2016)**

To the Members of the Association of Retired Faculty and Librarians of York University:  
 Statements have been submitted to the Auditor, now pending his review.

**Status of ARFL Lee Lorch Memorial Award**

This award was initially endowed with \$30,000 comprising equal shares from ARFL and the Province of Ontario. As of 30 April 2017, the fund stood at \$55,015 in total donations and matches. The “market value” in the methodology of the fund is now \$71,542, vs \$62,334 at 30 April 2016 .

If you wish to make a donation to this scholarship, you may do so by mailing a cheque (payable to “York University”) to:

- Abbey Black, Division of Advancement, West Office Building, York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, M3J 1P3
- Or, to ARFL, c/o YUFA , 240 York Lanes, York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3

Donations can also be made online at <http://giving.yorku.ca/inmemoryof/leelorch>

The treasurer’s job has, with the help of Bruno Bellissimo, now become quite straightforward as the accounts are now managed in Microsoft Excel.

**Reminder: ARFL Dues**

As you know, ARFL grants free membership for retired faculty and librarians in their first year of retirement. Thereafter dues are \$25 per annum, payable on July 1. Dues can be paid by credit card or Pay Pal through the ARFL website ([www.yuarfl.org](http://www.yuarfl.org)). Select the Dues tab in the top bar and click on the Pay Dues Online icon. No PayPal account is required-you may pay at any time using your credit card. PayPal will issue a receipt. If you require a receipt issued by ARFL, please email the Treasurer ([lezned@yorku.ca](mailto:lezned@yorku.ca)) who will be pleased to issue one. Alternatively you may pay by cheque payable to ARFL and mailed to ARFL, c/o YUFA, 240 York Lanes, York Campus, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3 or by cash at the AGM.



## Upcoming Events

### Friday October 27: AGM at the Underground

11 a.m. Guest Speaker **Audrey Macklin**:  
“Private Refugee Sponsorship: The Making and Remaking of Citizens.”

12 noon: Lunch (complimentary)

1:15 p.m.: Annual General Meeting

**N.B. Please register by October 23 if you plan to attend (by email at [yura@yorku.ca](mailto:yura@yorku.ca) OR call 416-736-2100 ext. 70664).**

### Tuesday November 7: SHOWCASE (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) Central Square.

All proceeds are donated to YURA-supported student awards. Last year we raised \$1800. We would love to match or surpass that amount this year. Please come out to see what's on offer and support YURA's efforts. In addition to baked goods and attic treasures, our members will be present during Showcase at individual tables as exhibitors or vendors.

## News and Notes

### General Members Meeting May 4 2018

The speaker is scheduled to be Professor **Amar Bhatia**, Osgoode. He will speak on issues of status and authority of migrant workers and Indigenous peoples under Canadian immigration law, Aboriginal law, treaty relations, and Indigenous legal traditions.

### Honours and Awards

In May, the Consul General of Argentina announced the appointment of Glendon Professor Emerita **Margarita Feliciano** to the rank of Officer of the Order of May. The Order

of May is awarded to foreign citizens who have distinguished themselves by outstanding contributions to the nation of Argentina. Dr. Feliciano is an award-winning creative writer, editor and literary translator.

**Ronald J. Burke**, Professor Emeritus of Organization Studies at the Schulich School of Business, is the recipient of the Academic of Management's 2017 Career Achievement Award for Distinguished Scholar-Practitioners.



Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus **James Carley** returned to Toronto recently after serving for a year as master of the Worshipful Company of Barbers, a livery company based in London devoted to the practice of medicine. Carley, a specialist in medieval history and early modern studies, is the first Canadian to be elected as master of the company. His wife, Glendon Professor Emerita **Ann Hutchison**, served as the company's Mistress Barber.

**David L. Wiesenthal**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian Association of Road Safety Professionals for his

research on traffic psychology, promotion of road safety and service to the organization.

**Kenneth G. Davey**, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus of Biology, received an honorary doctorate at the June Convocation of Dalhousie University. The citation noted his key role in the development of science at York University and stated: "He is known for his contributions to the fields of biology, endocrinology and physiology."

*Leading the Modern University: York University's Presidents on Continuity and Change, 1974-2014* (University of Toronto Press), edited by President Emerita **Lorna Marsden**, has been nominated for a Heritage Toronto Award for Historical Writing. The award winner will be announced on October 23, 2017.

### Publications

**Alan Blum**, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, recently published another major book, *The Dying Body as a Lived Experience* (Routledge).

A recent book by **Janet Tai Landa**, Professor Emerita of Economics, *Economic success of Chinese Merchants in Southeast Asia: identity, ethnic cooperation and conflict* (Springer 2016) was singled out for discussion at the 2017 conference of the Society for Institutional & Organizational Economics at Columbia University in New York last June.

Professor Emeritus **Diethard Bohme** and his team have published three articles in the *International Journal of Mass Spectrometry* verifying and casting further light on relativistic effects in the movement of atoms in certain metals, as predicted by Finnish chemist Pekka Pyykkö. See more at the website of the Ion Chemistry Laboratory Centre for Research in Mass Spectrometry.

**The ARFL Newsletter, published twice yearly, has among its goals, recognition of the ongoing contributions of York University retirees to the academy and society. Further details on these reports may be found in YFile. We would be grateful to have academic and civic honours and awards, appointments, and publications drawn to our attention ([ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca)).**



### In Memoriam

Wesley Cragg  
Nick Elson  
Christopher Innes  
Willard Piepenberg

*Remembrances for departed colleagues are in progress. The objective of this section is not to duplicate more formal obituaries but rather to present personal recollections from colleagues and friends of York University personalities. We invite members to submit reminiscences for publication in the Newsletter ([ffletch@yorku.ca](mailto:ffletch@yorku.ca)).*



### Retirement Planning Centre Seminars

#### Financial Education Series

(Wednesdays, noon to 1 pm)

Earning More from Your Investments	Jan. 10
Choosing the Right Investment Manager	Jan. 24
Investing in Real Estate & Private Mortgages	Feb. 7
Income Tax Bracket Planning	Feb. 28
Organizing Tax Deductions and Credits	Mar. 21
Risks to your Plan: Understand the Impact	April 4
How to Use Your Savings	April 18
Estate Planning	May 2

## The Conversation

In June, as a response to diminishing resources for serious journalism, The Conversation Canada was launched. The Canadian operation, now well underway, joins a global network of teams in Australia-New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and parts of Africa.

Launched by Mary Lynn Young and Alfred Hermida (Graduate School of Journalism, University of British Columbia), The Conversation has five commissioning editors working out newsrooms at the University of Toronto and UBC. Currently, the website attracts more than five million users per month and an estimated 35 million through Creative Commons republication. More than 22,000 news outlets around the world use the content.

As noted on The Conversation Canada's website, "The Conversation's unique approach teaming academics with professional editors to provide quality information to inform public discourse was developed in Melbourne and launched in 2013." Scott White, formerly editor-in-chief of the Canadian Press, is editor of The Conversation Canada.

York faculty who have something to say about public policy – as many of us do – are urged to join the conversation at

<https://theconversation.com/ca>.

## The CURAC Connection

The College and University Retirees Association of Canada (CURAC) represents the interests of academic retirees at the national level. ARFL and YURA are both members and have played an important role in its development. (Sandra Pyke is a past president.) The retiree associations of more than 40 universities and colleges are members. CURAC provides a

variety of services to its member associations and their members as well:

- Assistance to colleges and universities seeking to establish retirees associations;
- A biennial survey of benefits available to retirees in its member institutions (valuable for negotiations, lobbying, etc.)
- Lobbying government in support of college and university retirees (through news releases, letters to officials, etc.)
- Publishing occasional papers on important social issues relevant to its members (pharmacare, palliative care, mental health of seniors)
- Affinity agreements with suppliers of relevant services
  - Escorted tours with Collette Tours
  - Vehicle and property insurance from Economical Select
  - Travel and extended medical insurance
- CURAC is working on agreements for other products and services, such as hearing assistance
- Annual conferences with an impressive array of speakers.

**NOTE: The 2018 annual conference will be held at Dalhousie University in Halifax, May 23-25. The program and registration information are on the CURAC website ([www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)).**

## CURAC/ARUCC Awards

These awards are presented (usually annually) by CURAC/ARUCC at its annual meeting. Candidates for these awards are selected on the basis of nominations from member associations. The deadline for nominations is

January 31 2018. Detailed descriptions of the awards and the nomination form are available on the CURAC/ARUCC website ([www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca)).

#### Contribution to CURAC/ARUCC Award

The Contribution to CURAC/ARUCC Award is intended to recognize a university or college retiree who has made an outstanding contribution to CURAC/ARUCC at the national level over a number of years. A nomination for this award must include an appropriate citation (at most one page) outlining the nature of the nominee's exceptional contributions.

#### Tribute Award

The CURAC/ARUCC Tribute Award recognizes an exceptional contribution and/or achievement by a university or college retiree at the local member association level. A nomination for this award requires an appropriate citation (at most one page) outlining the nature of the nominee's post-retirement service and /or achievement which will be assessed for its breadth, depth and significance.

#### Appreciation Award

A Certificate of Appreciation shall be awarded to a university or college retiree who has completed significant service as a member of the CURAC/ARUCC Board or as the Chair of an Association Committee. The Certificate and a brief citation shall be prepared and normally presented at the Annual Banquet or at a time and place convenient to the recipient. Appreciation Awards do not normally require a nomination and are at the prerogative of the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Awards Committee.

#### Association Award

The CURAC/ARUCC Member Association Award is intended to recognize a CURAC/ARUCC member association that is deemed to have

undertaken a significant initiative of benefit to the membership at the local and/or national level. One example might be the hosting of an annual conference, a special workshop, or even a significant social event. The recipient's contribution may be featured by their being offered the opportunity to give a presentation at the next Annual CURAC/ARUCC Conference.. A nomination must include a citation describing the significance of the initiative to be recognized. Self-nominations are acceptable.

#### **Good Read: YURA Newsletter**

As usual, the Fall 2017 edition of the YURA Newsletter contains much that is worth reading. In addition to news you can use, like the article on "improving prescription drug safety for seniors" and related health items, there is an opinion piece by Robert Drummond and two excellent travelogues.

Especially recommended is the tribute to the Editor, **Anne-Marie Ambert**, Professor Emerita of Sociology, on page 3.

#### **ARFL Executive Committee (2016-2017)**

- President – Bob Drummond
- Past President – Al Stauffer
- Vice-President – Saber Saleuddin
- Secretary – Marianne Rogers
- Treasurer – Gene Denzel
- Newsletter Editor – Fred Fletcher
- Pre-Retiree Member- Georges Monette
- Members-at-Large –
  - John Crozier
  - Vivienne Monty
  - Elizabeth Sabiston
  - Glen Norcliffe
  - Brayton Polka
  - Bernard Wolfe
- YURA Representative – John Lennox or Ed Lee-Ruff

Contact information is available on the ARFL website ([www.yuarfl.org](http://www.yuarfl.org)).

# Adventurous Learning: A visit to the Islands of the People

By Fred Fletcher



Touring Haida Gwaii (Islands of the People), formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands, has been a long deferred goal of the Fletchers (my wife Marty and me) for many years. It was part of an extended celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and reflected a long-standing interest in the First Nations of the British Columbia coast.

When my niece recommended Ageless Adventure Tours (a division of Mandate Tours), we signed up immediately for a 7-day adventure. The group – made up of 20 people almost all of whom qualified as seniors and included a number of academics – flew from Vancouver to Massett on Day 1 (July 7).

The archipelago is about 350 kilometres north of Vancouver Island. The southern islands are part of the National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site. Haida Watchmen supervise the

site and control access to beaches, wilderness trails and ancient, abandoned Haida villages.

## Culture and Art

For those interested in culture and art, the tour was a great success. The learning – as much as could be crammed into seven days – began on the first day. After flying from Vancouver to Massett, the group lunched at Agate Beach and visited Naikoon Provincial Park. But the day's highlight was a visit to the home and studio of April While, geologist, community leader / activist and artist. She works in a variety of formats, illustrating not only the traditional designs of the Haida people but also the continuing dynamism of Haida art, which speaks not only of their history and traditions but also to the present and future.

After dinner in her home, April answered questions about her art and her work at the University of B.C. and with government agencies on the future of the fishery. She delivered an amazing impromptu lecture on the environmental situation in Haida Gwaii (logged out; depleted herring fishery). (At least this former professor in environmental studies with a long interest in the B.C. coast was amazed.)

April White (from her website)



Later we learned from April's cousin, Christian White, a community leader and renowned carver, that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find trees (cedar or spruce) big enough for the traditional Haida dugout canoes and totem poles. Through co-management, 50% of islands are now protected, but the cedar stock has been decimated or worse; clear-cutting continues and the industry does not deliver many jobs to Haida people.

### More Art and History

Our second day in Masset featured visits with renowned Haida weaver Georgia Bennett, the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum, and a traditional Longhouse and carving shed hosted by Christian White, a well-known carver and community leader.

Georgia Bennett combines the traditional Haida art of raven's tail weaving with modern colours, creating a whole range of "traditional wearable artwork" (dance skirts, robes, sashes, etc.) One of her blankets is pictured here:



After a stop at the Dixon Entrance Maritime Museum – which had many artefacts of

European settlers – we moved on to a gift shop and then to the Longhouse and carving shed.

### Totem Poles

At dinner in the Longhouse, we were fortunate to have Christian White join our table to share with us as much Haida history and culture as we could absorb. He told us about the important role played by totem poles, story poles (historic event, achievement etc.), memorial poles (life stories) mortuary poles (grave markers), family poles (lineage), all repositories of historical memory. Recently, there have been several pole raisings as the Haida Nation reclaims its territory.



The evening included traditional music, dancing, ceremonial story songs and dances (translated for us), one of which involved cultural relearning from the Coast Salish people on the mainland.

In the carving shed, we were able to see Christian and his apprentice carvers working on a 50-foot pole for an important area of Haida

Gwaii, probably in Gwaii Hanaas, but not yet decided.



Much of Day 3 was taken up by travel from Masset to Queen Charlotte City, soon to be known by its Haida name, with stops for a walk on the Golden Spruce Trail, a logging museum and, happily, a happy hour at our new abode, a chance to compare notes with our fellow adventures. We learned the sad story of the Golden Spruce, an ancient and sacred tree, felled in 1997 by a mad anti-logging activist trying to make a point. Reflecting the forward-looking spirit of the Haida Nation today, a sapling from the Golden Spruce has been planted and looked after at a church in Port Clements.

#### **Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Linagaay**

Day 4 began with a visit to the famous Balance Rock at a local beach, one of those oddities of nature that we all like to see. Much tomfoolery

ensued as various members of our group pretended to hold the rock in place.



The Heritage Centre has an important story to tell and does it well. “Cultural ambassadors” interpret the five totem poles on the grounds and artefacts in the museum. The focus is on the resilience of the Haida people in the face of disease brought by European contact, natural disaster and cultural oppression. The Haida were a trading (and raiding) people who travelled long distances in their large dugout canoes. They acquired sail technology on their travels, which ventured as far south as what is now Mexico.

For those of us hoping to gain a little better understanding of current issues, the explanations of the potlatch and the notion of cultural ownership were particularly helpful. The potlatch – widely misunderstood and even banned by Canadian governments – is explained as a gathering of the clans for legal judgements and agreements, installation of elders as community leaders, community discussions and decisions, marriage and celebration. The exchange of gifts marked the acceptance of judgements and sealed agreements. Gifts also demonstrated social status and were a form of redistribution of wealth.

The interpretive displays also helped us to understand the idea that clans “owned” their songs, stories and the symbols on totem poles and ceremonial garb. These cultural icons, drawn from artistic traditions and historical events, were traded and given as gifts, with exchanges involving clans and other peoples, such as those on the mainland coast.

Unauthorized use involves not only lack of respect for sacred symbols but also a violation of what we might call “moral copyright.” This perspective is perhaps more helpful than the anthropological term “cultural appropriation.”

### **Free Day**

Day 5 was a free day, with options that included a float plane tour of the archipelago and especially of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve. The large national park is co-managed by the federal park service and the Haida Nation. There is an excellent account of the politics surrounding the park in an article by Sheila Delany, “Writing on the edge,” reprinted from the Simon Fraser University Retirees Association Newsletter in this Fall’s YURA Newsletter. Only four of our number chose the tour (at \$700 each) but most participated in a guided hike around Spirit Lake. Marty and I chose to spend time with my niece and her husband on their 42-foot boat, which was docked in Queen Charlotte City awaiting permission to enter Gwaii Haanas. The float plane party returned with a favourable report of the adventure.

### **To Skedans by Zodiac**

Day 6 was entirely taken up by an expedition to the Skedans Village site with Moresby Explorers. This involved a ferry from Graham Island to Moresby Island, a 45-minute van ride on a logging road to the Moresby Camp, where

our zodiacs were waiting. At the launch site, we all donned ankle length heavy rubberized black rain coats, complete with hoods, over our cold weather gear – sweaters, coats, watch caps— and then added colorful PFDs. All decked out we looked some gigantic species of penguin. We zoomed around Moresby on a 12 person zodiac for about 45 to 50 minutes and arrived on a beach near the ruins of the village of Skedans, an important archeological site in the Gwaii Haanas Reserve. After lunch on the beach, we met our guide, one of the Watchmen at Skedans.



The Watchmen guard the site – described by Marty as a “place of power” -- and interpret the history and artefacts for visitors. The village flourished before the population was wiped out by smallpox late in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Its location on a point of land on Cumshewa Inlet was ideal for trade, as well as hunting and fishing. We saw the outlines of longhouses, house poles, a pole in honour of the peaceful chief (who preferred trading to raiding), mortuary poles, memorial poles, etc. All are decaying. As our

Watchman put it, they have either been stolen or have returned to the earth.

Our walk through the ruins was followed by a 1-hour zodiac run back to base; we returned by circumnavigating Louise Island through a channel too shallow at low tide on the way out

Having survived the return zodiac trip, we returned to Graham Island and a tour-end feast at Haida chef Roberta Olson's Keenawaii's Kitchen, which featured local products (salmon, halibut, venison and seaweed, to name a few).

Day 7 featured a tour of Skidegate, where the airport is located and a return flight to Vancouver.

### **Reclaiming the Name ...with Grace**

On June 17, 2010, then B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell joined leaders of the Haida Nation, Hereditary Chiefs, elders and community members in a ceremony in Old Masset to formally return the name Queen Charlotte Islands to the Crown and restore the name Haida Gwaii.

On June 3, the provincial legislature passed the Haida Gwaii Reconciliation Act that legally restored the name and created the foundation for joint decision-making between the government and the Haida Nation.

The name Queen Charlotte Islands was given to the islands in 1787 by George Dixon, a fur trader and captain of the vessel, Queen Charlotte, named for the wife of King George III. As Guujaaw, President of the Haida Nation put it that day:

“We received our life and our culture from Haida Gwaii. Haida Gwaii is not

only where we are, it is who we are. While we cannot unwind history, we will leave colonialism behind us, as we have laid the foundation for a respectful relationship into the future.”

In order to return the name respectfully, the Haida Nation had “Queen Charlotte Islands” inscribed on a scroll and placed in a bentwood box, much like the one pictured here. The box remained in the B.C. Parliament Buildings in Victoria (Mak'toli) until October 2016, when it was presented to the Duke of Cambridge to be taken back to Kensington Palace, from whence it came.



The full story is told in Gwaliga Hart's film, “Giving Back the Name with Respect.”

Haida Gwaii currently has a population of about 5,000, half of whom are Haida. There are also significant Haida populations on the mainland and Vancouver Island.

### **Epilogue**

The organization, the accommodation, the group, the food, the experience ... were all

splendid. The access offered by the tour would be difficult to duplicate privately. The tour was designed for active seniors, some of whom helped to turn afternoon rest periods into happy hours, and the scheduling worked well.

For further information, consult the Ageless Adventures tab on the Mandate Tours website (<http://www.mandatetours.com/>).

### **Further Reading**

John Vaillant, *The Golden Spruce: A true story of myth, madness and greed.*

Glen Coulthard, *Red skin, white masks.*

*Rejecting the colonial politics of recognition.*

Karen Duffek, (ed.) *Bill Reid and beyond.*

*Expanding on modern native art.*

Dennis Horwood, *Haida Gwaii: A Guide to BC's Islands of the People*, Expanded 5th Edition