

U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



*On Behalf of the Kwakwaka'wakw
The Board of Directors
of The U'mista Cultural Society
Invites You To A Preview Celebration of
"The Spirit Lodge"
In The General Motors Pavilion
Expo 86
2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 20th, 1986*

APRIL 1986

Since our November 1985 newsletter, the U'mista Cultural Centre has been busy with a number of activities and special visits, which we'd like to tell our members about.

GIFT SHOP

The Pre-Christmas sale was a success and Davina Hunt, our Gift Manager/Receptionist/Social Convenor/etc., has been working on building up the shop's stock for the summer tour season. There is a good selection of jewellery, books, carvings, prints and some baskets. A brand new item for sale is a poster, based on Doug Cranmer's house front design for "Spirit Lodge". (More about that later) Priced at \$20.00, the poster is available in limited quantities, so get yours soon.

VISITORS

As is usual during the winter months, we have not had many visitors, but during the Easter break, we have had some people in. Special visitors included four representatives from the Blood Reserve in Alberta, who came in January to look at our Centre, as the Blood tribe are planning to build its own museum. Our staff and volunteers hosted a dinner for our guests, which was attended by our Board members, Nimpkish Band Councillors and our old people. On behalf of the Blood Band, our visitors signed up for a family membership - it might be said that the membership of the U'mista Cultural Society increased by 6,000 in one day! At a Board meeting following the Blood visit, our directors discussed the matter of group memberships for bands or tribes. At the present time our constitution does not have any provision for group memberships, so an amendment will be proposed to the membership at the Annual General meeting in June.

At the end of March, we welcomed visitors from the Ministry of Tourism; Michael Horsey, Deputy Minister, Frank Hussey, Tourism Development Manager and Lynda Cronin, Director of Public Affairs. A few of our Board members were available to meet with our visitors in the morning, during lunch and in the early afternoon. We were later joined by representatives of the Nimpkish Band Council, Musquam Tribal Council, Mount Waddington Regional District and the

mayor of Alert Bay. The meeting was useful in that we now have a good idea of what the Ministry of Tourism has to offer us. Mr. Horsey made some very helpful suggestions and we will follow up on these as soon as possible. Tourism development is an area that we have not paid much attention to in the past, but after our discussions with our Ministry visitors, we can see some real potential for the future.

Also related to Tourism, is the plan for a Native Tourism conference to be held in Alert Bay either in late summer or early fall. The conference will be hosted by the U'mista Cultural Centre and will be attended by delegates from Vancouver Island Indian communities. Cultural Centre staff will be working on planning the conference, with Christina Mader who previously worked on the First Peoples' Festival project.

SPIRIT LODGE

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have a contract with Commerce Communications to act as consultants for the show being developed for the GM Pavilion at Expo '86. In February, Bob Rogers and his crew came up to record our singing group for the show, "Spirit Lodge". Later, Doug and Bill Cranmer travelled to Vancouver to participate in auditions for the show's actors. On April 20th, our Board of Directors is hosting a party to preview "Spirit Lodge" and we are busy finalizing plans for the celebration.

Our involvement with "Spirit Lodge" is giving us a good opportunity to tell people about our Centre, as well as providing us with some revenue. In addition to the poster mentioned earlier, there will be a small book about the show, with part of the material being written by U'mista people.

At the present time, our plan is to purchase a 15-passenger van with the funds generated by our contract with Commerce Communications. This will enable us to provide transportation for our members to various functions in other communities, such as potlatches, visits to museums, etc.

Our cover design for this newsletter is a copy of the invitation to the "Spirit Lodge" party. We wish we could have invited all our members, but the theatre only seats 120.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members and thank them for their support:

Mary Weiler	Wayne Alfred
Pat Simpson	Harry Simonian
Bobby Duncan	Rod Thurber
Deedee Peterson	Alec & Louise McCarthy
Audrey Nasmyth	Debra Bell
Howard Follington	Blood Tribe
Bob Rogers	Aldon Pompano
Ken Toy	Lee Weigold
Kate Lindsay	Elsie Carter
Richard Conn	Jamie Shaughnessy

We also thank the following people for renewing their memberships and continuing to support the U'mista Cultural Centre:

Ethel Scow	Shirley Mazerolle
Anna Holbech	Lynn Wiltse
Audrey Halsey	Caroline Wesley
John Anderson	Charles MacAulay
Chuck Olin	Kathleen Bullock
Philip Alfred, Jr.	Margaret Smith
Clara M. Tervo	Margaret Sirois
Pat Orcas	Gerry Ambers
Christina Cook	Verna Ambers
Wed+idi Speck	Ernest Alfred
Elizabeth Weigold	Bobby Stadnyk
Fran Dick	Hans Amering
Michael Jackson	Andrew Alfred
Ernie Collison	Pauline Alfred
Peggy Martin	Phil Nuytten
Laurie Wolford	Deedee Alfred
Donna Cranmer	Colleen Proctor
Ed Newman	Barbara Cranmer
Stella Beans	Greg Shoop
James Leslie	Joy Wild
Richard George	Patsy Cook
Maureen Cook	Frederic Grunfeld
Chris Cook, Jr.	

Your membership and support are so important to the success of the Cultural Centre, especially during these times of restraint when outside funding sources are becoming increasingly difficult to identify. We depend on our members and are grateful for your interest in the Centre.

PROJECT NORTH

In March, Vera Cranmer, one of our strong supporting members, travelled to Victoria at the invitation of Project North, a group sponsored by the Anglican Church. Vera showed both our films and spoke about our Centre to a well-attended meeting. She reports that response to her presentation was very good and we are thankful to Vera for taking on this job for us.

KWAKWALA TEACHER TRAINING PROJECT

It hardly seems possible that almost three years has gone by since we started the Kwakwala Teacher Training Project, but it has been that long. The final regular workshop with Vickie Jensen and Joy Wild will take place in mid-April, with formal graduation exercises to take place later. In May, Jay Powell will offer a an intensive 6-day course on reading and writing Kwakwala and we will be sending notices out to all bands in the area with details.

The project has been a valuable one for people involved in teaching, some of whom now plan to register for a teacher training program being offered by Simon Fraser University. Our thanks to Vickie, Joy and Jay for making KFTP a success.

SPECIFIC CLAIM

In late November, 1985, Bob Joseph, Don Assu, Rod Naknakim of the Kwakiutl Museum and Gloria Cranmer Webster of our Centre travelled to Toronto to with representatives of the Royal Ontario Museum. Some progress was made in negotiating the return of the Potlatch material held by ROM and we expect to meet with members of the ROM Board of Trustees, representatives of the National Museum and DIAN in the near future, in Vancouver, at our request. We hope that the upcoming meeting will speed up the process which has taken much longer than we had anticipated.

CONFERENCE

From June 23 to 27, a conference will be held in Jokkmokk, Sweden, the topic of which will be "Museums and Cultural Continuity of Indigenous People". The conference is being sponsored by the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO and will involve fifty representatives of indigenous groups from countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Japan, United States, Canada (Inuit and Northwest Coast), as well as African, Latin American and Scandinavian countries. The curator of the U'mista Cultural Centre has been invited to participate, on the recommendation of Nancy Fuller, Smithsonian Institution and Malcolm Arth, an anthropologist from New York. The invitation is a reflection on the reputation that the U'mista Cultural Centre has established since its opening and the conference will provide a good opportunity to share with other native people from around the world. Although UNESCO will pay for part of the cost of the trip, the total cost is not covered, so an application is being made to the Canadian Museums Association bursary program for a contribution.

OUTREACH

In the last two months, we have had requests from representatives of our people, who live in Vancouver and Victoria, for help in developing programs. The Centre has provided copies of tapes, written material and books. In doing so, we are carrying out the aims and objectives of our constitution

SALMONISTA VIDEO

The Salmonista Video Crew is still actively involved in making videos. The Kwakiutl District Council hired the crew to make a Self-Government video tape. It gave the video crew an opportunity to try out their newly-acquired skills learned from the six-week video training course, with Judy Hoffman.

Two members of the crew just returned from a trip to Vancouver and Victoria. We visited the University of Victoria's Audio Visual Department, then set up interviews with Kwakwaka'wakw living in Victoria. We interviewed six people at the Victoria Friendship

Centre and the topic was leadership. Also video-taped was a Project North meeting at which Vera Cranmer was guest speaker. Some reel-to-reel tapes of Nimpkish Band Land Claims meetings from as far back as 1974 were taken to Vancouver for transfer to cassette tapes. The cost of these was covered by the Kwakiutl District Council. As well, our equipment was taken down for cleaning. In March, we taped the Expo Talent Showcase in Port Hardy.

Now, the Salmonista Video Crew is anticipating future projects in the next few months. We are available to any organization or individual, who wishes to hire the crew. For further information, phone 974-5403 and ask for either Gerry Ambers or Barbara Cranmer.

SUMMER JOBS

Although we have not received confirmation, an application has been made to Canada Employment and Immigration for three positions for summer students, to work as tour guides at the Cultural Centre. The positions are open to students, between the ages of 16 and 24, who will be returning to school in September. Applicants must be registered with the Employment Centre in Port Hardy. As soon as we hear that our application has been approved, we will be placing posters around town, with details.

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From a letter received in December from the Minister of Tourism:

"I have just been made aware of the success enjoyed by your film, "Box of Treasures" and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and other members of the U'mista Cultural Society for the CINE Golden Eagle Award as well as the Blue Ribbon Award at the American Film Festival.

These are very impressive and well deserved honours which reflect great credit on your Society and all Native people in British Columbia."

Note: sales and rentals of "Box of Treasures" continue to bring revenue to the Centre and negotiations are underway to have the film included in a proposed 13-part series on television in Canada and the U.S. Also, there is a possibility of a deal with a French network for the same series.