

Cultural Heritage Resource Management

The Cultural Heritage Resource Management course, in participation with North Island College, was offered for the second time this year. It is a certificate programme that encompasses aboriginal cultures around the world, then focuses on the origins of the First Peoples of North America.

The first term began in February and ran for four months. Throughout the course students raised money for their end of term field trip to the Royal BC Museum in Victoria. Part of their research was on Cultural Tourism business opportunities, so on the way to the museum they visited the IHOS Centre in Comox and the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre in Duncan. Both locations offered a number of informative ideas and support.

The museum experience itself was a fantastic opportunity for the youth, who were able to see first

hand, some of the items created by their ancestors. The details and quality of workmanship in many of the pieces were inspiring and the experience was obviously an emotional one for everybody.

The second term began in September and focuses on the Fundamentals of Aboriginal Management and the Management of Cultural Heritage Resources.

Students are covering issues such as: the struggle for protection of "archaeological" sites; the repatriation of artifacts being housed in museums and collections around the world; defining cultural heritage, by and for, First Nations; and individual community protocols.

They will be looking at the agreements about cultural heritage resources that have already been negotiated and will also be taking an in-depth look at established

First Nations Interpretive and Cultural Centres.

The CHRM class, in conjunction with LOMCS, are planning a trip at the end of this term to include the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The AMNH currently houses the Whaler's Shrine, perhaps the most famous North West Coast artifact currently being kept in a foreign location.

There is a great deal of controversy over the shrine and what should be done with it, but there is no denying that it was created by our ancestors and is a part of who we are as a people. We want to include some of our youth and our elders in this wonderful opportunity, as a way to keep that spirit, that connection, alive in our young people. It is so important that they understand the significance of these things and the discussions around them.

SUMMER INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM A SUCCESS!

This summer we had two Heritage Interpreters working aboard the Uchuck III and at Yuquot.

Carleen Jack mentored with Margarita James the Young Canada Works Summer Student Program. She has run the program for a number of years, this summer, in an effort to get new people involved in passing on the cultural relevance of this site to visitors. Carleen assisted with passengers on route via the Uchuck III and helped conduct interpretive tours at Yuquot once they had arrived.

Charlene Jack was sponsored by the Land of Maquinna Cultural Society to host a program that shared with visitors, her family's traditional cultural responsibilities.

Both students were able to develop their own interpretive programs. They were well received and we are hoping to be able to provide these services again next summer.



Nis'Maas

'solid, well rooted, always there'

In 2004-2005 the MMFN commissioned a report, funded by Parks Canada, to start the 'Yuquot Interpretive Centre Planning Project'. The project included a final report, an interpretation plan and a design concept.

The purpose of the work was to create a report that would enable the MMFN to identify what was needed/wanted and at the same time, move ahead

towards some specific architectural concepts and design work, and into some cost and feasibility analysis. Those plans have been complete for a number of years now.

IANADC has suggested we move forward with the ideas outlined in the report, and commit to a five year plan that would see the facility constructed and finally have our dreams of welcoming the world, become a reality.