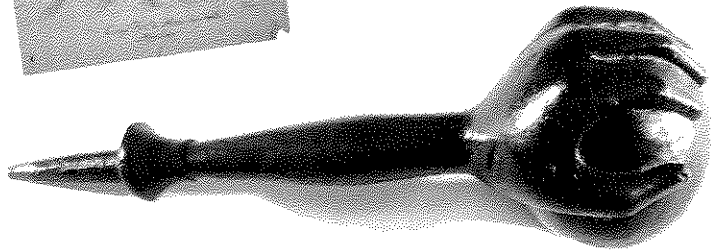


# LAND OF MAQUINNA CULTURAL SOCIETY



CEREMONIAL CLUB

## PURPOSE OF SOCIETY:

- To advance the education of the MMFN's cultural, historical and artistic heritage
- To advance education by collecting, recovering, preserving and exhibiting artifacts and records
- To assist with the building, furnishing and maintenance of facilities to house such items
- To increase the public's appreciation of aboriginal culture

## Historic Artifact Returned

In March, Society President Margarita James was on hand for a very special occasion. A centuries old artifact, believed to have been gifted to Captain James Cook during his visit to Nootka Sound in 1778, was returned to Canada; donated to the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology by art collector, Michael Audain.

During the ceremony Mr. Audain spoke about the importance of the artifact. "This ceremonial club," he said, "has immense historical and cultural value. I am delighted to play a part in its return to Canada's west coast. While certain Nuu-chah-nulth objects collected by Cook exist in museums abroad - for example, in London, Berlin and Vienna - this is the first and only in Canada. With our foundation's donation, I hope to encourage the repatriation of other Northwest Coast art works to public museums and cultural centres in British Columbia."

The Club, now valued at \$1.2 million, is a one of a kind carving in the shape of a hand holding a sphere. It is made from the wood of a yew tree and was assumed to be a weapon. However the museum is investigating to try and determine just how the artifact might have been used.

## 2012 SUMMERFEST & POLE RAISING PROJECT

This summer the Land of Maquinna Cultural Society, in conjunction with the Truth and Reconciliations Commissions of Canada, created an opportunity for two youth from Tsaxana to apprentice under Master Carver Sanford Williams. They carved a pole, that was then raised at Yuquot. The pole, a Nuu-chah-nulth figure with his arms held forward in greeting, stands atop four faces, each with an arm held out and facing a different direction. They represent 'all people', welcoming the world and inviting everyone to share this special place.

Many people helped to get the pole ready and Bruce Mark Jr and Maximus Savey, who apprenticed with Sanford to create the figure, went out to the cove at the beginning of July to start learning and working. The young men were proud and grateful for the opportunity to participate in the creation of the first pole raised in Yuquot in 93 years.

The day was also dedicated to late Chief Ambrose Maquinna who helped create a renewed interest in Aboriginal Tourism 20 years ago. At that time the MMFN became involved in Provincial Tourism Planning, which led to the creation of the Yuquot Cabins, the Muchalat Marina and Summer Tours at Yuquot.

Aboriginal Tourism is the largest growing tourism sector in the Province and we are proud to have been a part of it for more than two decades.

