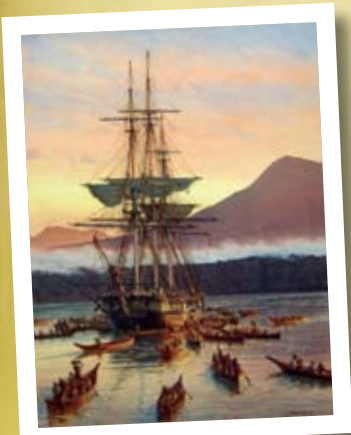




Clayoquot River Valley in the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park is in the heart of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations territory - Adrian Dorst. **Top:** West Coast Wild Adventures billboard - Eli Enns. **Bottom:** Tofino welcome sign.

CLAYOQUOT REBORN



Clayoquot Sound has been an international destination for over two hundred years, and has seen its share of conflicts — from the battle that sank the merchant ship Tonquin in 1811 to the protests over plans to clearcut log Meares Island in 1984. But a new day of cooperation is dawning in Clayoquot with exciting prospects for local economies and ecosystems.

The lands and waters of the Tla-o-qui-aht are located in Clayoquot Sound. Their territory encompasses the communities of Opitsat, Esowista and Tofino plus all of the surrounding forests, rivers, lakes, ocean inlets and islands, where they have lived since the beginning of time. The Tla-o-qui-aht are one of the Nuu-chah-nulth

nations, whose combined territories cover western Vancouver Island.

Clayoquot Sound is a wildly beautiful place, rich in wildlife, ancient forests, beaches, inlets, islands, indigenous culture and history.

The **Hawiih**, or hereditary chiefs of the Tla-o-qui-aht, have long sought to ensure that the territory is not mistreated or over-harvested. In modern times, with increasing pressures from industrial logging, fishing and mining the *Hawiihs'* task has gotten more difficult with each passing year.

On April 21, 1984 the Tla-o-qui-aht proclaimed Meares Island as a Tribal Park, and were supported by their neighbors, the Ahousat First Nations. First protests, then a court case mounted by the tribes of Clayoquot Sound finally succeeded in fending off the logging company, MacMillan Bloedel, who wanted to log Meares.

In 1993 plans by MacMillan Bloedel to log in the Tla-o-qui-aht's Clayoquot River Valley and other pristine valleys of Clayoquot sound touched off a massive series of environmental protests, with participation of thousands of people from across Canada and beyond.

By the late 1990's the Tla-o-qui-aht and the other Nuu-chah-nulth tribes of Clayoquot Sound had gained controlling interest in MacMillan Bloedel's cutting rights (eventually owning them outright). They had also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with environment groups, committing to not log in the pristine valleys of Clayoquot Sound.

Now, a decade later, the Tla-o-qui-aht have announced their latest nation-building initiative – the **Ha'uukmin Tribal Park**. In the Nuu-chah-nulth language, Ha'uukmin means 'like a great feast bowl', which speaks of its former abundance. The tribal park encompasses the entire watershed known today as Kennedy Lake. Its boundaries extend far beyond the shores of Kennedy Lake, encompassing 500 sq km of mountain peaks, backcountry trails, ancient forests and salmon rivers. The Ha'uukmin Tribal Park is a great place to go to experience the amazing mountain rainforest of Tla-o-qui-aht territory.

Read on to find out how you can visit and help the Tla-o-qui-aht better manage this special place.



Left: The Tonquin Overwhelmed, June 1811 - Mark Myers
Top: 1984 Save Meares Island protest at Legislature
Bottom: Chief Moses Martin and young people at recent picnic – Carla Moss

WILD FUN

INFORMATION INSIDE!

A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF FRANCIS FRANK



KLECO KLECO

There are many good memories of the time back in 1984 when we worked to protect Meares Island, but the momentous time was when our elected chief then, Moses Martin, stood on the shores asking in his respectful manner of the logging company to not destroy **our garden**.

Three other images that always come to mind was the March to the Parliament steps in Victoria with all of Nuuchah-nulth supporting and following our Hawiith. Then to see our Hawiith stand on the Parliament steps making

clearly known how much they value **our garden**.

Then of course, it all culminates to the day the court ruling was announced and we succeeded! Vividly, I still see those images of the late George Watts flying in and hand delivering the verdict to our people, you could just see the pride he carried in a few words.

Meares Island is what galvanized the sheer support, strength and determination of our people. We were united behind one clear cause and there was no cloudiness as to what we wanted to achieve and how we wanted to achieve it.

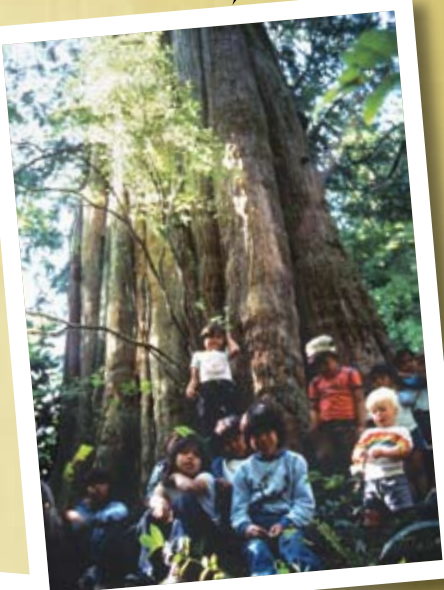
Tribal Parks are but a modern day version of how our Hawiith, and their advisors managed and protected our resources without jeopardizing our future yet being in a strong position to deliver the immediate economic needs. The Tribal Parks clearly reflect how we want to manage man within the park instead of your conventional parks where they work to manage keeping man out of the park.

Tribal Parks is a fundamental engine towards not just bringing to life our management practices and beliefs but also revitalizing the strength of our Hawiith's governance model so that there are plenty of resources for our generations ahead.

CHOO

Chief Francis Frank

Elected chief councilor of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations



Top: 1984 Kids and a Meares Island redcedar
Centre: 1984 Save Meares rally
Bottom: 1984 Chief Moses Martin



HA'UUKMIN TRIBAL PARK IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND



BACKPACKING THE CLAYOQUOT VALLEY

When people think of Tofino and Clayoquot Sound, images of white surf on endless ocean beaches surrounded by emerald green islands and mountains come to mind. But Clayoquot Sound also has the biggest cluster of unlogged river valleys remaining on Vancouver Island. Within the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park lies the Clayoquot River Valley in the heart of Tla-o-qui-aht territory.

In 1993 members of the Wilderness Committee teamed up with Tla-o-qui-aht people to construct a hiking trail into the ancient forest there. A backpack trip to Norgar Lake in Clayoquot Valley is a once in a lifetime experience. See the Wilderness Committee's web site for trail info at **wildernesscommittee.org** For guided hikes check out WestCoast Wild Adventures' web site at **www.wcwild.com**



Top right: Camping on upper Kennedy River; **Middle right:** Joe Martin builds canoe in uuya tuknis zone – Eli Enns; **Bottom right:** Salmon barbecue at Tin Wis – Tin Wis; **Bottom left:** Traditional dugout canoes at Opitsat - Eli Enns; **Top left:** 1993 Cory Charlie making signs for Clayoquot Trail.

Article below: top: Lion in the Serengeti - Sam Turner; **Bottom:** Black bear in Clayoquot Sound - TJ Simmons.

DESIGNING HA'UUKMIN

For several years Parks Canada has helped to fund and support planners from the Tla-o-qui-aht, who have worked hard to design a management plan for the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park that remains true to the vision of the Hawiuh of a protected area which integrates economies with ecosystems. The Ha'uukmin Tribal Park greatly adds to the ecological integrity of the nearby **Pacific Rim National Park**.

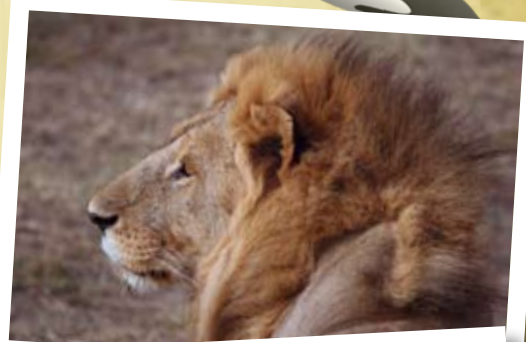
In addition, the Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks have just gained some important new partners. The Canada-Africa Research and Learning Alliance under their Poverty Reduction and Protected Areas program has linked planners from the **Serengeti National Park** of

Tanzania and the University of Victoria to support the on-going work to manage the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park.

What the planners came up with is a two-zone Tribal Park. A recovery zone known in the Nuuh-chah-nulth language as **uuya tuknis (we take care of)** takes in most of Kennedy Lake and the lands that surround it, as well as the Highway 4 corridor. Here the Tla-o-qui-aht would allow single tree selection logging, small hydro development, and tourism development such as fishing, boating, mountain biking, a **zip line** and lodge. Restoration of forest and stream health damaged by earlier poor logging practices is a priority in this zone to bring salmon numbers back to

former abundance. A demonstration **salmon weir** is located here to show traditional ways of salmon fishing that properly manages the resource.

A protection zone known as **qwa siin hap (leave as it is for now)** takes in the pristine upper Kennedy and Clayoquot River valleys, as well as part of the Clayoquot Arm of Kennedy Lake. Here no logging or industrial activities are allowed. Light tourism such as backpacking, hiking and camping as well as scientific research on salmon, wildlife and ancient forests are encouraged. Preservation of the ancient forest ecosystem is a priority in this zone.



REMEMBERING RIVER OTTER DREAMS...

A young man and his grandmother were travelling down river by canoe. They travelled with a full load of salmon, on their way to join the rest of the nation at the winter village site. Unexpectedly, the universe welled up under one side of the canoe tipping it and spilling its contents into the rushing river.

Paddles in hand, the two were able to pull themselves and the canoe up onto the river bank; but the salmon store was lost to the current.

Grandmother told the distraught young man about a place up river where a plentiful salmon run ran late.

Grandmother explained that she would wait in the canoe for him, and cautioned that he should not go too far up the river, adding, "Only take what you need to restore what was lost." He listened with gratefulness; that he was going to have a chance to redeem his name.

Upon arriving up river,

grandson was overwhelmed at how many fish there were. He leapt into the river and started collecting fish. As he leapt forward his grandmother's words of warning faded away behind him.

Suddenly he realised how far up the river he had come, and how many fish he had already collected. He looked around and in the stillness he heard singing. His curiosity piqued, he made his way over and climbed up onto a fallen tree. Now standing, grandson could peer over the bough to see where the singing was coming from.

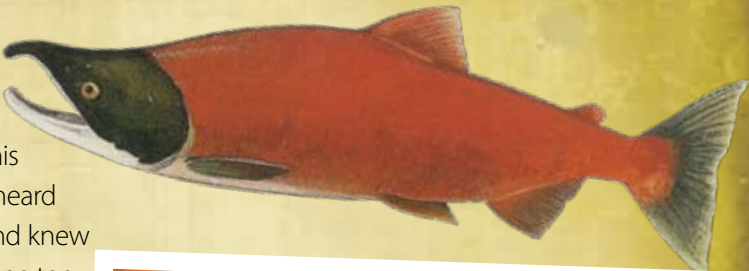
Not far away, a group of strange looking people were doing a ceremony around a fire. Their bodies were covered in a short dense hair that glistened in the light of the fire and they did not stand quite straight.

One of the largest looked up at grandson and their eyes met.

Startled, grandson turned to flee and lost his balance, falling to the ground where he hit his head losing consciousness. When he awoke, his body was polluted with thousands of embryonic river otters. In a panic he started running back down along the river.

Down below his grandmother heard him coming and knew that he had gone too far. She started a fire and began preparing a medicine wash for him. Following his frantic arrival, the grandmother worked on him for many long hours.

The sun was coming up by time she was done. They climbed back into the canoe with what salmon store they could gather; no more than they needed. Grandson realized his destiny. His story would live on for many generations to come, teaching others the importance of humility and only taking what you need from the resources around you.



Right top, bottom: Tla-o-ook Cultural Adventures dugout cedar canoes and mask - Tla-o-ook
Left photo: Clayoquot Freedom Charters and happy fishers - Carla Moss



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE HA'UUKMIN TRIBAL PARK!

Contact Premier Campbell, and tell him how much you support and appreciate the Tla-o-qui-aht's Tribal Park in the heart of Clayoquot Sound.

Hon. Gordon Campbell, Premier of B.C.

Room 156, Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 1X4
Phone: (250) 387-1715 Fax: (250) 387-0087
Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

FUN! WEST COAST STYLE

Here are a few listings of some folks that can make your West Coast adventure come alive. For a more complete list see Tofino Tourism's website below.

Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks

Tel: (250) 266-0471

www.tribalparks.ca

WestCoast Wild Adventures Ltd.

Come see the Ha'uukmin Tribal Park with Zip Line and River Kayaking Eco-Educational Tours. A portion included in the ticket price goes towards the Tla-o-qui-aht Salmon Enhancement Fund.

Ph: (250) 726-8668

Email: info@wcwild.com

www.wcwild.com

Tla-ook Cultural Adventures, Tofino

Gisele Martin guides dugout canoe trips, guided hikes, trips to Meares Island Big Tree Trail
Ph: (250) 725-2656

Toll Free: 1-877-942-2663

www.tlaook.com

Clayoquot Freedom Charters, Tofino

Moses Martin guides fishing, whale and bear watching, custom boat tours, trips to Meares Big Tree Trail
Ph: (250) 725-2765
Toll Free: 1-866-725-2765

Best Western Tin-Wis Resort

located 3 km outside of Tofino, in

the beautiful and pristine heart of Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, BC. Positioned on the traditional territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations.

1119 Pacific Rim Highway
Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0
Ph: (250) 725-4445

Toll Free: 1-800-661-9995

Email: info@tinwis.com

www.tinwis.com

Tourism Tofino

For an extensive listing of West Coast purveyors of fun
www.tourismtofino.com

I SUPPORT THE TLA-O-QUI-AHT FIRST NATIONS' TRIBAL PARK!

Here is my donation towards the Tla-o-qui-aht Ha'uukmin Tribal Park initiative.


Enclosed is: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____ EMAIL _____

 **call**
Tel: (250) 266-0471
Toll Free 1-888-425-3350

 **clip**
And send to:
Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks
Box 18
Tofino, BC, V0R 2Z0



YES! I support the Wilderness Committee's work to protect Clayoquot Sound

Enclosed is: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Fed. reg. charity #11929-3009-RR0001

I want to become a member! Enclosed is my annual fee for a:

☐ \$35 Individual Membership ☐ \$52 Family Membership


NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____ EMAIL _____

The Wilderness Committee is Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation organization.

 **call**
In the Lower Mainland
call (604) 683-8220;
In Canada call toll-free
1-800-661-9453

 **clip**
And return to the:
Wilderness Committee
227 Abbott Street
Vancouver, BC, V6B 2K7



Credits

Writing and Editing: Eric Doherty, Eli Enns, Joe Foy, Chief Francis Frank, Mathew Sasaki.
Design: Gil Aguilar, Sue Fox.
Mapping: Geoff Senichenko.
Photos: Wilderness Committee files except where noted.

Wilderness Committee
Vol. 28, No 3, Summer 2009. Canadian Mail Product Sales Agreement No. 0900567. Posted in Vancouver for free distribution. Printed in Canada on recycled newsprint with vegetable-based inks. **Press Run 70,000** © Wilderness Committee 2009. All rights reserved. Written material may be used without permission when credit is given.

Co-published by
Wilderness Committee — National Office
227 Abbott Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 2K7
T: (604) 683-8220 F: (604) 683-8229

Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks
Box 18, Tofino, BC
V0R 2Z0

tribalparks.ca
wildernesscommittee.org

