



Homalco Wildlife Tours

In conjunction with the

Homalco Hatchery Reform 2009

ISLAND COASTAL ECONOMIC TRUST

Final Report

Stage 2



Prepared by Shawn O'Connor

March, 2015



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
Project Name and Applicant Information	2
Contact:.....	2
Key Personnel During Project:	2
Context For The Project	3
Project Objectives	3
Summary Of Work And Methodology	4
Statement Of Completion Of Project Objectives	6
Explanations For Incomplete Project Objectives	8
Explanations If Work Is Different From Proposal	8
Number of temporary jobs created during construction	9
Number of permanent new jobs created (if possible)	9
Other Information - Economic Impact Of The Project	10
Lessons Learned, Best Practices Development.....	11
Media coverage the project has received (please attach media stories.....	13
Photographs Of Project In Final Stages	18
Financial Statement of Completion	19
Acknowledgment	20



Project Name and Applicant Information

The application was prepared under the name of: **THE HOMALCO NATION**

The Project name is the: **HOMALCO WILDLIFE TOURS.**

Contact:

Alison Trenholm, 1218 Bute Crescent, Campbell River, BC, V9H 1G5

Tel: 250.923.0612; Fax: 250.923.6321; E: Alison.Trenholm@homalco.com

Key Personnel During Project:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Chief Richard Harry, | Chief Councilor HFN |
| • Alison Trenholm, | Band Administrator |
| • Don C Sinclair R.P.Bio, | Project Biologist |
| • Shawn O'Connor, DFin | Administrative Support |
| • James Francis, Management | Site Manager / Technician |
| • Maryanne Enevoldsen | Cultural Adviser |
| • Dan Dwyer | Conservation Consultant |
| • Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) | Technical Committee |



Present Chief and Council of Homalco First Nation, From Left to right: Curtis Blaney, Chief Maryanne Enevoldsen, Darren Blaney, Dorothy Paul, absent from the photo is Alison Trenholm



Context For The Project

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- Provide a world class tourism site for wilderness (grizzly bear) tours,
- Promote and offer tourists diverse exhibits of the North Vancouver Island Region,
- Capitalize on existing Orford Hatchery Infrastructure,
- Create long-term economic benefits and sustainable employment opportunities,
- Generate economic activity in an environmentally sound manner,
- Increase understanding of the Homalco Nation and the Orford Hatchery,
- Advance the capital spending on the recently completed Orford Salmon Hatchery Capital Upgrade Project (funded by the Homalco Nation, Coast Sustainability Trust and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada; with donations from the Ritchie Foundation, Marine Harvest Canada, and London Enterprises Ltd; owners of the world class Sonora Resort),
- Promote North Vancouver Island as a destination for world class wilderness experiences,
- Entertain partnership opportunities, and work with all levels of government.

The Homalco Wildlife Tours Project with the ICET met all of the above objectives. We have provided a setting and format that has been recognized as a world class bear viewing opportunity.

We capitalized on existing infrastructure, picking up from earlier capital projects that repaired infrastructure to the Orford Hatchery facility.

The operation has an outlook for long-term economic benefits and employment opportunities providing tours and information about the Homalco Nation and the Bute Inlet area.

Partnerships have been forged with tour providers; this helped provide the economic benefits while keeping capital expenditures to a minimum. Vessels needed for transport were sourced from Whale watching operations, which extended their fall seasons significantly.



Summary Of Work And Methodology

The reorganization of the Homalco Wildlife Tours began with the 2009 season. Homalco Wildlife Tours Inc. (HWT) was created to organize the business activities for the bear watching business. An incremental approach to develop the business was adapted. Priorities were identified and a work plan developed which resulted as follows:

- **Year 1 - Infrastructure (2009 Season)**
 - Repair Infrastructure to Hatchery,
 - Repair work vessel for crew changes and freight,
 - Paint and decal small bus,
 - Negotiate new deal with Tour Providers,
 - Select Employees,
 - Provide Bear Aware and Safety Training.
- **Year 2 - Bricks and Mortar (2010 Season)**
 - Install Orientation Center building
 - Placement of rock to protect river bank and chum salmon Habitat
 - Construct 2 new towers
- **Year 3 - Tour Guide Training and Orientation Center Display (2011 Season)**
 - Customer Experience Training (Sonora Resort / London Enterprises)
 - New Uniforms
 - Carvings located on-site
- **Year 4 - Logistics, Content and Display (2012 Season)**
 - Purchased third tour bus,
 - Bought 24 Passenger bus,
 - 12 Passenger Diesel Bus broke down,
 - Develop aboriginal theme,
 - More art work for facility and Orientation Center,
 - More rock placement and road repair along Orford River to save access.

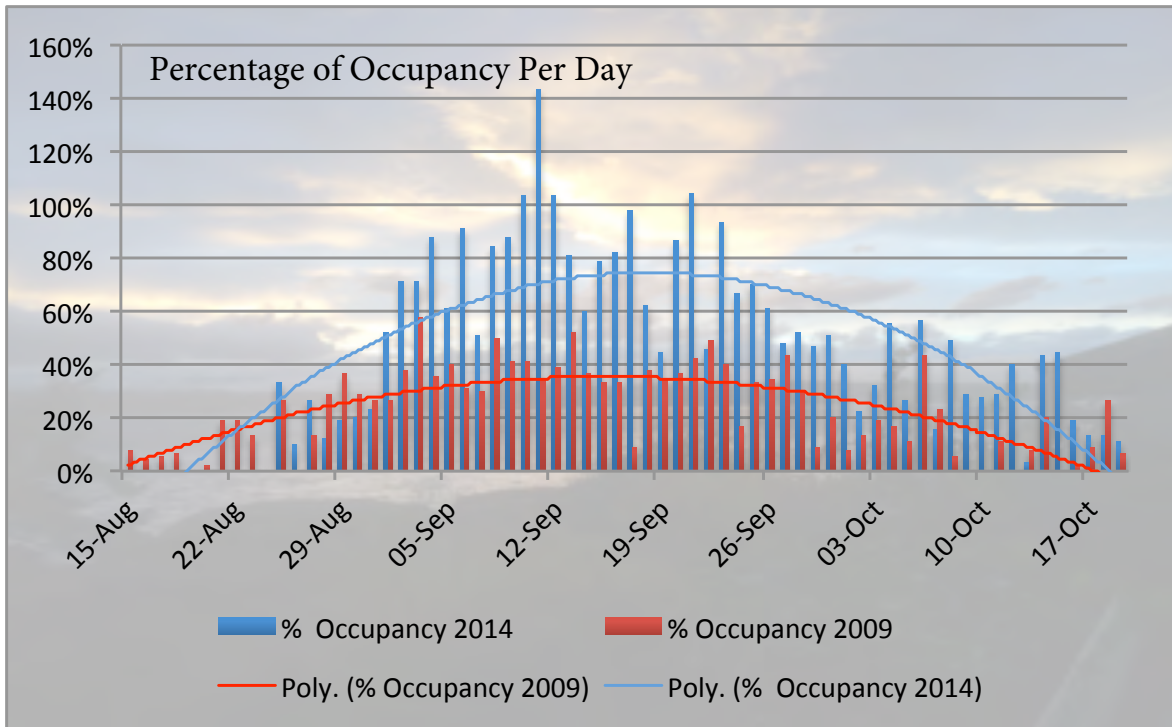




- **Year 5 – Capacity shift on-site (2013 Season)**
 - o Purchased 12 passenger van for community
 - o Took 15 passenger community van to Orford for Orford Operations
- **Year 6 –Capacity at dock increased, Content and Display (2014 Season)**
 - o Purchased 3 X 40 foot dock sections (\$55,000)
 - o Provided Stewardship Training, the Essential Fisheries Field Skills Certificate program for 11 Band members (6 youth in Program)
 - o Sent the 12 passenger Van (Band owned) to HWT operation
 - o Purchased a 7 passenger van for in-town pick-up and delivery and community use (while 12 passenger Van in Orford)
 - o Participated in the ATBC Tourism Conference Whistler, BC
 - o Added an artist on-site for Orientation Center attraction
- **Year 7 – Spring Summer Program initiated**



In the fall of 2014 there were over 20 workers at the Homalco facility in Orford bay



Percentage occupancy 2009 vs 2014 demonstrates growth and peak season full occupancy

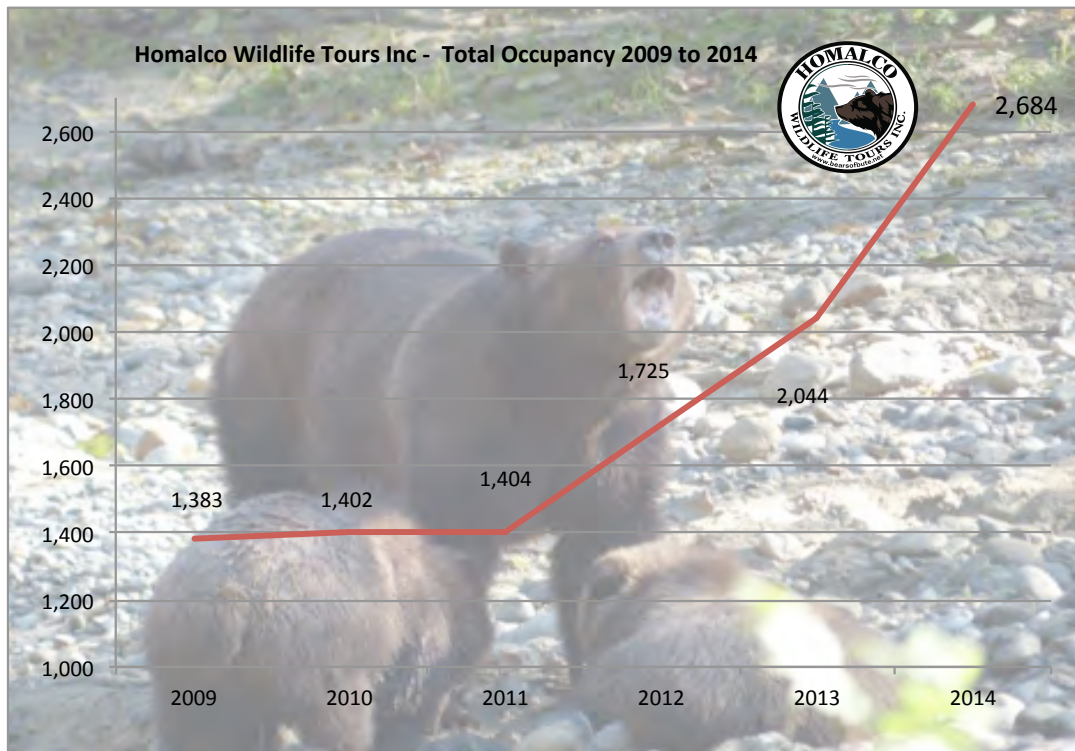
Statement Of Completion Of Project Objectives

All Project Objectives have been met and are considered complete. The growth in occupancy and revenue has been significant. It has also been realized by each of the Tour Providers bringing customers to the Orford Facility. The spin-off benefits include hotels, restaurants, local grocery and food suppliers, fuel stations, etc.

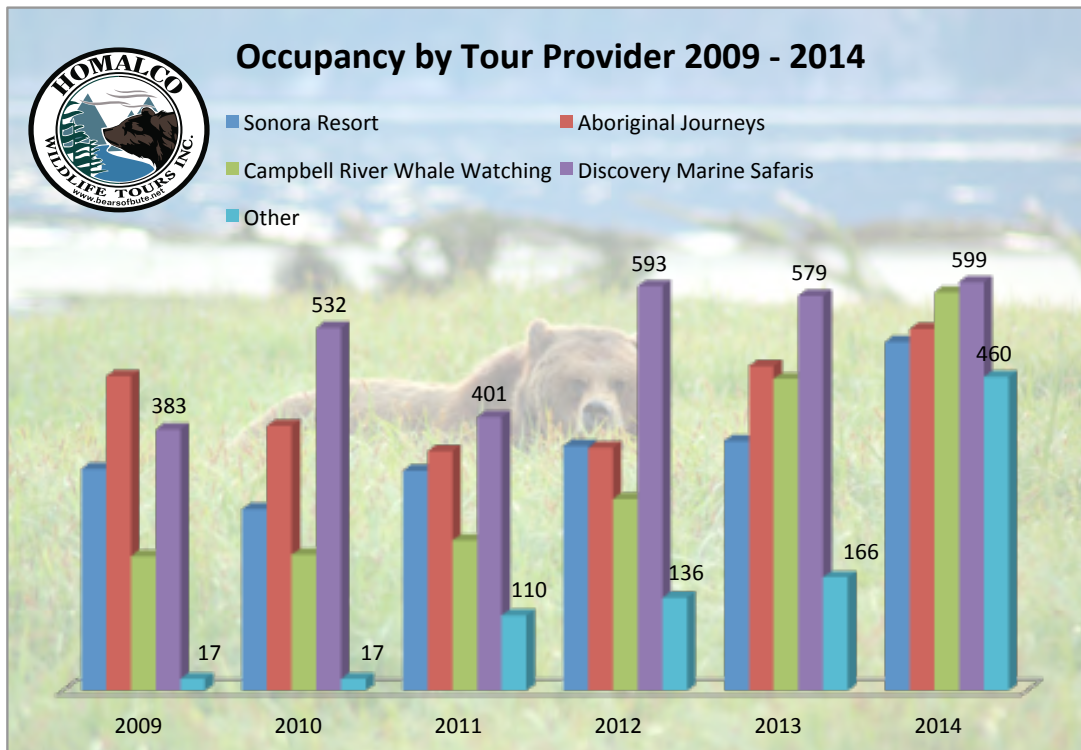
Building the shoulders of the season, and increasing to full occupancy during the peak season is evident when looking at the graph above. For almost all of September, the HWT facility in Orford bay was running at almost full capacity.

The demand generated has been real, and is believed that it will extend long into the future, as further initiatives resulting in improvements are made to the facility. The employment generated is precious to the employees, as they themselves are learning about their culture and history.

Improvements to the facilities have increased the capacity for tours in Orford bay, and provided safe, yet close-up viewing opportunities for almost twice as many people in 2014, as compared to 2009 occupancy.



Total Paying Occupancy from 2009 to 2014



Each of the Tour Providers has benefitted from the development of HWT over the last 6 years



Explanations For Incomplete Project Objectives

All of the Project Objectives for the Homalco Wildlife Tours ICET Project have been completed as contemplated in the Final Revised Stage 2 Application dated April, 2010, and submitted May 3, 2010.

Explanations If Work Is Different From Proposal

The Project work was carried out as proposed. Where a line item may be over budget, another line item would be under budget by the same amount. Where deviations are found, the planning and consulting costs were lower than forecast and the signage and cultural properties were increased; giving a bigger bang for the Project dollars.

The scope of work for the development of the Homalco Wildlife Tours and telling the history of the Homalco People and the Bute Inlet / Orford Bay area is an ongoing process. It is a labor of love for many Homalco citizens.



Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon (far left), His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex, Bill Blaney, and Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex enjoy a moment together at the Orientation Center before they embark on a bear viewing tour. The Homalco Nation presented their Highnesses with the carving in the photo above which depicts the animal emblem of the 3 Northern Salsih Nations; Homalco Klahoose, and Sliammon Firrst Nations



Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon (far right), His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex, and Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex have exceptional grizzly bear viewing in the tower at the "Point"

Number of temporary jobs created during construction

Construction jobs for the Project provided 12 people temporary jobs.

Number of permanent new jobs created (if possible)

The employment base for the Orford operation of the Homalco Nation employs today over 20 people on a seasonal basis. The expansion into the spring and summer tourism season will increase the occupancy to the Orford facility as well as provide a much longer season for our tour guides. Currently they are working less than 70 days each year. By adding spring and summer schedules, we will employ a larger crew for over 160 days each season.

There are another 24 people working for the Tour Providers that now have an extended and world-class fall time season.



Other Information - Economic Impact Of The Project



Over 40 dump truck loads of heavy rock was sourced on-Reserve and contributed to the project

Without protecting the banks along the Orford and Algard Rivers, the loss of critical chum salmon habitat would have been lost to the meandering nature of the Algard. Saving the habitat from certain loss is one of the greatest achievements of this Project



Lessons Learned, Best Practices Development

Lessons Learned:

- ✓ Interest and Market due to Homalco Stewardship of the Orford Bay

Best Practices Developed:

- ✓ Hatchery manual for water systems and Best Management Practices developed and under review by Department of Fisheries and Oceans



Wynne Powell, President of Sonora Resort, shares a moment with HWT staff at the Point



March 4, 2015

Coast Opportunity Funds
1455 - 409 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC,
V6C 1T2

Attn.: Brodie Guy

Dear Mr. Guy;

Re: Homalco Wildlife Tours Inc.

We are writing this letter to you to provide our support for the Homalco First Nation and their company Homalco Wildlife Tours Inc. as they endeavour to expand their eco/cultural tourism operations in their traditional Territory of Bute Inlet.

Sonora Resort Canada is an 88 room, 130 guest capacity luxury Resort located on Sonora Island at the mouth of Bute Inlet. Since the very beginning over 12 years ago, we have had the pleasure of working closely with the Homalco First Nations as they developed a world class Grizzly Bear viewing program.

Every year in the fall, many of our guests journey from the Resort up to the Orford River where the Homalco Wildlife Tour Guides provide our guests with information about the culture and history of the Homalco people, their traditional lands and the Grizzly Bears that visit the river to feed on the abundant salmon. Our customer training and marketing departments have worked closely with the Homalco First Nation to help provide world-class eco tour experiences.

Viewing stands along the river provide our guests with unparalleled safe viewing and photography opportunities of the bears as they fish and interact with each other. The scenery, environment and photography have proven to be stunning attractions to our world-wide Relais & Chateau clientele. The customer Trip Advisor reviews posted about the Sonora Homalco experience are examples of the appeal of the experience from a tourist perspective.

We are very excited that Homalco Wildlife Tours Inc. is looking for opportunities to expand their tourism programs into the spring and summer months. Our guests at Sonora would very much enjoy an expanded selection of activities in which to participate during these months and Sonora Resort Canada supports their efforts in this regard.

Yours truly

G. Wynne Powell, CPA, FCGA D.Tech. (Hon)
President and Chief Executive Officer



London Enterprises Limited dba Sonora Resort

Office: 4580 Cowley Crescent, Richmond, BC, Canada V7B 1B8
Phone: 604-233-0460 Toll Free: 1-888-576-6672 Fax: 604-233-0465 www.sonoraresort.com



Media coverage the project has received (please attach media stories)

NORTH ISLAND RESIDENT SPECIAL

APRIL POINT RESORT & SPA
QUADRA ISLAND • BC

This great offer is available at April Point Resort & Spa from Aug. 28 - Sept. 22 and Painter's Lodge from Aug. 28 - Oct. 11

1-800-663-7090 • www.aprilpoint.com/residents

1 NIGHT ACCOMMODATION PLUS DINNER FOR TWO
\$139 ONLY BASED ON DBL OCC. SOME RESTRICTIONS
AVAILABLE SUNDAY - THURSDAY
Oceanview and additional nights available
Can not be combined with any other offer

SERVING THE SALMON CAPITAL OF THE WORLD FOR 66 YEARS

COURIER WEDNESDAY ISLANDER

Aug. 24, 2011 www.courierislander.com CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C. Established 1945 66th Year / No. 66 65 CENTS

Good Morning



CAMPBELL River based Homalco First Nation celebrated another milestone at their Orford River bear-watching operation Saturday. See A2.

Whale of a time!

A pod of orcas off the southern tip of Quadra Island attracted lots of attention Saturday afternoon/evening. Campbell River and a boat full of watchers provide the backdrop for this shot. The opening of a new Homalco Wildlife Tours bear-watching interpretive centre Saturday made it a banner weekend for local wildlife tour operations.

Photo: Dan MacLennan



RBC Royal Bank helped out the Campbell River Hospital Foundation in a big way with one monstrous donation. See A5.

Also Inside
Opinion A6
Letters A6, A15
Roses A7
Sports A9
Classifieds.....B9

Renewed optimism for MRI services

By DAN MACLENNAN
Campbell River Courier-Islander

There's renewed optimism about the possibility of local MRI services, and it's coming from Howard Waldner, president and CEO of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA).

"I do believe we might be able to come up with a plan that works for everybody," Waldner told the *Courier-Islander* Monday. "So I am optimistic. I believe that your local community, the patients that we serve, can be better served by providing local access to MRI."

That's quite a change from last month, when a proposed mobile magnetic resonance service for Campbell River, Comox Valley, Port Alberni and Duncan appeared to be dead. VIHA had issued a request for proposals (RFP) for the mobile imaging service in April, seeking a five-year contract for 2,500 scans per year. On July 21st, after reviewing six proposals, VIHA announced it would not award a contract for the service because of cost concerns. That sparked an angry backlash from local health care advocates. One local radiologist said the decision was potentially disastrous for local health care

and the recruitment of future radiologists. NDP MLAs questioned VIHA's cost figures, saying one of the proponents had quoted a scan price roughly half of what VIHA had claimed.

Earlier this month, VIHA said the decision to scrap the service would be reviewed because there had been "a number of very good points made, questions raised and suggestions put forward".

Waldner elaborated Monday. "Obviously there's lots of discussions going on in the local community about MRI," he said. "Although I'm not in a position to go into detail about what was provided to us in terms of bids, we've done a little bit of further due diligence and we still believe that this is something that is possible. For that reason, I've asked my team to go back and have another look at this. In particular, look at what's happened in best-practice sites elsewhere in Canada, so that we can come up with some real benchmark costs. And look at learning from the experience that others have in doing this."

"We see a tremendous value here in providing a mobile service to more rural communities that don't currently have the service and I believe that this second piece of work that we're going to be doing

will take us much closer to being able to provide that service."

"It's not just the costing. It's the logistics as well. I do believe that this is something that VIHA wants to provide and will be able to provide at some point. We just need to make sure that we can find a model that's viable. We're really having a very hard second look at this, looking at best practices across Canada, and I think we are going to be able to come up with something that will work for us here in our local communities."

Asked when a decision could come, Waldner said the VIHA board meets in Port Hardy at the end of next month.

"I'm very optimistic that we will have something ready to go back to the board at that point," he said. "Whether it's a final deal or an update that's got an indication, I can't say at this point, but I'm pushing my team to come up with an answer that will enable me to do that. We want to derive the best value for money for the population and the people who pay for it, and that's what we're going to do."

Waldner said he couldn't discuss proposed MRI scanning cost figures because the proposals were confidential.

The Island's Favourite Tackle Shops

Tyeemarine
FISHING • HUNTING • OUTDOORS

visit us on facebook
www.tyeemarine.com

PRESERVE YOUR CATCH

We have a great selection of smokers, salmon cans, vacuum packagers and sausage making supplies.

DO IT YOURSELF. SAVE MONEY. HAVE FUN!

880 Isl. Hwy. C.R. 250-287-2641 • 870 Cliffe Ave. Ctny. 250-334-2942



Another milestone for Homalco First Nation

By DAN MacLENNAN
Campbell River Courier-Islander

The Campbell River based Homalco First Nation celebrated another milestone at their Orford River bear-watching operation on Saturday.

Homalco Wildlife Tours opened a new interpretive centre on the eve of the new bear-watching season in the sand's Bute Inlet territory.

"It's tribute to our folks and all the partners that have been supporting our initiatives, to arrive at this day," said Chief Richard Harry. "It's a testament that yes, if you believe in something you will achieve results."

With funding and support from "a multitude of partnerships", from both government and business, the Homalco have included an interpretive centre describing their history

in the Bute Inlet area. They've also added two new bear-watching platforms along the Orford River.

"I think it's a very historic day for Homalco," said Band councillor Bill Blaney, head carver for the project. "I think it's a worthwhile project that not only benefits eco-tourism, but it really benefits the young people, to learn about our history, bringing the past right to the future. They'll tell the true story of our people. I think it's going to be worthwhile learning about our Homalco people."

Funding came from the Coast Sustainability Trust, Island Coast Economic Trust (ICE-T), Aboriginal Affairs and The Bute Inlet Salmon Enhancement Foundation which includes Interfor, Alterra Power (formerly Plutonic Power), Fisheries and Oceans, and Marine Harvest Canada.

Five local wildlife tour provid-

ers - Discovery Marine Safaris, Aboriginal Journeys, Eagle-Eye Adventures, Sonora Resort and Campbell River Whale Watching - will bring clients up the inlet to the mouth of the Orford, where Homalco Wildlife Tours will bus them to the bear-watching platforms.

Project manager Shawn O'Connor said a reassessment of early plans for the operation has improved focus and business.

"We had to regroup and look at our strengths and reorganize the corporate end," he said. "There's no longer plans for a large-scale resort. What we needed was something that worked for the Homalco people."

With the help of Sonora Resort and the other tour providers, we organized our bookings to give them what they wanted, which was a guaranteed access time that they could advertise.

We standardized rates and told them we would take care of certain things and they'd take care of the bookings. We don't compete on bookings with them. We let them advertise and take the bookings. We provide trained tour guides, bus transportation and the towers that are situated in peak bear viewing locations.

"Right now we have 10 people employed and that will increase over time. We've experienced our largest two seasons back to back, highest revenues. Early signs are that pre-season bookings are higher than they ever have been. So we're looking forward to a good year this year."

Meanwhile Sonora Resort (London Drugs) helped train the bear tour guides in customer relations. Former North Island Conservation Officer Dan Dwyer provided bear awareness training, viewing protocol and other safety procedures. Tour guides got first-aid and swift-water training as well.

"I'm just absorbing as many courses as I can get into," said tour guide Calvin Hackett. "This is my first official season as a tour guide. It's been quite the learning experience. I'm excited about this new season, and meeting people from around the world and getting the experience I need to be a tour guide."

Bear-watching season officially starts tomorrow. Guide Matt Wilson is back for his third year.

"We've been up here since April," he said. "There's been lots of running around and lots of preparation for this day, so I'm pretty stoked about it."

"It's something else to watch a grizzly bear catch a fish out in the wild. I see it at least once a week and it's still like 'he caught it!!' It's really great."

"It has taken a multitude of partnerships to achieve what's been achieved here today," said Band Councillor Alison Trenholm before the official ribbon cutting. "And I really want to say thank you and raise my hands and acknowledge the hard working staff of the hatchery and the wildlife tours, all of the hard work that's gone into the facilities here. It's been wonderful to see it finally get to this place."

Mayor Charlie Cornfield said Campbell River is "proud of our friends and our neighbors at Homalco."

"It's been a long, long time for this project," he said. "You never gave up, and it only gets better. It's a wonderful day and I just want to let you know how proud the City of Campbell River is of the Homalco people and your endeavor here today."

And while 'integrated resource management' sounds far less exciting than face time with grizzly bears, it's at the heart of the Homalco business and social development strategies. The Homalco operate a salmon hatchery at the mouth of the river to keep the salmon and the bears coming back each year.

"We're now complimenting those two initiatives with the acquisition of Port Neville Logging," Chief Harry explained. "The intent is to develop capacity but also training and opportunities for our young people to get involved in the forest sector."

"Recently we've signed a partnership with Alterra Power for this major hydro project in our traditional territory. Everything we do is to in the future create sustainability and support for the Homalco people."

River Person



Anna

Age: 6

Likes: Climbing trees

Favorite Food: Snow peas

Favorite TV/Movie: Planet Earth

Favorite Book: Pippi Longstocking

Favorite Animal: Blue Whale

Dream: To be a geologist

Want to be a River Person?
Call us at 250-287-7464



Enjoy your meal

Quinsam Hotel & Family Restaurant

1500 Island Hwy. 250-286-9811

- Food Service In The Pub Until 7:30pm
- Every Thursday Kickback
- Saturday Afternoon Jam
- Sunday Night Karaoke

Live Entertainment Fri & Sat

NOW APPEARING

THE PROPELLERS

NEXT WEEK

BLUE COLLAR

TRY YOUR LUCK

Chaser

Club KENO

Quinsam Beer, Wine & Spirits Store

Unlimited Parking

Great Selection

OPEN

9am-11pm

EVERYDAY

250-286-9814



NEWS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011 | CAMPBELL RIVER MIRROR | A3

Homalco debut new Bears of Bute orientation centre

ALISTAIR TAYLOR
CAMPBELL RIVER MIRROR

The Orford River delta was quiet on Saturday except for the breezes sending waves through the long grasses lining the estuary.

In a few weeks, however, the grasses will be disturbed by the heavy footfall of 400 kg grizzly bears and that's when the reason for a celebration held Saturday will become evident.

The Homalco First Nation transported 105 guests to commemorate the latest addition to the Homalco Wildlife Tours facility at Orford Bay, an orientation centre that will introduce visitors to the Homalco First Nation's story from the pre-colonial period to the present.

"I just want to thank you for sharing and celebrating this special day for ourselves," Chief Richard Harry told the visitors.

The Homalco Band's story is one of a proud and powerful aboriginal nation suffering at the hands of European colonists through the loss of traditional territory. They then endured relocation to a permanent site, the loss of their children to residential schools and then, finally, in the 1970s, the loss of their livelihood through a federal fisheries reorganization plan that left band members without commercial fishing licences.

After that, band members dispersed, many ending up in the downtown east side of Vancouver. To reconnect their community,



A male elk herds his harem of females across the Orford River after being spooked by humans arriving at a bear viewing platform. There are no bears now but they will arrive later this month when the salmon return.

the band traded some traditional territory for a reserve in Campbell River near the airport to allow their people to have a community near modern services.

Meanwhile, in the bank, so to speak, was their traditional lands in Bute Inlet which became key to forging a new livelihood. The Orford River valley is one of those areas. It provides forestry opportunities as well as a site for a fish hatchery.

"We've got a well-balanced, integrated resource management plan for the Orford," said Shawn O'Connor, band manager.

But the highest profile asset, in many ways, is the bears who have returned to the Orford for millennia. In the modern economy, the sight of those bears scrambling to catch a major food source has proven to be valuable to tourists and the convenience of the location led to building a facility to

accommodate tourists' desire to see the bears in their natural habitat.

The Bears of Bute program was established a few years ago and Saturday's opening of the Orientation Centre is another step in the development of a powerful relationship with the land, the salmon and the natural cycle that depends on them, like the bears that return to feed each fall.

"The salmon enhancement and the wildlife tours complement each other," Chief Harry said.

Along with the orientation centre, the band debuted a team of guides that will take visitors to the bear watching sites.

Saturday's celebration was also an opportunity to thank partners and funding agencies.

"I think it's a very historic day for Homalco," band council member Bill Blaney told the gathering.

Blaney was the lead carver for a series

of signs that were erected at the bear viewing platforms.

Blaney who worked with younger carvers to create signs based

on traditional designs said it was an opportunity to teach young people about their culture and history and "bring the past right

back to the future so they can really tell the true stories about our beliefs and our culture."

Blaney said the proj-

ect will bring a lot of pride to the younger people and the community as a whole. For more see: www.bearsorbute.com

Every "buddy" wins....

Join with a friend and receive

2 for 1

Enrollment*

WE OFFER:

• Personal Training • Nutrition Programs • Child Minding • Tanning • Group Fitness Classes • Much, much more!

100% Island Owned!
Vi Fitness for Women

Visit us online: www.vifitness.ca

HOURS: Mon. to Thurs. 6am-10pm; Fri. 6am-9pm Sat. 8am-5pm; Sun. 8am-4pm

DAYCARE: Mon. to Fri. 8:30am-12:30pm; Mon. to Thurs. Evening 4:30pm-7:30pm

Campbell River ~ Mercrecroft Village 250-286-1019

VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019	VI Fitness for Women Campbell River 250-286-1019
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

OCEAN PACIFIC
MARINE STORE & BOATYARD

SUMMER SAVINGS SPLASH!



PRINCESS BUTANE COOKER
Stainless Steel w/carry case
SIXFSD05100 - Reg. \$80.37

Sale \$69.99

COLEMAN PROPANE COFFEE MAKER
Holds up to 10 Cups
SIXCOL2000008052 - Reg. \$139.99

Sale \$119.99



COLEMAN LED CPX MINI LANTERN
Lifetime LED Bulb
SIXCOL2000008255 - Reg. \$29.99

Sale \$24.99

COLEMAN LED MINI QUAD LANTERN
4 Detachable Micro-Lights
SIXCOL2000008254 - Reg. \$44.75

Sale \$34.99

30% OFF
INFLATABLES & ACCESSORIES

Sale valid August 12th - September 4, 2011

OCEAN PACIFIC
MARINE STORE & BOATYARD

*102-1370 Island Hwy., Campbell River
1-800-663-2294

This is not a Home Depot Shopping Centre (Retail Superstore)
www.oceanpacific.ca/campbellriver



Guests of the Homalco First Nation check out a bear viewing platform at the mouth of the Orford River. The bear season gets underway later this month when the salmon return to spawn.



SOCCER

The mediocre game

The Whitecaps limp to the conclusion of their disappointing inaugural season, hoping to turn things around next year
Sports, Page 11

THE GLOBE AND MAIL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011

SECTION 5

Globe British Columbia

BC EDITOR: PATRICK BRETHOUR



The Orford River boasts one of the heaviest concentrations of grizzly bears in British Columbia. JOHN LEHMANN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

WILDLIFE

The bear trade: Culture meets commerce

Working with local business leaders to create wilderness adventures, the Homalco are reclaiming a traditional home

MARK HUME
CAMPBELL RIVER, B.C.

When Matt Blaney stands up at the front of the tour bus parked on an old logging road, he has a can of pepper spray in his hand, a relaxed smile on his face and the rapt attention of his guests.

Using a mix of natural charm and the special training he got

from customer service experts at London Drugs, he makes sure people understand one simple rule. Do what he says and you can safely get astonishingly close to some of the biggest carnivores in North America.

"When we head up to the towers we might see a few grizzly bears outside," he explains calmly. "Stay in a group. Keep your voices down. There's no food or

snacks outside the bus... I'll go out first to make sure there are no bears hiding under the bank here."

Then he's gone, slipping through the woods to make sure the grizzlies stalking salmon in the Orford River are not startled by a small group of tourists.

The group has come on a two-hour boat ride from Campbell River, on the east coast of north-

ern Vancouver Island, to visit a rugged, glacial valley in Butte Inlet, on British Columbia's mainland coast. The valley once was the traditional home of the Homalco, before residential schools dispersed their children, they lost their commercial fishing licences to market forces and the small villages were abandoned.

Bears, Page 5

ON THE WEB

Online: Photo galleries from the Globe's John Lehmann and from London Drugs chief executive officer Wynne Powell. tgam.ca/BC

On Wednesday: On and along-side the Atmarko River, where the bears can be admired - but only from a distance. A photo essay by award-winner John Lehmann.

POLITICS

The Liberals' mini caucus rebellion is perplexing



GARY MASON
gmason@globeandmail.com

When Christy Clark won the leadership of the B.C. Liberal Party, members of her caucus gathered on the stage behind her to present a picture of unassailable unity. It was a photo-op aimed to paper over the fact that only one of the politicians on the podium with

As Ms. Clark set out to establish control over the party and set government on a new course, the unity of the Liberal caucus was a legitimate question mark. In the dying days of the leadership campaign, MLAs such as John van Dongen said they would have to reassess

"There's a reason, and a legitimate reason, why virtually all of the caucus worked for [other candidates]," Mr. van Dongen told The Globe and Mail's Rod Nickleburgh in late February. "You can't expect all of them to suddenly flip over and support a leader they didn't support

INSIDE



Dish



THE GLOBE AND MAIL • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011

BRITISH COLUMBIA • S5



Sea lions relax on Sonora Island, the site of a luxurious resort owned by London Drugs, which has offered training to Homalco guides. JOHN LEHMANN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

FROM PAGE 1

Bears: Outside interest sparks reserve's renewed concern for the past

» Today Orford has no full-time human residents, but boasts one of the heaviest concentrations of grizzly bears in B.C.

The long-abandoned encampment has become active again because of a new band initiative that first restored the Orford River salmon run, and then added value by selling tours to watch the bears eat the fish.

The Homalco are developing the business with the unexpected help of a neighbour — Wynne Powell, the CEO of London Drugs Ltd., whose company owns Sonora Resort, a luxurious wilderness lodge located in the nearby Discovery Islands.

"He has been a tremendous supporter," says Shawn O'Connor, economic development consultant to the Homalco, a small band which has just 240 members on a reserve in Campbell River.

Mr. O'Connor said Mr. Powell has been a frequent customer, going with Mr. Blaney on numerous expeditions. He has offered advice and donated several dramatic, poster-sized photographs to decorate a new visitor centre at Orford River. Most significantly, he arranged for Liz McNally, manager of organizational development at London Drugs, to spend two days at Sonora Resort, training the band's six-member grizzly bear crew.

"The single biggest thing that's helped us was the training," said Mr. O'Connor, who has noticed improvements in poise and confidence among the guides. "They have become polished ... they are really good at what they do and they take a lot of pride in it."

Where in the past they ad-libbed, they now have prescribed welcoming speeches, safety lectures and set tour schedules. Along the route are a series of carvings which are "talking points" the guides use to explain Homalco legends.

Mr. Powell, an avid photographer with a stunning grizzly bear portfolio, said he thought his



Visitors watch for grizzly bears near the Orford River. JOHN LEHMANN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

THE BEAR NECESSITIES

- » Choose a reputable bear viewing operator who is respectful of the bears and their needs.
- » The best approach for bear viewing is to pick a safe spot near where bears feed, and let them come to you.
- » Remain at a safe distance and if bears come uncomfortably close, listen to the guide's directions. Don't run, but back away slowly.
- » Don't consume food or beverages, other than water, around bears. Some operators ask tourists not to carry any food or snacks with them on bear viewing excursions.
- » Never try to attract a bear with food or loud noises.
- » Stay on trails or roads and remain in close groups.
- » Don't stalk bears, even when pursuing a good photo.
- » Don't use camera flash around bears.
- » Respect the space that bears need to move freely, and do not block their access to a fishing area.

Sources: BC Parks, the Commercial Bear Viewing Association of BC, and Alaska.org

company could best help by offering "our core competency, which is customer handling."

To do that, the company's training program was redesigned to make it relevant to wilderness bear guides.

"We brought all those [London Drugs] historical customer handling skills to them and helped teach them how one makes the customer experience the best possible," Mr. Powell said. "You've got to train people to say, 'How are you today?' because you care about them, not because it's a box that has to be checked off."

In past years, Sonora Resort staff went along to help on the bear tours, but Mr. Powell said that's no longer necessary. "This year ... they stood on their own merits and they came across

in a very credible, professional manner," he said. "I'm very impressed with their commitment and I'm impressed with how well they have done."

Sean Ross, general manager at Sonora Resort, said the bear tour has become a must-do for most guests, especially those from Europe.

"They love it," he said. "It's a highlight of their trip ... when they come back they're saying 'We saw them right in front of us! We saw one catch a salmon!'" The bears are the stars, but the native guides add a cultural dimension that is priceless, he said.

"Our guests want to know about the bears and they want to know about the Homalco," Mr. Ross said. "And the guides are really good about talking about that."

Mr. Blaney, 21, says the interest of the outside world in the Homalco has sparked renewed enthusiasm on the reserve about the past. He and some other guides, for example, are trying to learn the now largely forgotten Homalco language.

"Even if it's just a word or two a day it's progress ... it's rebuilding our culture. It's great to be a part of this," he said. "And I feel really good about what I do. You never get enough of up there at Orford."

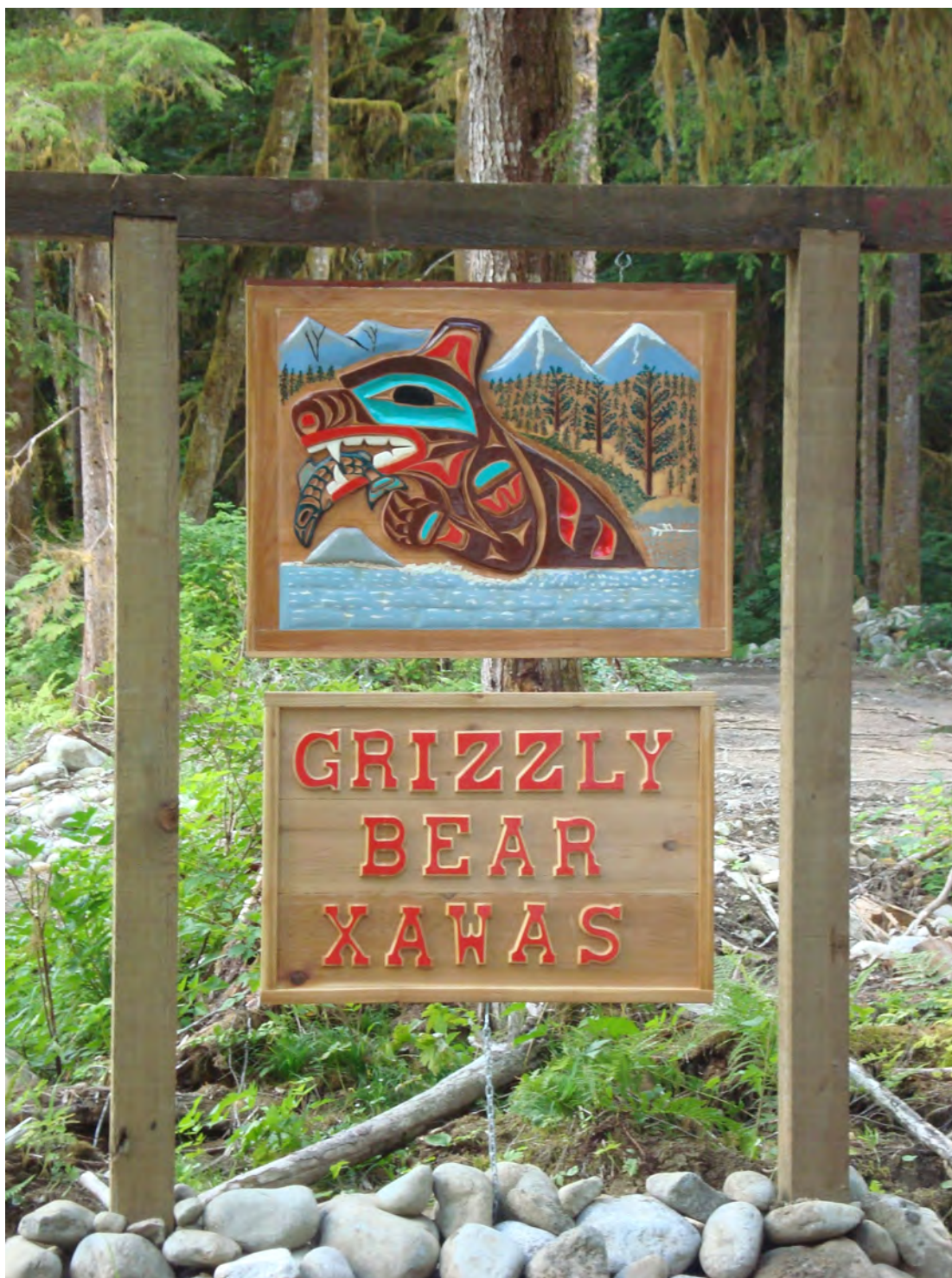
On a recent tour, after talking about the wolf spirits depicted in a carving done by his father, Bill Blaney, Matt carefully shepherded his guests onto a viewing platform. Moments later, a bear came out of the trees on the river bank. Walking with a loose, powerful gait, water glistening on its fur, head swinging side to side, the grizzly was oblivious to the dozen tourists holding their collective breath 20 metres away. Suddenly it ripped into the river, raking a salmon that spun through the air before escaping.

There were gasps of "My god!" then the soft, rapid clicking of cameras. Mr. Blaney had a big smile on his face. He knew he had some more satisfied customers.

FROM PAGE 1

Mason: Clark gives cabinet more latitude than Campbell ever did

Photographs Of Project In Final Stages



Photos will be Provided on Flash Drive to ICET



Financial Statement of Completion



HOMALCO FIRST NATION HOMALCO WILDLIFE TOURS ICET PROJECT COMPLETION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD May 3, 2010 to Mar 31, 2014

PROJECT EXPENDITURES	ICET BUDGET	RFR ACTUAL
Signage	\$20,000.00	\$32,224.90
Facility Upgrades	135,000.00	121,691.02
Interpretive Center	268,900.00	271,065.75
Engineering and Management	50,000.00	48,919.96
TOTALEXPENDITURES	\$473,900.00	\$473,901.63

SOURCES OF FUNDS	ICET BUDGET	ACTUAL
Island Coastal Economic Trust *	\$195,000.00	\$195,000.00
Homalco Nation - Coast Opportunity Fund	166,000.00	166,000.00
Homalco Nation - Homalco Wildlife Tours Inc.	56,450.00	56,451.63
Homalco Nation - AFS Hatchery Agreement	56,450.00	56,450.00
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS	\$473,900.00	\$473,901.63

STATEMENT:

I, Colleen Perault, hereby certify that this statement accurately represents all project expenditures and all sources of project funding.

Colleen Perault CMA,

March 30, 2015

* ICET Actual Funds based on full payment of ICET Funds allocated to Homalco Wildlife Tours Project



Acknowledgment

The Homalco Nation would like to thank the ICET management and Staff for all their cooperation during this project. Our goals and objectives would not have been realized without your support. Thanks,

SO'C