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# Organized Village of Kasaan

Quarterly Newsletter



From left to right: Harley Holter, Eric Hamar, Justin Henricks, and Stormy Hamar. Standing next to a finished 'Wolf Head' piece of the totem, as the last was vandalized through theft. Top Left Picture: The Watchman Totem, located at the foot of Kasaan's Dock.

**Have a Safe Halloween!!**





Above is a picture taken before renovations were made to the Whale House. It has come so far since the beginning.



The Kasaan carving crew continues to make history at Naay I'waans, Chief Son-I-Hat Whale House. Eric Hamar (pictured) stands next to the new face he carved for the oldest of the original interior house totems. Sometime between 1917 and 1938, the original face went missing.

Great job, guys! We are all proud of you and your great work.

Chief Son-I-Hat built the original whale house in the 1900's, but the structure became damaged and had to undergo re-construction. The OVK carving crew is doing the first repairs on the whale house since 1938.

Photos by: Frederick Otilius Olsen, Jr.

## OVKs' Efforts Haven't Been Overlooked

Southeast Conference honored the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) as the "Southeast Community of the Year" at their annual meeting last week. OVK received the award for their exemplary service to their community, Prince of Wales and Southeast Alaska.

OVK has been actively pursuing an array of cultural, economic development and community infrastructure projects. These include reconstruction of the Náay I'waans Whale House, construction of the Carving Shed where local Haida artists can carve and display their work, the Discovery Cabins (2), the Totem Trail Café and Gift Shop, and a medical clinic.

Kasaan's vision is to bring small cruise ships and independent travellers to the village for a unique cultural eco-tourism experience. They have been involved with cultural eco-tourism since 2012 with the Alaskan Dream Cruises bringing visitors in on small cruise ships. The historic and cultural characteristics of Kasaan and the Whale House offer visitors a unique experience that cannot be found anywhere else in the United States.

At the trailhead, they have developed the Kasaan Cultural Campus, which includes Tribal Tours, Carving Shed, Discovery Cabins, and the Totem Trail Café and Gift Shop. The campus is an integral part of the cultural eco-tourism efforts and the economic development plan for the community by providing economic stability and creating jobs and revenue through the sales of services and products.

Other development includes partnering with the Southeast Island School District and the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) to pursue the construction of raised garden beds for growing traditional Haida potatoes for the school and the village.

OVK currently employees approximately 25 people, some of which live in other Prince of Wales communities. Pursuing these economic development endeavors meets the OVK mission and illustrates OVK's action to pursue the goal of ensuring a better future for their Tribal members and the overall community of Kasaan and Prince of Wales Island.

"Our community is deeply grateful for having been nominated and ultimately chosen as a recipient of this distinguished award," said Paula Peterson, OVK Tribal Administrator.

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## The Future of Kasaan's Emergency

The Environmental team at the Organized Village of Kasaan is looking for devoted members of the community to join in an effort to make Emergency Response and Preparation a top priority. In the case of a Natural Disaster, we'd like to be absolutely sure that our community is prepared and conjoined to make a disaster event, a more manageable and safe outcome. We plan on the creation of an Emergency Response Team, with community members, key safety persons (VPSO), at least one or more City and Tribal Council members, Administrative staff, and our Grant Writer here at OVK. We plan on bi-monthly meetings starting very soon. Fliers will be posted promptly around town with expected dates and times preferred by people that plan to join the cause.

Please contact Andrew with questions or comments regarding the parameters of the meetings or preferred times and dates.

## Kasaan's Paddle Workshop

On August 22, 2015, the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) held its first Paddle Workshop at the Carving Shed in Kasaan. Stormy Hamar, Lead Carver, and Apprentice Carvers Harley Bell-Holter, Eric Hamar and Justin Henricks assisted participants with their projects. It was a great one-day workshop with more than 40 participants actively carving on new paddles! Another great event bringing the community together to share in our rich Native culture.



Wood for the event was obtained from Sealaska, who has been donating red and yellow cedar to various Southeast Alaska organizations for use in carving programs in a collaborative effort with Sealaska Timber Corporation (STC) and Haa Aani, LLC.

“The Organized Village of Kasaan greatly appreciates Sealaska's donation of carving wood, it keeps us going forward!” said Paula Peterson, OVK Tribal Administrator.

### Emergency Response & Preparation

Natural disasters (earthquake, tsunami, wild fire, severe weather events) are a part of Alaskan life. We are the most seismically active state in the Union.

You and your family may have to survive on your own in a worse case scenario. You must have enough food, water and other supplies to last for at least seven (7) days. Local responders can be on the scene after a disaster, but may not be able to reach everyone immediately.

Each family member must have at least one gallon of water each day. Having a Family Emergency Kit is important. Consider food, radio, flashlight, first-aid kit, dust masks, personal sanitation items, an indoor safe heat source, fire extinguisher, extra clothing & blankets, emergency signals and a cell phone.

Creating and practicing your Family Emergency Plan can help. Knowing where your family members are at all times can significantly reduce search & rescue efforts. Make sure you have a designated “rally point” for your family.

You can learn more about emergency response and preparation at [ready.alaska.gov](http://ready.alaska.gov).

**What is climate change?**

**Climate change is something that will always happen, as the earth heats up the weather and climate will change in different parts of the world. As we have seen in are own backyards. We might not be able to stop climate change but there are steps we can take to slow down the lasting effects of climate change.**

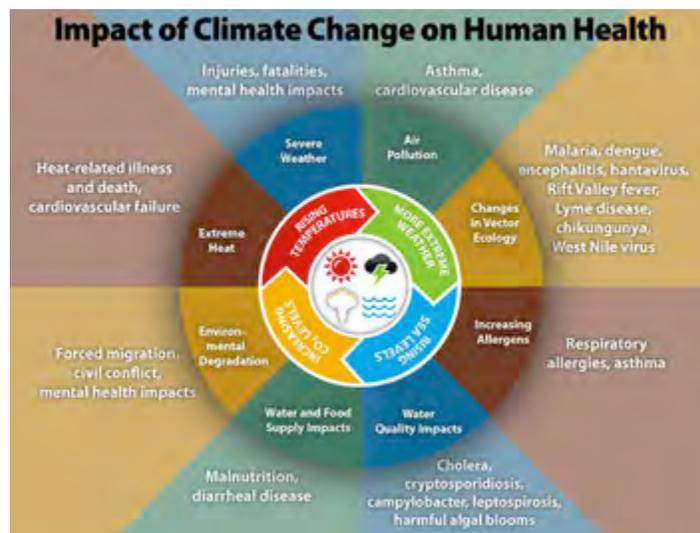
**Like:**

**Planting trees and plants. Trees absorb Co2 and give off oxygen; one tree can absorb a ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime.**

**Recycle and reuse. Recycling paper, plastics, glass and metal takes less energy to make products than from raw materials**

**Weatherproofing your home. Butting a vapor barrier under your home and in your windows will cut down on the heat you lose from your home, in turn helps save money on the energy bill.**

**With these simple steps we can move forward on saving are planet for the future generations**



"The Organized Village of Kasaan and the Kavalco Haida Heritage Foundation are pleased to announce the recipients of scholarships for the 2015/16 year academic year!

Organized Village of Kasaan's Local At Large Tribal Member or Kasaan Descendant Scholarship was awarded to Hailee Miller who will be attending Idaho State University with a major in Elementary Education. After graduating, she plans to return to Alaska to teach children.

Kavalco Haida Heritage Foundation Page Jones Memorial Scholarships (2) were awarded to:

- Madison Mooney, who plans to obtain her bachelors degree at the University of Oregon with a major in Psychology; and
- Caroline Peterson who will attend the University of Alaska Southeast where she will obtain her Associate of Art Degree.

The Tribe wishes much success to the scholarship recipients in their continued educational endeavors."

Submitted by: OVK's Economic Development Dept.

OVK's Environmental IGAP department (Andrew miller, Joshua Peele) accompanied by the Brownfields department (Frederick Olsen, jr) attended the Southeast Environmental Conference in Juneau that was held by Central Council -Tlingit and Haida Indian tribes of Alaska on September 14-18<sup>th</sup>. The Organized Village of Kasaan was happy to attend and is looking to move forward on the projects and ideas that were brought up at the conference. For example, Ocean Acidification Sampling in local waters, and getting the wheels turning for the Fish Consumption Rate for our region in Southeast Alaska.

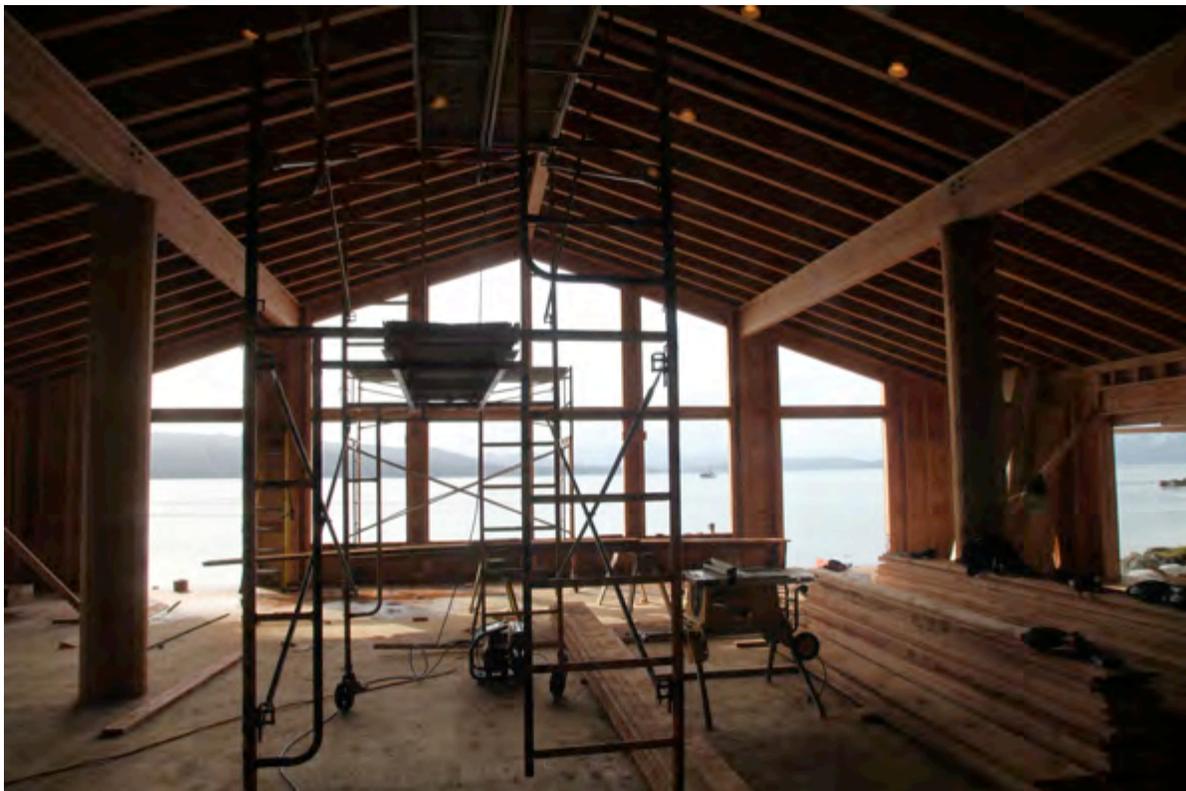
Submitted by: Environmental Technician (Joshua Peele), OVK



In the month of August, the Brownfield's Coordinator (Buck Grasser) from the CTA hosted a 'Freon Removal Training'. He partitioned with other tribes on the Island to raise money to get a specialized trainer 'Reilly Kosinski' down here to educate.

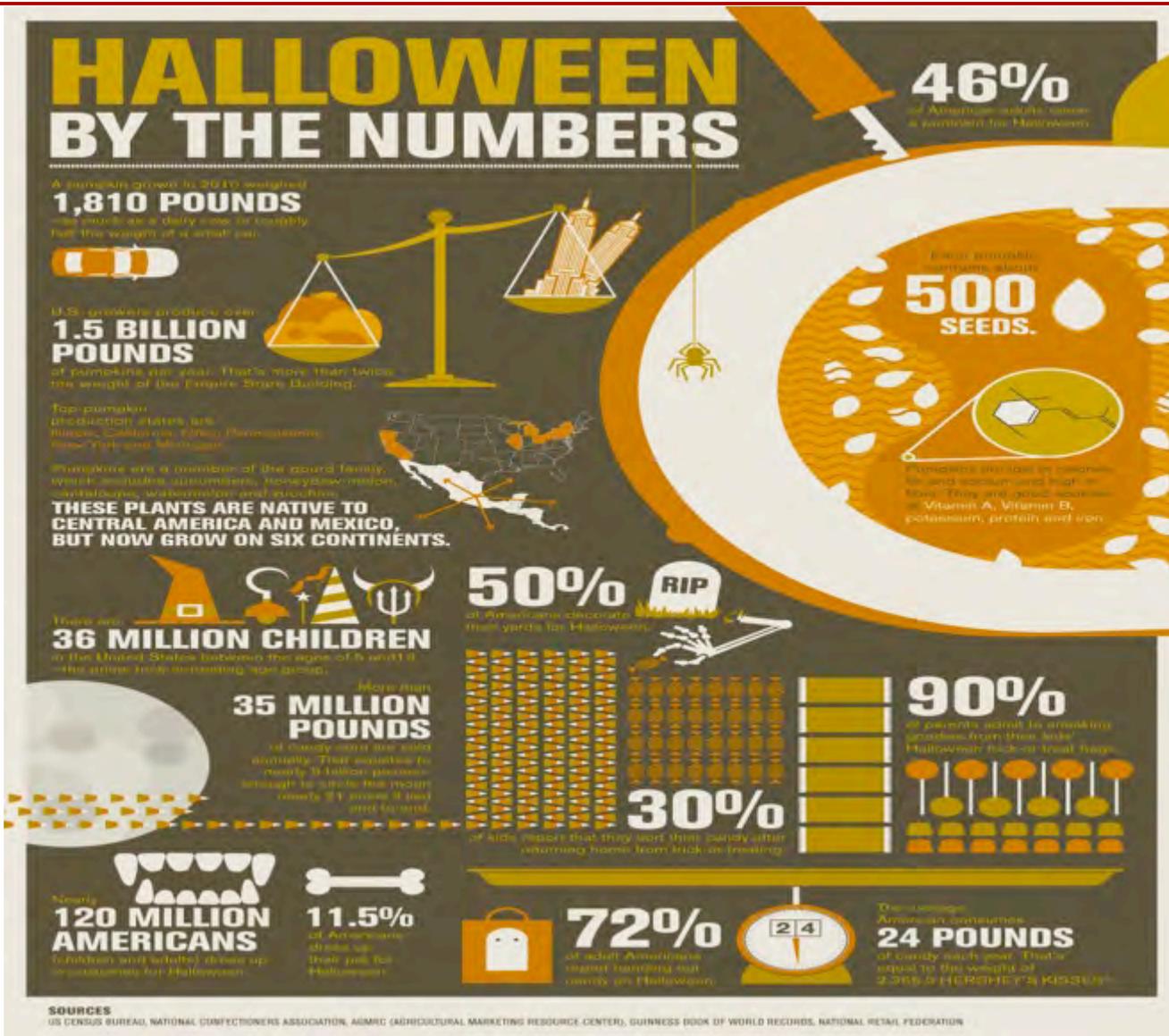
The Organized Village of Kasaan's Natural Resource Department will be excepting "white good's" (refrigerator's, microwaves, washers, dryers, etc.) at recycle building in Kasaan until the end of May 2016.

# Totem Trail Café's New Addition



In recognition for one of OVK's numerous accomplishments this year, the Totem Trail Café's renovations are steadfast as Kasaan continues to grow. Here are progress shots, as one of Kasaan's locals (William West) braves the recent storms that Southeast has encountered, and continues making Kasaan a better place.

Submitted by: (pictures) - Brownfields Coordinator Fred Olsen & (caption) Environmental Planner - Andrew Miller



# New Staff

Joshua Peele

I have been working for The Organized Village seasonally in the fisheries department since 2011 counting fish at the weir in Karta River, and stream habitat mapping for the past two seasons. Recently started working in the Natural Recourses Department as the Environmental Technician.

I am a former Americorps Raven member that worked with the Organized Village of Kasaan, the school and communities on POW. Dennis Nickerson, my immediate supervisor and Environmental Coordinator, and I worked with the school and community here in Kasaan to revitalize the community garden, encourage a recycling program and coordinate community cleanups. This included a drop off area with a recycling trailer for aluminum, plastics #1 and #2, a large tote for glass and a recycling center for crushing the glass to recycle. We recycled around 1,000 pounds of glass in one year and also had an E-waste drive that brought in over 700 pounds of obsolete electronics. We encouraged students to compost foods, cardboard and such to create a healthy, cheap fertilizer by using worm casting on the garden. Educating them on the chain of events by recycling food to produce food for worms that produced fertilizer for the garden to feed the plants/vegetables that fed them. We also collaborated with neighboring communities on beach and community cleanups on the island clearing debris as a team effort.

Back as a Brownfields Tech I am excited to work with OVK and the community/communities again and help make a difference.

## Organized Village of Kasaan

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## Kasaan Resident

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