

challenge is a Haisla bid rivalling Plutonic Power's project. "He's got a mountain to climb and he's on a slippery slope," Kitamaat Village chief councillor Steve Wilson said of McInnes. Last year the Haisla and Alcan signed an agreement giving the Haisla priority to connect to the Alcan power grid. As a result, McInnes said he understands the importance of meeting with Wilson - but to date the two have not got together. "I don't see any point in meeting with him," Wilson said. "Here's a guy that tells the Haisla that there's no money in hydro projects and that the best that he can offer us is maybe a few jobs and obviously didn't do his homework very well." There are no time limits on the pre-application phase Plutonic Power is in but McInnes, who has a number of hydro projects in the Central Coast and Hope regions, said the last project took six months to work its way through.

#### **Teck gives \$7.5m for UBC mining institute, Vancouver Sun, 04-May-2006**

The University of British Columbia is using a \$7.5-million gift from Teck Cominco to improve the province's only mining engineering program. The gift will create the Norman B. Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering at UBC, in honour of the company's former president and CEO, the university announced in a news release Wednesday. "This generous gift exemplifies the commitment of Teck Cominco and partners, Dr. Keevil and UBC's Faculty of Applied Science to address critical issues faced by the modern mining sector, such as human resource development, community involvement, and safe and sustainable mining practices," says UBC President Martha Piper. "The new institute will significantly enhance our programs in learning and research, help UBC prepare the global citizens of tomorrow, and meet the demand for skilled professionals in the industry." Vancouver-based Teck Cominco Limited -- one of Canada's largest mining companies -- created the gift with the help of the company's partners including The Hallbauer Family Foundation, AMEC Inc., Silver Standard Resources Inc., Robert Quartermain, Steven G. Dean and Klaus M. Zeitler. Under the leadership of Keevil, Teck Cominco grew from annual revenues of \$11 million to more than \$4 billion today, with operations around the world. Keevil joined Teck Cominco in 1962 while completing his PhD in Geophysics at the University of California, Berkeley. He became President and CEO in 1981 and currently serves as Chairman of Teck Cominco. The gift will provide support for building improvements, faculty recruitment, more students and more research at UBC, the university says.

#### **Deal with treaty rights, North Island Gazette, 04-May-2006**

Dear editor, I have some areas to address for the public and it is our right to be heard. My concern is not only our Kwakiutl people's livelihood and inherent rights that has been violated and ignored by many different levels of groups. Kwakiutl are as we speak in court proceedings. Meaningful and Proper Consultation and Accommodation Principles are set out and required by the courts to be adhered to. We protested at Port McNeill to put Namgis Nation and the Environment Assessment Office on notice for jumping the gun. According to Polaris Minerals even, the sand and gravel deposits are within the Douglas Treaty territory of the Kwakiutl who have exclusive rights, and recognized by the federal and provincial governments, this alone tells us that Polaris has no business going to Namgis Nation or Western Forest Products for consent to dig up our sand and gravel. There was no meaningful consultation, we have a very good paper trail to show how little consultation that there really was. Kwakiutl have not been accommodated at all, other than a very tiny impact and benefits royalty agreement. The Kwakiutl are the ones doing all the accommodating and this is not right. We the Kwakiutl were approached about a laminated veneer lumber plant in our territory and were offered 51 percent which came to about \$12 million a year and were to not have any risk whatsoever, and this group was putting up all the money, their money, this is proper consultation and accommodation. Proper and meaningful consultation and accommodation is all that I have to say. This is going to court, one way or another and I do hope that this opens a few eyes to what the Orca Sand and Gravel project is all about. If you want an example, all you need to do is look to the South American tribes and see how their drinking water was poisoned by the after effects of someone mining in their territory. In honor of all our Real Kwakiutl ancestors. Dave Jacobson Fort Rupert, BC

#### **ELECTRICITY AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**

#### **Evans wants water for spawning kokanee, Castlegar News, 03-May-2006**

**By Dale West News Editor**

Nelson-Creston MLA Corky Evans has asked for and received a promise from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for a meeting with BC Hydro and the minister prior to September to discuss Arrow Lakes water levels and kokanee. Meeting in Committee of supply to discuss ministry estimates, Evans told

→ ORCA  
(Polaris)

ferry wreckage a wake-up call for BC's northern coast". Some of you might remember I gave them a bad time several years back for conducting a survey on whether people wanted offshore oil and gas development that used questions which essentially asked, "Have you stopped beating your kids?" The upshot of this release was, predictably, that the sinking and resulting fuel spill was "proof" Enbridge's proposed Gateway project "poses an enormous risk to BC's fisheries and coastal waters". It continued by explaining, "the pipeline proposed by Enbridge Inc. would carry crude oil 1,100 kilometres from Edmonton to Prince Rupert..." Hang on a sec, Prince Rupert? It got even more confusing later when the release had CPAWS conservation director Sabine Jessen saying "it would result in heavy oil tanker traffic on one of the most dangerous coasts in the world, and for a mere thirty jobs in Kitimat." The terminal is in Rupert but the jobs are here? Cool, how many are we getting out of the container port? And that's immediately followed by, "or about the same number of jobs as at the local hardware store." As a regular shopper at City Centre Hardware, I am pretty sure no-one would be more surprised than Mrs. Wakita to find there were 30 people working for her. Turns out the hardware store referred to is Rona. So the terminal's in Rupert, the jobs from the terminal are created here and the hardware store is in Terrace. I wonder where they think the Queen of the North sank - Ferry Island? There's more: the fourth paragraph quotes Jessen as saying, "The Exxon Valdez incident is still in litigation," and continues, "Clearly, the oil industry does not yet consider the public interest to be their responsibility insofar as a liability for accidental oil spills." And in case you skipped over that bit, the very next paragraph says, "The Exxon Valdez incident is still in litigation. Clearly, the oil industry etc., etc." And, clearly believing third time's a charm, the paragraph after that informs us all, "The Exxon Valdez incident ..." well, you know how the rest goes. The scary thing is incompetents like this are actually taken seriously.

### **We need to stand on guard for ourselves, Kitimat Sentinel, 05-Apr-2006**

**By Hewitson**

It was inevitable. The sinking of the "Queen of the North" has brought out the usual phalanx of environmentalists and the anti-everything crowd and they are, as they often are, at full bay...demanding no tanker traffic in the Inside Passage or in the Douglas Channel. "This is an example of what could happen...what if this was a fully laden oil tanker?" they cry. It wasn't, but again, it emphasizes the exception shouldn't make the rule. Large merchant shipping, including tankers, has sailed safely in and out of Kitimat for decades. Indeed, the "Queen of the North" has made the sailing from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy countless times without hitting rocks and sinking, leaking diesel fuel into the ocean. A replacement ferry will be plying the route as soon as possible. There will be no demand passenger ferries and cruise ships do not sail the waterways of the BC coast, because it makes no sense. However, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) - which of course has its national office in the true Canadian wilderness, downtown Ottawa - is running hard with the knee jerk response to any West Coast marine incident: ban shipping on the environmentally sensitive west coast. Its argument is a little slicker this time, as it claims to speak for the communities that rely on the marine environments CPAWS purports to defend. However, I think these communities, including Kitimat and Prince Rupert, can and do speak for themselves. They have done so with significant support for such projects as Kitimat LNG, the Gateway proposal by Enbridge or the container port for Prince Rupert. Enbridge found it necessary to weigh in with a defense of the type of tanker traffic that will result from a Kitimat pipeline terminal. The dozen or more tankers a month that would sail in and out of Kitimat importing condensate and exporting oil will be modern certified ocean-going ships, double hulled and with a good safety record. No doubt Enbridge will be required to battle hard with the environmental set over the next couple of years. They will need solid support from this community or once again Kitimat will experience the frustration and deep disappointment of having its future determined by people living everywhere but here.

### **MINING**

#### **Orca Sand and Gravel blessed, North Island Gazette, , 06-Apr-2006**

**By Bruce WinfieldGazette staff**

FORT RUPERT - Plans to extract and ship construction aggregate from a site near Port McNeill, proposed by Polaris Minerals and Orca Sand and Gravel, received an official blessing Mar. 31 at the Kwakiutl Big House. "Welcome Polaris ... this is a celebration of peace and friendship," said Kwakiutl Chief Tony Hunt. "What's being done here will affect us for thousands of years." Toward the end of the traditional program, Polaris officials donned the traditional costumes and tried dancing themselves, with president and CEO Marco Romero leading the way. After the dancing, it was time for thanks and presentations, with 'Namgis Chief Bill Cranmer first to speak. "Thanks, Chiefs of the Kwakiutl, for inviting us to the Big House to welcome Orca Sand

and Gravel," said Cranmer. "This project will mean a better life for the Kwakiutl and the Nimpkish. Thank you to Marco Romero for all the work he's done to make this happen." Romero was quick to return the praise. "Thank you very much to the Kwakiutl and the 'Namgis for the trust you put in us," he said. "Today means a lot ... it is symbolic of the trust that has been developing between us." The project is "only just beginning," said Romero. "We are now hiring and will begin training the people who will work for us." Romero presented two large and detailed Orca masks, the first to the Kwakiutl band and the second to the 'Namgis. The recipients responded by dancing around the Big House so everyone could see the gifts. In a press release issued the same day, Polaris reported that development of the Orca Quarry began last month, with land clearing and site preparation for the construction of the ship load out conveyers and the sand and gravel processing plant. Construction of the ship berth was due to begin Apr. 3, with the laying of piles by Vancouver Pile Driving Ltd. In total, contracts for \$42.7 million have already been executed for the sand and gravel processing plant, the ship loader and ancillary equipment supplies, says the release. Production is expected to begin by the end of 2006, with the first shipment of sand and gravel expected to go early next year. Polaris Minerals owns 88 percent of the Orca Sand and Gravel project. 'Namgis First Nation owns 12 percent and the Kwakiutl have indirect participation, says a Polaris media advisory.

**Protesters ask Polaris to delay quarry, North Island Gazette, 06-Apr-2006**  
**By Bruce Winfield Gazette staff**

FORT RUPERT - Unhappy with Orca Sand and Gravel's plans for a quarry near Port McNeill, Kwakiutl band members mounted a protest Mar. 31 at the entrance to the reserve. "There has been a lack of consent from community members," said spokesperson Larry Hunt Jr. "We have asked numerous times for Polaris to wait until we deal with the internal business of the band and the Douglas Treaties." Polaris Minerals president and CEO Marco Romero, whose company has a controlling interest in Orca Sand and Gravel, says there isn't time nor need for more consultation on what he calls an "internal matter" within the Kwakiutl band.. "We have spent a tremendous amount of time and resources consulting with every single member of the Kwakiutl Band," he said. "We can't wait ... we are proceeding with the project." Hunt says the Douglas Treaties, signed in 1851, give Kwakiutl Band Members special rights to the coastline between Port Hardy and Port McNeill. That special right extends two miles inland, says Hunt, and that includes the spot where Orca Sand and Gravel plans to extract and ship its raw materials to the U.S. Although one sign at the entrance to the reserve said the road would be closed to anyone not a member of the Kwakiutl Band, the protest was scaled down to leafletting after three Port Hardy RCMP members visited. "This is a peaceful protest," said Hunt. "We're making a statement today on the Douglas Treaties, letting people know we're not satisfied with the agreement or the process. We're asking for respect and recognition." As well as announcing the Friday morning roadblock, the leaflet said the following: "It is our intent that the members of the Kwakiutl Band will understand the validity of our rights and title as Douglas Treaty descendants, and respect the historical background of this land and resources," it says. "We have chosen to protect our rights under the Douglas Treaty and would have the proper recognition that our families deserve. All levels of government and third party interest groups have been put on notice to recognize the Douglas Treaties and its outstanding land and resource issues. We thank you for respecting our rights and descendance and our valid claim as Douglas Treaty holders." The protest coincided with a First Nations Blessing Ceremony at the Fort Rupert Big House, which was led by hereditary chief Tony Hunt. In a vote held in February 2005, 91 of 141 band members who voted were in favour of the impact and benefit agreement negotiated by the Kwakiutl band and Orca Sand and Gravel. The vote was open to all band members, living on and off reserve at Tsakis (Fort Rupert).

**Mining - Employment, CHNL, 05-Apr-2006 14:00**

Tom Schroeter of the Ministry of Energy and Mines says the BC mining industry may be a source of revenue for those seeking seasonal employment. There are currently 4,000 positions available and Schroeter says the industry will have difficulties filling the placements. Schroeter comments.

**Mining exploration, CHNL, 05-Apr-2006 16:00**

A provincial geologist is predicting that mining exploration in BC could increase to \$250 to \$300m. Tom Schroder comments.

**Can you dig it? Mining jobs go begging in B.C. - CHNL 2 pm - April 5-06**

Anchor: If you're looking for a seasonal job the B.C. mining industry may be the answer. Speaking at a Kamloops conference, Ministry of Mines Senior Regional Geologist Tom Schroeter says there are four thousand positions available.