



Photo: Debra Crosby



Photo: Haida Gwaii Community Futures

Fall Fair was fabulous

Seen at the Fair: Gwaii Trust arts committee members Sandra Price and Sheila Karrow, along with artist Vernal Bogren Swift, spent time talking to interested islanders about arts grants. Right, Gwaii Trust director Berry Wijdeven joined Jenny Bourne and Sean Baybutt of Haida Wild, Edi Szaaz of Kay Bistro, Art Lew of Haida Gwaii Community Futures and Carla Lutner of Northern Savings Credit Union to judge the "Seafood Wars" entries. The grand winner of the \$1,000 prize was Dan Peebles with his Haida Gwaii Wild Burger, which included salmon, smoked salmon and prawns. Yum!

A small downpour on the day of this year's Fall Fair did not dampen the enthusiasm of the hundreds of people who gathered at the fairgrounds in Tlell August 2 to listen to good music, eat good food, and admire local livestock, garden produce, baking and crafts.

For Linda Louis, one of the Tlell Fall Fair's organizers, the event is all about bringing people together, building islands community, and sharing knowledge about local agriculture and aquaculture practices. Linda was especially pleased that 1,098 people came through the gate this year – more than last year, despite the rain. And she was happy to report that there was a wide variety of things to do, some old favourites and some new, from chicken poop bingo and goat kissing, to dart throws and interpretive walks with BC Parks.

Events like the Tlell Fall Fair, the Edge of the World Music Festival and Skidegate Days are part of what makes Haida Gwaii such a great place to live. Open to all and organized by volunteers, these festive occasions bring islanders from all communities together, sparking new friendships and renewing old ones. The Gwaii Trust's Community Events program makes grants available to each community to keep these traditions going strong. As Linda Louis says, every dollar helps when it comes to pulling off a major event. The Gwaii Trust is here to help grow and inspire initiatives like this that improve the quality of life on Haida Gwaii.

Below: The Fall Fair judges awarded the coveted Master Gardener Trophy to Judy Perry, her daughter Jenna Perry and son-in-law Peter Katinic. The trio combined their skills to grow a bumper crop of veggies and flowers in their Tlell garden. Judy says the secret to their success was Pete's specially-prepared compost. Congratulations!

Photo: Alex Rinfret



DID YOU KNOW?

The Community Events Grant provides up to \$5,000 annually to each of the Gwaii Trust communities to support public events. There is no deadline date to apply for this grant – it is open all year until the fund is exhausted. See our website at gwaiitrust.com for more details!