



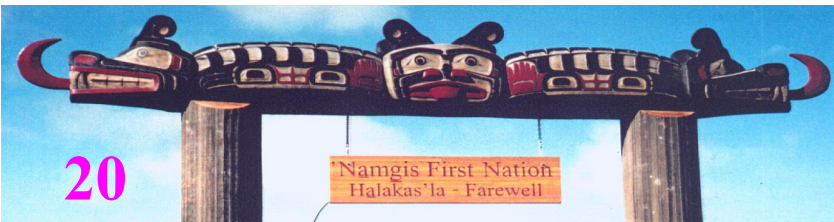
19 Pole-Eagle, Killer Whale located at current 'Namgis Burial Grounds carved by Don Svanvik, Bert Svanvik, Sean Whonnock, Johnathan Henderson in 2005. Memorial for Grandparents Gideon and Edith Whonnock



21 Pole-Thunderbird, Man holding Copper Namxiyalagiyu located near 'Namgis First Nation Office carved by Stephen Bruce in 2000 no longer on site.

22 Pole-Chief holding Copper above his head, Dzunuḱwa, located at the U'mista Cultural Centre carved by Stephen Bruce and Shane Salmon in 2003.

23 Pole-Eagle, Killer Whale, located at the U'mista Cultural Centre. Carved by Stephen Bruce, Shane Salmon, Morris Johnny in 2002.



20 Sisiyutł 'Namgis Welcome Archway located near BC Ferry Terminal was carved by Chief Doug Cranmer in the early 1970's. Relocated summer 2000 from Port Hardy when gifted by Finning Tractor to the 'Namgis First Nation.

25 Pole-Eagle and Copper located near the traditional Big House. The ribs on copper represent the many builders of the original Big House. Carved by Beau Dick and his many fellow carvers in October 2006. Pole is dedicated to all the Elders who took part in building the original Big House in 1965. **During a Nimpkish wind on November 17, 2020 the Totem Pole fell and is no longer onsite.**



Totem Poles of Alert Bay

What is a Totem Pole?

Totem poles are primarily visual statements about the ceremonial privileges and identity of those who erected them. The figures represented on totem poles are those beings from mythical times who became, or were encountered by, the ancestors of the group that later took them as crests. For instance, some Kwakwaka'wakw families claim as a crest the Thunderbird, who descended from the sky and took off his regalia and became their human ancestor. Others claim crests on the basis of encounters their ancestors had with supernatural beings. The erection of a totem pole would usually be celebrated by a potlatch.

At this time, the stories pertaining to the crests they displayed were shown, and the rights of the family to claim the privileges were publicly witnessed. Especially important totem poles were those raised in honour of Chiefs by their successors. When a totem pole was commissioned, the artist was told which crest it was to show, but there is considerable evidence that he was given some degree of freedom as to how he chose to portray them. It appears that the artist also put into their designs hidden meanings and visual puns of their own. The meaning of the totem pole was, therefore, very personalized. Only the pole's owner and its carver can describe accurately its significance. Recorded information of this kind is surprisingly meager, thus most people only know the meaning of totem poles in very general terms. The true meanings of the majority of extant poles have died with the people for whom and by whom they were carved. Figures featured on the poles are family crests. These include the Eagle, Raven, Frog, Killer Whale, Grizzly Bear, Thunderbird and Dzunuḱwa among others. Carved subsequent to the inhabitation of Cormorant Island in the late

19th century (1870), totem poles originating in Alert Bay are perhaps some of the most familiar. Several of these poles are now found in Stanley Park in Vancouver. Others are featured in various museums across North America and throughout the world. Not all totem poles have figures all the way down the pole. Some simply feature a single crest at the top, representing the most important family symbol. A Chief could claim kin alliances with several groups. Of these, the most important would often go on the very top of the pole.

Our people believed that nothing lasts forever. When a Totem Pole falls to the earth or something was damaged, it has served its purpose and it was time let it go back to mother earth or make a new one. This is why our poles are not maintained or painted. The numbers in this Totem Pole Brochure match the pink TP #'s on the Historic Guide Brochure Map showing you where they are located.

Please keep in mind that entry is not permitted into the current 'Namgis Burial Grounds located near the Big House and the original 'Namgis Burial Grounds where Totem Poles 1 - 18, 26, 31, 37, 38 are located in the middle of town. The Totem Poles can be easily viewed from roadside at both locations. Thank you.

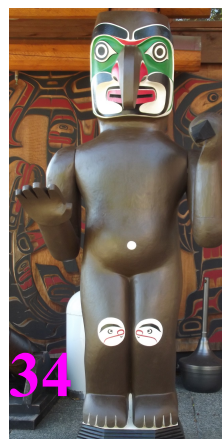
- 1 Archway - no longer on site
- 2 Pole - Eagle, Whale, Dzunukwa. no other information is available
- 3 Pole - Eagle, Bear holding Man. Carved by Charlie James (Yakudlas) Memorial for his daughter, Mabel Salmon (first wife of Jeff Salmon)
- 4 Pole-Human Figure with hat (tire no longer on pole) Attributed to Arthur Shaughnessy (from Kingcome Inlet but lived in Alert Bay) raised in the 1950's Carved for Kamdatsa (Mrs. Tom Patch, a relative of Lucy Brown) of Village Island or New Vancouver she was a high ranking woman who lived to be over 100 years old. She commissioned this pole before her death but, unsatisfied with the size of the hat she refused to pay for it. It lay on the beach for years before some locals removed it and raised it at her grave. Arthur Dick Sr. and Henry Speck put a tire around the carved hat to increase its size in accordance with her original wishes.
- 5 Pole - Eagle, Whale with a man on its back, Sea Otter/Bear? with a copper in its mouth, bullhead/cod/sculpin?, Man Attributed to Charlie James, from the early 1940's possibly a memorial for Abraham whose origins are Village Island and Fort Rupert.

6 Pole - Raven, Man Holding a Copper, Sun Holding a Copper, Killer Whale Carved by Tony Hunt, Calvin Hunt, Peter Knox, John Livingston in 1976 Memorial for Johnathan Hunt (Odi, from Fort Rupert) Johnathan Hunt attended the raising of Mungo Martin's Memorial Pole (see 9) and requested of his family that he be remembered with a pole similar to his close friend.

30 Pole - Sun, Speaker, Raven-Tseḱame' The Head Winter Dancer, 'Namxiyalagiyu /Sisiyutl (body), Bottom figure is 'Namxiyalagiyu who ripped apart into human form this Pole is located at Pat & Pauline Alfred's home. Carved by Beau Dick, Wayne Alfred, Marcus Alfred, Calvin Hunt, John Livingston, Richard Hunt, Stan Hunt, Jason Hunt, Randy Champagne, Sean Karpes, Ned Matilpi, Cole Speck Dan Henderson Jr., Don Svanvik, Doug Wattinger. Memorial for 'Namugwis Chief Pat Alfred. Was unveiled April 29, 2011.



34 Guardian Poles-Nuḷamaḷ and 35 Nan (Bear) are located at the entrance of the U'mista Cultural Centre carved by Marcus Alfred with youth Garrett Cranmer, Eddie Walkus, Harry Isaac, Aubrey Johnston Jr. and Alan Hunt. Unveiled August 15, 2014. These Guardian Poles are our messengers who will share this message of Maya'xala ("respect for yourself, others and the world around you") with everyone who passes by or comes into the U'mista Cultural Centre. Our messengers are the Nan (Bear) and Nuḷamaḷ who were traditionally responsible for keeping order in the Big House and making sure that people behaved with Maya'xala. We hope that these Guardian Poles will help us keep order around U'mista and remind us all to behave with Maya'xala.





36 Pole-Dobbin (super natural mountain goat) holding a super natural feather, wolf Kawadi'likala on his chest was the father of Dobbin, standing on Box a box of treasures: front-Mouse left side an Arrow used to hunt but no longer needed once he got the super natural feather, they say he only had to point the feather and the mountain goat would drop, Gwa'yam (Whale) on the bottom. This is their Clan legend. Located near the Big House. Head carver Marcus Alfred along with Wayne Alfred, Sean Karpes, Don Svanvik, Allan Hunt, Eddie Walkus and Ryan Cranmer. In memory of three brothers: William Dawson, Frank Dawson and Harry Dawson. Unveiled August 30, 2014.



38 Pole- Sisantle/ Sisantla'yi, Sisiyutł, Dzunuḱwa, two Maḱ'inux (Killer Whales). Located in the original 'Namgis Burial Grounds. Memorial for Peter & Alice Smith, also Lorne Smith. Carved by Beau Dick and his many fellow Carvers. Unveiled at Marcus Alfred Potlatch November 22, 2014



18 Pole-Thunderbird, Sisiyutł located at the Original 'Namgis Burial Grounds. Memorial for Great Grandparents John and Mary Whonnock. Carved by Don Svanvik, Bert Svanvik, Sean Whonnock, Johnathan Henderson in 2004.

16 Pole - Giant Halibut-Man Carved by Stephen Bruce in 1995

17 Pole - Thunderbird, Man holding Copper Carved by Bruce Alfred in 1995

Poles **16** and **17** were commissioned by the 'Namgis First Nation to commemorate the opening of the new road in front of the original 'Namgis Burial Grounds. It was the ending of the land claims issue the 'Namgis First Nation had with the Department of Highways and the Province. The Totem Poles were also to honour the people buried beneath the road.



26 Haida Mortuary Panel-Raven transforming located at the Original 'Namgis Burial Grounds carved by Cory Bulpit, Aubrey Johnston, Beau Dick, Bruce Alfred, Wayne Alfred, Ned Matilpi in May 2008. To honour the memory of approximately 300 Haida who were quarantined to Bones Bay in our Kwakwaka'wakw Territory around 1862 and never made it home due to small pox. Also to thank the Kwakwaka'wakw for their kindness and generosity during this tragic time.



32 Pole – Raven, Whale, Ancestor Yolakwame (man with spear). Located in front a family house near the U'mista Cultural Centre. Memorial for Wakayas Jimmy Dick. Transferred in dowry from the Scow family to Jimmy's Father. Carved by Beau Dick and unveiled September 2, 2012.



29 Thunderbird located near BC Ferry Terminal. This was carved by Beau Dick and Randy Champagne. It is a Memorial for Tammy Alfred and unveiled April 30, 2011.



27 Archway-Killer Whale located near BC Ferry terminal. This whale was carved by Blackie Dick. Pole was carved when Tom Thompson was Alderman for the Village of Alert Bay in 1979. Whale was taken down during BC Ferries terminal upgrade in 2007. It was touched up by Blackie's son Beau Dick and mounted on a new archway and unveiled on June 7, 2010.

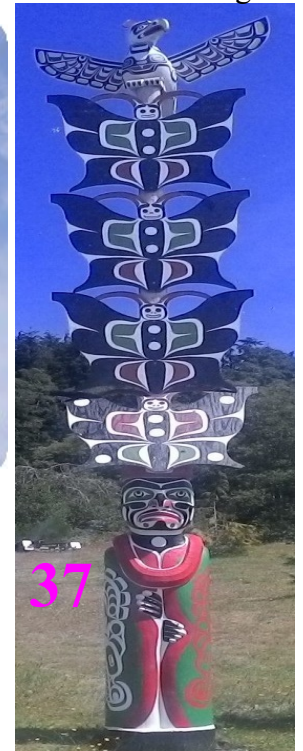


31 Pole - 4 warriors the legend of Maxa'yalizie and Matagila of the Ma'amtagila, Kulus on the top. Pole located at the Original 'Namgis Burial Grounds. Ma'amtagila pole created by Ma'amtagila carvers. Was unveiled June 17, 2011. Fallen and no longer onsite.

37 Pole-Kulus, 4 Butterflies, Numas, located in the original 'Namgis Burial Grounds. Memorial for Lily Speck. Carved by head carver Marcus Alfred and his many fellow carvers. Unveiled during Johnny Speck Potlatch January 31, 2015 Damaged 2020. Butterflies are now missing.



24 Archway - Sun, Killer Whales located at the current 'Namgis Burial Grounds. Carved by Wayne Alfred, Bruce Alfred, William Wasden Jr. in 1992. Memorial for Grandmother & Great Grandmother Agnes Alfred (Granny Axu). No longer on site.





33 World's Tallest Totem Pole- Located near the traditional Big House

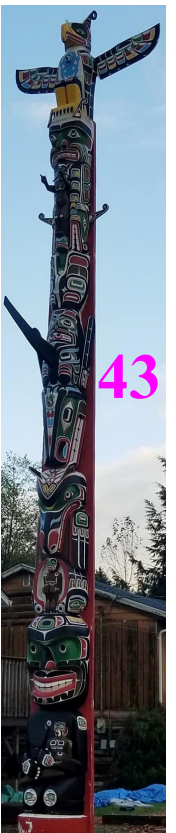
The Totem Pole is comprised of a 163 Foot and a 10 Foot pole making it 173 feet tall. Unlike most Totem Poles, which are specific to a particular family, the figures on this pole represent some of the tribes of the Kwakwaka'wakw. From the top down are the following figures: Sun Man-Gusgimukw, Kulus (Thunderbirds cousin)-Kwagu'ł, Whale-Gwa'sala-Nakwaxda'xw, Old Man- Ławitsis, Wolf-Dzawada'enux, Thunderbird-'Namgis, Dzunukwa, Sisiyutł-Mamalikalala, Bear holding a Salmon, Raven holding Cooper, Dzunukwa holding Copper. The salmon that the bear is holding is indicative of our peoples pride in the land. Chief Carver Jimmy Dick was assisted by Benjamin Dick, Adam Dick, William Dick, Gus Matilpi and Mrs. Dora Cook (nee Sewid). Although the Totem Pole was completed in the late 1960's, it was not raised until 1973. Pole located near the Big House.

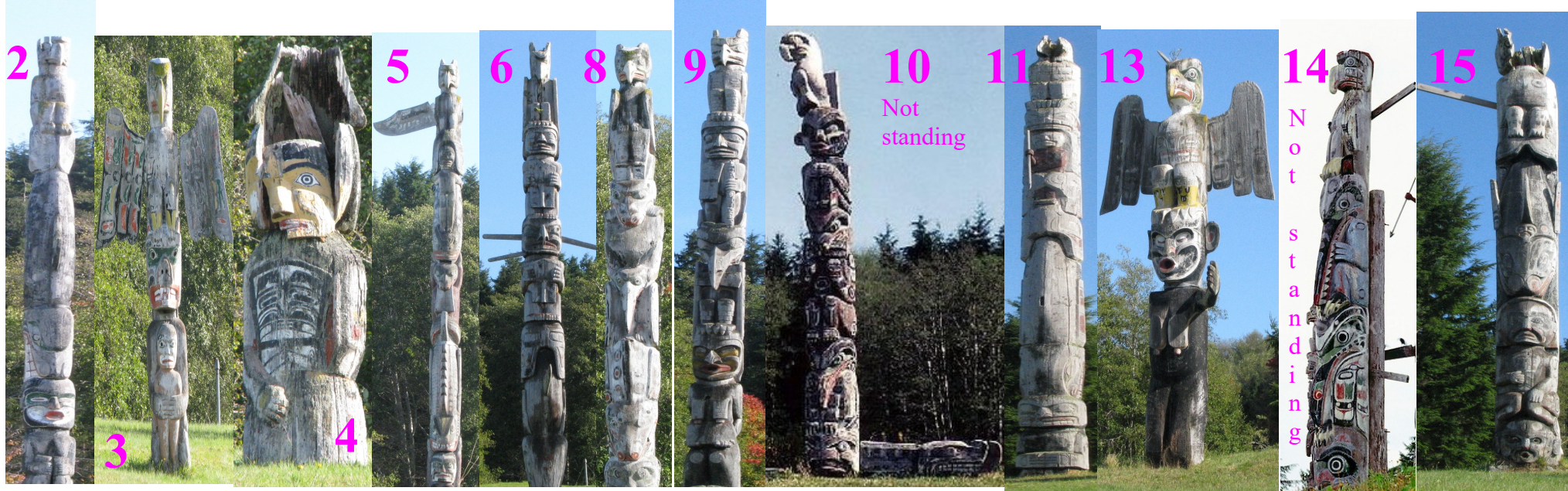
During a Nimpkish wind in November 2007 the top 10 feet of Totem Pole fell to the ground. Some of the pieces that fell to the ground are at the U'mista Cultural Centre.

39 Pole-Owner has chosen not to be in Brochure
40 Pole-Owner has chosen not to be in Brochure
41 Pole-Owner has chosen not to be in Brochure

42 Pole-Thunderbird, Killer Whale, Wolf, Huxhux, Ancestor, Bear and Raven is located near the U'mista Cultural Centre. Carvers and Painters: Kevin Daniel Cranmer, Chief Calvin Hunt, John Livingston, Chief Roy Edgar Cranmer Jr, Gordon Dick, Erich Glendale, Troy Mata, Dan Everts, Robinson Cook, Moy Sutherland, Melanie Fred-Cranmer, Ganao Fred-Cranmer, Daniel Fred-Cranmer and Tony Fred-Cranmer. The pole is 40 feet tall carved out of a red cedar log roughly 500 years old. We began on June 13, 2017 and completed November 10, 2017. Unveiled at our Memorial Potlatch November 11, 12, 2017, hosted by Chief Bill Cranmer and Chief Roy Cranmer Sr. It is in Memory of my Father Daniel Earl Cranmer-Gwagwadaxala, Grandfather Daniel Edgar Cranmer-Chief Pal Nakwala Wakas, Grandmother Agnes Margaret Cranmer-Gwantilakw, Uncle Donovan "Buster" Cranmer, Aunt Frances Fullerton and Cousin Dan Fullerton. **During a Nimpkish wind on November 17, 2020 the Totem Pole fell and remains the ground.**

43 Pole-Thunderbird Wayne Alfred & Randy Champagne, Sisiuł-with whale hunter pointing at our river Joey Wilson Jr, Whale Gary Peterson, Sealion holding a Man Alan Hunt. "Huge need name" holding a Man. Aubrey Johnston Jr. Other helpers: John Livingston, Mervin Child, Anthony Alfred. Memorial Totem Pole for Christopher Donald Alfred (Sonny). Unveiled November 3, 2018 Memorial Potlatch hosted by Donald Alfred. **During a Nimpkish wind on November 17, 2020 the Totem Pole fell and remains the ground.**





7 Pole - no longer on site

8 Pole - Thunderbird, Bear holding Whale's tale, Raven, Whale, Dzunukwa Carved by Charlie James. Memorial for Amos Dawson's Uncle

9 Pole - Kulus, Cedar Man holding Copper and Talking Stick, Raven with Copper in its mouth, Dzunukwa holding a Copper Carved by Henry Hunt, Tony Hunt, with assistance from John Livingston, Lawrence Bell (Haida) in 1970. Memorial for Mungo Martin ('Nakapankam) of Fort Rupert, BC Born c.1881-died August 16, 1962. Mungo Martin was a high-ranking Chief, a respected leader and a renowned carver responsible for training a whole generation of young artists. He was the first to host a Potlatch publically in 1953, after the end of the Potlatch prohibition period 1884-1952. This was the first pole raised in Alert Bay in many years. The Kulus at the top is a crest of Mungo's father, who was from Gilford Island. The Cedar Man is a figure unique to Mungo's work. The Raven is a crest of the Hunt Family, which was added to this pole in honour of Mungo's son David, who married into the Hunt family. The Dzunukwa is the crest of Mungo's wife Abaya from Turnour Island and New Vancouver.

10 Pole - Thunderbird (no wings, no ears/horns), Dzunukwa, Grizzly Bear with Copper in its mouth, Raven, Sisiyutl Carved by Arthur Shaughnessy, raised in 1924 Memorial for Chief Wakas (Dan Cranmer's Uncle) whose father was from Rivers Inlet and whose mother was 'Namgis. Chief Wakas was closely related to the Beans Family. His oldest brother was buried at River Inlet. No longer standing.

11 Pole-Thunderbird (no wings, no ears/horns), Sisiyutl, Warrior holding Spear, Killer Whale, Sea Monster. Carved by Doug Cranmer, Bruce Alfred and Richard Hunt in April 1978. Memorial for Daniel Edgar Cranmer (Doug's father) from the 'Namgis. Dan's wife Agnes was Kwagu'l and is a descendant of the Hunt Family. Doug modeled this pole after one which stood in front of Moses Alfred's Big House in the early 1900's.

12 Pole - no longer on site



13 Pole - Thunderbird and Dzunukwa. Carved by Willie Seaweed (Hiłamas), assisted by Joe Seaweed at Blunden Harbour in 1931. Memorial for Billie Moon

14 Pole - Eagle/Thunderbird, Ha'ma'a, Raven, Sea Monster Carver unknown Memorial for Wa'otsa'as, wife of Sam Charlie (Lucy Brown's Uncle) Ha'ma'a, is a mythical creature with a mouth of a crocodile and the body of a land mammal, it is pictured in Boas pg. 479, 1895. no longer standing

15 Pole - Thunderbird, Killer Whale, Man holding Copper, Dzunukwa Carver unknown

28 Pole - Thunderbird, Killer Whale, Wolf located at Anglican Church Burial Grounds. Memorial Pole for Glen Robertson carved by Billy Robertson, Kelly Robertson, Beau Dick, Shawn Karpes, Aubrey Johnston, Brian Wadhams, Frank Smith Sr. March 12, 2010.