

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cross Border Workshop

Introduction – Who am I  
Emchayiik (always playing) – Robert Dennis  
Born September 7, 1947 at Chap's  
Great grandson of Chief Louie Nookmiis

# Introduction

- I am HUU-ay-aht, as were my mother and father.
- My maternal Grandmother is YUU-clulth-aht.
- My paternal Grandmother is HOO-chucklisaht.
- My maternal grandfather is from HUU-ay-aht
- My paternal grandfather is from HUU-ay-aht

# Historical Accounts

- What I am about to tell you are partial accounts that were told to me by my great-grandfather Em-chay-iik – Chief Louis Nookemus.
- In addition, my great grandfather left historical accounts in his language, that he chose to leave through a tape recording with Eugene Arima in August 1964 that were eventually translated and transcribed. This is part of it.
- From the Huu-ay-aht perspective, these accounts are extremely important. They provide unforgettable insights into our history.

# Who is Chief Louis Nookmiis (Nookemus)

- He was born in Numukamiis March 15, 1881
- He was Head Chief of HUU-ay-aht from 1904 to 1943, began sitting with his father in 1897.
- He lived in HUU-ay-aht all his life.
- He last lived at Chii-wis or Number 9 (HUU-ay-aht Indian Reserve 9)
- The following are partial historical account of HUU-ay-aht History tape recorded in August 1964.
- Including the Anacla Story about the Earthquake and Tsunami.



# Population

- They (Huu-ay-aht) numbered over 2,000 people . Only men with family were counted, not counting children. Estimated 6,000 to 10,000 people.
- In our Comprehensive Traditional use Study we identified 53 known village sites.
- At the village Nuumukamiis there would have been 400-600 people living there.
- At the village of Anaqtla there would have been about 300-400 people living ther.

# Anaqtla and Clutus location of event.



# A partial account of Anaqtla

- This story now is about the first Anaqtla people. It is said they were a big tribe at the time of him whose name is Hayuuqwis-is. He was the chief, he was of the Anaqtla-aht, he owned Anaqtla country. Their country was from Cluutus to Cluuhata and they numbered over 300-400 people.
- There are now no one left alive caused by what this land does at times. They had practically no way or time to try to save themselves. I think it was it was at night time that the land shook.

# Partial account of events on Clutus beach

- They were at Cluutus and they simply had no time to do anything when the land shook.
- It was floating, only sand.
- Had no time to get hold of canoe, no time to wake up. They sank at once and all drowned.

# Who survived?



# What did we do?

- In 1969, we built our existing reserve at Anaqtla, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile up the beach.
- Its at sea level.
- Built there for a strategic reason, we built housing here so the land would not become part of the Canadian National Park.
- In 1998 we began to have serious discussion about building a community hall.

# Benson Nookemus reminder

- Benson Nookemus is an HUU-ay-aht elder and close relative of Chief Louie spoke at Tribal meeting and told the HUU-ay-aht people that you should not build the community hall in lower Anaqtla.
- He reminded the people that there was an earthquake and tsunami here years and years ago, our people were wiped out and the village was destroyed.

# Benson Nookemus advice

- Build the community hall in Upper Anaqtla where a Tsunami cannot reach the high ground. Chief Louie said the people who lived at Malth-sit in the high ground survived the tsunami. We should do the same and build our hall on high ground.
- Not only should we build it there, but it should be an emergency shelter for our people who live in lower Anaqtla.
- We also should have evacuation plans so that our people can safely get out of lower Anaqtla.

# What are we doing now?

All future infrastructure to be built in Upper Anaq̓tla

- House of Huu-ay-aht
- Government building
- Water Tower
- Sewer Treatment Plant
- 50 lot sub-division
- Emergency preparedness and training
- Emergency tsunami warning system in place.

# Emergency Shelter

1. A safe place to go in case of an emergency
2. During the last Tsunami warning in took our community 5 minutes to evacuate Anaqtla village.

