

Abolishment Pole



FROG
(WUXUS)

BEAR
(SPE'UTH)

FROG
(WUXUS)

YOUTH
(SWIW'LUS)

This is the first pole that Don carved for the City's collection.

The Bear represents strength. In this story, the Bear is a Clan Member; the Frog represents luck, wealth, and the end of the winter season. A youth had been terrorizing the tribe for quite some time. He never listened to his parents or the elders. A council was held to discuss the matter. A final chance was granted to the youth to turn things around for the better. This chance was ignored and it was then determined the youth be abolished from the tribe (this usually happened for very serious acts). The youth walked aimlessly until his demise. He was later discovered in a pond, his entire body covered with Frogs. The Frogs express the feelings shared in this story: sorrow, being content, and the demise of the youth (Don Smith, Interview, Oct 2012).[©]

Totem co-sponsored by: H.W. Dickie.



1990 | Size: 12'0" (3.7 m)

Si-yaaxultun (Donald [Don] Smith)

Don was born in 1964 in Duncan and is Coast Salish from Qw'umiyiqun (Comiaken), Quw'utsun' Tribes. He is from the Canute family. Don started to carve when he was twenty-one, and worked for four years in an informal apprenticeship with Simon Charlie. Don was an on-site artist at the Quw'utsun' Cultural & Conference Centre, and there he carved all three poles for the City's collection.[©]



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.