

Cedar Man Walking out of the Log



CEDAR MAN
(XPEY' SWUY'QE')

COPPER
(SQW'UL-LUS)

BABY
THUNDERBIRD

KILLER WHALE
(Q'UL-LHANUMUTSUN)

MAN
(SWUY'QE')

Cedar Man is the world's widest totem pole (diameter 1.8m (5'11")). The original tree was over 750 years old when forestry company MacMillan Bloedel donated it to the City. The indent on the back indicates that planks were removed to make First Nations houses.

The design came from a Hunt family pole that honoured Mungo Martin, a *Kwagu't* master carver. *The top of log was left natural so people could see the size of the log and it forms the hairline for the Cedar Man. On the chest there is a Copper (shield), which represents wealth in Kwagu't families. The skirt represents the traditionally worn cedar-bark skirt. On the talking stick*, the representations are all family crests: the top is the Kulus (Baby Thunderbird) which represents Richard dancing the tamed Hamatsa**; the Killer Whale in the middle represents spirits of our Great Chiefs; and the Man on the bottom represents a Kwagu't family member (Richard Hunt, Interview, Sep 2012).©*

* The talking stick is held by a chief who has the right to speak at ceremonies and contains his family crests.

** Hamatsa is a high-ranking dance in Kwagu't culture.



1988 | Size: 24'11" (7.6 m)

Gwe-la-y-gwe-la-gya-les (Richard Hunt)

Richard is Kwagu't and was born in 1951 in 'Yalis (Alert Bay, Cormorant Island, off Vancouver Island), BC. His parents were Henry Hunt from Tsakis (Fort Rupert) and his mother, Helen, is from Dzawada'enuxw (Kingcome Inlet). Richard learned to carve from his father. Richard has been honoured many times for his cultural work including the Order of BC and the Order of Canada.©



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.