

Transformation in Life



EAGLE GUARDIAN
(LULUMEXUN TU YUXWULE')

YOUNG PERSON
(SWIW'LUS)

BALD EAGLE
(YUXWULE')

MAN
(SWUY'QE')

This pole depicts the story of a transformation in life. The bottom figure signifies a Man on a vision quest. During this rite, an Eagle carries him away. When he returns as a young person, the Eagle with the wings wrapped around him represents his Guardian Spirit. His life starts, like a rebirth, or as some people state, a second chance to change his ways. The Eagle represents wisdom, great vision, and healing (Harvey Alphonse, Interview, Nov 2012).

Harvey was influenced by local carvers, including Nelson Canute who worked with Harvey on this pole. Nelson carved the top figure of Eagle holding the young person.©



1987 | Size: 12'11" (3.9 m)

Chief Swaletthul't'hw (Harvey Alphonse) and Nelson Canute

Harvey was born in 1949 and is a hereditary chief with the Qw'umiyiqun (Comiaken) of Quw'utsun' Tribes through his grandmother Tstaaslewut (Catherine Lohe'), and her father Lohe' a hereditary chief. He carves masks for his family's sacred sxwayxwuy (mask dance) ceremonies. Nelson Canute was born in 1932 and is Qw'umiyiqun (Comiaken). Nelson carved miniature totem poles and this was his first large pole. Both artists are Coast Salish. Photo is of Chief Alphonse.©



Courtesy of Cowichan Tribes.