

Wind Spirit



THUNDERBIRD
(TZINQUAW)

WIND SPIRIT
(SULI 'U TU SATUTS)

BEAR
(SPE'UTH)

HALIBUT
(STSA'TX)

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

I was doing a lot of hunting in the mountains and waters around the Cowichan Valley and these are things I like: Eagles, Bears, and Halibut. Like most Native people a long time ago, they were things that were in your life at the time. I like the power of the Thunderbird and wanted to show the powerful beak and claws. The Bear has to do with my son, his name is Bear. The Halibut is a creature that I really like and that I liked in other totem poles. At this time in my career, I was emulating work that other artists had done and chose to do these figures as I thought I could do it and express my own feelings. You put a lot of feeling into these things because it takes three, four months of your life (Doug LaFortune, Interview, Sep 2012).[©]



1986 | Size: 12'4.5" (3.8 m)

Doug LaFortune (a.k.a. William Horne)

Doug was born in 1953 and grew up in Duncan. He is Coast Salish of Quw'utsun' (Cowichan) and Tsawout, WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) heritage. On his mother's side, his grandfather Dick Harry was a chief. Doug started carving when he was nineteen years old. Doug's brothers Perry, Howard, and Aubrey LaFortune all helped carve his poles for this collection. His other artistic passion is drawing.[©]



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.