

Harvest Time

Simon Charlie told Tom this story and this pole is Tom's interpretation. *The North Wind, when it really starts to howl, that's when the Killer Whales would come in and feed in Cowichan Bay. When the North Wind got colder the Whales would head out to migrate, because the Salmon run was finished. The pole represents the harvesting time for the Salmon. With the North Wind, you notice the Killer Whales. You go down to the mouth of the river and jig (a fishing technique) for Salmon in the bay or wait for them to come up the river. That was the inspiration, a harvest time pole (Tom LaFortune, Interview, Oct 2012).*

Tom stopped carving for ten years but was inspired to return to his art and love of wood by his wife, who told him, *"Don't let it go, keep going."*©



NORTH WIND
(SATUTS)

KILLER WHALE
(Q'UL-LHANUMUTSUN)



1986 | Size: 12'5" (3.8 m)

KETÍWFEL (Tom LaFortune)

Tom was born in Duncan in 1959 and is of Coast Salish heritage. He is from the Tsawout First Nation of the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) peoples. Tom has worked with wood since the age of eleven. He honed his carving skills with master carver Simon Charlie, while working alongside his brothers Doug and Francis.

Tom's work is recognizable by his distinctive choice of colour.©



Courtesy of Jane Mertz.