



# Outlook

| Friday Dec. 29-Jan. 4, 2000-2001 |



## Photo op

Photographers who have reached new summits with their work have an opportunity to win money or prizes and have their photos shown before thousands of people. Deadline for submissions to the second annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival's photography competition is Jan. 15. Prizes are offered in four categories: sport, landscape, flora and fauna, and culture. The winning pictures will be displayed in the lobby of Centennial Theatre from Feb. 8 to March 15. Slides will be shown nightly, Feb. 21-25. Info: call Doug at 736-5799 or Marlene at 985-3979. ©

## College art

Who says students don't pay their way? The work of Kiff Holland and the 2001 graduates of the Capilano College graphic design and illustration program is on display and for sale at Piece of Cake Dessert Emporium, 107 W. Esplanade, until the end of January. Proceeds go towards funding the students' graduation show in April 2001. For more info, call Kif at 925-0184 or Karl at 990-3963. ©

## Qu'est-que vous dites?

"Oh darling, you know I love it when you speak French to me." Cécile Francophone returns to the Silk Purse Arts Centre, 1570 Argyle Ave., West Van., on Jan. 10. The session allows participants to read and have discussions in French. ©

## Christmas chips

It's time to chip in for the environment. The first opportunity to recycle those Christmas trees is Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ambleside Park. Ensure all tinsel and ornaments are removed. Donations go to Lions Club charities. ©



Beautiful Marilyn

# Aboriginal vision

By Don Fiorvento

Calvin Helin admits that the biggest development he's ever previously been involved with is the remodeling of his Richmond home and "I was 10 times over budget," he says jokingly.

But on this Friday afternoon we sit in his office to discuss a development he is spearheading on Maori land in New Zealand that currently has an estimated value of \$2 billion. The urban villages concept along six kilometres of seashore includes 15 square metres (16 million sq ft) of residential, commercial, recreational and cultural facilities.

When completed in 10-20 years, 30,000-50,000 people will live on the 283-hectare (700-acre) site. Helin notes the project has the potential of reaching \$10 billion if another 850 ha (2,100 a) of land can be acquired. It is the largest development project in the history of New Zealand.

And it is all a result of a vision Helin had to provide First Nations people with the avenues to break away from their dependency on the federal government.

Helin, the son of Chief Nis-Loch-a-Noos of the Tsimshian Nation, says government funding has only helped create the attitude among Canadian aboriginals that somebody else is going to take care of their problems.

"If money were the answer to all of the Indians' problems in Canada, you'd think \$6 billion per year in transfer payments would have solved all of them."

Helin, a lawyer by training, appears unconcerned that he may ruffle a few feathers in the First Nations community. He says he senses



**ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT** — Calvin Helin is striving, through business, to make Canada's and New Zealand's Aboriginal populations self-sufficient.

Rob Newell photo

inspiring a new direction for First Nations people is much more than chatter around a table in a local bar. He is founding president of the Native Investment and Trade Association, founding vice-president of the National Aboriginal Business Association, and director of the National board of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Investment.

Helin is also founding co-chair of the board of directors of Aboriginal Global Investment

stronger identity, earned him recognition in 1998 from *Caldwell Partners/Financial Post* as one of Canada's top 40 under-40 in business. The honour followed five years after Helin was recognized by *Business In Vancouver* as one of Vancouver's top 40 under-40. That same year he also received the governor general's commemorative medal.

The modest Helin says success has a lot to do with the people you're fortunate to encounter, and attitude.

"American William James said 'It wasn't until middle age that I realized changing your attitude can change your life.'"

The former commercial fisher-

# Native entrepreneur stresses teamwork

Continued from page 11

"You have to make a call on things. One thing I try to teach my children is that once you've made up your mind you have to fight to protect yourself."

Helin is not naive enough though to think that he can do everything by sheer will-

power. He emphasizes the importance of teamwork and in the case of the major development in New Zealand, developing partnerships with highly qualified real estate development people.

"Those people have been assembled in TsimCrefahawk Development Ltd., of which Helin is chairman

ment to be the keynote speaker at the first Maori International Business Conference. Eventually vast tracts of high-quality land, were persuaded that TsimCrefahawk could assist them in achieving their development goals.

"The difference between (the Maoris) and Canadian aboriginals is

the Maoris get no transfers payments at all. They get treaty settlements and they've got to figure out ways to get returns on those settlements. There's no opportunity for them to make a mus-take."

Helin notes New Zealand is just one example of how the community-based indigenous development model he helped create can work for aboriginals throughout the world. He said the model addresses similar goals those aborigi-

nals face and provides them with answers for their concerns about how business projects can work in their communities. Helin is not afraid to challenge the status quo because he says that in the end it's not about making money. It's about helping people. And, as an entrepreneur, he's willing to risk failure to do it.

Although now, as a result of his experience, the stakes are much higher than when he remedied his home. ©

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