



**Kelp  
Farm  
Experiment**  
Page 17



**Missing  
in  
Action**  
Page 27



**Local  
Sports  
Star**  
Page 22

# PRINCE RUPERT THIS WEEK

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Also serving Port Edward, Lax Kw'alaams, Kitkatla, Kincolith, Hartley Bay, Oona River, Dodge Cove, Metlakatla, Masset, Port Clements, Tlell, Queen Charlotte City, Sandspit

## Former Rupertite makes Top 40

by Laurien Rueger

**"NO MATTER WHERE** you come from, or what your background is, you can be successful if you have the drive, the perseverance, and to some extent, the toughness to go out and risk failure."

These were the words spoken by former Prince Rupert resident Calvin Helin, two days before he was honoured with the Canadian business community's prestigious "Top 40 under 40" award in Toronto on April 17.

The awards program, now in its third year, recognizes 40 outstanding Canadians under 40 years of age. The April 1998 issue of *The Financial Post Magazine* profiles each of the

winners, including Helin. The *Post* describes Helin as "a rising star in British Columbia's legal and business communities."

"Even to be short-listed is a compliment," admits Helin. Caldwell Partners, a Canadian executive search company, coordinated the selection. Six joint chairs convened an advisory panel of 19 prominent Canadians from the public and private sector to choose the 40 award finalists.

Selection criteria included vision and leadership, innovation, impact on business and the business community, the capacity to encourage and foster growth, and involvement in the wider community.

Fellow recipient Tim Collins, the SFU engineer who devel-

oped the V-chip, is an example of the high calibre of award recipients. During a recent interview on CNN, American President Clinton touted the V-chip as being "what America needs."

Helin thinks it is always significant when someone from a small community is honored. "It's not often that people in small communities find recognition," he notes.

Helin has dedicated the award to the memory of his father, Tsimshian hereditary chief Barry Helin, who passed away in this community two months ago. Helin says his father had a strong influence on him and that he takes a great deal of pride in his father as a hereditary chief.

Helin's mother Verna Helin, a resident of Prince Rupert and Lax Kw'alaams, flew to Toronto so she could be present at the awards ceremony held April 16. Pat Helin spoke on behalf of the family to Prince Rupert *THIS WEEK*, indicating that they are very proud of Helin and his achievements.

The ceremony was held at a luncheon at Toronto's Design Exchange, in front of about 600 top executives from around the country. Influential business and community leaders spoke at the awards ceremony that sells out every year. Past award recipients were present and Helin was looking forward to the event as an opportunity to meet and network with top achievers from all over Canada.

Helin is one of only two First Nations people to ever win the award. The other Native recipient is David Tuccaro, who was



Calvin Helin of Prince Rupert/Lax Kw'alaams was honoured last week with the prestigious "Top 40 Under 40" award.

(Submitted Photo)

also honored at this year's award ceremony.

Helin's early business ventures included a fishing partnership. A black belt in karate came in handy while at student at UBC law school, enabling him to open and teach at a karate school to pay his way.

Helin has helped to found groups like the National Aboriginal Business Association and the Native Investment and Trade Association. In May 1997, he opened the Calvin Helin Personal Law Corporation to provide legal services on West Vancouver's reserve. One of Helin's latest projects is a new mutual fund company, Aboriginal Global Investment Management. His goal is to build the fund to 10 billion dollars over the next 10 years.

Helin was only 12 years old when he left Port Simpson to attend school on the lower mainland. He now lives in Richmond, BC, with wife Vernita Helin, but says he is still very strongly con-

nected to his roots and his family here in Prince Rupert and Lax Kw'alaams.

Helin's advice to young Native people is that "one of the things you'll learn is, when you undertake things, don't be afraid to fail. When you do fail, let it be like water off a duck's back and go on to do something else. He uses his own experience in the past year or so as an example. In addition to his current law practice, he has been involved in 5 or 6 business ventures that worked out "sill and over" in that did not.

Helin feels that young Native people, especially men, become discouraged and stop trying. But he says one of the secrets to success is learning to fail. "Don't let it devastate you," he advises.

Helin says his other success secret is to never forget where you came from. "No matter how successful I am, I'll always just be a kid from Port Simpson that had a chance to get out and do some things."

## THE 'Y' FILES

Wondering what happened to plans to develop a local volunteer centre?

A needs assessment completed in April, 1997 concluded there was a need for a volunteer centre here, but identified no funding sources to establish it independently.

The assessment suggested partnering the centre with an existing group. Organizations identified as well-suited were the Special Events Society and Roosevelt Park Community School.

Joe Gaber, a volunteer with the Special Events Society, is chairing a public "brainstorming" meeting on the project Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Special Events Society office, downstairs on the fountain side of City Hall.

"It's a big job," says Gaber, who admits special events volunteers already have enough work to do. "But there is a need at this time, and Terrace's volunteer centre is doing well." Gaber would like to get the project off the ground, but wants to find others interested in carrying it through long-term.

Roosevelt Park Community School's expertise has focussed on the development of a volunteer handbook, which could be used in conjunction with a volunteer centre. For details, see the article on page 5.

**YOU VOTED AND THEY WON!  
PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS**  
WINNERS ON PAGES 11 TO 16