



LIĞ^wILDAĀ^w RESEARCH CENTRE



We are continuing regular newsletter updates to share exciting Liğ^wilđax^w history from the Research Centre. Some of you know these stories but others do not, so it is our pleasure to introduce you to the fifth installment of: **Tales from the Vault.**

Dzunuq^{wa} and the Salmon

THIS STORY WAS TOLD BY JAMES JUMBO (J.J.) WALLAS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN 1982.

A family was camping by a river so that they could put up salmon for the winter. All of the fish they have caught and cut is hanging in the smokehouse. Before the eldest son went to bed he went into the smokehouse and saw that the fish had been disturbed because there were many missing where they had been hanging.

He told his father, "Some of our smoked salmon are not there."

"We're the only ones here," his father said.

"We're the only ones from our family..."

"Just forget about it, we'll get some more."

The next morning when the boy built the fire in the smokehouse he noticed even more missing. "When it becomes night, I will hide in here to see who is stealing our salmon. I'll take my bow and arrow, if it's a man I won't shoot him." But, there wasn't a very big fire so it burned out. The boy was hidden in a dark corner.

There was no noise, just the wind and river. It wasn't long before the boy heard a sound... Footsteps! Heavy footsteps were approaching the camp. The noise came close outside the smokehouse, the boy was frightened but he got his bow and arrow ready. The roof of the smokehouse lifted up, the boy pulled his bowstring taut.

He dimly saw an arm reach in toward the salmon so he got his bow ready. There was a real cry, it woke up the others.

"I think I got it! I think it's dzunuq^{wa}," said the boy to his parents. "Let's go after him!"

"We'll wait till morning. We will see the trail better tomorrow, if you hit him he will probably be dead."

They all rose early. The father and his children headed out on the trail of the dzunuq^{wa}. The trail had drops of blood on it and led to a house built of branches. A pool of fresh water was nearby the house with a tree leaning over the pool.

Call 250-287-9460 (ext.3) or email: LRC@wewaikaitreaty.com to reach us at 664 Seahawk Drive.
8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday.