



Joey Rudichuk



Dana Bellis

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

The Gwaii Trust welcomed two new employees recently. Joey Rudichuk, our new communications officer, is a community relations professional with extensive experience in community investment and engagement, corporate social responsibility and partner relations in both the corporate and non-profit sectors. She is passionate about building stronger communities from the inside out; encouraging community members to share their voice, engage in the care and concern for others, and utilize local agencies and community buildings to their fullest potential. In her new role with the Gwaii Trust, she is managing internal and external communications, coordinating public events, and supporting the work of the board of directors and committees. From a military family, she was raised in Massett and returned to Haida Gwaii in 2015. She lives in the Tow Hill Community with her dog, Marley.

The other new face in our office is Dana Bellis,

who has returned home to fill in as our temporary projects officer. Dana was raised in Massett and attended Tahayghen Elementary and Gudangaay Tlaats'gaa Naay Secondary up to grade 10. She completed high school off-island and went on to complete a Bachelor of History and Women's Studies at UNBC, and a Masters of Philosophy in Indigenous Studies from the University of Tromso in Norway. She's travelled all over the world, including to Finland and Kenya as an exchange student, and to Oman to swim with sharks. She brings extensive work experience to her new position, focused mainly on community engagement and economic development for both NGOs and industry. Working within industry, Dana's work supported the facilitation and delivery of local opportunities by focusing on contracting and procurement, business capacity building, employment, and workforce development. When she's not working, Dana volunteers in the Massett Soup Kitchen and is supporting the development of a book on her Nanni Nora Bellis by Jenny

Nelson. Her goal is to travel the world and reach every continent by the time she is 35 - she has only two more continents to go, including Antarctica.

As Project Officer, Dana is a community resource to support islanders and local organizations through the grant application process. This is done through information sharing on the different programs, reviewing incoming applications, and working with applicants to ensure all the needed information is included so that the application can be reviewed by the Board to make a funding decision. For successful applicants, Dana is the Gwaii Trust focal throughout the life of a project. She said the highlights of her job are working with the residents of Haida Gwaii and seeing their successful projects unfold, and working with the team at the Gwaii Trust.

"It is inspiring to witness on a daily basis how committed the residents of Haida Gwaii are to continuously improving the islands, and how Gwaii Trust can help support this improvement through our funding programs," Dana said.