



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northgate Totem Finds New Home In Suquamish

Historic piece of Northwest art adopted by Port Madison Enterprises and the Suquamish Tribe

SUQUAMISH, February 21, 2007- A famous piece of Northwest art is now part of the skyline overlooking Agate Passage at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort.

The 51-foot totem, referred to as the "Northgate Totem" was created by famed sculptor Dudley C. Carter, whose carved art also appears on the grounds at PME's Kiana Lodge.

Carter, a well respected Northwest carver, originally fashioned the "Northgate Totem" in 1952 to decorate the north entrance to Northgate Mall in Seattle. It stood there for more than 55 years until renovations to the site required its removal last fall.

Rather than see the totem destroyed, Northgate Mall executives graciously donated it to the Suquamish Tribe who, in conjunction with their tribally owned corporation Port Madison Enterprises, paid for its removal, transport and restoration.

A dedication ceremony for the newly restored totem was held February 20, 2008 at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort Event Lawn, where it is now permanently placed. Tribal Elder Marilyn Wandry performed a blessing for the pole along with the Suquamish Song and Dance Group.

"We're honored to provide a place for this totem where she can watch over us on our future journeys," said Wandry during the ceremony.

After decades of braving the elements outside Northgate Mall, the totem required extensive renovation. Large portions of the Raven's head were replaced, along with one of the wings and several spots of decay. The previously red hued totem was also re-painted with earth tones and colors found in the natural environment.

A team of well known Northwest artists including Dr. Michael Pavel, Dave Casey, Gordon Nielson, Shaunte Bernal and Ed Polin painstakingly re-worked the cedar carving for more than 2 month to ensure a long new life for it in Suquamish.

Originally, the totem also included a 23-foot canoe carving at its base. However, age and wear prevented it from being reattached during restoration. In keeping with preservation efforts, PME officials decided to keep the canoe carving and give it a separate place of prominence. It too has a new home at Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort where it welcomes guests outside Angeline Spa.

"I'm excited about having it here. It's really a tribute to the Suquamish People that they would adopt this totem as their own, investing considerable resources into this project," said PME Hotel Director Sam Askew.

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