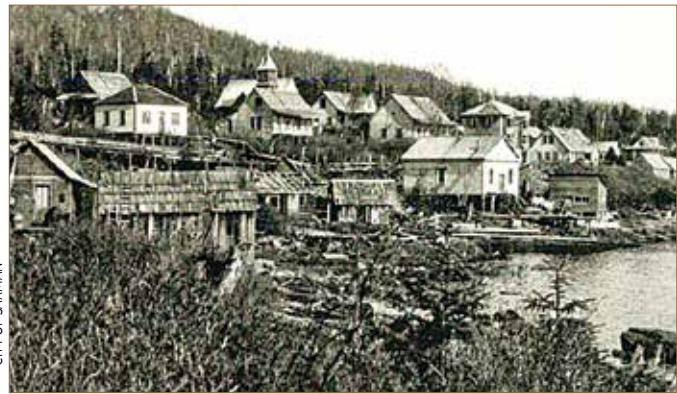


CITY OF SAXMAN



CITY OF SAXMAN

CITY OF SAXMAN



Cape Fox Dancers perform in the clan house. A photo shows Saxman in its early years.

THE COMMUNITY EMBODIES MUNICIPAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Rich history and deep cultural heritage are easy to see on a walk through Saxman.

Totem Row, leading up from the shore, is flanked by totem poles representing those brought from village sites nearly a century ago. Up the hill is a clan house providing an essential civic and cultural asset for Saxman.

In the 1930s, totem poles and ceremonial artifacts were brought from village sites at Cape Fox and on Tongass, Cat and Pennock islands in programs managed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Many totem poles were restored and raised. The totem park welcomes more than 100,000 visitors each year. Beaver Clan House—built in traditional style all in cedar—hosts cultural presentations and is also much-used by the greater community for concerts and other gatherings. Edwin DeWitt Carving Center nearby is a work space for Tlingit artists; visitors interact here with carvers and learn about Alaska Native culture.

The City of Saxman has 431 residents. The Organized Village of Saxman is a federally recognized tribe. Almost 70 percent of Saxman residents claim Alaska Native ancestry. Many of them still lead a

subsistence lifestyle. Deer, salmon, halibut and other wild foods provide a significant part of their diets and figure in cultural events.

The city recently completed a 20-year master plan that envisions a new harbor for small cruise ships and large yachts. This development will enhance cultural tourism in the greater Ketchikan community.



CITY OF SAXMAN

The New Deal was a new lease on life for Northwest Coast carving. Henry Denny Sr. was filmed as he recounted the CCC restoration of the Giant Oyster totem pole, standing today at the foot of Totem Row.

Saxman Community Center incorporates a gym, meeting space, a theater, a kitchen and some city offices.

The city operates water distribution and sewer collection systems. Public works staff take care of Saxman's roads. Firefighting is handled through a contract with a rural fire department.

VILLAGERS SETTLED ON A HOPEFUL SHORE

Saxman was founded in 1894 when residents of the Tlingit villages of Tongass and Cape Fox left ancestral homes to create a new village around a government school and a church. The village on a gentle seaside slope was named for Samuel Saxman, a Presbyterian teacher who had been lost at sea while searching for a new village site with a Fort Tongass villager and Louis Paul, the teacher in Fort Tongass. (Louis Paul was the father of William Paul, the first Alaska Native admitted to the bar and first to be elected to the Territory of Alaska House of Representatives. He was also an Alaska Native rights activist.)

The school building was erected at once in the new village and still stands today, used as the Saxman City Hall; it is the oldest building in active use in all of Saxman and Ketchikan.

Fishing and timber were the economic mainstays of the new village and by 1900 there were 142 residents of the community. Saxman was incorporated as a second-class city in 1929; it was the first Alaska Native village community in Alaska to incorporate under territorial law.