Story Idea: Surfing

Summary: Although most people don't think of Northern BC as a surfing destination, Haida Gwaii is gradually developing an exciting local surf scene.

Facts:

- Haida Gwaii is one of the few areas in Northern BC that has good locations for surfing due to the large ocean swells and long, flat beaches along the north coast.
- The most popular area for surfing is North Beach (near Masset). This long stretch of sandy beach has a huge expanse of numerous breaks.
- Rennel Sound, which is on the west coast but accessible by logging roads, is also popular among local surfers. Although this large inlet is slightly more protected than the open west coast, it has fairly consistent waves due to the large Pacific swells that constantly break on the west coast of the islands.
- In the summer of 2010, Eli Andersen, a surfer from Oregon, paddled his 16-foot homemade board all the way around Graham Island, including the rugged west coast.
- There is one surf shop on the islands (North Beach Surf Shop) located in Masset. Rentals and lessons are available. www.northbeachsurfshop.com
- An annual “Expression Session” around November at North Beach brings together local surfers with pros from off-island.
- The “Expression Session” and other promotional activities are controversial in the local surfing community since some locals prefer not to promote these untouched breaks to the world. Some argue that the area is so remote that it will never get crowded while others feel that these “private” breaks are best kept quiet to avoid overuse.
- Other water sports are emerging on the islands such as Stand Up Paddle boarding, Kite surfing, Kite skating and kayak surfing.

Suggested Itinerary:
Visit North Beach Surf Shop to make connections with local surfers. Head out to North Beach after a storm to see the breaks.

More Information:
North Beach Surf Shop (northbeachsurfshop.com) can be contacted (250) 626-7873 or northbeach@mhtv.ca