

## **The Legend of Blunden Harbour by Lucy Smith**

Yeah, it's quite a story. You know when you enter Blunden Harbour – these two, like points there. According to the old people those were whales at one time. And they were supposed to have been male whales. And so therefore they couldn't be married to one another and they couldn't produce. And they wanted a human being to occupy Blunden Harbour. So one whale went up into Bradley Lagoon and they found this beaver. And they start working on the beaver so he would become the first human in Blunden Harbour. And there was a tree that grew at the mouth. The tree was there specifically for this eagle to sit on to watch and make sure nobody went in there while this whale was doing whatever he was doing to change this beaver into a human being and he did change that beaver into a human being and he put him in Blunden Harbour and his name was Namugwis. That was the beaver's name. And eventually that tree fell down that the eagle had been sitting on. And it caused a really big splash where the tide really came up high but that tree turned into a supernatural canoe. It could fly up in the air or it could go underwater. One paddle would take you a hundred miles. But that was the story of the first human being.

... I learned that story when I was a little girl, Putl'idagameh, the chief, he was actually a cousin of my dad's, and I guess his mother died when he was really young, so my grandmother raised him, my dad's mother, so they were like brothers. And he just loved to sit around and tell stories.

Transcribed from an interview with Linda Dorricott, January 24, 2007