



Talasay Tours

Toni and I moved from Toronto to Vancouver twelve years ago. One thing we were both aware of was our lack of knowledge about the history of this place. Our older daughter had been on a tour in Stanley Park organized by an Indigenous company, Talasay Tours and she highly recommended that we take one of their tours.

We signed on for the Spoken Treasures tour led by an impressive young person, nineteen year old Seraphine, part Squamish Nation and part Haida Nation, who described herself as a 'cultural ambassador'. She is the niece of Talasay Tours owners, Candace and Larry Campo, Shíshálh (Sechelt) and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) Nation members. They began their company in 2002, and they are active participants of the Indigenous tourism and education sector. Their goal is to build capacity in the next generation in terms of business, tourism and education employment while supporting culture revitalization, land-based education and reclamation.

As we walked along the seawall Seraphine shared information that was, for her, both personal and painful. She spoke about Indigenous families whose ancestors lived in this community and whose homes and land were taken from them by settlers in the most horrific ways. She confidently shared that her family helped her overcome her anger and that she has learned to channel her energy in positive ways.

Seraphine's attitude is reflected by her uncle, Larry Campo. "It's not just our way of life that we teach. It's our worldview. I believe our people have a blueprint for sustainability. We have a strong view about sustaining the environment for future generations," says Campo. "Many people view the land simply as a resource that must be developed or it has no value. We try to help people understand the land in a completely different way. We believe we are the land. When the land goes, we go too."

Trevor and Toni Ludski
Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club