

## Museum exhibit features art from residential school students

A number of Huu-ay-aht citizens took part in the grand opening of the "We Are All One: Residential School Children's Art" show at the Alberni Valley Museum in October. Their art is among the many pieces on display at the museum until March 7.

The exhibit comprises illustrations and paintings by young students who attended the Alberni Residential School and were instructed by local artist and teacher Robert Aller. The art pieces act as a lens into the culture and identity of the children who attended this school.

Jeff Cook does not remember painting the piece, nor really anything about attending Robert Aller's art classes.

"We all had our escapes from the school. My escape was sports," he says. "I remember that."

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Elected Chief Councillor Jeff Cook stands with his painting, done while he was somewhere between eight and 10 years old and attending Alberni Indian Residential School. The special exhibit will remain on display until March 7. [Photo courtesy of Susie Quinn, Alberni Valley News]

The paintings are provided by the University of Victoria's Legacy Gallery and the exhibit has been curated by Dr. Andrea Walsh, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Victoria.

Dr. Walsh says all of the paintings contain hope.

"The hope of the child, who in

laying her paint-filled brush down on paper, felt confident that her ideas and feelings would be accepted," she says. "And the hope of the survivor who has shared his or her childhood in the name of healing and reconciliation."

For more info, go to [www.alberniheritage.com](http://www.alberniheritage.com) and follow the links to the Alberni Valley Museum.

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