



Stegyawden

## Scientific Evidence

Scientists who studied the base of Stegyawden (Mount Rocher DeBoule) near Hazelton where the story of the mountain goat's revenge took place have made some important discoveries. There is a lake at the bottom of the mountain, called Seeley Lake. Chicago Creek runs from the lake into the Skeena River.

When a geologist named Allen Gottesfeld looked at the land around Chicago Creek, he found that once there had been a huge flood that sent soil, rocks and trees crashing down the creek. He tested samples with radio carbon dating, and learned that this massive flood happened about 3,500 years ago.

Later, another geologist tested the mud at the bottom of Seeley Lake. He was able to tell that a long time ago there had been a terrific landslide on Stegyawden. Rock and earth tumbled down the mountain, falling into Seeley Lake. The water in the lake rose 2 metres above normal levels, and sent floods rushing out of the lake, including down Chicago Creek. When he carbon dated the sediments, he found that this landslide occurred 3,500 years ago.

These geologists gave evidence at the famous Gitx̱san-Wetsuweṯin court case, known as Delgamuukw. Their scientific evidence stood side-by-side with the evidence of the adaawx told by the Gitx̱san elders that a disastrous landslide had occurred ages and ages ago.

Many people believe the landslides on Stegyawden spoken of in Gitx̱san and Ts'imsyen adaawx refer to the slide that occurred 3,500 years ago. By these conclusion, we can say that people have been passing on adaawx for at least 3,500 years, and probably much longer.