



Ha-ma-yas Stewardship Network Guardian Gathering May 2019 - Final Report



Overview of Guardian Gathering:

The Gathering in 2019 was held on Quadra Island at the Hakai Institute with a spectacular week for training and bringing the Guardians together to build capacity before the field season. The Guardians were proud to demonstrate their knowledge and learn from the Caribou Guardianship Initiative that is just beginning in the NWT. Below is a panoramic photo of the location of kelp survey training that took place on day two of the Guardian Gathering, near Octopus Island provincial park.



Purpose:

The purpose of the Guardian Gathering is to bring the Nation's Guardians together, in one location, and work on building the member Nation's capacity. Each year is unique, but very important to ensure that the capacity needed to do the work is being built, ensuring that consistent data is collected in a standardized manner. The Network puts on the Guardian Gathering before each field season to review up-dated survey techniques / methodologies and acquire any new training for the up-coming season.

Guardian Participants:

K'omoks First Nation

1. Cory Frank
2. Randy Frank
3. Chrissy Brown
4. Caelan McLean

Tlowitsis First Nation

5. Gina Thomas
6. Irvin Speck

Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala First Nation

7. Harold Glendale
8. Stanley Beans
9. Nolan Puglas
10. Steven Glendale

Wei Wai Kum First Nation

11. Karl Smith
12. Cory Cliffe
13. Joey Henderson

Mamalilikulla First Nation

14. Jake Smith
15. Darren Puglas
16. David Puglas
17. Joey Puglas

Visiting Caribou Guardianship Initiative

18. Joanee Barnaby Hay River, NWT
19. Melissa MacLellan Yellowknife NWT
20. Natasha Thorpe Consultant

Wei Wai Kai

21. Louis Wilson

Hosts, Sponsors and Guests Contribution:

Hakai hosted the event providing breakfast and lunch for the Guardians along with lodging. Dinners were provided by local catering company and one evening the Guardians cooked up a seafood feast to present to the host, guests and participants. What a feast!



The Guardians provided boat transportation and Nanwakolas/Hakai provide vans for terrestrial transportation. Nanwakolas (Heidi, Diana, Scott & Jordan) provided organization, maps and logistics for each of the activities and ensured appropriate technology was working on site.

The Provincial government (FLNROD) participated and had specialist such as Nicole Prichard (marine aquatic plants), Bill Floyd (coast area research) and Rebecca Martone (biologist). Bill provided in-stream water sampling techniques and worked with Jordan (Nanwakolas) to engage each of the Guardian crews in practicing the methods. MaPP (Marine Planning Partnership) provided Markus Thompson (EBM Coordinator) who worked with Rebecca from the province to keep the Guardians busy with refined survey techniques that will be used for ecological monitoring, including kelp and eel grass, sea surface temperature & salinity data collection.

Hakai had several experts who provided insight into their field of study. Christina Munk provided a welcome and safety talk. Other staff trained the Guardians in their field of specialty including Daryl Fedje (Arch), Sue Velazquez (eDNA), Luba Reshitnyk (Geospatial/Drone), Ian Giesbrecht (Watersheds) and Rob White (Safety technology).

Inlailawatash was interested in the work Hakai was doing with deep time archaeology with Daryl Fedje and had four members of their team come to the Gathering. Inlailawatash reviewed locations that each of the First Nations would be visiting this season and had the Guardians practice the Arch survey techniques that will be employed this summer.

Schedule of Activities:

It was an extremely busy week which included both hands on and in-class room work. Of course, the Guardians loved the field activities and in the future we will keep the classroom presentation under an hour as some of the Guardians struggle in the classroom.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>7:45AM Meet @ Nanwakolas Office</p> <p>8:30 - Qauadra Island ferry, get to Hakai</p> <p>9AM - Orientation/Safety Awareness</p> <p>10:30AM - Hakai Deep Time Archaeology</p> <p>11:30 - Lunch (provided for Guardians)</p> <p>12:30-3:30PM - Arch field visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep time Arch site(s) • Arch Survey methods practice <p>3:30PM - Arch Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inlailawatash & Adaptive Management review • 2018 Field Reports <p>5PM - Dinner</p>	<p>7:30AM - Breakfast (Guardians)</p> <p>9:00AM - Guardian Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual FN Arch Work • Trip Planning • Day Tracker <p>10:30AM - Markus/Rebecca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review methods <p>12-3PM - Kelp Survey bagged lunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice surveys methods <p>4:30PM Feast Preparation</p> <p>6PM - Presentations / Feast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dinner by Guardians 	<p>7:30AM - Breakfast (Guardians)</p> <p>9:30AM - eDNA Classroom</p> <p>10AM - eDNA Field sampling</p> <p>12PM - Lunch</p> <p>1PM - Watersheds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal Watersheds • Work Planning <p>3PM - Watershed field visit</p> <p>5PM - Dinner</p>	<p>7:30AM - Breakfast (Guardians)</p> <p>9AM - Drone Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programing drone surveys • Guardian field challenge • Post processing mapping <p>11:30AM Lunch</p> <p>1:30PM - Eelgrass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 surveys methods <p>4:30PM - Wrap Up</p>

A huge shout out to Heidi and Sue for organizing all the details and big 'THANK YOU' to Hakai Institute for hosting the Gathering this year.

The Week in Pictures:

Tuesday - Deep Time Archaeological work with Daryl (Hakai) sites 200m above sea level & Inlailawatash reviewing site visits for field season



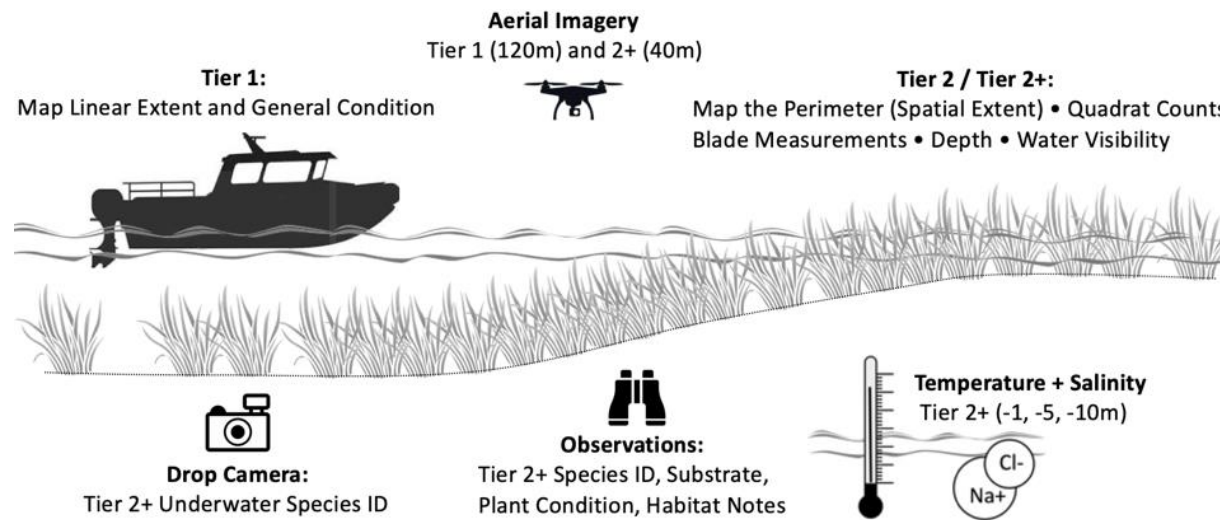
Wednesday - Pre-trip safety planning with Sue (Hakai) & Kelp survey methodology with Rebecca (Prov) & Markus (EBM Coordinator)



Thursday - eDNA with Sue (Hakai), K'omoks Guardians collecting samples, & Bill (Prov) using instruments for fresh water stream data collection



Friday - Drone training with Hakai & Eel grass with Rebecca (Prov Biologist) & Markus (MaPP EBM Coordinator)



Summary:

The Guardian Gathering is complete for another year and was a huge success. We have secured our relationship with the Hakai Institute and they have invited us back for further training for sampling in eDNA and Drone work. The in-classroom sessions were challenging for some of the Guardians as they seem to do their best learning during the hands-on activities. The training was split up this year into specific projects where we would spend an hour in the classroom and then get out in the field and practice the activity. This worked well but keeping the classroom information focused and relevant will be key to future training.

We will be evaluating the effectiveness of the training from the Gathering by reviewing the data collected monthly throughout the field season. The timing of the event could not have been better, with perfect weather for being out in the field. The budgeting was very close, but we did overspend for the dinners and will remember for next year that we are feeding more than just the Guardians (also fed Hakai, provincial and Nānwaḱolas staff). The relationship building with other Guardian programs in the country, with Hakai, and the province was important for both the member First Nation Guardian programs and for the staff at Nānwaḱolas. We look forward to strengthening these relationships and working with these groups towards conservation of lands and waters throughout the Nations territories.

Thank you to Nature United for supporting our Guardian Gathering again this year.