



Canada

 HAIDA NATION

SGang Gwaay Storm Damage Archaeological Response 2019

Jenny Cohen
Terrestrial Archaeologist
Parks Canada

August 22, 2019
Skidegate



Haawa!

Haida Hereditary Chiefs, Archipelago Management Board, Council of Haida Nation, Gwaii Haanas, Parks Canada Terrestrial Archaeology, Haida Watchmen, University of Victoria, Camille Collinson, David Dixon, Vince Collison, and Jordyn Sankey.

Winter/spring field crews: Jenny Cohen, Camille Collinson, Niisii Guujaaw, Mary Hart, Alexander Mackie, tree removal crew, and boardwalk construction crew.

August field crews: Jenny Cohen, Mary Hart, Goox Beaton, Caleb Goodwin, Marilyn Deschenes, Jonas Pollard, Noel Bellis, Quentin Mackie, Paul Ewonus, Robert Kennedy, and Anna Socha.



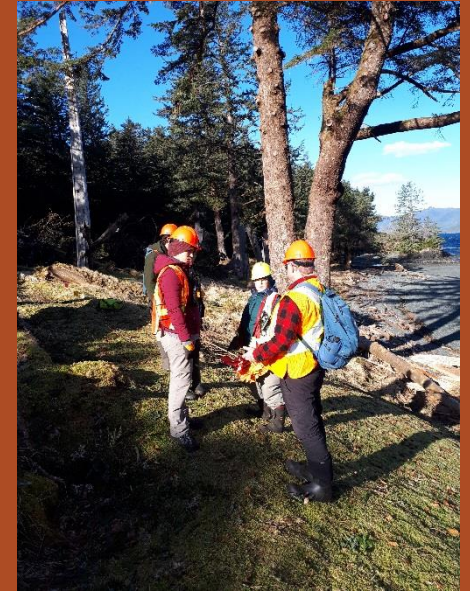
2018 winter storm damage
– main blow down area at
south end of village





2019 Winter/spring work

- Post-impact archaeological assessment
- Emergency 'rescue' archaeology
- Hazard tree assessment and visitor safety clean up





Tree throws





Pole damage: Pole 6X



Before the storm



After – January 2019



SGang Gwaay Watchmen Cabin





Visitor safety and boardwalk repair





Before



Boardwalk and Trail - Blow down and danger tree removal

After





Impact within village: Mortuary Pole 5X2 and House Posts



Before the storm



January 2019



Tree removal in front of House 4/5

Original impact
January 2019 and
Feb 2019 work



March 2019 work





Nan Sdins house - 'Thunder Rolls upon It'





Before
the
storm



House 3
Nan Sdin's House
'Thunder Rolls upon It House'

January
2019



Partial
clean up
March
2019





House 3 floor root mat moved to ground surface

Before

After



Structural
timbers





'People Wish to Be There' House





'People Wish to Be There' - House 10 - double tree throw





House 10

bead →



Worked (joinery?)
edge of board



Floorboard planks or bentwood box
and seed concentration layer



Threats to archaeological preservation



Leather shoe sole

Sprout- viable seeds



Wood plank drying and cracking



Bone harpoon fallen out of tree roots



Other artifacts safeguarded and removed from House 10



Bird bone drinking straw

Sea mammal rib tool



Trade beads



Cast iron cooking pot



August 2019 main objectives

- House 3 – excavation and restoration and preliminary terraforming in prep for re-righting tree throw.
- House 10 – test excavation and continued salvage archaeology.
- Archaeological salvage inspection and continued evaluation for future project planning.
- Archaeological training opportunities for Haida and Gwaii Haanas staff.



The crews

August 2019



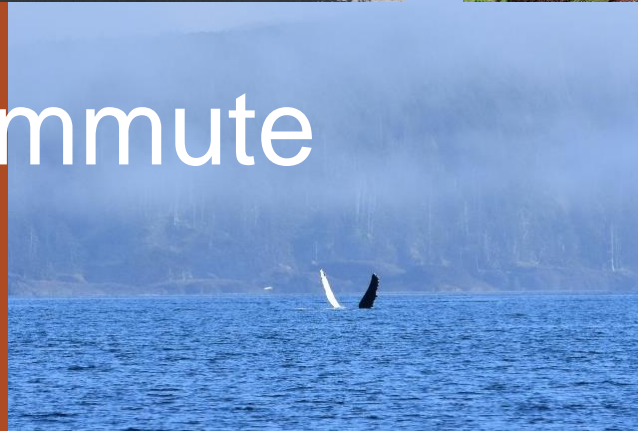


The transportation





The commute





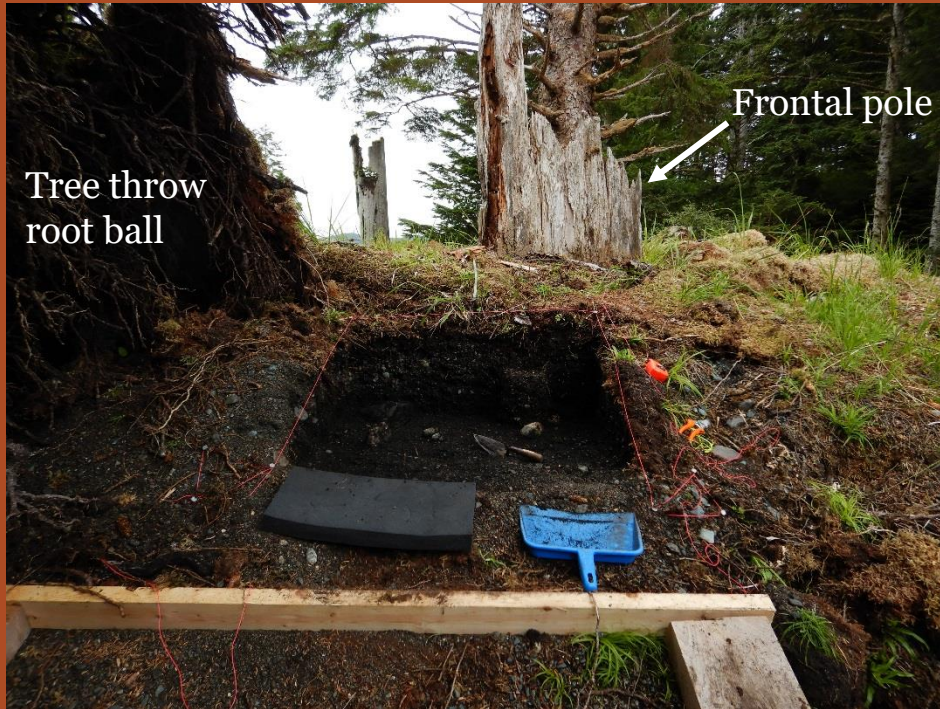
Nan Sdins house- Trench excavation







Northeast wall of Nan Sdins' House





Living floor layers of gravel and black silt

Activity layer gravel surface

Elderberry seeds

Sitka periwinkle shells



Elderberry seeds and Sitka periwinkle shells





Wall slumpage exposure







Artifacts from Nan Sdins house

Beach-rolled fire-cracked rock



Hand-forged copper nail



A single bead

Possible abrader stone



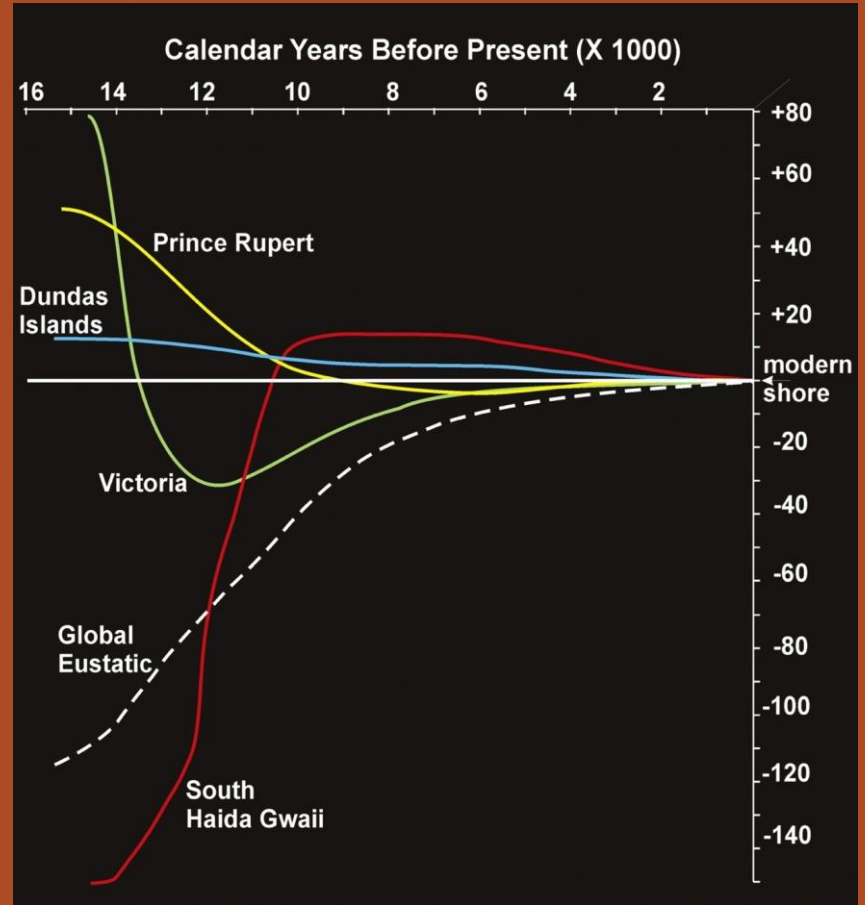
Bird bone drinking straw



Relative Sea Level History

Sea Levels much lower in the past

- 150 metres lower 14,000 years ago
- 20 metres lower 11,000 years ago
- 17 metres higher 9,800 years ago
- A few metres higher 2,000 years ago



Fedje and McLaren



House 10

Test excavation





Artifacts from House 10



Bone harpoon



Ground mussel shell adze or knife



Trade beads



Perforated
rock scallop



New (old) plant growth





Next steps

- Proposal for a multi-year project
- Community input
- Archaeological research – mitigation and research
- SGang Gwaay island-wide deep time archaeology
- Ongoing partnerships
- Interdisciplinary research projects
- External Relations and Visitor Experience



Good People Working Together





Good People Working Together





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Questions?