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
Visitor safety and boardwalk repair
Boardwalk and Trail - Blow down and danger tree removal
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’

Partial clean up
March 2019

January 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

Floorboard planks or bentwood box and seed concentration layer

Worked (joinery?) edge of board

bead
Threats to archaeological preservation

- Leather shoe sole
- Sprout - viable seeds
- Bone harpoon fallen out of tree roots
- Wood plank drying and cracking
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
- Possible abrader stone
- A single bead
- 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
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
Haawa!

Questions?