

Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group National Parks Committee

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Special points of interest:

- Aboriginal Eco-Tourism Initiative
- Human resources
- Cabbage Island reburial
- Species at risk

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Area Planning

Area planning occurs when Parks Canada proposes additions, deletions, or other changes to the lands and waters within the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (GINPR). As part of this area planning process, Parks Canada consults with First Nations people. Our committee reviews and consults (where necessary) with the elders and other knowledgeable people about the area plans. Narvaez Bay and Winter Cove area plans were completed in 2007. Portland Island and Sidney Spit area plans were the most recent.

Luschiim (Arvid Charlie) and Rennie Louie joined the Parks Committee and Parks Canada staff on a field visit to Portland Island to discuss concerns, share experiences, and comment on the area plans. A final report was submitted in April.

Highlights of the proposed changes include: trail realignment, fencing to protect burial cairns, interpretive information about First Nations-Hawaiian settlement on Portland Island, shifting campsites, and closure of trails or campsites located close to a heritage feature (burial cairn).



Hul'qumi'num elders, Parks Committee, and Parks Canada staff on Cabbage Island en route to Portland Island

The elders expressed general support, while stating concerns and sharing information and experience about past use of the island.

Because Sidney Spit is located outside the HTG core statement of intent territory, the only areas of concern to HTG were boating and marine effects and the interpretive information about First Nations uses in that area.

Aboriginal Eco-Tourism Initiative

The HTG Park Committee has embarked upon an initiative to provide high speed boat access to the Gulf Islands.

This concept is in the early stages of development.

Phase one includes securing boat and landing facilities to provide rapid access to the National Park Reserve. Phase

two involves developing a value-added cultural tour which our members would provide. The last phase includes developing capacity and facilities to sell merchandise such as our First Nations art, food, and beverage to boat passengers and visitors to GINPR.

Currently, we are working on the development of a feasi-

bility study and business plan to secure start-up funding for the business.

The Parks Committee is working to establish a business structure that will provide for a business fully owned and operated by the six Hul'qumi'num member First Nations.





Xihwu, purple sea urchin

“Life of the saltwater is the greatest gift my grandparents gave me”

Species at Risk

Parks Canada would like to work with First Nations to raise awareness about the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Our Parks Committee decided that the best way to raise awareness in our communities about the various species in the Act is to begin with the children.

After the work plan was finalized, the Parks Committee selected a Hul'qumi'num' contractor, Mena Pagaduan, to carry out the presentations in the Hul'qumi'num'-run schools in the territory.

The project is very important in that: the *Species at Risk Act* applies directly on reserve lands; species/habitat protection could potentially be of interest in terms of Aboriginal and treaty rights; we can play an important role in species recovery; and this awareness-raising project will provide Parks staff with additional perspective on how SARA affects First Nations.

The steering committee consists of myself (Lea Joe) and three Parks Canada employees with various mandates and

perspectives, including the counter-part to carry out the community outreach/education.

The steering committee will guide the contractors in any capacity they require. For the most part, the Hul'qumi'num' and Parks Canada counterparts will oversee the project.

If you have any questions, comments, or would like more information, please feel free to contact me at the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group office.

Job opportunities within GINPR

Employment opportunities within GINPR continue to be circulated to all First Nations. Whether the position is First Nations' focused or not, all First Nations are encouraged to apply.

In addition to employment opportunities, First Nations people are encouraged to consider a *career* with GINPR.

Kathy Hansen, Human Re-

sources Manager for the BC Coastal Field Unit (oversees GINPR and other national park reserves) made a presentation to the Parks Committee and discussed ways in which Hul'qumi'num' members can begin considering the programs and training for the various positions that GINPR requires.

As a result of the discussion, one of the ideas included hosting a one-day workshop with

the various employment, education, and training staff members of the six nations.

The workshop will focus on various training and education programs that Hul'qumi'num' *Mustimuhw* should consider if they'd like to pursue a career with Parks Canada.

The workshop will be held in April.



Cabbage Island

Reburial on Cabbage Island

In 2003, when Cabbage Island was transferred to Parks Canada, GINPR staff became aware of human remains that had been found on the island when it was still under the jurisdiction of BC Parks. It was also discovered that the remains weren't whole, and that partial remains were in the Royal BC Museum.

The committee learned of this discovery and requested immediate

action. However, the process took much longer due to provincial legislation requiring the support of all 19 First Nations that have interest in the Gulf Islands.

All First Nations offered support and assistance in returning the ancestor back to the final resting place in April.

Sencot'en elders, along with George Harris and Ben Norris, led the reburial ceremony on a

windy day at Cabbage Island.

Dean Harris Jr constructed the traditional cedar burial box on short notice. The box reflected the old, traditional style quite closely.

Our Parks Committee was very grateful and relieved that the work was finally complete. Most of all, we are happy that our ancestor is laid to rest in the final resting place of Cabbage Island.

Shared Territories

GINPR is located in the territories claimed by a total of 19 Coast Salish First Nations. In addition to the HTG Parks Committee, Parks Canada has established parallel committees with Sencot'en C'Al Ne'wel (formerly Sencot'en Alliance), and Tseycum First Nation.

One issue we deal with involves the finding of remains in the national park reserve. In the event that human remains are found, Parks Canada contacts all First Nations. We then work with each other to re-

solve the issue.

Unfortunately, finding human remains in the GINPR is all too common. HTG and Sencot'en are working towards a Coast Salish Human Remains Protocol which Parks Canada would have to follow when discovering the remains of our ancestors.

We are still in the initial stages, but all parties have been given a mandate to deal with this issue and protocol soon.

HTG hopes to have a joint

meeting with other First Nations to discuss the importance, objectives, and outcomes of a Coast Salish Vancouver Island-wide protocol.

The HTG Park Committee also works with other First Nations who have partnerships with Parks Canada. We have collaborated with our Nuuchahnulth neighbours who agreed to help provide our member First Nations with access to cedar.



George Harris with mom, Irene, at the legislature for a rally

Archaeology Program

In 2008, GINPR completed the third year of a project involving the completion of an Archaeological Basic Resource Inventory.

The focus in 2008 was on terrestrial/shoreline/sub tidal (mid-upper inter tidal) areas on D'Arcy Island, Prevost Island, Georgeson Island, Rum Island, Brackman Island and Mayne Island. The project also included mapping of the sites at Pender Canal.

In 2009, GINPR will be enter-

ing the 4th year of the project, and will be doing inventory work on 22 islets, recording the clam garden at Russell Island and undertaking further shoreline mapping at Pender Canal.

Two First Nations people were selected to participate in this survey work, one representative from Sencot'en and one from Hul'qumi'num (Arthur Jim). Included in this project is a weekly brushing off ceremony for the workers.

This is an important project in that GINPR is surveying the islands to better understand and manage its cultural resources in a proactive manner. This will lead to a future protection strategy. That is, they are addressing the situation before issues arise. It's also important that First Nations are involved to include the Salish aspect in dealing with cultural resources and in assisting with the protection of cultural sites/resources.

"Considered a real delicacy, the giant barnacle was harvested in certain swift areas at extreme low tides"

CURA Multi-lingual Field Guide

The University of Victoria, Parks Canada, and HTG have entered into an agreement for joint efforts on language revitalization. One such way of revitalizing the Hul'qumi'num' language is to draft a multi-lingual field guide.

The field guide will be distributed to schools with names of marine, plant, and animal resources written in English, Latin, French, and Hul'qumi'num'.

The resources, approximately 180 of them, will include a biological reference, brief description, and a cultural significance description.

We interviewed an elder, a commercial fisherman, and a young fisherman/knowledgeable Hul'qumi'num' Mustimuhw.

To illustrate the work we've done, here is a sample of a resource:

English: English Sole

Hul'qumi'num': Lhumuq'e'

Latin: *Parophrys vetulus*

Uses: food, medicine and bait

Cultural significance: Lhumuq'e' were often caught with a spear or by wading barefoot and holding down with toes. Once caught, lhumuq'e' were sometimes used for bait to catch larger fish.

Biological reference: Sometimes referred to as pi'hwus or puli'hwus (which means light coloured head or hair), English sole has a light colouration and is small in size.



Cultural sediments

HUL'QUMI'NUM TREATY GROUP

Parks Committee members:

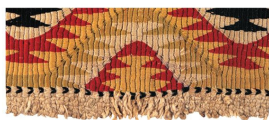
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HUL'QUMI'NUM TREATY GROUP

Orientation Signs



Parks Canada has new and existing orientation signs erected at various parts of the parks. The signs provide a background about the park and surrounding areas, lists any facilities or points of interest, information about marine life and animals local to the area, and history or information about First Nations use or heritage.

Our Parks Committee reviews the First Nations portion of the orientation sign prior to being displayed. For example, our last sign read:

"RESPECT OUR HERITAGE: do not remove, collect or damage natural objects or cultural artifacts. Local Coast Salish First Nations may pursue traditional activities on national park lands"

GINPR staff are continuing to assess the need for signs that need to be replaced, as some signs are outdated. To date, the committee is now re-viewing one orientation sign, an interpretive sign, and wording for many other interpretive media.

Environmental Assessments

When a development or proposal occurs within the GINPR area that may affect the rights or title of First Nations people, an environmental assessment (EA) is triggered.

Participating in the EA process allows us to voice our concerns and share traditional or technical knowledge of an area or resource.

Kathleen Johnnie is our EA specialist. Kathleen oversees the EA process or requests field visits where necessary.

Examples of EAs include the installation or repairs of a dinghy dock, removal of contaminated soil, or campsite development.

In addition to the discussions in our EA meetings, we dedicate one of two field visits per year to an EA type of trip.



Janet Mercer, Environmental Assessment (EA) Specialist for Parks Canada, discussing the options for the Narvaez Bay EA on Saturna Island

Our latest EA trip included Narvaez Bay and Royal Cove at Portland Island. At Narvaez Bay on Saturna Island, we saw the results of Parks Canada's campsite development and trail hardening. On Portland Island we visited Shellbeach, where Parks Canada is proposing to move campsites from Shellbeach - an old village site - to another location. We expressed some concerns about the proposed area and trail align-

ment being too close to a few of our sacred sites. Parks Canada has agreed not to proceed with this project for completion this visitor year.

The EA process typically consists of an introduction to a particular EA (i.e. notification), the project scope, (i.e., a written overview of the project), and the formal EA report (i.e., a full description of the project, its potential impacts with an environmental assessment including recommendations, and final recommendations for the project to proceed), and the final EA.

The Parks Committee provides comments and feedback throughout the process.

Kathleen's technical expertise and extensive knowledge is beneficial to the Parks Committee.