



KMK Newsletter

LOOKING AT THE LANDS OF MI'KMA'KI

The KMK Lands Department provides technical support to the Assembly in many manners related to the land. Our primary role is to review and respond to Crown consultation files related to the land. Each consultation is evaluated against many factors: cultural significance, archaeology potential, traditional use activities, proposed land use of the project, etc. Each project is evaluated for any impacts to Mi'kmaw title and rights and we provide the Crown with our concerns and recommendations. The secondary role of the Lands Department is to facilitate land acquisitions on behalf of the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia. This can happen in many ways including fee simple acquisitions, Crown surplus properties, and the Negotiation Lands Acquisitions by the Provincial Government.

Negotiations Lands

The Negotiation Lands process started in 2013, where the Province committed to purchasing private lands to create an inventory of lands that the Mi'kmaq were interested in, should there ever be any negotiated agreements where lands need to be provided to the Nation. The Assembly directs KMK to submit a list of available properties that they wish to be added to the Negotiation Lands inventory each year. These lands are held by the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry.

To date, over 30,000 acres of land have been added to the inventory. Lands are selected based upon the Lands Strategy developed by the Assembly - which includes looking at lands near our communities, potential for economic development (tourism, wharves, commercial/retail spaces, resource management, etc.), Mi'kmaq use, culturally significant lands, etc. These properties must also be free of any structures or liabilities (environmental, liens, etc.).

Surplus Lands

When lands and properties have been deemed surplus by Government departments, an opportunity is presented to the Mi'kmaq to see if we are interested in taking on ownership. To date, these have been surplus housing, wharves, remediated industrial lands, and commercial buildings. These lands are held by the Assembly's land holdings company: ANSMC LAND HOLDINGS GP LTD. Recently they have taken ownership of the Canso Tickle Wharf to add to its existing inventory of former DEVCO lands in Unama'ki. A commercial building in Port Hawksbury is also slated to be added in the coming weeks.

Not all lands acquired remain in the land holdings company. They can be transferred to a Mi'kmaw entity where they are better equipped to maintain the property. The Diamond Bailey

House in Halifax (former Carleton Place on College St.) is a great example of this. This property was given to the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre by the Assembly to address their urban housing needs.



LANDS



VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SESSION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th 2021
10:30am - 11:30am

In-person gatherings have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 and we want to keep community members informed about our work. We will be hosting a virtual community session each month featuring a different department.

Sessions are recorded for viewing at a later time.



Highlights from your KMK departments

GIS Department Update

This month, the GIS Specialist prepared for and participated in field work in various locations across Nova Scotia. They collected data at various points of interest, helped with diving communications and equipment for the Archaeology Research Division during the underwater archaeology project in the Bras d'Or, and hiked with the team during the field visits to Isle Haute and Country Island. They ensured that the GPS equipment was operational during these field excursions for accurate data collection and collected tracks so that our team could visualize the areas examined. The GIS Specialist also created both web and physical maps for the team relating to various projects, digitized consultation project areas and locations, and provided spatial analysis results to the team.

Archaeology Update

In the last 13 and a half years of the Archaeology Research Department (ARD) at KMK, we have never been as busy, stressed or in demand simultaneously in so many places across this part of Mi'kma'ki as we have been over these last 2+ months. To call the summer chaotic would be an understatement, but, in the end, your ARD Team handled the situations with commitment, heart, strategic thinking and a big dose of kick-butt teamwork. We are a team of 3 now, (Heather, Kait, and Talva) and we each bring different strengths and talents to the team. Here's some snapshots of what Summer 2021 brought:

Pasi'tuek / Gaspereau Lake –The future of Mi'kmaw archaeology is blossoming at Pasi'tuek as Mi'kmaw youth (some who have worked on past projects and some who are new to fieldwork) are becoming the leaders-in-training! We are happy to report that the archaeological teams at Pasi'teu'k have enlisted our community's to help recover significant Mi'kmaw belongings and it has been an inspiring time for these Mi'kmaw youth as they work the front lines in caring for our Mi'kmaw heritage in some of our most cherished cultural landscapes. Archaeology has proven to open the doors and the hearts of the youth, with some openly communicating that they would like to continue working in archaeology in the future. In fact, you may have heard them on CBC's Mainstreet, and you may hear from them again in our upcoming ARD podcast series, "Conversations With"!

Oak Island – This summer, after nearly a decade of the "Curse of Oak Island" show highlighting the legally-sanctioned treasure hunting in that part of Mi'kma'ki, two Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage sites have been identified. The unique legal, political and economic situations here have enormous implications for the archaeological concerns. Stay tuned for more information on that quickly evolving situation. On the lighter side, our Portfolio Lead, Saqmaq Wilbert Marshall, helped the Lagina brothers reach their goal of gold – when he presented them with a box of the golden nuggets of Captain Crunch cereal! Haha!

Grand Council – This summer, Kji Saqmaq Norman Sylliboy, following the identification of a Mi'kmaw Burials Liaison, Keptin / Deacon Tom Sylliboy, tapped another Keptin to act as the Grand Council's Archaeology Liaison. Keptin Jeff Purdy has been selected and given the goings on at Tusket, his involvement in the Mersey Refurbishment project, archaeological discussions and fieldwork at Kejimkujik and his tireless advocacy to protect the burials and other sensitive areas on the West side of Lake Rossignol, he is a very experienced Archaeological Knowledge Holder and an excellent choice for this Liaison role. Wela'liq Kji Saqmaq aqq Keptin Jeff! *(continued next page)*



Archaeology (continued)

Underwater Archaeology / Island Surveys - July and August have been a very busy time for the ARD Underwater Archaeologist, Kait, who has been involved in some new and exciting infield research projects all over the province from Bras d'Or to Isle Haute and Spry Bay to Country Island. This summer Kait was out gathering GIS data, participating in surveys, and collaboratively partnering with the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS) from the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) to try new methods of gathering information through Topo-Bathy Lidar.

Kait spent most of her month in or near the water. She has teamed up with our GIS technician, Kevin, to test out our new dive gear. Kait, Kevin, and Heather spent two days testing and training on the water to ensure that the surface crew could communicate with Kait during her dives. Several shallow dives were conducted so they could run various tests, such as troubleshooting the communication systems, testing our GIS system with diver observations, and she performed several diver safety "saves." Our contribution to Underwater Archaeology is significant, and we are beginning to take some significant steps towards a better understanding of our submerged landscapes. These tests were conducted off the beautiful shores of Spry Bay.



Unama'ki / Bras d'Or - Mid-month Kait was back out in the water along the Bras d'Or in Cape Breton Island. Working collaboratively with NSCC's COGS team, Kait, Kevin, and Heather were out gathering topographic information using Topo-Bathy Lidar. Topo-Bathy Lidar creates bathymetric data through images collected from the sky. This technology is used to map a landscape's terrain both above and below the water's surface. It can also be used to determine bottom elevations. Typically, because these areas are distinct from one another, they are often mapped separately. Topo-Bathy Lidar allows them to be mapped together simultaneously creating one complete model. This is useful in archaeology because it allows teams to understand what exists navigate accordingly, manage diver safe and helps within all relevant decision-making pertaining to submerged landscapes.

The team each had a boat and spent the week identifying areas of interest, ground truthing, and collecting data from camera arrays, Robotically Operated Vehicles (ROV) and from Go-Pro cameras attached to Kait during her dives. The team conducted four dives in total and during those dives Kait provided descriptions of what she was observing which were recorded at the surface in real-time. She collected samples during these dives and will be processing those samples later in the year.



Isle Haute and Country Island Co-management Studies - Kait also travelled to both Isle Haute and Country Island with Craig, KMK Lands, and Sherilyn, KMK Forestry. This team conducted terrestrial surveys and an archaeological survey. Kait identified a large archaeological site and recorded the presence of some diagnostic materials. After identifying this heritage, she is establishing a plan to return to the island to conduct further studies that include a land survey, a coastal survey, and potentially an underwater survey. Plans include documenting what remains are there and where they are located within the landscape, including within or due to erosional sediments. This is of particular interest to our Underwater expert as the site is actively eroding. The long-term benefit of conducting these surveys is in how erosion impacts artefact concentrations and redistribution, which is useful since many areas within Nova Scotia will be impacted by erosion as our climate continues to actively change.

Forestry Update

Western Harvest Reviews - KMK is working to develop a strategy for efficient and effective harvest reviews.

Spruce Budworm - KMK, CMM and UINR have organized a working team to sit on spruce budworm working groups. Operations surrounding this forest pest may impact Mi'kmaw rights, land and title. We are continuing to research and identify what those rights may be.

ECCC - KMK has received funding on a contribution agreement with Environment Climate Change Canada. We will be looking at co-management projects that take into account, 1) Mi'kmaw traditional and regional knowledge - to gain a better understanding of the islands and their relationship to the Mi'kmaq as well as ecological knowledge. What parts of the island were predominately used? 2) Susceptible species, invasive species - develop a clear understanding of the species present on the island and their susceptibility to invasive species. How can we protect our water courses from erosion of stabilizing species? And 3) Coastal Erosion - develop an in depth understanding of coastal erosion on the islands and how that relates to archaeological sites of significance. Are there artifacts present on/ near the coast?

We will be developing a multidisciplinary team that would work together to develop suitable projects for co-management. All projects would require preliminary research as well as boots on the ground research and surveys.

Cultural Tourism

Over the summer, quite a bit of media interest was generated over the plan to develop an authenticity logo and certification process for Mi'kmaw cultural tourism products and services. These interviews were shared by CBC and the Canadian Press. Check them out when you get a chance! We want to encourage our communities to think broadly about what cultural tourism is, or could be. It's an opportunity to marry our commitment to preserving Mi'kmaw language and culture in our communities with the opportunity to share our language and culture with visitors to Nova Scotia. In this way, we are benefiting from tourism travel dollars and protecting our heritage. As our borders gradually open to the world, let's be ready to welcome them!



Consultation - Habitat and Watercourse Restoration

Two of our team's researchers along with members of Pictou Landing, MCG and UINR had the opportunity to participate in a two-day session on how to assess watercourses and fish habitat held in Antigonish. MacInnis Natural Resources and Dexter Nova Alliance presented ways to assess watercourse and fish habitat for signs of health & suitability and signs of stress & degradation. During the session participants also reviewed stream restoration techniques including how to install an engineered digger log and deflectors in the watercourse. These important techniques aid in keeping streams narrow and prevent streams from dry up. Participants were also versed in electrofishing techniques and site monitoring. KMK's Consultation Researcher Tamara was one of the participants at this training session and she best described her experience and training when she said, "it was interesting to me because you don't realize all the aquatic creates like trout and salmon swimming in theses streams. You don't really notice them, until they use the electro backpack, and it all becomes visible." Not only did the group learn some valuable information but they also got to give back to the environment during this training session. The Watercourse and Fish Habitat sessions wrapped with participants planting Black Ash trees, which is a species at risk in Nova Scotia.

Fisheries Update

September 1 marked the opening day for Pictou Landing First Nation's (PLFN) second livelihood lobster fishing implementation. DFO has maintained that out of season, unauthorized fishing will be met with enforcement activity, which has been evident in PLFN waters.

PLFN entered consultation with DFO on September 10. The primary focus, while our two legal applications work through the court systems, is a two phased approach in attempting to collaborate with DFO. We want to understand and develop opportunities within existing restrictive DFO regulations and mandates, including interim access to fisheries and the development of an enforcement internal policy, without signing restrictive long-term agreements.

We are supporting engagement with our community members to develop a broad understanding on the changes needed to the Fisheries Regulations, and the inclusion of legal language to support our Marshall affirmed Treaty Rights for a livelihood. We are doing this to ensure proper development and successive implementation of Mi'kmaq self-governed livelihood fisheries.

Consultation & Implementation

Ongoing Consultation and Implementation discussions continue for the Kespuwitk District plan, which includes Annapolis Valley First Nation, Bear River, Acadia and Glooscap. Currently we are working on the documents necessary to support this district plan with a fishing start date of October 14 in LFA 35.

Community Livelihood Liaisons

On September 13, First Nations Netukulimk Liaisons, Navigators, Fisheries Directors and FSC Managers representing eight Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities, met for the first time as a group. These positions were developed to support community engagement for rights-based fishing earlier this year. Communities are at various stages of engagement and plan development. Monthly meetings will continue and to ensure transparency and a line of communication between communities.

AFN National Chief Visit

On September 8, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs met with the Assembly of First Nations' National Chief RoseAnne Archibald and Nova Scotia and Newfoundland Regional Chief Paul Prosper on livelihood fisheries. The National Chief affirmed her support for the work and direction being done by the Assembly. Chief Gerald Toney said, "this meeting with our AFN leaders was an opportunity for us to share information on our collaborative approach to the implementation of our right to fish and sell fish for a moderate livelihood. Our goal was to provide National Chief Archibald with the background needed so that that she can help to advocate for the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia's exercise of Treaty Rights at a national level."

