

# PICTURING KANGIRJUAQ (THE THELON)

*Natures, ethics, and travel within an Arctic Riverscape*

## 2010 RESEARCH SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS



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*\*Inuktitut text to follow*

## 2010 Research Summary

Bryan Grimwood is a PhD student in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. Throughout 2010, Bryan has worked on a research project about the Thelon River. The research involves working with wilderness tourists (canoe travellers) and local Inuit (Qamani'tuaq residents) to document stories and experiences about the Thelon using photographs contributed by research participants. This information is then shared in community research workshops to cultivate understanding and enhanced social and ecological responsibility concerning this special and changing place. The research is important because Inuit and non-Inuit (Qablunaat) participate in documenting different knowledge of, and values associated with, the Thelon, which is then shared between and within cultural groups. This participation and exchange of information is designed to enable inclusive and respectful understanding.

As of December 01, 2010 most of the research was complete. Bryan visited Qamani'tuaq three times: once in May for three weeks; once in July for one and a half weeks; and once again in November for two weeks. Throughout the year, Bryan also worked in Ottawa and Toronto to meet with people who have canoed along Thelon River in different summer seasons. Table 1 summarizes the research fieldwork involving research participants.

Table 1: Number of research participants for different components of the project

Project Component	Group/Type	Details
Photographic Interviews	People of Qamani'tuaq	10 participants, 120 photographs contributed
	Canoe tourists	27 participants, 340 photographs contributed
Experiential River Trips	Snow machine	a) Qamani'tuaq to Halfway Hills b) Qamani'tuaq to cabin at Kangirjuaq
	Honda (ATV)	a) Qamani'tuaq to Prince River b) Qamani'tuaq to cabin at Kangirjuaq
	Motorboat	Qamani'tuaq to Kazan River
	Canoe	Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
Community Workshops	Outdoor educators from Ontario	19 participants in 1.5 hour workshop
	Arctic College NTEP Students in Qamani'tuaq	9 participants, 1.5 hour workshop
	Qamani'tuaq Elders	10 participants, 2.5 hour workshop

The project includes photographic interviews with ten Qamani'tuaq residents. These participants contributed to the project their own Thelon River photographs and used these to tell the stories that they felt important to share. Thirteen similar interviews were done with Thelon tourists, which were supplemented by another 14 Qablunaat participants that submitted photographs and knowledge through an email questionnaire. In total, more than 450 photographs from the Thelon River have been contributed.



Near Halfway Hills, May 2010



Canoeing along the Thelon River, July 2010



Canoeists near Beverly Lake, July 2010

Another part of the research involves experiential river trips, both with Inuit and Qablunaat users of the Thelon. During his three research visits to Qamani'tuaq, Bryan used notes, photographs, and a GPS to document five river trips. One trip was by motorboat, two were by snow machine, and two were by ATV (Honda). Each of these were a half or full day in length. In July, Bryan used the same methods of documentation on a professionally guided 10-day canoe journey with Qablunaat tourists, a trip that finished near Beverly Lake.

Community workshops are the third component of the project involving research participants. In September, Bryan met with a group of 19 outdoor educators who live and work in Ontario, but who are familiar with the Thelon River. Sixty-nine photographs contributed by interview and questionnaire participants, and identified either as "meaningful," "significant," or representative of "responsibility" were displayed. The contents of the photographs were discussed in smaller groups, and workshop participants were invited to identify the photographs that most closely reflected their ideas of "nature" and/or "responsibility." Two similar workshops were held in Qamani'tuaq during Bryan's November visit. The first was with nine members of the Nunavut Teacher's Education Program at the Arctic College. The second was with ten Elders who have lifelong connections to the Thelon. The same 69 photographs were shared at each workshop, and resulted in the exchange of many different stories about the Thelon River.

Over the next number of months, Bryan will be sorting through and organizing all the photographs and knowledge contributed to the project. Key contacts in Qamani'tuaq will be



Following a Nov. 2010 workshop with Elders



NTEP student workshop, Nov. 2010



Bryan at a cabin near Kangijuaq, Nov. 2010

invited to assist with this research analysis. Copies of the research material will be delivered to the Arctic College and the Itsarnitaqarvik Inuit Heritage Centre during Bryan’s next visit to Qamani’tuaq, which is anticipated for the spring or fall of 2011. Bryan will also be using the project information to prepare a PhD dissertation, which he expects to submit next summer. A full copy of the dissertation will be available at the Heritage Centre in Qamani’tuaq, and a summary of research findings will be distributed to all individual participants, as well as supporting community organizations, including: the Hamlet of Baker Lake; the Qamani’tuaq Hunter’s and Trapper’s Association; the Nunavut Research Institute; and the Canadian Canoe Museum.



Caribou near Blueberry Hill, May 2010

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