



# THE ASBC PAGES

## Where We Are, Where Are We Going?

### EX-PRESIDENT'S OUTGOING LETTER

It has been an exciting year for archaeology and archaeologists in BC. The NWAC conference in Victoria, the SAA conference in Vancouver, and, perhaps most memorably, the Friday night reception hosted by the CAA/ASBC at the Stanley Park Rowing Club brought together archaeologists from across the world. There have been a number of fascinating archaeological discoveries reported in BC and along the Pacific Coast this past year, including new evidence supporting early coastal migration into the Americas. More historically, it is BC's 150th Anniversary—a time to reflect upon and celebrate this province's unique, rich and culturally diverse heritage. The ASBC membership has played a small, but important role by volunteering our time and effort, and by helping communicate events and discoveries through our monthly public lecture series and Midden publication, which, admirably, is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2008.

#### ASBC Organization Committee

In continuing the important work resulting from the 2006 Annual General Meeting (AGM), the ASBC Organization Committee, chaired by Kathryn Bernick, completed their final report this year, concluding that a 'federation' model—or a number of independent local societies united under an incorporated provincial umbrella society—is currently not a viable option for the ASBC to reorganize its relations with its branches. As a result of our June 19th 2008 AGM discussion, a new committee will be struck in the fall to work toward establishing written, mutually-acceptable agreements to facilitate communications and formalize roles and responsibilities with the ASBC Victoria and Nanaimo Branches.

#### ASBC Constitution and Bylaw Amendment Review

After further review of the 2006 proposed amendments to our ASBC Constitution and Bylaws, Kathryn Bernick and Patricia Ormerod recommended that a number of tabled amendments be re-introduced to membership for vote. Organized as separate motions, all of these relatively minor amendments were discussed and approved at the 2008 AGM. Importantly, a proposed new Constitutional amendment introduced by the Executive Committee for discussion to, "further public understanding of First Nations interests and perspectives on archaeology" was tabled. It was agreed that further consultation with the ASBC membership is needed on this important issue. We look forward to future

discussion of how the ASBC may formally acknowledge and support First Nations interests in archaeology and, in turn, more openly welcome First Nation members to our Society.

#### Public Outreach and Heritage Awareness

Beyond this important internal work, the ASBC has achieved some success in our mandate to promote public outreach, build partnerships and create greater heritage awareness this year. The ASBC has begun a Public Education and Outreach Committee to build opportunities for heritage awareness. The ASBC has started a partnership with the First Nation Leadership Council to share information on threats to archaeological heritage in BC. The ASBC has volunteered its members to participate in the Stanley Park Restoration Committee's advisory board to help review opportunities for natural and cultural heritage awareness at Stanley Park in 2007-2008. The ASBC has provided background and been quoted in several mainstream media over the past year, including *the Vancouver Sun*, *CBC Radio*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Monday Magazine*, and a number of local newspapers. Our Vancouver Public Lecture series has had outstanding presentations and attendance—especially for our special guest speaker, Brian Fagan during the SAA conference. Our continued partnership with the Vancouver Museum has allowed us to return this year for our public lecture series at no financial cost, which has been a main factor in stabilizing our finances. As the Vancouver Museum is in the midst of reorganizing its affiliate program, we look forward at the ASBC to strengthening our partnership agreement with the Vancouver Museum, including potential assistance with publicity and volunteer opportunities for upcoming museum exhibitions and programs.

Toward 2008-2009, I recommend that our priorities continue to focus on building public programs, fund raising and strengthening partnerships for the ASBC to pursue its heritage conservation mandate across British Columbia.

In 2006, I joined the ASBC Executive because I had serious concerns for the direction and sustainability of this organization. After two years, many concerns still exist. Our ASBC, like archaeology itself, is all about teamwork. The more ASBC members that volunteer their time and get active in the Society—whether it be running for the executive board, volunteering on a committee, promoting membership and events, fund raising, even showing up to the AGM—the stronger our Society will be and the louder our public message to support heritage conservation will become.

On behalf of the ASBC, I thank all members and persons who have generously donated their time and efforts volunteering for programs and activities. I personally thank the outgoing Executive Committee for their teamwork, and I thank the new incoming Executive Committee for their commitment and enthusiasm. To all the ASBC membership, I thank you all for your continued support of the ASBC.

Respectfully,

Eric McLay, ASBC President 2007-2008

### **INCOMING PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

As this is my first President's Letter, I will introduce myself prior to espousing opinions on all matters archaeological. My archaeological education started at Simon Fraser University with a Bachelor of Arts, Major in Archaeology. Several years ago I completed my Master of Science in the Palaeoecology of Human Societies (Environmental Archaeology) at University College London in England. I have worked in consulting archaeology since 2000 and volunteered on a variety of projects prior to this. The majority of my fieldwork has taken place throughout British Columbia, though I have also worked in England and Turkey. My interests primarily lie in the archaeology of northwestern North America, environmental archaeology and the utilization of oral historical records in archaeological interpretation.

I have been a member of the ASBC since the late 1990s and have attended as many meetings over the years as fieldwork would allow. I am also currently a member of the executive of the BC Association of Professional Archaeologists and hope to bring these two organizations closer together. I have a great passion for archaeology in general, and while it is my job, it is also my hobby.

In the next year I would like to pursue several goals for which the preceding ASBC Executive has largely set the groundwork. I am also interested in new avenues of investigating BC's rich archaeological heritage while protecting it at the same time.

Public education in archaeology is a priority for the present Executive. In the next year, we would like to initiate a public archaeology program in cooperation with a local First Nation. Archaeology is a great way to expand dialogue with First Nations and to provide a common understanding of the material record of our province. I hope that a local public archaeology project can combine a productive First Nations partnership with the presentation of archaeological methods in a way that creates educational and outreach opportunities that can influence the public's disposition towards protecting archaeological heritage.

The Executive is also hoping to produce a special colour edition issue of *The Midden* focused on a specific theme. We hope that this effort will highlight some of the amazing archaeology being conducted in the Northwest. The new Executive also hopes to bring in some diverse and exciting guest speakers to participate in our monthly meetings. These two goals are also motivated by public education and highlighting extraordinary archaeology.

On the archaeological heritage legislation front, I would like

## **ASBC Executive 2008-2009**

Ian Cameron, President

Natasha Lyons, Vice-President

Corri MacEwen, Treasurer

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Alex Maass, Secretary

Marina La Salle, *Midden* Executive

to see further dialogue established between the ASBC and groups such as the Canadian Archaeological Association and the provincial archaeological societies. Through further discussion and as a united front, we can reinvigorate the push towards the creation of national archaeological heritage legislation. Furthermore, it is vital that we pursue revisions to BC's Heritage Conservation Act and confront the glaring inadequacies that are present in its current form.

I look forward to getting to know my fellow ASBC members and would appreciate any feedback, comments and ideas that anyone is willing to share with me. I can be reached at [asbc.president@gmail.com](mailto:asbc.president@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting in September!

Finally, on behalf of the ASBC executive, I would like to thank Eric McLay for his tremendous efforts over the last two years. I look forward to working with Eric over the next year. I have big shoes to fill!

Sincerely,

Ian Cameron, ASBC President