

## News from the Nanaimo Branch

Welcome to the Nanaimo Branch of the ASBC. Since our last update in October 2005 some exciting events have occurred for us. In November we were asked by Bastion Group Heritage Consultants, an archaeological consulting firm spearheaded by Bjorn Simonsen and based in Duncan, to join them on mapping and identifying two sites in the Dodds Narrows that had been previously recorded in the Nanaimo Site Survey conducted by the ASBC-NB. The steep terrain was challenging but the work was fantastic. Five ASBC-NB members participated in this great educational opportunity. We would like to thank Bjorn Simonsen and John Simogyi for allowing us to accompany them on this work.

Also in November, members of all the Executive Committees of the ASBC, Nanaimo, Vancouver, and Victoria, all met in Nanaimo to discuss ASBC issues and work on bylaw changes. I have personally been involved with the changes in the bylaws since 2000 and I am glad to report that we have made significant

gains to bring the bylaws up to date in both language and content. Branch concerns about inclusion in ASBC decisions and society matters are addressed, as well as our monetary contributions. I am pleased to say that relations between Vancouver and the Branches have vastly improved to be described as "about face". Much credit can be given to all the Executive members. The proposed changes to the bylaws will be available shortly for all ASBC-NB members to view and their acceptance will be voted upon at the ASBC General AGM in June. I am very pleased with the proposed changes and I am sure you will be as well.

The ASBC-NB has an exciting lineup for lecturers for 2006 and we hope to see you there. Updates on our 5th Annual "Discover Archaeology" Interactive Display will be available soon and we hope we will see you there!

**Julie Cowie, Acting President**

### CHACMOOL: CALL FOR PAPERS

We cannot escape it no matter how hard we try: archaeology is a colonial discipline. Historically, it flourished under the colonial powers, and supported the colonial meta-narrative. Archaeological research has been used to support both the hegemony of imperialist powers, as well as the subjection of indigenous peoples. The purpose of this conference is to explore what benefits can be gained from applying post-colonialism to archaeological theory and praxis.

We are soliciting papers and symposia on topics relating to (but not limited to):

1. General theoretical engagements with post-colonial theory and theorists.
2. Examining Ancient "Empires" and State level societies.
3. Historical and colonial period archaeology.
4. Innovative ways of involving indigenous and stakeholder input in archaeological research.
5. The use of archaeology in discussions of and the creation of governmental policy.
6. The archaeology of resistance: using archaeology to document the resistance to imperialist or hegemonic powers in the past and present.
7. The biological anthropology of genocide and ethnic cleansing.
8. The use of archaeology in the creation of ethnic or national identities.
9. Comments and critiques of the discipline of archaeology from "the Empire".
10. Archaeology in continuing colonial situations
11. The role and ethics of the "researcher" in the field, both foreign and domestic.
12. Issues of repatriation, the return of cultural patrimony, and the illicit trade in "Cultural Heritage".
13. Representation of past peoples and cultures in museums and heritage institutions. There will also be opportunities to "workshop" papers at special symposia, with extended discussion periods for issues arising from the presentations. There will also be a gallery style exhibition for posters.

Abstracts of approximately 150 words should be sent by fax to (403) 282-9567 or via email to:

**arkyconf@ucalgary.ca**

The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2006.

Website: <http://www.arky.ucalgary.ca/arkyl/Chacmool2006/index.htm>