



## 2007 — Year of the ASBC

Dear ASBC Membership,

This upcoming new year offers great opportunity for the ASBC to get active about its mandate and promote archaeology and heritage conservation here in British Columbia.

I am pleased to announce that the ASBC will return to the Vancouver Museum to hold our free monthly public lecture series in Vancouver in 2007. With public lecture space in downtown Vancouver at a premium (about \$400/night), the Vancouver Museum has generously renewed our partnership agreement providing lecture space to the ASBC at no cost for the 2007 year. The ASBC will now hold our free public lecture series at the Vancouver Museum on Thursday nights in the middle of each month.

For the past few months, Kathryn Bernick, our ASBC Membership Secretary, has been leading a committee to review the proposed ASBC bylaw amendments that were tabled at the 2006 AGM. A comprehensive, up-to-date ASBC constitution and bylaws has now been prepared based on Ministry of Finance records. Upcoming meetings with committee members from the ASBC Nanaimo and Victoria Branches will discuss how we can improve communications and enhance regional participation within the society. A report providing options to strengthen and improve the ASBC bylaws and organization will be made available for the consideration of all the ASBC membership prior to the next AGM.

Importantly, the ASBC will be working this year to create an endowment fund to benefit the future of our society. With the BC Heritage Trust funds soon depleted, we must seriously consider looking outside provincial granting

organizations to continue funding our organization. Laura Pasacreta, our ASBC Treasurer, who has past experience working with other non-profit organizations and fund raising events, will be helping guide us in this new effort to seek the charity of the general public and private-sector.

The ASBC is considering many different initiatives to provide opportunities for members to get active about archaeology and heritage conservation issues in BC. With the planned redevelopment of the ASBC website, we will be soon seeking members to provide content and resources about BC archaeology to share with our membership and the general public, including current research, archaeological projects, heritage conservation issues, photographs and references, and ASBC history.

Beyond the ASBC itself, the upcoming trial of Poets Cove Resort in September 2007 will be an important event when archaeology and the provincial Heritage Conservation Act will face the public spotlight in BC. The Archaeology Branch is also expected to implement new initiatives to effectively involve local governments in the heritage planning process this year. With this increased public attention on archaeology in 2007, the ASBC must be prepared to take advantage of these extraordinary opportunities to encourage public interest in BC archaeology, create public awareness of threats to our heritage, and build greater public support for our provincial Heritage Conservation Act. In other words, I believe there is no better time for the ASBC to live up to its mandate than now in 2007.

**Eric McLay**  
ASBC President