



ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

Poets Cove Trial Delayed

Lawyers for Poets Cove requested more time to prepare their case during the pre-trial conference in early December. The Provincial Court registry confirmed that the court date for January 16, 2006, has been cancelled. A second pre-trial conference has been scheduled for April 5, 2006, to set another court date. This case involves charges against Poets Cove Resort and Spa on South Pender Island for two infractions of the Heritage Conservation Act, in which the developer was charged with damaging a prehistoric burial place and for unlawfully excavating a site with evidence of prehistoric human habitation (For background information, see reports in issues 36 (3/4) & 37 (2)).

What Was Old Is New Again

Most modern hunters enter the woods with a rifle. Armed with this modern weapon and a license, they seek out their favoured prey. Occasionally hunters will trade in their rifles for a bow and arrow, stepping back in time to experience a different type of hunting, as well as a new challenge. Well hunting may be about to take another step back in time.

The Game Commission of Pennsylvania is currently drafting proposed regulations to allow hunters to use the atlatl in their pursuit of their prey, according to MSNBC online. The Fish and Wildlife Branch of British Columbia does not mention the use of the atlatl yet in its discussions of current hunting in BC. With such active groups as the World Atlatl Association developing, it may not be long before this ancient hunting technique is integrated into popular hunting culture.

World Atlatl Association:
<http://www.worldatlatl.org/>

New Work On An Old Site

The City of Prince George and the Lheidli T'enneh Band are currently investigating the need for further study of a site in Fort George Park where non-contemporary human bones have been discovered near an active First Nation's traditional cemetery, reports ArchaeologyNews.org.

Russian Shipwreck Discovered Near Spruce Island, Alaska

Remains of the Russian ship, Kad'yak, have been discovered off Spruce Island, Alaska, according to the *Juneau Empire*. It wrecked in 1860 upon some rocks on its way from Kodiak carrying a cargo-load of ice down to San Francisco. Mike Yarborough, an archaeologist from Anchorage, and Brad Stevens, marine biologist, led teams to search for the wreck of the 132-foot ship. They found it under 80 feet of water, positively identifying it through a recovered brass hub, as determined by analysts at East Carolina University. The site of the Kad'yak is important for being the only recovered Russian-era shipwreck; it's also the oldest shipwreck site in Alaska. All of the 32 crewmembers of the ship survived the wreck, swimming to Spruce Island. Local villagers, mostly Russian Orthodox, had attributed the wreck to a curse: accordingly, Saint Herman, a missionary, was expecting the ship to stop and visit his chapel at the village of Ouzinkie on Spruce Island, as promised by its Captain, Illarion Archimandritof. The Captain did not, and subsequently the ship met its fate.

Canoes Gather to Commemorate Tse-whit-zen Village

In early August, 76 dugout canoes of various Northwest Coast groups from Alaska to Oregon, arrived at Port Angeles for an event sponsored by the Lower Elwha tribe, who live on the Olympic Peninsula. According to the *People's Weekly World Newspaper*, this year the theme of the event was to commemorate the village of *Tse-whit-zen*, where excavations have come to a close after \$60-million project to mitigate the site in preparation for the building of a dry-dock for the Hood Canal Bridge. Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of a village with six houses dating back 2,700 years. The site contains well-preserved artifacts—zoomorphic bone combs, whale-vertebra spindle whorls, 800 geometrically incised stones—and is readily considered the most important site in Washington since Ozette. Also, excavators have encountered the remains of 355 individuals, many of which appear to have been buried *en masse* as due to an epidemic after contact. Over a hundred Klallam tribal members helped the team of excavators excavate the site. Regarding the disturbance to the burials, Frances Charles said, "Every day is a funeral." They have 316 cedar boxes on their reservation as they wait for proper burial place. The Elwha wish that property of the site will not be paved over in concrete. Many residents in Port Angeles, however, also want the jobs that would come with the dry dock. It will take time for the courts to settle the site's final determination.

An article in *The Midden* on the site containing early reports first appeared last year (36(1/2)). Visit the excellent website devoted to the site, based on the lengthy series by the *Seattle Times*:
<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/news/local/klallam/>