

BC ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS



Lecture: Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve, Evening Lecture Series

A series of evening lectures presented by the GVRD's Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve (LSCR) continues on September 17, 2003 when archaeologist and author Bob Muckle will speak on "The Seymour Valley Archaeology Project." Muckle is the project's director and head instructor of the Archaeology Field School at Capilano College.

The focus of the project is on an old logging camp and logging and settlement activities in the Seymour Valley that probably dates back to the early 1900s. For the past four years field school students directed by Muckle have documented the remains left by loggers and settlers in the LSCR in North Vancouver.

This illustrated lecture will focus on the results of excavations at an early twentieth century logging camp, and it will describe how people and nature have impacted its remains over the past decades. A variety of artifacts — such as Japanese beer bottles, rusty nails, and tarnished dishes — offer a fascinating glimpse into camp life. The lecture will also highlight an abandoned settlement along the banks of the Seymour River and describe how people and nature have left its mark over the past decades.

The lecture is on Wednesday, September 17th from 7 to 9 pm in the Learning Lodge in the LSCR. The program fee is \$5, and pre-registration is required. The LSCR is located at the north end of Lillooet Road in North Vancouver. Take Exit 22 on Highway 1, and follow Lillooet Road five kilometres to the parking lot.

For more information contact LSCR Education Programs: 604.987.1273 or e-mail: <lscr_ed@gvr.bc.ca>.

Dr. Jack Nance

Faculty, staff and students of the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University will greatly miss Dr. Jack Nance, who passed away Sunday, June 15th, 2003. A memorial service, followed by a reception, will be held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, September 27th, 2003, on the roof deck adjacent to room EDB (MPX) 9651 at Simon Fraser University. A memorial scholarship for graduate students in Archaeology will be established in tribute to Dr. Nance. Information on giving to this fund will be made available at the memorial. At the request of family, in lieu of flowers, please contribute to this fund.

ASBC Web Page Update

The ASBC welcomes James Dunlop as the new Web page coordinator of the ASBC's Web site. James is a new student member to the ASBC who has enthusiastic plans to update the Web page. Currently, the Web page receives 1,000 hits a month. If you haven't looked recently, check out the recent changes to the ASBC Web page: <www.asbc.bc.ca>.

University of Washington 2003 Archaeological Field School

During the months of June to August, Dr. Ben Fitzhugh and Dr. Jody Bourgeois are conducting an archaeological field school at the 7,500-6,000 year old Tanginak Spring Site (KOD 481), located on the southeast side of the Kodiak Archipelago in Alaska. The importance of the Tanginak Spring Site derives from its antiquity, large artifact assemblage, and several levels of stratification. Working at one of the oldest known sites on the Kodiak Archipelago, the excavation is generating important information about early human

colonization of this region and aspects of the lifestyles of its early inhabitants. To learn more about the 2003 University of Washington archaeological field school check out their Web site: <www.anthro.washington.edu/Archy/fieldschool/fieldindex.html>.

Search the Langley Centennial Museum's Artifact Collection

The Langley Centennial Museum currently maintains a collection of over 8,500 artifacts. The artifact collection was started in 1928-29 by a voluntary organization, the Native Sons, who purchased the last remaining building at the Hudson's Bay Company Fort Langley. Objects relating specifically to the Langley region, including historical and archaeological, are found in the collection. Visitors to the Museum's Web site can search the artifact database to gain catalogue information and view artifact images. To access the Langley Centennial Museum's searchable database see their Web site:

<www.langleymuseum.org>.

Discover Archaeology

The Nanaimo Branch of the Archaeological Society of BC is participating for the second year at the Nanaimo District Museum's "Discover Archaeology" event. The Society is hosting an Interactive Bone Display, designed to allow participants to get up close and personal with various skeletal remains. Learn how animal bones illuminate the archaeological record, telling archaeologists about the season of the kill, subsistence strategies, and social structure. There is also the opportunity to make stone and bone tools. Discover Archaeology takes place on Saturday August 23, 2003 from 11 am to 4 pm at the Nanaimo District Museum. For more information contact Colleen Parsley at <cparsley@telus.net>.

Ancient Coast Salish Village Site Destroyed by Luxury Seaside Resort Expansion in Southern Gulf Islands

The expansion of a luxury seaside resort at Egeria Bay on South Pender Island adjacent to the new Gulf Island National Park, has resulted in the destruction of a large section of an ancient Coast Salish archaeological settlement (DeRt 4) estimated to date up to 4,000 to 5,000 years in antiquity.

On February 10, 2003, First Nation representatives from the Tseycum First Nation, Tsartlip First Nation, Cowichan Tribes, Lyackson First Nation, and Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group (HTG) met on-site with the resort developers, Poets Cove Seaside Resort at Bedwell Harbour Ltd., as well as a project officer from the Archaeological Planning and Assessment office of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM), to inspect the development property and assess the site's condition.

The field inspection confirmed that massive piles of unearthed archaeological shell deposits from DeRt 4 had been dumped in the resort's tennis courts, parking lot area, and ditches, and was used as roadbed along the forested edge of the development property adjacent to the Hay Point Reserve. The unregulated construction of the resort's state-of-the-art geothermal energy plant atop the shoreline site is reported to have caused the majority of the site destruction. These unmonitored excavations were conducted at night over several weeks in January, reportedly to remove the deep, wet soils to bedrock during winter low tides. The developer has provided a conservative estimate of between 1,000 to 1,500 cubic meters of archaeological deposit – or 50 to 75 dump truck loads of destroyed archaeological site. In comparison, three years of large-scale excavations at the adjacent Pender Canal sites (DeRt 1 and DeRt 2) by Simon Fraser University in 1984-1986 removed only ca. 800 cubic meters of archaeological deposits – deposits that were carefully documented to contain over 5,400 artifacts and over 100

individual burials spanning the last 5,000 years. The Outer Gulf Island RCMP temporarily shut down the construction site at the Poets Cove resort at the request of the assembled First Nations.

In 1990, a comprehensive archaeological impact assessment study (AIA) was conducted on behalf of the previous property owners, Bedwell Harbour Hotel Ltd. The AIA study indicated that archaeological deposits at DeRt 4 extended up to a maximum 4.6 meters in depth, measured over 3,300 square meters in size, and up to 4,000 to 5,000 years in age. Due to DeRt 4's high level of scientific and cultural significance, it was recommended that a small-scale archaeological investigation of the site was warranted to mitigate the loss of any archaeological deposits by the proposed hotel redevelopment.

The new property owners, Poets Cove at Bedwell Harbour Ltd., have stated they were not aware of the recorded archaeological site and were not advised of any previous impact assessment study. In October 2002, the Archaeological Planning and Assessment office was first made aware of the resort's unregulated construction activity at DeRt 4. The developers agreed

to make expensive readjustments to the placement of the resort hotel to avoid disturbing any archaeological deposits, and a heritage site alteration permit was applied for to monitor the removal of the old pub's footings, a swimming pool, and the placement of new utility lines. However, there was no mention in the approved alteration permit for any large-scale excavations or any mention of constructing a geothermal energy plant atop of the archaeological site.

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group has filed an official complaint to the RCMP Outer Gulf Islands detachment to investigate the developer for committing an offence under the *Heritage Conservation Act (1996) Section 13 (2)*; specifically, that the excavation, removal, and destruction of the immense volume of the recorded archaeological site was clearly outside the scope of the developer's heritage site alteration permit. The President of Poets Cove at Bedwell Harbour Ltd. has publicly stated he believes the corporation has done nothing wrong and has received all the relevant government permits, including contracting an archaeological consulting firm to monitor development.

The resort developer publicly accused the RCMP of shutting them down without grounds, threatened charges, and resumed site construction the same week. A joint media release was made by the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group and Saanich Tribes condemning the luxury resort for its destruction of the archaeological site and their disrespect of First Nations





heritage. However, the chiefs of the Tseycum and Tsawout First Nations, Vern Jacks Sr. and Allan Claxton, respectively, later met with the developers and made an undisclosed private agreement. In exchange for four of their community members to screen the back dirt for human remains and artifacts supervised by the developer's archaeological consultant, it is reported that no charges against the developer will be filed. The developer also agreed to sponsor a "spiritual healing" week at the luxury resort to placate the spirits of the ancestors who were disturbed. In a joint press release with the developers, Chief Allan Claxton sees the agreement as precedent-setting and hopes it is the beginning of a new relationship with developers. "I think we can turn this into a positive — working together," Claxton said. (Times Colonist, February 26, 2003). The Ministry later granted an amendment to the developer's site alteration permit for this salvage archaeological project to proceed.

The Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group were not party to this agreement and have been excluded by the developer to participate in the effort to recover their ancestor's unearthened human remains and artifacts. The HTG has demanded the RCMP lay charges against the developer and enforce the *Heritage Conservation Act* (1996). As stated by Robert Morales, Chief Negotiator, "We believe that a serious illegal offence has occurred by this development corporation under British Columbian law. We believe Crown Counsel must be forwarded the RCMP

investigative report to make their informed decision whether to lay charges. We condemn the developer for their attempts to influence the criminal justice system, divide our First Nations, and profit from the destruction of our Ancestors' remains."

Although the RCMP investigation of the incident has been completed, whether the RCMP will forward its report to Crown Counsel to make a decision on whether to file charges has not occurred. Although a clear violation of the *Heritage Conservation Act*, the Outer Gulf Islands RCMP would prefer to see "alternative solutions" for First Nations and the developer to mutually resolve this event. The HTG has written a formal request to Minister Stan Hagen to assist in upholding the very principles of British Columbia's own heritage legislation in this matter.

If you are concerned by this lack of enforcement of the *Heritage Conservation Act*, the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group encourages you to write to the Honorable Minister Stan Hagen, MSRM, (PO Box 9054, Stn. Prov. Govt. Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2; fax: 250.356.8273), and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Outer Gulf Island Detachment (PO Box 122 Pender Island, V0N 2M0; fax: 250.629.3625), and request that the RCMP investigation report proceed to Crown Counsel. Huy'ch'qu (Thank You)

Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hallett, D.J., D. Lepofsky, R.W. Mathewes, K.P. Lertzman. 2003 11,000 Years of Fire History and Climate in the Mountain Hemlock Rainforests of Southwestern British Columbia Based on Sedimentary Charcoal. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* 33:292-312.

Huckleberry, G., J.K. Stein, and P. Goldberg. 2003 Determining the Provenience of Kennewick Man Skeletal Remains Through Sedimentological Analyses. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 30(6):651-665.

Lambert, Patricia M.. 2002 The Archaeology of War: A North American Perspective. *Journal of Archaeological Research* 10(3):207-41. [Northwest Coast is one of six regions covered]

Lepofsky, Dana. 2002 Plants and Pithouses: The Archaeobotany of Complex Hunter-Gatherers on the British Columbia Plateau. In *The Archaeobotany of Temperate-Zone Hunter-Gatherers*, edited by Sarah L.R. Mason and Jon G. Hather. Institute of Archaeology Occasional Publications, London.

Lepofsky, D. M. Blake, D. Brown, S. Morrison, N. Oakes, and N. Lyons. 2000 The Archaeology of the Scowlitz Site, Southwestern British Columbia. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 27(4):391-416. [released in 2002]

Lepofsky, D., E. Heyerdahl, K. Lertzman, D. Schaepe, and B. Mierendorf. 2003 Climate, Humans, and Fire in the History of Chittenden Meadow. *Conservation Ecology* 7:5. [online] URL:<<http://www.consecol.org/vol7/iss3/art5>>.

Lepofsky, D., M. Moss, and N. Lyons. 2001 The Unrealized Potential of Paleoethnobotany in the Archaeology of Northwestern North America: Perspectives from Cape Addington, Alaska. *Arctic Anthropology* 38(1):48-59.

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