

# The Midden

ISSN 0047-7222

Vol. XX, No. 3 June 1988



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# The Midden

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

**Editor:** Kathryn Bernick

**Subscriptions and Mailing:** Helmi Braches

**Submissions** and exchange publications should be directed to the Editor. Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. archaeology are welcomed: maximum length 1,500 words, no footnotes, and only a brief bibliography (if necessary at all). Guidelines available. Telephone inquiries: 873-5958.

The next issue of *The Midden* will appear mid-October 1988.

**Contributors this issue:** Brian Apland, Kathryn Bernick, Colin Gurnsey, Jim Haggarty, Dave Johnstone, Grant Keddie, Jim McKenzie, Terry Spurgeon, Phil Hobler.

**Production assistance:** Phyllis Mason.

**THE COVER:** *Museum crew surveys rocky shoreline on Zayas Island. Alaska in background. Don Abbott photo. See page 6.*

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Publication of *The Midden* is made possible in part by a grant from the Government of British Columbia through the British Columbia Heritage Trust.



## The Society

The **Archaeological Society of British Columbia** is dedicated to the protection of archaeological resources and the spread of archaeological knowledge.

**Meetings** featuring illustrated lectures are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 8:00 p.m. in the Vancouver Museum Auditorium. Visitors and new members are welcome!

### COMING TOPICS:

Sept. 14 Dianne Lyons: west Africa.

Oct. 12 Dr. Peter Schledermann: the Arctic.

**President:** Colin Gurnsey (980-7429)

**Membership Secretary:** Pam Adory (430-8327)

**Membership** year runs September 1 - August 31. Fees: single - \$17.00; family - \$20.00; senior citizen - \$12.00; student - \$12.00. Membership includes *Midden* subscription. Address to: A.S.B.C. Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3

**Affiliated Chapters:** Fraser Valley, Kitimat, Victoria.

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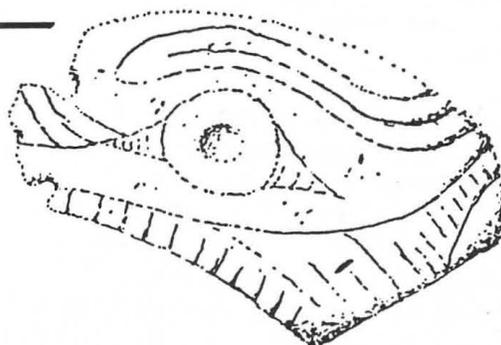
# SPOTLIGHT

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*Shell pendant.*

*Scale 1:1*

## *Long Harbour*



*by Dave Johnstone*

*THE PROJECT AT LONG HARBOUR* arose out of interest by the landowner and enthusiastic island residents. Three graduate students from Simon Fraser University, supported by Challenge '87 funds, oversaw the excavations. Twenty-seven volunteers, from Saltspring Island, Victoria, and Vancouver, participated in the project; each devoted at least one week of their time over the course of the three month project.

Tours were arranged for five large groups, including the Vancouver and Victoria chapters of the ASBC. Approximately 400 other visitors were greeted with an information display explaining the site and its artifacts.

The site (*DfRu 44*) is a breakwater midden located near the head of Long Harbour, Saltspring Island, B.C. It was built up on an ancient spit that separated a brackish marsh from the ocean. Current on-site and near-site food resources include plants such as wild rose, purple pea, oregon grape, orange honeysuckle, and salal; bivalves such as clams and scallops; and a variety of small mammals and migratory waterfowl.

Excavations revealed deposits averaging 2 m deep, with the deepest deposits lying in the centre of the site, towards the marsh. A large area excavation (54 m<sup>2</sup>) removed approximately 45 m<sup>3</sup> of deposit, and a 1 x 6 m trench removed about 8 m<sup>3</sup>. Excavation proceeded by 10 cm arbitrary levels within gross natural strata.

Three stratigraphically separate cultural components were identified. The oldest, of

Locarno Beach Phase, dates between 3970 ± 60 B.P. and 2230 ± 50 B.P., and is typified by a wide range of artifact types including flaking detritus, projectile points, a slate adze, and a soapstone "whatsit".

The middle component, though undated, bears a strong resemblance to Late Marpole components at the Pender Canal sites and Whalen Farm. This component was characterized by bone and antler fishing tools including unilaterally barbed harpoons and bone bipoints. Ten obsidian microblades, a grooved maul fragment, and a carved scallop-shell pendant were also recovered.

The uppermost component was an historic use, related to logging activities in the 1950s and to later camping activity. Artifacts include nails, wire, a bolt, and steel and aluminum cans and pans.

Hearth features were found in all components, but steaming pits and post-holes seemed only to be present in the Locarno Beach component. A cursory examination of faunal remains from column samples shows herring to be the most abundant species in both prehistoric components. A total of 200 artifacts were recovered from the site.

Archaeological investigation will continue at Long Harbour this summer. □

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*Dave Johnstone is enrolled in the M.A. program in Archaeology at SFU. He directed the Long Harbour Project in 1987.*

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## Letter to the Editor:

Response to Carol Dolman (*The Midden* 20:2:2) re. cancellation of the Regional Advisor Program.

Cancellation of the Regional Advisor Program by the Heritage Conservation Branch in 1987 has been an issue of great concern to the ASBC. Regional Advisors were intended to serve as communication links between local communities and the Heritage Conservation Branch and monitor archaeological and historical sites. Upon enquiring about the cancellation of the program, we were told that as the Advisor program matured its members gradually lost touch with both the heritage community and the needs of the general public.

The ASBC is very concerned that at present there is no system for monitoring local prehistoric and historic sites. We recognize that a communication system needs to be established to ensure that information is made available to citizens and groups throughout the province so

that deteriorating sites can be recognized, methods of mitigation understood, and assistance provided. We further recognize that direction must be provided and, in the case of prehistoric sites, protection.

If government won't take the lead, we are prepared to do so. But, there is no point in the ASBC attempting to take on such a huge task by itself. We are a small society and can best coordinate, facilitate, assist, and communicate with the other heritage groups that are established in almost all communities in the province.

It's my view that the protection of our heritage is a process that all of us should take part in. As well, we need to ensure that other heritage groups are equally aware of the existing void in local site protection. The ASBC is continuing to search for solutions to this issue. Perhaps by next year we will see some progress. □

*Colin Gurnsey, President  
Archaeological Society of British Columbia*

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## Debitage

ASBC member **Hilary Stewart** has done it again—her book *The Adventures and Sufferings of John R. Jewitt* won the \$1,000 Bill Duthie's Bookseller's prize for bestselling books of high quality by B.C. authors published last year . . . The first issue of *Northern Review* is about to roll off the press. The multi-disciplinary journal of the arts and social sciences of the north is co-edited by ASBC member **Norm Easton** who teaches anthropology at Yukon College in Whitehorse . . . The Royal B.C. Museum's list of forthcoming publications includes **Don Mitchell's** report on the 1981 excavations at the J. Puddleduck site in Courtenay, B.C.

\* \* \*

ASBC member **Heather Pratt** is dusting off her student notes from the 1986 field school at the Point Grey site—the better to conduct the public tours she's been hired to do this summer . . . If you're wondering who received the 1988 **Borden Scholarship**, the answer is, no one.

The B.C. Heritage Trust chose not to make an award this year; no reason has been given . . . Another non-event, at least for now, is **Parks Canada's** planned survey of the South Moresby park reserve. Nothing can proceed until first, the federal-provincial agreement is signed, and second, a satisfactory arrangement is negotiated with the Haida.

\* \* \*

You can tell that ASBC member **Terry Spurgeon's** Directory of Canadian Archaeological Organizations was compiled by a west coaster — the provincial listings begin with B.C. (then Alberta) . . . All schoolchildren in **Ontario** now study the prehistory of their province as a regular component of the grade 4 curriculum . . . "Early man" was ousted by the **Canadian Archaeological Association** in favour of unbiased terms, so expect to see more first people and humans . . . ASBC president **Colin Gurnsey** was recently elected to the board of directors of the Heritage Society of B.C.

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# Ottawa reviews heritage legislation

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*THE FEDERAL REVIEW* of heritage legislation took a solid step forward last month with the release of a 70-page discussion paper.

The document was prepared by an inter-departmental committee with representatives from the Environment, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Transport, and Communications departments. It identifies areas of concern including designation, inventory, impact assessment, permits for archaeologists, human burials, ownership, and public access. The bulk of the paper presents background information on Canadian archaeology, federal jurisdiction, and the current state of federal archaeological heritage management.

Elizabeth Snow, an archaeologist and a member of the policy committee that prepared the discussion paper, told a symposium at the Canadian Archaeological Association's May meetings that some issues can be taken care of with existing legislation. She noted that particular problems arise regarding compatibility of federal and provincial legislation, native peoples' concerns, and the

current government's commitment to fiscal restraint.

The working committee (it includes three archaeologists) will continue to meet throughout the consultation process, which, optimistically, will take 10 months. They will produce a summary report of submissions and develop specific recommendations for a government steering committee to consider.

Discussion at the CAA symposium emphasized the importance of individuals writing to their MPs. Archaeology isn't exactly a government priority, one speaker pointed out, and it would be very easy for the issue to be put aside. The CAA plans to ask each of the political parties to state the nature of its commitment to heritage/archaeology.

The discussion paper solicits feedback from individuals and organizations. ASBC members who wish to help formulate the society's submission should phone Colin Gurnsey at 980-7429.

Copies of the paper are available on request from Information Services, Communications Canada, 300 Slater St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C8. Tel. (613) 990-4843. □

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## *B.C.'s first atlatl*

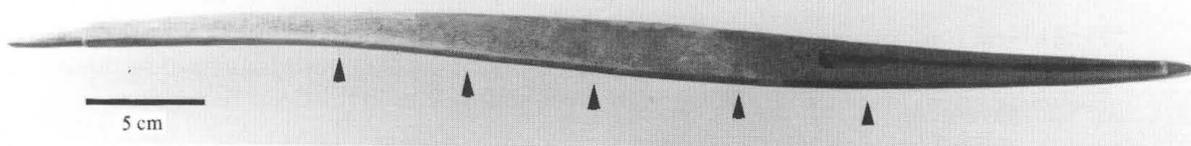
AN *ATLATL* made of elk antler was found last month by construction worker Pat Rozek on the drained, now dry, bottom of Quilntanton Lake near Ashcroft. It is the main throwing-board portion of an atlatl —it's missing the haft as well as any weights that may have been attached.

Stephen Lawhead, who has excavated several sites in the vicinity, believes that a hunter lost the atlatl accidentally when it flew off the handle and fell into the lake.

The artifact (below) is 49.5 cm long and 3.6 cm wide (maximum). There is a 14-cm-long groove at the distal end. Each side is decorated with five sets of incised parallel lines.

Atlatls (spear throwers) are thought to have gone out of use 1500-2000 years ago with the introduction of the bow and arrow. □

*Arrows point to incised lines. Phil Hobler photo.*



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## PERMITS • PERMITS • PERMITS • PERMITS • PERMITS

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### Permits issued January through May 1988:

- 1988-1 Mark Skinner: recovery of human skeletal remains.
  - 1988-2 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment, Ucluelet Inlet.
  - 1988-3 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment at Cox Bay.
  - 1988-4 Leonard Ham: impact assessment of Cohoe Creek site (*FjUb 10*) MOH Juskatla Pit, Queen Charlotte Islands.
  - 1988-5 Arnoud Stryd: impact assessment, Guide Fishing Camp, Henslung Cove.
  - 1988-6 Leonard Ham: shovel testing, Univ. Endowment Lands, and beach front survey on Poplar Island.
  - 1988-7 Jean Bussey: impact assessment, Canadian Hunter Exploration well sites in the Deep Basin area, northeastern B.C.
  - 1988-8 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment of lands affected by logging, Kiltuish Inlet.
  - 1988-9 Ian Wilson: impact assessment of shell midden *DeRu 44*, Fulford Harbour.
  - 1988-10 Robin Inglis: removal of bell and porthole of wreck of Ericsson from B.C. for travelling exhibit.
  - 1988-11 Bjorn Simonsen: impact assessment of log booming area on Helmcken Island, near Sayward.
  - 1988-12 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, housing development near Duncan.
  - 1988-13 Luisa Beram: systematic data recovery at Caleb Pike House.
  - 1988-14 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, Basia Development Corp. property at Brentwood Bay.
  - 1988-15 A. P. Brown: impact assessment, Ellerslie Lake.
  - 1988-16 Arnoud Stryd: impact assessment of proposed right-of-way acquisition at *DgRs 2*, Tsawwassen.
  - 1988-17 Philip Hobler: impact assessment, boundaries of Skagit Valley Recreation Area.
  - 1988-18 Sandra Zacharias: excavations at Craigflower.
  - 1988-19 Jean Bussey: impact assessment of B.C. Hydro transmission line, Aiyansh to Stewart.
  - 1988-20 Bjorn Simonsen: impact assessment at *DeRu 12*, Maple Bay.
  - 1988-21 Ian Wilson: impact assessment of Shell Canada's Sikanni pipeline and associated well sites.
  - 1988-22 Ian Wilson: impact assessment of Westcoast Transmission's Umbach pipeline south of Nig Creek, northeastern B.C.
  - 1988-23 Morley Eldridge: impact assessment, *DeRu 16*, Sylvan Acres Baptist Camp/Landsend, North Saanich.
  - 1988-24 Leonard Ham: impact assessment, Golden Bear Revised.
  - 1988-25 Arnoud Stryd: impact assessment, B.C. Tel lightguide trans. system.
  - 1988-26 Brian Hayden: archaeological investigations at pit house village *EeRl 7* (Keatley Creek site).
  - 1988-27 Jean Bussey: impact assessment, Texaco Canada well sites, Peace River area.
  - 1988-28 Jean Bussey: impact assessment Afton Mine expansion.
  - 1988-29 Ian Wilson: impact assessment, Lomgon Bay, Tasu Sound, Moresby Island (Western Forest Products logging activities).
  - 1988-30 Jean Bussey: proposed Phillips Petroleum well sites, northeastern B.C.
  - 1988-31 David Archer: site inventory survey of northern coast from Portland Inlet to Telegraph Passage.
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## LOOK FOR/Article:

*Prehistoric Underwater Archaeology Comes to Canada: Ancient Fishing Technique Uncovered*, by N. Alexander Easton, in the April 1988 issue of **Diver Magazine**, pp.30-32. Easton describes his research at underwater reef-netting sites in the Coast Salish area.

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## News Bits

### *Vallican dream becomes real*

The B.C. government recently purchased the Vallican pit-house village site in the Slocan Valley in southeastern B.C. The 2400-year-old site has been the subject of a lobbying campaign for the past five years. Now that preservation is assured, the Vallican Archaeological Park Society will focus on realizing its goal of an outdoor educational park.

### *Archaeologist digs buffalo*

On March 25, 1988, Grant Keddie of the Royal B.C. Museum recovered the remains of a *Bison antiquus* that came from 3 m below a creek southeast of Beaver Lake near Victoria. This is the second such find in the last year and proves that *Bison antiquus* occurred during post-glacial times on Vancouver Island.

### *B.C. journalist wins award*

The Canadian Archaeological Association's \$350 public writing award for 1987 went to Liz Bryan for *Rocks of Ages*, an article about medicine wheels (circular stone configurations) in the Canadian prairies. The 4,000-word piece, illustrated with colour photos, appeared in the September 1987 issue of *Western Living* (Vol.17, No.9, pp.118-121).

### *Central Coast beckons diggers*

Phil Hobler, SFU, received a Canada Council SSHRC grant to excavate Bella Coola village sites that span the prehistoric-historic periods. The main site to be excavated this summer, *FcSo 1*, features elongate mounds observed by Alexander Mackenzie in 1793—the trash dumps under the houses.

## Victoria reports . . .

AN INFORMAL SURVEY of archaeology-related projects in British Columbia during the 1987-88 fiscal year shows that there were roughly 10 independent consultants, 3 Indian Band organizations, and 13 institutionally based researchers active last year. (The institution breakdown is: Royal B.C. Museum, 1; U.Vic., 1; SFU, 5; UBC, 1; Univ. of Calgary, 1; Univ. Calif. Los Angeles, 1.)

Forty-nine permits were issued, though there were at least 12 additional projects conducted for which permits were not required (on federal lands, museum interpretation, etc.). The projects conducted can be loosely grouped into three types: primarily resource management initiated (75%), primarily research initiated (20%), and primarily focused on public interpretation (5%).

Just over \$1 million was spent on archaeology-related activities in B.C. last year, not including

staff salaries and operating budgets of the Heritage Conservation Branch, provincial museum, and academic institutions. Expenditures by profession segment were: 60.2% private consulting, 29.2% institutions, and 10.6% native organizations. The general funding breakdown by type of project is 66.8% resource management, 26.7% pure research, and 6.5% public interpretation.

The Heritage Conservation Branch contributed only 10% to direct project funding and the B.C. Heritage Trust contributed 19%. The remaining 71% was provided by development proponents and research grants from outside the province. □

- Brian Apland

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*Brian Apland is Acting Director of the B.C. Resource Management Branch (formerly the Heritage Conservation Branch).*

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# Zayas Island

## Archaeological Survey Project

by James C. Haggarty

*THE DUNDAS GROUP OF ISLANDS*, located northeast of the Queen Charlotte Islands at the eastern end of Dixon Entrance (24 km west of Prince Rupert), are comprised of five major islands (Zayas, Dundas, Baron, Dunira and Melville) and numerous offshore islands, islets, and reefs. Isolated and exposed to a myriad of summer and winter winds and swell action emanating from the nearby Pacific Ocean, the "outside" or exposed shorelines of each of the major islands and many of the smaller islands and islets are rugged and wind-swept, carved out over the millennia by the incessant pounding of heavy seas. Yet, once "inside" the exposed shoreline, the effects of wind and water action are reduced dramatically. This change is reflected in the character of the shoreline: beaches become gentle, and forest trees, shrubs, and plants grow to the water's edge. It is in this setting that the Zayas Island Archaeological Survey Project of last summer was conducted.

This island cluster is unique from a cultural perspective in that it spans a portion of the

territorial boundary between Tlingit-speaking people to the north and Coast Tsimshian-speaking people to the south and east. In the late prehistoric and historic periods, the Dundas group of islands appears to have been exploited seasonally by Coast Tsimshian-speaking peoples established in major villages along the mainland shoreline, particularly in the Prince Rupert Harbour - Venn Passage area. Today, Coast Tsimshian people from the nearby settlements of Port Simpson and Metlakatla seasonally occupy a number of small houses located on 17 small reserves scattered throughout the islands.

### Field Research

The primary research objectives of the project last summer were: 1) to record, analyze, and interpret the history of human occupation of Zayas Island; 2) to evaluate other islands in the study area in terms of their archaeological potential; 3) to examine and document patterns of settlement within the study area; and 4) to compare these patterns with those known on the



*House depressions at village site  
on Dundas group of islands.*

southern Queen Charlotte Islands and on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Good progress was made in achieving the first three objectives. Phase II, slated for this coming summer, will see the completion of systematic site survey in the Dundas group, further documentation of settlement patterns within the study area, and, in a subsequent report, comparison of these patterns with those known from the west coast of Vancouver Island and from the southern Queen Charlotte Islands.

Intensive shore line survey of the northern half of the study area produced a total of 32 sites, 21 of which were formally recorded. These 32 sites are classified as follows:

- 12 historic native habitation sites with house structures
- 7 general activity shell midden sites
- 9 stone wall fish trap sites
- 4 isolated canoe run sites

It became apparent part way through the field season that the sites we were finding

represented at least two and possibly three distinct settlement patterns.

In order to place the results of the archaeological survey in a broader cultural context, I would first like to summarize briefly what is known of late prehistoric and historic period occupation and use of these outer islands by Coast Tsimshian people. There are three interrelated issues that need to be addressed: seasonal round, settlement pattern, and culture change.

#### **Seasonal Round**

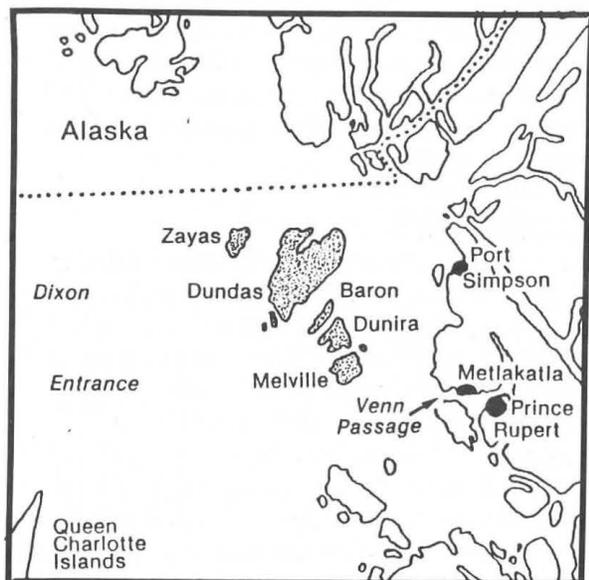
In the early part of the historic period and dating to A.D. 1750, the Coast Tsimshian utilized an extensive seasonal round to exploit a wide range of resources. Based during the winter months in numerous, large villages in the Venn Passage - Prince Rupert Harbour area, they travelled in the early spring to the Nass River to trade and fish for eulachon. In late spring many people moved to the outer islands, including the Dundas group, to gather shellfish and hunt sea

mammals. In the summer they shifted to the lower Skeena River to gather berries and fish for salmon, and returned in late fall to their winter villages.

Given the short amount of time the Coast Tsimshian spent on the outer islands, one would expect to find relatively small shell midden sites, commonly referred to as campsites, rather than large, "winter" village sites of the type found near Prince Rupert.

The discovery last summer of a major village site with 35 rectangular house depressions near the centre of the study area immediately raised a number of interesting questions: Is this the type of site one would expect to be associated with the seasonal round in A.D. 1750? If not, with what seasonal round is it associated? In fact, one should ask whether it is associated with any seasonal round! It could represent a basically year-round village of a people who were established permanently in these outer islands.

What is clear, is that this major village deposit represents part of a settlement pattern that is earlier than that indicated for the late prehistoric and early to mid-historic periods. Botanists along on our project estimated that, given the current vegetation cover, the site was likely abandoned between 250 and 300 years ago (about A.D. 1680-1730). This estimate is based both on degree of forest cover and tree diameter on site, particularly within house depressions. It is reinforced by the fact that no visible signs of house features (posts, beams, etc.) are present at the site and that at many house corners second generation trees are growing from first generation stumps.



### Settlement Pattern

This site, along with some or all of the nine stone wall fish traps and some or all of the other six general-activity shell midden sites, forms part of an early, Dundas-based settlement pattern that is distinctly different from the pattern described for the Coast Tsimshian in A.D. 1750. The latter settlement pattern is probably represented by some of the general-activity shell midden sites found during the survey and is probably ancestral to the one operating on the landscape today.

The modern settlement pattern of seasonal occupation and use of the Dundas group by native people from Port Simpson and Metlakatla is represented archaeologically by some, or all, of the 12 historic native habitation sites containing both presently used and collapsed house structures. No evidence of a prehistoric occupation was observed at 11 of these 12 sites. This fact alone indicates that there is essentially no overlap between the two apparent historic-period settlement patterns.

The same degree of divergence is also apparent between the earliest pattern observed and the pattern associated with the A.D. 1750 seasonal round model. Each of the three settlement patterns is unique and, more importantly, observable archaeologically.

### Native Tradition

To interpret these results, we must turn to a consideration of the extensive ethnographic data base available for the North Coast. This particular area of British Columbia has for years fascinated anthropologists working with native groups on both sides of the Alaska - British Columbia boundary.

In the early 1900s, Franz Boas, working with his Tsimshian associate Henry Tate, recorded and published three war tales. One of these traditions is an account of the prolonged conflict between the Coast Tsimshian and Tlingit, with the Tlingit eventually being defeated by the Tsimshian.

Marius Barbeau, working with his Tsimshian colleague William Beynon over a 40 year period, also recorded a number of war narratives involving Tsimshian and Tlingit groups.

From these war narratives it is clear that at some point in the past the Tlingit occupied Dundas Island and from it stage raids on the Tsimshian located in the Prince Rupert Harbour and Skeena River areas. Despite the detail

contained in these narratives, it is not known whether the Tsimshian regained control over an area they had once occupied, or succeeded in capturing this area for the first time in the 1700s.

What is clear from the wealth of ethnographic data collected during the first half of the twentieth century is that both Tsimshian and Tlingit groups claim the Dundas group as part of their respective traditional territory. In 1915, Beynon recorded that the Dundas region was part of the territory of Gitzaklalth Tsimshian. This group, unlike other Tsimshian groups, had two clans (raven and wolf) rather than the usual four—a trait characteristic of the Tlingit rather than the Tsimshian. In addition, many of their village names were Tlingit names and their chiefly house was associated with a subgroup of the Tongass Tlingit.

On the other side of the ledger, data collected by R.L. Olson in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s indicate clearly that the Tantakwan or Sanyakwan Tlingit once occupied territory in the Dundas group. Olson describes three of the Tantakwan houses: "The houses were always built with two terraces inside, a hereditary right, a crest."

There are at least six houses near the eastern end of the major village site in the Dundas group that exhibit two clearly defined terraces inside the house outlines. If this is the type of terrace Olson refers to, then this may well be one of the rare examples of a direct correlation of archaeological evidence with a particular social group unit at the household level.

### Culture Change

What sense can we make of these data and apparently competing claims?

I think the archaeological record, at least as far as we know it at present, serves as a relative time-frame for some of the ethnographic data collected in the first half of the twentieth century. The earliest settlement pattern observed in the study area, represented by the major village site and likely associated with the stone wall fish traps, establishes the existence of a large Dundas-based social unit.

Another reasonable explanation of the anthropological data gathered to date would be one that argues in favour of the major village site being a Tlingit village that was abandoned after repeated attacks by Tsimshian groups.

There is no information that documents or even suggests that the Tsimshian, once having gained control over the Dundas group of islands,

ever occupied these islands other than on a seasonal basis.

The collapse of this social unit, for whatever reason, may well have triggered, or intensified, the inter-group warfare documented ethnographically between Tlingit and Tsimshian in the late prehistoric and possibly early historic periods. These conflicts were likely the result of repeated attempts to gain control of the recently abandoned territory and its attendant resource base—a series of battles that were eventually won by the Tsimshian.



*Cedar bark processing site on Dundas Island. Don Abbott photo.*

Because of its unique geographic location this social unit may well have had long-established kinship ties to both the Tantakwan and Sanyakwan Tlingit groups to the north and to the Gitzaklalth Tsimshian group to the south. With its apparently sudden demise sometime in the late 1600s or early 1700s, individual households likely dispersed to neighbouring groups, probably based on the relative strength of individual kinship ties.

Although we currently lack data necessary for answering these questions definitively, the discovery of this important village site points out the significant role archaeological site survey can play in helping to interpret the past. □

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Friends of the Royal British Columbia Museum for financial support and the Canadian Coast Guard, Ministry of Transport, for logistical support of the field portion of the project.

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*Dr. James C. Haggarty is Head of the Archaeology Unit and Acting Chief of the Human History Section at the Royal British Columbia Museum.*

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# New Publications

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**Faces, Voices & Dreams: A Celebration of the Centennial of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka, Alaska, 1888-1988** edited by Peter L. Corey. Division of Alaska State Museums and Friends of the Alaska State Museum, Sitka. 1987. [Distributed by Univ. Wash. Press]. 224 pp., ills., bibl. US\$ 24.95 (paper).

Ten essays on Eskimo, Aleut, Athapaskan, Tlingit, and Haida artifacts including baskets, clothing, carvings, and kayaks in the museum's collections, plus a history of the museum. Profusely illustrated.

**Spirit and Ancestor: A Century of Northwest Coast Indian Art at the Burke Museum** by Bill Holm. Photographs by Eduardo Calderon. Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver. 1987. 253 pp., bibl., index. \$40.00 (paper).

A catalogue of selected artifacts from the collections of the Burke Museum (Univ. of Washington, Seattle). Photos (including 100 in colour) and written descriptions.

**Prehistoric Economies of the Pacific Northwest Coast** edited by Barry L. Isaac. Research in Economic Anthropology: A Research Annual. (Jai Press, Greenwich, Conn.). Supplement 3. 1988. 351 pp., bibl. (cloth).

Seven scholarly articles on recent archaeological research at the Hoko River site, Ozette, lower Skeena River, and Queen Charlotte Strait; also an overview. Extensive references.

**Prehistoric Cultural Change at Kitselas Canyon** by Gary Coupland. Canadian Museum of Civilization, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. 1988. ASC Mercury Series No.138. 381 pp., ills., bibl. \$24.95 (paper).

Ph.D. dissertation. Report and analysis of excavations at the Paul Mason site on the Skeena River near Terrace, B.C.

**Tsimshian Narratives** (2 volumes), collected by Marius Barbeau and William Beynon, edited by John J. Cove and George F. MacDonald. Canadian Museum of Civilization, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. 1987. Directorate Mercury Series No.3. Vol.1: **Tricksters, Shamans and Heroes**, 342 pp., ills. \$19.95 (paper). Vol.2: **Trade and Warfare**, 268 pp., ills., \$15.95 (paper).

Gitksan, Tsimshian, and Nishga oral histories; most are published for the first time; 100 narratives in vol.1, 66 in vol.2. For academic and non-academic audience.

**The First Albertans: An Archaeological Search** by Gail Helgason. Lone Pine Pubs., Edmonton. 1987. 222 pp., ills., glossary, bibl. \$12.95 (paper), \$19.95 (hardcover).

The story of Alberta archaeology — plains and boreal forest — written by a journalist with guidance from the Archaeological Survey of Alberta. For a popular audience.

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## Get Pinned

New! ASBC lapel pins with the society's logo — attractive, three-colour design (black, orange, gold), 2 cm high. Available at ASBC meetings and other upcoming events.

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# Book Review:

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## *Meticulous detail*

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**Emmons's Notes on Field Museum's Collection of Northwest Coast Basketry: Edited with an Ethnoarchaeological Analysis** by Ronald L. Weber. Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. 1986. Fieldiana. Anthropology New Series No.9. 102 pp., ill. US \$14.00 (paper).

*ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO* George T. Emmons visited Alaska with the U.S. Navy and began to collect native artifacts. He became an authority on Tlingit culture. Emmons's 1903 publication, *The Basketry of the Tlingit*, is a significant contribution to Northwest Coast ethnography.

The baskets upon which Emmons based his analysis are now at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. The Field Museum's slim volume edited by Ronald L. Weber is a catalogue of the 253 baskets in its Emmons collection.

The descriptions include Emmons's notes on basket type, function, construction, ornamentation and provenience. The editor provides dimensions and occasional clarification, and illustrates each item with a black and white photograph. In addition there is

a brief statistical analysis by Weber, a glossary of Tlingit terms, and a short list of references.

Weber does a fine job of organizing and presenting the information without duplicating Emmons. However, it would be more useful to researchers and serious readers if there were more overlap. For example, including Emmons's typology of rim finishes would allow one to follow the descriptions without repeatedly consulting the 1903 publication.

The ethnoarchaeological analysis shows that the baskets in the collection, when sorted by size and shape, fall into groups that correspond to the Tlingit types recorded by Emmons. This conclusion is not surprising since Emmons himself observes that the basket names are based, in part, on form. Weber's analysis would have benefitted by attempts to duplicate the clustering pattern with data from other representative collections of Tlingit basketry.

Certainly the value of the volume rests in the wealth of meticulously documented detail. Anyone interested in Tlingit material culture or in Northwest Coast basketry will, I'm sure, join me in commending Weber and the Field Museum for providing these accessible catalogue descriptions. □

- Kathryn Bernick

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*Midden Editor Kathryn Bernick is an archaeologist with a particular interest in basketry.*

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## Musqueam Exhibit

*Proud to be Musqueam: Dedicated to Our Children* tells the story of the Musqueam people over the last hundred years through photos and oral history. Produced by Verna Kenoras and Leila Stogan of Musqueam. Co-sponsored by the Musqueam Band Council. At the UBC Museum of Anthropology (Theatre Gallery) through July.

# Avocational Archaeology

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## *The group scene in Canada*

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by Terry Spurgeon

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED how many avocational archaeological societies there are in Canada? While recently compiling a directory of archaeological organizations, I managed to track down most of the avocational groups. What follows is a short summary of the avocational contents of the directory.

First, a few words on the types, memberships, and pursuits of avocational archaeological societies.

In Canada, avocational societies can be separated into two general groups. The first includes societies involved in traditional archaeology, which recovers cultural data by excavation of sediments. The second group includes those whose main interest is underwater archaeology.

Most avocational societies pursue similar activities. Responses to my queries revealed several distinct areas of activity that I call "the five P's":

- Promotion
- Publication
- Protection
- Participation
- Partisanship

One notable absence is pothunting—which has no place in the business of avocational societies.

Promotion activities include public lectures, tours, and displays. Publication relates to the many newsletters, journals, and refereed publications produced by avocational societies. Protection involves policing, recording, reporting and preserving archaeological resources. Participation is the involvement of avocational archaeologists in the recovery of cultural information through excavation. Partisanship is lobbying municipal, provincial, and federal authorities on behalf of archaeology.

Most avocational societies have memberships that include both avocational and professional practitioners of archaeology. Many avocational societies were founded or initially assisted by

professionals. Mixed membership is, in fact, important to the well-being of avocational societies.

It is notable that the Canadian Archaeological Association—primarily a professional organization—has many avocational members and is grappling with the matter of avocational visibility within the professional community. (Let's hope this matter receives more attention in the near future!)

Where are the avocational societies in Canada? There are traditional avocational groups in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. There may be some others, but I have as yet to receive replies to all my queries.

There are underwater groups in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland. These groups, in the main, are relatively new. They are involved in an area of archaeology that is in its infancy. Some would argue that this type of avocational involvement is not truly archaeology. The jury is still out.

The traditional avocational groups in Canada have chapters located in at least 26 cities or locales. The groups reporting membership totals account for almost 1,700 members. The largest groups are in Saskatchewan and Ontario. Both have executive administrators who receive some compensation.

A final word about the directory, which lists both professional and avocational organizations. It will soon be in print and available for distribution—pending confirmation of financial support. If you wish more information please write me *c/o The Midden*. In future articles I will provide more details on the various organizations. □

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*ASBC member Terry Spurgeon makes his living in the aviation industry and does archaeology in his spare time.*

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# Summer Site Seeing Guide:

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## *Digs*

- **Fort Langley:** historical-era dig within the fort's walls, May 4 - June 22. Combined field school: VCC-Langara, Fraser Valley, Douglas, and Capilano colleges; taught by Stan Copp. Tours as part of Parks Canada's interpretive program.
- **Long Harbour, Saltspring Island:** salvage project directed by Dave Johnstone, plus SFU field school. Tours at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, Wednesday through Sunday, June 6 - Aug. 6.
- **Keatley Creek:** Dr. Brian Hayden's research excavations and field school, large pit house village site near Lillooet. June 6 - Aug. 9. Visitors welcome. Phone the SFU Archaeology Dept. for directions: 291-3135.
- **Bella Coola River Valley:** SFU research project and field school, directed by Phil Hobler, at village sites that explorer Alexander Mackenzie visited in 1793. Visitors welcome. Ask for directions at the Bella Coola Cultural Centre. June through August.
- **Point Grey, Vancouver:** UBC field school continuing work at the site of the 1986 dig, directed by Dr. Gary Coupland. July 4 - Aug. 12. Tours on weekday afternoons. (In Marine Foreshore Park; access from NW Marine Drive, up the hill from Spanish Banks beach.)

## *Displays*

- **Fraser River Park:** a new, open-air interpretive centre with 10 panels showing the archaeology, early history, industry, and ecology of the Fraser estuary. Short, self-guided walk over gravel paths and wooden decks offers a pleasant stroll. At the southern foot of Angus Drive below the 1700 block SW Marine Drive.
- **Maritime Museum:** large, new mural of Vancouver's maritime history, from cedar canoes to cargo-container ships, on the exterior west wall of the museum.
- **Vancouver Museum:** Our Hidden Past, a slide show and hands-on introduction to archaeology for children and families. Every Sunday at 1:30 pm, June 5 - Aug. 28. Admission charge. Volunteers are needed to assist — contact Georgina Hansen, 736-4431, for further information.

## *Tours*

- **ASBC camping trip to the Lillooet area.** June 18 and 19. Phone Colin Gurnsey at 980-7429 for details.
  - **Prehistory of the Fraser Canyon by raft,** with archaeologist Dr. David Pokotylo and geologist David McMullin. Aug. 26 - 28. A UBC Centre for Continuing Education trip. Cost: \$445. For further information phone 222-5207 or 222-5237.
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