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NEW B. C. HERITAGE GROUPS BEGIN WORK

The structure of the new B. C. government body which replaces the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board is gradually emerging, though its philosophy and modus operandi remain vague.

Set up under the 1977 Heritage Conservation Act, the Heritage Trust will be chaired by J.V. Clyne. The appointment of this corporate mandarin is intriguing, but may well be inspired: Clyne, former Supreme Court judge and former chairman of MacMillan Bloedel, will head a board of directors whose role will likely include soliciting support from B. C.'s industrial giants--support that can be counted in dollars.

In appointing Clyne, Recreation and Conservation Minister Sam Bawlf also said the government would provide \$1 million in lottery revenue for the trust.

The act defines the objectives of the trust as "to support, encourage and facilitate the conservation, maintenance and restoration of heritage property" in B. C. It is assumed this will include archaeological original research and excavation in archaeology.

The relation of the trust to the Heritage Advisory Board remains unclear, though the key word seems to be "advisory". This new board

largely resembles a combination of the old A.S.A.B. and the Historic Sites Advisory Board. Chairman of the Heritage Board is Dr. Willard Ireland, former provincial archivist, and the board comprises seven members from the former boards plus five new appointees.

Other members are: Dr. Roy Carlson (SFU archaeology), Dr. Donald Mitchell (UVic archaeology), Dr. Jim Hendrickson (UVic history), Dr. Margaret Ormsby (retired UBC history), Dr. Edward Gibson (Burnaby specialist in old buildings), Gloria Webster of Alert Bay, William Lougher-Goodey (retired federal government architect), Martin Segger (Victoria architect), Dr. Margaret Prang (UBC history and member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada), Ardyth Cooper (former Archaeological Society executive member), and Ron Sutherland (Archaeological Society representative). Provincial Archaeologist Bjorn Simonsen also serves on the Board, but Bawlf is said to be determined that civil servants act only in an advisory capacity to the group.

Bawlf attended a January meeting of the new board at which three sub-committees were set up: a Permit Review Committee, a Historical Advisory Committee, and an Archaeological Advisory Committee. On the A.A.C. are Mitchell, Carlson, Webster, Cooper, Gibson and Sutherland.

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POST - INUNDATION STUDIES OF THE ARROW LAKES

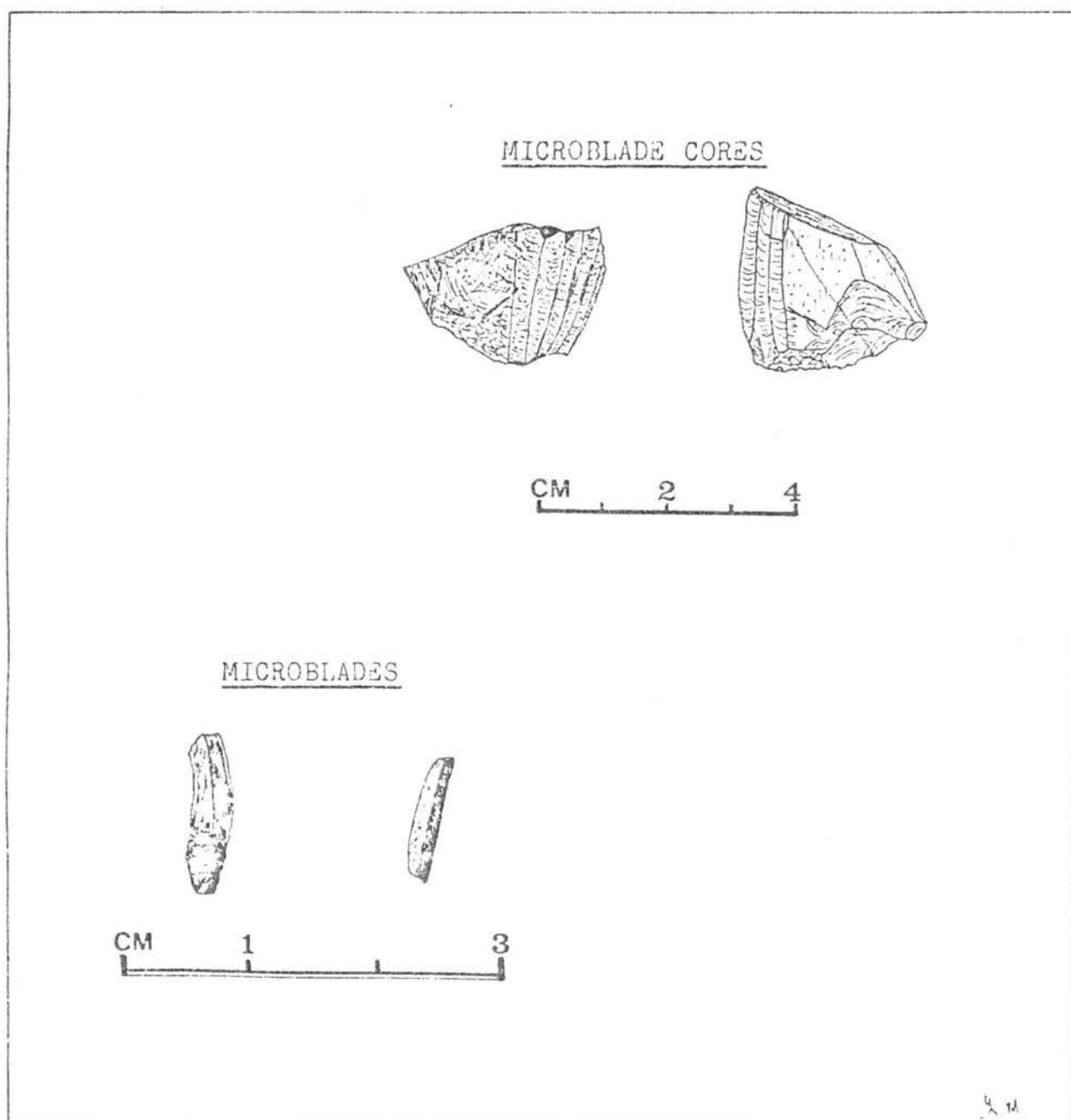
by Gordon Mohs

Archaeological investigations of the Arrow Lakes conducted in the summer months of 1977 were the end result of negotiations held between B.C. Hydro and the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board. Investigations were intended to: re-assess and re-evaluate previously recorded archaeological sites impacted by the construction of the Hugh Keenleyside dam, to inventory archaeological sites in selected areas previously not examined or previously overlooked in the 1961 and 1966-1969 archaeological survey projects, and to examine and inventory archaeological sites in the newly created development zone along the shoreline of the pondage on lands owned by B.C. Hydro. Areas surveyed for archaeological sites included selected inundated pondage areas, various upland terraces, and four parcels of land owned by B.C. Hydro.

Thirty-seven new archaeological sites were recorded during the course of our surveys bringing the total number of recorded sites in the Lakes region to 152. A total of 108 sites or site areas were revisited and the collections of 20 amateur archaeologists were examined.

Of a total of 152 recorded archaeological sites, 124 (81.5%) have been entirely destroyed since clearing and inundation of the pondage area. Of the remaining 28 sites or 18.5%, 16 (10.5%) lie within the active flood zone of the reservoir and, with the exception of two sites (1%), all have been destroyed beyond salvage. This brings the total resource loss to 138 sites (91%). Only 12 sites (8%) remain more or less intact and above the present high water level of 1444'. However, cultural activities presently threaten seven of these remaining sites and unless these are preserved, the overall resource loss would be increased to 97%. Two of the threatened sites are on private property. The remainder are on lands owned by B.C. Hydro or the Crown.

Destruction of archaeological sites within the pondage area was effected through water erosion, wind erosion, pre-reservoir clearing activities, post-reservoir development projects, and the activities of local collectors. Water erosion was the most destructive agent in the erosion of sites and affected sites through wave action, annual reservoir level fluctuations, currents, seiches, uncontrolled runoff and drainage, and the abrasive action of ice and streams. Recording



Microblades and microblade cores are illustrative of a specialized blade technology; a technology of mass production. They are found on both the Interior Plateau and the Columbia Plateau. No samples were recorded in the Arrow Lakes area prior to 1977. The samples illustrated here are from sites DkQm:9 and EaQl:9 (microblade cores); provenience of the microblades is not known. The microblades were observed in the Edgell collection.

the effects of these dynamic processes on archaeological sites formed an integral part of our survey strategy. From our observations we have outlined a program of mitigation concerning future water resource development projects which would affect archaeological resources in the province. The program, if adopted, would involve both pre-inundation and post-inundation studies. For example, experimental protection devices such as covers and barriers could be placed on sites threatened with inundation in pre-inundation stage studies.

Preservation of materials from archaeological sites has been largely the result of the activities of local collectors. Surface collection of artifacts from washed out and exposed sites on the Arrow Lakes has become a major pastime for approximately 100 collectors. The size of individual collections we observed varied from five pieces to over 7,000 pieces. Artifacts photographed and recorded in private collections during the field season numbered about 500 pieces. Some of the more interesting items observed and photographed included microblade cores, microblades, a large "turkey-tail" projectile point, stone and graphite beads, and a stone pipe-stem fragment. Apart from stylistic comparisons with artifacts from other regions, these finds have little value to archaeologists once they have been removed from their archaeological context.

In short, very little of the archaeological record has survived eight years' inundation of the Arrow Lakes. Erosion of inundated sites has been extensive and the few sites remaining continue to be destroyed at an ever increasing rate. Our present knowledge of Arrow Lakes prehistory has come from excavations conducted between 1967 and 1969 on 11 archaeological sites. The percentage ration between site areas excavated and the total archaeological site area for each site excavated varied between .01% and 4%. These percentages will never be increased as the resource has now been destroyed. Our present knowledge of the archaeology in the area is both limited and distorted and archaeological sites which could provide the needed information must be preserved or extensively excavated.

* * *

Describing Artifacts, No.10

(Part of a continuing series on artifact description, reproduced from the handbook for archaeological staff working on the National Inventory Project in B.C. The Midden extends thanks to Tom Loy of the Provincial Museum for permission to reprint.)

DESCRIPTIVE DATA, Part 1

Category - a generalized term is needed to denote the broad classification of subsequent data. Applicable terms and definitions are as follows:

Ceramic: all ceramic materials of indigenous manufacture.

Faunal: the whole, partial or broken remains of an animal(s) (vertebrate or invertebrate) not intentionally modified.

Floral: the whole or partial remains of a plant, seed, spore or pollen, not intentionally modified.

Historic: an artifact manufactured during a period when written histories were kept in the country or area of its origin. Includes trade-goods derived either from direct or indirect contact with representatives of the country or area of manufacture and may antedate the accepted date of contact with an indigenous group.

Indigenous-Historic:

all artifacts of indigenous manufacture made following the accepted date of contact with the group in question, usually made from or utilizing historic materials.

Feature: any non-portable object, structure, or remnant of a structure that was culturally produced.

Artifact: an object showing one or more of the following:

- 1) evidence of intentional modification;
- 2) evidence of use;
- 3) evidence that it had been selected for possible use.

This term includes "feature", "historic" and "indigenous-historic" but, in this specific instance, its use is restricted to anything not covered by the above definitions, implying, therefore, both portable and prehistoric.

A SUMMARY OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION
INVESTIGATIONS IN THE NORTHEAST COAL
STUDY AREA, NORTHEASTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Bruce F. Ball,
Department of Archaeology,
Simon Fraser University

INTRODUCTION

This report presents a brief summary of Heritage investigations undertaken in the Northeast Coal study area (see Figure 1) during 1976 and 1977. Heritage Resource investigations were initiated through the Provincial Archaeologist's office to facilitate an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Northeast Coal (NEC) study areas undertaken by the Provincial Government under the Environment and Land Use Act. Funding for the study has been provided by both the Provincial and Federal Governments and administered through the Cabinet Coal Committee on Northeast Coal Development. The Heritage portion of the NEC study has been carried out under the appellation of the "Heritage Sector" and under the auspices of the office of the Provincial Archaeologist of the Heritage Conservation Branch.

Prior to the 1976 survey no archaeological investigations had been carried out in the study area, although a brief survey along the Sukunka river was undertaken in 1971 by the Provincial Archaeologist's office.

The Heritage program for the NEC study was originally envisioned as a three-phase operation, aimed at providing an assessment of Heritage resources existing within the study area prior to the proposed development of coal and gas resources. The long-term objectives of the project are: 1) to describe and analyze historic and prehistoric cultural patterns within the study region, 2) to attempt some interpretation of the extant cultural resources and their respective processes, 3) to provide some account of the cultural history of the region and, 4) to provide input data for design and assessment purposes.

Phase 1 of the program was carried out during 1976. This segment consisted of a preliminary, judgmental survey; a kind of probe necessitated by the vast size of the study area. The primary objective of this initial survey was to acquire some basic information on the area; "...a sort of preliminary exploration to get some notion of the gross characteristics of the population" (Cowgill 1975:259). The results of this survey were an inventory of some 53 archaeological sites, locational data on several historic cabins, information regarding the kinds of archaeological resources existing in the area and an

intuitive idea of where these resources might occur. A report of these activities and assessments was duly submitted to the Provincial Archaeologist's office (Ball 1976).

Using data acquired during the first phase in conjunction with environmental information gathered by some of the other environmental study groups on the project, a more systematic plan of research was planned for the second phase of the program. This phase was initiated during 1977. At this time the study area was increased to include the region immediately to the south of the NEC study area, referred to as the Southeast Extension (Figure 1).

The primary objectives of the 1977 study were: 1) to gather inventory data on the various extant Heritage resources in the study area, 2) to identify and assess impacts on these resources, 3) to evaluate the project's impacts, 4) to provide input data for the design and planning of the various facets of the development project, and 5) to provide an initial assessment of the Southeast Extension study area.

THE AREA

The NEC study area was originally defined to be that region bounded by the Hart Highway, in the north and west, between Dawson Creek and Prince George and the Alberta-B.C. border to the east. Within this rather expansive area several proposed transportation corridors and townsites were defined. These have since been redefined to include only two of the original eight corridors and one townsite.

The region appears complex both physically and culturally. This complexity is at once evidence in its six physiographic regions stretching from the Rocky Mountain foothills in the west across the Rockies to the Alberta plains region on the eastern border. Several ethnographically different peoples have been active within the study area over the last few centuries. These include: the Beaver, Cree, Sekani, Iroquois and Ojibwa. The general NEC study region, including the Peace River area to the north and those adjacent regions to the east, were of primary importance to the fur trade economy of Canada during the early times of white settlement. Euro-Canadian influence was first evidence within the region during the late 1700's with the first white settlements occurring in the early 1900's. For the most part, the

area has been rather sparsely populated and at a relatively late time compared to other areas in Canada. Today, there exist only a few major settlements that serve the region: Dawson Creek and Chetwynd in the north and Prince George in the south.

With regard to the Southeast Extension study area, it appears as complex as the NEC region both culturally and physically. The peoples known to have inhabited various parts of the region include: the Beaver, the Sekani, the Cree, Iroquois, Ojibwa, Sarcee and Carrier. It should be noted, however, that this information must be regarded as tentative as ethno-historic research on this area is not complete.

THE PROJECT

The NEC Heritage program was faced with two basic problems, these being the size and nature of the study area. It was decided the most propitious method of tackling these problems should involve some form of probabilistic sampling. This would allow for a more reliable and systematic inventory of the study area than might otherwise have occurred using a more biased intuitive approach. In addition, it would provide a statistical basis upon which an evaluation of the significance of the resource could be formulated. In general, it provides for the implicit and explicit requirements of the total project.

The primary concern of the 1977 field season was, therefore, to implement a sampling scheme designed to deal with both the vastness of the area and its general forested nature. This was done by first dividing the study area into smaller regions, each exhibiting some environmental similarities; these making up the sampling universe. One was then selected as the population to be sampled (Berry 1962). The area chosen was an adjoining valley system stretching between the Sukunka River and Gwillim Lake (see Figure 2). This sample tract was then sampled using a two-stage sampling scheme (Cochran 1963; Kish 1969).

In order to contend with the heavily forested nature of the area, a sampling system was used whereby small test plots were systematically excavated within defined sampling units. The method used to select the placement of the test plots is known as a Systematic Stratified Unaligned sample (Berry 1962).

In addition to this aspect of the project, research into the ethno-history of the area was carried out along with a dendrochronological study of historic cabins and an excavation of a site at Gwillim Lake



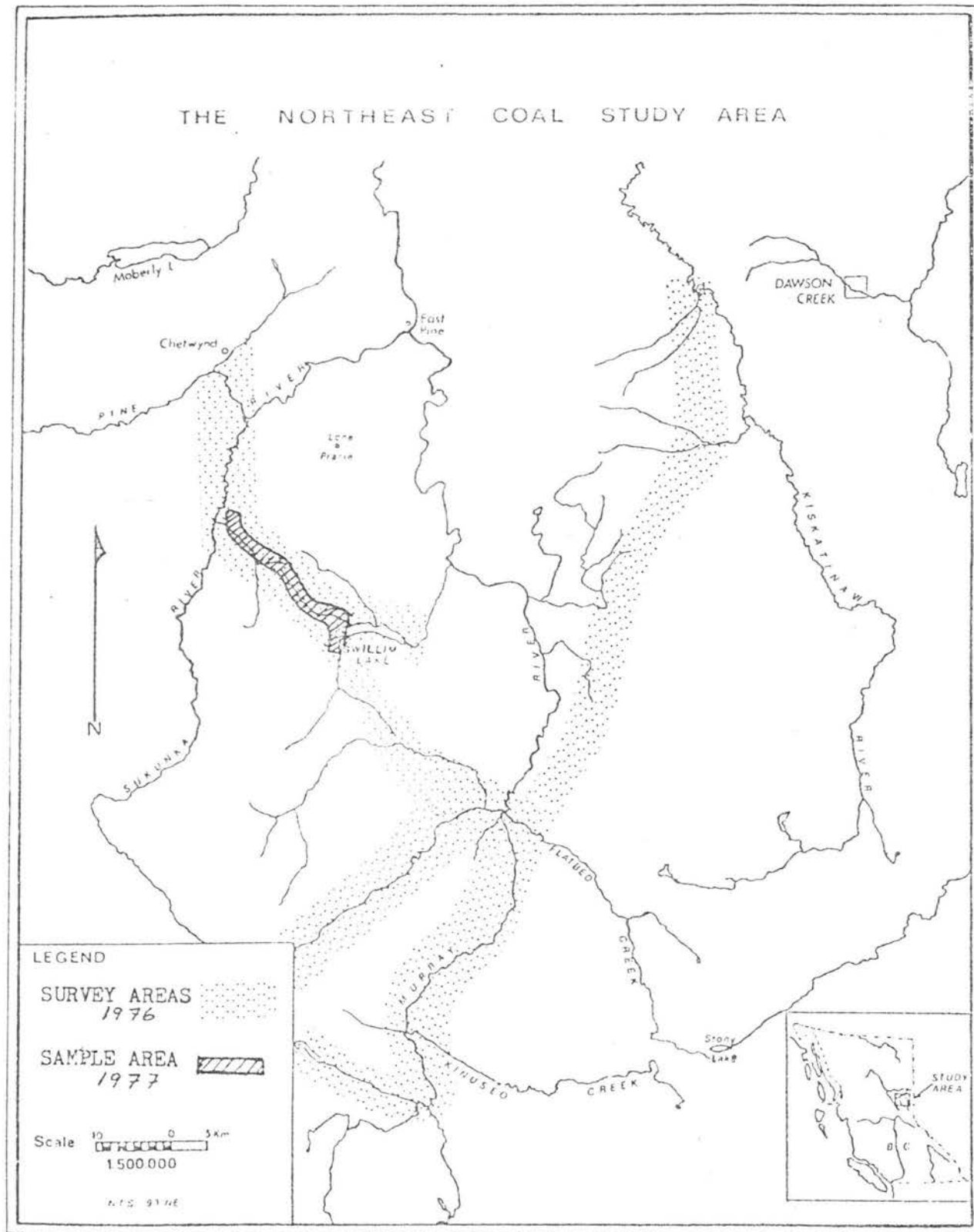


Figure 2

(GiRi 4). Data for the ethno-historical portion of the study was collected from library sources as well as from local informants.

The dendrochronological portion of the project was concerned primarily with the dating of historic cabins located in the study area and the excavation was initiated in an attempt to gain some insight into the nature and extent of an archaeological site in the study area and its inter and intra regional relationships.

Survey in the Southeast Extension area was restricted to a general reconnaissance with some surface investigations being undertaken in selected locales.

SUMMARY

Investigations in the NEC study area to date have resulted in an inventory of some 64 archaeological sites and over 30 historic cabins. Ethno-historic research indicates that the area was relatively important to Canada's fur trade economy during the 1800's and that a number of different groups are known to have inhabited the region over the last few centuries.

In the Southeast Extension region seven archaeological sites have been located (Cassidy 1976) and several areas suspected to be historically significant have been noted. In general, information on this area is scant mostly because more detailed investigations were not required at this time.

Data from the excavation suggests that the archaeology of the region is most strongly related to the plains regions and not, as has been previously suggested, to the Taltheilei Tradition (Gordon 1976:267) known to regions more to the north and east. This conclusion is supported from the analysis of the archaeological materials collected from or observed in other parts of the study area as well as that from GiRi 4.

Two samples were collected from GiRi 4, one of burnt bone and one of charcoal, and have been submitted for radiocarbon analysis. The results from this analysis are not yet available.

The excavated assemblage from Gwillim Lake appears to be most closely related to the Oxbow or Duncan complexes found in central Alberta. These complexes date ca. 4000-5000 B.P. (Wormington and Forbis 1965). Oxbow points appear to be ubiquitously distributed throughout the plains regions, into the Northwest Territories and are known in the Peace River region as well (Reeves personal communication; Spurling personal communication).

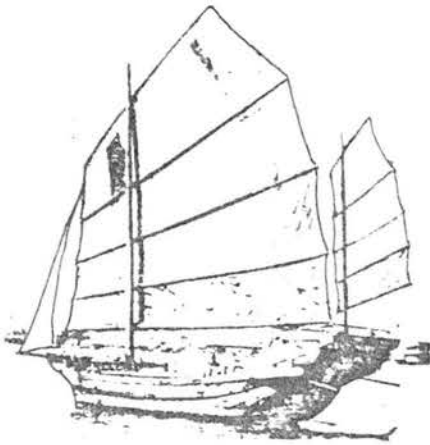
The analysis of the materials from the Gwillim Lake excavation indicates that the site was used seasonally by small groups over several years. This is an economic pattern that seems to have continued into the ethnographic period and appears not unlike that of some adjacent regions.

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DID THE CHINESE BEAT COLUMBUS, TOO?
SIMONSEN SEEKS EVIDENCE



A chilly project by provincial archaeologist Bjorn Simonsen has attracted a surprising amount of media coverage.

Simonsen announced he would spend early February on windswept Long Beach looking for possible remains of an ancient Chinese junk.

Rumors have circulated for years about remnants of a junk--or was it a Spanish galleon?--immured in the sands of the isolated Vancouver Island beach. Simonsen hopes, in this Cook Bicentennial Year, to find it. A proton-magnetometer survey has already yielded some interesting results and "the ship definitely does exist," Simonsen told one C.B.C. interviewer.

Some 60 Oriental ships were spotted in the northern Pacific between 1617 and 1876. The Japanese are known to have traded with Mexico in the early 1600s, and one Chinese tale recounts a voyage by a Buddhist monk to a country far to the east in A.D. 499.

WATCH FOR....

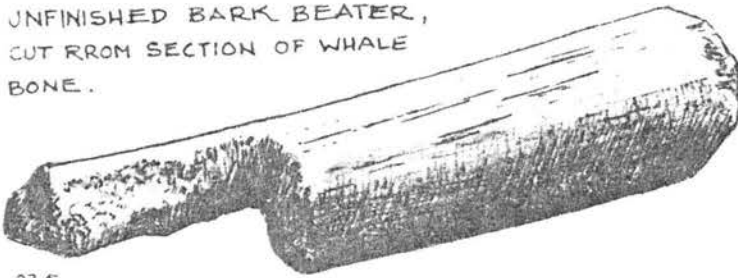
Word of a possible dig on the Musqueam Reserve this summer, with Archaeological Society participation invited.

BARK BEATERS

The basally grooved bark beater of sea-mammal bone, often made of whale rib, served a similar purpose to that of the stone bark shredder, except possibly the beating resulted in a softer, more fluffy product.

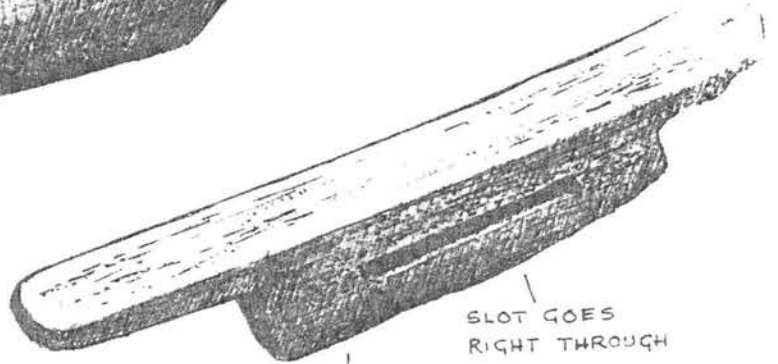
The beater was used at right angles to the lay of the fibre, which was worked over a flat pebble or similar base.

UNFINISHED BARK BEATER,
CUT FROM SECTION OF WHALE
BONE.



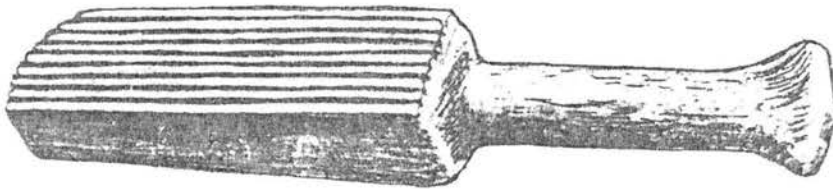
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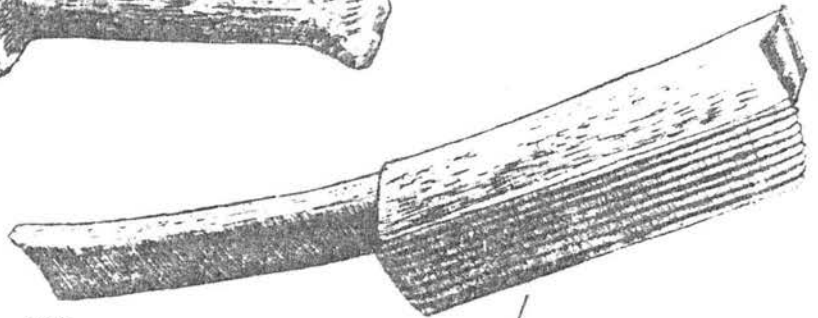


GROOVED
UNDERSIDE

SLOT GOES
RIGHT THROUGH



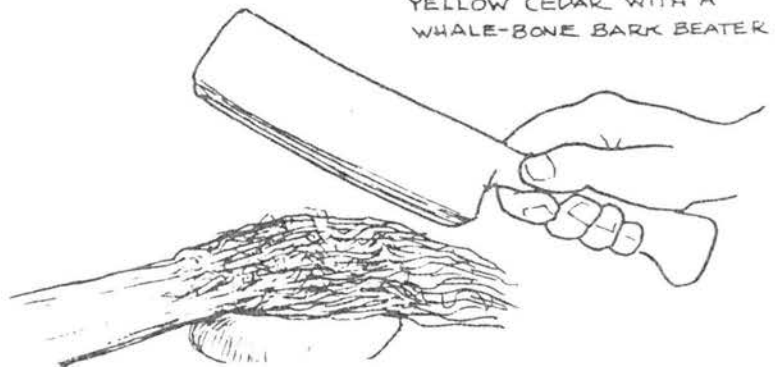
30-c



30-b

GROOVED TO BEAT
UP BARK FIBRES

BEATING THE BARK OF
YELLOW CEDAR WITH A
WHALE-BONE BARK BEATER.



EXCERPTED FROM
"ARTIFACTS OF THE
NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS"
by HILARY STEWART

A.S.B.C. DIARY

Regular monthly meetings of the Society are held on the second Wednesday of each month - September to June - at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Centennial Museum, 1100 Chestnut Street in Vancouver.

Mar. 8 Dr. George Odell, Dept. of Anthropology,
U.B.C., "Excavating a Site in the Netherlands".

Apr. 12 Dr. Roy Carlson, Archaeology Dept., S.F.U.,
"Mayne Island Revisited".

Archaeological Institute of America

Monday, April 10 - 8:30 p.m. - Lecture Hall, Lasserre Bldg.,
Professor Larisa Bonfante of New York
University speaking on the Archaeology
of North Italy - the World of the
Situla People. A.S.B.C. members welcome.

Anthropology of the Unknown



The U.B.C. Museum of Anthropology and the Centre for Continuing Education are cooperating to sponsor a conference subtitled "Humanoid Monsters: Sasquatch and other Phenomena", which may help separate some of the myth from reality.

Along with B.C.'s own wild-man-of-the-woods, attention will be given to yeti, trolls, vampires and other things that go bump in the night.

Advance registration through C.C.E. will cost \$85 for the five-day conference, May 9 - 13.

BOOK REVIEW, by Sharon Russell

THE NOOTKAN INDIAN: A PICTORIAL

The Nootkan Indian: a pictorial. Compiled and introduced by John Sendey. Port Alberni, Alberni Valley Museum, 1977. \$5.95 paper.



John Sendey's introduction to The Nootkan Indian states that the book "attempts to illustrate aspects of Nootkan Indian life by the use of sketches, engravings and photographs," and this is what the attractive volume accomplishes in its 72 pages. The illustrations are taken from a great variety of sources - from the sketches of John Webber, sailing with Captain Cook in 1778, to early and modern photographs. Again according to the introduction "the illustrations have been grouped by subject matter and then organized on the basis of chronology and geography." This is roughly true, but the sections are not delineated and there is no table of contents. Nor is there a complete list of the 100-odd illustrations by artist or photographer. One could say, however, that there are three sections, the first relating to the people, the second to their houses and villages, and the third to their occupations. Within these sections the pictures are chronological and geographical, and it is particularly interesting to see pictures of Friendly Cove, for example, from 1778, 1874, 1896, and 1930 juxtaposed. Each photograph is accompanied by a caption which includes date, source and location of original, so the reader does not have to go elsewhere in the book for this information. Adding both information and piquancy on many pages are relevant passages from Captain Cook's Voyages. In one or two cases the connection to the photographs is perhaps a little forced, but generally it works well.

There are two ways in which the illustrations could have been improved. The three Webber sketches of villages and houses would have benefitted from not being split down the middle, and also by being in colour. Quite possibly, however, the LIP grant which funded this project would not run to colour illustrations. Several photographs are also split. Generally the design and printing quality is good, and the arrangement satisfactory when one understands the way it works. The binding may not stand the test of time and wear. Two maps, one of native ethnic groups in B.C., and the other of settlement on Vancouver Island, aid the reader in placing the illustrations.

Altogether this is a worthwhile project by Sendey and the staff of the Alberni Valley Museum at any time, and especially appropriate in the bicentennial year of Captain Cook's voyage to the west coast of North America.

The book may be ordered from the Alberni Museum (4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni) or from Rick Percy at the SFU Department of Archaeology.

EXCERPTS FROM REPORT GIVEN BY PRESIDENT MARIE DUNCAN,
A.S.B.C., AT THE 1977/78 MEETING OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Some of the Archaeological Society's major involvements at the present time and for the past few months have been:

- 1) salvaging archaeological material from the Crescent Beach site (DgRrl),
- 2) concern with and input into the Greater Vancouver Regional District's proposed development plans for Belcarra Park, and
- 3) our Private Collections project had the good fortune to receive a Canada Council grant in 1977 which has allowed us to reactivate our work in recording and photographing private collections throughout the province.

This past summer saw several members of the Society laboriously screening piles of earth at Crescent Beach. These mounds of midden material had been left after the Municipality of Surrey ploughed a drainage ditch through an extensive section of Crescent Beach site DgRrl. The Society decided to try to recover some of the artifacts and related materials from the mounds by screening as much as time would allow during the summer months. After spending many hours at the screens and on occasion wondering whether it was really all worthwhile, we were finally rewarded for our efforts when we spent one evening last November in the lab at S.F.U. cleaning, washing and sorting the many bags of material. We found in fact that it had been a productive summer's work when an impressive display of artifacts emerged from the cleaning session. An example of the types and approximate numbers of artifacts retrieved from the screens follows:

- 2 hammerstones
- 2 anvil stones
- 3 greenstone adze blades
- 4 whatzits
- 5 cobblestone choppers
- 14 stone points of basalt, chert and other materials
- 30 - 40 cores and other flaked materials
- 40 - 50 scrapers and flaked stone pieces
- 19 abrasive stones and fragments
- several parts of labrets, stone beads, a number of quartz crystals and over 100 chipped slate and shale pieces

The bone material consisted of:

- 33 worked bone pieces
- 10 awls or worked bone points
- 3 antler wedges

1 very fine example of a barbed bone point
1 bone dagger 8" long

and some shell artifacts. All of this from a third of the mounds that have been screened so far, with many of the artifacts found to be in excellent condition.

We realize that this material is without provenience and perhaps not of the greatest value to the professional archaeologist, nevertheless it would seem wrong to leave it for careless trespassers and the ever-present pothunter. We hope the Society can continue to screen the remaining mounds next summer and a final report on our Crescent Beach project will be submitted to the Provincial Archaeologist.

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In May of last year the Society was approached by the Greater Vancouver Regional District with a request that we supply them with any information or input we might have regarding the archaeological resources of Belcarra Park. The G.V.R.D. is in the process of developing several major parks within the lower mainland, and Belcarra is one of these.

Of course we were pleased to have been consulted and took immediate steps to make sure we were kept informed of any further meetings or development plans for the park. We expressed our concern for the protection of the archaeological sites - of which there are several - but specifically the major site (DhRr6) at Belcarra Bay.

Representatives from our executive have met with Tattersfield Associates Land Design Group who have been engaged by the G.V.R.D. Parks Dept. to make an inventory of the resources of the Belcarra Park region, to obtain public input on future developments of the park, and to produce some conceptual development plans for the park. Our meeting with the design consultant was primarily to establish some idea of the area and amount of development planned. This led to our drafting the following proposals for consideration by the consultant in his preparation of an overall plan for the park, and, we hope, for acceptance by the G.V.R.D. Parks Dept. in their final recommendations:

- 1) Construction of a seawall or bank protection to prevent erosion of existing archaeological sites, particularly Belcarra Bay site (DhRr6) and adjacent burial grounds.
- 2) Placing a protective covering of sand or soil and groundcover over exposed land sites to prevent further losses by pothunters.
- 3) Survey and taking of sample test cores to delineate the extent of the 10 known sites. The Society will volunteer assistance with this.
- 4) All possible measures should be taken to prevent surface clearing and bulldozing around midden areas.
- 5) Any building on or near midden areas should have surface foundations only.

- 6) Expand any existing educational facilities by some of the following means:
 - a) a partial excavation of a midden showing the pit walls with casts of artifacts in situ. Audio-visual explanation and photo mural could be included.
 - b) reconstruction of a Salish village with exhibits on how the people used the environment.
 - c) a diorama or three-dimensional map showing Burrard Inlet before the arrival of the white man.
 - d) museum with a display area for artifacts and archaeological material recovered from Belcarra Park sites. (This could be included in the Salish village proposal.)

The sites in Belcarra Park are already protected under the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act, but the problem of destruction still exists.

The above-mentioned recommendations, if followed, will assure further protection for the remaining archaeological sites in Belcarra Park, and at the same time provide an excellent opportunity for the G.V.R.D. to exploit the archaeological resources in a positive way by increasing public awareness of the richness of its heritage, and preserving our prehistory for future generations.

As you can see, we presented the G.V.R.D. with many options, some quite imaginative, extensive and costly, but we felt this was an opportunity to try to establish some educational facilities for the archaeological aspects of the park. Above all, our primary interest remains in assuring that top consideration be given for the safety of the archaeological sites within the park in any future development.

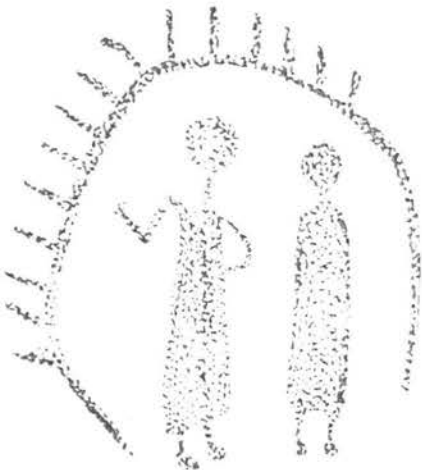
Our Private Collections project was started several years ago, however with few enthusiasts and little funds, progress had been slow. Then in June 1977 the project received a substantial Canada Council grant which has allowed renewed activity in recording and photographing private collections. On receiving the grant a committee was formed to oversee the project and organize three teams of volunteers to carry on the work. A graduate student was hired to administer the work, train volunteers, identify artifacts and organize the records. The aim of the Private Collections project is the making of an indexed photographic record of native Indian artifacts held in private collections within the province. Clearly this is a continuing project which will not be completed in one year but will be ongoing as the number of known collections grows more quickly than we are able to record them. The completed records will be open to any responsible person wishing to use the information and will be kept on file in the archaeological lab at U.B.C. We are implementing the newly published Archaeological Data Recording Guide in our work.

A summary of our present activities and the sorts of legislation an amateur group might endorse: Although there are provincial laws to protect our native heritage, they deal with only limited aspects of the problem. Is not an amateur archaeological group an ideal instrument to press for facilities to further public education, which is in the long run the best tool for protecting our archaeological resources? One way this can be done is by the creation and expansion of living museums as we have recommended for Belcarra Park. We can also educate through publications such as "The Midden" which has widespread distribution. We can also provide input to the authorities when development threatens archaeological remains, and can apply for funding to support undertakings such as recording and photographing private collections. These are only some of the ways in which the Archaeological Society does and can involve itself in the preservation and protection of our heritage.

To the amateur archaeologist these projects present an inviting challenge, for they afford him the chance to make a genuine contribution to the welfare of archaeology now and for the future. Not all our endeavours have led to success, but through our efforts we hope we have brought about some awareness in the eyes of the general public and governments at the Federal, Provincial and local levels of the great archaeological significance of our province. We maintain a close liaison between ourselves and the universities, colleges and museums, and keep in touch with the authorities through the Society's representative on the newly-established Heritage Advisory Board.

There is still much to be done and we look forward to the continuing support we have enjoyed in the past from the professionals in the field of archaeology.

CANADIAN ROCK ART



A symposium on protection and conservation of Canadian rock art--a vital part of British Columbia's prehistory--will be featured at the annual meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association.

The conference is set for Quebec City at the end of April. Art Charlton, B.C.'s assistant provincial archaeologist, is coordinating the rock art session, which will focus on the management, conservation and protection of sites.