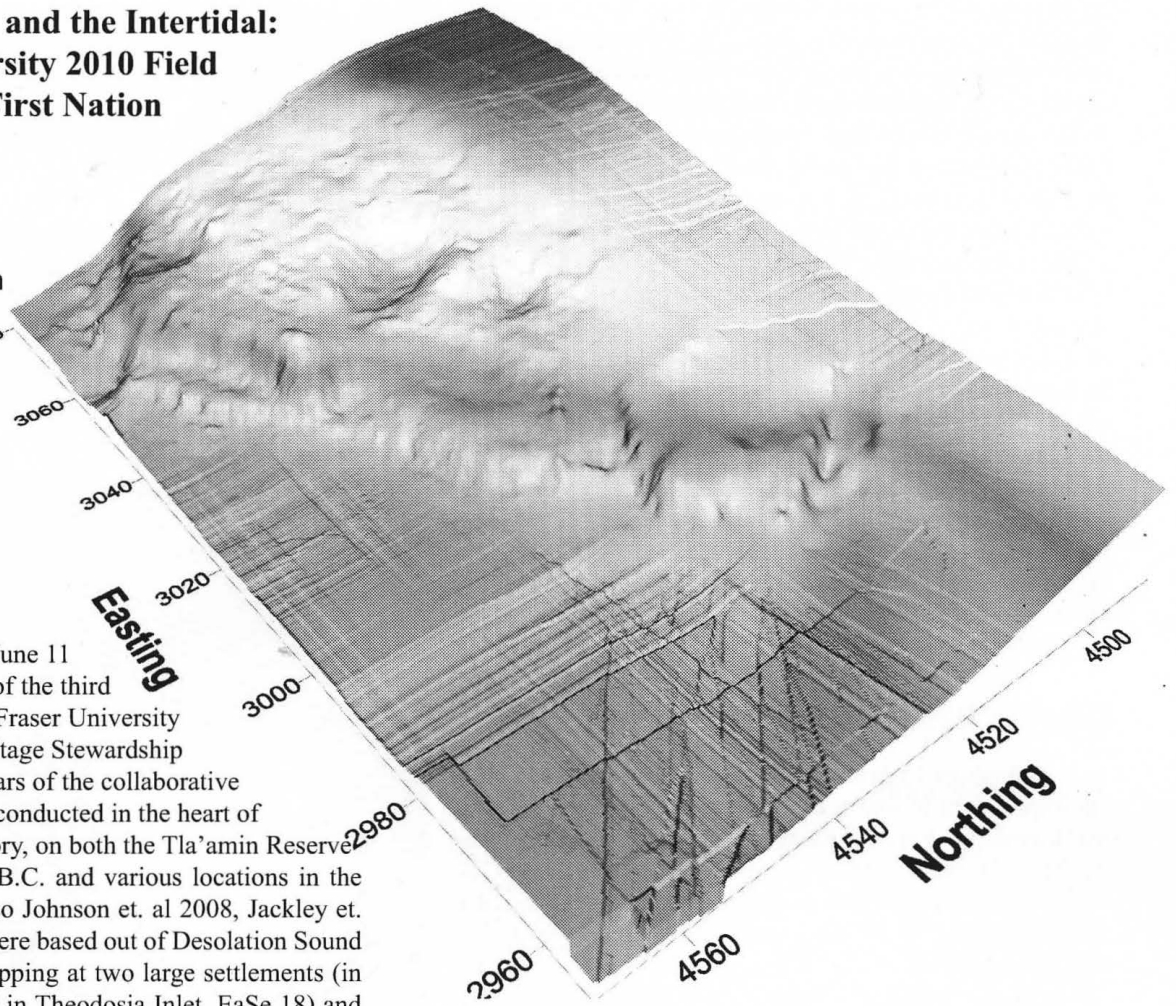


**Houses, Settlements, and the Intertidal:
Simon Fraser University 2010 Field
School in Tla'amin First Nation
Territory**

**Chris Springer, Megan
Caldwell, and Nyra
Chalmer**



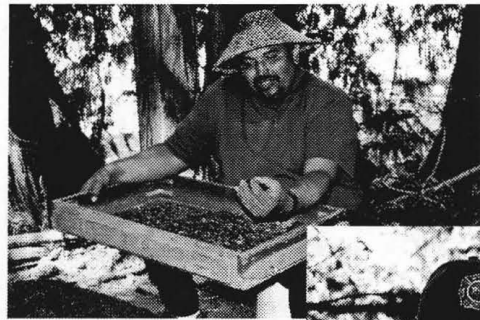
The 2010 field season from June 11 to August 8 marked the end of the third year of the Tla'amin-Simon Fraser University (SFU) Archaeology and Heritage Stewardship Program. These last three years of the collaborative heritage program have been conducted in the heart of Tla'amin First Nation Territory, on both the Tla'amin Reserve just north of Powell River, B.C. and various locations in the Malaspina Complex (See also Johnson et. al 2008, Jackley et. al 2009). This summer, we were based out of Desolation Sound Marine Park, testing and mapping at two large settlements (in Cochrane Bay, EaSe 76; and in Theodosia Inlet, EaSe 18) and continuing intertidal survey throughout Tla'amin traditional territory. The work has added significantly to our understanding of the archaeology in the area, complimenting Tla'amin Nation's extensive oral knowledge of their history and information derived from archival and ethnographic sources. The collaborative heritage program is a five year joint venture between SFU and Tla'amin Nation with co-directors Drs. Dana Lepofsky and John Welch representing SFU and Michelle Washington as the main project partner representing Tla'amin Nation.

Mapping and Testing at EaSe 76 in Cochrane Bay

The Cochrane Bay site is comprised of extensive midden deposits and three large pit features (above). Based on local knowledge and ethnographic descriptions (Barnett 1944) the

Figure 1 (above): Preliminary map of the Cochrane Bay site (EaSe 76). The largest and smallest of the three pit features can be seen just left of centre and the third is at the far left eroding out of the front bank adjacent to the 3080 at the end of the Easting axis, (map by Chris Springer).

Figure 2: EaSe 76 – the Cochrane Bay site, clockwise from top: Murray Mitchell (Tla'amin First Nation), photo by Buffy Johnson; Jason Francis (Tla'amin First Nation), photo by Buffy Johnson; Tyrone Hamilton (SFU field school student), Chris Springer (SFU field school TA), and Heather Kendall (volunteer SFU graduate student) (photo by Nicole Slade).



pit features were initially thought to have been a series of underground defensive structures. This last summer, using a sampling strategy that employed a series of excavation units, shovel tests, percussion cores, and total station mapping, we set out to establish the depth and horizontal extent of cultural deposits. Based on our preliminary findings, we established that the site was once a large settlement composed of flattened terraces running parallel to the shore and at least three semi-subterranean structures.

A series of radiocarbon samples were taken from hearths throughout the site in order to begin constructing a chronology for Cochrane Bay. A hearth feature located on sterile deposits at the back of the site yielded a date of Cal BP 4150 ± 40, while another hearth feature found shoreward dated to Cal BP 2180 ± 40. This suggests that over the millennia, midden deposits accumulated and were pushed outward in order to level the rocky, coastal terrain to maximize usable surfaces for processing areas and above ground structures. With more intensive excavations next summer, we hope to better understand this site and what it can reveal about community and household interactions within the Northern Coast Salish region.

Mapping and Testing in the Intertidal

Continuing from the work conducted in 2008 and 2009, our exploration of intertidal resource management features was focused on ground truthing the 120+ elements discovered during last summer's aerial flyovers. At low tide sequences, we located the fish traps and cleared beaches and clam gardens that were identified over the fall from our aerial photographs. This entailed pedestrian survey, followed by the use of either pace and compass or total station methods to map the features, and locating them with handheld GPS. Additionally, we documented the ecological setting of each feature to help us understand why certain beaches were chosen over others. We were able to locate and ground truth almost half of the sites identified in the aerial photographs during the 2010 field season, and the remaining sites will be visited between May and August, 2011.

We also conducted sample excavations at seven on shore sites to obtain faunal remains from midden contexts. These data will allow us to ascertain what species were targeted, how productive intertidal features were, and temporal changes in resource use possibly related to intertidal features. Samples were obtained from long term habitation sites, shorter term camps or lookouts, and from locations both adjacent to and away from intertidal features. Our intention is to gain an understanding of how people were using intertidal resources, and to understand Northern Coast Salish resource use in general as well.

Mapping and Testing at EaSe 18 in Theodosia Inlet

We began work at EaSe 18 near the end of June and were there for approximately two weeks spending much of our time clearing and total station mapping. The site was probably a large settlement given the depth and extent of the midden deposits. Due to wave action some spots along the shoreward deposits were fully exposed and measured two meters deep, allowing for the collection of a column sample with minimal additional



Figure 3: SFU field school student, Katie Hausch taking measurements of an intertidal feature (photo by Megan Caldwell).

impact. Charred material was also collected from a hearth feature at this location and was dated to Cal BP 800 ± 40. Similar exposures from a combination of human (i.e., logging) and natural (fluvial action) factors, ran along both sides of a trench running perpendicular to the shore bisecting the site and extending approximately 80 meters inland. On the west side of this trench roughly 20 meters in from shore, we took a second column sample where midden deposits were still quite deep at 1.8 meters. Work at EaSe 18 is still in preliminary stages and the map along with further sub-surface testing will be completed during the 2011 field season.

Community Day on the Tla'amin Reserve

In addition to the above, together with Tla'amin Nation, we hosted a hugely successful "Community Day" on the Tla'amin Reserve, inviting people from the surrounding area including elementary and high school children, members of the media, and the general public. This involved a variety of activities such as excavation, screening, artifact ID, storytelling, cedar weaving, and mapping. Contrary to previous years, once the field work began, we were not as accessible due to our location in the marine park; however members of Tla'amin Nation and the general public were

encouraged to and did visit. This open door policy will continue to be an integral part of the project's final two years in order to maintain and continue building relationships between SFU, the Tla'amin Nation, and the local community.

To learn more about the Tla'amin-Simon Fraser University Archaeology and Heritage Stewardship Program, please visit:
<http://www.sliammonfirstnation.com/archaeology/index.html>.

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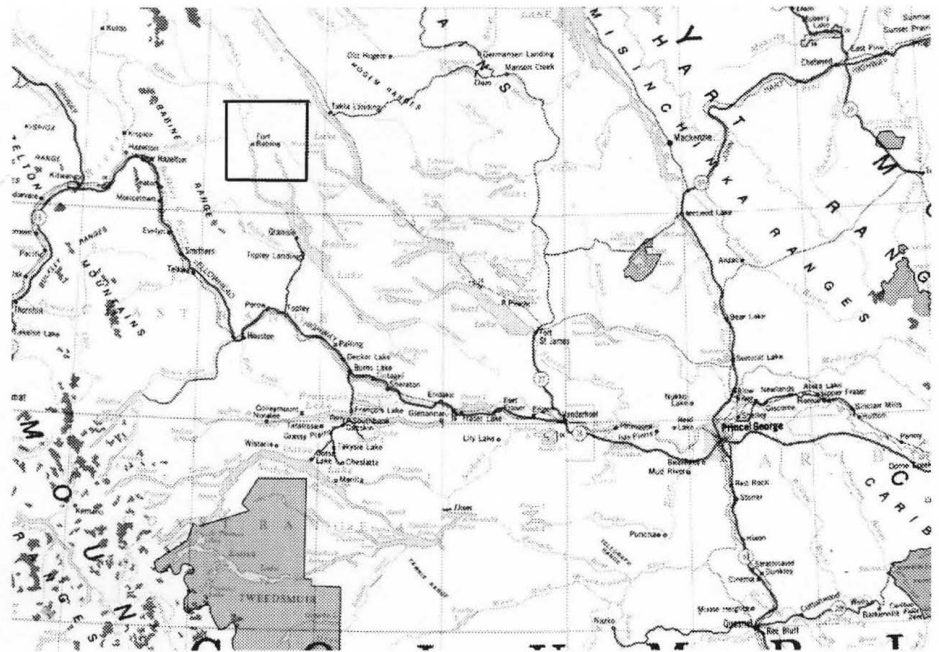
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Chris Springer is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. His interests include household archaeology, built environment studies, the archaeology of identity, and lithic technology. His current research focuses on how group identity and social roles correlate with settlement patterning among past complex hunter-gatherers on the Northwest Coast.

Megan Caldwell is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alberta. Her research focuses on the ties between Northwest Coast intertidal fish traps, clam gardens, and shell middens.

Nyra Chalmer is a Master's student in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. Her research interests include Northwest Coast household and settlement studies and gender archaeology. The subject of her MA thesis concerns the nature of household dynamics among the ancestral northern Coast Salish communities.



The UNBC/Lake Babine Nation 2010 Field School

Farid Rahemtulla

During the summer of 2010 the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) partnered with the Lake Babine Nation (LBN) to conduct an archaeology field school in the Babine Valley, in the north central part of the province. In keeping with the model that UNBC has been developing over the years with various First Nations communities, the students this year were a mix of post-secondary students and members of the LBN. This is a unique set up in which all participants including the community members receive university credits upon successful completion of the field school. The field school consists of three courses that total 15 credits: Archaeological Survey and Mapping; Excavation and Field Interpretation in Archaeology; and Archaeology and First Nations. In 2010 we had 15 participants including nine post-secondary students (Erin Beckett-UNBC, Alauna Brown-UNBC, Nicole Chunick-UVic, Keith Hansen-UNBC, Erica Henderson-UNBC, Christine Mueller-Northwest Community College, Noah Scheck-UNBC, Mark Tomlinson-UNBC, and Kirk Walker-Langara College) and six students from the LBN (Byron Adam, Matt Adam, Patrick Adam, Ramona Williams, Victor Williams, and Yolanda Williams). The field school began with a number of field trips to various sites in the central interior of BC, followed by a trip to the Bella Coola Valley. The goal of these field trips is to expose students to the diversity of archaeological sites and First Nations communities within the province.

Classes formally began at Fort Babine in June with a number of readings-based discussions on the past history between archaeology and Aboriginal peoples. Though contentious at times, it is important that students understand this history as we move forward to establish more community-based approaches. The students were also given a brief introduction to the discipline of archaeology and how it is practiced in many parts of the world. Also included were a flintknapping session where students received hands on training on stone tool production, and a session on learning to use a spear thrower (atl atl). These activities are important as they greatly enhance student learning. During the community day, we also created and used a roasting pit to cook some store bought meat; the results were better than expected! Not only did everyone enjoy the cooked meat, students and many community members participated in, or saw the creation of a roasting pit for the first time in their lives.

Figure 1. Map of project area.