

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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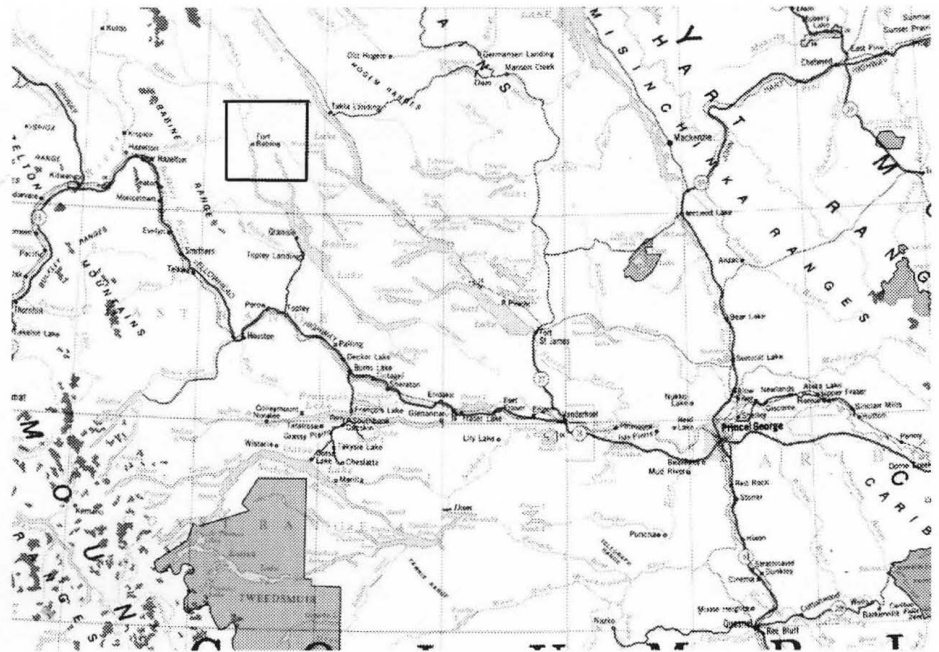
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## The UNBC/Lake Babine Nation 2010 Field School

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.

A number of mapping exercises followed where students worked in groups and created maps with a hand level, optical transit and compass and chain. Although the actual site mapping is done with a total station, students must demonstrate a basic understanding of mapping before they use the total station. After the mapping exercises a number of shovel tests were conducted at Ft. Babine to illustrate the process, and introduce students to detailed note taking.

In consultation with the LBN, the excavation project took place at the north end of Nilkitkwa Lake. This narrow body of water is north of Babine Lake itself, and both are part of the Skeena watershed. As was true in the past, this is still a prime location for fishing for trout and various species of salmon as they make their way upstream to Babine Lake. The archaeological site here (GiSq-4) was recorded in the 1970s by Gordie Mohs, as part of his monumental survey of Babine Lake. Much of the site now sits within a property maintained by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, who operate a fish counting fence and associated camp at this location. This was a fairly large village with numerous cultural depressions, house depressions, and surface as well as sub-surface lithic scatters. The site runs several hundred meters along the shore of Nilkitkwa Lake, and also extends for some distance into the wooded area behind the current DFO camp. In his preliminary survey Mohs estimated that there are 1100 cultural depressions within the village. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the site is the house depressions, which are clearly coastal style longhouses. Some of these depressions now lie under the DFO workers' cabins, although the extent of the impact is not known. There appear to be at least 8-10 depressions, which if they were contemporaneous, would have been the heart of a densely populated village.

The focus of excavation this year was on two areas within the village; the first is an area with a high density of cultural depressions. Several 1 x 1 m units were opened in this area and two cultural depressions were trench-excavated. One of these depressions is a roasting pit and although the cooked material remains unknown, several samples were collected for future floatation and analysis. The second area of excavation was along the riverbank. This area is very rich with sub-surface lithic materials. Dozens of chipped stone artifacts were recovered along with several thousand flakes. Analysis is still under way, but the most common artifact is the retouched flake. These could be used as cutting and/or scraping implements for a number of other tasks. A small number of projectile points was also recovered along with one scraper that has macroscopic residues still adhering to the tool. What is very apparent in the lithic sample is the great diversity of raw materials; at least eight different raw material types are represented. This reflects the high mobility and/or extent of trade networks within this region. Dating of the site is unknown, however, several charcoal samples were collected and have been sent away for radiocarbon dating.

This year's excavation was exploratory in nature, but we plan on continuing the work at this site during the coming years. In 2011 the UNBC field school will take place on the central coast of B.C., but in 2012 we plan to return to the Nilkitkwa Village with the LBN. At that time, we will begin excavation of one of the house depressions, as well as continue to explore the rest of this amazing site.

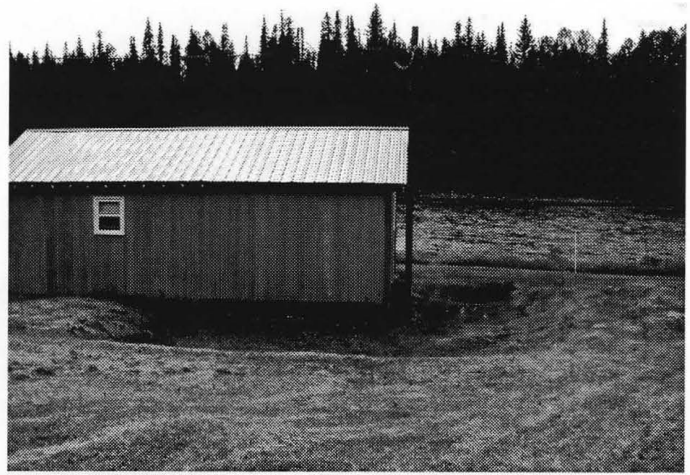


Figure 2 (top). Cabin built on top of rectangular house depression.  
 Figure 3 (middle). Excavation of roasting pit.  
 Figure 4 (bottom). Selection of retouched flakes.

#### Acknowledgements

We thank the people of Ft. Babine for their generosity and friendships, the LBN Treaty Office, the principal and staff at Ft. Babine School, all the students in this field school, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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