



# The ASBC Page

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

This time of year many of us who share an interest in B.C.'s cultural heritage are writing up reports and publications that cover our most recent activities. Many encouraging themes of academic, consulting and First Nations research into the past have emerged in recent times.

Early in my archaeological career the B.C. Archaeology Forum was an intense experience for those who attended. Issues surrounding the guidelines and standards of archaeological practice throughout the province were hotly debated. For those involved during those times it seemed that there were no easy answers on who, how and why archaeology was being done throughout the province.

Since the early 1990s I've witnessed many changes at the B.C. Archaeology Forum. At one time the attendance was almost entirely consulting archaeologists with smatterings of academic, government and First Nations representatives. Furthermore, reports on the activities of various consulting companies dominated the proceedings while discussion panels revolved around the quality of various sized assessments of archaeological heritage. Since then the B.C. Archaeology Forum has become a meeting of a more equalized collection of people, cultures and organizations who are working toward similar goals, yet some noticeable absences from these proceedings has become apparent.

Presently B.C. archaeology still discusses the issues from the mid 1990s. From finger pointing and blaming for the (mis) management of archaeological sites and cultural heritage, those who are concerned are now working together for the betterment of the B.C. heritage landscape. This is a strong theme in the articles assembled in this issue of *The Midden*, where we see First Nations and academics working in close partnerships in the various regions of the province. I appeal to those working in government and consulting to do likewise, as it is important to focus on our successes. All the projects represented in this issue share admirable aspects of Indigenous Archaeology that the research is being done with, for and by First Nations communities. I hope that these efforts continue so that we have more First Nations individuals gaining qualifications to do these projects in the future, as their government managers, consultants and/or academics. This was an important theme that resonated at various pitches during the most recent B.C. Archaeology Forums. To that end this offers new perspectives on why, how and who has a role in interpreting the cultural heritage of B.C.

Rudy Reimer

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

This is my last issue as editor of *The Midden*. I do intend to still be involved in its production and contribute to other aspects of the ASBC. I have been editing it for many issues now, and it will be good to have new direction for *The Midden*.

Our next editor will be Marina La Salle. She has been on the masthead for some time and has written many words in these pages. In this issue, she discusses this year's B.C. Archaeology Forum and reviews the book *Contemporary Archaeologies*. I look forward to reading next year's issues and hope that *The Midden* continues to be published for many years and decades to come.

To keep *The Midden* and the ASBC going strong, it helps when members contribute to its endeavors. There is always a need for help organizing our monthly lectures, and we always can use people that help with *The Midden*. So, consider volunteering some time and get to know some fellow members in the process.

Bill Angelbeck