



The ASBC Pages

Outgoing Letter from the President

This year marks the completion of forty years of publication of *The Midden*. This milestone is a fantastic accomplishment for the Archaeological Society of British Columbia and all of the past and present editors, who have finessed each copy for printing, in addition to the myriad contributors, who have been informing us about archaeology in the province for four decades. *The Midden* is an institution in the province's archaeology, creating a forum where avocational and professional archaeologists present and discuss important finds, conferences and events, and the wider context of doing archaeology in British Columbia. The articles in this issue will attest to the important contribution that the ASBC has made to BC's archaeology, but I wanted to add a small personal note. My introduction to the ASBC and *The Midden* happened during my university career, and over the years I have enjoyed *The Midden* for its local archaeology reports, field school updates, book reviews, and of course, the permit list. *The Midden* was a great tool for me during my academic career, and later on, in the job search. Today, I enjoy seeing what my colleagues across the province are working on in *The Midden*, and I always recommend it to newcomers as a primer for the issues, findings, and events in BC archaeology.

The following is a recap of the current issues on the ASBC executive's plate. We've had a fantastic line-up of speakers this winter and spring who have showcased the depth and diversity of archaeology in BC. Brian Pegg spoke about the Saltery Bay site in January, Daryl Fedje informed us about Parks Canada's coastal archaeology program in March, Tanja Hoffmann presented Katzie Development Corporation—Archaeology's work on the

impressive DhRp-52 site in Pitt Meadows. In April, Duncan McLaren informed us about the archaeology of Stave Lake and finally Colin Grier spoke of his work in the Southern Gulf Islands on June 4th. Our Annual General Meeting was held on June 25th, and we have a new executive! (see page 3).

Our letter writing campaign to request action on National Heritage Legislation has continued. We've recently sent letters to the Prime Minister and Official Opposition. We haven't had a response to date, but will keep pressing the matter. This year's National Heritage Week was observed February 16th - 22nd, with the theme being Heritage of Education: schools, colleges and universities. While I find this a laudable pursuit, it would nevertheless be incredible to see First Nations Archaeology as a provincially endorsed theme.

In regards to heritage, we have been in contact with the Canadian Archaeological Association's Public Education and Outreach Committee (CAAPEOC) and have been discussing ways in which the CAA and avocational societies such as the ASBC can connect and work together to promote Canada's archaeological heritage and learn about and from each other. We agree that one possible way to increase communication and cooperation between societies and regions is through the venue of the CAA website.

The ASBC is currently working on a variety of prospective field projects that would generate volunteer and public outreach opportunities. First, we are working to organize a survey of a historic site (and possibly prehistoric site) at Tunstall Bay on Bowen Island in cooperation with the Bowen Island Museum. While still in the early planning stages, we hope that

this project will happen sometime in the coming summer. Second, preliminary discussions have also occurred regarding a survey of the Granite Creek Cemetery in the BC Interior near Coalmont in the summer of 2010. This would involve a survey using ground penetrating radar, under the expertise of archaeologists from the University of British Columbia. The cemetery is from the Gold Rush era of the late 19th century. Locals have requested the survey so that the boundaries of the cemetery may be delineated and thus not damaged inadvertently.

I am also happy to announce that the ASBC has been awarded the BC Direct Access Grant through the BC Gaming Policy Branch. This grant is in the amount of \$10,000.00 and will be put towards *The Midden*, capital expenses, promotion of the ASBC and the ASBC website. Many thanks to Past-President Eric MacLay and the 2008 Executive for all their hard work in applying for and winning this grant.

I hope everyone has a safe, productive and fun-filled field season this summer. We will keep you posted on volunteer and public outreach opportunities through the ASBC this summer. Please be sure to check out our new website for more information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Ian Cameron,
Outgoing President