



ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

UVic to Continue Archaeological Research in Haida Gwaii and initiate Investigations in Northern Washington in Field Season 2007

Adrian Sanders

This summer further fieldwork will be conducted at the Richardson Island site in Southeastern Haida Gwaii by Jenny Storey and a team of archaeologists from the University of Victoria, Parks Canada and the Haida First Nation. While previous excavations have recovered material dating to between 9,300 and 8,500 BP, investigations in July and August will focus on an area adjacent to previously excavated units that contains deposits potentially dating to a slightly later time period. Storey's research will focus on the unifacial tool assemblage from previous excavations at the Richardson Island site, including any additional artifacts recovered during investigations this summer. Through an analysis of these unifacial stone tools, Storey will attempt to answer some larger questions regarding the activities that have taken place at the site, technological continuity and change within the fluctuating environment of Haida Gwaii and more broadly, how these processes of change and stability are situated within the context of the early peopling of North America. While a decrease in bifaces and an increase in microblades reflect technological change at the site, unifacial tools appear to remain fairly consistent between 9,300 to 8,500 BP. It is hoped that further excavation this summer will continue to trace the decline, increase or continuity of stone tool technologies at the Richardson Island site from 8,500 to 7,500 BP.

Brendan Gray's MA research will focus on the development of a sampling strategy for use in archaeological investigations of faunal remains from households. Brendan hopes to create and execute a sampling simulation using existing zooarchaeologi-

cal data from the Ozette archaeological site in northern Washington. The large Ozette database provides a unique opportunity to compare a variety of sampling strategies to determine which one will provide the most accurate and representative sample for future excavations. Brendan plans to investigate two questions using the faunal data from Ozette: firstly, what percentage of a given household has to be sampled in order to understand the spatial patterning of zooarchaeological remains, and secondly, which types of sampling strategies are most useful to help understand these patterns. The results of this data will hopefully be applied to other excavated houses on the Northwest Coast in order to understand both the complexity and limitations of specific sampling strategies within house contexts and how this affects our understanding of the past.

Search strategies have long been a strategic component in the work of archaeology. While locating sites associated with the late Holocene periods for the Northwest Coast of British Columbia has its many difficulties, doing so for the Pleistocene-Holocene boundary (11,000 — 9,000 BP) adds a layer (or a few) of complexity. This summer Adrian Sanders will conduct his MA research in NE Graham Island, Haida Gwaii, a region of high archaeological visibility corresponding to the temporal period in question. Specifically, three terrestrial zones have been identified for modeling that were oriented within a biologically productive habitat by at least 13,500 BP; these are Argonaut Hill, Taaw Hill, and a series of relict beach and spit features stretching between the two hills respectively. The former two

landforms were stable during the volatile Pleistocene-Holocene boundary, when the marine transgression and regression occurring during this period left a suite of clear morphological demarcations on the landscape that help to predict locations of greater and lesser archaeological potential. High resolution LiDAR remote sensing imagery made available through a joint interdisciplinary project between UVIC Geography and Anthropology departments will inform a GIS-generated map to interpret the palaeolandscape of NE Graham Island as a single component of a dynamic potential model. Archaeological prospection for the region will target areas based upon a series of attributes relating to the palaeoclimate, environment, geomorphology, and local knowledge of toponyms and land use practices informing behavioral analogs.

Darcy Mathews' doctoral research on the burial cairns and mounds of the southern Strait of Georgia is underway and will focus on the distribution of these mortuary sites at multiple scales. Building upon his recently completed master's thesis entitled *Burial Cairn Taxonomy and the Mortuary Landscape of Rocky Point, British Columbia*, Darcy's detailed analysis of the placement of cairns on the landscape will continue at the Rocky Point site on southern Vancouver Island, which has over 300 burial features. In addition, analysis is ongoing for the Uplands site in Victoria, which while mostly destroyed by historic residential development, has highly detailed maps from the early twentieth century showing the locations of the cairns on the landscape. Darcy's approach is to look at the kinship relations of the precontact

SFU to Investigate the Harrison River Valley for Field Season 2007

Morgan Ritchie

During the 2007 field season, the Simon Fraser University archaeological fieldschool will be hosted by the Chehalis First Nation on the Harrison River in southwestern British Columbia. Sixteen undergraduate students and one Chehalis community member will spend June and July helping to collect data for Morgan Ritchie and Chris Springer's Masters research. Ritchie's and Springer's research is part of the Fraser Valley Project directed by Dana Lepofsky and other researchers. The Fraser Valley Project has been investigating identity and interaction at pre-contact settlements along the Fraser River from Scowlitz, at the mouth of the Harrison, to Xelhalh, near Yale in the Fraser Canyon. The inclusion of the Harrison River is a logical extension of this project because the people on the two rivers were closely related culturally, linguistically, through marriage, and by trade. In addition,

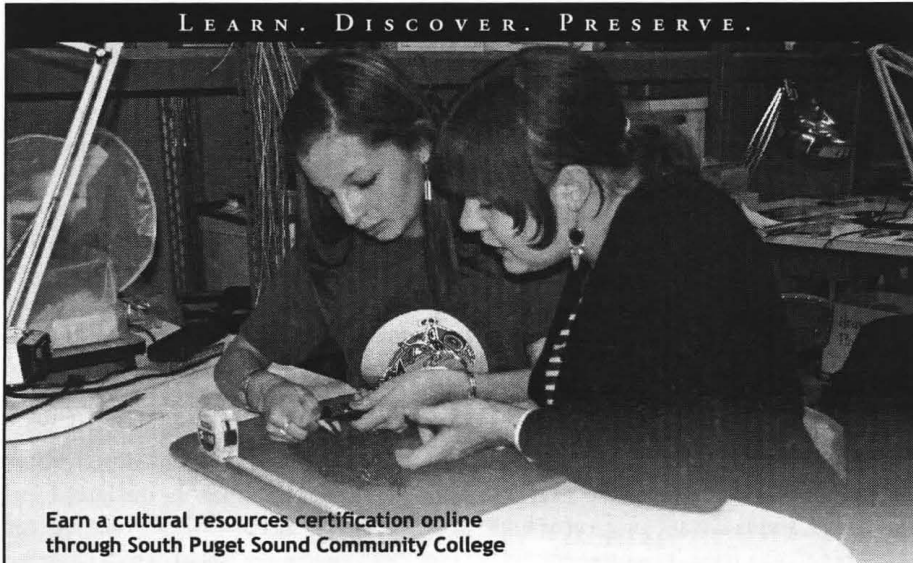
the people on the Harrison, like those studied on the Fraser, were in an intermediary position between coastal and interior culture areas.

Morgan Ritchie's project is an archaeological survey of the ancient cultural landscape of the Harrison River Valley. Three major stages of his research in which students will be involved are: (1) survey, which he began during the summer of 2005 with Adrian Sanders; (2) total station mapping of settlements; and (3) test excavations to obtain radiocarbon samples for the purpose of establishing whether settlements were contemporaneous. Morgan intends to integrate the archaeological features with place name information and other culturally important places for a better understanding of how the landscape was conceptualized and constructed.

Chris Springer will be directing the excavation of a housepit feature near the

confluence of the Chehalis and Harrison Rivers. The purpose of this excavation is to examine how cultural identity and household organization are associated with the form and contents of the housepit. A preliminary test excavation conducted during the summer of 2006 demonstrated that this housepit would be ideal for the proposed research; at least three floors and associated house features were identified.

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Straits Salish peoples as expressed through the placement of their ancestors on the landscape and how this reflects social and economic relationships between individual families, among and between villages, and with the larger world around them. Moving beyond these individual sites, Darcy's research will also address the placement of burial cairns across different types of landscapes and the distribution of cairns and mounds throughout the region as a whole. Preliminary fieldwork will be conducted this summer on southern Vancouver Island and the adjacent islands.