

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

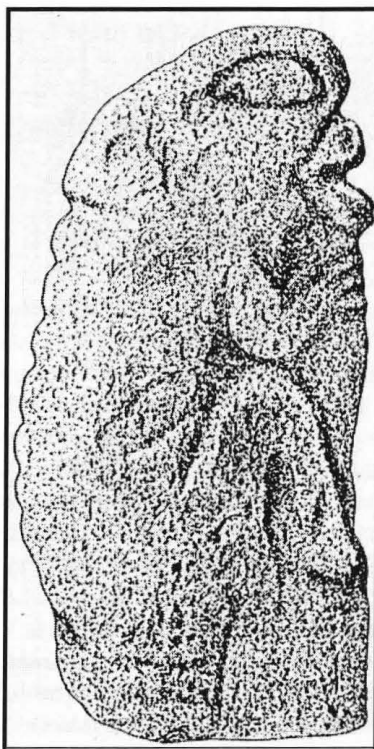
Stone T'xwelátse Returns Home

A Briefing on a Recent Repatriation by the
Stó:lo-Ts'elxweyéqw-Nooksack

Dave Schaepe and T'xwelátse (Herb Joe)

On Saturday, October 14 of this year, an audience of approximately 600 people representing many Stó:lo and Nooksack communities and their friends gathered at the Semá:th Longhouse in Kilgard, B.C. to witness and celebrate the return of a long separated Ancestor: Stone T'xwelátse. This event, hosted by Sumas First Nation elder Ray Silver (Xeyteleq), concluded a series of gatherings following ceremonies at the Burke Museum in Seattle (October 6) and the Nooksack Tribe Community Hall (October 9) near Everson, Washington — prompted by this significant repatriation. Burgundy ribbons with silver print handed out that night read "T'xwelátse me t'ókw' telo qáys" ("Stone T'xwelátse is finally coming home"). The longhouse resonated with the sounds of drumming, singing, and dancing, traditional elements of ceremonies carried out throughout the ages in the Central Fraser Valley / Stó:lo Territory, and Stone T'xwelátse — all four feet and 600 pounds of his granite form — was welcomed back after 114 years of absence from his community and homeland. While of granite form, Stone T'xwelátse maintains his position among the Stó:lo-Chilliwack-Nooksack communities as a living ancestor, transformed into stone form during the distant past.

In brief, ... *in the distant past, in the early years following the creation of the world*, T'xwelátse was born at the village of Th'ewá:lí along the lower Chilliwack River and became the ancestor of the Ts'elxweyéqw ("Ch-ihl-kway-uhk") Tribe. Later on during the period of *Sxwóxwiyám* when the world was 'not quite



Historic sketch of Stone T'xwelátse - "Said to have been found near Sumas, Wash. (Museum of the University, Seattle, Wash.)" (H. Smith 1907:430).

right,' T'xwelátse was turned to stone by Xá:ls (the Transformer) for arguing with his wife — so becoming a living testament to the need *to live together in a good way*; and so falling into the care of his wife and subsequent women of his family. After generations of inheritance of the name "T'xwelátse" among his male descendents, and the passing on of caretaking responsibilities among the women

Memorial Held for
Philip Hobler,
1936-2006

A memorial was held for Philip Hobler on September 30, at Simon Fraser University (SFU). He died at his home in the Bella Coola Valley on July 19, in the area where he had conducted research for decades. After graduate study at the University of Arizona, he taught for a couple years at the University of Montana Department of Anthropology. Since 1967, Hobler taught at SFU helping to establish the Department of Archaeology. He also did research in Egypt, Fiji, and the Plains and Southwest of the U.S., but it was in Nuxalk Territory where he focused most of his efforts. His early research on intertidal sites in Haida Gwaii, resulted in "The Relationship of Archaeological Sites to Sea Levels on Moresby Island, Queen Charlotte Islands," published in the *Canadian Journal of Archaeology*. Among his other major publications are "Archaeological Survey and Excavations in the Vicinity of Bella Coola" (*BC Studies*) and "Prehistory of the Central Coast of British Columbia" in the *Handbook of North American Indians*, volume 7, *The Northwest Coast*. His latest book, *Incidents Along the Way*, was published in 2005.

Phil Hobler also was involved with the ASBC since its early years and he has been a long-time contributor to *The Midden*, even writing for its first volume when it was just the *Newsletter of the ASBC*. He will always be remembered by the ASBC.

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2006-164	Heather Pratt	inspection	AIA of Island Timberlands, West Coast Operations' proposed forestry developments in Sections: 18, 34, 35, 38, 40, 41, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 81, 82, 84, 85, 88, 89, 90 & 94, and DLs: 33, 36, 42, 289, 404, 476, 478, 478A, 479, 480, 482, 612, 619, 1399, 1425 & 1426, Clayoquot Land District, W coast of Vancouver Island	Forestry
2006-165	Ty Heffner	inspection	AIA for Kluskus Management Holdings Ltd.'s proposed forestry operations in Supply Block A of the Quesnel FD	Forestry
2006-166	Barry Wood	inspection	AIA of forestry developments proposed by Tembec Industries (Kootenay Central), J.H. Huscroft Ltd., MoFR/ BCTS (Kootenay Business Area), Springer Creek Forest Products, Atco Lumber Company Ltd., and other forestry clients, within the Kootenay Lake FD	Forestry
2006-167	Brian Pegg	inspection	AIA of forestry developments proposed by May Trucking Ltd. and other timber harvesting operators, in the Chilliwack FD	Forestry
2006-168	Ty Heffner	inspection	AIA for Canadian Forest Products in the Quesnel FD	Forestry
2006-169	Gail Wada	inspection	AIA of forestry operations proposed by Lakeside Pacific Forest Products Ltd. for FDU West Harrison 1 and 2, located on Tretheway Creek S to Hale Creek, FDU East Harrison 1, covering all of the Cogburn, Talc and Bear Creek watersheds, and FDU Deneau 1, covering all of Deneau Creek watershed, located N of the Coquihalla River, Chilliwack FD	Forestry
2006-170	Leslie LeBourdais	inspection	AIA of the proposed Cariboo Crescent residential subdivision on Lot 9, Plan 16247, and DL 962, located NW of the intersection of Cariboo Avenue with Highway 97 within the Village of Clinton	Commercial
2006-171	Rob Paterson	inspection	Post-impact AIA assessment of seismic programs within NTS mapsheets 94/A, 94/B, 94/G and 94/H, on behalf of Peace River Hole Cementing and Explorations Services and possible other proponents	O&GNE
2006-172	Ian Wilson	inspection	AIA of a proposed Crown grant offer for Unsurveyed Crown Land Adjoining DL 181, Rge 2, Coast District, containing 2.7-ha, more or Less, 1 near Cochin Lake, SE of the community of Tatla Lake	Municipal
2006-173	Ian Wilson	inspection	AIA of a selection of sensitive areas associated with the BC portion of the EnBridge Gateway Pipeline Right-of-Way development from Edmonton to Kitimat	O&GBC
2006-174	Dana Lepofsky	investigation	Investigations at DhRI-64 and DhRI-65, located on the W side of Chehalis River Forest Recreation Site just N of Harrison Mills and on the E side of the Chehalis River, both adjacent to the bridge at Morris Valley Road	Research
2006-175	Shawn Kenmuir	alteration	Alterations to CMTs and harvesting of non-CMTs within sites FKtk-001 - FKtk-005 inclusive, by Triumph Timber Ltd.'s proposed timber harvesting in the vicinity of Ship Anchorage and Klewnuggitt Inlet along Grenville Channel, all within North Coast FD	Forestry

in the T'xwelátse family, Stone T'xwelátse wound up at a village on the south-western shores of Sumas Lake where in 1892 - 114 years ago — he was taken by members of a non-Aboriginal "pioneer" settler family. He was moved into Sumas, Washington, sold for display in a "dime museum," and eventually collected by the founding members of the Washington State Museum — now named the Burke Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Stone T'xwelátse lived among the Museum's collections for over 100 years — cared for by the Museum staff — until October of this year. In 1992, T'xwelátse (Herb Joe) began efforts to repatriation his ancestor — after Stone T'ixwelátsa's whereabouts were brought to his attention by way of anthropological research being done at the Stó:lo Tribal Council (see the associated sketch by Smith). Overcoming obstacles encountered in the newly established American Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) required considerable efforts involving the T'xwelátse Family and the Nooksack Tribe Council and Culture Committee (hosts of the NAGPRA process), with support from the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe, Stó:lo Tribal Council, Stó:lo Nation, and Stó:lo House of Elders. During the ceremony at

Semá:th over 70 individuals were recognized for helped in one way or another to navigate this long, winding, and ultimately successful process. In October 2005, the official NAGPRA repatriation request and supporting documentation were finalized and submitted by the Nooksack Tribe on behalf of the T'xwelátse Family and broader Nooksack-Ts'elxweyéqw-Stó:lo community. The Burke Museum's "Notice of Intent to Repatriate" Stone T'xwelátse as a recognized "Object of Cultural Patrimony" under NAGPRA was published in the U.S. Government's Federal Register on August 18. Stone T'xwelátse returned home, by way of the Nooksack Tribe, on October 14, 2006, and many people — community members and *siyaye* (friends) alike — came out in great numbers to witness and support this happy occasion. Where did Stone T'xwelátse go from the Semá:th Longhouse? He will be provided a new home at the *Stehiyáq* Healing Centre in the Chilliwack River Valley — very near where T'xwelátse was transformed by *Xá:ls* — currently being designed and built in collaboration between the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe and Stó:lo Community Futures (SCF). The Tribe/SCF is temporarily hosting Stone T'xwelátse in their recently remodeled

Headquarters in Chilliwack/Vedder until he can be transferred to the Healing Centre.

As exemplified by the Haida Repatriation Committee at their Repatriation Conference of 2003, information and knowledge gained from the experience of repatriating T'xwelátse — particularly as it pertains to cross-border issues — can be shared and potentially prove useful to other First Nations and Aboriginal communities engaged in this process. It is our intent to pursue this outlet. Please look for an upcoming edition of *the Midden* for our follow-up article covering T'ixwelátsa's return in greater detail. Thanks to all those involved and to all those who came out in support!

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Herb Joe carries the name T'xwelátse and is a member of the Tzeachten First Nation.
