

# THE ASBC PAGE

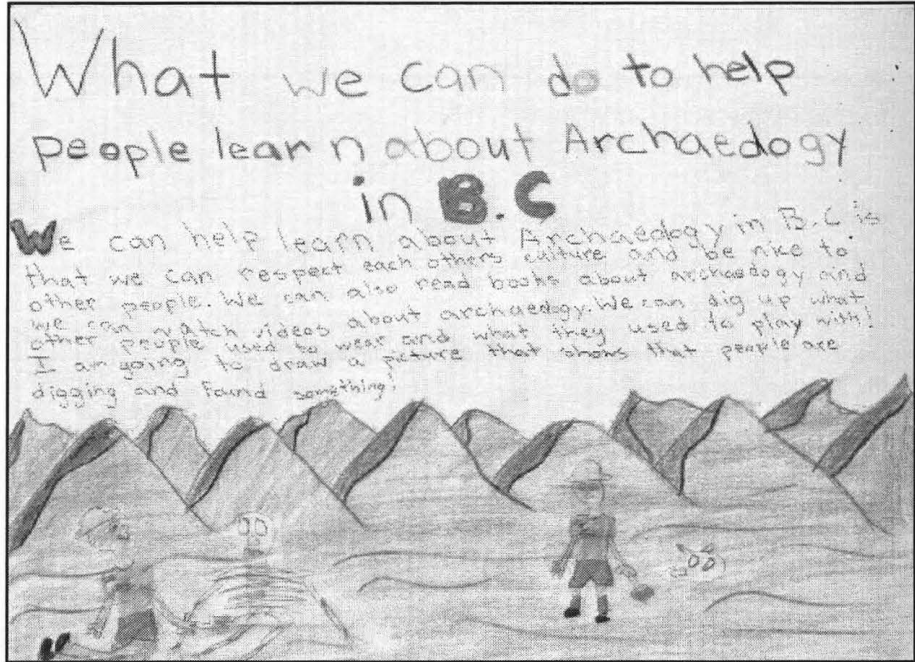
## Letter from the President

Dear Readers,

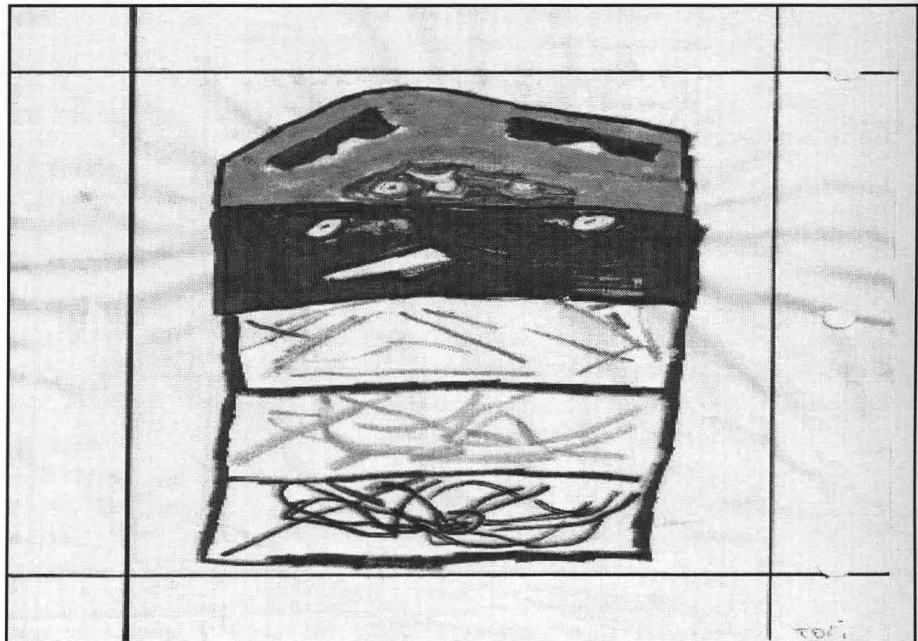
I have much to report to you since last I wrote. I mentioned previously the Artifact ID Night which I am pleased to say was a great success. On April 13<sup>th</sup> we were excited to have many great experts on hand, Dr. R.G. Matson, Dr. Lisa Cooper, Dr. Hector Williams, Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn, UBC Grad student Iggy Przybyla, and last but not least, Susan Rowley, our own Vice President. Folks from far and wide came in with artifacts, and we saw a small human face sculpture from Pakistan; a nephrite pipe piece from the Alberta plains; stone tools and basketry from the Northwest Coast and even an incredible collection of rare coins, one dating to shortly before Christ.

Also, I received some exciting news – the ASBC Executive’s Nomination of Hilary Stewart for the Canadian Archaeological Association’s Pendergast award was successful! The Nomination was put together by Sue Rowley, Nadine Gray and Patricia Ormerod, who did a fantastic job.

Sarah Ladd, President



First Place: Drawing by Shazeen Mahmood, Surrey (Grade 4).



Second Place: Drawing by Victoria Brawn, Kamloops (Grade 7).

### **Hilary Stewart Art & Archaeology Contest Winners, 2005.**

See The Midden 37(1) for a description of the contest.

## Calling All Members! Collecting Our History

The mandate of the ASBC has always included the education of the public on the preservation of archaeological sites and materials. We remind the public that all collecting should be done with a permit!

However, the ASBC Executive is now attempting to *collect* or gather together information about our own history. We have issued David Sadler, our HRSDC Summer Career Placement funded student, a "permit" to collect information from YOU, the members (and former Executive members) of the ASBC.

What, you ask, are we looking for?

- Stories about past ASBC activities
- Stories about the ASBC's beginnings
- Records or materials you may have in your possession related to the ASBC
- Members & Founders willing to be interviewed by David for our records, and for publication in *The Midden*
- Photographs and letters from ASBC events and activities
- And, anything else you wish to share and preserve for future ASBC Members

If you have something you wish to share, donate, or if you are interested in being interviewed, please contact David at [sadler@asbc.bc.ca](mailto:sadler@asbc.bc.ca) or call 604-737-7935 after 5:30 pm on weekdays.

We look forward to learning from you!

## ASBC-Nanaimo Branch Update

Welcome to Nanaimo Branch of the ASBC. So far, this year has been an eventful one in the realm of BC Archaeology and Heritage. With the continuation of Barkerville due to increased government funding and charges laid under the Heritage Conservation Act in Poets Cove, it seems that heritage issues are becoming increasingly front-page news in this province. But unfortunately, in cases such as the demolition of Crace Street School in Nanaimo, being in the headlines doesn't always mean that people are aware of the issues. It is up to organizations like the ASBC to advocate for heritage. We must work to ensure that heritage issues are in the forefront of the public mind, not just on the second page, easily missed next to the development in Nanaimo's downtown core. So I implore you to make heritage conservation and awareness a priority in BC. Make your voice heard at all governmental levels, both locally and provincially. Once our heritage is gone it is gone forever, be it by the bulldozer or more subtly through governmental cuts.

In response to the need for heritage conservation, the ASBC-NB executive has been busy drafting a proposal for the creation of the Nanaimo Chinatown Heritage Park (see article, p. 9), situated on the historical site of Nanaimo Chinatown Number Three that burned down in 1960. Currently the area is a hot spot for local pothunters and an area adjacent to the site is slated for development. The ASBC-NB proposes that the existing site and adjacent green space be made in to a heritage park with the archaeological site capped to protect the deposits and interpretive plaques erected, detailing the history of the area.

Also, the Cat Stream, an environmentally sensitive watershed, runs through the area and is currently overrun with garbage and invasive species. The creation of the park will see the stream restored, enhancing both the environmental and heritage stewardship goals of the project. We are currently seeking partners for our project before we present our proposal to the City of Nanaimo. Please see our website, [www.asbcnanaimo.nisa.com](http://www.asbcnanaimo.nisa.com) for updates on our progress.

In addition, watchful ASBC-NB members have alerted the City of Nanaimo and the Archaeology Branch to the destruction of a known archaeological site in Hammond Bay in Nanaimo. Charges may be pending against the developer. Thanks to those members who have been keeping a sharp eye open.

*Hands On Heritage!* is still ongoing as there is still a lot of analysis to do. We are still looking for people to do research on some of the artifacts recovered from the site. If you would like to volunteer, the lab at 55 Haliburton is open every Sunday from 1 to 5 pm. For more information see our website or contact Colleen Parsley at [handsonheritage@asbcnanaimo.nisa.com](mailto:handsonheritage@asbcnanaimo.nisa.com).

The ASBC-Nanaimo Branch Annual General meeting was held on June 4, 2005. This year we convened at the Dingy Dock Pub, followed by a walking tour of Protection Island and Newcastle Island. This was an opportunity to see what your executive has been doing over the last year and to partake in a great field trip. Our Executive is one of the most dedicated groups around and we are always looking for new members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Keep in mind as well that the 4th Annual Discover Archaeology Interactive Bones Display will be taking place at the Nanaimo District Museum in August 2005. This event saw over 200 people last year in a 5-hour span and we hope to exceed that this year. The focus of this display will be forensic archaeology, together with our usual stone and bone tool making area (always a hit with the kids) and informational material.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you at ASBC-NB events.

Julie Cowie, President  
ASBC-Nanaimo Branch

### ACTIVATE!

The ASBC is seeking volunteers to help compose *The Midden*. First, we are considering applicants with interests in graphic design for composition and layout of our issues. Jack Fletcher has produced his last issue for us with 37(1) and we thank him for his work.

Secondly, we would also like to attract regional contributing editors to provide and/or solicit news and articles from various regions and institutions in BC and the wider Northwest Coast and Interior.

If you are interested, please contact one of the editors.