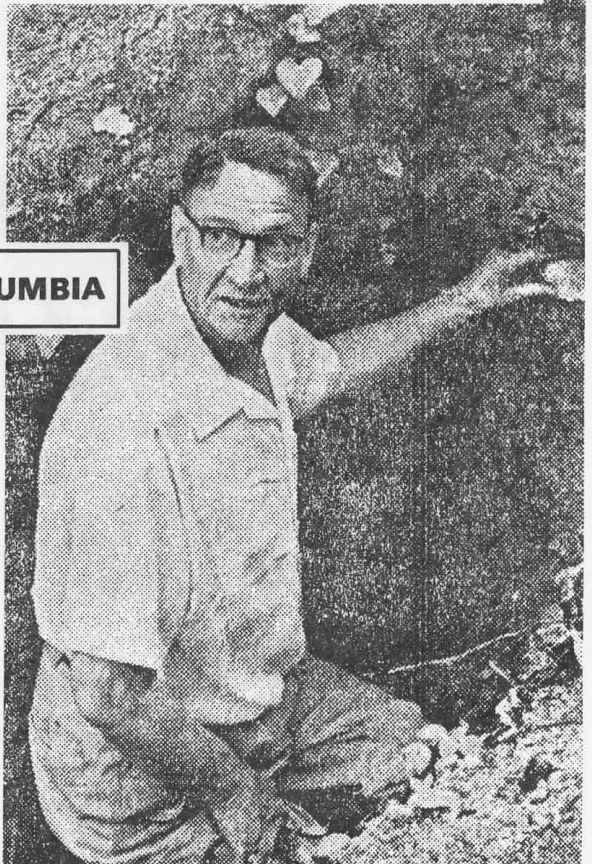


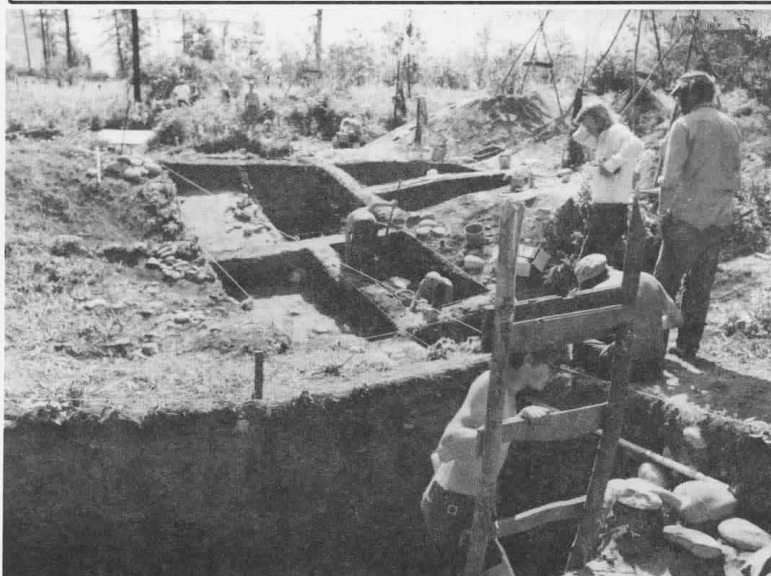
# The Midden

Vol. XVIII, No.5

December, 1986



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**



# The Midden

## Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

**Editor:** Kathryn Bernick

**Subscriptions and Mailing:** Toni Crittenden

**Submissions** and exchange publications should be directed to the Editor. Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. Archaeology are welcomed: maximum length 1,500 words, no footnotes, and only a brief bibliography (if necessary at all). Guidelines available. Telephone inquiries: 873-5958.

The next issue of *The Midden* will appear mid-February, 1987.

**Contributors this issue:** Kathryn Bernick, John Castleford, Morley Eldridge, Colin Gurnsey, Yvonne Prudek, Mike Rousseau, Terry Spurgeon, Ann Stevenson, Hilary Stewart.

**Production assistance:** Jim Buchanan.

THE COVER: top left: Dr. Roy Carlson, SFU; top right: ASBC dig, English Bluff, Tsawwassen, 1969; bottom left: ASBC-assisted dig, Katz, 1971; bottom right: the late Dr. Carl Borden, UBC, 1971. Cover design by Hilary Stewart.

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## The Society

The **Archaeological Society of British Columbia** is dedicated to the protection of archaeological resources and the spread of archaeological knowledge.

**Meetings** featuring illustrated lectures are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 8:00 p.m. in the Vancouver Museum Auditorium. Visitors and new members are welcome!

### COMING TOPICS:

January 14 Dr. Brian Hayden: Keatley Creek pithouse excavations.

February 11 Dr. David Burley: New Brunswick prehistory.

**President:** Colin Gurnsey (980-7429)  
**Vice President:** Helen Smith (224-1426)  
**Membership Secretary:** Molly Hay (738-1095)

**Membership** year runs September 1 - August 31. Fees: single - \$17.00; family - \$20.00; senior citizen - \$12.00; student - \$12.00. Membership includes *Midden* subscription. Address to: A.S.B.C. Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

**Affiliated Chapters:** Fraser Valley, Kitimat, Victoria.



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## *The ASBC's 20th Anniversary*

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This issue of *The Midden* marks the twentieth anniversary of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia. From its inception the Society has pursued a goal of protecting British Columbia's archaeological and historic heritage and furthering public understanding of the scientific approach to archaeology. As we complete our twentieth year we can reflect upon the many projects undertaken in pursuit of these goals, but many challenges remain.

During the first decade of its existence the Archaeological Society of British Columbia gained the respect and confidence of professional archaeologists. It won recognition from institutions across Canada and the United States through subscriptions to *The Midden*. The Society was active in making presentations to government which led to establishment of the Heritage Conservation Act of British Columbia.

These pursuits continued in the second decade with presentations made to approval agencies regarding both major and minor projects where archaeological sites were threatened. Similarly, the Society continued to lobby government respecting export of prehistoric artifacts and changes to both provincial and federal legislation.

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia has continued to grow and evolve. Our publication, *The Midden*, has gradually changed from a newsletter to a journal providing a forum for archaeological papers, issues, and ideas. The Archaeological Society of British Columbia has also gained valuable experience through the provision of public interpretation programs such as at St. Mungo and more recently at Point Grey.

As we complete our twentieth year we have much to be proud about. But we must not become complacent about the requirements of the future. We need to ensure that stronger legislation is developed to protect our prehistoric heritage, both federally and provincially. We must continue to explore new opportunities for expanding public awareness and appreciation of our prehistoric heritage. We must also be persistent in our pursuit of greater protection of archaeological sites.

The strength of our Society has been the dedication of our members in the pursuit of these goals. By continuing to work together we can ensure that the objectives of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia are achieved.

*Colin W. Gurnsey, President*  
Archaeological Society of British Columbia

# Coastal Archaeology

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## *A look at the data base*

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*by John Castleford*

*B.C. ARCHAEOLOGY* holds a key position in Northwest Coast prehistory, and while cultural reconstructions appear from time to time, no-one has yet attempted to collate the basic archaeological data on which these reconstructions are based. I undertook a study of post-excavation reports in order to assess exactly what archaeological work has been done.

The study was restricted to examining reports of excavations conducted between 1948 and 1984 on coastal sites (that is, within 5 km of tidal waters). I excluded shovel and auger testing of deposits in survey work, pot-hunting and other illicit digging.

One major task was ascertaining which sites had been excavated. John McMurdo and the staff of the Heritage Conservation Branch and Provincial Museum were particularly helpful. Having drawn up a list of excavated sites I examined the post-excavation reports and abstracted the data I was interested in. The following is a brief summary of some of my findings.

I used major drainage areas as spatial markers. A map of these regions is provided in Figure 1.

### **Results**

From available data I calculated that 133 coastal sites had been excavated involving some 218 research projects. An overall re-excavation rate of 61% therefore obtains. Table 1 shows the numbers and percentage proportions of sites excavated and projects undertaken for each region.

Over half of all excavations are in close proximity to the urban areas of Victoria and Vancouver. The remainder of the province is differentially represented. The Sunshine Coast and some island areas are examples of regions that received less attention.

### **Annual Frequencies of Excavations**

Prior to 1961 excavations were sporadic; the early 1970s reflect increasing interest. Figure 2 depicts a histogram of annual excavation frequencies. One-quarter of all excavations to date [1984] had been completed by 1969, but the next four years saw fully half of all excavations taking place. Excavation rates decline after that. It takes another ten years for the remaining 25% of all coastal site excavations to be carried out.

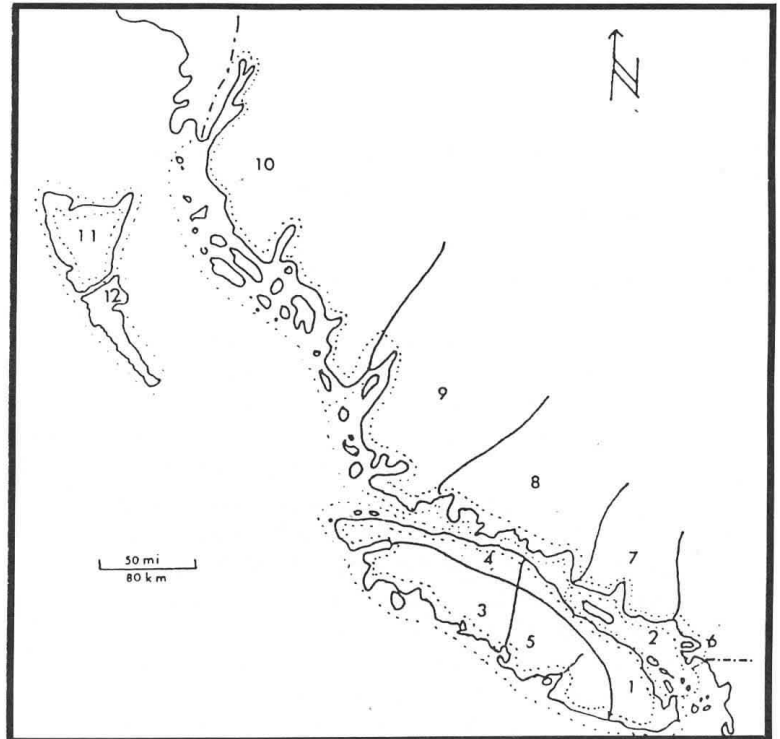
Table 1  
**Excavated Sites by Region**

Region	Sites Excavated		Excavation Projects	
	N	%	N	%
1	38	28.6	57	26.1
2	18	13.5	22	10.1
3	10	7.6	13	5.9
4	2	1.5	3	1.4
5	2	1.5	3	1.4
6	22	16.5	56	25.7
7	1	0.7	2	0.9
8	10	7.5	10	4.6
9	10	7.5	20	9.2
10	12	9.0	19	8.7
11	7	5.3	12	5.5
12	1	0.7	1	0.5
Total	133	100.0	218	100.0

Figure 1. Map of study regions.

Key:

- 1 SE Vancouver Island
- 2 Gulf Islands
- 3 NW Vancouver Island
- 4 NE Vancouver Island
- 5 SW Vancouver Island
- 6 Fraser River Delta
- 7 Cheakus (Sunshine Coast S)
- 8 Homathco (South Central Coast)
- 9 Bella Coola
- 10 Prince Rupert
- 11 Graham Island
- 12 Moresby Island



The shaded areas in Figure 2 show the proportion of salvage to non-salvage excavations. Salvage excavations are less significant before 1968 but represent a sizeable proportion of all excavations thereafter.

### Sampling strategies

Probability sampling techniques have not figured prominently in excavation research design. Of 198 projects for which data were available, 164 (83%) used judgementally selected excavation units. Random sampling was used in only 18% of salvage excavations and in 10% of non-salvage excavations.

In 1976 Brian Spurling compared random and non-random methods by using both in one

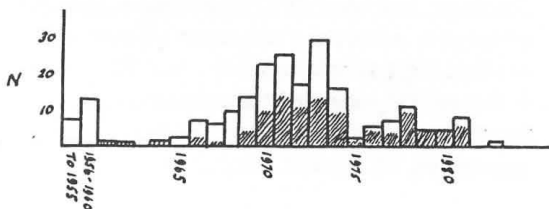


Figure 2. Annual frequencies of excavations. Shaded areas represent proportion of salvage excavations.

excavation. He found that there was no significant difference between the two methods, but this was erroneously considered by some to justify non-random methods. In fact, the reverse is true.

Random sampling enables inferences to be made about more extensive areas than those excavated; judgemental methods limit the conclusions to the areas actually dug. Salvage excavations represent a final opportunity to recover cultural material, and it seems inexcusable that excavators have often limited the scope of their data.

Donald Mitchell's 1974 Exercise Raleigh Passage, in the eastern Queen Charlotte Straits region, represents the only known instance of sampling [on the coast] to select sites for excavation.

Despite recent allegations that sampling theory is now widely employed, my findings suggest that (unless a very recent increase in sampling has occurred) this is not the case.

### Artifact Yields

Calculating artifact yields proved quite difficult. Many reports failed to differentiate between manufactured implements and waste

chippings, while others failed to provide any indication of how many artifacts were recovered.

Table 2 lists artifact yields by region. The Fraser Delta and North Coast regions outrank all others in total artifacts recovered, but when artifact density (number of artifacts per cubic metre of excavated deposit) is calculated, the Gulf Islands region outranks all others.

A product moment correlation coefficient (Spearman's rho) was used to test whether there was any statistically significant difference between the rank orders in Table 2. This statistic produces a value in the range of +1.0 (perfect correlation) to -1.0 (perfect inverse correlation). Comparing total artifact ranks with artifact density ranks produces a value of -0.13. A comparison of mean artifact yield with artifact density rankings produces a value of 0.10. This indicates virtually no correlation at all. Artifact density is considered a more reliable indicator of a site's "net worth."

Questioning whether later excavations produce higher yields because of supposedly better techniques, I analyzed these data. The trend is shown in Figure 3.

Using 1970 as a cut-off date, I compared mean artifact yields for sites excavated before 1970

Table 2  
**Artifact Yield by Region**  
(rank order in parentheses)

Region	Number of Artifacts		
	Mean	Density (per m <sup>3</sup> )	Total
1	312 ( 9)	17 ( 5)	11,241
2	381†( 8)	35 ( 1)	6,858
3	610 ( 7)	9 (10)	6,108
4	1,015 ( 6)	19 ( 4)	2,030
5	3,200 ( 1)	23 ( 2)	3,200
6	1,493 ( 3)	14 ( 7)	31,360
7	204 (10)	20 ( 3)	204
8	190 (11)	5 (11)	1,904
9	1,111 ( 5)	16 ( 6)	11,116
10	1,596 ( 2)	11 (=8)	15,963
11	1,432 ( 4)	11 (=8)	7,163

†One find of 7,000 shell beads omitted.

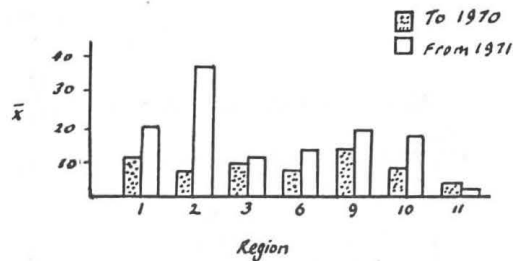


Figure 3. Mean artifact yields by time period per region.

with those excavated after. I ignored sites excavated over both time periods. Clearly increased yields over time are evident.

### Conclusions

The material discussed here represents a portion of a larger study and it has not always been possible to detail operational assumptions in utilizing variables and categories. Nonetheless, several trends are clearly indicated:

- Excavations have been more intensively pursued in some areas than in others.
- While sampling techniques are understood to be vitally important tools, randomization is used far less often than an excavator's personal judgement.
- Gross artifact counts are less reliable indicators than artifact densities.

This study was an attempt to provide a more balanced areal perspective of the nature and extent of the archaeology of coastal sites in British Columbia. Highly variable reporting standards and differential data availability were constraints which may affect the validity of my findings, but overall I hope I have been able to present a relatively accurate assessment of the archaeological data base.

Hopefully, some of these trends will be borne in mind when cultural reconstructions are presented. □

John Castleford is studying for an MA in Anthropology at the University of Victoria.

## News Bits

### *BCPM rearranges staff*

Recent appointments at the newly reorganized B.C. Provincial Museum (see *The Midden* Vol.XVII, No.5:5-6) include Jim Haggarty, Head of Archaeology; Don Abbott, Grant Keddie, and Tom Loy, Archaeology Curators. Richard Inglis is an Ethnology Curator (Peter Macnair is Head of Ethnology). These are all research positions under Chief of Human History, Dan Gallagher. Al Hoover was appointed Chief of Anthropological Collections, which includes both archaeology and ethnology. In-service interviews are continuing.

### *Archaeology switches Ministries*

The Heritage Conservation Branch and the Provincial Museum are now in the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation, and Culture. The new Minister is Bill Reid.

### *HCB shuffles once more*

The latest reorganization of the Heritage Conservation Branch separates archaeology from history. Art Charlton is Assistant Director, Archaeology Programs; Brian Apland is head of Assessment and John McMurdo is head of Inventory. The Director is Dr. Colin Campbell who also serves as Executive Officer of the B.C. Heritage Trust.

### *Pipeline uncovers old points*

Two fluted points and a Scottsbluff point, suggesting a very old site, were found by Ian Wilson while monitoring construction for a Westcoast Transmission natural gas pipeline near Pink Mountain in northeastern British Columbia. The site, *HhRr 1*, will not be further disturbed by the construction. Any archaeological investigation will require research funding.

### *Trust renews Midden grant*

The British Columbia Heritage Trust awarded the ASBC \$1,800 to assist in publishing *The Midden* during 1986-87. The grant (the same amount as last year's award) will help defray printing and mailing expenses. Current circulation is about 350.

### *Cairns get second life*

Reconstructed burial cairns may soon be on the list of tourist attractions in Victoria's Beacon Hill Park. Last summer maintenance crews innocently removed the rings of boulders to make lawn mowing easier. BCPM archaeologist Grant Keddie has a proposal before the parks commission to salvage the boulders and set up an interpretive display.

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## SHOW TIME/Current Exhibits:

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### **Vancouver Museum**

*CAPTAIN GEORGE VANCOUVER: A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY* — continuing through January 4, 1987.

*TREASURES OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM* — 25 National Treasures from China; 100 artifacts, some over 4,000 years old; mostly decorative items from silk, ivory, and bronze. This display has never been out of China before. Opens February 2, until March 31, 1987.

### **Maltwood Gallery, University of Victoria**

*PRE-COLUMBIAN ART FROM CENTRAL AMERICA* — January 25 through April 12, 1987.

# Results of the 1986 Ashcroft Indian Band Archaeological Project

by Mike Rousseau

*DURING THE MONTHS* of June and July 1986, the Ashcroft Indian Band sponsored a heritage site inventory and impact assessment within selected sections of Ashcroft Indian Reserve Nos. 2, 3, and 4 near the towns of Ashcroft and Cache Creek in the Thompson River Valley of south-central British Columbia.

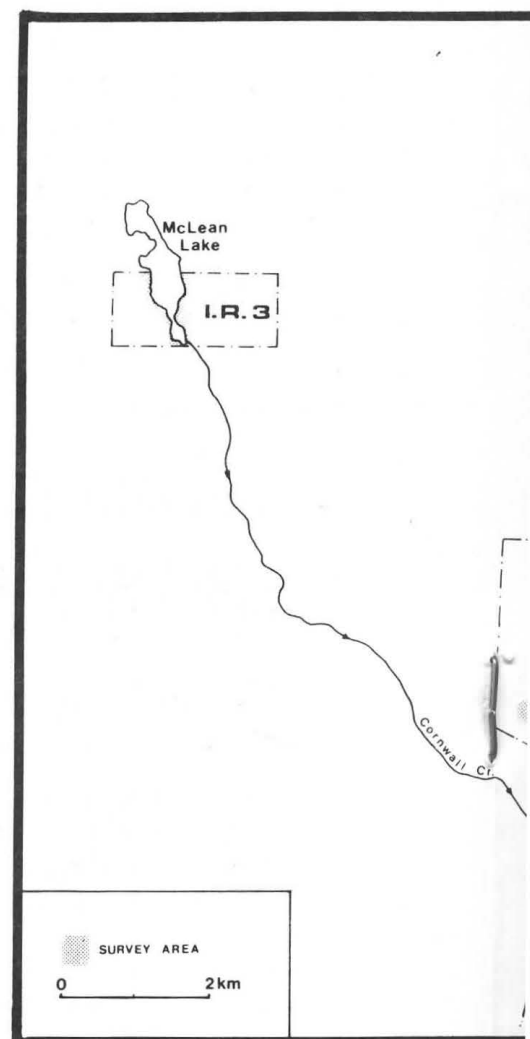
The project was conceived and funded by the Ashcroft Indian Band, and was directed by Mike Rousseau (SFU) and Pierre Friele (UBC), who were assisted by several student Band members.

The main objectives of the study were:

- 1) to record, evaluate, and assess the impact status of all surficially observable heritage sites contained within the eastern half of I.R. No. 2, all of I.R. No. 4, and the immediate shoreline of McLean Lake on I.R. No. 3;
- 2) to formulate recommendations concerning future mitigation and management options for sites in present conflict with proposed development projects or continuing intensive natural erosion;
- 3) to reconstruct the geomorphological history of the study area and determine how local geomorphic processes have affected site visibility; and
- 4) to gather data which will help further our knowledge of local prehistory and stimulate academic interest in the prehistory of the region.

A total of 100 sites were identified and recorded within a survey area encompassing approximately 8.0 km<sup>2</sup>. The majority of sites (93) contained surficially evident lithic scatters. Prehistoric cultural depressions were observed at 12 sites, and eight sites contained historic components. The results clearly indicate that prehistoric site density is high in the Ashcroft locality.

The nature and distribution of prehistoric sites suggest several interesting points regarding local subsistence strategies and





and

settlement patterns. An obvious pattern is that the number of sites increases, and site size decreases, with increased distance from Cornwall Creek and the Thompson River. This can be explained by the observation that large semi-permanent base camps were established near reliable sources of potable water, whereas numerous smaller short-term activity foci were dispersed over the landscape at resource procurement and hunting/lookout locations.

The northern half of the study area on I.R. No. 2 contains many small lithic scatter sites which appear to represent locations where movement of game (most probably deer) was monitored. Most are situated on elevated ridges or knolls having good vantage. Several of these sites lie beside large boulders which may have been used as hunting blinds.

They are characterized by a high incidence of complete and fragmented projectile points associated with small clusters of reduction debitage that were probably produced by hunters while awaiting their quarry. Diagnostic points suggest that the majority of these sites date between about 2,400 and 200 years B.P.

The Cornwall Creek vicinity appears to have been a major focus for gathering bitterroot and mariposa lily corms during the early spring. Several Band elders maintained that this area was used in early historic times to exploit these two important food resources.

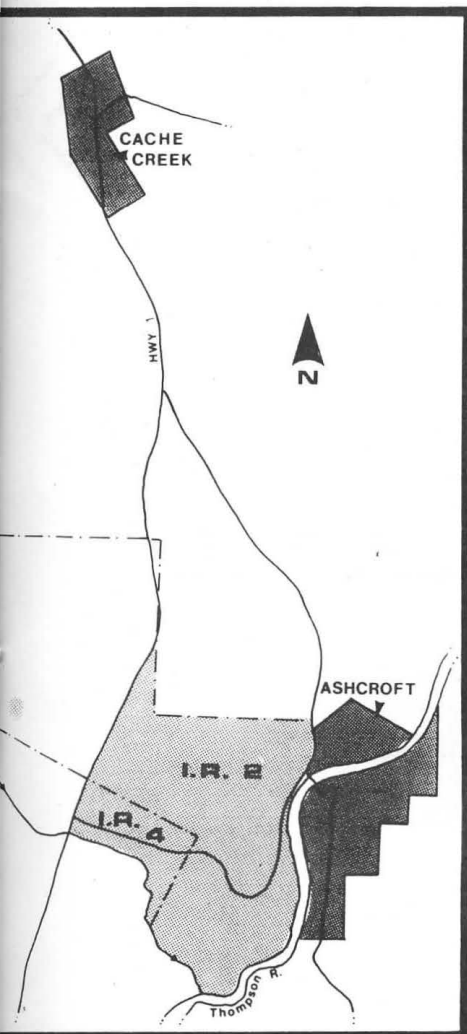
That large groups of people continuously frequented this area for at least the last 6,000 years or so is plainly indicated by diagnostic point styles and by a high density of cultural materials contained at a large base camp (*EeRh 6*) extending 1.1 km along the northern bank of Cornwall Creek.

A cluster of small circular cultural depressions at the southern end of this site are probably root roasting ovens, and it is possible that extensive sand dune formation over the rest of the site has obscured or buried other oven features.

Site *EeRh 33* at the confluence of Cornwall Creek and the Thompson River is undoubtedly one of the largest lithic scatter sites known and recorded in south-central B.C. It was of obvious importance to native people as a major fishing station and encampment for at least the last 3,000 years, and probably much longer. A cluster of small circular depressions at the fishing station was likely used in prehistoric times to store dried salmon. Members of the Ashcroft Band continue to catch salmon and large trout at this fishing station.

Seven sites containing Lehman Phase (about 6600 to 4000 B.P.) components were identified during the study (*EeRh 6, 176, 185, 188, 206, 211, and EeRi 23*). All lie above an elevation of 335 m above sea level, and the three largest sites are located on the edges of major river terraces overlooking the Thompson River.

continued . . .



Site *EeRi 24*, located beside a spring in the hills on the western half of I.R. No. 2, contains several housepit or matlodge depressions, root roasting pits, and a high density lithic scatter. It appears to represent a semi-permanent encampment and root (balsamroot?) processing focus.

It is similar to some of the sites studied in the Upper Hat Creek Valley to the west, where root processing appears to have been most intensive between about 2300 and 1200 B.P. *EeRi 24* has a high incidence of projectile points diagnostic of this same period, suggesting that perhaps the most intensive use of this site corresponds to the observed peak period of root resource exploitation in the Upper Hat Creek Valley.

The hunting territory of the ethnographic Upper Thompson included Upper Hat Creek Valley. The presence of small quantities of Hat Creek chert at a few sites within I.R. No. 2 suggests that the Upper Hat Creek Valley area was probably also used by the prehistoric inhabitants of the Ashcroft locality.

McLean Lake is located about 7.0 km southwest of the town of Cache Creek in a mid-altitude setting. Several Band elders indicated that it is a good hunting area, but the lake lacks fish. The prehistoric sites identified along its shore probably represent temporary hunting

base camps. The exceptionally high frequency of projectile points and hide scrapers observed at site *EeRi 23* supports this hypothesis.

Diagnostic points noted at this large site suggest that McLean Lake has been frequented by native people continuously for at least 6,000 years and possibly longer. This site has good potential for containing an early pre-Lehman Phase component.

It is interesting to note that evidence for microblade technology — which is strongly represented at excavated sites in other nearby mid-altitude lake contexts—was not observed at sites identified on McLean Lake.

The Ashcroft Indian Band intends to sponsor a follow-up project next year to undertake excavations at important sites endangered by development or continuing intensive erosion. The results of that study should be interesting, and will no doubt contribute significantly to our presently limited knowledge of Thompson River prehistory. □

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*Mike Rousseau is presently completing an MA degree in archaeology at Simon Fraser University. He has been actively involved in Canadian Plateau archaeology for the last 12 years.*

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## LOOK FOR/Articles:

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*A Culture-Historical Sequence for the South Thompson River- Western Shuswap Lakes Region of British Columbia: the Last 4,000 Years* by Mike K. Rousseau and Thomas Richards. *Northwest Anthropological Research Notes* Vol. 19, No. 1 (Spring 1985), pp.1-33. The authors propose a four phase sequence for the region.

*History in Our Backyards* by Karla Decker. *Monday Magazine* Vol.12, No.43 (Oct.16-22, 1986), pp.11-13. An illustrated feature about Grant Keddie's archaeological discoveries in Victoria.

## Artifacts pose dilemma

A PREHISTORIC SITE on Denman Island (*DiSe 10*) excavated this past summer yielded stone artifacts that may be more than 6,000 years old.

Morley Eldridge, who directed the salvage excavations, told *The Midden* that 44 of the 190 artifacts recovered (30%) are leaf-shaped bifaces, suggesting that the site dates from early Old Cordilleran or Charles phases.

Sandstone pebbles incised with simple geometric designs are the next most common artifact type, comprising 15% of the assemblage. These, Eldridge says, are only known from one other site, also in the northern Gulf of Georgia area, and are presumed to date from the much later Marpole phase.

Whether the Denman Island site represents an early or late occupation may be clarified by radiocarbon analysis of a sample of bone. Watch *The Midden* for a report on the results! □

## Burials call for close watch

PLANS TO EXPAND Dept. of National Defense port facilities in Prince Rupert will destroy the remaining portion of the Lachane Site (*GbTo 33*), an area which likely contains burials.

Bjorn Simonsen (Bastion Group) conducted an impact assessment of the site last month. He submitted a two-option recommendation: either monitoring during construction, or a small-scale salvage excavation as well as monitoring. No decisions have been made to date. Construction is slated to begin early in 1987.

The Lachane Site was excavated by the National Museum of Man in the early 1970s. Waterlogged deposits dated to about 2000 B.P. yielded a large assemblage of basketry, cordage, and wood artifacts. □

## Spring Conferences

### Northwest Meetings

The 40th annual Northwest Anthropological Conference will be held March 22-24, 1987, at Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach on the Oregon coast (south of Lincoln City). More information from Richard Ross, NWAC Program Chair, Dept. of Anth., Oregon State Univ., Corvallis, Oregon, 97331.

### C.A.A.

The Canadian Archaeological Association's 20th annual conference is scheduled for April 22-26, 1987, in Calgary. For details contact Conference Coordinator Lesley Nicholls, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4.

### S.A.A.

The Society for American Archaeology is meeting this year in Toronto, May 6-10, 1987. For further information consult the April, 1986 issue of *American Antiquity*.

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# Book Reviews

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## *Drawings that inspire*

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**Lithic Illustration: Drawing Flaked Stone Artifacts for Publication** by Lucile R. Addington. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago. 1986. Prehistoric Archeology and Ecology Series. 139 pp., 61 figs. US\$10.00 (paper).

"*THE IMPORTANT THING*," Addington says in her introduction, "is to draw in the manner that is familiar to the rest of the archeological world."

She proceeds to explain the conventional marks and symbols used in illustrating flaked stone artifacts, and for each tool type lists the orientations and views that should be drawn.

Part 2 *The Drawing Process*, and Part 3 *Preparation for Publication*, describe the techniques Addington has developed during her 20-year career as an archaeological illustrator.

The last section consists of brief comments on record keeping and the working relationship between archaeologist and illustrator. Appendices include a glossary, a list of tools and materials, and *Useful Trivia*. There is also a bibliography, and an index.

**Lithic Illustration** is not, and doesn't claim to be, a comprehensive guide to drawing artifacts. Rather, it is a detailed account of how one illustrator does it—with tips about everything from cutting Scotch tape to enhancing the visibility of flake scar ridges (the only thing Addington neglects to explain is how to remove the pencil marks afterwards). The 50 beautiful full-page plates bound into the middle of the volume prove that her method works.

The book is not without faults. Curiously, the text is poorly illustrated. Few drawings accompany the explanations of what to do; none shows how not to. Flipping back and forth to the plates is awkward. The text pages look dull, and the format (except for Chapter 3) is not designed for easy reference. To be fair, some of this

results from keeping production costs down—for which the publishers must be commended.

Indeed, **Lithic Illustration** is a welcome and useful book. Both archaeologists and illustrators—that is, those who choose what to draw and those who do the drawing—will find it instructive and inspiring.

While I don't really believe that beautiful drawings like Addington's are at the tip of *my* pen, the prospect is alluring. As she says, "I can't draw a straight line" is not an acceptable excuse." □

- *Kathryn Bernick*

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*Midden Editor Kathryn Bernick is an archaeologist and an illustrator.*

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## *A refreshing read*

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**Wisdom of the Elders: Native Traditions on the Northwest Coast: The Nuu-chah-nulth, Southern Kwakiutl and Nuxalk** by Ruth Kirk. Douglas and McIntyre, Vancouver, in association with the British Columbia Provincial Museum. 1986. 256 pp., ills., index. \$29.95 (hardcover).

**WISDOM OF THE ELDERS** initiates a new approach for popular accounts of Northwest Coast Indian culture. This is not another volume presenting Indian life and customs "as they were." Rather, it presents an integrated account of traditions and transitions, often in the words of individuals.

This volume was planned by the British Columbia Provincial Museum as part of a new series to replace the outdated British Columbia Heritage series, entitled *Our Native People*. The grouping of Nuu-chah-nulth (Westcoast / Nootka), Southern Kwakiutl and Nuxalk (Bella

Coola) was made not only because they share a similar environment and many common resources and technologies, but also because they "partly share language roots and largely share a particular world view and social structure."

The acknowledgement of this world view is apparent in the organization of this book. It is divided into three parts. Part I, "People of Transition," looks at today's elders and their experiences. Part II, "The World That Was," outlines aspects of Indian culture and history, presenting a dynamic view of how social and economic values have been retained or changed through time and through contact with others. The third part, "Time's Flow," summarizes the archaeology of the area and looks at heritage issues such as language, early years of European contact and subsequent cultural disruption, land claims, and education.

**Wisdom of the Elders** is a polished production, finely illustrated. Sidebars (informational asides, expanding on aspects of the narrative) such as those in magazines, are used liberally. It may be a bit annoying to jump back and forth from the narrative, however, these asides are often well worth the diversions.

The archaeological overview may be the weakest section. For example, although Kirk

points out that obsidian was widely traded on the coast 8,000 to 9,000 years ago, later on the same page (163) she ignores this early period when providing a time frame for Northwest Coast prehistory. (She divides Northwest Coast archaeology into two periods: from 5,500 to 3,500, and after 3,500 years ago.)

There are also some inaccuracies and contradictions in presenting the evidence for the emergence of specific economic activities on the Northwest Coast. For example, the author states that basketry, mat-making etc. can be traced back to 1,500 years ago (p. 165). She, however, ignores her own evidence of a 3,000 year old mat creaser from the Hoko River site (p. 166), as well as 3,000 year old basketry from other sites.

These problems aside, **Wisdom of the Elders** marks a positive advance in popular accounts of Northwest Coast culture. Its focus on the dynamics of Indian life makes a refreshing and enlightening read. □

- Ann Stevenson

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ASBC member Ann Stevenson is an archaeologist, currently working at the UBC Museum of Anthropology.

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## Faunal Analysis Course

An intensive laboratory course *Identification and Analysis of Bird Bones from Archaeological Sites* (Anth. 390) is being offered by the University of Victoria May 11 - June 3, 1987. The course will be taught by Dr. Gay Frederick and Becky Wigen.

For information about registration procedures, deadlines, etc. contact Becky Wigen, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Victoria, P.O. Box 1700, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2. Tel.: 721-7053.

# Avocational Archaeology

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## *Getting more involved*

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by Terry Spurgeon

If your avocational interest in archaeology extends beyond reading, attendance at illustrated lectures, and browsing through museums—how do you get more involved?

First, consider that there is more to archaeology than digging. Someone is doing surveys, writing articles and papers, working in museums, recording collections, doing lab work, and a host of other archaeological activities.

Second, because of their unpaid, part time participation, avocational archaeologists are in effect volunteers. As a volunteer, the time you have available dictates how involved you get.

So how *do* you get more involved?

The ASBC is looking for volunteers to help with private collections recording. This activity offers a chance to learn more about artifacts. Why not volunteer and increase your knowledge while getting more involved!

Do you have writing skills? Do you have something to say about archaeology? *The Midden* doesn't just happen, and neither do other publications. Write about your interests or involvements in archaeology. Use current articles as a model.

Small community museums with archaeological collections welcome volunteer help. (The larger institutions with more structured programs are less open. Large museums need to review their programs to encourage more avocational involvement in archaeology. More on this in a future article.)

There are many educational opportunities available through colleges and universities. Usually the courses are part of a formal degree program, but you do not have to be pursuing a degree to enroll. This is an excellent way to improve your archaeological knowledge, while gaining a valuable connection to other archaeological activities.

Unfortunately, there are few practical seminar and workshop offerings. Most avocational archaeologists can only attend short duration evening or weekend courses. Field

schools, therefore, are usually not convenient for avocational persons. Here is a challenge for the professional archaeological community—to package attractive workshop offerings.

Have you heard rumors about unreported sites? Why not follow up and try to locate them. Recording previously unknown archaeological sites is a valuable activity. Completing a Site Inventory Form increases your knowledge of archaeology.

Get more involved by protecting archaeological resources. You can watch out for and report activities that are disturbing archaeological sites in your area. The disruption or destruction of a site can reduce its scientific value to nothing.

A word of caution. Avocational archaeologists are not pothunters, and do not support the activities of pothunters. Any involvement you have with archaeological sites should be reported to the Heritage Conservation Branch, or to your local Regional Advisor. Digging without a permit is illegal.

Getting involved in a dig is only the beginning. While learning field techniques, you can contribute with photography, or serve as an interpretive program tour guide. Digs with avocational involvement are few and far between, so don't miss out.

After a dig volunteers are usually needed in the lab. Lab work is an interesting and important part of archaeology. Archaeological reports owe much of their content to lab analysis. Lab work is an opportunity to literally get your hands on.

There are many opportunities for you to get more involved in archaeology. Avocational activities are limited only by your imagination, knowledge, and experience. □

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# New Publications

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**British Columbia Prehistory** by Knut R. Fladmark. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. 1986. 150 pp., ills. \$12.95 (paper).

The latest addition to the Canadian Prehistory series; written for a popular audience by B.C. archaeologist Knut Fladmark.

**Bill Reid: Beyond the Essential Form** by Karen Duffek. UBC Press in association with the UBC Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver. 1986. Museum Note No. 19. 64 pp., ills. \$12.95 (paper).

A critical biography of Haida artist Bill Reid, with photographs of his work.

**Jack Shadbolt and the Coastal Image** by Marjorie M. Halpin. UBC Press in association with the UBC Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver. 1986. Museum Note No. 18. 66 pp., ills. \$15.95 (paper).

A look at the influence of Northwest Coast Indian art on modern painter, Jack Shadbolt over the past fifty years.

**Hunters of the Northern Forest: Designs for Survival among the Alaskan Kutchin** by Richard K. Nelson. Univ. of Chicago Press, Chicago. 1986. 303 pp., ills., bibl., index. US \$12.95 (paper).

An ethnographic study of an Athapaskan-speaking boreal forest people, focusing on environmental exploitation; an updated edition of the original 1973 publication.

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## ORDER NOW!

**The Point Grey Public Interpretation Program:** Report prepared for the Archaeological Society of British Columbia, by Kathryn Bernick (Sept. 1986). 32 + viii pp.; 3 colour photos; cerlox binding.

This detailed description and evaluation of the ASBC's 1986 public interpretation program at the Point Grey archaeological site in Vancouver will be of special interest to anyone planning a similar project.

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