

The Midden

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The Midden

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

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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-June, 1987.

Contributors this issue: Kathryn Bernick, Don Bunyan, Geordie Howe, John Porter, Mike Rousseau, Don Steer.

Production assistance: Phyllis Mason.

THE COVER: *Unveiling the Vancouver Centennial Historic Plaque commemorating Charles Borden at Locarno Beach. See page 13.*

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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:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| May 6 | David Griffiths: underwater archaeology |
| June 10 | Art Charlton: to be announced. |

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.

✓ **Note change of meeting day for May only:**
first Wed. of the month, May 6.

Editorial

*British Columbia's heritage is **not** for sale*

STONE BOWLS used to be just another type of artifact. Some were older, larger, or more elaborately decorated. Their rarity in archaeological collections gave them prominence, but hardly enough to merit media attention.

That's changed. Stone bowls are now featured in the news. The latest publicity stunt involves a bowl that was found forty years ago by a farmer in Chilliwack. Enticed by the \$9,500 that a similar bowl fetched at auction last summer, the finder decided to sell.

The Sto:lo Indians in Chilliwack would like the artifact, but are insulted that anyone expects them to pay for their own ceremonial object.

So, Ted Pappas of Pappas Auctions Ltd. is trying to drum up a purchaser. He wants someone to buy the bowl and donate it to the Sto:lo. That way he will remain on good terms with the native community and also make a profit. Moreover, a successful sale will flush out more artifacts for his auction block.

That strategy worked last summer (see *The Midden* Vol.18, No.4, p.2). At the time, archaeologists predicted that the situation would recur. Even now there are rumors of two additional stone bowls waiting in the wings—and who knows how many artifacts sitting on the mantelpieces of people who could use extra money.

British Columbia needs legislation that will stop the market in antiquities. The Heritage Conservation Act must be amended so that it provides real protection for all types of heritage resources. That means enforceable penalties of sufficient magnitude to deter would-be violators. It also means that the question of artifact ownership needs to be addressed.

The provincial government recently admitted that something has to be done. Bill Reid, Minister responsible for heritage, is sending a task force around the province to hear public opinion before preparing a report and recommendations.

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia will make a submission to the task force as will other heritage groups. However, that is not enough. Everyone who cares about archaeological resources in British Columbia should add their voice. Showing up at the public meetings is important. Written statements from individuals will also help.

Remember that there are people who will be promoting other interests. It is up to the archaeological community to present a convincing case for effective heritage protection.

The legislative review is being called Project Pride. Let's make that true. □

- Kathryn Bernick

Archaeological Investigations at Fort Langley National Historic Park

by John Porter and Don Steer

IN JULY, 1827 the first Fort Langley was established on the south bank of the Fraser River 1.6 km downstream of its confluence with the Salmon River. In 1839 a move was made to a newly constructed post 4 km upstream, closer to farming and fishing operations. Trade and retail sales were conducted at this new location until 1888 when the land and remaining structures were sold. Subsequently, the area was utilized for pasture. In 1924 a 0.4 ha parcel of land was conveyed to the federal government. Additional land was acquired through time and in 1976 Fort Langley National Historic Park was designated.

In 1953 a suggestion was made to the federal government that the fort be reconstructed and restored to its 1858 appearance. This was well received, and plans were drawn up to commemorate, on November 19, 1958, the official inauguration of the colony of British Columbia. These plans called for reconstruction of the palisade and several structures including the factor's residence.

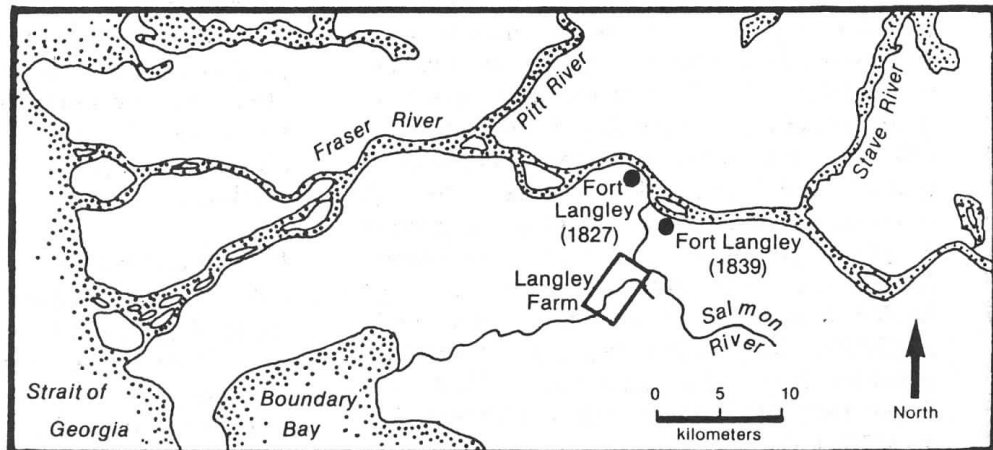
In 1956, prior to reconstruction, the project architect directed uncontrolled testing to locate the historic palisade. Glass and ceramic fragments, machine-cut nails, scrap iron, and 44 cedar post remnants were recovered.

Archaeological investigations were carried out by J.V. Chism in 1970 and 1971 for the National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, prior to reconstruction of the southeast section of palisade. Once again the project focussed on delineation of the historic palisade.

In 1979, excavations were conducted by Don Steer of the Archaeological Research Unit, Parks Canada. The excavation program was designed to test certain areas, focussing on the historic palisade and building locations. The project identified four distinct construction periods for the palisade. A number of fort-related features (interior separation trenches, refuse pits) and building remains (basal sills, cellar depressions) were excavated.

Early in 1984 archaeological investigations were initiated by Parks Canada beneath the extant warehouse. The project was undertaken to provide additional data regarding subfloor levels and the earliest palisade, and to search for a bastion. Ground disturbance, possibly resulting from earlier renovation work, prevented full delineation of the palisade. No evidence was found for a bastion.

During the summer and autumn of 1986 three areas were investigated. One zone concerned



possible gallery support-post remains. The second area of investigation was the northern escarpment where the palisade will be reconstructed. An historic water well location was also examined.

Excavations revealed eight postholes associated with the historic western palisade gallery system near the northwest corner of the fort. Work conducted adjacent to the northern escarpment revealed seven additional cultural features. These included a cellar, a refuse pit, two interior separation trenches, two large depressions of unknown function and age, and one intrusive twentieth century pit. The cellar and refuse pit were originally beneath the servants' quarters. Excavation of the historic water well proceeded to a depth of 2 m without encountering fort-related archaeological specimens.

Archaeological specimens recovered from the historic features include clay and stone smoking pipe fragments, transfer-printed earthenware, wrought and machine-cut nails, glass trade beads, window glass and bottle glass fragments, and a small number of personal items.

Archaeological investigations are scheduled to resume during the spring of 1987. The work will concentrate on delineation and excavation of the features noted during the past field season. Additional investigations will be carried out in the historic animal husbandry area outside the southern palisade. Excavation will continue on the water well.

Readers wishing to volunteer their services as archaeological field workers at Fort Langley this summer are asked to contact Don Steer or John Porter, Archaeological Research Services Unit, Environment Canada—Parks, Western Region, in Calgary at (403) 292-6080 or 292-4692 respectively. □

Don Steer is Head of Archaeological Research Services Unit for Environment Canada - Parks, Western Region. John Porter, Research Assistant, is currently preparing for the 1987 field study at Fort Langley.

News Bits

CRIAW banks researchers

The Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women maintains a computerized data bank of names and resumes of feminists who do research in a variety of fields including anthropology, history, etc. The objectives are networking and promotion of feminist researchers and their research through referrals to government agencies, community groups, organizations, and private businesses. Men as well as women may register with the Bank of Researchers for the cost of membership in CRIAW. Search requests are processed for a small fee. More information from CRIAW, 151 Slater, Suite 408, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H3. Tel. (613) 563-0681.

BCPM ventures offshore

Jim Haggarty, Head of Archaeology at the BCPM, is planning a small-scale survey and investigation of the Zayas-Dundas archipelago in Chatham Sound west of Port Simpson. The Coast Tsimshian had sea mammal hunting camps on these islands and there are some standing house structures. The project, scheduled for mid-summer, will involve the Human History and Biology sections of the museum. It is supported with a \$15,500 grant from the Friends of the Provincial Museum.

Museum plans to hire

Vacancies at the B.C. Provincial Museum which will be announced soon include several positions for people with archaeology, ethnology, and museology backgrounds. Watch for advertisements giving job descriptions, required qualifications, and application deadlines.

HCB fills position

Bob Powell, who was working with archaeological collections at the B.C. Provincial Museum, is now an Assessment Officer with the Heritage Conservation Branch. Powell was seconded to fill in for Steve Acheson who is on leave from the HCB until April 1988. Jim Pike, Acheson's replacement last year, was recently awarded a permanent position with the HCB as an Assessment Officer.

Mini-publication runs late

The newsletter which Art Charlton plans to publish (announced in the last issue of *The Midden*) has not appeared yet. The Heritage Conservation Branch is keeping a list of everyone who phoned or wrote requesting to be on the mailing list. They declined to predict a publication date.

Haiku

The dig

Trowel scrapes on stone,
Pebbles rattle on a sieve;
Birds sing, voices rise.

- Don Bunyan

Victoria Announces Heritage Legislation Review

IT'S HAPPENING. The Government of British Columbia initiated a formal review of heritage issues, with the expectation that revised legislation will be introduced next spring.

The Heritage Conservation Branch is preparing a discussion paper which should be available soon. A five-person task force will solicit public opinion at a series of meetings throughout the province. The task force is also seeking written submissions, from individuals and organizations.

Recommendations for future legislation, policies, and programs will be made by the task force in an official report to the Ministry. The government will then develop revised heritage legislation.

Bill Reid, Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture (now responsible for heritage) said in a recent news release that "it [is] clear that major revisions to present legislation are advisable" and that the public input process is designed "to

ensure that any such revisions reflect the wishes of British Columbians."

Reid calls the review process Project Pride. He trusts that open discussions between the public and the government will bring about "a renewed commitment in the province to heritage conservation."

At press time the public meetings (supposed to take place in May) have not yet been scheduled, and the members of the Heritage Task Force have not been announced. Lynda Cronin, spokesperson for the Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture, expects the information to be available in local newspapers by late April. Anyone who misses these announcements should phone her in Victoria (Lynda Cronin, 387-1311).

Written submissions may be handed in at the public meetings or mailed to Project Pride, c/o Heritage Conservation Branch, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4. □

New Publications

Archaeology of the Lower Ohio River Valley by Jon Muller. Academic Press, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Toronto. 1986. 307 pp., ill., bibl., index. \$94.25 (hardcover).

A detailed review of 10,000 years of settlement along the Ohio River, from its confluence with the Mississippi River to Louisville, Kentucky. Extensive references.

Cowichan Indian Knitting by Margaret Meikle. Univ. of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver. 1987. Museum Note No.21. 26 pp., ill., bibl. \$4.95 (paper).

A brief history of Cowichan knitting on Vancouver Island and a description of the craft, written for a popular audience.

SCHEIDAM FLATS: A Prehistoric Root Roasting Area near Kamloops

by Mike K. Rousseau and Geordie Howe

DURING THE MONTH OF JULY 1979, an intensive archaeological heritage site survey was conducted along Paul and Cold creeks on Scheidam (pronounced ske-dam) Flats, approximately 15 km northeast of Kamloops on Kamloops Indian Reserve No. 1. The project was initiated by the Heritage Conservation Branch and the Kamloops Indian Band, and was conducted over a two week period by codirectors Mike Rousseau and Geordie Howe, assisted by Lisa Jarvis and Paul Rousseau.

The objective was to identify, record, and assess the heritage significance of surficially visible heritage resources on both sides of Paul and Cold creeks within a corridor about 400 m wide (Figure 1). The study was undertaken to ensure that sites which might later be threatened by development and/or recreational use, could be monitored and further investigated should the need arise.

The site inventory and assessment began at the northern boundary of Kamloops Indian Reserve No. 1 within Cold Creek valley, proceeded south along Cold Creek to its confluence with Paul Creek, then southwest along Paul Creek to the southern end of Lot L1G6.

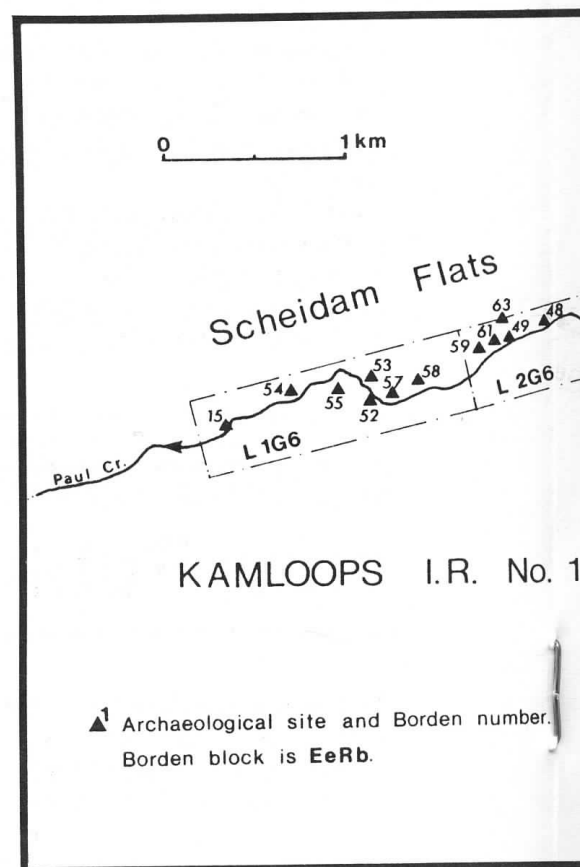


Figure 1. Locations of roasting pit sites along Paul

FLATS: Root Roasting Area

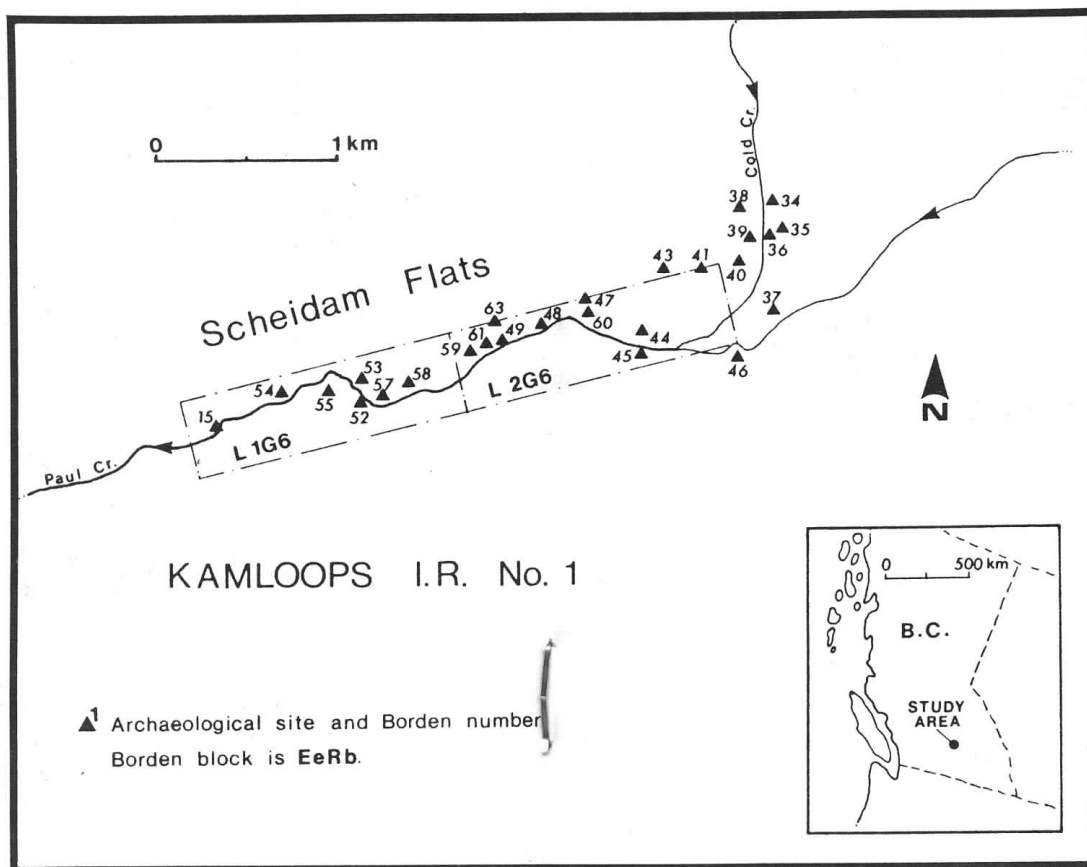


Figure 1. Locations of roasting pit sites along Paul and Cold creeks.

The ground evidence of prehistoric occupation in the area. Heretofore, the presence of charcoal scatters of lithic artifacts; and high concentrations of sub-surface showings of charcoal and completely blackened soil exist in the study area.

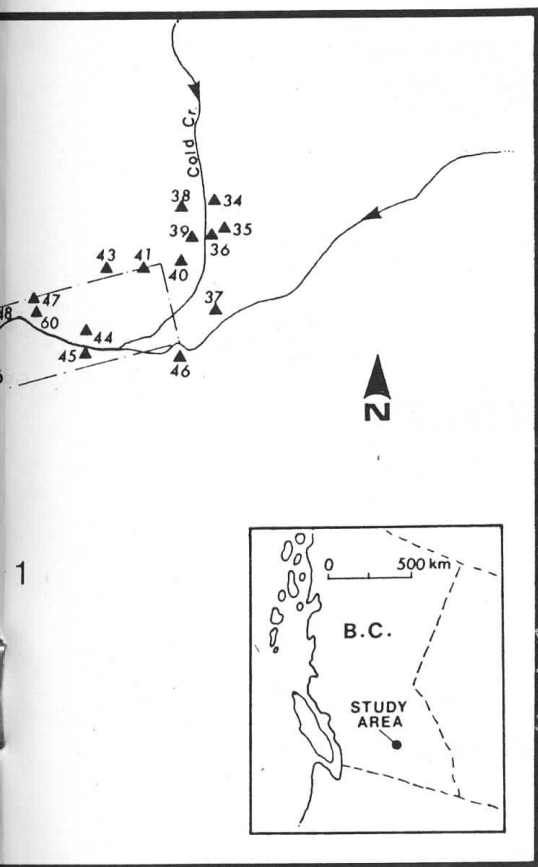
A total of 31 sites were identified, indicating that Scheidam Flats is a well defined, prehistoric localities, depressions which were identified as roasting pits. Interpretation of the site descriptions provided by Boas, George Davidson, and Pokotylo and Paterson.

Most of the sites on Scheidam Flats are associated with fire-altered rock. The number of depressions, diameters average 1.0 m and 6.0 m. Surface diameters range from 0.45 m and range from 0.45 m to 1.0 m in diameter) many of which were used several times.

The majority of sites are located on upper Hat Creek.

The majority of sites are located on edges or slopes of the flats. Water is required for roasting.

rea



aul and Cold creeks.

The ground surface was inspected for evidence of prehistoric and historic utilization of the area. Heritage sites were identified by the presence of circular cultural depressions; scatters of lithics, bone, fire-altered rock, and charcoal; and historic structures and artifacts. Sub-surface shovel testing was not undertaken and completely buried sites, which probably do exist in the study area, were not identified.

A total of 31 sites were located. The greatest density of sites (26) lies along the creeks, clearly indicating that Scheidam Flats was an important prehistoric location. All 26 sites contain small, well defined, circular or oval cultural depressions which have been provisionally identified as food roasting ovens. This interpretation is based on earth oven descriptions provided by ethnographers Franz Boas, George Dawson, and James Teit, and by comparison with identical pit features in the upper Hat Creek valley, investigated by David Pokotylo and Patricia Froese.

Most of the roasting pit depressions on Scheidam Flats have pronounced rims and are associated with surface scatters of charcoal and fire-altered rock (see Figure 2). The average number of depressions per site is 3.3. Their diameters average 2.7 m, and range between 1.0 and 6.0 m. Surficial rim-basin depths average 0.45 m and range between 0.25 and 1.0 m. Some of the larger oven depressions (about 3.5 to 6.0 m in diameter) may owe their size to having been used several times. This pattern was noted in the upper Hat Creek valley study.

The majority of the ovens are situated on the edges or slopes of terraces near the creeks. Water is required to produce steam for cooking,

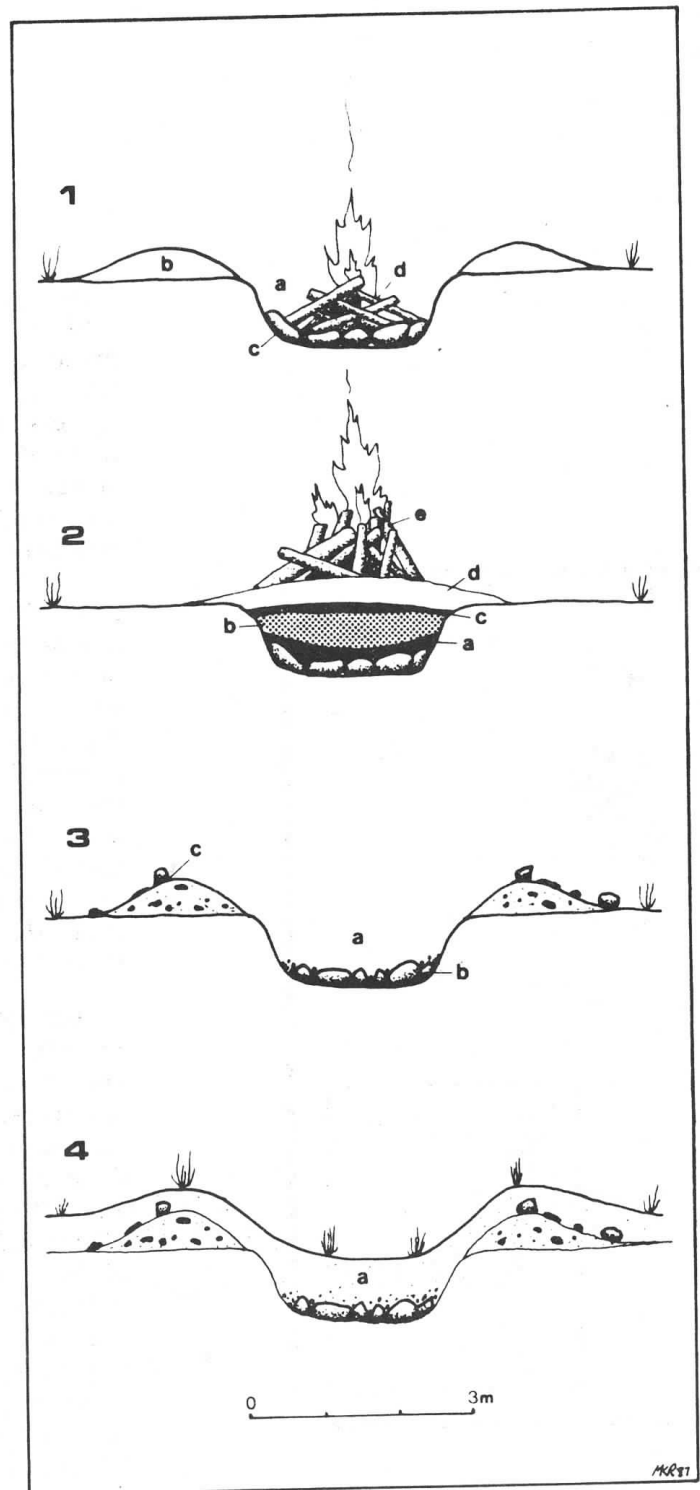
Figure 2. The life of a food roasting pit, based on James Teit's ethnographic account (idealized cross-section view).

A basin-shaped pit is excavated (1a) and the earth is piled on the periphery (1b). The bottom is lined with flat rocks (1c) which are heated with fire (1d).

The fire is removed and the rocks are covered with a layer of damp earth, branches, and pine needles (2a). Food (roots) is put in (2b), and another layer of branches is placed over the roots (2c). A layer of earth covers the pit contents (2d), and a fire is built on top (2e).

After cooking, the pit contents are removed (3a) leaving fire-altered rock and charcoal in the bottom of the pit (3b), and a mixture of earth, charcoal, and fire-altered rock around the outside forming a rim (3c).

After abandonment, wind-blown silts cap the pit (4a).



and creek-side settings were likely favoured for establishing temporary field camps during food gathering and processing activities.

The Scheidam Flats area was probably utilized primarily during the spring, to collect and process roots. Balsamroot still abounds here in the early spring, and may have been the primary food that was being processed. The roots were probably gathered from the surrounding hills using digging sticks and transported in baskets and fibre nets to the processing stations near the streams. They were usually baked in the ovens for two to three days. The cooking procedure, based on James Teit's ethnographic description, is illustrated in Figure 2.

The late Isaac Willard, a local native elder, maintained that spring beauty, dog-tooth violet, biscuitroot, and cinquefoil were also harvested in the nearby upland areas around Pinantan Lake during the early historic period. Some of these plant foods may also have been processed at Scheidam Flats in prehistoric times. Remains of mule deer, elk, grouse, fish and wild onion were recovered from roasting pits in the upper Hat Creek valley; they might also be present at Scheidam Flats.

Few artifacts were noted in association with the ovens on Scheidam Flats. Surface scatters of lithic waste flakes were evident at only two sites, perhaps indicating locations where tasks related to the preparation of food were performed that involved the use of stone tools. A large, ovate, notched quartzite spall tool found at one site may have been part of a hoe-like implement used for excavating ovens or for digging roots.

The upper Hat Creek valley study indicated that food processing activities involving roasting pits date between about 2300 and 200 B.P., with the most intensive period occurring between 2300 and 1200 B.P. It is reasonable to infer a similar antiquity (and perhaps longer) for food gathering and processing activities on Scheidam Flats, though this remains to be verified by detailed archaeological investigation.

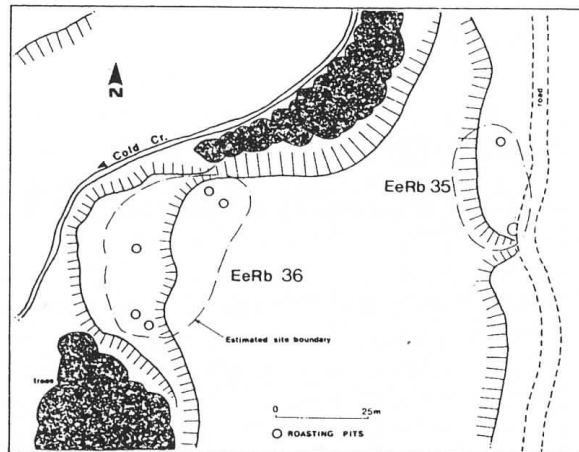


Figure 3. Two typical roasting pit sites.

Relatively little is currently known about specific aspects of prehistoric subsistence in the Kamloops area, despite the fact that considerable archaeological research has been conducted over the last twenty years. Virtually nothing is known about the specific nature and time span of prehistoric resource utilization in mid-altitude and upland contexts within this region.

The Scheidam Flats roasting pit sites have a high potential for providing sorely needed information about an important seasonal (springtime) segment of prehistoric aboriginal subsistence and settlement practices. No other mid-altitude root processing locations in the Kamloops area are known to have comparably high densities of roasting pit sites. From a scientific perspective, the site cluster on Scheidam Flats is a unique and important archaeological resource. □

Mike Rousseau and Geordie Howe are presently pursuing M.A. degrees in archaeology at Simon Fraser University. Both have been actively involved in B.C. archaeology for the last 13 years.



Ontario introduces archaeological passports

VOLUNTEER ARCHAEOLOGY in Ontario becomes official this summer. A new program called Passport to the Past will serve as a liaison between volunteers and archaeologists and also provide participants with records of their contributed time.

Entries in special passports will be signed and stamped by project supervisors so that volunteers can have personal documents of their archaeological activities, including both field and lab work.

A computer file will be set up listing those who wish to volunteer, what they would like to

do, and their availability. A second file will list archaeologists and agencies that do archaeological work. Plans call for a newsletter and a toll-free telephone number to facilitate communication.

Participants, who must be members of the Ontario Archaeological Society, will be charged a user fee to cover the costs.

The program will be administered by the Ontario Archaeological Society in cooperation with the Ontario provincial government. □

Deep storage

ARCHAEOLOGICAL investigations conducted last summer by Arcas Associates identified unusually deep cache pits buried under flood deposits.

The site, *EeRl 12*, is near the old bridge at Lillooet. Features include 4 hearths and 19 pits exposed in an eroding bank. Three buried surfaces were observed, covered by as much as 2 m of alluvium. A radiocarbon sample from one pit feature yielded a date estimate of 1200 B.P.

A geological study by June Ryder attributes the flooding to a series of landslides downstream. These caused the Fraser River

waters to back up and deposit thick layers of silt on the riverbank.

Flotation analysis of samples from the features indicates that the pits were used primarily for storing fish. Some small bits of charcoal and mammal bone were recovered, but most of the remains are salmon.

The majority of the cache pits are flask-shaped and exceptionally deep—up to 3 m deep! Arcas partner Stephen Lawhead explains the unusual shape and depth by noting that the silty fluvial terrace provided a matrix that was easy to dig. □

Review

A Trust special

Programs & Guidelines of the British Columbia Heritage Trust. Ministry of Tourism, Recreation and Culture [Victoria]. 1987.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA Heritage Trust recently published a revised edition of its **Programs and Guidelines**. The most notable change is in format—twice the size of the former version, glossy, illustrated with photographs. There's lots of visually pleasing white space and the larger type size is easy to read. The contents come harder.

Another level of paperwork has been added to the application procedure, and there are more conditions for receipt of financial assistance. Projects must submit a selection of colour photographs (original negatives or slides) and give the Trust all ownership and reproduction rights.

Changes in programs, though few, result in a net loss of potential funding for archaeology.

The new Community Heritage Development Projects program (which replaces the Student

Employment program) provides maximum grants of \$8,000 for history and archives projects and for exhibits and studies aimed at increasing public awareness; architecture projects are eligible for \$12,500. Trust Manager Cliff Hewitt says in a letter accompanying the **Guidelines** that archaeology projects will not be funded under this program.

Archaeology projects are eligible for financial assistance only if they fit into the Planning and Inventory program or the Historical Archaeology program. In the latter category, proposals for historical archaeology projects will continue to receive priority, though other small-scale archaeology projects will also be considered.

Anyone who plans to apply for Trust funding should learn to use the new key-words: initiative, development, community heritage resources, public awareness, and special (special everything—projects, programs, collections, etc.). Grants are out, financial assistance is in; heritage societies are out, community-based non-profit organizations are in. And remember to budget for colour photography. □

- Kathryn Bernick

LOOK FOR / Article:

Company sidesteps ancient paths — an article by John Cruickshank in the Business Section of the **Globe and Mail** March 10, 1987, page B1, and continued on B2 under the heading *Pink Mountaineers seen as first of the early birds*. The piece discusses the implications of an early-style Scottsbluff point that was found last year during an impact assessment survey for a pipeline near Pink Mountain in northeastern B.C.

City of Vancouver honours Borden

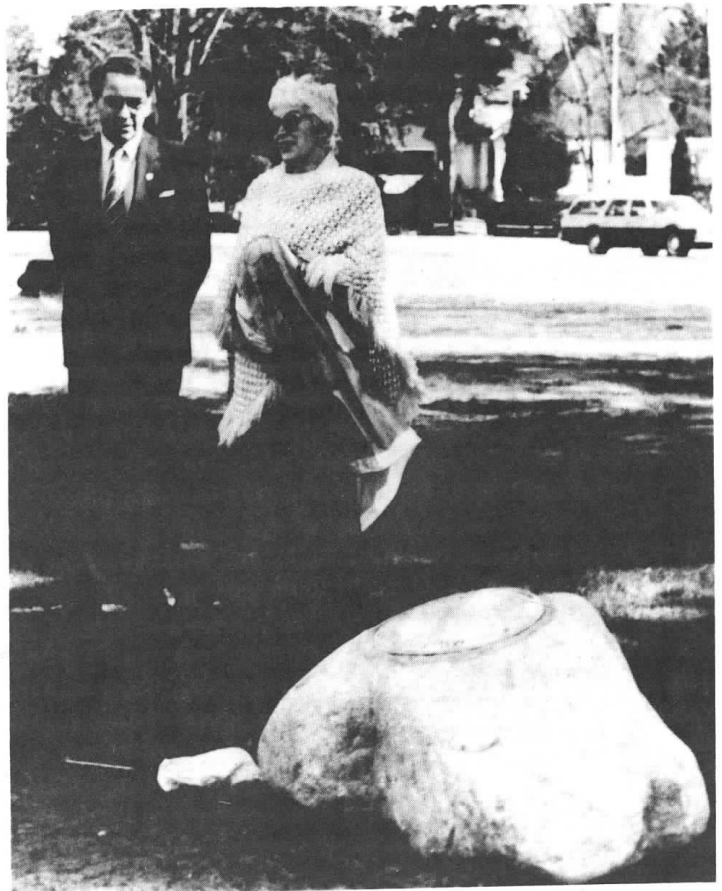
Photos by K. Bernick

TWENTY-THREE PEOPLE, many of them ASBC members, witnessed the unveiling of a Vancouver Centennial Historic Plaque commemorating Charles Borden, father of B.C. archaeology. The event took place on Friday afternoon, March 27, 1987, at Locarno Beach in Vancouver.

Norman Young, chairman of the Vancouver Centennial plaque committee, opened the unveiling ceremony. Appropriately, Young was once a student of Borden's, having taken an archaeology course from him in the late 1940s.

Colin Gurnsey, president of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia, spoke of Borden's dedication to researching the prehistory of British Columbia. Gurnsey urged everyone present to continue to pursue the goals set out by Borden for the protection of archaeological resources.

Vancouver Alderman and Deputy Mayor Philip Owen praised Borden's concerns for conservation and his work at Locarno Beach. Owen then introduced Borden's widow, Helga Borden, who removed the Vancouver Centennial flag to reveal a brightly coloured oval plaque mounted on a large rock.



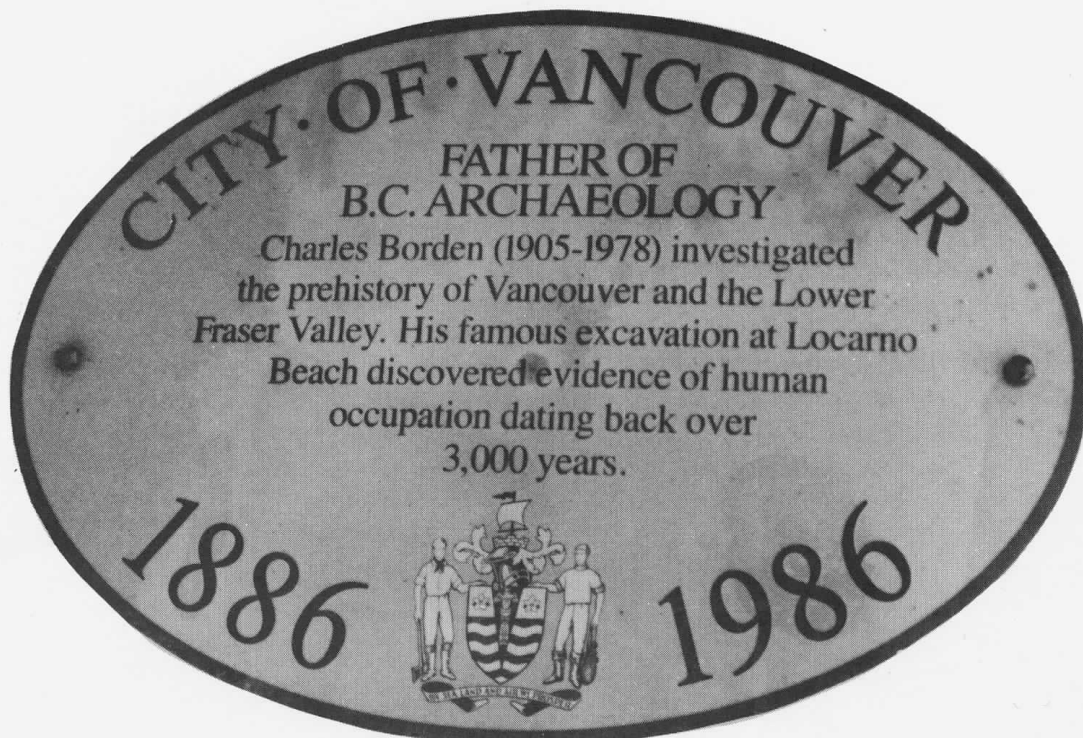
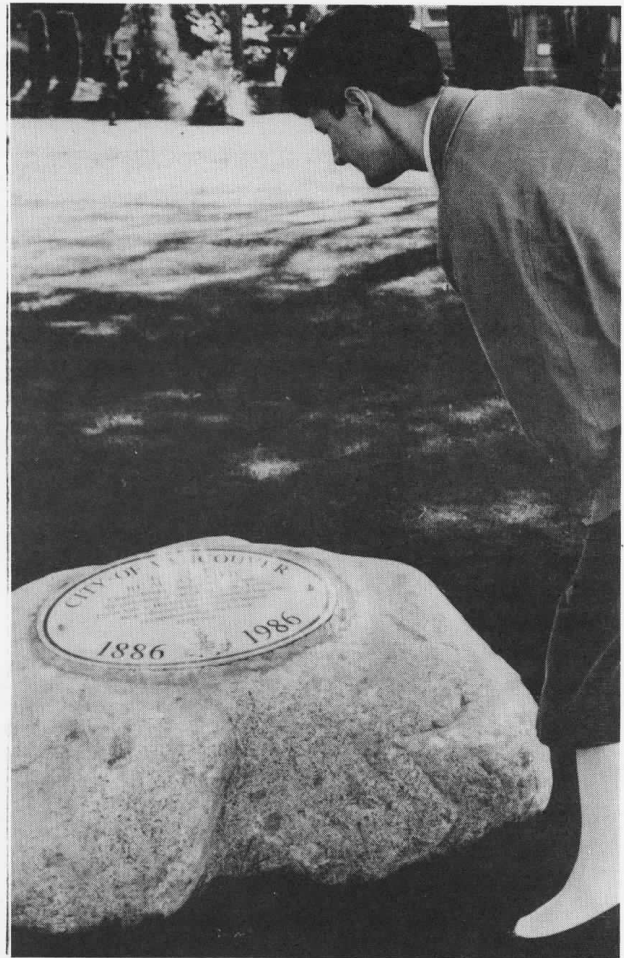
The plaque reads:

"FATHER OF B.C. ARCHAEOLOGY Charles Borden (1905-1978) investigated the prehistory of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley. His famous excavation at Locarno Beach discovered evidence of human occupation dating back over 3,000 years."

The Borden plaque is one of a hundred being erected in Vancouver in connection with the city's centennial celebrations. (Although the official centennial year, 1986, has passed, nearly half the plaques are still waiting to be put up.) The city plans to publish a book with information on the subjects of all the plaques.

The ASBC participated by selecting an appropriate spot at Locarno Beach and arranging for the marker. That involved obtaining permission from the Parks Board as well as finding a boulder, transporting it to the site, and affixing the plaque. (For the record, the stone comes from the Coquitlam River.)

The plaque is located along a footpath west of the concession stand at Locarno Beach (between Trimble and Sasamat streets). Those who pause to read it will be facing the portion of the Locarno Beach archaeological site (*DhRt 6*) where Dr. Borden excavated. □



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