

# The Midden

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# The Midden

## Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

**Editor:** Kathryn Bernick

**Subscriptions and Mailing:** Phyllis Norris

**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 1988.

**Contributors this issue:** David Archer, Kathryn Bernick, Mike Cranny, Carol Dolman, Richard Hebda, Gayel Horsfall, Yvonne Prudek, Ann Stevenson.

**Production assistance:** Ann Stevenson.

THE COVER: *Bark-stripped cedar trees near Kitsumkalum Canyon. Culturally modified tree sites are one type of native Indian archaeological site located and recorded during a survey north of Terrace. Photo by D. Archer. See article on page 6.*

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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 11 Dr. P.V. Addyman: Vikings in England.

June 8 Dr. James Haggarty: recent surveys on South Moresby and the Dundas-Zayas islands.

**President:** Colin Gurnsey (980-7429)

**Vice President:** Helen Smith (224-1426)

**Membership Secretary:** Pam Adory (430-8327)

**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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# Editorial

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## *Conservation first!*

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GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION has split the Heritage Conservation Branch. There are now three separate branches, each with its own director and staff.

Dr. Colin Campbell remains director of the Heritage Conservation Branch, but with a considerably reduced mandate—servicing the Trust, developing heritage policy, dealing with municipalities and historic houses.

The new Resource Management Branch looks after all archaeology programs, including impact assessment and inventory, and land-use. Brian Apland is currently Acting Director.

Heritage properties owned by the government will now be handled by the Heritage Property Management Branch.

The Resource Information Centre will expand and become a library servicing the entire ministry.

It's too soon to know whether this is a good plan. Branch staff are cautiously optimistic. Apland sees the change mainly in the internal reporting structure. He says "there won't be any effective change in how we operate." Apland believes that it will be beneficial to B.C. archaeology to bring tourism concerns closer to land-use decisions.

I would feel more comfortable about these changes if they were part of a plan to improve heritage conservation in B.C. Smoother operation is certainly positive, but without sufficient staff and money the job can't be done properly.

Moreover, distancing archaeology programs from heritage conservation demands vigilance. Despite assurances that they will continue to work together, there is no guarantee that the deputy minister in charge of tourism will always see the connection. Making decisions about archaeological sites with an eye on tourism significance is good—but conservation concerns must come first!

\* \* \*

Brian Apland points out that the Heritage Conservation Branch has prepared annual reports regularly, for inclusion in the ministry's report that goes to the auditor general. Reports have not been distributed to the public since cessation of the publication program in 1980. The Resource Information Centre library has the ministry's reports on file. □

- Kathryn Bernick

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## ***Letter to the Editor:***

Re. editorials "Who's Watching the Sites?" (*The Midden* 19:4:1, Oct. 1987) and "HCB Report Long Overdue" (*The Midden* 20:1:1, Feb. 1988)

I have read your editorials with concern and feel I can no longer keep silent. I have been a member of the ASBC for many years and must agree with you wholeheartedly about the sad future of archaeology in our province.

As a previous Regional Advisor to the Heritage Conservation Branch, I am extremely concerned with the government's decision to abolish the Regional Advisor Program. The volunteers through this program were very dedicated and provided needed functions of management and monitoring. I find it difficult to believe that monitoring can be done by government personnel when there are such heavy budget cut-backs. Travelling to different areas alone would be a tremendous expense. Unfortunate

that when cut-backs are done they are usually "people cut-backs"—in this case, cutting out people with a passion for prehistoric archaeology. Departmental restructuring within the Heritage Conservation Branch may also be a large contribution to the disbandment of the Regional Advisor Program.

Although I have not seen the Project Pride Task Force management plan, it appears that the caring has ended with words on paper. Where is the promise of "heritage volunteers," and who is expected to fund these volunteers? Why is there no communication between the ASBC and the Heritage Conservation Branch? Common sense tells us to go to the source of caring and work out a program from there. If members of the ASBC cannot give guidance and assistance, then who can? □

***Carol Dolman  
Kamloops***

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## ***Buffalo George Update***

***by R. Hebda***

THANKS to the rapid and excellent service of the radiocarbon lab at Simon Fraser University, we now know that the bison skull from North Saanich is 11,750 ± 110 radiocarbon years old.

A sample of dense bone, weighing about 77 grams, was removed from the back of the skull adjacent to the brow. This provided lots of collagen for dating.

This age fits extremely well with the results of pollen analysis. The marl that enclosed the skull contains pollen assemblages dominated by pine. Pine zone on the coast usually ends by 11,500 B.P. or so. The assemblage also contains numbers of *Populus* pollen (presumed to be trembling aspen).

*Populus* pollen likely indicates aspen stands, which suggests similarities to extant vegetation in the B.C. Interior (Chilcotin). The climate would have been cold and on the dry side.

R. Hebda and vertebrate paleontologist Marla Weston are preparing a paper about the bison skull find, for publication in a scientific journal. □

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*Dr. Richard Hebda is a paleobotanist at the Royal British Columbia Museum. He named Buffalo George after the backhoe operator who uncovered the skull in North Saanich near Victoria (see The Midden, Vol. 19, No. 4, p. 2).*

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# Chinlac Artifacts

## Give Evidence of Trade

by Mike Cranny

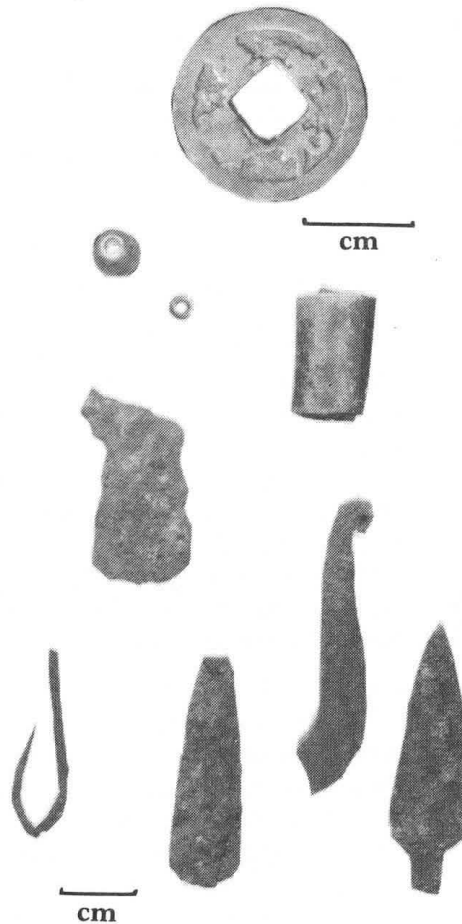
CHARLES BORDEN recovered 30 artifacts of non-native origin when he excavated the Chinlac Village site (GaRv 1) in the early 1950s. Chinlac is a large Carrier site located near the confluence of the Stuart and Nechako rivers in the central interior of British Columbia, approximately 65 km east of Vanderhoof. The collection is interesting because it contains an early Chinese coin, and also because important historic-period indicators such as gun parts, glassware, and porcelain are absent. The artifacts date to the beginning of the fur trade in British Columbia.

There are six artifacts of copper. Four are tubular beads of a kind found elsewhere in the Interior. They range from 2 cm to 5 cm long and are made of ship's copper. Other copper artifacts are a harpoon part and an awl made of tightly wrapped and pounded metal.

The Chinese coin is from the Sung Dynasty and was minted in the twelfth or thirteenth century. Such coins were trade items and were used by the Indians as decorations for costumes and as jewelry.

Some iron artifacts were recovered, including a fishhook or awl made of wire, an awl made of pounded metal, several projectile points, a rusted knife blade, and a portion of a "strike-a-light" (fire steel). Some fragments of badly rusted sheet and bar iron were also found.

Borden found several trade beads including two small, white seed beads, two red Cornaline d'Aleppo beads, and one and one-half blue Venetian beads. It has not been possible to date these beads or to trace their origins with certainty.



UBC Archaeology Lab photos.

This small collection of artifacts is significant in that it represents goods which preceded the white traders into the area. Trade must have occurred between the Carrier and Indian intermediaries to the west, along established aboriginal trade routes. The artifacts probably arrived at Chinlac between 1780 and 1800. □

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Mike Cranny has an MA in anthropology and has done archaeological research in the Chinlac area. He teaches high school in Vanderhoof, B.C.

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# Craigflower Manor

by Yvonne Prudek

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## Prologue

Fiscal year-end at the Heritage Conservation Branch. Result? An archaeology contract is awarded to explore Craigflower Heritage site in Victoria.

## Main event

### Saturday, March 19, 1988

Sandra Zacharias, with Sharon Keen's help, has five days to complete a reconnaissance at the 1850s farm estate. The objective? To see whether the archive photo really is a galley kitchen.

Lines are surveyed in the northwest of the back yard. Two by two metre pits are opened for one by one metre excavation units.

Gorgeous weather brings out friends and curious on-lookers. The first discovery—a brown British stoneware shard from a teapot!

### Sunday, March 20, 1988

Torrential downpours keep all but the hardiest away. The heavy clay content of the topsoil compacts into large egg-shaped balls during screening, making work slow going. A feature begins to emerge. Bricks show, linked to



Finding the first artifact. Left to right: Sharon Keen, Sandra Zacharias, Yvonne Prudek. Craig Barlow photo.

the site by their distinctive manufacture, characteristic holes put in by the Craigflower Farm tile and brick workers.

A school group appears. The children are intrigued...

### Tuesday, March 22, 1988

A chat with the former owner reveals that much disturbance has taken place over the years. The manor's original well and garden, a 1930s sewer pipe, and then, during restoration, underground electrical wiring, a fenced-off corral area, and gravel fill—to name the known disturbances. Prospects look dim for an intact feature.

But the exploration steadily progresses, to reveal a lime mortar and brick feature—the summer kitchen? Branch staff visit the site. Two more days of work are made available.

Meanwhile at night, to the gusts of wind howling outside, artifacts and fragments are identified and sorted. A slice of life of the McKenzie landowners and their community's agricultural exploits emerges.

### Wednesday, March 23, 1988

Relief help appears, to brave the rain that has gathered its force anew. To protect the site, a team of on-site Job Track people erect a stadium sized plank-and-plastic-sheeting frame overhang. More than enough protection!

Tell-tale pieces of history are unearthed. Window glass, brick and mortar cemented fragments, square headed nails and ceramic ware shards. A fleck of bright green catches the eye... Could it be the linoleum the house was known to have?

And a child from the earlier school group returns alone, his interest sufficiently piqued. His articulate questions provide the basis for an understanding of archaeology he will carry into adulthood...

## Epilogue

Full report next *Midden* issue. Stay tuned... □

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ASBC member Yvonne Prudek is currently working at the Royal British Columbia Museum in Victoria.

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## News Bits

### *Society wins honours*

The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society received Environment Canada's 1987 Parks Heritage Award, which recognizes exceptional achievement in promoting Canadian natural and cultural heritage. The S.A.S. was nominated for the award by the Canadian Archaeological Association.

### *Dates meet expectations*

Arcas Associates reports two radiocarbon date estimates for Kamloops Phase components at the *EeQw 30* site near Chase, B.C. The dates,  $970 \pm 50$  B.P. and  $1010 \pm 70$  B.P., come from the bottoms of two pit houses and fit well with the types of projectile points recovered during excavation. Other, later-style points were found above these layers. (See *The Midden* 19:5:3, Dec. 1987.)

### *North Coast gains attention*

The B.C. Heritage Trust awarded \$40,000 to the Museum of Northern British Columbia in Prince Rupert, for an archaeological inventory survey. The study area stretches from the mouth of the Skeena River northward to Portland Inlet and includes some outlying islands. The project will be directed by David Archer and will take place this summer.

### *Bone specialists team up*

Pacific Identifications (Pacific I.D.'s for short) is the latest addition to the list of archaeological consultants in B.C. Susan Crockford, Gay Frederick, and Rebecca Wigen specialize in faunal identification and analysis. The association's address is 4053 Nelthorpe, Victoria, B.C. V8X 2A2. Tel: 479-8894.

## Debitage

The North Coast promises to be awash with archaeologists this summer. In addition to **David Archer's** survey of the Tsimshian area, **Jim Haggarty** is going back to the outlying islands, and **Parks Canada** plans to compile a site inventory for South Moresby . . . The season will be kicked off by the **Heritage Society's** conference in Prince Rupert May 26-29, featuring keynote speaker **Dr. George MacDonald**, Director of the Canadian Museum of Civilization and past director of several archaeological projects in the Prince Rupert-Skeena River area.

\* \* \*

SFU archaeologists will be on the move—field school students will excavate in rotation at sites in the Bella Coola valley, Keatley Creek, and the Gulf Islands . . . **Roy Carlson** is going to China to teach Chinese archaeology, in English, to SFU students who can afford to enroll in a cultural

studies abroad program . . . At UBC they're less adventurous. **Gary Coupland** will hold another field school dig at the Point Grey site, in July and August.

\* \* \*

If the fiscal and political problems can be sorted out, **Seattle** will have a downtown park square paved with coloured granite tiles in a Salish basket design . . . An attraction on this side of the border is a newly found seated human figure bowl that will be on display at the **Sechelt Museum** . . . In a bid to boost circulation and curb rising costs, **Canadian Heritage** magazine has cut back to four issues a year and shifted its focus from buildings to people . . . In Alberta, publishing continues as usual. The **Archaeological Survey of Alberta's** latest offering *Archaeology in Alberta 1986* compiled by Martin Magne, is available from the ASC, 8820-112 St., Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2P8.

# Kitsumkalum Survey

## Initial Results

by David J. W. Archer

IN THE SUMMER OF 1986 the Kitsumkalum Indian Band sponsored the first intensive archaeological survey of their traditional homeland along the lower Skeena River. The principal aim of the project was to gather data for a study of Kitsumkalum settlement patterns. Although the survey is not yet complete, the work thus far has been highly successful. Thirty new sites have been located, mapped, and described, and the total number of recorded sites in the study area now stands at 47. There are plans to continue the fieldwork when funds become available—in the meantime analysis of the existing site inventory is underway.

At this stage in the proceedings, an attempt is being made to flesh out the archaeological record using ethnographic fieldnotes collected in the 1920s by anthropologists Marius Barbeau and William Beynon. Included in the Barbeau-Beynon notes are references to a number of Kitsumkalum villages and campsites, and the object is to match these up, where possible, with the recorded archaeological sites. In some cases, a positive identification can be readily made; in others, the inferred connections are only "more-or-less" plausible.

### The Study Area

The study area for the project coincides with the watershed of the Kitsumkalum River. The

Kitsumkalum, with a catchment area of about 2,175 km<sup>2</sup>, is one of the larger tributaries of the Skeena River. It rises in the mountains on the north side of the Skeena, flows eastward as far as Kitsumkalum Lake, and then swings south joining the Skeena a few kilometers below the town of Terrace. Prince Rupert, the other significant population centre in the area, is on the coast, 120 km west of the Kitsumkalum Valley.

With Kitsumkalum Lake occupying the centre of the valley, the river is divided naturally into two segments. Above the lake, the river is a small stream with a braided course, and the land along its banks is generally wet and boggy. From Kitsumkalum Lake down to the Skeena, the river is much larger with extensive areas of flat, well-drained land along its banks. Game animals, including mule deer, moose, black bear, and various small furbearers, have a wide distribution throughout the valley; the same is true for many of the important plant resources. Salmon and steelhead, however, have their highest concentrations in the river below Kitsumkalum Lake.

Until well into the nineteenth century, the valley was the exclusive territory of the Kitsumkalum tribe—one of the Coast Tsimshian speaking groups. The principal village of the Kitsumkalum was in a canyon on the lower part

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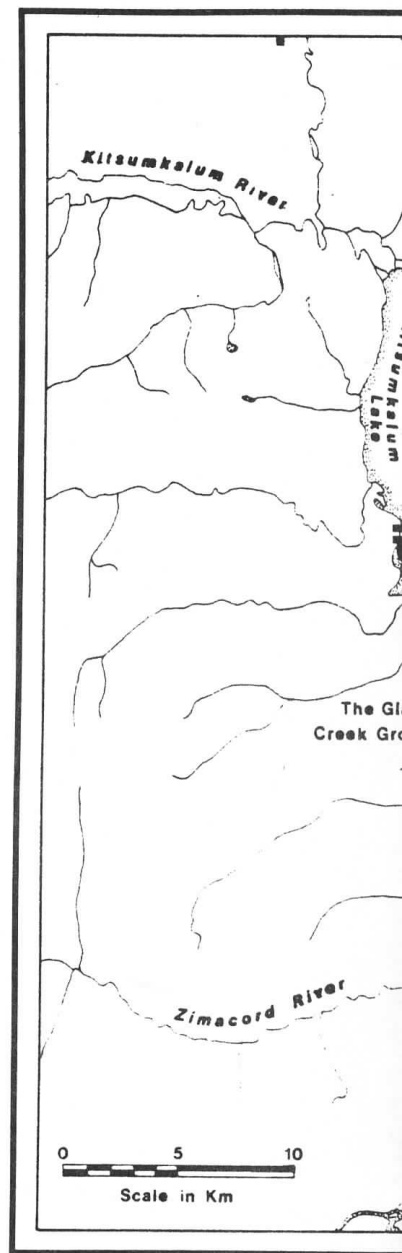
Until well into the nineteenth century, the valley was the exclusive territory of the Kitsumkalum tribe—one of the Coast Tsimshian speaking groups. The principal village of the Kitsumkalum was in a canyon on the lower part

of the river about 17 km below Kitsumkalum Lake. The name Kitsumkalum, which means "people of the ridges" refers to the distinctive physiography of the canyon with terraces and steep rock walls.

In pre-contact times, the Kitsumkalum followed a well-regulated annual round of economic activities. Summer was spent fishing for salmon and gathering berries and other plant foods, and at this time the group was dispersed, some families using the fishing stations in the canyon, others establishing temporary camps at other productive fishing places along the banks of the Kitsumkalum River. During the fall, hunting and trapping were the dominant activities. Family units operated out of small camps located in all parts of the valley. With the onset of winter, people returned to the canyon village, and for the next several months lived mainly off their stocks of preserved salmon and other foods.

The size of the canyon community in pre-contact times can only be estimated, as there are no accurate census figures. Based on the number of families named in the Barbeau-Beynon notes, a population of 400-600 is probably not too far off the mark.

Changes in the traditional Kitsumkalum settlement pattern probably began soon after European contact in the late 1700s. Introduced

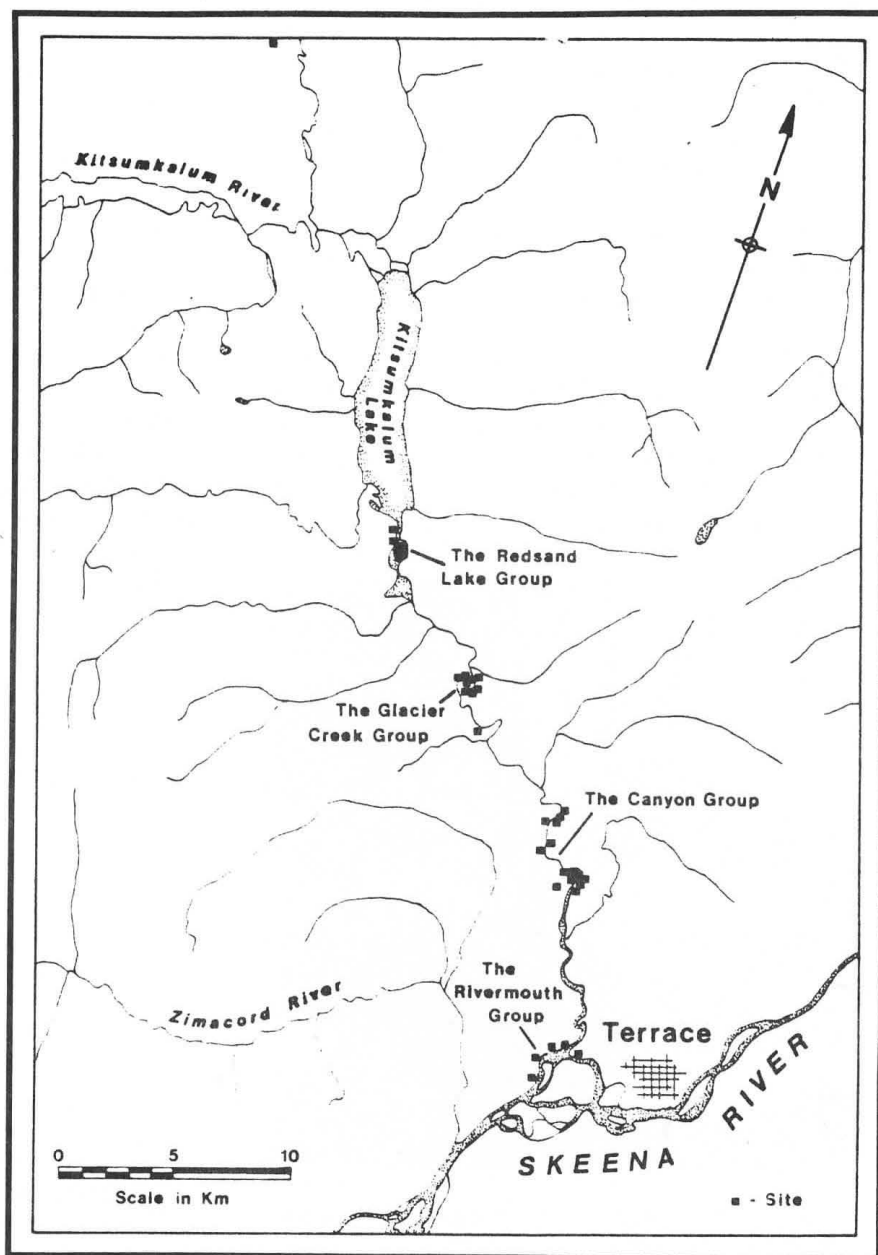


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diseases resulted in a severe population decline, and the presence of European traders on the coast led to a reorganization of the economy so as to place a greater emphasis on fur trapping and wage labour at the expense of other activities. By the mid-1800s many of the Kitsumkalum families had moved from the canyon village to a new village at the mouth of the Kitsumkalum River. By the early 1900s this too was virtually abandoned as people moved down to the coast to work in the newly established salmon fishing and canning industry. At the same time, European settlers and prospectors were arriving in significant numbers. For many, the rich Kitsumkalum Valley was an attractive destination.

On a happier note, in the early 1960s Kitsumkalum families began to move back to their traditional territory, and there is now a flourishing modern community at the mouth of the Kitsumkalum River.

### Survey Methodology

In the summer of 1986, a crew of four began a systematic archaeological survey of the Kitsumkalum Valley. The crew consisted of myself, Don Sankey of the Lax Kw'alaams Band, and Karen Bolton and Theresa Bolton, both of the Kitsumkalum Band. Work began on June 23 and continued through to August 27, giving us a total of nine weeks in the field. In 1987 I returned to the valley briefly, with two



*Don Sankey measures a cache pit in Glacier Creek area. D. Archer photo.*

volunteer helpers, for an additional week of fieldwork. The survey was funded by the British Columbia Heritage Trust and the Employment Development Branch of Employment and Immigration Canada. Logistical support was provided by the Museum of Northern B.C. in Prince Rupert.

The survey was carried out on foot, using a transect method to ensure that areas were examined thoroughly. Crew members walked parallel to one another, spaced about 10 m apart. As they walked along they searched for stone artifacts and other prehistoric debris; cultural depressions such as housepits and cache pits; carvings and paintings on rock outcrops; trees that show scars from bark-stripping, plank removal, and other forms of native woodworking; concentrations of bottles, cans, and other early historic debris; and log cabins and other historic structures. In areas that seemed to have a high potential for sites, small shovel holes were dug to a depth of 30-40 cm to check for the presence of buried cultural material. The transects walked by the crew were parallel to the riverbanks and lakeshore, and the coverage generally extended to 40 m from the water's edge.

### Results

The survey to date has been confined to the lower Kitsumkalum Valley between the south end of Kitsumkalum Lake and the mouth of the Kitsumkalum River. Almost all of the river bank and lakeshore areas in this section of the valley have now been thoroughly checked. The principal area that still needs attention is the canyon where the main Kitsumkalum Village was located. A cursory examination of this area showed a remarkable density of cultural features. There are several distinct habitation areas as well as dozens, if not hundreds, of scattered storage pits and bark-stripped cedar trees. Had we taken the time to map and describe all of these, very little else would have been accomplished. It was therefore decided to carry on with the rest of the lower valley and leave detailed recording of the canyon sites for another season.

In the areas surveyed, 30 new sites were found. This represents a significant increase in our knowledge of the local archaeology. Previous investigations in the Kitsumkalum Valley had identified only 17 sites. The types of sites that make up the newly expanded inventory can be seen in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

**Native Indian Sites  
in the Kitsumkalum Valley**

Site Type	No.	%
Village site	5	13.5
Campsite	14	37.8
Cache pit site	9	24.3
Culturally modified tree site	8	21.6
Pebble tool site	1	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>99.9</b>

The native occupation of the valley is represented by the sites in Table 1. In the classification, two types of settlements are recognized: villages and campsites. Village sites are relatively large and show signs of permanent occupation. A good example is *GdTe 3* located on the right bank of the Skeena just below the mouth of the Kitsumkalum River. The site measures 155 x 50 m and has at least 12 rectangular house outlines arranged in two rows. Campsites are generally smaller than villages, and the surface indications point to temporary occupation. A campsite on the shores of Redsand Lake measures 40 x 27 m and includes one small, circular house depression.

Cache pits are found at some of the villages and campsites. There are also sites that were apparently used exclusively as food storage areas. Storage pits are circular in outline and range from less than 1 m to more than 2 m in diameter. There are some sites with only one cache pit and others with multiple cache pits.

The culturally modified tree sites found in the valley are places where cedar bark was gathered. Again, there are some sites with only one culturally modified tree and others with many.

The one pebble tool site listed in the inventory is located on a high river terrace overlooking Kitsumkalum Canyon. Finds from the site include a few pebble choppers and cortex spall tools. Whether this assemblage represents a very ancient occupation or some specialized activity remains uncertain.

Looking at the distribution of these sites, the most striking characteristic is that they occur in fairly well-defined groups. As shown on the map, there are four distinct groups between Kitsumkalum Lake and the mouth of the Kitsumkalum River.

The Redsand Lake group, located a few kilometres south of Kitsumkalum Lake, comprises seven sites. Four of these are campsites, the rest are cache pit sites. In all, there are 37 cache pits among the sites in this group. The evidence suggests that this was an area that was used seasonally by a small group of people, perhaps one extended family.

In the ethnographic notes collected by Barbeau and Beynon, there are no references to a settlement at this location. They do, however, mention that the Kitsumkalum had always been on good terms with the Gispaxlots, one of the other Coast Tsimshian tribes, and that on the strength of this the Gispaxlots were given the privilege of fishing and picking berries in the vicinity of Kitsumkalum Lake.

Is it possible that the Redsand Lake sites are the sites used by the Gispaxlots? If so, one would expect them to stand out in some way (being the sites of a different tribe). Indeed, this is the case. The main campsite at Redsand Lake features a small circular house depression—the only one of its kind in the valley. The cache pits at Redsand Lake are also distinctive—they are noticeably

Table 2

**Early Pioneer Sites  
in the Kitsumkalum Valley**

Site Type	No.	%
Log cabin	4	40.0
Wooden frame building	1	10.0
Wooden tower	1	10.0
Wooden bridge	1	10.0
Mine	1	10.0
Telegraph trail	1	10.0
Grave site	1	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0</b>

smaller than cache pits found elsewhere. The evidence is certainly not conclusive, but it does suggest an avenue of research worth pursuing.

About 6 km south of Redsand Lake we come to the Glacier Creek group. Here there are eight sites including two campsites, five cache pit sites, and one culturally modified tree site. The importance of the locality is reflected in the fact that 116 cache pits were found among the sites in the area. The two recorded campsites are,



nevertheless, small and probably represent seasonal use by one or two extended families.

In the notes of Barbeau and Beynon there are several references to a settlement called Gitxandakt. Its location is vague, but the context suggests that it was somewhere on the Lower Kitsumkalum River between Redsand Lake and the canyon. Only the sites in the Glacier Creek locality fit the description. Informants quoted by the ethnographers state that Gitxandakt was once an important settlement with at least one plank house and a totem pole carved to represent the scratches made by the claws of a mythical bear.

About 7 km below the sites at Glacier Creek, the river begins its approach to the canyon. Within the steep-walled canyon itself there are eight recorded sites: three village sites, four campsites, and one pebble tool site. In the areas peripheral to the canyon, both above and below, there are another eight sites: seven are culturally modified tree sites and one is a cache pit site. The large number of sites in this locality reflects the intensity with which the area was used in the past—moreover, as already noted, the current inventory is by no means complete.

A detailed analysis of the canyon sites in relation to the ethnographic record will have to wait for the results of a full survey. However, one of the recorded sites can be readily identified. *GdTd 7*, a large site located at the south end of the canyon, is undoubtedly Dalkka-gila-quooux, which means "village of the robins." Tradition states that this was the original settlement of the Kitsumkalum, and that

it was founded by Neesrael, an eagle chief from the Nass River area.

The final group of sites is located at the mouth of the Kitsumkalum River about 7 km below the canyon. There are five sites in the river mouth group: two village sites and three campsites. Most of these have been damaged or destroyed by road and railway construction and by natural erosion. One of the village sites is the historic village of the Kitsumkalum established in the nineteenth century. It is now completely gone. The other village site is known to have been occupied from late prehistoric to early historic times, but there are no references to it in the ethnographic notes. The three campsites in the group probably represent fishing stations. Again, no references to these could be found in the Kitsumkalum notes.

### Conclusion

This article is a glimpse of a work in progress. It shows how well the archaeological and ethnographic data from the area fit together, and how fruitful it can be to consider both when trying to analyze prehistoric patterns of settlement. At its best, the ethnographic record not only helps to humanize the archaeology, but also provides insights that could not be gained in any other way. □

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*ASBC member David Archer is a Ph.D. candidate in Archaeology at the University of Calgary. He's been actively involved in Northwest Coast archaeology for the past twenty years.*

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## Shipwrecks 88

The Underwater Archaeological Society of British Columbia is holding its third annual symposium at the Vancouver Maritime Museum, April 30 and May 1, 1988. The program features presentations on B.C. marine history, dinner with a guest speaker, and a dive to Vancouver area wrecks. For further information phone 987-9639 or 734-2602.

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# Book Reviews:

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## *A useful reference*

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**Bricks and Brickmaking: A Handbook for Historical Archaeology** by Karl Gurcke. Univ. of Idaho Press, Moscow, Idaho. 1987. 326 pp., ill., bibl., index. US\$16.95 (paper).

*TOO OFTEN*, bricks in historic sites seem to be large, awkward objects that tell us little about the people who made them, used them, and left them behind. Karl Gurcke's **Bricks and Brickmaking** is a commendable first step toward changing that situation.

Gurcke focuses on the technology of brickmaking. There are detailed discussions of different methods of hand-molding, and of the development of machine-molding during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Great Britain and the United States. Different manufacturing techniques leave characteristic marks on the brick, and these are discussed and illustrated in what, for the archaeologist, may be the most important section of the book.

In addition, there is an extensive appendix listing brick brands, and a rather patchy chapter on the history of brickmaking in the Pacific Northwest. Much to Gurcke's credit, both include information on bricks made in British Columbia.

The greatest weakness of the book is that it is largely descriptive. Although Gurcke occasionally suggests that differences in brickmaking methods may be due to economic concerns, this information is not presented in any systematic fashion.

Part of Gurcke's research was in modern brickyards that still use some traditional methods, and it is unfortunate that he did not use the opportunity to ask about the relative advantages and disadvantages of different techniques, including their sales potential. It is, ultimately, this kind of information which will be of greatest use to archaeologists who must interpret a few broken, plain red bricks from a

site that is, at best, poorly documented historically.

The same information might, also, have increased the appeal of the book for an audience of lay people with an interest in technology and an eye for their own surroundings.

Even without this information, however, **Bricks and Brickmaking** will prove a useful reference for historical archaeologists working in the Pacific Northwest, or indeed, in other areas of the New World. □

- Gayel A. Horsfall

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*ASBC member Gayel Horsfall is an archaeologist and a Ph.D. candidate in History at UBC.*

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## *Four families of fishes*

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**Marine Fish Osteology: A Manual for Archaeologists** by Debbi Yee Cannon. Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. 1987. Publication No. 18. 133 pp., ill., bibl. \$12.00

*DEBBI YEE CANNON'S Marine Fish Osteology: A Manual for Archaeologists* is a significant contribution to the study and identification of archaeological fish remains. The detailed drawings of virtually all skeletal elements, from selected fish, will aid in the identification of a wider range of fish elements than is usually attempted in faunal analysis. More complete identifications will provide more useful quantitative and comparative data, and allow more confident statements to be made about the nature of fish remains found in archaeological contexts.

This finely illustrated manual presents drawings of skeletal elements from four of the most common families of marine fish in the northern

hemisphere: Salmonidae (Pacific and Atlantic salmon), Gadidae (cods), Scorpaenidae (rockfish), and Pleuronectidae (halibut, representing flatfish). Each bone element is drawn separately and organized according to anatomical origin.

The author states that the manual is of interest primarily to experienced fish bone analysts and students of fish osteology. It is intended to supplement, not to replace, comparative collections. In the field, the manual will help the preliminary sorting of remains to the family level of identification, and in the laboratory, with a good comparative collection, provide identification for a wider range of elements than has usually been attempted by most faunal analysts. This manual will also help in the preparation of comparative collections and in the accurate labelling of elements.

Without a comparative collection, this manual may be a bit difficult to use, especially for individuals with limited experience. Although identification of a particular anatomical element is greatly aided by this manual, the presentation of bones by species, rather than by element, requires flipping back and forth between the illustrations, making identification time consuming. Since only four families are illustrated, some important local species are not represented. For example, smelts, herring, and other small food fish are not included. These reservations aside, the manual will be invaluable to individuals analyzing fish remains from archaeological sites. □

- Ann Stevenson

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ASBC member Ann Stevenson is an archaeologist with experience doing faunal analysis.

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## LOOK FOR / Articles:

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*Archaeology and the Ethics of Collecting*, by Arlen F. Chase, Diane Z. Chase, and Harriot W. Topsey, in the January/February 1988 issue of **Archaeology** magazine (pp.56ff). The essay discusses the difference between collecting artifacts and collecting data, and the responsibilities of archaeologists to publish their findings.

J.V. Wright's explanation of his role as archaeological editor of the *Historical Atlas of Canada* (Univ. of Toronto Press, 1986), including the process of peer consultation, the exigencies of preparing a first-time ever synthesis, and the requirements defined by the publication project. In **Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada**, series 5, vol.1. Reprinted in the Ontario Archaeological Society's newsletter **Arch Notes**, January/February 1988, pp.16-19.

*AMS Dating of Two Wooden Artifacts from the Northwest Coast*, by K.R. Fladmark, E.E. Nelson, T.A. Brown, J.S. Vogel, and J.R. Southon. In the **Canadian Journal of Archaeology**, vol.11 (1987), pp.1-12. The article reports recently obtained radiocarbon date estimates for the Skagit River atlatl ( $1700 \pm 100$  B.P.), and for a carved wooden club ( $1000 \pm 130$  B.P.).

Also in vol.11 (1987) of the **Canadian Journal of Archaeology** (pp.119-142), *Prey as Bait: the Deep Bay Example* by Gregory G. Monks. The paper is about a non-specialized subsistence strategy where people took advantage of predatory relationships in the food chain; based on research at the Deep Bay site on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

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# CAA Conference Highlights

PROGRAM PLANS for the Canadian Archaeological Association's conference at Whistler (May 12-14, 1988) are coming along smoothly, according to program organizer Jon Driver. The financial arrangements are still bumpy, however. The B.C. Heritage Trust awarded the ASBC \$2,000 (considerably less than requested) to help defray conference expenses. The CAA is contributing \$2,000 to the local organizers, who are expected to raise their own funding.

Those interested in B.C. archaeology will find something scheduled for each day of the conference. And, in addition to the usual sessions of presented papers, there will be three workshops: archaeological dating methods, how to plan a conference, and fur trade archaeology.

Plenary sessions include a Thursday evening forum on archaeological legislation and policy, and on Friday afternoon a speakers panel on archaeology, economics, and cultural tourism.

The ASBC is sponsoring a no-host bar on Friday evening to tide people over between the CAA business meeting and the banquet. On Sunday, May 15, the ASBC has organized two field trips. One is to rock art sites in Nanaimo and Gabriola Island. The second, to the Lillooet area and the Fraser Canyon, will be led by Dr. David Pokotylo. The field trips cost \$35 each and require advance registration.

For further information on conference registration contact Jon Driver, Dept. of Archaeology, SFU, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6. Tel: 291-4182. □

## Dig finds large midden

*THE SITE AT TSAWWASSEN (DgRs 2)* tested by Arcas Associates in February, appears to be one of the largest intact middens in the Lower Mainland. Its age is not known, though the results of three samples sent in for radiocarbon dating are expected any day.

About 125 artifacts and numerous faunal remains were recovered by screening 10% of the fill from two backhoe trenches. The artifacts are mainly bone implements (including harpoons) and ground slate.

Undisturbed cultural deposits extend at least one metre below the surface and include house floors and dump areas. There are also intact mounds at the site. One, which was tested, contains burials.

Analysis of the material is underway.

Arcas partner Arnoud Stryd calls the project "successful". He extends his thanks to ASBC volunteers who helped field director Geordie Howe and the Arcas crew.

Stryd told *The Midden* that he will recommend salvage excavations at the site if highway design plans are not altered. □

## Discovery Day

The B.C. Museum of Mining at Britannia Beach, north of Horseshoe Bay, celebrates the centennial of copper ore discovery at Britannia with special Discovery Day events on Saturday, May 14, 1988. Highlights include drilling demonstrations, children's games, a miner's breakfast, and free admission to the museum. For more information call 688-8735.



CAA Conference  
The Midden  
P.O. Box 520  
Station A  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6C 2N3

Large midden  
Dig finds

Discovery Day