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e d i t o r i a l

Should A.S.A.B. Disappear?

So far it's only a rumor, but the suggestion that the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board may be reduced or eliminated in favor of some form of "superboard" should cause concern.

The way the rumor goes, all B. C. Government boards will soon be re-aligned. In one version, ASAB and the Historic Sites board would disappear, swallowed up into a new Heritage Board.

This would presumably mean that the new Board would have to be equally concerned with such big-dollar tourist attractions as Fort Steele, and with complex, obscure pits full of millenia-old spall-tools. That diversity of interest and loyalty might be difficult.

In addition, now that Archaeology has been moved from the Provincial Secretary's department to Recreation and Conservation, we have a minister whose enthusiasm for Archaeology remains untested. (Of course Mr. Bawlf's enthusiasm for heritage buildings is well known and is encouraging, but that may be all the more cause to worry that Archaeology could get overlooked!)

The danger in substituting a Heritage Board for ASAB, or even parachuting in a new "superboard" over top of ASAB, is that Archaeology could get lost in the shuffle. We hope the government, which has created exemplary archaeological legislation and an excellent staff to uphold it, does not now undermine all this good work by reducing ASAB's authority or voice.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 1976 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS AT CRESCENT BEACH. (DgRr:l)

By Andrew A. Trace
Simon Fraser University

This is a report on DgRr:l, better known as Crescent Beach for the 1976 field season and a few notes on the current research being conducted at the site by the author in association with Mr. George Will of U.B.C.

During the 1976 field season we were forced to perform a salvage archaeological project at the Crescent Beach site (DgRr:l) located in the municipality of Surrey, B.C. This project was concerned primarily with the salvage of archaeological material from the Crescent Beach site (DgRr:l) threatened by a drainage ditch which was excavated by the municipality of Surrey in the fall of last year. The Field Director of the dig was Leonard C. Ham of U.B.C. and the staff consisted of Greg Monk, Sherill Kautz, Valerie Patenaude, Sheila Robinson, and myself, Andrew A. Trace. The volunteer coordinator for the dig was Jim Garrison, whose many hours of hard work helped to make this dig the success it was. The primary funding agency for the dig was the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board but some additional funding was obtained from the Archaeological Society of British Columbia, U.B.C., and S.F.U. The field work began on June 15, 1976 and was finished at the end of August.

The site is located on the eastern shore of Mud Bay and Boundary Bay at the mouth of the Nicomekl River and so is consequently in the historic territory of the Semiahmoo Band of Coast Salish. The actual extent of the excavations will be discussed later in this report.

The 1976 Field Project had two main objectives. The first was the salvaging of archaeological materials in the vicinity of the Great Northern right of way where the Municipality of Surrey planned on excavating a series of drainage ditches. The second objective was concerned with the reconnaissance of the remainder of the site to determine the nature of archaeological deposits in other areas. This portion of the project was to allow an overall research plan to be devised for the area which is faced with potential destruction in the future. As I was not involved with that portion of the project, I will confine this report to the salvage operations entirely.

As the excavations were located very close to the area salvaged by Percy (1974;3), we had assumed that the deposits recovered would be very similar in nature to those of the earlier work. Since we had assumed that the cultural components recovered would be similar, it was our intention to carry out investigations related to answering questions concerning the development of Gulf of Georgia culture from approximately 5500 to 1500 B.P. This opportunity was somewhat unique as not many archaeologists get to work on problems of cultural process without first expending considerable effort in delineating the cultural history.

The proposed analysis was concerned with testing the applicability and closeness of fit of some of the different models which have been proposed by various researchers in this area for the development of Northwest Coast

cultures to the cultural sequence at this part of DgRr:1 I proposed to examine the archaeological model from DgRr:1 under the following framework:

- H₀: Component 1 evolved into Component 2 which evolved into Component 3.
- H₁: Component 1 did not evolve into Component 2 which evolved into Component 3.
- H₂: Component 1 evolved into Component 2 which did not evolve into Component 3.
- H₃: Component 1 did not evolve into Component 2 which did not evolve into Component 3.

I feel that this analytical framework may be operationalized by examining the degree of variance found within each component as well as between components in the overall artifactual assemblage and of the particular traits which comprise that assemblage. This analysis is presently being conducted by myself at Simon Fraser University under the guidance of Dr. Roy Carlson. The analysis of the human burials is being carried out by Owen Beattie, a fellow graduate student at Simon Fraser University.

To best facilitate the research design above it was necessary to obtain a large judgemental sample using a trenching pattern of excavation. This trench consisted of 1.5 X 1.5 metre excavation units placed end to end and followed the line of the proposed municipal trench. At first, alternate excavation units were removed leaving 1.5 metre bulks between them but these intervening units were removed as soon as detailed profiles were drawn of their north and south walls. All excavated material was screened using 3/16 inch screens.

In order to ensure that the material was recovered within the demands of the research design, it was decided to excavate using combined arbitrary 10 cm. levels and natural levels by trowel. This was implemented by establishing an Arbitrary Datum Plane 10 metres below the top of our Main Datum peg, and excavating from Arbitrary Level 100 down in 10 cm. levels toward Level 1. These Arbitrary Levels were dug in conjunction with the natural levels of the site by lettering these strata as they occurred starting with "A" and going towards "Z". Where more than one natural layer occurred in one Arbitrary Level they were referred to as eg. 99A and 99B or 98A and 98B, etc. The natural layers were dug until the bottom of the Arbitrary Level occurred and a separate level bag was kept for each natural layer within each Arbitrary Level. Where a natural layer extended into a lower arbitrary level, a separate level bag was kept for it as well as separate level notes.

These excavations are closely tied into the previous excavations' permanent Datum Point. The centre of two manhole covers was used by Percy in 1972 to establish his permanent Baseline and our excavations are 7 degrees West off of a parallel Base Line to these two manhole covers. The first manhole cover is in front of 2656 Bayview St. and the second manhole cover is in front of 2606 Bayview St. which is on the corner of Bayview St. and McBride Ave. (Figure 1, p. 3a, and Ham and Broderick n.d., p.3)

Our centre line was the centre line of the proposed drainageditch on the west side of the railway tracks, but in order to prevent confusion, we decided not to measure .75 metre west and .75 metre east of the centre of the

trench and have instead arbitrarily decided that for the purposes of recording, we will call the .75 East line of stakes West 0.0 M. This means that the east side of the trench is called W 0.0M and the west side of the trench is called W 1.5M. Excavation Unit 1 starts at 6 metres south of the Main Datum and goes to 7.5 metres south. This pattern is continued until the southern extent of the trench is reached at 24 metres south. This is the southern wall of Excavation Unit 12. There is one more unit farther south than this, E.U. 13, but it remained unexcavated because of the very shallow nature of the cultural deposits at this end of the trench. Instead we added two further Units to the north E.U.I. These were labelled Excavation Units 14 and 15, respectively. This made the northern extent of the trench 3 metres south of the Main Datum. Datum pegs were surveyed in to the east of every second Unit down the entire length of the trench and their elevations above the Datum Plane discussed earlier may be seen in the table below:

<u>Excavation Unit Coordinates</u>	<u>Referred to as :</u>	<u>Datum Elevation</u>
WO.0M-W1.5M, S6.0M-S7.5M	E.U. 1	10.10M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S7.5M-S9.0M	E.U. 2	.
WO.0M-W1.5M, S9.0M-S10.5M	E.U. 3	10.10M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S10.5M-S12.0M	E.U. 4	
WO.0M-W1.5M, S12.0M-S13.5M	E.U. 5	9.80M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S13.5M-S15.0M	E.U. 6	
WO.0M-W1.5M, S15.0M-S17.5M	E.U. 7	9.40M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S17.5M-S18.0M	E.U. 8	
WO.0M-W1.5M, S18.0M-S19.5M	E.U. 9	9.40M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S19.5M-S21.0M	E.U. 10	
WO.0M-W1.5M, S21.0M-S22.5M	E.U. 11	9.20M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S22.5M-S24.0M	E.U. 12	
WO.0M-W1.5M, S24.0M-S25.5M	E.U. 13	9.20M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S4.5M-S6.0M	E.U. 14	10.10M
WO.0M-W1.5M, S3.0M-S4.5M	E.U. 15	10.27M

The depth of the cultural deposits in each Excavation Unit varied considerably but in the main the deposits were deeper at the northern end of the trench than they were at the southern end. I believe that this is due to the fact that we were excavating on the south-west fringe of the midden deposits. Due to this fact also, our cultural deposits are on the whole shallower in depth and extent than those encountered in the 1972 excavation.

The stratigraphy of the site is relatively simple at the southern end of the trench but gets progressively complex the farther north one proceeds. Overlying the entire trench was a litter mat composed for the most part of common grass and general underbrush which had to be carefully removed before any excavation could begin. The first natural stratum encountered was what we called N.S. A. This is a dark brown matrix containing a degree of sand, humus, and clay. The Munsell color is 5YR 2.5/2. It is relatively hard packed and contains a moderate amount of fire cracked rock. It also contains a large amount of flake detritus and almost no shell. The historic horizon seems to end with the root zone. The natural stratum exists in all the pits excavated but varies in depth.

The second natural stratum encountered appears to be a variation of the first. We referred to it as N.S. A1 as it is generally the same as N.S. A.

1977 Excavations approximately 22M. North of Datum B

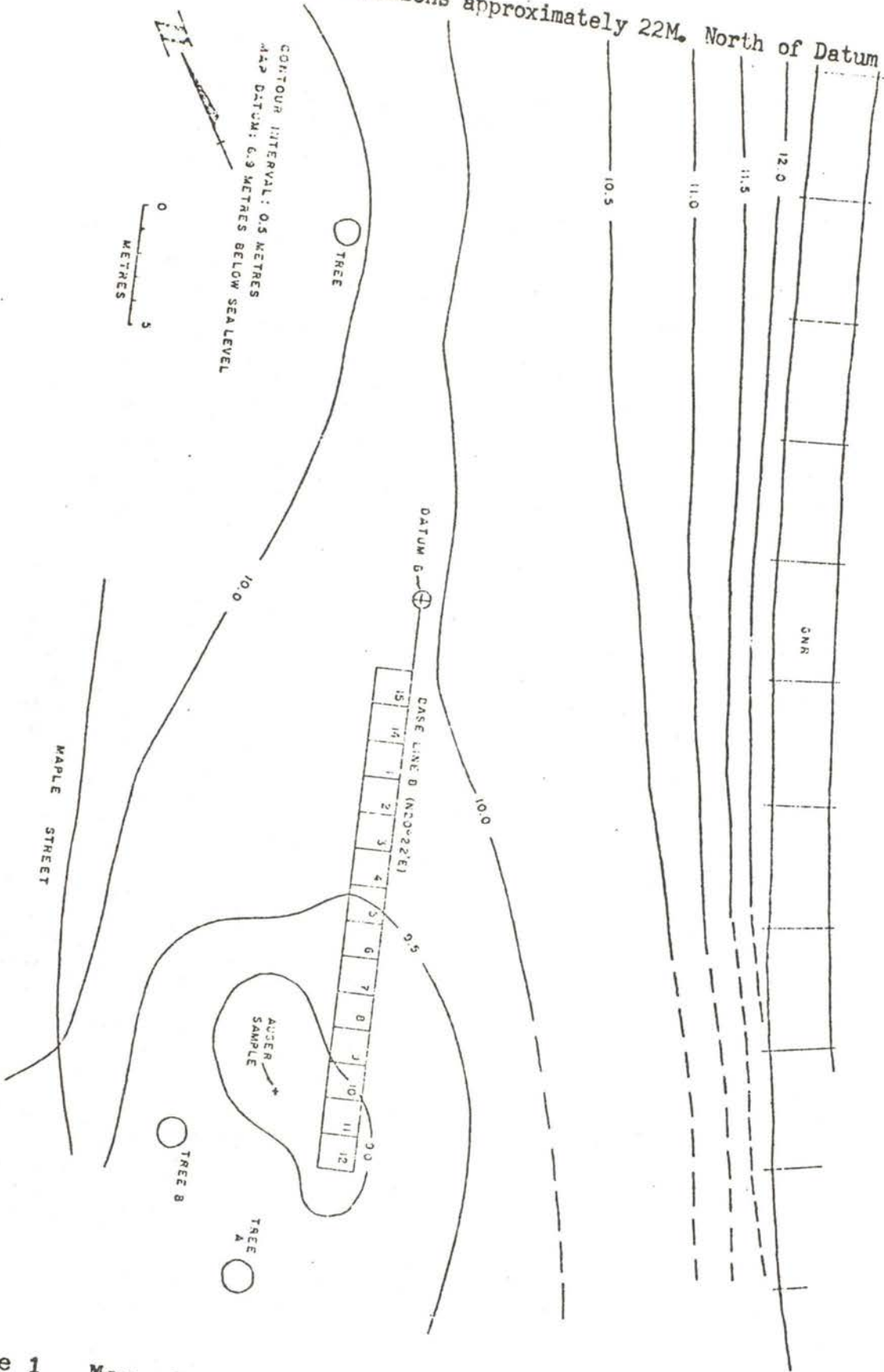


Figure 1 Map of 1976 Salvage Excavations (DgRr: 1)

but contains a high percentage of moderate to large pebbles. It contains more fire cracked rock than N.S. A generally and is slightly blacker, sandier and looser in composition than N.S. A. The Munsell color of this stratum varies throughout the trench but generally lies between 7.5YR 3/2 and 5YR 2.5/1. No clear demarcation line between the two strata was encountered in the field. This strata cannot be detected in every Unit excavated but is present in most of them.

The third natural stratum was called N.S. B for the sake of continuity. This is a distinctly different stratum from overlying stratum A and A1. It generally consists of finely crushed mussel shell in a 50% mix with some dark brown soil. Also present within this matrix are some remains of barnacle and clam. The shell is not burnt and contains a moderate amount of preserved bone, mostly fish remains but some land mammals were detected. The texture is very loose and due to the nature of this strata no Munsell color number could be assigned to it. Within this strata, in some of the pits were small lenses of firmly packed silty sand. This material is orange-brown in color and is considered essentially sterile since there were no artifacts recovered from it, no shell present in it and no preserved bone. This material is referred to in the field notes as N.S. B1 for the sake of simplicity.

Our next major distinction in the strata at this site is N.S. C. This is a black, fairly greasy soil with some fire cracked rock and some very finely crushed shell, thinly spread throughout it. It also contains the odd large fragment of clam shell. The texture is firm and the strata generally tends to contain a small amount of flake detritus. There is a small amount of preserved bone within it. This N.S. C lies both over and under N.S. B in places in E.U. 3 and is fairly thin under N.S. B in E.U. 5. I believe that it could possibly be a charcoal stain that is leaching out of N.S. B. The Munsell color assigned to this material was 5YR2.5/1. This material is somewhat blacker than the pebbly sandy matrix that underlies it is some of the pits.

The material being alluded to above is what we decided to label N.S. D. The transition from N.S. C to N.S. D is often difficult to see since it is basically a change in texture and degree of compactness of soil. The color is slightly lighter than that of N.S. C. The strata varies from being very sandy in nature to quite black and containing a lot of rocks. It contains some faunal remains, mostly fish. It also contains a moderate amount of flake detritus and a low percentage of shell as well as a small relative amount of preserved bone. The Munsell color assigned to it is 5YR2.5/1.

When excavating N.S. D, a point is reached where gradually the amount of shell present increases quite substantially. This has been named N.S. D1 to distinguish it from N.S. D. This strata may be defined as a dark brown/black matrix and a high percentage of crushed shell alternately intermingling. Lenses of both are too sparse and inconsistent in E.U. 5 to separate but an attempt was made in E.U. 3 to separate it into N.S. D1 and D2. This was done because N.S. D1 was almost all burned and crushed shell here and the thin dark sandy lens underneath it could be separately discerned.

Following the previous strata in the northern end of the trench and appearing much earlier in the southern end of the trench is what is called

N.S. E. This is a stratum of sand, light tan in color, loose in consistency and not containing many artifacts. It does not contain very much fire cracked rock or preserved faunal materials. There are only a few fish remains and a few mammal bones present. A moderate amount of pebbles are present and a few very thin carbon stained lenses exist within it. The Munsell color for it is 10YR3/2.

Immediately below N.S. E is a dark brown sand/silt matrix that contains some crushed shell. This layer is only 1-2 cm. thick in E.U. 5. For ease of distinction with the sandy matrix above it, we called it N.S. F. It contains a small amount of fire cracked rock and a small amount of flake detritus. There is a low percentage of shell present and it contains some preserved fish remains. The Munsell color is 5YR2.5/1.

Underneath N.S. F may be found a strata known as N.S. Fl. This strata is very similar to N.S. E in composition except that it contains some large pebbles and some large shell fragments. Usually N.S. F is above it and N.S. Fl is found below it.

This N.S. Fl is basically a living floor stratum. It is a very narrow dark, greasy stratum usually located below N.S. E'. It is an extensively carbon stained layer of sand and consequently a carbon sample was obtained from it for dating purposes. The Munsell Color is the same for all the carbon stained layers of sand that are present in the N.S. E type matrix which exists below N.S. D1 in this trench.

Underlying N.S. Fl is a sandy matrix which is much the same as N.S. E1 referred to earlier, except for the fact that it contains many more pebbles of generally smaller size than N.S. E1. Below this in some of the pits are a few more layers of these beach deposits composed of alternating layers of beach sand and thin lenses of carbon stained layers that contained nothing of note during the course of excavation. It is my current opinion that these are nothing more than beach deposits laid down quite naturally and any cultural remains which are present are merely a series of poor surface collections deposited before the site was extensively occupied.

This concludes the description of the stratigraphy encountered at the site this past summer. The stratigraphy currently being encountered at DgRr:1 is extremely complex and only corresponds in part to the stratigraphy encountered last year. This is explained by the fact that we are excavating in much deeper cultural deposits this year and so are being forced to describe the stratigraphy in terms of more variations on the basic soil matrixes.

In the 1976 cultural assemblages, the largest classes of artifacts are comprised of lithic materials. These include quartz crystal flakes and cores, Basalt utilized flakes, retouched flakes and cores and numerous ground stone disc beads. Other smaller lithic artifact classes represented will be Abrasive Stone fragments, various Projectile Points, and a few Microblades. Lithic artifact classes other than the ones mentioned above generally contain only one or two specimens.

The most prominent faunal artifact class represented in the artifact assemblage is Bone Awls. Other smaller classes include Worked Antler tine and other Worked bone fragments. There are a small number of bone wedges present as well as a few Bone Disc beads. Bone artifact classes other

than those above are generally composed of one or two artifacts only. This concludes what I have to say at this time about the 1976 field season except for the fact that this February I got my dates back from the Radiocarbon Laboratory located at the University of Washington and all three dates lie within 200 years of each other stratigraphically. This means that the deposits correspond to an Early Locarno Beach Phase time period. The dates range from approximately 1200 B.C. at the bottom of the deposits to 1000 B.C. near the surface of the deposits.

Since only a single cultural component had been recovered, I decided to pursue further research at the site the following field season. The 1977 Field Project is located some 22 metres north of last year's Datum B. The drainage ditch excavated by the municipality of Surrey last fall uncovered much deeper cultural deposits where we are currently excavating than those encountered last season. Hopefully the range of cultural components thought to exist at this site will make their presence known to members of the U.B.C. Archaeological Field School who are currently excavating under the joint permit held by myself and Mr. George Will of U.B.C. The research goals remain the same as stated earlier as do the techniques being applied. At the same time, valuable field experience is being gained by the crew. The analysis of the cultural material obtained this season should be completed by the end of the year and the preliminary results submitted to the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board at that time. The final results will be published in my M.A. thesis as soon as it is reasonably possible for me to do so.

Visitors to the site from the Society are welcomed and questions are encouraged. At this point, I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to the many volunteers and regular field workers without whose help this work would not have been possible. Seeing as there were forty-three volunteers who worked on this project at different times during last summer, I will not list them here by name but will instead do so in my thesis. Additional field crew hired later in the summer included Michael Broderick, Imogene Lim, Susan Irvine, Lorie Thomas and Kevin Montgomery. Special thanks are here extended to the agencies responsible for the funding of this project and for the cooperation extended us by the local Indian Band. A sincere thank-you is given to Kevin Robinson whose work as a full-time volunteer for most of the summer is much appreciated. Finally, appreciation is expressed to the crew of the U.B.C. field school currently helping me to obtain the larger archaeological sample I require for my thesis.

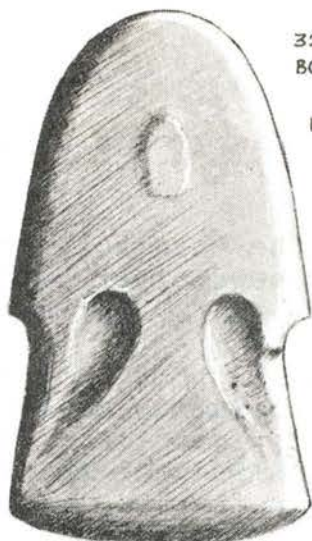
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PILE-DRIVERS



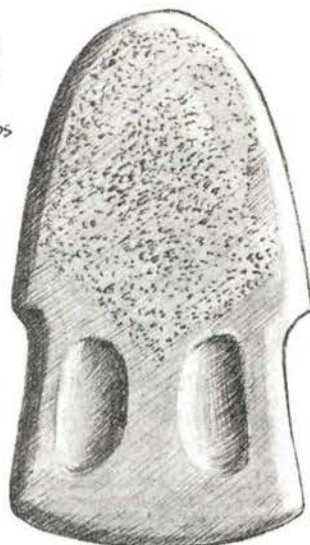
THUMB GRIPS INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN. 32.2 KL 10



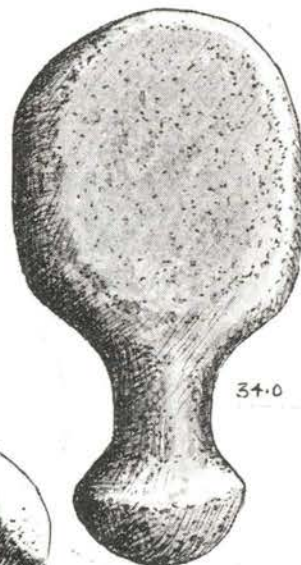
VENTRAL FACE WITH DEPRESSIONS FOR THUMB GRIPS TO HOLD THE PILE-DRIVER.

32.2 BC 2

19 lbs

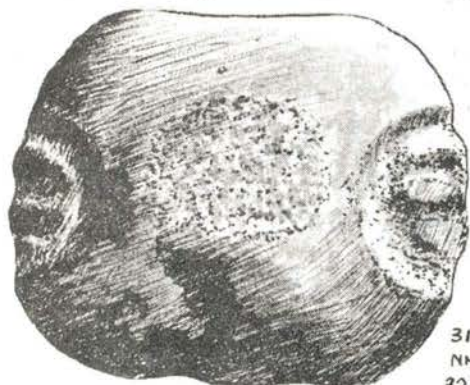


DORSAL FACE HAS CORRESPONDING DEPRESSIONS FOR FINGER GRIPS.



34.0

THE ONLY TYPE OF PILE DRIVER FOUND ALONG THE SOUTHERN COAST — USED BY THE QUINAULT IN WASHINGTON.

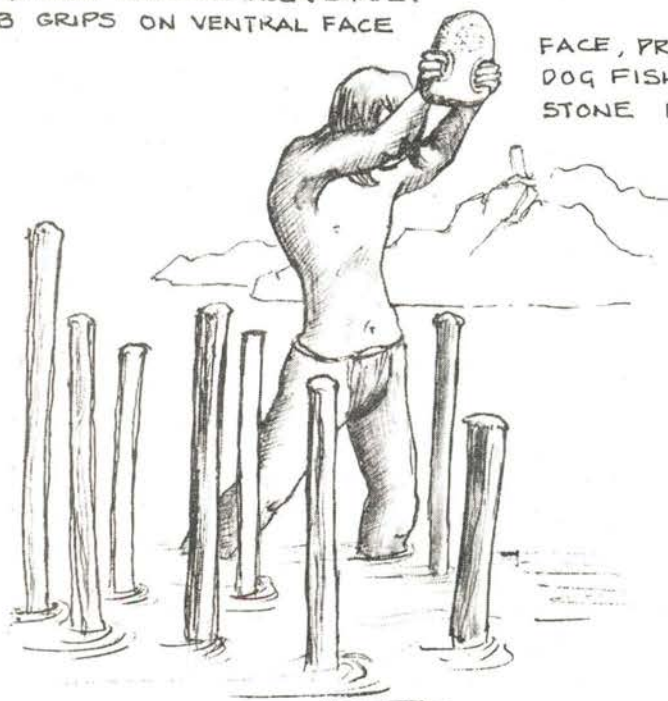


INDIVIDUAL FINGER GRIP GROOVES PECKED INTO NATURAL ROCK SHAPE. THUMB GRIPS ON VENTRAL FACE

31-6 NN 12 32 lbs



FACE, PROBABLY REPRESENTING A DOG FISH, PECKED INTO UNSHAPED STONE BETWEEN THUMB GRIPS.



EXCERPTED FROM "ARTIFACTS OF THE NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS"

Typical of the bigness and boldness which often characterizes the sculptured artifacts of the northern coastal regions are the pile drivers. Carefully shaped, or using the natural contour of the rock, many of these bear strong, positive designs.

Pecked into each side of these hefty stones, depressions to fit the thumbs and fingers ensured a firm grip for both hands. Strong arms raised the pile-driver, weighing perhaps 40 or 50 pounds, then brought it crashing down with great force to pound in a stake in the construction of a fish weir. The impact of repeated blows eventually drove many stakes firmly into the river bed, then cross bars were lashed on for strength. Matting was attached to the frame work which formed a barrier for the salmon ascending the river.

The Quinault Indians on the coast of Washington used a pile driver of somewhat different design which incorporated a handle. Smaller versions of this style, too light for driving piles, would have been used for other hammering purposes. These have been called "berry

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS: AN INDIAN VIEWPOINT

(From a report in the Ontario Archaeological
Society's January newsletter, ARCH NOTES)

Guest speaker at the December 15th meeting was Mr. L. H. Hopkins, executive director of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, on the subject of Aboriginal Rights. Mr. Hopkins, a member of the Delaware Tribe, lives on the Moravia Town Reserve in Kent County and is actively involved with various Indian self-expression groups in Ontario and across Canada. His association represents some 20,000 Indians in the Province of Ontario.

As Mr. Hopkins expressed it, the native peoples have always been here and this gives them aboriginal rights to all natural resources where they live. With respect to the work of the archaeologist, and particularly to the excavation of Indian burials, he asserted that there has been much discussion within Indian groups all across Canada and that the consensus is that provincial governments should frame a law to prohibit such excavations without the express consent of any Indian groups. Mr. Hopkins asked the Ontario Archaeological Society for its support in having such a law enacted for the Province of Ontario.

At present, Indians do not see any need for archaeology and, if archaeologists want to change this situation, they are advised to talk to Indian people, he said. Mr. Hopkins suggested that archaeologists establish an on-going dialogue so that they can explain their motives and can define the contribution their work makes by providing information vital to a fuller knowledge of Indian history in this country. In this way, Indian people may become convinced that there is a real need for archaeology. But, as the Indian people see it, priority must first be given to making substantial progress in the field of economic development and to improving standards of living by solving education, health, housing and other crucial problems, he said.

Archaeologists wishing to excavate a specific site in Ontario were advised to contact Johnny Yesno at the Association's Toronto offices, 20 Holly Street. Mr. Yesno will contact the group of Indians concerned and will arrange a meeting at which the proposed excavation can be discussed. When asked what could be done to avoid problems such as those which led to confrontation between the Indians and archaeologists at the Grimsby site, Mr. Hopkins replied that the Indians should be asked for their agreement before any Indian sites are excavated. He further stressed that archaeologists and others must strive to develop both an awareness and a real appreciation and understanding of the Indian's deep-rooted reverence for his ancestors, whose bones are sacred no matter how remote from him time they may be.

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Digging up the dead: a dilemma

By Dr. Jerry Melbye, University of Toronto

[This article, reprinted from the Ontario Archaeological Society Arch Notes, comprises an address Dr. Melbye made recently to the O.A.S.]

AIM and Recent Events: Over the past few months we have been hit with some very damaging press coverage. Members of AIM have said that we already have all the information we need about the Neutrals. We have had a sit-in at the Royal Ontario Museum in protest, we have had the archaeologist in charge of the Grimsby site arrested for committing indecencies to human bodies and a trial date has been set. We have had a Cabinet Minister state that we (whites) have been wrong and we will change the law so that it never happens again. We must admit that Grimsby has become a much bigger issue than any of us had imagined it would.

The position of AIM is clear. First, the excavation of any Indian burial is wrong on religious and racial grounds, and it must be stopped. Second, before excavation is begun on any Indian village or grave site, Indians must be consulted. The second position seems to soften the first, or to at least suggest that there are situations where burial excavation will be permitted.

A Review and Analysis of the Law: The Cemeteries Act 1970, Chapter 57, Section 55 provides that "no dead body shall at any time be

disinterred or removed from a grave, place of burial or vault other than receiving vault except under and subject to the regulations and under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health", that "the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health that this Act and the regulations have been complied with shall be affixed to the coffin and other receptacle containing the dead body before it has been removed from the cemetery" and that "every person who disinters or removes a dead body from a grave, place of burial or vault except as hereinbefore provided, and every person who conveys or transports any such body in contravention of this Act is guilty of an offence and on summary conviction is liable to a fine of \$100."

Two other Sections of The Cemeteries Act seem to be applicable to our situation. Section 1 defines a cemetery as "land that is set apart and used for interment of the dead or in which human bodies have been buried". This seems to apply to the Grimsby case or to any other archaeological site and, if it stood alone, we would all appear to be breaking the law. However,



BURIAL AT
MONTAGUE HARBOR,
DfRu 13.
AFTER MITCHELL,
SYESIS, 1971

Section 5 of the Act provides that "no cemetery shall be established without the approval of the Ministry."

This is a most important provision: all archaeological sites dating before the establishment of the Government of Ontario fall outside The Cemeteries Act. This will probably be the main defence in the case of *The Crown versus Walter Kenyon*.

Burial excavation also comes under the Ontario Heritage Act or Bill 176. In Sec. 48 s.s. 1 of this Act, "no person shall carry out archaeological excavation, an archaeological survey or field work without a licence issued by the Minister". Simply put, if burial excavation is archaeological field work, then the Act recognizes burial excavation as a legal activity. The precedent for this has been set, since the Ministry of Culture and Recreation has already granted several licences to excavate human remains. Burial excavation is then a legal activity, provided one has a licence.

The Morality of Burial

Excavation: We seem to be somewhat divided on the question "would you like someone digging up your relatives?" While many archaeologists and anthropologists would probably say it did not matter to them, the response of most people of Western culture would, I believe, be negative. I have, however, never heard of any objections on moral grounds to the excavation

of Frenchmen at Sainte Marie or at Williamsburg, nor of early English Loyalists; indeed, throughout Europe the excavation of medieval Christian cemeteries is rather routine.

Where, then, is the dividing line between morality and immorality? I think that the problem lies in the emotion-laden term "your relatives". This term refers to recently-dead people to whom one has had strong emotional ties. It is in this region where we get some agreement that it would be wrong to dig up people's relatives, at least in the general sense of relatives known and loved by people living contemporarily. We are, however, interested in digging up "our relatives" in the sense of "humanity's ancestors". I know of no moral objection to this activity within the framework of Western culture.

But what about Indian culture? In the first place, there is no such thing as pan-Indian culture, as the members of AIM would have us believe. Rather, there are many different cultures, all with quite different attitudes regarding mortuary customs. In a general sense, there are relatively few explicit prohibitions against burial excavation. One of the strongest prohibitions I know of is among the Navajo. Here, the emotion can best be described as a fear of all dead things, especially a dead human being. Notice

that, even here, we are speaking of recently-dead people who were known by people living contemporarily. The prohibition is so strong that I observed slight discomfort in Navajo workmen on an ancient Pueblo site. While I have probably dug several hundred burial sites alongside Navajo, I never heard a moral objection. In our own case in southern Ontario, we are amongst people of the Great Iroquian and Ojibwa stocks. Here, there are no strong prohibitions against burial excavations. Indeed, in historic times, relatives were dug up, their bones were cleaned and put on display and even purposely mixed up with other bones. One gets the impression that it is not so much burial excavation that is bad, it is something else; that something else is Ghosts.

The beliefs and customs of local people should and must be respected; that is the morality we may be in danger of violating. We can keep no secrets: our research and the results of our research must be open to all peoples for all time. Just because we have the legal right does not mean that we have the inalienable right to dig whenever and wherever we please. When you think about it, however, this is not a departure from the general etiquette of our profession. I have no doubt that it has been violated in the past and I hope that one positive

result of the radical Indian movement will be to heighten our awareness of the problem.

The Charge of Racism: It is true that physical anthropologists and archaeologists in the New World for the most part only dig up Indian bones. It is also true that, for the most part, we do not dig up white bones. However, the reason is quite simple and has nothing to do with race.

It is a matter of record that archaeology is the study of prehistoric cultures. The whole focus of the profession is on unrecorded history. It is an historic reality that the New World was occupied only by Indians before written history began. It is also true that we often extend our field into early history, where relatively little is known about a culture; again, we are dealing mostly with Indians, and only occasionally with pioneers. Let's face facts: there were relatively few early pioneers compared to the vast Indian population of the New World. I can assure you that there is no more interest in digging up the cemetery of the Christian Island Catholic church than in digging up the cemetery of the Penetanguishene Catholic church. And I can further assure you that no expense or time would be spared if we ever found a Viking site to excavate.

The professions of physical

anthropology and archaeology have never been intentionally racist. Indeed, by design and intent they have done more to expose the fallacy of race than any radical movement could hope to do.

Speaking personally, I have devoted my life to the prehistoric peoples of the Great Lakes region. My goals and, to the best of my knowledge, the goals of my profession, are simply to find out about our unknown past. What are the origins of various Indian populations, what are their relationships in time and space with each other, how did they relate to their environment, what did they look like, how were their populations internally structured? My results are open and available; they put no one down, nor do they insult anyone. I have never performed an indignity with skeletal material, nor have I ever seen such performed by others. In short, I take umbrage with the charge of racism; it merely charges the atmosphere with a non-existent issue and it does nothing to further the cause of AIM.

Mind you, I will admit that the early history (and some not-so-early history) of physical anthropology is littered with examples of racism. Most often this is unintentional, but nevertheless open to the charge. We recognize this literature for what it is, and we reject it.

There can be only one solution to racism: knowledge and understanding. We can live together in ignorance and inherit the biases and prejudices of our past without thinking about them, without questioning them and without changing them; or, we can search into the unknown past and find order in our apparently-chaotic universe. This does not mean that we should reject the inherited knowledge of our forefathers, but it does mean that we must reserve the right to question it. The heritage and culture of native peoples are not threatened by the advance of knowledge, nor is the hunger for information a sign of the rejection of tradition. Human beings are searchers after truth, after understanding, after a multitude of more and less worthy goals. We will know the truth, we will understand each other, even if that process requires the occasional excavation of somebody's ancestor's bones.

SUMMER PROJECTS 1977

The Provincial Archaeologist has kindly supplied us with the following list of projects to be carried out this summer. Visitors are welcome but please first obtain permission from the Director.

Name	Funding Agency	Administered by	Directed by
South Thompson Salvage	ASAB*	ASAB and Cariboo College	Dr. Arnoud Stryd, Cariboo College
Owikeno Burial Salvage Rivers Inlet	ASAB	ASAB	Brian Seymour, c/o ASAB
Revelstoke Pondage	B.C. Hydro	ASAB	A. Charlton, c/o ASAB
Pend Oreille Pondage	B.C. Hydro	ASAB	A. Charlton
Cache Creek	Dept. of Highways	ASAB	A. Charlton
Hope Salvage	Dept. of Highways	ASAB	B. Simonsen, c/o ASAB
Northeast Coal S. of Chetwynd	Dept. of Highways	ASAB	J. McMurdo, c/o ASAB
MacGregor River	B.C. Hydro	ASAB	J. McMurdo
Hat Creek	B.C. Hydro	ASAB and UBC	D. Pokotylo, Dept. of Anthropology, UBC
Site C, Peace River	B.C. Hydro	ASAB and SFU	Brian Spurling, Dept. of Archaeology, SFU
Crescent Beach Salvage**	Canada Works and UBC	UBC	Len Ham, Dept. of Anthropology, UBC
SFU Field School, Namu	SFU	SFU	Dr. Roy Carlson, Dept. of Archaeology, SFU

* Archaeological Sites Advisory Board
Dept. of Recreation and Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B. C.

** Society members invited to help with screening. See details on page 23

(Part of a continuing series on artifact description, reproduced from the handbook for archaeological staff working on the National Inventory Project in B.C. The Midden extends thanks to Tom Loy of the Provincial Museum for permission to reprint.)

Bifaces

Bifaces: Three aspects need to be identified--the flat outline; the longitudinal symmetry; the base shape.

The symmetry can be defined simply as symmetric or asymmetric.

The Base Shape has already been discussed (#5).

The flat outline should be described by one of the seven terms below:



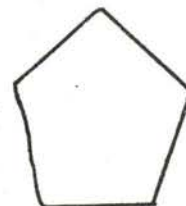
excurvate



leaf



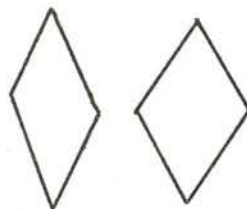
tear



pentagonal



quadrilateral



rhomboidal



triangular

A Midsummer's Missive

MUST MEDIUM MEAN MORE THAN MESSAGE, IN MIDDEN?

A Scholarly Critic of The Midden suggested recently that this publication would be taken more seriously if it had three staples down the side, instead of just one in the corner.

We might retort that The Midden would also be taken more expensively, if that were so. Not that two staples would rock our financial stability, but the publication would no longer fold in half for mailing, necessitating inserting all copies (by hand, yet) into quarto envelopes...costly and time-consuming. (And though A.S.B.C. membership fees have only just been increased, the student rate now only just covers Midden printing and mailing.)

Naturally we would enjoy providing subscribers with a glossy magazine that not only sounded good, but looked good. Perhaps one like American Antiquity (four issues per year, included in \$15 dues for Society for American Archaeology). However, until we are that richly endowed with mass membership and advertising, we must beg our readers' indulgence! In the meantime, devotees can three-hole-punch the entire publication, and keep it for reference in a binder. (We thought of punching it before mailing, but feared somebody might want a rebate for the holes.)

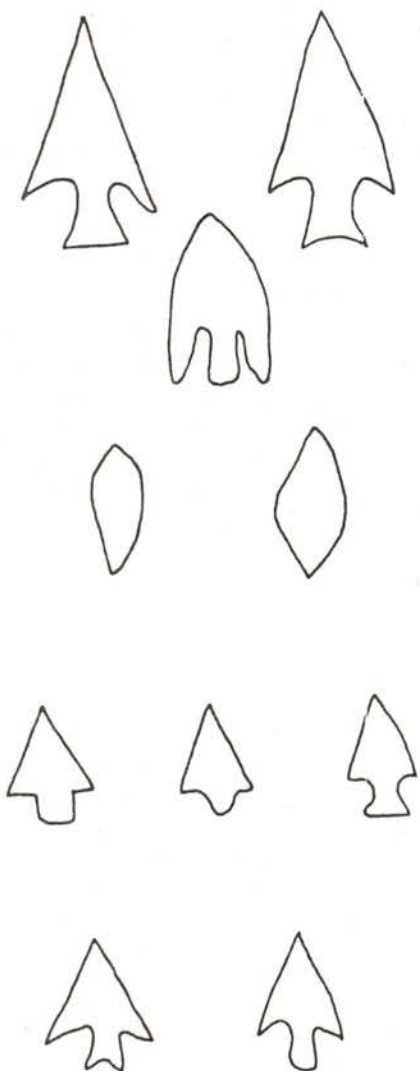
Our circulation department, meanwhile, will endeavor to mail two extra staples to our Scholarly Critic, who can himself insert them in the appropriate orifice.

To avoid public embarrassment, one can always read The Midden hidden inside Psychology Today or Playboy. And for a small additional fee to those who request it, we will arrange to mail each issue in a plain brown envelope.

Ed.

R E V I E W: THREE A.S.A.B. PUBLICATIONS

Projectile points from
the McCall Site, in the
South Okanagan (DhQv 48).



June 1977 seems very late to be reviewing a 1975 Annual Report; however the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board report bears a February 1977 publication date, and it is far too important to ignore because of any apparent time lag.

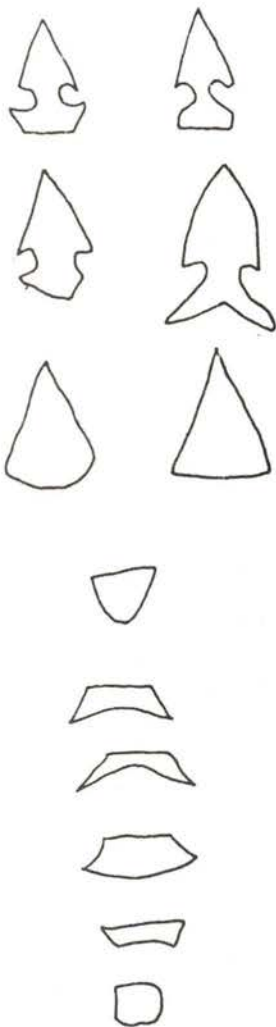
The 320-page book is typewritten double-spaced (8½" x 11") rather than typeset, but it is reasonably printed by the Queen's Printer, cased in a "perfect" binding, and includes dozens of line drawings and maps. Subtitled "Activities of the A.S.A.B. of B.C. and selected research reports", it comprises eight 1975 archaeological reports, plus an unpretentious nine-page introduction and ASAB report. So the editor--Provincial Archaeologist Bjorn Simonsen--sensibly lets the fieldwork of the archaeologists speak for ASAB: in effect the board's value can be measured by what the archaeologists achieve in the field and the lab. To round up, edit and publish eight such reports so quickly is a commendable feat and easily explains the apparent "delay" in producing this report. The labor is hinted at when Simonsen notes that the reports were selected (from all those submitted as a condition of 1975 ASAB permits) based on originality, innovation, contribution to our knowledge of B.C. prehistory, and "amount of editing required". However, he hopes to produce future reports much sooner, so watch for 1976's any day now!

The eight reports cover the following areas:

* Resource inventories for Atlin (Diana French); Clinton-Ashcroft (David Pokotylo); Alberni Valley-Bulkley Sound (Alan McMillan, Denis St. Claire); and Blackwater Valley (James Helmer).

- * Excavation reports from Deep Bay (Gregory Monks); the South Okanagan (Stanley Copp); and the Peace River Basin (Knut Fladmark, Finola Finlay and Brian Spurling).
- * An intriguing discussion of the philosophy of excavation at Hope (Rob Whitlam).

As can be inferred (with each report averaging 40 pages, including rich bibliographies, maps and sketches), there is a wealth of invaluable material here--far more than can be adequately summarized or assessed in this note.



However three highlights may be noted:

- . A leitmotif of almost all the reports is the danger to sites posed by current or proposed development--highways, railroads, subdivisions, pipelines, dredging, hydro dams, logging, trailer parks, and vandalism.
- . The enormity of the task facing B.C. archaeologists grows rather than decreases as more work is done: nearly 300 new sites located in the Blackwater area alone. Simonsen notes that the season produced some 2,000 new sites in all.
- . The Native people of B.C. are participating increasingly in researching their early history (40 Indians worked on various projects round the province in 1975) and provide a focus for a good number of reports. This trend is clearly vital to the continued health of archaeology in B.C.

- - - - -

A.S.A.B.

Simonsen's own brief report notes the year's emphasis on inventory work, rather than just digging, and the use of students to search 1,000 property titles for Gulf Island middens. Staff archaeologists Art Charlton and Paul Sneed spent much of the summer based in Smithers and Kelowna, respectively, and Simonsen labels the eventual establishment of permanent regional offices as "essential". It provides a most useful overview of B.C. archaeology in 1975, while the entire volume provides an important data bank for future work.

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Also recently received are A.S.A.B. first ventures into the publishing of "Occasional Papers".

O.P. #1 is titled "Archaeology in the Williams Lake Area" and O.P. #2 is "The Rocky Point Site".

Both volumes are in the same format as the Annual Report (though only No. 2 has a title on the spine, where one really needs it).

In No. 1 Robert Whitlam gives a thorough site analysis (supported by a stunning 85 tables defining the artifactual materials, and a number of photographs), plus a fascinating, brief example of archaeological mapping done by computer.

In No. 2 Michael Blake also does far more than give a dig report: his 147-page book offers some fascinating computer-assisted theories on the relationship between the positioning of artifacts found in housepits and the original activities in various areas of the pits.

(Dr. Pearson's influence seems strong in several of these reports: emphasis not on the materials themselves, but on what they can reveal about human behavior, and emphasis on use of the computer to reduce the drudgery and reveal patterns of occurrence.)

The appearance of these three volumes marks an important new stage in the growth of archaeology in British Columbia.

N. R.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

Occasional Paper No. 6 of the Washington Archaeological Society entitled "A Preliminary Report of The Archaeology of Site 45KT6", (Hermit site on west side of Columbia River).

"Archaeology and the Law in Ontario"

Several publications of the Ontario Archaeological Society.

* * *

Old Fort William: a lesson for everyone?

By A. Marie Taylor

Ed's Note

From time to time the possibility of reconstructing historic or archaeological sites in British Columbia is discussed. Lest we move too precipitously, the following article is reprinted from Arch Notes, Mar. 1977, published by the Ontario Archaeological Society.

In November 1976 a 29-page critique of the Ontario Government's multi-million dollar reconstruction of North West Company Fort William was distributed to representatives of various public information, governmental, academic and professional organizations. The essential message in this critique was that "Old Fort William", as the reconstruction is called, is by no means historically "authentic" as claimed. The criticisms, based on archaeological and documentary evidence, fell under three major headings, and can be outlined as follows:

1. Improper Location. The reconstruction is nine miles upriver from the original site, which sits on a delta where the Kaministikwia River meets Lake Superior. Originally, Fort William was a lake port harbouring schooners as well as large freight canoes, and could never have served as such at the reconstruction site. In addition, the natural settings of the old and new sites are vastly different.

2. Inaccurate Structural Characteristics. Serious inaccuracies in forms of reconstructed palisades and fencing, gross structural dimensions, kinds of construction materials

used, types of building foundations, types of exterior wall coverings, styles of roofs, window and door locations, heating facilities, and divisions of interior space, are so all-pervasive that each of the approximately 50 structures involved are implicated in several of these ways at once.

3. Inaccurate Functional Interpretation. Serious misunderstandings of historical activities within buildings, functional relationships between buildings, and the nature and numbers of people who used buildings are as equally all-pervasive. They manifest themselves not only in many structural ways, but also in much of the verbal information disseminated as "fact" at the reconstruction.

As author of the critique, I was asked by the O.A.S. Executive to submit a summary of my thoughts for Arch Notes. My views are based on five years of full-time work on Fort William from the perspective of historical archaeology. This work was done in the context of the Fort William Archaeological Project--a group hired under separate contract by the same governmental departments as was the private company (National Heritage Limited) which reconstructed Fort William on the basis of its own research.

Responsibility for Old Fort William was taken first by the Dept. of Tourism and Information (1971-72), then by the Ministry of Natural Resources (1972-75), and presently rests with the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

Since I had an extremely side-line view of the process behind the actual reconstruction, I cannot speak with the authority on the reasons why Old Fort William turned out as it did. In my own work, however, I became aware of certain points which, in the reconstructors' final product, seem to have been trouble spots. Below, I have tried to express six of these points, primarily as aspects of historical archaeology. Except, perhaps, for part of the first point, I believe that they apply in some degree to prehistoric archaeology and to most other forms of historical research (including "reconstruction"). As examiners of the past, in whatever capacity, we might learn an important lesson from the "Fort William Affair" by simply realizing that the following points are not yet generally accepted or understood.

1. The body of direct information from which an historical archaeologist must draw seldom consists primarily of data found in the ground. It consists as well (sometimes even more so) of data found in archives and other repositories for written or pictorial statements on the subject under study. Just as the ground data must be evaluated in terms of form, function, context and significance, so must the archival data be evaluated. An historical archaeologist, then, must be as much an historian as an archaeologist.

2. In examining any physical aspect of the main subject, it is important to consider form and

function as inseparable. Where information is lacking on form, information on function may provide valuable insights, or vice versa. For example, there is no direct evidence on apertures for the south sides of Fort William's two Corn Stores. When it is understood that the Corn Stores held goods which came in from the south and largely went out toward the south, however, one must consider south doors (which are absent at the reconstruction).

3. The subject under study has not been approached adequately until the known components have been integrated into some more-than-vague idea of a working whole. Failing to integrate can be disastrous. For example, the reconstruction provides accommodation for only half the number of men who can be shown from documentary evidence to have wintered regularly at Fort William. Had the number of suspected wintering houses been integrated with winter population statistics, this error would have been discovered before it was "reconstructed". As another example, south doors on the above-mentioned Corn Stores become almost certainties when it is known from direct evidence that the buildings on either side also held goods largely entering from, and leaving toward the south, and that these buildings had several south doors each.

4. In order to see the working whole, it is necessary to have a basic appreciation of the subject's physical, temporal and social contexts. Had this been done for the reconstruction, for instance, a site would not have been chosen which excluded schooner traffic, two types of extensively reconstructed fences would not have belonged to a much later and distinct era, and the "farers" at Fort William would not have been conceived of as something akin to landed gentry.

5. Simple and conclusive "proof" in historical archaeology is largely a myth. This does not mean that one interpretation is as good as another. Good interpretation comes from logical conjunctions of lines of evidence drawn from demonstrably reliable and pertinent data. The best interpretation usually involves the most irrefutable evidence and the most irrefutable logic. It must also pass the test of integration. To be evaluated, the lines of evidence, the data from which they arose, and the logic drawing them together must be expressed. (At Old Fort William there is not one publication to explain how the simplest reconstructed conclusion was reached. Nor are there historical justifications available to researchers such as myself.)

6. The largest block of time involved in meaningfully productive historical archaeology is not spent on collecting data or on making relatively final statements. It is spent on becoming familiar with the data, evaluating it, analyzing it and synthesizing it.

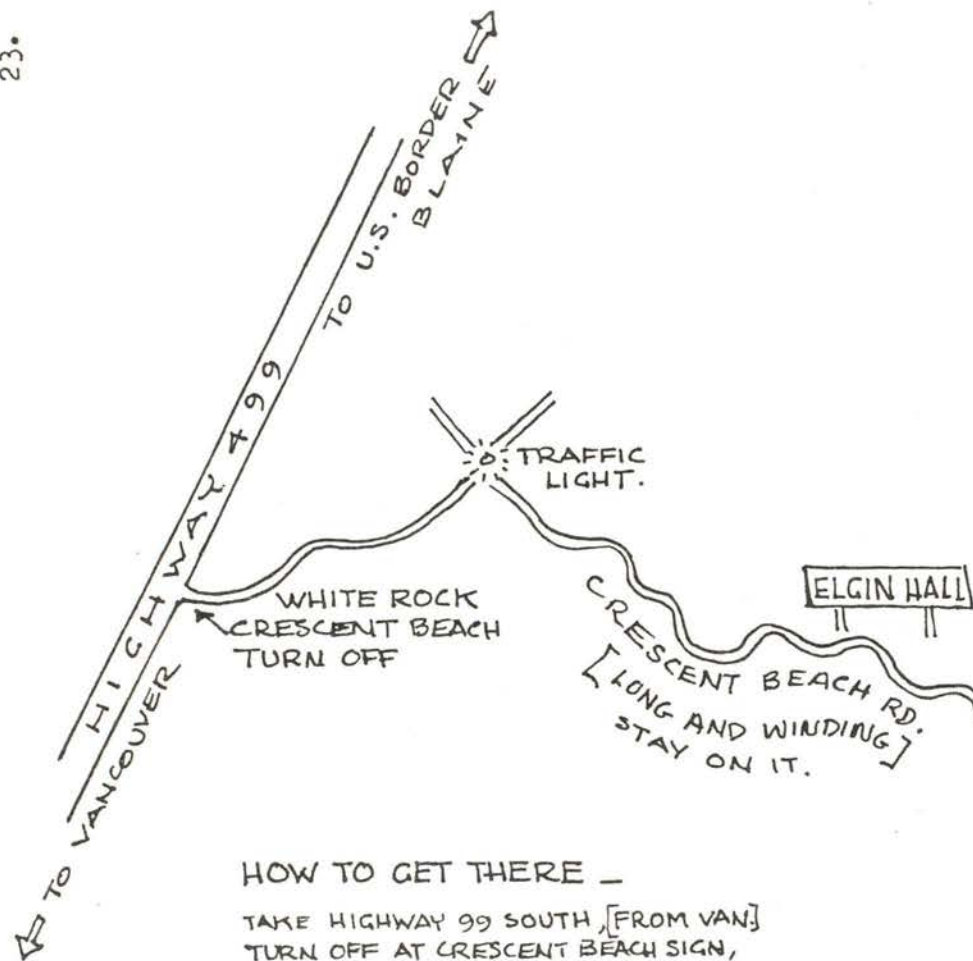
Conclusions (positive or negative) and "reconstructions (on paper or otherwise) are the end product of these processes, and cannot be soundly formed during or prior to them. As implied above, Old Fort William was built before these processes had been completed on even a very basic scale. A major problem here is the all too common assumption that thorough research can be scheduled to a completion date. This is somewhat analagous to saying that, on a given budget, and within a given block of time, the cure for disease "X" will be discovered. At the outset of any research project, many problems and their magnitude are still to be discovered, and the time required for their best solutions cannot be even estimated, let alone pre-scheduled. An awareness of this from the start might help in setting up realistic priorities. Many aspects of Old Fort William are obviously the result of a very pressing schedule, wherein the quality of research has been severely sacrificed to meet deadlines.

* * * * *

OFFICERS ELECTED

At the Annual General Meeting held on May 11, 1977 the following officers were elected for the year 1977/78:

President:	Marie Duncan
Vice-President:	Ron Sutherland
Treasurer:	Shirley Veale
Recording Secretary:	Helmi Braches
Corresponding " :	Lara Wright
(Past President):	Nick Russell



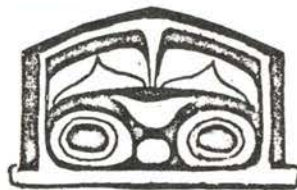
HOW TO GET THERE -

TAKE HIGHWAY 99 SOUTH, [FROM VAN]
TURN OFF AT CRESCENT BEACH SIGN,
TURN RIGHT AT FIRST TRAFFIC LIGHT,
KEEP GOING, PAST ELGIN HALL, 2 GAS
STATIONS.... DOWN A HILL AND OVER
RAILWAY TRACKS - GO A FEW BLOCKS
AND TURN LEFT ON MCKENZIE ST.

ON LEFT, LOOK FOR MOUNDS OF
DIRT IN OPEN AREA -

SCREENING -

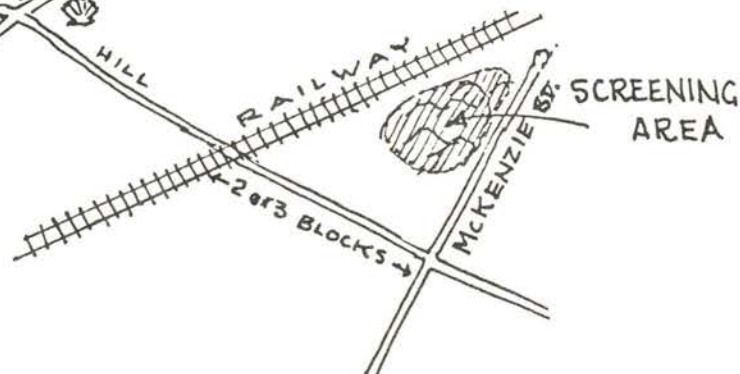
SATURDAY AND SUNDAYS -
ALL SUMMER - 10 AM. TO 4 PM.
UNLESS WEATHER TOO BAD -
IF IN DOUBT, OR FOR MORE INFO,
PHONE MARIE DUNCAN - 224-7836



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF B.C.
- SUMMER PROJECT -

SCREENING MIDDEN DIRT FROM CRESCENT
BEACH SITE. ALL ARTIFACTS TO GO TO S.F.U.

CHEV and SHELL
GAS STATIONS



EQUIPMENT PROVIDED -

BRING A LUNCH OR EAT
IN CRESCENT BEACH.

EQUIPMENT STORED IN FRONT
YARD OF 2696 MCKENZIE -