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FRONT COVER:
Daryl Fedje examines a stone tool while Al Mackie takes a break from excavating Early Lithic intertidal site 1127T, Richardson Island (photo 1127T36M, courtesy Parks Canada). See "Ventures," page 5.

A.S.B.C.
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Fraser Valley Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, at 7:30 pm at 2615 Montrose Ave., Abbotsford, B.C. Contact: Shirley Cook (859-5757)

Nanaimo Meetings on the second Monday of the month at Malaspina University College, Department of Social Science, 900 Fifth St., Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5S5. President: Nan Blackbourn (758-4319) Programme Chair: Laurie Hayden

Victoria Meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria. Contact: Tom Bown (385-2708, E-mail tbown@al.pfc.forestry.ca)

ASBC DIARY
Meetings held at 8:00 pm in the Auditorium of the Vancouver Museum, 1100 Chestnut St. unless noted otherwise.

Jan. 11 Dr. Hanna Kassis, UBC Religious Studies "The Normans in Sicily: A Glimpse of Their Architecture"

Feb. 8 Robin Hooper, SFU Archaeology "Dragon Harvest: Artifacts from Ladner's Chinatown"

Mar. 8 AT UBC MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY: preview of exhibition, "From under the Delta: Wet-Site Archaeology in British Columbia's Lower Mainland"
A BRIEF SUMMARY OF PARKS CANADA'S 1994 B.C. ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROGRAM

VENTURES IN CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

BY IAN D. SUMPTER

As one of many federal land managers in Canada, Parks Canada plays a significant role in the protection of cultural heritage under its jurisdiction. In British Columbia recent land use agreements and business plans between Parks Canada and First Nations have been successful in fostering co-operative partnerships in natural and cultural resource protection.

Nineteen-ninety-four saw the continuation of collaborative training programs in cultural resource protection and stewardship between Parks Canada's Archaeological Services, Calgary (ARO) and two aboriginal groups whose traditional territories occur within the bounds of Gwaii Haanas-Haida Heritage Site, and Pacific Rim National Park reserves. In concert with Millennia Research of Sidney, field training in 1994 focused on aspects of coastal survey techniques, archaeological excavation, theory, and cultural resource management.

Gwaii Haanas

The 1994 Gwaii Haanas Archaeology Program (GHAP) comprised three projects: continuation of a multi-year archaeological inventory, paleoenvironmental research, and exploratory excavations at two Early Period intertidal lithic sites. The inventory was conducted by a Haida team led by Crew Supervisor Bert Wilson working under contract on a day-to-day basis with Millennia Research. Millennia's Al Mackie provided direction and training services throughout the field and post-field components.

The program's inventory component represented the fourth of a five-year coastal survey producing baseline data for the management of Native and non-Native heritage within the Haida Heritage Site/Park reserve. The field element was of approximately two months duration and encompassed the area from Nagas Point to Tasu Head on the west side of Moresby Island. Forty-five new archaeological sites were recorded. On the east coast of Moresby Island, 23 new sites were documented by a second crew which included Ian Sumpter, Joanne McSporran, and Coast Archaeologist, Daryl Fedje.

The second component of the 1994 GHAP project included paleoenvironmental research by Daryl Fedje conducted in conjunction with Pacific Geoscience Centre (PGC) at Sidney, B.C. This multi-year research program included selective investigation of terrestrial marine transgression features and other post-glacial landforms, as well as marine paleoecology. This component will attempt to correlate known archaeological site location data for the Gwaii Haanas coastline (especially the circa 9000 year old intertidal archaeological site distribution) with marine geological data recovered by PGC in 1993 and 1994. This should help predict where submerged, pre-10,000 year-old archaeological sites may be found.

The GHAP project included exploratory archaeological investigations at two Early Period intertidal lithic sites in the Darwin Sound area, the Richardson Island (1127T) and Echo Bay (1128T) sites. Both sites underwent controlled surface collecting and limited subsurface testing programs. Although detailed analysis has yet to be completed on the assemblages, radiocarbon dating indicates that both sites were occupied between ca. 9300 and 9100 years before present, during a time of rapid sea-level change.

Pacific Rim

At Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, Archaeological Services initiated or supported a number of cultural resource management (CRM) activities. These included the assessment of several visitor facility improvements in the Long Beach and Broken Group Island units; and revisitation of a number of threatened Native and non-Native heritage sites in the Broken Group and West Coast Trail areas.

A significant component of this program was the participation and training of two Ditidaht band members, Fred Sieber and Frank Knighton, in the various aspects of CRM. This year represented Parks Canada's second year in implementing programs oriented towards fostering co-operative resource stewardship.

Finally, the 1994 Pacific Rim program saw Archaeological Services assist the Ditidaht Band in the completion of two externally funded research-training projects: an Access to Archaeology project at three shell middens on the Tskuanah and Iktuksasuk reserves; and a joint...
Access to Archaeology program excavations in wet-site component at 296T on Ditidaht Band’s Iksukasuk I.R. 7, Nitinaht Lake. Crew members include (L-R) Daryl Fedje, Frank Knighton, Morley Eldridge, and Fred Sieber (photo 296T2M, courtesy Parks Canada).

The second area where I hoped the gazetteer might be useful to archaeology was a bit more of a problem. I found the gazetteer hard to use. While Galois provides extensive archival and ethnographic background data on the sites, it can be fairly confusing to sort out. To give an example, in the territory of the Kwakiutl tribes there is a cluster of sites in Beaver Harbour on Vancouver Island next to historic Fort Rupert. At first glance there appear to be as many as twenty different settlement sites within this small area. Four of these sites, however, are actually the same one—the village of Tsaxis—which would have been shared by each of four different tribal groups. This was further complicated by arrows on the maps purportedly showing an annual movement to a winter village (Tsaxis) from other winter villages on nearby islands in Johnstone Strait, when in fact this was a permanent relocation to the Fort Rupert area. Many of the settlement clusters also contain a complicated mix of villages, "old" villages, resource sites with buildings, and resource sites without buildings.

The most problematical omission, however, relates to Galois' quote given above. In the discussion on individual sites there is a real lack of information on the physical environment. What sorts of terrain constraints were present at these locations? What were the usual vegetation types at these sites? Were some locations "better places to live" because of a good collection of environmental and topographic elements? These are the sorts of variables that an archaeologist would find most useful when trying to describe a prehistoric site as part of a pattern of settlements. A great deal of work must have gone into the production of this book and it brings together a very rich collection of information. Galois' chapter discussing the change in Kwakwaka'wakw settlement as a result of European contact is a fascinating cautionary tale for those who would use ethnography as a description of the way things always have been. It remains to be seen how this volume will be used by other researchers either for writing histories of the people involved in these events, or to increase our understanding of the prehistory of this region.

Grant Beattie

Grant Beattie is currently an M.A. student at U.B.C., doing research on settlement patterns using GIS.