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Cover: Inuit toggling harpoon with iron point, from House 1 at Double Mer (GbBo-02), Labrador. (Jankunis, Pouliot & Rankin)

Stephen Hull Delphina Mercer Editors

### ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR 2015



Stephen Hull Provincial Archaeology Office

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## Family Archaeology in Gander Bay, Newfoundland

Jamie Brake & Joyceanne Brake



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the study area.

### ntroduction

In mid-August an archaeological survey was conducted at Clark's Head, Gander Bay (Figure 1), at the site of an early-mid twentieth century homestead which was owned by the Saunders family (DhAo-02). One of the authors, Joyceanne Brake, formerly Joyceanne Saunders, grew up at the site with her eight brothers and sisters and her parents Harold and Kathleen. The main goal of the project was to determine whether the remains of several structures still exist within the study area. These structures include the family home (Figures 2 & 5), a sawmill, a winter house, and an engine house, a forge and various out buildings. Harold and Kathleen's family occupied the property until 1962 when they moved to the other side of the bay. Today the land is owned by Randy Gillingham and Debbie Saunders who kindly provid-



Figure 2. Saunders family home as it looked in the early 1950s(courtesy of Gary Saunders).

ed permission for us to conduct the survey. The work was done under provincial archaeology permit 15.24.

Although archaeologists have not previously documented this particular site, there has been archaeological activity in the general area. For example, Ralph Pastore and Clifford Evans conducted a survey of Gander River and Gander Bay more than 30 years ago (1979). The project discussed here is somewhat unusual as it involves the application of archaeological methods to look at the recent past, and because the permit holder is a member of the family that is the subject of study. Archaeological activities focusing on the documentation of ethnographic resources are rare in Newfoundland and Labrador. To our knowledge the exploration of one's own family history through archaeology has not previously been done in this province.

What follows is divided into two general sections, the first dealing with genealogy and the second with archaeology. The first introduces the characters in the story we are investigating, and the second is a discussion of the 2015 field activities. These two parts are followed by some concluding remarks and a few brief statements about our plans for the future.

### Genealogy

Frank Saunders (1876-1954) of Clark's Head, Gander Bay, was born at Change Islands to Samuel Saunders and Thurza Porter. Samuel's father, Edward Saunders, had immigrated to the colony of Newfoundland about 1830 from Poole, Dorset. As a young man Frank was apprenticed to Owens, a Company in Twillingate, during the 1890s.

According to Frank's youngest son, Donald Saunders, Frank left Twillingate after about a year and went to St. John's where he did a business course. When the course was finished, he packed up two large suitcases with supplies, boarded the steamer in St. John's, and got off in Gander Bay. The first winter he boarded with the Hodders on Salt Island and he set up a little shack where the Harris's live (in a cove



Figure 3. Frank and Mary Saunders very early in the twentieth century (courtesy of Donald Saunders).



Figure 4.Wedding photo of Harold and Kathleen Saunders taken at Clark's Head in 1935.

less than a quarter mile north of Salt Island), and started a shop. Sometime later he "got in go" with Mary Gillingham of Clark's Head and he moved across the bay (Figure 3). He bought, or was given, a section of land from Mary's oldest brother, John. There he built a shop and later a house. He and Mary Matilda Gillingham were married in 1901 and they had five children who lived to adulthood: four sons, Brett, Harold, Aubrey and Donald, and a daughter Marion. They also had a son Gordon and a daughter Alma who died in infancy.

Frank started a cannery next door to the shop where he canned and sold rabbits and salmon. He also bought animal pelts and he started a waterwheel driven sawmill. With the help of brother-in-law, Hezekiah Gillingham, a flume was constructed to carry the water from a dammed Clark's Brook to the salt water where it turned a wheel to drive the sawmill.

The oldest son, Brett, and the youngest son, Donald, owned and operated a tourist lodge on Gan-



Figure 5. Sketch map of the Saunders Family Homestead drawn by Joyceanne Brake.

der River. The second son, Harold, took over the sawmill business, which was now diesel engine operated, and this became his livelihood until about 1960 when the big lumber companies made small sawmills unprofitable. Frank and Mary's daughter Marion married Roy Reccord, a businessman in Victoria Cove.

Aubrey worked in the shop with his father until it was destroyed by fire in 1950. It was rebuilt in 1951 and Frank passed the business over to Aubrey. Frank died in July 1954 at the age of 78. His wife outlived him by many years. She died in July 1979 at the age of 97.

In 1935, Harold, the sawmill operator, married Kathleen Torraville of Victoria Cove (Figure 4). The first winter they were married was spent at Thistle's Angle on Gander River where Harold, with the help of Elam Gillingham and Harvey Francis, caught rabbits for Frank's cannery. He later bought a saltbox house and moved it adjacent to his father's land and next door to the sawmill. This plot of land had belonged to Rhuben Peckford and Harold bought it from Rhuben's son, Allan. Later Allan and Harold exchanged two plots of land which doubled the size of Harold's yard.

Harold put a sawdust road between his neighbour, Mr. Farrell's property and his brother, Brett's yard on the way to Clark's Brook. All sawdust from the mill was dumped on the property nearest the brook. Between Harold's house and the salt water there was always a pile of edgings (we called it cripp) which was used as kindling but often had to be burned on the spot when the pile got too high.

Next to the house, toward the mill was a building housing a woodshed and a storehouse. Between that and the mill there was always a "*junk*" pile--junks of wood. We brought those junks into the



Figure 6. Plan of the main house - the upper image shows the main floor and the lower image shows the second storey.



Figure 7. Looking northeast from a modern driveway towards test pits in the main house area.



Figure 8. Tea cup and plate sherds and nails recovered from TP 2 near in the main house area, and part of a child's shoe found in the winter house area (see in this area produced nails (both wire below).

woodshed and piled them neatly for the winter's firewood. The forge was next to the junk pile and the lumberyard was on the far side of the mill, beyond which were Aubrey's storehouses and the shop.

### Archaeology

Archaeological activity took place on August 13th and 14th and was preceded by informal interviews with Joyceanne Brake, David Saunders, Debbie Saunders and Randy Gillingham. Joyceanne was able to produce a hand drawn sketch map of the homestead as it was when she was a child (Figure 5), which was extremely useful during the survey. She also drew plans of the main house (Figure 6) as well as the winter house (Figure 11) which are valuable records for

the family, and useful resources for archaeology. Joyceanne, David, Debbie and Randy all pointed out and explained the remains of structures that are visible on the surface, and they provided as much information as they could about the locations of features that are no longer visible on top of the ground. Maps, satellite and aerial images and historical photos were consulted, and a review of relevant documents was undertaken before the site visit. Fieldwork consisted of a walkover and close visual inspection of the study area as well as limited shovel testing at locations where subsurface deposits relating to homestead structures were suspected. A handheld gps was used to record the precise locations of features and a digital camera and notebook were used to document what was found.

Work on the 13th started in the area where the main Saunders family house once stood. Four test pits were excavated in this area adjacent to Randy and Debbie's driveway. Much of the rest of the area has been extensively disturbed by road, driveway and new home construction as well as landscaping activities. Testing

and square) and potsherds consistent

with an early-mid 20th century occupation. The highest density of artifacts was found in Test Pit 2 (Figures 7 & 8).

For Harold and Kathleen's 60th wedding anniversary the family put together a book of memories which contains a wealth of information on this site. For that book Kathleen wrote the following about the family home:

We spent a few more weeks with Harold's family, after which we moved into our own house about a half mile down the road. This was a two storey house with a living room, back kitchen and one bedroom downstairs; upstairs were three bedrooms. We just had the bare necessities in furnishings and other items, one bed, kitchen stove, table, chairs, rocking chair,



Figure 9. Part of the sawmill structure as it looked in 1966 (courtesy of Frank Saunders Junior). By this time it had not been used for several years and the lumberyard and wharves had been dismantled. View northeast.

Figure 10. Looking northeast towards the remains of the wharf/lumberyard at low tide in 2015. This photo was taken from very near where the previous one was taken.



an old sideboard that went with the house and an old dressing table in one bedroom. As well we had a home – made dressing table and washstand that Grandpa's (Harold's father) uncle made for us. The floors were covered with cheap canvas except the back kitchen which had an unpainted board floor. There was a well in the little yard (1995:7-8).

As we were finishing the last of the test pits a heavy downpour began which hampered further activity until late that afternoon. At that time we began our survey of the north side of the Gander Bay road within the study area, which was challenging, to say the least, on account of a thick jungle of alders that has grown up there in recent years making it nearly impossible to see, let alone walk through much of our area of interest. Nevertheless, before night fell, with the additional assistance of Allan Brake (Joyceanne's husband and Jamie's father), we were able to identify a slight mound in the general locality of the winter house.

The following morning Allan and Jamie returned to the site and surveyed the remains of the sawmill (Figure 9), lumbervard and forge. The timing was good as the tide was low, and when it is, the outline of the wharves that formed a large portion of the lumberyard are clearly visible (Figure 10). The posts that the sawmill stood on are also visible standing above tall grass, and the collapsed remains of the structure itself seem to be present and simply obscured by vegetation. The store that was built by Harold's father Frank in 1951 is still standing here and is in relatively good condition. Several other store buildings are in various states of collapse. The beach in this area is littered with material culture and includes everything from modern garbage to mechanical parts of the original water powered sawmill that was built and operated by Frank at the turn of the century. This part of the site, between the intertidal zone and road, clearly contains a valuable archaeological record.

Barbara Saunders Anctil (Joyceanne's sister) shared these memories of the mill, which employed about 15 men at any given time:

I remember sleeping out in the big old army tent in the summer. We used to listen to the people going by at night. In the morning we would wake up to the men arriving to work on the mill. Some of them came by boat and you could hear the paddles dipping in the water. Then the mill bell sounded, and then the beautiful sound of the mill starting up. Oh, I used to think of that after I left home. The next best thing was the quiet after it shut down at 6 o'clock (1995:40).

William Saunders, Joyceanne's brother, wrote: My first job, as I recall, was working in the mill taking the nogs away and keeping the sawdust bin, for the cut-off saw, free and carrying away the edgings. It wasn't very challenging but I liked the few dollars I earned from it. The hard part was watching the others my age playing ball while I had to work, but for all that I did like the mill. Sometimes dad would let me shut down and start up the diesel motors and the smell, how can you ever forget the smell. Give me a handful of sawdust and I'm transported back to the mill (1995:70).

After leaving the beach we once again crossed the road to spend a little more time at the likely location of the winter house. This time we brought a chainsaw, which Allan used to clear the brush away from our area of interest after receiving permission from Debbie to do so. One test pit was excavated in a linear mound which could represent the wall of a structure or, alternatively, it could be the edge of an area disturbed by heavy equipment. Nearby we could see clear evidence of use of an excavator which had been used to dig a ditch which resulted in a long pool with a mound of soil next to it. Our test pit was dug through moss which revealed coarse grey sand mixed with pebbles. A large portion of a clear glass bottle and a rusty wire nail were found in it. Cultural material was visible in this area on the surface of the ground and a few meters from the test pit we recorded part of a very rusty stove pipe (Figure 12) and flange, as well as part of a heat proof crock pot. These artifacts could support an argument that the remains of the winter house are at this location. Between the stove parts and the test pit we collected part of a child's shoe which we hope a family member might recognize (Figure 8).

Kathleen wrote the following about the winter house in the Saunders family book of memories:

I believe we first lived in the winter house the year Bill was a baby which would have been 1945-46. I have a photo taken of him on the daybed under the window and the photo of Joyceanne in the rocking chair was also taken that year I believe. Dan Bragg lived in the winter house in 1948-49 and later Max Collins, who built the school, lived in it (1995:8).

Pauline Saunders Van Vught, Joyceanne's sister wrote:



Figure 11. Winter house plan drawn by Joyceanne Brake.

My earliest memories always include the winter house. I loved the winter house, it was so nice and warm and small and cosy and kind of dark in a nice warm way. Going into the house after dark was a little scary because there was no light in the outside part. I wasn't quite as afraid of the mice as Barby was. Barby and Frank and I were talking about the gnawing at night after everyone got quiet (1995:50).

Barbara, who is Pauline's twin sister wrote:

Like Pauline I remember the "Winter House". I remember the way the sawdust was put around the outside for insulation, the vegetables being stored under the floor boards under mom and daddy's bed, a small bed being in the pantry for Susie, Susie's big doll at the top of the Christmas tree. I remember nobody wanting to sit on the bench on the "inside" of the table because that end of the winter house is where you could really hear the rats. We used to get into bed very quickly at night, and we were always afraid to get out of bed to use the "pot", because we were sure the rats under the bed would get our feet – and we were certain there were rats under the bed. Even though I was afraid of the rats I loved the winter house (1995:36-37).

Approximately 40 meters north of the possible winter house location, near a collapsing shed that was built by Harold's brother Aubrey we found a fallen-in and largely overgrown structure that is likely the remains of the family's barn (Figure 13). One test pit was excavated along what seemed to be the southern



Figure 12. Part of a stove pipe found in the winter house area.

wall of the structure which revealed sawdust, part of a sill with bolts and nuts still attached, and a large metal ring around a disintegrated wooden pole.

Historic aerial photographs of Clark's Head from 1947 and 1965 were acquired from the Provincial Government's Crown Lands Division. The former shows the homestead when Harold, Kathleen and their children were living there, and it is clear in that image that sawmilling activities were in full swing at the time that the photo was taken (Figure 14). Log booms can be seen in Clark's Head Cove and against the lumberyard, neat stacks of lumber can be seen on the wharf, and the enormous sawdust dump can be seen stretching to Clark's Brook. The main house, winter house, forge, barn, sawdust road, wood shed, engine house and out buildings are all visible along with other houses and structures in the community. In the 1965 image the main house is no longer there as it had been moved from the site, and the lumberyard has been largely dismantled, but the other buildings are still present and the sawdust dump has changed considerably.

Georectification of the 1947 aerial photograph and an overlay of our track log and waypoints supports our preliminary interpretation of the locations of the winter house and barn (Figure 15). Initially we believed that the forge must have been completely destroyed when the new road was put through the community in the late 1960s, but after further consideration it now seems possible that at least part of it may still be intact behind the remains of the



Figure 13. Probable remains of the Saunders family barn.

sawmill. According to Joyceanne's oldest brother Frank, forge gear, including the '... firepot on legs with the hand cranked blower...' was moved to the other side of the bay and may still be useable (personal communication 2016). The building that contained this equipment was not moved. This area should be tested to determine whether or not this feature still exists.

Through correspondence with Saunders family members after the survey William Saunders provided a plan drawing of the sawmill from memory along with advice on the areas around the mill which would likely be most productive for archaeology (Figure 14). Like those drawn by Joyceanne, this is an extremely valuable record for the family and it could, along with his advice, be used to guide future archaeological activity at the site.

In the months since the fieldwork was completed, I have been thinking about ideas relating to 'percolating time' as presented by Olsen et. al. (2012), which to me seem quite relevant for this particular project. They write that:

"...Percolating time is a notion whereby time, no longer treated as an external parameter, arises out of the multifarious relations between entities of various pasts. In this, past and present are thoroughly blended... time arises out of the relations. We have everything to gain by understanding time in this way. The first payoff: the pasts live again. They are proximate. They have action. They matter in more ways than the detached glass case of modernism permits. If we can no longer seek to purify pasts from the present world in advance, then we can no longer do so when we build accounts of these pasts. Second payoff, we recognize how at all times, the elements of group formation, of the making of humanity, involve multitemporal entities" (2012:127).

The landscape of our study area was shaped by, and bears the marks and traces of Saunders family members of the past to this very day. These pasts continue to live, and the cohesion of the Gander Bay Saunders family identity is connected to this site which holds these marks and traces. This is comforting on a personal level, but more importantly these are some of the reasons that this site is significant.

### Conclusions

The 2015 survey at Clark's Head has demonstrated that the Saunders family homestead site contains a valuable archaeological record, and the genealogy presented here provides accurate information on four generations of Saunders's, including information on the first member of this family to settle in Gander Bay. Our goal of determining whether or not the remains of homestead structures still exist within the study area was met. The survey has resulted in the documentation of existing archaeological features between the intertidal zone and the road including the sawmill, lumberyard, collapsing stores and artifact scatters. It has also identified the location of the family barn, and likely the winter house on the other side of the Gander Bay road. Testing produced a small collection related to the family home. The project has ensured that this information and this material will be available for posterity.

This preliminary work has also resulted in plans for activity at the site in 2016 including survey along Clark's Brook to determine if the two dams built for Frank's water powered mill in 1903 (Saunders 1986:276) still exist. Frank's winter house was located on the north side of the brook in an area which has not been developed. Family members recall seeing the remains of that structure in their youth, and it is likely that they are still present. A family reunion is taking place this coming summer and interest has been expressed in doing a group field trip across the brook to find Frank's winter house. The mouth of the brook will be checked to see if remains of the water powered mill are still present. Testing between the Harold's mill and the road to determine if any part of the forge has survived would be warranted



Figure 14. Aerial image of the homestead taken in 1947 (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador).



Figure 15. Track log and waypoints overlaid on the 1947 aerial image. Number 1 is the location of the probable barn remains, the cluster of waypoints near 2 relate to the winter house, 3 is the mill, 4 is the house, 5 is the 'cripp pile' and 6 is the outhouse.



Figure 16. Sketch plan of Harold's sawmill drawn by William Saunders. The ground floor is on the Left and the main floor, where lumber was cut, is on the right.

and interesting, as would further testing at the main house and probable winter house locations.

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## Nunatsiavut Archaeology Office Fieldwork 2015

Jamie Brake & Michelle Davies Torngâsok Cultural Centre



Figure 1. Map showing the locations of NAO fieldwork in 2015.

### ntroduction

The Nunatsiavut Archaeology Office (NAO) had another productive year in 2015. One exciting development was the announcement of support from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for a multi-year multi-disciplinary project called Tradition and Transition Among the Labrador Inuit. 'Tradition and Transition' is a research partnership led by Memorial University and the Nunatsiavut Government, which will take place over a period of 5 years, and has a total contribution of 7.4 million dollars from various partners. The project has three main themes, including leadership and governance, people and the land, and expressive culture. Archaeology is a major component of the research which means that there will be a significant increase in archaeological activity in the re-



Figure 2. *Inosivut* class displaying bow drills and finished slate *ulus* from 2015 Artifact Reproduction Project.

gion, and scholarship relating to the archaeology and history of Nunatsiavut.

Field activity took place near Nain at Kauk, Nain Bay, Satosoak Island and Hillsbury Island, in the Rigolet region in Back Bay and along the south side of Groswater Bay, in Okak Bay, and in Hopedale (Figure 1). We were very pleased to continue working in the Rigolet area in collaboration with Dr. William Fitzhugh, head of the Arctic Studies Centre at the Smithsonian Institution, as well as with the students who have come onboard the research vessel Pitsiulak to work in Nunatsiavut. This year we had an opportunity to work with Patrick Jolicoeur from the University of Glasgow, Molly Iott and Katie Portman of Notre Dame University, Jake Marchman of Dartmouth College, and Eric White who just graduated from Northern Lights Academy in Rigolet. Once again skipper Perry Colbourne took excellent care of everyone involved. We very much look forward to continuing to work with Bill in 2016 and in future field seasons. The 2015 Rigolet area work is detailed in Jolicoeur et. al. (this volume). A discussion of the work in Okak Bay, Hopedale and in the Nain region is provided in the following pages. An update on the progress with Labrador's first snowmobile is also included and is followed by brief concluding statements.

In 2015 the office reviewed 98 referrals including applications for use of Labrador Inuit Lands, mineral exploration and quarrying applications, research applications and archaeology permit applications. This is a similar number compared to the past few years.

This year we issued our first research grant to John Higdon for work at Ommatik 1 (IcCp-48), an interesting site between Hebron and Saglek Bay, which is not far from the Torngat Mountains National Park where John was conducting archaeology assessments for Parks Canada. At Ommatik 1 the names of 50 – 100 people, some from Hebron, have been carved into stones

dating back to at least as early as the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The site is of interest to Labrador Inuit and had not been documented by archaeologists prior to 2015 (see Higdon's article, this volume, for further detail).

One of the highlights of 2015 was co-hosting the annual Canadian Association of Provincial and Territorial Archaeologists (CAPTA) meeting, and the Annual Canadian Archaeological Sites Inventory



Figure 3. Part of the display at the administration building in Nain.

Group (CASIG) meeting with the Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) at the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Canadian Archaeology Association Conference in St. John's. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with our friends and colleagues at the PAO and to connect with other regulatory offices on a national scale.

Closer to home, we secured a small grant to begin an Artifact Reproduction Project at Jens Haven Memorial High school, and with the help of Tim Rast, we were able to use specially made bow drills to construct slate *ulus* with the *Inosivut* (life skills) class (Figure 2).

On December 1<sup>st</sup> the Nunatsiavut Government celebrated its 10 year anniversary. The Inuit communities celebrated this event in style, and the NAO contributed to this important occasion with an exhibit at the administration building in Nain. Artifacts, photographs and interpretive panels were displayed on much of the main floor of the building where large numbers of visitors toured throughout the day and for several weeks after (Figure 3). One of the focal points of the exhibit was a Labrador Inuit kayak built in 1971 for the bicentennial celebration of the establishment of Nain (Figure 4). It had been displayed in the old Nain Moravian Museum; it was nearly lost when that building burned in 2000 and had not been displayed since that time. This particular kayak was built by Nicodemus Ittulak and is likely the last one built in Labrador using orally transmitted traditional knowledge. Fortunately the construction process was documented by Terje Brantenberg (1971), and it is noteworthy that several skin on frame kayaks have been built in Nain and Hopedale within the past 5 years. **Kauk** 

The first Nunatsiavut Archaeology Office field excursion in 2015 took place on June 26<sup>th</sup>, not long after the sea ice had finally dispersed from Unity Bay. As it was a clear day with little wind, we decided to test out our gear close to town, in order to ensure that the freighter canoe and drone were in good working order before a long and highly anticipated field season. We drove the canoe about 15 minutes



Figure 4. Kayak on display for the Nunatsiavut Government's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, with kayak model and notes on the construction process.



Figure 5. Aerial photo of oval tent rings, 5 metre stadia rod is positioned in one tent ring, pointing north towards the bottom right.



Figure 6. Flying the drone over large tent rings at Kauk Harbour.



Figure 7. Prominent marker at the summit of Kauk Bluff.



Figure 8. Tent ring with internal feature.

south towards Kauk Harbour, landing on the south side of a small isthmus that connects Kauk Bluff Island to the shores of Kauk Harbour at low tide. Within minutes of landing we came across two very large oval tent rings, the larger of the two measuring 10 x 7 metres and a nearby small cache of sardine cans, ceramics and glass (Figure 5). Fourteen metres east of the tent rings lay an over-

lapping cluster of about three reused tent rings, measuring about 7 x 7 metres each (HcCk-46 [Figure 6]). After climbing the bluff in search of reported Ramah flakes at the summit, we returned to the tent rings to fly the drone while the wind was low. While we did not locate any Ramah flakes on the bluff, we did record two prominent markers at the summit (HcCk-43 and -44 [Figure 7]).

### Satosoak

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, NAO staff continued work from the previous year on Satosoak Island, in the hopes of finally locating the unrecorded 18<sup>th</sup> century sod

house belonging to the shared families of Sikkuliak and Kigluana, according to Moravian census records (Brake and Davies 2014; Taylor 1974:75). Although we covered much of the west end of the island on this trip, the sod house continues to be elusive. Much like last year, we found a series of six tent rings close to shore on the south west side of the island, measuring on average 5 x 6 metres each (HcCl -16). One tent ring contained an interior feature and a possible sleeping platform of flat stone slabs on the south half of the ring (Figure 8). Two of the tent rings closer to shore are in immediate danger of eroding into

the ocean (Figure 9).

A kayak rest, consisting of four stones placed in a slim rectangular formation is associated with the site, which would have been used to elevate and dry the kayak after use (Figure 10). We collected a pre-WWII era Coleman stove from the site (Figure 11), which we considered rather unique at the beginning

Figure 9. Tent ring in danger of eroding into the ocean.





Figure 10. Kayak rest associated with HcCl-16.

of the summer, but we have since acquired two more over the course of the year. Fortunately, frequent changes in stove styles help to date early 20<sup>th</sup> century components at camp sites such as this one.

### Hopedale

For the past few years the community of Hopedale has suffered periodic water shortages due to low water levels, resulting in the need to expand the community towards Trout Ponds, an area approximately 2.5 kilometres southwest from the present community, located around Tooktoosner Bay. In the spring of 2015, the NAO received a land use application for a new subdivision. We contacted Hopedale's AngajukKâk Jimmy Tuttauk about a required stage one archaeological assessment of the area in order to understand and record the archaeological and ethnographical resources that would be impacted by the proposed development. Between September 8th and September 16th, the NAO conducted a foot survey and recorded 12 new sites in the area (GiCb-14 to -25). Greg Flowers, The Nunatsiavut Government's Minister of Health and Social Development, also provided transportation to several nearby islands. Minister Flowers has a growing interest in the archaeological and historical resources of the Hopedale area and wants the known sites protected. During that trip we recorded five previously undocumented sites, and Minister Flowers provided locally used names of the islands (GiCa-16 & 17; GiCb-11 to 13).

On September 8th, Jamie Brake began the survey along the western extent of the study area when he was in the community for other reasons, recording one cache (GiCb-24), a tent ring with a small hearth (GiCb-25), and several recently built prominent markers that indicate the continued use of the area. Michelle Davies and Jamie continued the survey on September 14th with Environmental Enforcement Officer Ernie Ford and Geologist Andy Kerr, who were conducting a geological assessment of a serpentine quarry located along the shoreline of our study area (Figure 12). At this time, we recorded two markers that appeared to point in the direction of the quarry (GiCb- 14 and 15 [Figure 13]). While clear evidence of quarrying activity in antiquity is not obvious at the site, it is clear that the area is of cultural importance today as community members from Hopedale access the quarry regularly for carving purposes. Examination of archaeological collections from nearby sites may help to determine if this particular material was used in the more distant past.

Our first visit with Minister Greg Flowers was to Land Mark Island (*Nuvutsuakulluk*) on September 15<sup>th</sup>, where he had discovered an undisturbed grave,



Figure 11. Pre-WWII era Coleman stove.



Figure 12. Serpentine quarry at the shoreline of Tooktoosner Bay, regularly used by Hopedale carvers.

well camouflaged under a rocky outcrop (GiCa-16). While we recorded the location and took measurements of the grave, the remains were left undisturbed. A nearby cache contained kayak rib fragments, about half of a kayak combing with lashing, and a soapstone pot with charred fat and holes for suspension (Figure 14). The cache is associated with the burial and was therefore left undisturbed as well. Across the tickle, we recorded a deeply buried tent ring on an unnamed island west of Land Mark Island (GiCa-17 [Figure 15]).

On our way back to Hopedale, we attempted to locate the remains of sod houses on Sod House

Figure 14. Soapstone pot and kayak combing in a cache. Associated with a nearby grave, left undisturbed.





Figure 13. Stone marker directly above serpentine quarry.

Island (*Iglosoaktaligarsuk*), approximately 13 kilometres south of Hopedale. Unfortunately, it was a very wet day in a densely wooded area. We didn't get to see the houses during our brief stop at this location. However, we are aware that they are there as Junius Bird excavated at this site in 1934 (Bird 1945). We recorded one small cache, measuring about 2.5 x 2 metres, and a similar cache close to a grave, measuring 3.2 x 1.2 metres, on the flat rocky shore on the north west side of the island (GiCb-12 and -13 [Figure 16]). We continued by boat to Grave Island (*Illuviktavik*), recording 3 tent rings on a plateau on the south west side of the island (Figure 17), measuring about 6 x 6 metres

Figure 15. A deeply buried tent ring across from Land Mark Island.





**Figure 16. Recording a grave on Sod House Island.** each, as well as a disturbed grave measuring 4 x 2 metres (GiCb-11).



Figure 18. One of a series of foot paths leading from the Tooktoosner Bay shoreline towards Trout Ponds.



Figure 17. One of three recorded tent rings on Grave Island.

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, we walked from Hopedale to the proposed area for the subdivision, which was about half an hour by foot along a narrow coastal path. Our survey that day began at the head of Tooktoosner Bay, recording several areas where wellused paths led to the Trout Ponds area and towards the quarry, as well as several recent camping and boilup spots close to shore (Figure 18). It is clear that the area is well-used by local residents today, and one of our recommendations is that more work be done to investigate and document the use of these trails prior to development. The survey area was narrow at the head of the bay and close to shore. On a small island



Figure 19. Recording a stone grave close to shore.



Figure 20. A typical marker at the peak of a hill, looking towards Trout Ponds.



Figure 21. A triple-walled tent ring with the name towards Trout Ponds. 'MICHAEL' spelled in stones, likely a previous tent ring that has been enhanced artistically.



Figure 22. Fox trap with re-useable trap door.



Figure 23. Two graves built perpendicular to each other and an empty dome-shaped cache.

that is connected to the land at low tide we recorded an unopened cache as well as several modern hearths and some indistinguishable stone features (GiCb-16). We continued from the Tooktoosner Bay shoreline towards prominent peaks in the surrounding hillside, often breaking into transects to cover more ground with our two-person team. The vegetation consisted of low-lying red and blackberry bushes, as well as small patches of spruce trees between the exposed bedrock and small ponds, which made for good visibility while recording sites. Along the shore we primarily recorded recent camping and boil-up sites, but we also recorded several caches and graves (GiCb-17 to 19 [Figure 19]), which are to be avoided during development.

Further inland, towards Trout Ponds, a series of small markers were photographed on prominent hill peaks (Figure 20). Near the centre of the survey area, in a small wind-blown dip near the crest of the hill, we came across a triple-walled tent ring, which appeared to have been artistically enhanced recently. The name 'MICHAEL' has been spelled out in stones inside of the ring, and the artist may have built up the tent ring walls (GiCb-20 [Figure 21]). Near a small pond on the southwest extent of the survey area, a fox trap is largely intact, including the door which may be replaced for re-use (GiCb-21 [Figure 22]). The exterior measurements are 1.6 x 1.1 metres, while the interior chamber measure 75 x 18 centimetres.



Figure 24. Dome-shaped cache.

As we carried on towards the southeast limit of the survey area, we recorded a disturbed grave close to the shore made of serpentine stones (GiCb-22). The final site we recorded that day consisted of two small graves, built perpendicular to each other on a smooth expanse of bedrock, which is visible from the shore (GiCb-23 [Figure 23]). Next to the graves, a small circular stone feature was propped up against an empty, dome-shaped cache (Figure 24). The rusty brown stones stuck out in contrast to the grey bedrock, and although the site was not previously recorded, this feature may have been previously referred to as a fox trap by an informant.

### Nain Bay

On September 12<sup>th</sup> Jamie Brake was accompanied by Amos Nochasak and Billy Barbour on a short boat trip to Nain Bay to conduct an archaeological assessment. This work related to a proposed cabin for the 'Going off Growing Strong Pro-



Figure 25. Billy and Amos stand near the location of the flake scatter and hearth at Nain Bay 1 (HdCm-01).

gram' (Aullak, sangilivallianginnatuk) which operates out of Nain and involves groups of elders and youth spending time together on the land passing on traditional knowledge and skills. The study area is on a low piece of land between Nain Bay and Tikkoatokak Bay known as the 'neck' where a portage trail, frequently used during the cold months of the year, is located. The application for the cabin put the structure quite close to a known Palaeoeskimo site (Nain Bay 1, HdCm-01), listed as "Dorset?" that was originally recorded by William Fitzhugh in 1971 and which was briefly revisited by the same researcher in 1980. As the site was recorded before GPS was available for non-military applications, it was not clear if Nain Bay 1 would be impacted by the development or not based on the existing information prior to the 2015 assessment.

We were able to quickly relocate Nain Bay 1 which consists of a scatter of chert flakes and artifacts

(Ramah chert, black chert and mottled grey chert) and a hearth (Figure 25). We recorded the precise locations of the proposed cabin site and the archaeological site using a GPS and we were able to determine that the distance between them is more than 200 metres and is great enough for there to be no threat to the Palaeoeskimo site. We also recorded a previously undocumented historic Inuit component just a few metres from the artifact scatter and hearth. Photos were taken and a charcoal sample was collected from the hearth. One stemmed Ramah chert microblade, a mottled grey chert microblade fragment and one black chert microblade were collected 2.4, 2.39 and 1.4 metres from the feature respectively. The artifacts we recovered support Fitzhugh's suggestion that this is indeed a Dorset component, and a radiocarbon date from the hearth should tell us the age of this part of the site.



Figure 26. Artifacts recovered from along the portage trail connecting Nain Bay and Tikkoatokak Bay (a, stemmed microblade from HdCm-01; b-c, microblades from HdCm-01; d, Ramah chert biface fragment from HdCm-04).

Three previously unknown sites were recorded during the assessment as well. Two were found along the portage trail that leads from Nain Bay to Tikkoatokak Bay, one consisting of a single Ramah chert biface fragment surface collected from the path (Nain Bay 4, HdCm-04), and another represented by a scatter of Ramah chert flakes 100 metres south along the path, 80 metres from Nain Bay itself near a small tent ring (Nain Bay 3, HdCm-03). It is difficult to assign cultural affiliations to either of these sites based on the meagre information we currently have, but the former does appear to be more likely Amerindian than Palaeoeskimo, and the biface fragment collected from it would not look out of place in a Recent Indian collection (Figure 26).

Just 50 metres west of the portage trail and 25 metres from the active beach we were surprised and thrilled to discover the remains of a well-defined Inuit winter house with a clear entrance passage (Nain Bay 5, HdCm-05 [Figure 27]). The house measures 6 metres north-south x 7 metres east-west and the entrance tunnel is on the south side towards the water and is approximately 6 metres long. The presence of an entrance passage, and the apparent lack of early contact period historical references to Inuit winter settlement in this area (Taylor 1974; Rollmann pers. comm.) strongly suggests that the house pre-dates the establishment of Nain by Moravian missionaries in 1771. A map of pre-settlement seasonal camps in the



Figure 27. Billy and Amos near the entrance passage of a newly recorded sod house (HdCm-05).

Nain area shows winter and fall camps just to the west of this area (Brice-Bennett 1977:106), but these do not likely relate to this particular structure. A single 25 x 25 centimetre test pit was excavated inside the house just west of the entrance from where we recovered seal bones at depths of between 12 and 17 centimetres below the surface in a clear occupation level with pockets of charcoal and greasy soil. Just over 20 centimetres below the surface we exposed a portion of a large flat topped stone on the north side of the test pit.

### Hillsbury Island

From the end of August to mid-September, fine weather days were spent working at Hillsbury Island East 6 (HdCi-28



Figure 28. Crew at work excavating Hillsbury Island East 6 (HdCi-28).

[Figure 28]). The site was recorded by the NAO in 2014 and that year a single test pit inside one of the tent features at the site resulted in the recovery of a small collection of pre-contact artifacts. Based on the elevation of the site, at just over 1.5 metres above sea level, the lithic materials found, and the presence of caches we suggested that the site was probably Late Dorset. The site cannot be more than a few hundred years old at most, based on the history of geological uplift in this area. We felt that returning to the site in 2015 to determine the cultural affiliation with more certainty, and to precisely date the site were worth-while goals.

With the help of Kelly McLean Nochasak, Patrick Harris, Reb Harris, Rodney Gear, Sean Solomon and Simon Kohlmeister we were able to excavate 21 square metres at the site which allowed us to nearly completely expose Tent Ring 4, the feature we tested and recovered artifacts from in 2014. We found that while there is evidence of a precontact presence at the site, there is also a significant historic period component which has resulted in a mixture of material culture in thin archaeological deposits at the site. The tent ring, which is fairly complex with multiple 'annexes' and confusing interior arrangements of stones, is probably the result of historic disturbance of an earlier feature (Figure 29). Based on the small size of the collection it seems that both occupations of this locality were short lived.

The historic component is almost certainly Inuit, based on the location of the site, its clear use as a seal hunting camp, and the recovery of a small piece



Figure 29. Aerial image of Tent Ring 4, HdCi-28, displaying the complex stone arrangements of previously used and re-used tent rings.

of lead that had been melted into a droplet which resembles lead pendants found in a grave at Iglosoataligarsuk Island near Hopedale by Junius Bird (1945:175). The historic period artifacts recovered from the site suggest Inuit use of the site in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 30), and recovered faunal remains should provide an indication of what time of year the site was used. The date of the precontact component is still not clear, though a charcoal sample collected on the last day at the site in 2015 could shed some light on the matter.

Work at the site in 2015 has demonstrated that Tent Ring 4 does not represent a distinct precontact component. The excavation has resulted in documentation of a previously unknown historic component and has provided valuable information on the history of this area. Additional work would generate more information on precontact use of the site. It is possible that an 'uncontaminated' precontact record does exist at Hillsbury Island 6, which could be identified through additional testing and excavation. We did record a surface scatter of chert flakes this year 40 metres west of Tent Ring 4 at roughly the same elevation. The presence of a probable Palaeoeskimo component at such a low elevation in the Nain area remains as interesting as ever.

#### Okak Bay

In late September NAO staff had an opportunity to travel to Okak Bay in conjunction with the Restoration of Labrador Exploration Sites (ROLES) project. ROLES was initiated by Altius Minerals with several partners in 2013 and involves cleanup of mineral exploration camps, mostly dating to the 1980s and 1990s (Newfoundland and Labrador Environ-



Figure 30. Selected historic period artifacts from HdCi-28. a, pipe stem fragment; b, pipe bowl fragment with makers mark 'H' on both sides of the heel; c, lead 'droplet'.

mental Industry Association 2013). This year, a cache of approximately 200 barrels was being picked up in Okak Bay, and we expressed an interest in partnering



Figure 31. View from the high beach terrace at Tikigatsiak Point.

with ROLES so that we could do some survey work in the area. The project also provided an opportunity for us to bring Inuit elder Nellie Winters back to her home for the first time in nearly 60 years. She, and other residents of that area were relocated in 1956, and Nellie had not been back since. Anthropologist Andrea Procter accompanied Nellie and documented this aspect of the trip, which provides us with significant information on mid-twentieth century life in Okak Bay.

Gale force winds confined us to our camp just east of Tikigatsiak Point in the inner bay for the first two days we were there since boat use was out of the question. We were within walking distance of the point though, where we spent some time recording several interesting sites (Figure 31). Steven Cox surveyed this area in 1974 and documented a Maritime Archaic Indian (MAI) site on a terrace 21 metres above sea level (Cox 1977). We had no trouble finding Ramah chert debitage and hints of cobble features on the exposed sand and gravel beach at this location. Just behind a patch of alders we recorded a boulder mound exposed by wind action below a moss covered bank, which is quite likely a Maritime Archaic burial (HiCo-01 [Figure32]).

Below the MAI site at 11.5 metres above sea

level we found a heavy concentration of flakes, mainly greypurple banded material and greygreen flakes, with a few pieces exhibiting both colors (HiCo-02 [Figure 33]). One piece of this material still retained some cream coloured cortex. A few flakes of grey Mugford chert, black chert and Ramah chert were also present and the debitage was all visible within an exposure of approximately 1.5 x 1.5 metres. Amongst the flakes we found and collected a beautifully chipped black chert Pre-Dorset biface, probably a knife, similar to a biface shown in Figure 2 of Cox's 'Paleoeskimo Occupations of the North Labrador Coast' (1978:100 [Figure 34]).



Figure 32. Exposed portion of a probable Maritime Archaic burial, located on a high beach terrace at Tikigatsiak.

Testing adjacent to the lithic concentration exposed additional flakes and a small biface fragment, probably part of a small point, made of the same black material. A Palaeoeskimo component had not previously been recorded at this location. Higher up on the terrace, quite close to the debitage produced during the MAI occupation of the site, we collected a tabular Mugford chert adze from the surface that looks very similar to others found in Okak Bay at Pre-Dorset sites in the 1970s (Cox 1978:100).

At lower elevations on the same terrace we recorded a twentieth century burial, which is one of three that Nellie spoke about at this location, as well as an additional precontact component represented by a few flakes eroding along the edge of a blowout just 5 metres east of the burial (HiCo-03). Just above the active beach we recorded the remains of a twentieth century camp site and midden.

On September 25th we were able to travel by speedboat 6 kilometres west of our camp site. We landed at the homestead site where Nellie grew up and recorded the remains of structures there (HiCo-05 [Figure 35]). About 500 metres west on a ridge overlooking the bay we recorded three historic burials. Nellie had previously told us that these were in this area (HiCo-06 [Figure 36]). We found the remains of another homestead site as well as a historic period camping site with 3 buried tent rings just above the active beach two kilometres further west along the shore (HiCo-07 to 08). Test pits adjacent to



Figure 33. A heavy concentration of flakes at HiCo-02.

the tent rings resulted in the recovery of some 20<sup>th</sup> century material, including corroded nails, thin bottle glass, scrap metal and seal bone.

Despite wind related challenges the Okak Bay trip was successful. We did manage to survey an area that had not previously been looked at by archaeologists and we recorded several sites while we were there. The ROLES team was able to collect the cached fuel barrels mentioned above, and Nellie Winters was overjoyed to be able to visit her home again for the first time in 58 years after her and her family were moved more than 300 kilometres south to Makkovik.



Figure 35. Nellie Winter's homestead (HiCo-05).



Figure 34. Collected artifacts from Tikigatsiak Point. a, grey chert adze; b, black chert biface fragment from TP2 at HiCo-02; c, biface found with heavy flake concentration at HiCo-02.

#### Labrador's First Snowmobile Update

The remains of Labrador's First snowmobile, a 1927 Model T Ford truck with a kit to convert it into a snow machine, were recovered from the second Rawson-MacMillan Subarctic Expedition research station of 1927-28 (HcCm-03) between 2013 and 2014. The recovered parts were delivered to a machine shop in Port au Choix in late 2014 (see Brake and Davies 2015) and since then there has been steady progress on the restoration of the ma-



Figure 36. Historic burials marked by white stone slabs.
chine. Our goal is to restore the Model T to working order and to display it by using it here in Nunatsiavut. It has already generated an enormous amount of interest in Labrador history and culture and we expect interest to increase when our goal is realized.

Over the course of the year, machinist Frank Noseworthy, who is doing the mechanical work on the snowmobile for us, has been providing regular updates as he works. The engine was mounted in the chassis for the first time in many years during the first week of January (Figures 37 & 38). To date he has completed the chassis, the differential and driveshaft, the transmission, the vast majority of the engine (excluding the wiring and generator) (Figure 37) and much of the body work (Figure 39).

We continued to be surprised and excited by the level of interest in the project. In March Jamie was asked to do a guest lecture for Memorial University's Office of Alumni Affairs and Development at the Labrador Institute in Goose Bay. Following that the project was featured on the Newfoundland and Labrador's CBC News Here and Now, and on CBC News the National. Since then articles have been published in both the popular magazine *Archaeology* and the New York Times in late 2014.

The support and kindness of Model T enthusiasts throughout North America has been wonderful. For example, the transmission cover, to which three foot pedals were once attached, was in particularly poor condition. When it was found at the site it was badly broken and two of the three pedals were missing. Mr. Andy Lasso of Minnesota supplied us with this essential part charging us for nothing but the cost of shipping! Mr. Robert MacDonald of Washington was very supportive of the project and used the engine serial number to track down the day and the shift on which it was assembled. Norman Weatherly of Alberta kindly donated a beautifully made 1:25 scale model of a Ford Model T snowmobile that he built in 2010 and which won an award. These are just a few examples of the unexpected kindness and support we have received and for which we are extremely grateful.

# **Conclusions and Future Work**

Archaeological activity during the 2015 field season has produced information, records and material culture relating to thousands of years of human history on the north coast of Labrador. NAO staff visited 69 sites this year, including 4 ethnographic and 65 archaeological sites. The vast majority of these were recorded for the first time in 2015 with just 4 being visits to previously known sites. This is the largest number of sites visited in a single season by NAO staff to date. The records generated as a result of these visits give us new information on the history of Nunatsiavut and the basic information we need to manage historic resources in the region.

Goals discussed in our PAO Review article on the 2014 field season (Brake and Davies 2015), such as continuing our work with the Smithsonian

#### Figure 37. Restored engine, 2015.

Figure 38. Ongoing body work of Model T.





Figure 39. Engine mounted in the restored chassis.

Institution, revisiting Hillsbury Island East 6, initiating the student artifact reproduction program, and making good progress on Model T project were met.

The 6th annual Heritage Forum was held in Hopedale from October 25-29, 2015 with the theme 'UllusiugutiKannik Siagunitanik NunakKatigenni: Celebrating Heritage Through Community Connections'. During the forum community members expressed a strong interest in seeing archaeological activity within their municipality, particularly at the Inuit winter settlement of Agvituk (Avertok), where some of the first professional archaeological excavations in Labrador took place in the early 1930s (Bird 1945). People are interested in the history of their community and they see tourism related opportunities associated with continued archaeological research. The Agvituk Historical Society submitted a formal request relating to this to the NAO shortly after the forum. This request is an excellent fit with the Tradition and Transition project.

In 2016 we hope to revisit some of recently discovered sites in the Nain region, particularly Nain Bay 5 and Hillsbury Island East 6 to do some additional work. We will be holding public archaeology meetings in Nain in the coming months which will help guide our work in this area in 2016. We intend to help the community of Hopedale achieve its archaeology related goals in any way that we can. We are looking forward to continuing survey work Smithsonian Institution and this year we hope to have Labrador's first snowmobile running again for the first time in nearly 100 years.

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# Fine Screening at Double Mer Point (GbBo-2)

his summer's fieldwork saw the excavation of two Inuit winter sod houses at Double Mer Point (GbBo-2) near the town of Rigolet, Labrador (see Vincent Jankunis, Laurence Pouliot, and Lisa Rankin, this issue, for a more complete account). As part of my MA research, which involves a detailed analysis of faunal remains from Inuit sites in Labrador, I am exploring the presence and importance of smaller taxa in the Inuit archaeological record. In order to facilitate the recovery of small artifacts and faunal remains from Double Mer Point, in conjunction with all other matrix being screened through 1/4" mesh, 10L samples of matrix were collected from a variety of contexts within the houses and taken to the Prehistory Lab in the Archaeology Department at MUN for fine screening. Samples were wet screened using a sieve with 1mm mesh, and then air dried and graded using a stacked series of geological sieves of gradually finer mesh, from 6mm to 1mm. The graded matrix was examined under a magnifying lamp, and all artifacts and ecofacts were picked out and retained. Each 10L sample (equivalent to approximately one quarter of a 10cm level in a 1m<sup>2</sup> unit) takes anywhere from two to twenty hours to process, depending on the amount of cultural material present in the sample and the level of recovery employed. This is lab work that is wellsuited to undergraduate students, with minimal training and supervision required, and is relatively inexpensive to set up. It should be noted that recovery of certain artifact classes through fine screening is heavily dependent upon preservation conditions. Although this process can be time-consuming, it allows for the recovery of items that are not normally recovered in the field, such as the remains of small fish (Figure 1), microbeads, and (presumed) silver sequins and thread (Figure 2). This examination of objects that lie between the macro- and the micro-scales allows us tell a more complete, and possibly very different story of what was happening in the lives of people in the past.

Deirdre Elliott Memorial University of Newfoundland



Figure 1. Fish remains (cf. capelin, left, and cf. gunnel, three on the right) recovered from 1-6mm fractions from House 1.



Figure 2. Tightly coiled silver thread (left) and silver decorations (sequins, right) from House 1.

# A Report of the Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society on the "Great Wall"

s part of its ongoing efforts to engage membership and the general public, the Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society (NLAS) planned and organized its first field trip, held on Saturday August 22, 2015. The excursion to Hant's Harbour was planned to explore the substantial stone features previously reported by Hull (2013) and Penney (2014), and which continue to be of considerable interest to many local residents and a growing number of visitors. Local resident Grant Tucker, who has been actively prosite through moting the social media www.facebook.com/trinitystones, kindly led us on a tour of the features.

In view of the possibility that additional historic resources might be noted during this visit, the NLAS obtained an archaeological permit that would allow us to legally collect any additional information or objects should opportunity present itself. The permit also provided a learning opportunity for those on the field trip regarding the method of legally investigating archaeological sites.

## Observations

The tour of the site included eight people that came out with the NLAS and nine that Grant brought with him. In total, the group of 17 enjoyed beautiful weather over the course of a couple of hours in which we undertook a simple foot reconnaissance of the many known features of the site. Though we did not find any previously unrecorded features, we observed all of the main features between the road and the "Great Wall" (see Figure 1). Grant's media team was there as well, so we had opportunities to talk to both Grant and his colleagues about what we saw.

The archaeological and documentary evidence suggests with certainty that these features were the result of the historic occupation of some of the earliest Europeans in the area as indicated in Penney's 2014 report. An article in a 1940 edition of *The New*-

John Erwin Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society

> Figure 1. A long section of "The Great Wall". Photo: Lori White.

*foundland Quarterly*, entitled "First Roads Built in Newfoundland" (Hibbs 1940:29-33) suggests that road construction began in Hant's Harbor as early as 1840 when:

Samuel Short and Don Hussey of Hant's Harbor sought a sum of money from the Government of Newfoundland for the completion of the road from Hant's Harbour to Seal Cove-this was in 1840 (Hibbs 1940:30).

This passage indicates that road construction began prior to 1840, but does not state that it was ever completed. In this respect, the piles of unused stones, and the incomplete nature of the construction activities, suggest that construction of the original "road" remained incomplete. The observations made by the NLAS during its visit to Hant's Harbour are generally consistent with the conclusions of Hull and





Figure 2. A box of large boulders that has been in filled with smaller cobbles. Photo: Tim Rast

Penney insofar as the origins and date of these stone features. That is, they are a result of a variety of earlyto-mid 19th century construction activities (Figures 2, 3 & 4) related to gardening, house and wall construction and early attempts at "road" building.

Further documentary research, particularly with regard to government records relating to the 1840 road construction project in Hant's Harbour may further shed some light on the earliest construction work.

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Figure 3. One of many stone features located along the unfinished cart path. Photo: Tim Rast



Figure 4. A section of the cobbled cart path. Photo: Tim Rast

# **Revisiting Sunnyside 1**

# Barry C. Gaulton Memorial University of Newfoundland



Figure 1. Distances between ClAl-05 and the low watermark, rock outcrop, current stream and relic stream. Produced by Anatolijs Venovcevs 2015.

he goal of this year's brief excavation at Sunnyside 1 (ClAl-05) was to map all of the visible features associated with this 17<sup>th</sup>century winter house, further expose the large stone fireplace partially uncovered in 2013 and continue testing portions of the associated midden. Despite the fact that we only had three days to complete these tasks, it was a resounding success — due in large part to my team of dedicated volunteers.

The fireplace and associated chimney collapse is the key to understanding the orientation, width, and approximate length of this building as well as the time and energy expended in its construction. Detailed total station mapping of the chimney collapse revealed its full extent: spanning 4.7m by 4.5m, 1m high, and an overall volume of approximately 6.9m<sup>3</sup>. The rocks used in the construction were potentially obtained from an outcrop of angular sandstone/ siltstone located 86.9m away on the shoreline heading



Figure 2. In situ cluster of small lead shot (left) and possible gun barrel fragment (right) found in the hearth.

toward nearby Frenchman's Island. Other important man-made features such as the adjacent root cellar (5.8m by 6.6m) were also mapped, as were relevant natural features such as the distances between the site and the low watermark (27.5m), the current stream (26.9m) and a relic stream bed (26m) (Figure 1).

Excavations inside the fireplace revealed distinct stratigraphy in the form of a tapered deposit of sterile clay and small pebbles sandwiched between two occupation layers. This is suggestive of either multiple winter occupations at Sunnyside 1 and/or an attempt to raise up the hearth floor, particularly toward the east end, in an effort to mitigate against problems associated with water runoff and standing water which still occur in the spring and fall. Charcoal samples were also taken from inside the fireplace for



Figure 3. Copper kettle fragment.

carbon dating. With the assistance of Dr. Vaughan Grimes, one sample was sent to Keck Carbon Cycle AMS (KCCAMS) in the Department of Earth System Science at University of California. The result was a C14 date of 330 +/- 15 yrs BP. Calibrated (using Calib and Intcal13), the highest probability is AD 1553-1599 (Vaughan Grimes, personal communication, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015). Although seemingly contradictory to the other datable artifacts, in retrospect, this early date is not entirely surprising as the cultural materials in the hearth also included small furniture tacks and a chest hinge indicating that the residents were burning old/unusable furnishings.

The artifacts recovered in the hearth helps to shed further light on the daily lives of these European overwinterers. Evidence for subsistence practices and

diet continues to have a terrestrial focus. Clusters of small lead shot, sprue and waste lead were recovered from inside the fireplace as was a small section of what appears to be a gun barrel (Figure 2). Additional examples of crudely-made gunflints were found both inside the hearth and in the associated midden outside the house, now numbering 20 in total. The faunal material, though quite fragmentary and burnt, tells a similar story: 95% is mammal, 1% bird, and 2% fish (2% indeterminate). Identified species include caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*),



Figure 4. Fireplace looking northwest.

hare/rabbit (*Leporidae*), cod (*Gadus morhua*) and domesticated pig (*Sus scrofa*) (Elliott 2014, 2015). Some meals were cooked in a large copper kettle, several fragments of which were found this year and each exhibits extensive evidence for repair in the form of riveted patches to extend its use life (Figure 3).

Additional finds in the hearth include many clay tobacco pipes, mostly stem fragments but also a few intact bowls (ca. 1650-80) and at least one decorated stem; an identical decorated pipe stem was found during the 1980-81 excavation at Frenchman's Island (see Gaulton 2014, Figure 6 middle left). Although more work needs to be completed on the interior and exterior of the fireplace before we can determine its exact size and shape, this year's investigation established that the interior measurements are at least 2.4m wide by 1.5m deep (Figure 4).

Work on the nearby midden southeast of the fireplace was restricted to two 1 metre units. Both produced a variety of material associated with the

structure and the activities of its residents. Iron nails and spikes continue to be a common find on all parts of the site suggesting that the winter house was a modest timber-framed building clad with rough boards. Surprisingly, several pieces of window glass were also found indicating the presence of a small glazed window along the east side of the dwelling facing the water. Woodworking was represented by a gouge and interior lighting by a broken, yet complete, oil lamp (Figure 5).

Evidence for the production of flint implements continues to be the most prevalent find at Sunnyside 1. The 1240 pieces of European flint from whole cores to tertiary flakes — demonstrate that these people transported ballast flint to their winter residence and frequently utilized this resource for the manufacture of fire starters and for spall-type gunflints used in flintlock muskets. None of the gunflints from this site are of the well-made variety produced in European workshops. This is anomalous with respect to evidence found in contemporaneous domestic assemblages from permanent settlements such as Ferryland, Renews and Placentia as the pattern is reversed; most gunflints are mass-produced spall or blade-types and there is limited evidence for flint knapping at the household level (Crompton, 2001, 2012; Leskovec, 2007; Mills, 2000; Nixon, 1999).

The final task of the 2015 field season involved limited shovel testing to the south and east of the site to better delineate its parameters. The results, though preliminary, show that ClAl-05 covers an area of at least 357m<sup>2</sup>. With 25 metres excavated, this leaves approximately 93% of the site for future investigation (Figure 6).

As in previous years, residents of Sunnyside were keen to learn more about our ongoing excavation and interpretations. We had several visits by members of the Town of Sunnyside including Susan Khaladkar and Kevin Stacey, who serve as stewards for this important archaeological site and others nearby. In 2015, we also met with two local metal detectorists who previously visited ClAl-05 and dug up artifacts, unaware that it was a registered archaeological site. This was a particularly valuable meeting as we were able to establish that the well-preserved iron carpenter's or shipwright's adze they found in 2012 (see Gaulton 2012) was in fact removed from the midden area immediately southeast of the chimney collapse. Even more important, it provided the opportunity to reinforce the importance of preserving



Figure 5. Broken but complete oil lamp

and protecting this site and the necessity of properly recording and conserving all archaeological materials.

To conclude, I'd like to thank Steve Mills, codirector of the Sunnyside 1 project, who was unable to take part in this year's brief excavation but whose sound advice is always appreciated. A big thank you goes out to the 2015 field crew: Arthur Clausnitzer Jr, Catherine Hawkins, Anatolijs Venovcevs, Simon Newcombe, Donna Teasdale, and Lisa Imamura. Anatolijs deserves additional recognition for overseeing the total station mapping as well as for producing Figures 1 and 6. Last but most important, the Provincial Archaeology Office has provided steadfast support (financial, logistical, and otherwise) for this project since its inception.

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Figure 6. Plan of ClAl-05 showing the existing features, excavation units and test pits. Produced by Anatolijs Venovcevs 2015.

# Archaeology at Ferryland 2015



Figure 1. Stone footing uncovered at Area D.

ith last summer's shoreline erosion fresh in our minds, we started the 2015 field season by digging a northsouth test trench a few metres back from the eroding embankment in Area D. The goal was to identify *in situ* cultural remains that may be at risk from tidal action, as well as mitigate the impact that future protective measures may cause to these same cultural resources. The 1 x 6 metre trench exposed the remains of a stone footing from a 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century structure (Figure 1). That this buildBarry C. Gaulton & Catherine Hawkins Memorial University of Newfoundland



Figure 2. Builder's trench excavation, Area F.

ing was likely a dwelling can be demonstrated by the large number of domestic artifacts including cast iron stove parts, ceramic and glass table wares, clay tobacco pipes, faunal remains and clothing items such as buttons and buckles. Robert Holloway's c. 1910 photograph of Ferryland shows several dwellings in this part of the Pool, the second northernmost being the likely candidate for these excavated remains. Below this feature was a rich organic deposit containing a mix of mostly 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century material but with a few 17<sup>th</sup>-century objects. The soil matrix indicates



Figure 3. Earthenware storage and cooking vessels and faunal remains found at the bottom of the builder's trench.

that this area was likely used for gardening prior to the construction of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century dwelling while some of the earlier artifacts may have originated from a late 17<sup>th</sup>-century house east of the trench previously reported by Crompton (2001). Our mitigation efforts will continue in 2016 with more test trenches in Area D.

Next, we turned our attention back to the two ongoing areas of investigation at Area F: 1) the massive builder's trench directly south of the Mansion House hall built in the 1620s; and 2) the terrace south of the Calvert-era stable and brewhouse. A 1 x 5 metre area was excavated on each side of the builder's trench, most of the work involving the physical removal of several feet of essentially sterile fill to reach a thin construction deposit at the bottom (Figure 2). The associated cultural material is important not only for what it tells us about the construction of the Mansion House but also about the tasks and daily activities of the masons, slaters, and carpenters who built it. Fragments of brick, roof slate, limestone and window glass were dispersed amongst bits of ceramic cooking pots and storage vessels, clay tobacco pipes, and the remnants of former meals in the form of fish and mammal bones (Figure 3). One small piece of slate was incised with a series of intersecting circles, likely created by a mason using a set of dividers or compass. Its exact purpose remains uncertain, although it could be related to the manufacture of slate gaming pieces — several of which were found in other early contexts at Ferryland.



Figure 4. Assorted roof slate fragments.



Figure 5.Rhenish stoneware bottle fragments.

Excavations on the terraced area south of the stable and brewhouse produced a significant quantity of 17<sup>th</sup>-century material, most of it dating to the first half of the century. A surprising number of roof slate fragments, sometimes in the hundreds per excavation unit (Figure 4), as well as many pieces of limestone and window glass fragments are seemingly associated with the early construction and occupation of Calvert's Avalon colony. This is encouraging as it may suggest that there is an early structure on the terrace, perhaps east or south of our current excavation. An alternative interpretation is that this terrace was a work area for early tradesmen who built nearby structures such as the brewhouse, stable, and Mansion House.

Several clay tobacco pipe bowls (ca. 1620-40) were recovered during this operation, as were a small number of copper aglets, tin-plated straight pins, a



Figure 6. Cook room hearth, Area B.



Figure 7. Soil profile below the 1620s cobblestone street, Area B. The lowest deposits marked on the far right contain early European and Beothuk material.

small buckle and the top of a copper thimble. Roughly one half of a large Rhenish stoneware 'Bellarmine' bottle was found in the same deposit (Figure 5) and later pieced together in the lab. The vast majority of artifacts, however, were coarse earthenware fragments, most of which were heavily trampled into small pieces. This terrace was clearly an area of significant activity but its exact purpose will only be revealed through further investigation. Unfortunately, this may prove challenging in some parts due to significant disturbance caused by 20<sup>th</sup>-century occupation.

During the last four weeks in the field season we redirected most of the field crew to Area B, where previous excavations uncovered portions of the 17<sup>th</sup>century cobblestone street and below it remnants of pre-colonial occupations by European migratory fishers and the Beothuk (Gaulton and Hawkins 2014, 2015). Our focus this year was on the pre-colonial deposits in an effort to acquire information on the extent and nature of these occupations. Three separate features were revealed, each representing a distinct episode in Ferryland's early history. The uppermost feature is a well preserved European hearth represented by large flat beach rocks, two courses high at the back and a single layer of smaller stones for the hearth floor (Figure 6). It measures 1.55m long by 1.2m wide. Some of the rocks on the floor are reddened and/or spalled from repeated heat exposure and there are pockets of charcoal throughout. At the front of the hearth and in associated deposits to the east were earthenware fragments produced in North Devon as well as the occasional clay tobacco pipe. The feature, its stratigraphic position, and associated artifacts all signify its use as a cook room hearth built and used by fishers from the English West Country sometime in the latter 16<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Immediately below and directly adjacent to the cook room hearth is a crude arrangement of purposefully placed, large angular cobblestones exposed over a 3 metre area. This does not appear to be a foot pavement but instead a *galet* or artificial beach constructed by migratory fishers to dry cod. Amongst the crude stone paving were bits of Portuguese ceramic and iron nails but no clay tobacco pipes or English



Figure 8. Beothuk hearth.

ceramics — suggesting an earlier occupation by migratory fishers from Portugal or Northern France.

At the very lowest cultural deposits in Area B (Figure 7) was an assortment of highly micaceous earthenware fragments previously identified as originating from Britanny in Northern France (Pope and Batt 2008). Base and body fragments from storage and cooking vessels as well as rim pieces from a jug that may have held wine were amongst the most prevalent finds. In the same sandy lens as these European artifacts were scattered flakes of local Drook formation chert providing tell-tale evidence for a roughly contemporaneous Beothuk presence. A small Beothuk hearth was also uncovered, consisting of about a dozen rounded beach cobbles some of which are discolored by and concreted with burnt organic matter (fat?) (Figure 8). Both in and around the hearth were preserved botanical remains and a few insect casings. Native species such as raspberry and beach pea were readily identifiable, and Alison Bain at Université Laval kindly assisted by classifying the insect remains as ground beetle (Bain, personal communication Aug 14, 2015).

Of particular importance was the presence of carbonized grape seeds: a few at first but then by the dozens as the field crew spent hours at the wet screen teasing them out of the early deposit. The excavation units adjacent to the Beothuk hearth produced over a hundred grape seeds, with more to follow as large soil samples were collected for later examination at Memorial's Palaeoethnobotany Laboratory (Figure 9). As stated in previous reports by Tuck et al. (1999) the presence of grape seeds in Beothuk contexts at Ferryland is suggestive of friendly contact with Europeans as grapes do not grow wild in Newfoundland and must therefore have been acquired by the Beothuk in the form of raisins or poorly strained wine. These recent finds not only add further weight to Tuck's suggestion of amicable contact but also implies that it may have occurred with greater frequency and duration. Continued investigation and analysis of these early 16th-century deposits has the potential to shed



Figure 9.Handful of grape seeds and several beach peas found at the wet screen.

new light on the nature and extent of the Beothuk presence in this part of the province as well as their interactions with European newcomers.

As a parting note, it is important to remember that a small but dedicated laboratory staff wash, sort, and catalogue our daily finds at Ferryland as well as perform additional conservation treatments to metal artifacts. One of their additional tasks involves the reexamination and inspection of excavated iron nails stored from the previous field season. The additional step of storing iron nails for a period of a year or more, prior to reburial, often results in the exfoliation of surface corrosion. Not only does this improve our ability to identify the underlying iron artifact (nail or otherwise) but also reveals some notable 'treasures.' Such was the case this year. Reexamination of one of these pieces revealed a well-preserved copper cloak hook, very similar to one discovered several years ago (Figure 10). The discovery of this notable artifact embedded in iron concretion should serve as a cautionary tale for others when cataloguing and discarding iron nails. As monotonous as it may seem, this is an important step in our efforts to extract as much information from the excavated artifacts as possible. **References** 

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Figure 10. Copper cloak hook embedded in iron corrosion alongside a similar, previously excavated, cloak hook.

# Excavations at the Cupids Cove Plantation Provincial Historic Site (CjAh-13), 2015

William Gilbert Baccalieu Trail Heritage Corporation



Figure 1. Excavating Operation 126 east of Structure 9, July 9, 2015.

uring 2015, excavations at the Cupids Cove Plantation Provincial Historic Site concentrated on Structure 9 and the area immediately east of it. Located on the low ground at the entrance to the site (Area D), and just a few metres east of the north end of the Spracklin House, the first evidence of Structure 9 was uncovered in 2010. In the summer of that year, an old garage that had stood in the area since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century was removed, revealing a number of flat stones that appeared to have been intentionally placed. We were far too busy in 2010 to do anything other than photograph these stones and rebury them. However, when we returned to Area D in 2012, we noticed two ridges just southeast of the stones at the edge of the bank that rises up to the east of the Spracklin House. One ridge ran west to east for 5m. The other abutted the eastern end of the first and extended north from it for 7m. When we probed these ridges with a chaining pin, they appeared to consist of solid stone beneath about a 10cm overburden of soil. At the time we speculated that these ridges might mark the remains of the southern and eastern walls of some sort of structure. Test pits dug immediately south and east of the ridges revealed a variety of 17<sup>th</sup> century artifacts.



Figure 2. Field drawing showing the location of Operations 126, 127 & 128 in relation to Structure 9, 2015.



Figure 3. Uncovering part of the east wall of Structure 9 in Operation 127, August 21, 2015. The 17th century rubble can be seen, partly exposed, beyond the wall.

In 2013 we returned to Area D to conduct further excavations. A series of trenches were established running north to south and east to west across the area and these soon revealed the remains of a rectangular stone structure (Structure 9) measuring 4.5m (14 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> ft) wide, from east to west and at least 6.28m  $(20 \frac{1}{2} \text{ ft})$  long from south to north. The remains of stone walls run along the eastern, southern and western sides of the structure and the base of another stone wall runs from east to west at the north end of the current excavation. At this time, we do not know if this north wall marks the northern end of the structure or if the structure extends farther north and the wall is an interior division. The flat stones uncovered in 2010 turned out to be just the first of many. The interior of the structure is filled with stones many of which appear to have been carefully laid in place to create a surface.

Excavations immediately west of the western wall of Structure 9 revealed an approximately 60cm thick deposit of 19<sup>th</sup> century fill against that wall and extending west from it. This is clearly part of the same fill layer that was laid down prior to the construction of the Spracklin House around 1870. It represents just one stage in a process of infilling that, since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, has extended the shoreline about 30m north of its original location. This circa-1870 fill layer indicates that Structure 9 must have been abandoned prior to and partially buried around that time. Excavations around the southern and eastern walls of the structure showed that it actually had been built and occupied several centuries earlier.

While the two ridges we first noticed in 2012 helped us locate the southern and eastern walls of Structure 9, they did not mark the exact location of these walls. Instead, the remains of the walls were found just in front of and parallel to the ridges. The



Figure 4. Uncovering a rim fragment from a 17th century storage jar just east of Structure 9, October 8, 2015.

ridges themselves were composed of rubble and other debris that seems to have built up behind the walls while the structure was still standing. At some point after Structure 9 was abandoned, the walls must have been partially dismantled leaving the rubble in place and preserving the outline of the walls' outer edges. While not all the rubble that accumulated behind the eastern and southern walls of Structure 9 has been excavated, that which has contains exclusively 17<sup>th</sup> century material, indicating that the structure must have been standing during that period.

Immediately east of Structure 9, the bank rises steeply. We had assumed that this bank was natural and were surprised when, in the course of uncovering the eastern wall and the rubble behind it, we dug into the bank and found that at least a portion of it also consisted of rubble containing exclusively 17<sup>th</sup> century material. To investigate further, in 2014 we opened a 2m x 3m unit (Operation 126) which extended the excavation 4m east from the north end of Structure 9. Work elsewhere on the site meant that Operation 126 was dug to a depth of just 20cm below surface in 2014. In 2015 we returned to complete the excavation of Operation 126 and open two other units (Operations 127 & 128). Operation 127 is a 2m x 3m unit that exposed the southeast corner of Structure 9 and extended the excavation roughly 1m east of it. Operation 128 is a 1m x 4m unit that adjoins the eastern side of Operation 127, extending the excavation another metre east into the bank (Figures 1 & 2).

Our work during 2015 revealed the source of the rubble. It soon became clear that sometime in the 17th century the colonists had dug into the bank east of Structure 9. The northern edge of this 17<sup>th</sup> century excavation cuts into the bank about 5m north of the southeast corner of the structure. How far it extends to the south and east has yet to be determined, but it clearly continues south beyond the southeast corner of Structure 9 and east from the structure for more than 2m (Figure 3). The lower part of this dug-out area is strewn with rubble in a silt matrix that clearly is of 17th century origin and appears to be collapse from a building. Whatever the source of the rubble, the area must have continued to be used for sometime after it was deposited. The rubble is overlain by a 10cm thick layer of silt and beach gravel that also contains exclusively 17th century material and obviously took some time to accumulate.

The 17<sup>th</sup> century deposits inside the dug-out area are capped by a series of later deposits that built up over the next three centuries. Immediately above the 17<sup>th</sup> century silt and gravel deposit is a layer of fine silt, averaging between 8cm and 10cm thick, that contains no cultural material and seems to have accumulated naturally during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Above this is a 20cm thick deposit of mostly small stones in a silt matrix that contains 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts and probably was dumped there during that period in an attempt to fill in the depression. Above the 19<sup>th</sup> century fill layer and just below the sod is a 20cm thick layer of silt and loam that contains a small amount of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material.

When we first uncovered Structure 9 in 2013 we speculated that it might be part of a wharf or some other harbour-side facility, and this remains the most likely interpretation. As mentioned above, although the feature is located roughly 30m south of the present-day shoreline, this is the result of infilling during the 19th and 20th centuries. Originally, Structure 9 would have stood right on the water's edge. In the 17th century North Atlantic, the sea was the highway. All goods and provisions arrived on and were dispatched over it and storehouses were often erected next to wharves to hold these goods and provisions. Although we cannot say with certainty at this point, it may be that the rubble-filled area dug in to the bank just east of Structure 9 marks the location of such a building. Obviously, the colonists put a great deal of work into this task. And it is worth noting that a large number of 17th century storage jars fragments, including many rim fragments, have been found among the rubble in this area (Figure 4). In 2016 we plan on returning to Area D and expanding the excavation east and south of Structure 9.

# The Dogs of Crow Head Cave (EeBi-04)

Alison Harris & Vaughan Grimes Memorial University of Newfoundland



Figure 1. Entrance to Crow Head Cave (EeBi-04). Photo courtesy of John A. Campbell.

s part of a research project that sought to characterize wild and domestic canid dietary behaviours in the eastern Arctic and Subarctic, the faunal assemblage from Crow Head Cave was targeted for stable isotope analysis and radiocarbon dating. Crow Head Cave, pictured in Figure 1, is a Middle Dorset burial site on the Point Riche Peninsula, approximately 1.25 km southeast of the Phillip's Garden site complex. The artifact assemblage recovered from Crow Head Cave places it within the Dorset Palaeoeskimo period (Brown, 1988). Crow Head Cave has an unfortunate history. Potholing and looting activities occurred regularly throughout the twentieth century, finally culminating in the partial destruction of the site when local residents dynamited the cave entrance in an attempt to deter looters (Brown, 1988). In 1986, the cave was excavated and all faunal and human skeletal material were recovered. The amount of faunal material was inconsistent with Dorset burial sites in other regions of the eastern Arctic (Brown 2011), but there was

insufficient evidence to indicate whether this material was the result of predatory animals, or Dorset mortuary activities (Brown, 1988, 2011). Cumbaa (in Brown, 1988) identified five domestic dog elements in the assemblage, along with numerous canid elements. The majority of the latter were small and delicate, likely belonging to arctic or red foxes, however, the size of one ulna was consistent with that of a domestic dog of a similar size to those recovered from the burial ground at Port au Choix (EeBi-2) (see Tuck, 1976). The presence of identified domestic dogs on a Dorset site makes Crow Head Cave distinct in the eastern Subarctic. Potential domestic canid remains have only been recovered from a handful of Palaeoeskimo sites across the eastern Arctic and these sites date to the PreDorset period, rather than the Dorset period (Morey and Aaris-Sørensen 2002). Although the MNI was determined to be one, based on the absence of repeated skeletal elements, we conducted stable carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis of two of the dog bones, a maxilla and a calcaneus, and



Figure 2. Domestic dog and canid elements from Crow Head Cave sampled in this study: a) dog calcaneus and metatarsals (2837); b) ulna of juvenile canid (2841).

the large canid ulna, pictured in Figures 2a and 2b, and 3a and 3b. Like the majority of the faunal assemblage, the dog specimens appeared to be very well preserved, so much so, that we considered the possibility that they were actually from a modern dog that had expired or had been deposited in the cave at some point in the recent past. This possibility, and the disruptive effects of the explosive charge set off in the cave made radiocarbon dating the specimens critical to interpretation of the stable isotope data.

The dog and canid bones were assigned laboratory identification numbers (marc 2837, marc 2838, marc 2841) as part of the recording protocol of the Memorial Applied Archaeological Sciences laboratory. Marc 2837 is from a well-preserved dog calcaneus. Marc 2838 is from a dog maxilla that appears less well preserved than the other dog elements and is also distinctive for a lesion, pictured in Figure 3b, situated anteriorly to the zygo-maxillary suture. The lesion measures approximately 16mm by 12mm and appears to be osteolytic with ill-defined margins. Marc 2841 is from the ulna of a juvenile canid. The animal was determined to be a juvenile as the epiphyses had not fused to the bone diaphysis. Both the proximal and distal ends of the ulna of a domestic dog typically fuse between five and eight months of age (Sumner-Smith 1966).

Marine and terrestrial ecosystems can be distinguished by their carbon ( $\delta^{13}$ C) isotopic signatures.

In northern climates, terrestrial animals have low bone collagen  $\delta^{13}$ C values (~ -23\% to -19\%) while the collagen of marine animals have  $\delta^{13}$ C values averaging approximately -12‰ (Richards and Hedges 1999; Schoeninger and DeNiro 1984). Marine and terrestrial animals can be further distinguished by the nitrogen isotope ( $\delta^{15}N$ ) values of their bone callogen. Animal  $\delta^{15}$ N values undergo an approximate 3‰ to 5‰ shift between levels of the food chain, or trophic levels and as the marine ecosystem contains more trophic levels than the terrestrial, marine consumers tend to have higher  $\delta^{15}$ N values (DeNiro and Epstein 1981; Minegawa and Wada 1975). The sources of dietary protein are recorded in bone collagen (Ambrose and Norr 1993). The bones of adult mammals remodel slowly, so that the isotopic value of bone collagen represents an averaging of the protein consumed over several years (Hedges et al. 2007).

The canids from Crow Head Cave were meant to act as a case study for a larger project that sought to determine if, in the absence of clear skeletal markers, domestic dogs could be distinguished from wild canids on the basis of their dietary behaviours. If so, then the "dog/wolves" recovered from several Groswater and Dorset Palaeoeskimo sites across the eastern Arctic and Subarctic could be analysed under the assumption that any canids living with and being provisioned by humans would have stable isotope values that signified a marine diet, similar to the val-



Figure 3. Marc 2838 from Crow Head Cave: a) maxilla; b) destructive lesion on maxilla.

ues observed in Dorset human skeletal remains (Raghavan et al. 2014).

Collagen was extracted from all canid and faunal bone samples using an established modification (Richards and Hedges, 1999) of the method developed by Longin (1971) with the addition of a filtration step. Small bone chunks (approximately 100mg to 200mg) were demineralized in chilled 0.5M hydrochloric acid (HCl). After demineralization was complete, each bone sample was rinsed to neutrality with deionized water (18.3MQcm, Human Corp, South Korea), placed in a dilute HCl solution (pH 3) and heated to 70°C for 48 hours to gelatinize the collagen. The gelatin was filtered with E-zee filters (Elkay, UK) to remove insoluble particulate matter, frozen and lyophilized for 48 hours. All of the collagen samples were prepared at the Memorial University Applied Archaeological Science Laboratory. At the Terra Facility of the CREAIT Network of Memorial University, each sample was analysed in duplicate by weighing 1mg of lyophilised collagen into a tin capsule (7x7 ultralight, Elemental Microanalysis, Southampton, UK), and combusted at 1800°C in a Carlo Erba NA 1500 Series II elemental analyser. The combustion gases were carried in a stream of helium gas to a Thermo DeltaVPlus mass spectrometer via a ConFloIII interface. Precision on the protein standard B2155 was 0.2‰ and 0.1‰ for carbon and nitrogen isotope ratios, respectively.

Small samples (~50mg) were collected from each bone and sent to the University of California

Irvine Keck Carbon Cycle Laboratory for AMS dating. The radiocarbon dates were corrected for the marine reservoir effect by calculating the percentage of marine-derived carbon in each sample from the  $\delta^{13}$ C values. These were interpolated with a linear mixing model using a terrestrial  $\delta^{13}C$  endpoint of -19.8‰ and a marine  $\delta^{13}$ C endpoint of -13.9‰. This is an accepted practice for marine reservoir correction of dates from marine consumers (e.g. Arneborg et al. 1999; Barrett and Richards 2004). The endpoints were determined from the bone collagen carbon isotope values of marine and terrestrial animals from Dorset period sites in Newfoundland (Harris and Grimes, unpublished data). The  $\delta^{13}$ C values of the faunal bone collagen were corrected for fractionation by +1‰. The radiocarbon dates were calibrated using a mixed marine curve with the OxCal program, version 4.2 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009) and  $\Delta R$  of 140  $\pm$  50 years (McNeely et al., 2006).

The collagen samples returned acceptable quality indicators with %C ranging from 42.5% to 44.3%, and %N ranging from 15.1% to 16.1% (Ambrose 1990). The atomic C:N ratios ranged from 3.2 to 3.3, consistent with good quality collagen (van Klinken 1999) and the collagen yield for each sample was ~20%, similar to that observed in modern bone collagen (Ambrose 1990). The complete collagen quality indicators and stable isotope values for each specimen are reported in Table 1. Both domestic dog specimens, and the canid specimen plotted within the expected range for animals feeding within a marine

Marc	Element	%Collagen	%C	%N	C:N	δ <sup>13</sup> C(‰)	$\delta^{15}N())$
2837	Calcaneus	22.0	44.3 42.2	16.1 15.0	3.2 3.3	-13.9 -14.0	16.4 16.1
2838	maxilla	20.6	42.5 42.6	15.1 15.4	3.3 3.2	-13.3 -13.4	19.4 19.2
2841	Ulna	19.5	43.0 44.0	15.4 15.8	3.3 3.2	-13.5 -13.4	19.4 19.2

 Table 1. Collagen quality indicators and stable isotope values of domestic dog and canid samples.

environment, pictured in Figure 5. This suggested that the large canid ulna likely represented a domestic dog, rather than a wolf. Although wolves have been observed scavenging sea mammals and hunting spawning fish, these appear to be occasional opportunistic behaviours (Szepanski et al. 1999) and would not result in  $\delta$ 13C and  $\delta$ 15N values on par with the average Dorset human values of -13.2‰ for  $\delta$ 13C and 20.7‰ for  $\delta$ 15N reported by Raghavan et al. (2014).

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These results were exciting, as they seemed to indicate that the Dorset did, on occasion, keep domestic dogs, however, the radiocarbon dates that were returned for each specimen proved to be a surprise. Uncalibrated, the specimens ranged in date from 4490  $\pm$  20 BP to 4105  $\pm$  15 BP, predating the Dorset Palaeoeskimo by approximately 2000 years. The calibrated dates are plotted to two standard deviations in Figure 6 and are reported in Table 2 with their estimated percent marine carbon fractions. The radiocarbon dates provided an additional indication that three individual dog specimens were present in the assemblage. It would also appear that two temporal events are represented here as the dates for 2841 and 2837 do not overlap at two standard deviations. With these dates in mind, in Figure 7, we plotted the Crow Head dogs with what seemed to be the most

obvious comparative material: the dogs from the Maritime Archaic burial ground at Port au Choix. The Port au Choix dog data, published in Guiry and Grimes (2013), approximates the Crow Head Cave dog data, although one Port au Choix dog has a lower carbon value than the others. Taking into consideration the radiocarbon dates, and the similarity between Crow Head Cave and Port au Choix isotope values, we are reasonably confident that the canid specimens sampled in this study from Crow Head Cave represent domestic dogs likely kept and provisioned by the Maritime Archaic people of Newfoundland. Given the disturbed context of the site, further information pertaining to how and why the dog remains came to be in the cave is unlikely to be forthcoming.



Figure 5.  $\delta^{13}$ C and  $\delta^{15}$ N values of Crow Head Cave domestic dog and canid specimens, and average marine and terrestrial animals values plotted to 1 $\sigma$ .

Lab number	Marc	<sup>14</sup> C Age Years BP	δ <sup>13</sup> C(‰)	Marine C (%)	Calibrated 2σ range	Mediaı BP
UCIAMS 154056	2837	$4105\pm15$	-13.7	$88\pm10$	4232-3852	4037
UCIAMS 154057	2838	$4255\pm15$	-13.9	$85\pm\!10$	4436-4077	4273
UCIAMS 154060	2841	$4490\pm20$	-13.3	$94\pm10$	4785-4360	4535

Table 2. Radiocarbon results from the Crow Head Cave faunal assemblage. The dates were calibrated using a mixed marine curve (Reimer et al. 2013), OxCal v. 4.2 (Bronk Ramsey 2009) and a  $\Delta R$  of 140 ± 50 years (McNeely et al. 2006).

The evidence for a Maritime Archaic component to Crow Head Cave is slim at best. The artifact assemblage from Crow Head Cave is predominantly Middle Dorset in style, with the exception of one periwinkle shell worked in the style of other shells recovered from the Port au Choix (EeBi-2) burial ground (Brown 2011).

Needless to say, this evidence does not argue unequivocally or convincingly for a Maritime Archaic presence in the cave. Beyond the presence of the dog elements, there is no evidence to support an argument for multiple dog burials in the cave. The dogs may have made their way into the cave on their own seeking small prey that sheltered there, however, if this was the case it might be expected that more dog skeletal elements would have been present as was observed with other faunal specimens in the assemblage.

In summary, the bones of three domestic dogs dating to the Maritime Archaic period of the human occupation of Newfoundland were recovered from the faunal assemblage of the Dorset burial site, Crow Head Cave (EeBi-4). Stable isotope analysis of the dog bones indicated that marine protein contributed overwhelmingly to the diet of each animal. These results are consistent with the diets of other dogs provisioned by coastal Archaic groups in eastern North America, an cal strongly suggesting that the dogs were provisioned by nearby Maritime Archaic groups.

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Figure 7. Crow Head Cave C and N values plotted with Port au Choix dog  $\delta^{13}$ C and  $\delta^{15}$ N values. Port au Choix dog data from Guiry and Grimes (2013).

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John Higdon

# Preliminary 2015 Archaeological Survey of Engraved Stones at Ommatik 1 (IcCp-48)

rchaeological survey for this short two day project focused on the relocation and survey of Ommatik 1 (IcCp-48), a site in northern Labrador located south of Saglek Bay and southwest of Cape Uivak (Higdon & Whitehouse 2015, Higdon 2015) (Figure 1). Situated atop a 240m elevation hill, the site consists of a series of inuksuit, and a cluster of twenty stones engraved with a variety of names, dates and other inscriptions (Figures 2 & 3). The dates engraved into the stones suggest at least 130 years of continual, be it sporadic, use. While working in the area, we also had the opportunity to fly over and document the location of IcCp-50, a new archaeological site located south of Tigigakyuk Inlet.

## Objectives

The main objectives of the fieldwork were to:

- 1. Relocate the concentration of engraved stones at Ommatik 1 (IcCp-48),
- 2. Survey and document the names and other inscriptions,
- 3. Survey the hilltop for additional features,
- 4. Briefly survey nearby IcCp-34 and IcCp-35 in search of comparable stones, and
- 5. Conduct initial research into the engravings and significance of the site.

# Fieldwork

Based out of the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station situated at the head of John's Harbour nearby Saglek's St. (kANGIDLUASUk), I was flown to the site each day by Nunavik Rotor's pilot, Jean-Francois Martin and accompanied by Nunatsiavut Group of Companies bear monitor Elias Harris on July 26th and John Andersen on July 27th. Fieldwork began in earnest on July 26th with the relocation of the site, initial observations of the engraved stones and a survey of the hilltop in search of other engraved stones and features. Each feature was recorded with digital photographs and GPS coordinates. We returned to the site

Amina Anthropological Resources Association Inc.



Figure 1. Map of northern Labrador showing the location of areas discussed in the text.

on July 27<sup>th</sup> to carefully map the distribution of the stones and to methodically photograph and record the names and other inscriptions. With a few hours remaining in the work day, we descended the hill, documented additional features along the way and briefly surveyed nearby IcCp-34 and IcCp-35 in search of stones comparable to those engraved on the hill top. A PowerPoint presentation was delivered to base camp staff and visitors, as well as Nain residents in August 2015 to share the preliminary results of the survey and also to garner feedback concerning the site and the engravings.

# Site Description

Survey revealed that Ommatik 1 (IcCp-48) is comprised of two main areas along the apex of a hill. With a commanding view of the surrounding area,



Figure 2. Cluster of engraved stones and inuksuit at IcCp-48 (Area 1), facing west.

Area 1 contained three inuksuit markers, a small cache and twenty stones engraved (Figures 2 & 3). Area 2 consisted of a large inuksuk built against a large boulder with an engraved stone at the base of the feature and another incorporated into the inuksuk itself (Figure 4). Visible from both Area 1 and from vantage points further down the hill to the south, it appears as though the inuksuk may have been placed there to guide ones way up the hill to the engraved stones.

#### Site Name

Parks Canada's Jenna Andersen indicated that the hill was known as "Ommatik" or "heart" in inuttut (Higdon 2015; Inuttut - English Dictionary 2006). The association of the hill with the word "heart" was reaffirmed after finding a message in a bottle in a cache near the cluster of stones. Written and deposited in the cache by Yvonne Nochasak in 2007, the faded message indicated that the site was known as "Umatialuk." According to Parks Canada's Jobie Unatweenuk (pers. comm. 2015), it means "big heart" or "place of the heart." Further community consultation will be required to confirm the name of the site and its association with the word heart.

## **Initial Observations**

Clustered together in a 1.6m x 3m area (Figures 2 & 3), the twenty engraved stones feature approximately 119 distinct names, dates and other inscriptions etched into both sides of the stones. Spanning at least 130 years of history, the names and associated dates range from JEFTA 1884 (Figure 5) to Jacko Merkeratsuk, July 14, 2014. It is not unreasonable to assume that some of the more faded inscriptions may be even older. In some instances, it is unclear whether names and adjacent dates were added contemporaneously. For instance, on one stone, the name SOPHEA has been engraved over top of what appears to be a three-mast sailing ship and above the year 1888 (Figure 6). Written along the ship's hull, the date may be associated with the SOPHEA, the ship or both.

Association with nearby Moravian Missions is reinforced with German spelling of a number of the names, such as HELENE, JOAS and SOPFEA, as

Figure 3. Overhead view of engraved stone at IcCp-48 (Area 1).



well as the presence of comparable names and dates engraved into slate at the Moravian mission site at Ramah and on the 2015 relocation apology monument erected behind the Heb-Mission building in 2005 ron (Government of Newfoundland and Labrador 2005). Bear monitors, Elias Harris and John Andersen and others recognized the names of many people from communities along the northern Labrador and Ungava Bay, as well as the names of helicopter pilots and others who have recently frequented



Figure 4. Large inuksuk built against boulder at IcCp-48, (Area 2), facing south.



Figure 5. Stone showing the inscription JEFTA 1884, the oldest of the engraved dates.



Figure 6. Stone engraved with the name SOPFEA, TUMASE, 1888, a three-masted sailing ship and other inscriptions.



Figure 7. *Top:* Engraved stone highlighting the various writing styles and techniques; *Bottom Left:* Close up of finely engraved JE and George River's Jacko Jarause written in syllabics (Anonymous, pers. comm. 2015); *Bottom Right:* Partially completed inscription showing how the finer detailed letters may have been formed.



Figure 8. Beach ridges and grassy terraces at IcCp-50, facing north.

the area. Not surprisingly, many of the inscriptions utilize the Inuit spelling of common names, such as TUMASE instead of Thomas (Figure 6) while at least one other name was written in syllabics (Figure 7).

The relative precision of the inscriptions also vary, ranging from those that seem to have been quickly carved with the tip of a knife, to others where letters have been incised much deeper into the stone, often with serifs or other embellishments (Figures 5, 6 & 7). Some of the unfinished inscriptions also offer clues about how the finer detailed letters may have been formed (Figure 7). For instance, in Figure 7 the JUL in the middle of the stone shows a completed J, partially formed U and a L outlined with regularly spaced dots. It appears as though the dots were made first and then traced to form the letters. Initial observations suggest that the more finely crafted names seem to be associated with the older dates.

## Material Type

Preliminary analysis of non-artifact samples of

the light brown (Munsel: 10YR7/4) stone by Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador's Bruce Ryan (pers. comm. 2015) indicate that the engraved stones are a form of peridotite, a type of ultramafic rock. The appearance of the stones in the area is not that unusual, while "peridotites are not prominent rock types of the Saglek-Hebron area, they do have region-wide distribution," ranging in size from a centimetre to a kilometre in scale. The presence of comparable unaltered stones embedded into the hillside to the south of the site and a lack of comparable stones at nearby multicomponent Maritime Archaic, Palaeoeskimo and Inuit site, IcCp-34, and Inuit habitation site, IcCp-35, suggest that the stones occurred naturally at the top of the hill and had been not brought from elsewhere. They may have simply been gathered from around the hill top and place in the same location at Area 1.



Figure 9. Multi-tiered rectangular structure built along boulder field/beach ridge.

## South of Tigigakyuk Inlet 1 (IcCp-50)

Located south of Tigigakyuk Inlet and southwest of IcCp-48, IcCp-50 is situated along the beach ridges and terraces east of where a small lake feeds into the ocean via a series of small streams (Figure 8). This previously unrecorded archaeological site consists a multi-tiered rectangular oval feature built by removing rocks from a the beach ridge (Figure 9), at least two caches or cairn graves, a large U-shaped feature (Figure 10), and at least two tent rings on a grassy area to the east of the stream. Elias Harris suggested that U-shaped feature may be a seal hunting blind, as it faces the beach where seals are known to come ashore (pers. comm. 2015). I would assume that the site is Inuit in origin, additional survey of the area is required.

## Conclusion

To conclude, this short project served to successfully relocate and document the location of Ommatik 1 (IcCp-48) and the engraved stone concentration. Survey of the surrounding area revealed a few additional engraved stones, as well as numerous inuksuit which may have been used to mark the location of the concentration. The appearance of both engraved and unaltered specimens at the top of the hill and along the hillside to the south suggest that the stones occurred there naturally and that they were not brought from elsewhere. Additional research and community consultations will be required to identify the names in engraved in stone, as well as the significance of the site to the people of Nunatsiavut and Nunavik.

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Figure 10. Southern extent of IcCp-50 with a close up of the U-shaped hunting blind.

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# Torngat Mountains National Park Archaeological Assessment 2015: Komaktorvik River, Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake and Nakvak Brook

John Higdon, Consultant Archaeologist Parks Canada

he Torngat Mountains National Park of Canada was established in 2005, under the Labrador Inuit Land Claim Agreement, to protect and manage the mountainous region of Northern Labrador. From the Inuktitut word *Torngait*, meaning "*place of the spirits*", the Torngat Mountains have been inhabited for thousands of years, as evidenced by the numerous known Labrador Archaic, Palaeoeskimo, Inuit and European archaeological sites found throughout the park (Curtis 2015). While archaeological sites have been found throughout coastal Labrador, most of the recent Parks Cana-



Figure 1. Map of the Torngat Mountains National Park showing areas mentioned in the text.

da research has focused on the southern extent of the park, with the exception of brief forays northward for vital monitoring of cultural and natural resources.

In accordance with Parks Canada's mandate to sustainably document, protect, conserve and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage "in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations" (Parks Canada 2002), this project took into account previous archaeological assessments (Curtis 2014, 2015; Higdon 2015a), discussions with Parks Canada representatives, and the resources associated with visiting and conducting fieldwork in the northern reaches of the park. The aim of the 2015 archaeological field season was to assess locations along Komaktorvik River and Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake for use as potential satellite camps for researchers and eventual visitors. It was subsequently extended to include the survey and assessment of a hiking route along Nakvak Brook that would aid with the delivery of visitor experiences at North Arm 1 (310A), Nakvak Brook and Rose Island (Figure 1). This project served to meet Parks Canada's requirement to complete a terrestrial archaeological assessment of areas within the park, in an effort to protect the cultural and natural resources of the park, while at the same time making them available to visitors, researchers and local groups.

As with previous field seasons, the 2015 field work was based out of the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station (<u>http://</u><u>www.torngatbasecamp.com/</u>) situated at the head of St. John's Harbour (kANGIDLUASUk). The field season ran from mid-July to mid-August with financial, logistical and other support provided by the
Torngat Mountains National Park, Parks Canada, Nunatsiavut Group of Companies and Nunavik Rotors.

### Methodology

The selection of potential satellite base camp locations along Komaktorvik River and Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake and potential hiking routes along Nakvak Brook took into account topography, proximity to water bodies, natural resources, such as char, seal, etc., and previously documented archaeological sites. Brief helicopter and systematic terrestrial surveys of each area were conducted to identify and assess potential impacts on cultural resources within each area. This included walking five metre transects of each potential satellite camp area, and noting the location, extent and features associated with new and previously recorded archaeological sites. Features were flagged during the course of the survey and then recorded with GPS coordinates, photographs and measurements, as time permitted. While no artifacts were collected, representative samples of tool and material types were photographed and recorded with GPS coordinates. It is also worth noting that numerous new archaeological sites were observed while en route to the survey areas. In these instances, their locations were recorded with GPS, photographs and very brief site descriptions, so that that they may be revisited and more intensively surveyed at a later date. Not only has the survey increased the number of known archaeological sites within the park, but further research may ultimately shed light on the use of the park's interior by both Palaeoeskimo and Inuit groups.

### Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake Satellite Base Camp Survey

Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake is located 130km northeast of Saglek Bay and the Torngat Mountains Base Camp and Research Station, and approximately 25km inland from Seven Islands Bay (Figure 1). A campsite established here would begin as a satellite research base of operations with the potential to expand to include visitors (Curtis 2014:7).

Archaeological survey of the lake began when three archaeological sites were recorded along the southern end of the lake in the late 1970s (Fitzhugh 1978a-c; Kaplan 1983). There were three additional sites recorded during an initial satellite camp survey



Figure 2. 2015 Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake satellite camp survey area with InterShelter dome, facing southeast.



Figure 3. Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake satellite camp. Top Left: Helicopter slinging the aluminum boat from
Komaktorvik River satellite camp, facing east; Top Right: helicopter slinging an InterShelter to camp location C; Bottom: camp with bear fence and personal tents, facing south (Courtesy of Kristin Westdal 2015).

of portions of the lake in 2014 (Higdon 2015a-b). Building on the results of the previous surveys, we were able to continue with the assessment of the proposed satellite camp area along the northwestern extent of the lake to find a suitable location for the camp. An InterShelter dome and aluminum boat were



Figure 4. Aerial view of 130A, located on the terraces and hill in the centre of the image and 131A, located along the sandy spit to the east, facing southwest.

subsequently slung via helicopter to the approved location. Parks Canada and Nunatsiavut Government staff travelled to the campsite a few days later to finish setting up an electrified bear fence and personal tents, thus allowing them to conduct fieldwork in the area (Figures 2 & 3).

During the afternoon of the second day, we were able to relocate the three archaeological sites documented by Fitzhugh and Kaplan and also to document the location of a new archaeological site along the eastern end of the lake. While we only had enough time to locate and conduct limited transects of each site, we were able to take photos and GPS measurements of each, noting the more clearly visible artifacts and features. This initial data may serve to inform more systematic archaeological studies of the area in the future.

A summary of the newly documented and revisited archaeological sites are as follows:

# 130A Kangalaksiorvik Lake 2 (IiDb-02)

Situated on the southern shore of Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake, 130A is a Palaeoeskimo and Inuit spring and summer habitation, as evidenced by the tent rings, caches, and grave and boulder features (Kaplan 1983:768) (Figure 4). The site is located on a series of terraces and hills overlooking a shallow area where seals appear to congregate in large numbers. While we only had time to conduct a very cursory survey of the area, we were able to confirm the location of the site, record numerous features, relocate the feature that Kaplan (1983:768) described as "*a rectangular stone structure with double line of rocks down the center*" (Figure 5), as well as a solitary Ramah chert flake, which may be evidence of a previously recorded Palaeoeskimo component of the site (Fitzhugh 1978a:1; Kaplan 1983:768).

# 131 A Kangalaksiorvik Lake 1 (IiDb-01)

Situated along the sandy spit to the east of 130A, 131A Kangalaksiorvik Lake 1 was first recorded by Fitzhugh in 1978 (Figures 4 & 6). Described as a prehistoric chipping station with a 2m diameter "near the centre of the spit, just below a recent tent ring" (Fitzhugh 1978b:1), two utilized flakes were collected and later described as being Dorset in origin. With just an hour remaining in the day to confirm the location of the site, we were able to note the location of six separate lithic scatters eroding out of the sandy blowouts. The scatters included several small Ramah chert flakes, a Ramah chert core fragment, and a small lithic scatter containing the base of a Ramah chert biface (Figure 6) and a green-grey Mugford chert flake. The cultural affiliation of the biface remains undetermined. Archaeologist and lithic expert Tim Rast (pers. comm. 2015) indicated that it "could be a lot of things...the base of a Maritime Archaic point, or a side notched Groswater or Dorset knife".

Taking into consideration the artifacts observed during the 2015 field season and the Dorset artifacts collected from the site in 1978, the assemblage suggests that it is probably a Palaeoeskimo Dor-



Figure 5. Relocating rectangular structure recorded by Kaplan (1983) on lower terrace at 130A. Left: View of overgrown structure, facing south; Right: B) sketch map of the to aid in the cultural identificafeature (Kaplan 1983: 769).

set site. A more systematic survey of the area is needed to fully determine the extent and nature of the site, and to determine if they may have camped along the spit to take advantage of the resident harbour (Ranger) seal (Phoca vitulina) populations (Higdon 2015a-b).

### 132A Kangalaksiorvik Lake 3 (IiDa-02)

This site is located along the southeastern shore of Kangalaksiorvik Lake, approximately 5km west of the mouth of Kangalaksiorvik Fiord. The site consists of a series of lithic scatters eroding out of several exposed sand and gravel areas, as well as a possible tent ring with an associated cache (Figure 7). With little time left in the day, we only managed to do a cursory flyover of the area, set down, confirm the location of the site and have a quick look around. In fact, most of the recorded features were located by

Martin and Nunatsiavut Group of Companies' bear monitor Robert Harris, as Parks Canada's Martin Lougheed aided me in the systematic documentation of the largest of the lithic scatters.

While any of the observed lithic scatters may have corresponded to Fitzhugh's (1978c:1) "undetermined lithic scatter" description, the 13m x 16m lithic scatter (Figure 8) appears to be the best candidate, as it is

located on a sandy/gravely area just 50m northwest of the location indicated on Fitzhugh's site record form. Located next to the small pond, the area contained approximately 20 separate lithic scatters and over 40 individual lithics. A representative sample of the white quartzite and Ramah chert flakes and core fragments were photographed, but no diagnostic tools were found amongst the flake scatters

tion of this portion of the site. With the exception of a few core

fragments, many of the lithics appear to be secondary or tertiary flakes.

Other areas of note included a possible Ramah chert flake knife eroding out of the sand and an additional Ramah chert flake scatter with the medial portion of a white quartzite biface, eroding out of a sand and gravel blowout (Figure 9). When asked his opinion of the biface, Tim Rast (pers. comm. 2015) indicated that it "looks a little rough for Palaeoeskimo, but [he is] not used to seeing such narrow points for MAI [Maritime Archaic Indian]." He indicated that he favour [s] MAI over Palaeoeskimo for that particular artifact. 448A Kangalaksiorvik Lake 7 (IiDa-04)

448A is located at the southeast end of Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake, along the northern side of the river that feeds into Lower Kangalaksiorvik Lake (Figures 7 & 10). Noted while on route to 132A, this

Nunavut Rotor's Jean-Francois Figure 6. Left: Sandy spit at the northern extent of 130A; Right: Notched base of a Ramah chert end blade found eroding out of one of the many sandy blowouts.





Figure 7. Aerial view of the southeastern end of Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake, showing the location of 132A, in the foreground and 448A on the opposite side of the river, facing northeast.



Figure 8. Jean-Francois Martin and Robert Harris placing survey flags to mark some of the numerous lithic scatters at 132A1, facing west.



Figure 9. Medial portion of white quartzite biface observed at 441A.

previously unrecorded site consists of two multitiered circular stone features (caches) along the sandy gravel area overlooking the river, and also a large multi-tiered rectangular feature and associated cache along the beach ridge to the northwest (Figure 10). The large rectangular feature appears to have been built into the beach ridge by removing boulders from interior area.

# Komaktorvik River Satellite Base Camp Survey

The survey area for the Komaktorvik River satellite camp is located approximately 16km southwest of the head of Komaktorvik Fiord, along the southern shore of the Komaktorvik River, as it bends eastward toward Komaktorvik Lake (Figures 1 & 11). Curtis' 2015 archaeological overview assessment for the satellite camp along the Komaktorvik River revealed a dearth of known archaeological sites within or adjacent to the proposed campsite, due to the lack of archaeological survey in the area. She went on to note that,

Numerous archaeological sites are known in nearby Komaktorvik Fjord, representing Palaeoeskimo and Inuit occupations over the last 4000 years. Given the campsite location along the Komaktorvik River which flows from Komaktorvik Lake out to the fjord there is a high potential for archaeological resources (Curtis 2015:1).

This high potential was soon realized with the recording of two previously undocumented archaeological sites found along the Komaktorvik River (442A, 443A), while *en route* to the proposed satellite camp area. A third site, 441A, along the northern extent of the proposed satellite camp location (441A) (Figure 11) and a fourth site, 444A, to the east along the western extent of Komaktorvik Lake, were also recorded.

Both the proposed satellite camp area and site 441A were intensively surveyed to ensure that the placement of the camp would not compromise the integrity of the site. Once the area was cleared and the camp set up, Parks Canada and Nunatsiavut Government staff members stayed at the camp to conduct research and other monitoring-related work. Having spent considerable time on the land, they were able to pass along the locations of five additional areas of interest, including tent rings, caches and possible house depressions. The appearance of the archaeo-



Figure 10. Aerial View of 448A, facing southeast with close up of the large multi-tiered rectangular feature, facing east.



Figure 11. Northern extent of Komaktorvik satellite camp survey area 2015 and archaeological site 441A, facing east.

logical sites and potential areas of interest once again serve to highlight the use of the interior portions of the park by Inuit groups.

A short summary of the four newly recorded archaeological sites within or adjacent to the Komaktorvik River area as follows:

## 441 A Komaktorvik River 1 (IhDa-01)

The site is located approximately 16km southwest of the head of Komaktorvik Fiord, along the southern shore of Komaktorvik River, as it bends eastward toward Komaktorvik Lake. 441A is situated along the river to the east of a large waterfall, where char appear to congregate before heading up river to spawn. The notable features include two multi-tiered circular paved structures built against the bedrock outcrops directly adjacent to the river and the waterfall (Figures 11 & 12), and an Inuit tent ring with clear sleeping platform and paved lampstand area on a sheltered grassy area to the east (Figure 13). Additional tent rings were located in well-drained gravel areas that overlook the river at the eastern extent of the site.

The walls of the two multi-tiered structures are made up of three to four courses of stone, with some of the walls having partially collapsed toward the river. Inundated with mosses and grasses, the flat paving stones, which line the interior of the structure, are partially visible under the non-vegetated overhang of the bedrock outcrop. With the bedrock outcrop and walls providing some shelter from the elements and an ample view of the surrounding area, these features may have been used as hunting blinds or caches. Nunatsiavut Group of Companies' (NGC) bear monitor, Elias Harris (pers. comm. 2015), suggested that they may be hunting blinds or shelters, as there were not enough stones surrounding the feature to cover it completely as a cache. Having sat in and measured each feature, it appeared as though each was approximately big enough for two people to sit in and/or lie down.



Figure 12. *Top:* Multi-tiered rectangular stone features, 411A1 & 441A2, built against bedrock outcrop, facing south; *Bottom Left:* Side view of 411A1, facing east; *Bottom Right:* Overhead view of 441A1.

NGC bear monitor, Joe Atsatata (pers. comm. 2015), suggested that they could have been caches used to hold char. He postulated that people could easily catch the char in that location with a kakivak, "a three pronged Inuit fishing spear" (Inuttut - English Dictionary 2006) (Figure 14), as the char gathered in the pool before making their way up to the waterfall and lake. He went on to suggest that the char could be easily tossed into either of the two structures and drawn upon at a later date. He indicated that if the fish were harvested later in the season (late summer/early fall), they would keep better because of the cool temperatures. Aligning with this interpretation, Peter Whitridge (pers. comm. 2015) suggested that it may be a cache missing capstones or simply a cache without capstones, which would have been used as a temporary storage facility by people, camped nearby (Figure 14). He went on to suggest that the walls could have been used to suspend and dry char. The notion that it could be a temporary storage cache with people camping nearby is supported by the numerous tent rings located along the river to the east and across the river to the north at 443A.

# 442A Komaktorvik River 2 (IhDa-02)

Located 13km southwest of the head of Komaktorvik Fiord, the site is situated on a terrace where an unnamed river flows from Chasm Lake into Komaktorvik River. A single cultural feature stood out as we flew over the sparsely vegetated gravel terrace (Figure 15). Too substantial to be a tent ring, this multi-tiered circular structure with few rocks within the interior space may have been a caribou hunting blind with a possible cache.

443A Komaktorvik River 3 (IhDa-03)

Located along gravel terraces on the opposite side of the Komaktorvik River as 441A, the

observed features at 443A consisted of two large circular tent rings. Closer inspection of field photos revealed that the two circular tent rings appear to be divided in two, with a sleeping area on one side and a paved lampstand area in the other area, not unlike some of the tent rings observed at 441A.

444A Komaktorvik River 1 (IhDa-04)

Located on a sparsely vegetated lichen and gravel-covered area along the northeastern extent of the smaller of the Komaktorvik Lakes, 444A consists of at least one or two possible tent rings. The size and square nature of the stone features suggest that they may be more recent in origin.

## Kogarsok Brook

Another previously undocumented archaeological site was quickly recorded while *en route* back to base camp from the Komaktorvik River satellite camp survey area. Spotted earlier in the day by Nunavik Rotors pilot, Jean-Francois Martin, the site consists of a circular stone feature west of Kogarsok Brook, over 10km north of where the brook empties into Nachvak Fiord (Figure 1). While not the focus of the survey, the location of this site was recorded with GPS coordinates and photographs so that it may be visited again at a later date. Just as it has become a



Figure 13. Solitary Inuit tent ring on sheltered grassy area to the east of the multi-tiered stone structures. The helicopter demarks the location of the approved satellite camp location.



Figure 14. Top: Fishing at stone weir using Kakivak; Bottom: Fish cache built against large boulder. © Nunavut Parks (Nunavut Tourism, n.d.).



Figure 15. Aerial view of 442A, facing south with close up of stone feature.

well-used corridor for helicopter traffic from Nachvak Fiord to Komaktorivk River and beyond, it is not unreasonable to assume this route would have also been used by Inuit people and their precursors, as part of their seasonal migrations.

# 445A Kogarsok Brook 2 (IgCx-12)

This site consists of a multi-tiered circular stone ring with an opening along the side facing a boulder field (Figure 17). Made up of large rocks/ boulders, the easternmost side of the interior of the feature, looks as though it may be paved with large flat rocks. This area may have acted as a bench or paved area, so that hunters would not have had to sit/kneel on the ground. While we were not able to set down to measure the feature, it appears as though it may be 2-3 metres in diameter.

## Nakvak Brook Hiking Route Assessment

Nakvak Brook is situated approximately 40 kilometres west of Cape Uivak and the mouth of Saglek Bay, between Branagin Cove to the east and North Arm to the west, and directly north of the mouth of Ugjuktok Fiord (Figure 1). The brook provides access to the interior of the peninsula, with the river extending 70 kilometres inland, meeting up with the Koroc River, which can then be followed westward to Ungava Bay and Kangiqsualujjuaq (George River) or northward to the Palmer River and Nachvak Fiord's Tallek Arm.

The goal of the Nakvak Brook hiking route assessment was to determine a hiking route that would ultimately allow staff and visitors to navigate their way from the beach to the inuksuk without compromising the integrity of the many archaeological sites found along the way (Figure 19). The Nakvak



Figure 16. Aerial view of 443A in the foreground with 441A on the opposite side of the river, facing southeast.

Brook inuksuk was originally built in 2009 by members of the Torngat Mountains National Park Cooperative Management Board, in order to commemorate the connection between Nunavik Inuit and Nunatsiavut Inuit, as well as the bond between generations (Figure 19). "It is a place that has gained significance for youth and elders, who recognize the importance of passing on Inuit knowledge and connecting Inuit youth to their culture and their land" (Parks Canada n.d.:5).

With the help of Parks Canada's Andrew Andersen and NGC bear monitor John Andersen, two new archaeological sites were documented during the course of the assessment. A hiking route was determined to circumvent these sites, as well as the four other sites documented during my 2014 survey of the area (Higdon 2015a-b). Quick observations were also made concerning two previously documented archaeological sites, as I accompanied Visitor Experience Manager, Gary Baikie, members of the kAN-GIDLUASUk student program and others along the hiking route to boat landing area. Sorted by site number, the archaeological sites visited along Nakvak Brook during the 2015 field season include:

## 307A Nakvak Brook 1 (IcCt-01)

First tested by Schledermann (1971) in 1970, 307A is situated along the west bank of Nakvak Brook, south of the first prominent 15m terrace. It is a twentieth century Inuit habitation site with the remnants of three sod houses, tent rings, caches and several cairn graves, some with associated caches (Higdon 2015b). The site was revisited last summer while assessing the area for potential satellite camping locations (Higdon 2015a-b). Adding to the complexity of the site, a portion of a waterworn Ramah chert endblade was observed and documented in the vicinity of the site.



Figure 17. Aerial showing the location of a circular stone feature at 445A in relation to Kogarsok Brook, facing north.

### 308A Nakvak Brook 4 (IcCt-07)

Located on the point of land to the southwest of Nakvak Brook, 308A was first documented by Callum Thomson in 1985 (Figure 20). Situated on a rolling hillside with grass, lichen and other low-lying vegetation, Thomson (1985:1) described the site as a multi-component Maritime Archaic or Pre-Dorset site with Inuit sod houses. During my very brief 10 -15 minutes at the site, I was able to reaffirm the location of the site, and also quickly note the location of two possible house depressions, a potential paved area, and numerous artifact scatters eroding out of exposed areas of sand and gravel. These artifacts include a diagnostic Dorset Ramah chert endblade, numerous Maritime Archaic or Palaeoeskimo lithic scatters, ceramic and glass bottle fragments and a rusted iron gate/door (Figure 21).

# 446A Nakvak Brook 7 (IdCt-03)

Situated to the south of the recently constructed Nakvak Brook inuksuk, 446A consists of a solitary single tiered oval stone feature situated on a small well-drained terrace, overlooking Nakvak Brook (Figure 22). The use and cultural affiliation of the feature remains undetermined, as no other features or artifacts were observed in the vicinity. More deliberately placed than a collapsed inuksuk, the configurations of stones may be a type of equipment cache not unlike the ones used by Inuit in Baker Lake. Consisting of "a small tent ring with closely set rocks... used to secure a covering of skins over cached equipment", such a cache could have been used to store goods during the summer, when local groups would have been travelling by foot (Stewart et al. 2000:265).

### 447A Nakvak Brook 8 (IdCt-04)

This site is located on the western side of Nakvak Brook, overlooking the old creek bed. Situated on a well-drained and low-lying willow-covered area, the site is punctuated by lithic scatters eroding out of the gravel and sand (Figure 24). While no discernable stone features were observed during the course of the survey, the site boasts many hard hammer flakes, biface fragments, possible flake knives



Figure 18. Northern extent of Nakvak Brook hiking route assessment area, facing north.

and numerous scatters of quartzite and Ramah chert flakes.

Observed during the course of the survey by Andrew Andersen, one of the more intriguing artifacts found on site was a large Ramah chert flake that looks as though it could have been used as a handheld expedient scraper (Figure 23). Found *in situ* embedded into the soil and in association with flakes and a possible flake knife, the large flake appears to have been worked on three sites with the straight edge exhibiting signs of use wear-related flaking. Archaeologist Tim Rast (pers. comm. 2015) suggested that it may be a "*hard hammer flake with steep edges, with no clear signs of retouch to indicate that it was worked into a scraper.*" He went onto suggest that it may be an expedient scraper and that it could be Maritime Archaic Indian or Recent Indian, as he is not used to seeing hard hammer flakes that size in Dorset contexts.

Based on the large number of flakes, expedient tools, artifact morphology and the location of the site, it appears to be a Maritime Archaic knapping, harvesting and butchering area. The designation of the site as a Maritime Archaic site seems plausible, as there are other Maritime Archaic sites found throughout the Nakvak Brook area.

# **Visitor Interpretation**

Building on Parks Canada's mandate to present the cultural resources to the public, I was also tasked with aiding with the visitor experience and interpretation at North Arm 1 (310A), Nakvak Brook and Rose Island (Figure 1). During this time, I was able to further refine the hiking routes at North Arm and Nakvak Brook and also comment on the condition of some of the sites and features.

# Conclusion

With satellite camp locations assessed and approved along Upper Kangalaksiorvik Lake and Komaktorvik River, the more remote reaches of an already remote National Park are slowly being opened up more and more to Parks Canada and Nunatsiavut



Figure 19. Left: Nakvak Brook Inuksuk, facing south toward Saglek Fiord; Right: Hiking along Nakvak Brook with the kANGIDLUASUk student program participants and other visitors.



Figure 20. Point of land featuring 308A, facing west down Saglek fiord.

staff, researchers and other visitors. In sum, a total of fourteen archaeological sites were visited during the course of the field season, including eight previously unrecorded sites and six revisits. These Maritime Archaic, Palaeoeskimo and Inuit sites reaffirm the extensive use of the interior regions of the park and certainly warrant further study.

#### Acknowledgements

During the course of the field work, I was accompanied by Parks Canada's Martin Lougheed, Andrew Andersen and Jenna Andersen, as well as Nunatsiavut Group of Companies bear monitors Elias Harris, John Andersen, Joe Atsatata, Robert Harris, and Benigna (Boonie) Merkeratsuk. Thanks also to Nunavut Rotor's pilot, Jean-Francois Martin, Nunatsiavut Government's Rodd Laing and Parks Canada's Darroch Whitaker, John Mombourquette, Travis Halliday and Jobie Unatweenuk for alerting me to the presence of artifacts and features as they conducted their own work within the park. I am also indebted to Parks Canada's Judy Rowell (TMNP Superintendent), Gary Baikie (TMNP Visitor Experience Manager), Rosie Lyall (TMNP Administrative Assistant), and Jenneth Curtis (Parks Canada Archaeologist) for providing technical and logistical support and other assistance as needed. Thanks to Scott Mackenzie and the staff of the Torngat Mountains Research Station and Base Camp.

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Figure 21. Artifacts from 308A. Left: Dorset Ramah chert endblade; Right: Rusted iron grate.



Figure 22. Oval stone feature, 446A1, facing southeast toward Saglek Fiord.

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Figure 24. Orange survey flags noting the location of artifact and lithic scatters at 447A, facing south. John Andersen and Andrew Andersen waiting patiently as I document the site.

# 2015 Fieldwork at Double Mer Point

Vincent Jankunis<sup>1</sup>, Laurence Pouliot<sup>2</sup> & Lisa Rankin<sup>3</sup> Memorial University of Newfoundland<sup>1,3</sup>, Laval University<sup>2</sup>



Figure 1. Aerial photo of Houses 1-3 at Double Mer Point (GbBo-2).

n 2013 Dr. Lisa Rankin of Memorial University began working at Double Mer Point, near Rigolet, Labrador. The work has expanded under the Tradition & Transition Partnership and now links the Community of Rigolet, the Nunatsiavut Government, Memorial University, and graduate students from Laval University. Within the context of land development and tourism, it was the community of Rigolet and the Nunatsiavut government that initiated the organization of the archaeological program which in turn facilitated the continuation of research in 2015 by M.A. students Laurence Pouliot (Laval University) and Vincent Jankunis (Memorial University of Newfoundland). Throughout the summer the people of Rigolet showed great interest in the fieldwork and its results. Two people from Rigolet were hired including a local student to assist in the laboratory and field, and a boat driver for transportation to

the site twice a day. People of the town were invited to visit the site and the laboratory when archaeologists were present and often did so, frequently showing their support of the research team.

Double Mer Point was first recorded by William Fitzhugh in 1968 while surveying The Narrows of Hamilton Inlet. Subsequent shovel testing in 1974 by Richard Jordan followed by limited excavation by Lisa Rankin in 2013 revealed an eighteenth-century Inuit site consisting of three contiguous, semisubterranean winter sod houses. Realizing much could be learned about Inuit communal houses of the region the site was returned to in 2014 and Jeralyn Bohms excavated the smaller and central House 2 for her M.A. research. Fieldwork of the 2015 field season focused on the two bordering, unexcavated Inuit winter sod houses at Double Mer Point. For close to three months Laurence Pouliot oversaw the excava-



Figure 2. Ulu and Iron knife with whalebone handle, from House 3.

tion of House 1 and Vincent Jankunis the excavation of House 3. The houses were excavated in 1 m<sup>2</sup> units with a total of 117 units completed. During excavation artifacts were collected with three point provenience, faunal materials were collected by quadrant and level, and all architectural features were drawn. Archaeological soil was also sampled for entomological analysis and cross-section profiles were sketched to document the soil deposition of the site.

Prior to commencement it was thought with the similar size, orientation and location of the houses the architectural characteristics and artifact assemblages would not differ greatly, but this was not the case. Both Houses 1 and 3 were sub-rectangular (7 m x 6 m) with long entrance tunnels, but early in the season the entrance tunnel floor of House 1 was found to have been covered in wooden planking unlike the other houses. The architectural differences of House 1 only increased in number as the interiors of the houses were uncovered. The layout of House 3 closely resembled that of the previously excavated House 2. It consisted of an open central floor area, two possible workstations and benches located along the side walls, and a crescent-shaped stone alcove feature bordering the rear sleeping platform. In House 1, two platforms were found in the interior of the house. The first is linked to the bench at the south side of the house and the second, unique to House 1, was located near the centre and covered in clay. Also unique to House 1 was the extent the bedrock was incorporated into the design of the house. This included a flat portion used as a bench and a smaller section incorporated into the south wall.

Like the houses themselves, the artifact assemblages from Houses 1 and 3 were similar in some respects even though the number of artifacts recovered

from House 3 was far less than the amount collected from the similarly-sized House 1. Evidence of at least one earlier occupation of the site area is represented by lithic debitage and tools - which were most likely redeposited in the house via the cut-sod roofing material, however European-manufactured goods associated with the Inuit occupation form the majority of artifacts collected from Houses 1 and 3. Glass beads and iron nails are the most common items, but artifacts representative of numerous aspects of a winter occupation were also found. Various ceramic types, pipes, knives, ulus, clothing, and soapstone vessels speak to the domestic life of the occupants while the many fishhooks, pieces of lead shot, musket balls, gunflints, and whalebone sled pieces evoke images of resource procurement.

On the other hand, a preliminary review of House 1 material culture reveals many distinct artifacts which suggest a multi-component occupation of the house, and also extend the occupation of the site



Figure 3. Assorted fishhooks, from House 3.

kept in excellent condition and it is this favourable preservation that permitted us to find beautiful, intact composite artifacts such as the pictured toggle harpoon head with an iron point. Lastly, House 1 contained various rare and diagnostic artifacts including three shako plates, a glass seal ring with a crucifixion design, a Mocha dipped earthenware fragment, and four military buttons. Some of these items, in particular the plates which adorned military shako headdresses, demonstrate a nineteenth century occupation.

Faunal remains collected from the site have not been studied in depth, but suggest food resources were obtained both near and far. As expected in a coastal environment marine animals dominate the faunal assemblage. Seal is the most common species but mussel, bird, fish, whale, caribou, and dog remains have also been identified.

Overall, the 2015 field season was a great success. With the help of our research team composed of researchers, students,

into the nineteenth century. In addition to artifacts associated with European contact or Inuit technology, Dorset tools and a possible carved miniature polar bear figurine were found. Some of these artifacts were located in and around a hearth indicating it too may be from an earlier Dorset occupation. Furthermore, the preservation of the soil of House 1 was extremely good. Organic and metal objects, wooden features and faunal remains were



Figure 4. Toggle harpoon with iron point, from House 1.

and volunteers we were able to excavate the remains of two sod houses over three months. During this time we were fortunate to have many opportunities to share our research and get to know the community. Many people visited the site, asked us questions in town, and invited our crew to well-attended social activities. The support and interest of the community was certainly felt when many came to a presentation given at the end of the season detailing the work completed during our stay. Thank you to the community of Rigolet and to our many sources of funding: SSHRC, the Northern Scientific Training Program, the Smallwood Foundation, Young Canada Works, Inuit Pathways, the Institute of Social and Economic Research of Memorial University, and the Provincial Archaeology Office. Without you, our research would not have been possible.



Figure 5. In-situ shako plate, from House 1.

# Kamestastin and Sheshatshit May to June 2015 Anthony Jenkinson

Tshikapisk Foundation



Map 1. The area discussed in this article.

he Kamestastin archaeological field season began in April/May with the now customary arrival of groups from Sheshatshit (in April) and Natuashish (in May).

This is now the 17<sup>th</sup> year in which Innu historical research has been carried out in the Kamestastin area. Most of that has been undertaken from the Tshikapisk camp at Kamestastin though we have extended surveys as far as Kanahaskuanikanist and Border Beacon/Ashuapun to the south and almost as far as George River to the west. Tshikapisk associated researchers and research teams have ranged from up to twelve people at a time with accompanying families from Utshimassits, Natuashish and Sheshatshit in the country to just single individuals carrying out research. The 2015 work at Kamestastin was of the latter sort and conducted

from the Tshikapisk camp at Kamestastin east end where a single family was based. Founded in the mid-1990s Tshikapisk is committed to exploring and generating awareness of the epic story of the Innu people of Quebec/Labrador and their ancestors. All of the work so far has involved families and individuals from Utshimassits, Natuashish and Sheshatshit, though it is understood that the Innu story cannot be circumscribed within what are, in historical terms, very recently introduced provincial jurisdictions. The ancestors of those who left archaeological remains across Nitassinan are also those of families today living in many other Innu communities. In a strong supporting role to all this work has been the Arctic Studies Center of the Smithsonian Institution, the Environment and Heritage Office of Innu Nation, individual academics from Memorial University, and countless others, both within the "Innu world" and outside it.

# Skuatuapmakan Unamen GlCs-05 Locus 5

In 2014 this cultural component of red ochre, charcoal, fire cracked rock and white quartz shards was noticed deflated in one of the smaller blow outs at the Skuatuapamakan dunes. Although some questions were answered during a limited site investigation in May 2015, a fuller excavation of Skuatuapamakan Unamen site proved to be impossible within the constraints of limited manpower and time, and the nature of work on a site most of which, it became apparent, remains buried in a large sand dune. This became clear in the process of a closer look conducted this past spring. Testing showed that the site extended into the high sand bank in front of which the quartz, charcoal and red ochre were noted in 2014. By using a piece of plywood as a buttress to hold back the sand, a profile was obtained which showed several closely clustered layers of buried humus. In much of the profile the separation between these layers was indistinct. The red ochre, fire cracked rock and white quartz debris emerged from this organically enriched level although where it is exposed in the blow out, it Figure 1. Soil profile back of deflated elements. A lense of red ochre is just visible atop the humic layer. Skuatuapamakan Unamen.



has been fully deflated and the dark humic material is absent. (see Figure 1)

# Ushikuish GlCs-08 Locus 3

The new site of Ushikuish sits near the western end of the same high terrace which hosts the Mistanuk Mistamunik site. This large terrace is bracketed by two streams. Above the western and eastern banks of the larger of these watercourses is the Mistanuk Mistamunik site which above the western bank (Locus 1) shows as generous Ramah debitage and white quartz debris exposed in almost all of the caribou trails which converge on the brook at this point. On the level area above the opposite eastern bank (Locus 2) occasional broken white quartz shows in caribou paths, though to this point no Ramah chert has been found there. Fragments of the distal portion of a somewhat blocky biface of Ramah found at Locus 1, look Archaic and taken together with the quartz scatters in the same area suggest that these sites are early ones. The other end of this broad terrace had much less cultural material showing on the surface but flakes of Ramah did occur as occasional single finds in caribou paths crossing the terrace's western end. Separately a piece of culturally altered white quartz occurs about half-

white quartz occurs about half-

way between the `new` Ushikuish site and the point where the paths start to descend to the smaller western stream. On June 13th Tutut (the dog) and I headed east down the inlet towards the river but we got waylaid by a "sort of" new site at the western end of the Mistanuk/ Mistamunik terrace. I mentioned this meagre surface showing of Ramah while doing the Tshikapisk Site Record Forms last year. That was in the process of reporting that there are actually several surface visible "cultural" lithics at different spots on this broadly level area atop the high lakeside bank of this northern part of the lake discharge narrows. In terms of abundance of



Figure 2. Diagram of tested area, from field notes: Ushikuish Site.

Figure 3. View of Ushikuish Site: red flags are positive test pits.



surface finds the most obvious were close to the larger brook at the terrace's eastern end and these showings became known to us as the Mistanuk Mistamunik site (GlCs-08).

Although there are various quartz and Ramah showings on the terrace, nothing in the way of features had been reported to date. It was hoped that various parts of the terrace could be tested to see whether something in the way of hearths or structures could be located. The location must be considered very high potential, positioned as it is almost directly opposite one of the main caribou crossing points on a well-drained relatively level expanse of ground between two brooks. At a spot where 2 flakes of Ramah in a caribou path at the western end of the Mistanuk had been previously noted a number of small (no more than 10 inches by 10 inches each) key hole test pits were dug. Almost every one of them was positive! Along with Ramah flakes, there was in one of them a profuse deposit of charcoal. The last test pit was densely packed with small re-sharpening flakes and most of the test pit floor was stained red with ochre. The density of the flake concentration

suggests a deliberate depositional act rather than scatter from tool working. If this is so it makes one wonder whether there is an association between the act of deposition and the red ochre. Would a simple act of housekeeping be "anointed" with ochre? The association may on the other hand be accidental and derived from episodes which were not contemporaneous. It's also possible that the ochre may signal pigment use in decoration of clothing and/or tools. At that point I hoped to roughly define both the nature and size of this site but because of the wind and driving rain I didn't quite manage that. The next day I returned in a light cold drizzle and made a map of the area defined by the positive test pits.

There was no culturally altered quartz in any of the test pits. Nor was there any in the caribou paths in the immediate vicinity.

# Uitshitshemushish GlCs-26 2015 Locus 1 Extension Units A to I

These extension units revealed a smaller and likely companion hearth to that originally excavated in the first Locus 1 excavation. This second hearth was to the west of the 9 square metres originally excavated at Locus 1, aligned similarly to the original combustion feature in Locus 1 (east - west) and accompanied by ash, charcoal and a deposit of small fragments of burned bone. The area in which the western extension units are set is characterized by many ancient tree root channels which have added to the disturbance caused by cryoturbation. The new southern units exposed two charcoal and humus filled pits. The first in Unit H was originally taken to be yet another tree root channel or post hole but when a small broken scraper of Ramah was found beneath a firepit in association with a spot of red ochre the excavation of this feature was halted pending satellite phone consultations with Innu Nation and others. The next and adjacent unit revealed a second shallow



Figure 4. Uitshitshemushish Site, Locus 1 2015 Extension Units H and I on right: pair of buried fire pits with charcoal and black humus. Feature A in Unit H is in centerfield and contained a miniature snapped Ramah scraper. To the right is the second fire pit beside which were placed a cluster of objects

including two snapped Ramah flakes and a small blade of vitreous quartz.



Figure 5. Sectioned fire pit straddling units H and I. The objects illustrated in Figure 6 lay beside the quartz cobble on the firepit's northern edge.

pit alongside which were a cluster of objects including a flake of Ramah, a small quartz core, a small bifacially produced bladelet of vitreous quartz, and two further flakes of Ramah, both of which seem to have been deliberately broken with all four fragments placed together beside the other objects (see figure 6 for a photograph of these objects.) In the course of several Kamestastin excavations from this early time period we have come across many broken flakes but none of the fragments to my knowledge have been found, as they were here, within millimetres of the other fitting fragment. The fractures in the cases of all three pieces in and around the two fire pit features in units H and I were clean breaks at the mid-section.

At the features in Uitshitshemushish Locus 1 Extension Units H and I two snapped flakes were found together with the fitting fragments, within ten centimetres of each other. A third piece of Ramah in the form of a crude bifacially worked miniature scraper was also found snapped in the same way, in association with red ochre, beneath the contents of the fire pit in Unit H.

While the two snapped flakes found at occupation floor level beside Feature B (the second fire pit excavated) could just conceivably have been broken by caribou trampling, it seems implausible that the small tool of Ramah found beneath the fire with red ochre at the bottom of the first pit (Feature A) could have been damaged in this way. For the moment, the context persuades me that all three Ramah pieces were snapped deliberately.

An extract from my 2015 field notes describes the excavation of Uitshitshemushish Locus 1 2015 Extension Unit H:

"The unit provisionally called 2015 Extension H is one of the southern units I planned to open along the southern flank of the original Locus 1 excavation. On May 30th after excavating Extension G, the essentially "barren" unit to its immediate west (2 pieces of white quartz) I began on H. Nothing on its pre -excavation surface suggested any feature and although it rapidly exceeded the "production" of G it was not distinguished by prodigious quantities of cultural lithics. The first sign of anything

noteworthy was what I initially interpreted as a candidate for a post hole, a sloping intrusion into the sterile substrate filled with black humic material (located in the NE quad.) It did not appear at this time to be part of anything else. Angled as it was towards the primary hearth it misled me into thinking it was the remains of a tent picket. It was also positioned at a distance from that fireplace where lithics petered out to almost nothing. Once I began to excavate the NW quad an analagous showing gradually developed into one side of a small pit filled with humus and charcoal. The "picket post hole" then emerged as part of this same feature of which the back fill had obscured



Figure 6. Objects found placed tightly together beside the fire pit feature in Extension Unit I.

its connection to the parts in the NW quad. At this time I had begun to think of this as a candidate for a pit cooking feature. However as I continued to remove black humic and charcoal stained material I was startled to run into a small patch of bright red ocher and two halves of a roughly made bifacially finished tool .....and fashioned from a either a very poor sort of Ramah or more likely Ramah altered by exposure to high heat. The tool was partly of a reddish colour: at present I am unsure whether this was as a result of its having lain in association with the ochre or whether it came from impurities in the tool stone (manganese oxide.) The "fire pit" has certainly been covered over and may have a slight mound created by the backfill. The minuteness of this feature and its proximity to the living area makes me wonder as to its character. It exhibits at a microscopic level some of the features recorded elsewhere as burials. Intentionally broken "killed" or "dead" tools incorporated as grave furniture, red ochre deposited in a dug pit and fires lit during the burial procedure are all represented here but this tiny feature is quite puzzling. It is possible that it is not contemporaneous with the Locus 1 occupations and that its presence was not known to those who occupied the postulated Locus 1 structure."

Subsequently the excavation of the adjacent unit (Locus 1 2015 Extension Unit I) revealed the second fire pit and its associated cluster of objects (see above.)

It is difficult to definitively characterize what happened at this location to produce these remains.



Figure 7. Two small discoidal scrapers or mini-ulus of slate. The example on the left comes from near the west wall of Uitshitshemushish Locus 1 2015 Extension F while the one on the right, missing a "shoulder", is a surface find from a sandy exposure in Locus 2.

Suffice it to say that whatever happened it is not clear that the features and their attendant objects evidence a strictly utilitarian event.

Though the features in Extension units H and I were the most remarkable, other units opened up in Uitshitshemushish Locus 1 expanded on the picture of this early occupation drawn by initial excavations here in 2010. In the 2015 extension units A,B,D and E, to the west of the hearth unearthed in 2010, a second combustion feature was exposed on roughly the same alignment. It also contained a deposit of small calcined bone fragments in heavy charcoal, surrounded by white quartz fragments, quartz cobbles, a modest amount of Ramah debitage and slate fragments, mostly of a dark grey hue. In Unit F beside and to the south west of this combustion feature was a small discoidal scraper of beige slate. To the west of it in 2015 Extension Unit A was a fragment of a slate celt and, separately, other slate fragments which refitted with slate pieces in 2015 Extension Unit B to form an object ground on parallel or near parallel edges and which may be a dark grey slate bayonet.

Finally two additional units added to the GlCs -26 Locus 3 2013 excavation on its eastern (streamside) edge, produced moderately abundant white quartz, 12 flakes of Ramah and a badly exfoliated celt of grey slate. In Locus 3 Extension unit A, a charcoal and humus filled shallow pit (20 cm below the modern surface at its greatest depth) occupied much of the southern quads.



Figure 8. Heavily exfoliated grey slate celt from NE quad of Uitshitshemushish GlCs-26 Locus 3 2015 Extension Unit B.



Figure 9. Projectile point of translucent chert found in beach gravel close to the Tshikapisk camp at Kamestastin outflow narrows.

# Ushakatum Gully Brook: find site of projectile point

Very close to the discharge point of a spring

snow melt freshet which emerges from the Ushakatum Gully, a projectile point of a dark brown partly translucent chert was noted lying in beach gravel. The base is missing and the break occurred about halfway down the hypothesized side notches. I at first took this to be a nipple based point with an unusually broad nipple. I was influenced in this interpretation by the very close proximity to the findspot of the two eroding archaic sites on the east bank of the same gully. Furthermore the shape of the surviving medial and distal portions of the point was reminiscent of the projectile point base at the Pess site, the latter attributed to one of the earliest Kamestastin. occupations at

However some colleagues have had no hesitation in calling this a side notched point or even a small knife blade.

### Anaskutapanis

Anaskutapanis was the name given to a raised earthen ring feature on the point where the Tshikapisk Camp is located. It has been known about since the late 1990s and subsequently reported, but although at some risk of disturbance because of its high visibility in an area which has experienced heavy human traffic of late, it has never been investigated further. In the spring of 2015 some of the surface vegetation was removed so that accurate drawings and measurements could be done. This exercise revealed both the location of the entrance, the unusual D shaped floor arrangement (length measured along the straight beach frontage wall 3.50 metres, width measured from door to mid-point of curved back wall 3.20 metres) and the size and configuration of the cobble hearth within the structure. The hearth measured 1 metre by 60 cm and within the structure was placed immediately in front of the entrance (at mid-point along the straight back of the 'D' see figure 10.) Beside the fireplace is a magnificent flat platter stone and spilling out of the fireplace are small fragments of

Figure 10. Anaskutapanis Site, late 19th or early 20th century Mushuauinnu tastueikantshuap, Kamestastin outflow narrows north side.



calcined bone which to the eye look indistinguishable in appearance from those in hearths from the very early archaic period. A "key hole" test pit to gauge the thickness of the remaining organic cover fortuitously came down on a rifle casing marked "44-40 Dominion C. Co." placing this occupation firmly in the company of the many other late 19th century and early 20th century Mushuauinnu structures in the region.

# Bone dating news: Natakameimupan and Tuamish sites at Kamestastin.

The particular characteristics of many of the sites at Kamestastin, associated as they are thought to be with the interception by Innu ancestors of large scale caribou migrations, make Kamestastin an ideal



Figure 11. Matnen Benuen holds bowl of bone fragments from hearth at Natakameimupan site, Kamestastin. They were subsequently submitted for structural carbonate dating to *Beta Analytic*.

place for the use of dating based on structural carbonate in well burnt bone. This is because from the earliest Innu ancestral sites found at Kamestastin and the neighbouring region right up to those dating to the near present, well burned bone deposits within combustion features are nearly ubiquitous.

In 1998 Lanting and Brindley described their success in dating completely burned bone, mostly from Bronze Age human cremations (Lanting, J. N., and A. L. Brindley. 1998) This method of dating requires bone samples which have been subjected to combustion at temperatures above 600C. At these temperatures no carbonized material survives and the burnt bone is white throughout. Charred bone by comparison may be blue or black and some collagen may remain.

Amongst the Innu the ritual treatment and disposal of caribou bone remains is well known (Jenkinson and Ashini 2014) That Innu ancestors also held beliefs requiring set disposal practises when it came to caribou bone and caribou bone mash fragments, is suggested by the common occurrence of well burned bone fragments in hearth features of all periods of Innu and Innu ancestral history. At caribou interception points, such as the one at the Kamestastin outflow narrows, this is an especially marked phenomenon.

Over the past year (2015) two new dates have been generated on well burned caribou bone from archaeological features at the Kamestastin outflow narrows (Kamestastin Ekupitats.) Both had previously produced dates on wood charcoal which seemed anomalously young in the company of the assemblages from those sites (Tuamish and Natakameimupan.) The Tuamish calibrated date on structural carbonate in burned bone (from a combustion feature beside one of three small boulders which dominate the site) was between 6950 and 6790 calendar years BP (BETA-424286.) This is now the oldest date we yet have from Kamestastin. Natakameimupan produced a date on bone from inside a hearth feature of 5940+/-30 RCYBP (BETA-403275), which after Oxcal calibration, came out at between 6799 and 6716 calendar years BP. We are grateful to the Arctic Studies Centre at the Smithsonian Institution for providing financial support for dating of these samples.

# Sheshatshit FjCa-76 Excavation

In July and August of 2014 the community of Sheshatshit asked that two areas of land targeted for use as building lots for new housing be tested to determine whether they hosted archaeological remains. Test pitting was subsequently undertaken by Anthony Jenkinson on the proposed housing lots under a permit held by Scott Neilsen (14.17) and in the course of work on the candidate housing lots east of the section of the North West Point/Matshateu road which passes Andrew Michelin's house at the southern exit from the community, 4 positive test pits associated with pit number Antu East 25 in Row 3 produced 14 honey coloured or tan quartzite flakes. These positives were represented by the original positive test pit (N 53 30



Figure 12. Antu East Small Terrace site (FjCa-76) Sheshatshit. Site under excavation.

09.5 W 060 07 49.1) and three of its "outliers" set at 2.5 metres from it and aligned southeast, northeast and east. Reported to the Provincial Archaeology Office this site was accorded the Borden number FjCa-76.

In late June of 2015, after a decision to build on the lot hosting the Antu East Small Terrace site, Anthony Jenkinson was asked to conduct a Stage 3 archaeological recovery excavation of FjCa-76. Earlier



Figure 13. Small cobble combustion feature at FjCa-76

in June the lot had been surveyed, marked and cut over but none of the cut trees or other debris had been cleared from the site or removed.

# The lot and the location

The lot extends on an east-west alignment from the North West Point Road to the line where, above a relict beach, a bank drops less than a metre to the next and lower terrace. Borealis Consulting Inc., the Project Managers for the 2015 housing stated that ground disturbance would not extend beyond the limits of the cut over area. By coincidence the clearing stopped exactly on the brow of the bank

which backed the site and which defined the eastern limit of the small terrace on which this occupation had been placed. A narrow fringe of trees had, for aesthetic reasons, been left between the lot with the identified historic resources and the adjacent lot to its immediate south. The FjCa-76 terrace curves away to the southwest at this point before aligning itself in an east to west direction. Here it faces south towards what were once the shallow connecting waters that separated the area where the community of Sheshatshit now sits from the island which, as the land rose with isostatic rebound and the waters receded, later became North West Point. Just north of the excavated area of FjCa-76 (2015) the cobble bank backing the site bends towards the northeast suggesting that at the time of occupation the Antu East Small Terrace Site sat in a small cove just to the north of where the land begins to realign its shore to face south rather than east. From the small terrace where FiCa-76 was established by its occupants, a series of shallow terraces now step down to the 2015 shoreline. In places these terraces are not sharply defined and what are in other sections stepped terraces show only as uneven slope. In these places the vegetation and overburden likely conceal better defined though still shallow terrace steps. FjCa-76 sits at approximately 10.50 metres above mean sea level (masl) while for comparison purposes the very large FjCa-51

Uatshatshish site is at about 17 masl. The part of the terrace which hosts the site subject to the July 2015 excavation actually sits in a shallow depression between a cobble bank representing a step up to the next and older terrace and to the east a presumably wave thrown bank of sand which tops the bank leading to the adjacent lower terrace.

## Clearing and defining the site

Following the request from Borealis to proceed with archaeological recovery work at the FjCa-76 site 4 days were spent in clearing the area of debris and cut trees. The contractor had chain sawed the tree cover but left the area strewn with cut trees and other woody debris. Once this was cleared from the terrace with the positive test pits from 2014 additional test pitting was undertaken in an attempt to more clearly define the cultural component. On the basis of the results of the 2014 and 2015 test pitting an area of 80 square metres was gridded for excavation encompassing all the positive test pits and either 5 metres beyond the last positive or the point at which the terrace dropped to the lower level or met the cobble bank which backs the site area which ever was less. The area of the terrace which lies to the north of FjCa-76 has not been comprehensively tested though the 2015 test pitting to define the component within the housing lot foot print produced negative results in that direction, thus helping to define the excavation area. A series of shallow terraces step down from the Antu East Small Terrace in the direction of the present day shore line and none of these lower terraces have been tested. This is of relevance to FjCa-76 and the stage 3 work not just because of the possibility of related occupations on the immediately adjacent terrace sitting a scant 70 cms or so below FiCa-76 but because of a clay liquefaction problem on these lots which requires drainage work on the Antu East housing lots; this will involve ground disturbance beyond and to the east of the immediate footprint of each lot upon the lower elevation terraces.

The site lies in a wooded, well drained area with all vegetation sitting on layers of variously composted organics from which it obtains its nutrients. Beneath the deepest organic layer is a stratum of leached grey sand which in turn sits upon a rusty coloured culturally sterile sandy substrate which is mixed with pebbles and in some cases larger stones or cobbles.

## Excavation of FjCa-76

Overburden and its sod and living root layer were cut into sections and removed manually with the occasional use of a chainsaw and shovel until the compacted fully composted organic level was reached. Thereafter the remainder was trowelled to the leached grey sand layer (the Ae horizon) in which practically all cultural materials on this site were located. The only exceptions were rare instances where cultural lithics were embedded in the pasty organic layer at its interface with the grey sand underlying it.

The gridded 80 metres at FjCa-76 were initially excavated to the "A" horizon or grey sand layer on which the vast majority of cultural lithics lay. Features were drawn before parts of the site were reduced to the rusty substrate level on the assumption that the grey sand layer essentially represents the occupation "floor." Four features were revealed during excavation:

1. A small cobble hearth with heavy deposits of charcoal on its eastern, western and southern flanks but with very little charcoal actually within the structure; one of the constituent structural rocks appears to have had an "earlier life" as a mortar stone and shows multiple scratches which are aligned only in one direction and which seem



Figure 14. Flake scraper made on cortical flake. FjCa-76, Sheshatshit.



Figure 15. Asymmetric knife of quartzite. FjCa-76, Sheshatshit.

to be from grinding some material, perhaps for the production of pigment. Two separate deposits of pasty material (one colored orange and one green) were found within a couple of metres of the north end of the cobble feature which hosted



Figure 16. Archaeology crew members Hope Michel and Jean-Baptiste Michel with quartzite biface at FjCa-76, Sheshatshit.

the grinding rock under discussion. In immediate proximity to these possible pigment deposits was a small "pestle" but of a rough sandstone-like material which would have rendered it an unlikely choice for pounding purposes though with characteristics suitable for grinding material on a mortar stone;

- 2. An irregular area of burning placed upon a gravelly beach ridge which runs roughly south to north across the site with profuse ash and charcoal but no constructed hearth, accompanied by split quartzite cobbles and what may be a "platter" rock for cooking or possibly an anvil stone for supporting larger pieces of quartzite during reduction. The fact that this flat topped square shaped rock was found amongst charcoal deposits and actually sat on a pad of charcoal may suggest that the platter rock interpretation is the more plausible one in this instance; lying to the east of this poorly formed combustion feature lay the vast majority of the debitage found on site.
- 3. A second combustion feature on the same gravelly beach ridge slightly to the south of the first, and having the same character. Just to its west were a group of seemingly arranged rocks which may have formed part of the combustion feature; if so the charcoal and ash had been moved from within these rocks (possibly by the prevailing westerly wind) and now formed a plume to its east;
- 4. A lithic work station comprising an anvil stone, profuse quartzite debitage, and, beside the anvil stone, two split cobbles, one of quartzite and the other of white quartz.

Apart from the four features listed above is the lithic assemblage. Its densest concentration lay adjacent to the features and was overwhelmingly dominated by light to darker brown translucent quartzite with a small number of white quartzite retouch flakes. Primary reduction and secondary flaking was restricted almost wholly to the light tan or honey colored variety of quartzite. A comparison with flakes from North West River Phase sites on the other (North West River) side of the narrows suggests that, for whatever reason, the knappers at the time of occupation demonstrated a preference for quartzite of this sort and appearance: even though glacial cobbles



Figure 17. Photo on left: Top – large quartzite flake with green/blue staining on broadest edge. Bottom – left to right, mortar stone with one end and one side ground smooth, small pestle or grinding stone, possible mortar/grinding stone with one facet with smoothing and unidirectional striations. Photo on right: close up of tan quartzite flake with green/blue staining on broadest edge.

of other varieties and colors of quartzite are quite common in Sheshatshit, North West River and the locality in which these communities are set, the light brown translucent/honey colored variety of quartzite dominates the lithic assemblages at sites of similar elevation there (e.g. Henry Blake 2, Sid Blake) as it does at Antu East Small Terrace. By contrast the quartzite color preference evident at the sites at FiCa-51 is overwhelmingly for locally derived red quartzite. The same pattern is apparent at Muskrat Falls sites of the same period as the NWR/Sheshatshit "North West River Phase" assemblages. Among the thousands of quartzite fragments at FjCa-76 were only two microflakes of opaque chert of a beige to pale pink hue, and in immediate association with one of the anvil stones and a split quartz cobble, four large pieces of culturally broken white quartz.

## FjCa-76 Artefacts

The number of finished tools at FjCa-76 was very modest. Amongst knapped objects only one finished bifacial tool was present as well as a number of utilized flakes and two crudely made end scrapers, all of tan quartzite.

One of these is a "hump backed" tool bifacially worked along one lateral edge with the humped end bearing one unifacially made scraping edge and the opposite end bearing another, the latter also the product of unifacial knapping. The other example, also prominently "humped" is made on a cortical flake which has been bifacially reduced on one lateral edge with unifacial retouch along the other cortex bearing lateral edge and at the distal end of the tool. The single finished entirely bifacially flaked tool at FjCa-76 is lacking its proximal end but appears to be an asymmetric knife rather than a broken point.

A characteristic of this small site is the circumstantial evidence for preparation and use of pigments, presumably for decorative purposes. There was only slender evidence on site (one red stained palette stone) for the preparation and use of red ochre, and certainly not of the variety and on the scale familiar at the Charles and Brinex components at the FiCa-51 Uatshatshish Site. However a number of deposits of orange and green crumbly or pasty material were noted in close association with a small pestle, a cobble with a flat surface showing striations from grinding (which apparently acquired a second life when actually incorporated as a structural component of a small cobble hearth,) a second much larger pestle made of a coarse material but with one end and one flat facet rubbed smooth, apparently through use as grinding surfaces, and a small light colored rock with one facet stained reddish pink and ground smooth. One large quartzite flake with a broad flared edge at its distal end carries blue-green staining along that edge. This coloration does not appear to come from the ground in which it lay which was regular

leached grey sand without any obvious source of pigment nearby.

## Conclusions

FjCa-76 is a small component of Fitzhugh's North West River Phase. The elevation of 10.5 m asl suggests a date for use of the site of around 1800 BP. The lithic assemblage, which is almost entirely of tan quartzite, lacks projectile points, or even fragments of them, and supports a summer occupation during which there was likely an emphasis on fishing. The combustion features were carefully excavated to check for calcined bone but none was found. Some heat cemented sand was present beneath these combustion features but nothing like the impressive pads beneath the well-constructed, and possibly repeatedly used, substantial hearths at the higher elevation (and older by about 1200 years) FjCa-51 site.

# Afterword

The group of people who have over the years been involved in activities carried on in the name of Tshikapisk began with a commitment to a research model which explicitly sought to decolonize the making and telling of local history, in this case Innu history. That commitment still remains central to what we aspire to do. It also needs saying that the journey which has taken us from the initiatives undertaken in those early days to now, has been one in which we have had to ask difficult questions about perspectives on the past, the role of the forensic arm of history called archaeology and its chequered past when it comes to the history of non-European peoples, and particularly that of hunting peoples and their cultures.

Perhaps our journey has brought us to a more focussed realization that what is told by old Innu sites (sometimes by archaeology) only becomes a meaningful part of Innu history with resonance among the descendant population when the stories drawn from the faint reverberations of an ancient past are an integral part of a history owned and told by those whose ancestors left the signs on the land. Archaeology can alienate when it is a separate bank of specialist data set apart from the broad sweep of the Innu story and interpreted almost exclusively by others. On the other hand the thinking of Innu intellectuals such as Richard Nuna and Jean-Pierre Ashini who hear in Innu atanukana/"mythology" echoes of a collective memory of the deep past, may illuminate another way, one where forensic history becomes a familiar and accessible tool (amongst others) in exploring the story of the Innu People's emergence in this landscape.

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# A Survey of the Islands in Southern Groswater Bay

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Figure 1. 2015 Groswater Bay survey locations.

n mid-July the Smithsonian's Arctic Studies Center and the Nunatsiavut Archaeology Office collaborated in a brief survey in Groswater Bay (Figure 1). The field team consisted of William Fitzhugh (Smithsonian), Jamie Brake and Michelle Davies (Nunatsiavut Archaeology Office), Patrick Jolicoeur (University of Glasgow), Katie Portman and Molly Iott (Notre Dame University), Jacob Marchman (Dartmouth College), and Eric White (Rigolet, Labrador), with Perry Colbourne, skipper of the M/V Pitsiulak, providing support. The survey was shorter than expected due to weather and mechanical issues that delayed the Smithsonian team's arrival in Rigolet until 15 July. Adverse weather continued throughout the survey, making landings on the mainland shore impossible and restricting work to offlying islands. Jamie and Michelle arrived in Rigolet on the 12<sup>th</sup> and were able to work in Back Bay and in the



Figure 2. Seal Point ethnographic camp (GaBn-06).

Narrows on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with the support of Nunatsiavut Conservation Officer David Wolfrey and summer student Josh Adams.

Areas near the mouth of Back Bay were surveyed on the 14<sup>th</sup>, including a prominent point between the mouths of two substantial brooks east of Haniuk on the north side of the Bay, and Indian Point, Rattling Brook, and Seal Point on the south side. Four small beaches between Haniuk and Tea Pound were also inspected. Archaeological sites were found at Indian Point (GaBn-05), Seal Point (GaBn-06; Figure 2), and on one of the small beaches between Haniuk and Tea Pound (GaBn-07). A recent trapping site was found east of Haniuk (13J/01 W Ethno 3), and very recent camps were located at Rattling Brook (13J/01 E Ethno 2) and Seal Point

(recent component at GaBn-06). At Seal Point we saw recent tent poles with nylon rope which had been placed on top of an earlier overgrown tent feature. Surface inspection of the point, which becomes a tiny island at high tide, led to the discovery of three additional buried tent rings, one of which had a small 1x1 metre cache built against the outside of its northeast wall (GaBn-06). Inside the southwest side of this tent feature we found a broken quartzite beach cobble with large flakes scars on one side. A 40x40 centimetre test pit within the tent ring adjacent to this stone produced no cultural material. A second test pit inside the buried tent ring and beneath the contemporary tent ring was also empty. The site elevation, less than 1 metre above sea level, suggests a recent occupation. The elevation and the cache may indicate an


Figure 3. Tea Pound tent ring, probably Inuit (GbBn-07).

Inuit affiliation, although the quartzite cobble may have an earlier origin.

In a small cove east of Tea Pound we recorded a small tent ring measuring 4x4 metres built on a raised cobble beach 3.25 metres above sea level (GbBn-07; Figure 3). The tent ring contains an interior feature, possibly a hearth or a sleeping bench divider, that may have once extended across the tent ring roughly north to south, dividing it in half. A seal bone was found under the moss near this feature. An outcrop west of the tent ring supported a small stack of stones of unknown function. Although we could not determine a cultural affiliation with absolute certainty, the presence of a stone marker, the organic preservation and low elevation suggest a likely Inuit occupation.

The next morning, following a short visit with a Memorial University crew at Double Mer Point (GbBo-02), we stopped at Palliser Point 4 (GbBo-17) where we excavated two test pits near the one excavated in 2014 in order to narrow down the occupation date and affiliation. The first test pit produced seal bones, a small brown banded earthenware sherd, a couple of nails, glass, metal, and charcoal. A second test pit produced a fragment of a large soapstone pot, a couple of pipe stem fragments, a blue decorated earthenware sherd, nails (including some worked into fish hooks), window glass, and bone. The soapstone pot fragment helps confirm an Inuit presence, and the ceramics, pipe stem fragments, charcoal, and bone should help determine a more precise date. We motored towards Cullingham's Brook, recording a



Figure 4. Probable sod house foundation at Cullingham's Brook (GbBn-17).

family (Gus Rich) homestead on the north shore  $(13)/01 \to E$  Ethno 1), and landed in a small cove near the mouth of Cullingham's brook. Upon landing, we recorded a possible kayak rest, a recent camp site and a cache with a fragment of spongeware ceramic, which was not collected. We continued walking north around the cove towards a large grassy area, where we tested a depression and jumble of buried rocks beneath the surface, which likely represents the remains of a sod house (GbBn-17; Figure 4). A test pit near the back of the feature immediately exposed bedrock, but a second test near the likely entrance revealed a thick layer of dark organic soil mixed with cultural material including metal strapping, a clay pipe and stem fragment, a variety of ceramics, a can top, window glass, and bird bone. Two test pits in a second

depression produced no cultural finds. Two tent rings were also recorded. Between Cullingham's Brook and Broomfield Island we recorded a small cemetery with three standing headstones dating from 1925 to 1966 as well as least 10 unmarked burials (GbBn-16; Figure 5).

An arrangement with Nunatsiavut's Department of Health and Social Development (DHSD) enabled us to take a group of youth and elders out for a day on the *Pitsiulak* to visit some of the archaeological site areas on the northern shore of Groswater Bay. The weather was terrible, but despite fog and rain we reached and anchored at the Big Black Island Narrows and enjoyed a day telling stories, feasting, showing artifacts we had found, and looking at Fitzhugh's photos from 1968-69. The elders on board knew



Figure 5. Historic cemetery between Cullingham's Brook and Broomfield Island (GbBn-16).

many of the people, places and boats in the photos. While on board the DHSD group conducted interviews with elders.

On the first day with the full team (July 17<sup>th</sup>), strong winds required the survey to be restricted to the northern shore of the Narrows between Double Mer Point and Ticoralak Head. Jamie, Michelle, and Eric went ashore on the point near Eldred Allen's cabin, and excavated three test pits, each of which produced material suggesting an Inuit occupation, including a shotgun shell, pipe stems, blue willow and pink and white transfer print ceramics, and an iron knife blade (GbBo-18). East of Eldred Allen's cabin, a large grassy meadow we could not visit holds potential for undiscovered Inuit or Groswater winter settlements. On the south side of Ticoralak Head a stonepaved Inuit tent ring (GbBn-18) with prominent hearth stones produced a single wrought iron nail and some charcoal. A nearby Inuit grave at the point appeared to have been disturbed (GbBn-19). On the north side of the point facing Ticoralak Island are three dilapidated cabins. Between a small fenced garden and the northern cabin was a depression we thought might be a sod house foundation. A test pit recovered tiny seed beads, transfer print ceramics, clay pipe fragments (one marked "Glasgow"), and the ocular lens and end housing of a brass telescope (GbBn-20). This deposit had three levels: an upper black earth midden containing most of the materials; a thin tan clay layer with some artifacts, and a dark humic zone over-lying beach gravels that was probably the old ground surface. The lack of floor paving,



Figure 6. Boulder caches (GbBk-06) on raised beaches at the eastern end of Snook Cove Island.



Figures 7 and 8. Small circular cobble pavement (GbBj-01) before and after excavation on Indian Island.





Figure 9. Labrador Inuit D-shaped tent-ring (GbBj-06) on Indian Island West.

the mixed nature of the material, and the intact humus layer suggests that it was probably a dump rather than a house. The seed beads are a likely indicator of female Inuit presence. In 1975 Richard Jordan identified an Inuit winter house with a 1.2m - long entryway west of the (then) modern cabins with its rear wall at the forest edge (Kaplan 1983). A few hundred metres north of the point a pond drains into a grassy field. Here, Eric White found a 3-metre wide trash pit that produced quantities of 19<sup>th</sup> C. ceramics, nails, a thick metal chain and other materials (GbBn-21). Although the clearing is an ideal settlement location for recent habitation, no dwelling foundations or hearths were noted.

The following day the weather allowed us to survey parts of the southern shore of Groswater Bay. Passing Nats Discovery Point we landed on an island

off Snook Cove and immediately found it and the other islands along the south shore were prime locations for hunting caribou and harp seals. Caribou droppings were found everywhere and a spring harp seal hunt was evident from the large number of boulder cache pits located on raised boulder beaches ranging from the modern shore to 10-20 metres above sea level (GbBk-06, Figure 6; GbBk-07). The four largest cache pit groups each contained multiple features. Two of these loci are on high and intermediate level beaches on the island's eastern corner (GbBk-06, at 7m a.s.l.); a third and fourth were found on the large boulder beaches on the west side of the island (GbBk -07). The third locus, on a raised beach overlooking the fourth, had a potential boulder pithouse next to three large cache pits. The fourth was just above the modern tideline and has at least 11 caches, seven of



Figure 10. Caribou bones found in an unopened boulder cache.

which were on the lowest beach and were next to each other. Two parallel lines of boulders two metres apart extend downslope 15 metres from the southern end of the pits to the shore. The function of this feature is not clear, but it might have been a timberpaved boat haul runway.

In the afternoon, we shifted east to the Indian Islands, off-shore from the river that drains much of the "Flatlands" north of the Backway. Very low land extends all the way across to the Backway and is fringed with shoal bays and low islands. On the lowlands east of the Indian Island harbor anchorage, on

the middle Indian Island, we found two 1.5 metre diameter lichen-covered circular pavements (GbBj-01, Figures 7, 8). These features were roughly 20m apart and only 2m above sea level and are usually resting on solid bedrock. This type of feature has not been found previously in Hamilton Inlet or elsewhere on the Labrador coast. Excavation revealed fat-consolidated sand deposits between and under the rocks on one side of the feature but no bones or artifacts. The features were not associated with Inuit tent-rings. Later on we found similar features on Mason's Island and around the old government fishing station known as Punchbowl, south of Spotted Island and Black Tickle (see discussion below). Surveys on the island's interior revealed a large flat-bottomed feature on a high beach that we initially thought was an ancient pithouse because of its location at the edge of a high terrace far from the modern shore, with a doorway-like depression opening on the terrace front (GbBj-02). The up-hill inner walls of the pit were lined with inclined slabs as retaining walls, suggesting it might

be a house. However, upon excavation, the pit was found to have a slab pavement floor overlying *in situ* beach cobbles but no cultural remains, indicating probable use as a Maritime Archaic cache from a time when the sea was near the terrace (GbBj-02). A second area of disturbed slabs near the northern end of the terrace may be a related structure. Near the top of the island we found an oval rock feature (GbBj-03) with a white quartz cobble a couple metres from its north end, and nearby an outcropping vein of quartz without obvious signs of working.



Figure 11. Boulder pithouse (GbBj-11) on 20m high beach on Indian Island West radiocarbon dated to 6720-6560 cal. BP.



Figure 12. Stemmed point of quartzite at Mason Island (GbBk-03).

In the narrows between this island and the southern Indian Island, also known as Spracklin's Island, we located three 20th century structures (GbBj-04). The northernmost was a rectangular structure ca. 10x6m with a rock and sod foundation, and in the middle of its west wall a door passageway opened downslope toward the shore. A test pit produced only a couple of nails, one being square cut. The absence of grass vegetation suggests this structure is about 100 years old. On the point about 30 metres southeast of this structure is a more recent structure with high grass vegetation and with lots of recent rubbish outside. A test pit produced several clothing snap buttons. A third structure is about 100 metres to the east along the tickle and consisted of a probable dwelling on the hillside above a shore-side work area with rusted barrels and other debris. All three sites appear to be fall or spring sealing camps. Even during our brief visit numerous seals were seen in the tickle.

Our third day focused on the northern Indian Island. On the only obvious landing place near a low grassy point we found an Inuit-style D-shaped tentring with an exterior U-shaped hearth and a rock cache built into the nearby ledge (Figure 9; GbBj-06). Several test pits in this structure produced no cultural material, but the hearth and the D-shaped tent are likely indicators of a 17-century Inuit camp. The absence of European artifacts helps confirm an early date. Along the island's northern shore we located cache pits on most of the low- and high-lying boulder beaches. One just above the surf line at the northeastern end of the island was associated with a circular Inuit-style tent ring containing a metal barrel hoop, indicating that some of the lower caches are associated with Inuit activity, in this case probably 19th century (GbBj-10). Nearby we opened an undisturbed cache containing the bones of a single caribou, some being broken for marrow extraction (GbBj-10, Locus



Figure 13. Possible burial feature (GbBk-04) on Mason Island.

3; Figure 10). It seems likely the bones resulted from ritual disposal of the remains of a caribou caught and eaten on the island.

Surveying the high beach-pass in the central part of the island we found caches associated with an oval boulder pit large enough to be a dwelling just under 20 metres above sea level (GbBj-11, L1; Figure 11). Upon excavating its moss- and peat-covered interior we found a small patch of charcoal near the southeast wall that produced a radiocarbon date of 6720-6560 cal. BP. The absence of bones or cultural materials is not unusual in similar features on old, high cobble beaches. Such sites were briefly occupied, probably had skin-covered floors and roofs, do not preserve bone, and cultural materials are usually missing, having been lost in the underlying boulders. Several small caches were found a few metres from the pithouse, and to the northeast on the same beach level was a complex of four sub-rectangular features

sharing slightly mounded cobble walls (GbBj-11, L2). Test pits in each of the features showed only peat on top of beach gravel or cobbles. More work should be done at this Early Maritime Archaic site complex.

Our final survey was on Mason's Island in Tinker Harbour where we found Levi Wolfrey and Ruth Pottle at their small cabin in a cove backed by a blown-out terrace 3.4 metres above sea level. Archaeological features had previously been identified on this island by an ornithological field team some decades ago. We located two sets of tent-rings east and west of the Pottle/Wolfrey cabin (GbBk-02, GbBk-04), but without cultural material. The 3.4m terrace turned out to be the most important site located during our survey. Surface inspection produced numerous flakes and the base of a stemmed point made from a translucent white quartzite-like material (GbBk-03, Figure 12). The point resembles bifaces from the Sid Blake site in Northwest River at the



Figure 14. One of several circular cobble pavements at Punchbowl.

western end of Lake Melville. This terrace also contained three circular pavements like those found at Indian Island, all roughly 1m in diameter and made from tightly packed cobbles. We excavated one, but no cultural material or evidence of burning was present. The terrace also had a large circular feature consisting of a low mound, roughly 5m in diameter, with a 30cm depression in its center, bordered by inpointing slabs (Figure 13). This feature might be a human burial dating to the same period (ca. 2000 BP) as the stemmed point. We did not have enough time to explore the rest of the island. However, Levi mentioned boulder structures on the east end of the island, and ornithologists had reported tent rings on the west end.

This marked the end of the Groswater Bay survey. However, during the *Pitsiulak's* return south we stopped at Punchbowl, an abandoned Salt Fish Corporation station south of Black Tickle. On the rocky shore of the harbor south of the station ruins were several circular stone pavements like those at Indian Island (Figure 14). The Punchbowl features were on level rocky ground or bedrock, in nondwelling, exposed places about 10m above sea level. The homogeneity of construction and landscape location is interesting when considering the many kilometres separating these sites. Without more excavation, interpretation of the features is difficult. The slight evidence of burning from the excavated Indian Island feature and another feature excavated at Mason Island, do not provide much data.. The Indian Island features are nearly at sea level, suggesting a recent date, while others are at several metres height; none of them have been associated with cultural materials or could be dwelling hearths because of their rocky and uneven substrates. Somewhat similar though larger features are known from 3000-3500 year old Saunders complex sites further north in Labrador. Loring (1986:55) reports two circular hearth features from Tikkoatokak-1 whose architecture resembles the examples we have found. But these features are usually larger, up to 2-3m in diameter and consisted of firecracked rock pavements with copious amounts of chert artifacts and flakes, located on sandy beaches, and are interpreted as domestic hearths. Given their many differences from the Saunders features, it is tempting to see the Indian Island and Punchbowl pavements as ritual hearths connected with seasonal occupations of the coast during the last two thousand years of Indian prehistory. Features of this type have never been found associated with Palaeoeskimo or Labrador Inuit sites.

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# 2015 Excavations at the Hart Chalet Inuit Village

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Figure 1. Hart Chalet Inuit winter village, House 3 excavations beginning. View south from the rear wall showing house interior and entryway. Hearth pile and kitchen area to left of doorway.

he Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center returned to the Hart Chalet Inuit village (EiBi-47) located west of the Brador River on the Quebec Lower North Shore (LNS). The purpose of the 2015 season was to excavate a portion of the previously untested third house in order to verify its age and relationship to Houses 1 and 2. House 1 was partially excavated in 2014 while House 2 was only tested (Fitzhugh 2014). Both houses had been disturbed by land-clearing and construction of the Hart cottage in the early 1960s, resulting in the destruction of their middens. House 3 was covered with mature spruce trees and undisturbed. The close proximity of the three houses suggested contemporaneity, conforming to the typical 3-house pattern of late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century Inuit settlement

on the Quebec Lower North Shore and much of Labrador coast (Fitzhugh 2015).

House 3 (H3) is roughly rectangular and has a short 1.5-2.0 m long entry passage extending downslope from the south wall of the dwelling (Figure 1). A mound east of the inner doorway seemed likely to be a lintel support although no corresponding pile existed on the other side. A second mound toward the rear of the dwelling seemed like part of a sleeping platform. Adverse weather and permit delays restricted the time available for excavation to four and a half days. After the thick spruce forest that covered H3 was cleared, the site grid was extended from the central site datum. Time allowed excavation of three test pits and a 2x6m trench from the entry passage toward the rear of the house.

# **Test Pits**

Test Pit 1 (TP1) (50x50cm), placed several metres south of the entry passage, produced nails, a crimped iron band (possibly from a knife handle), and a fragment of a light green, thin-walled earthenware. The cultural deposit here was only about 10cm thick. No faunal material was recovered, and the house midden, if one exists, was not here.

Test Pit 2 (TP2) (1x1m) was on top of the southwest house wall, west of the inner doorway. The wall stratigraphy consisted of grey sand mixed with peat, charcoal, bones, and artifacts. Three caribou skulls with sawn off antlers were found just beneath the sod. Artifacts included a blue bead, several pieces of thin 'goblet' glass, a large fragment of a stoneware storage vessel, burned roof tile, several different types of chert, and the mid-section of a dark flint biface and a corner-notched biface of Ramah chert (all of late prehistoric Indian origin). TP2 had little stratigraphic integrity as the chert materials occurred from top to bottom, with house building sods, Inuit refuse, and Indian finds intermixed. The faunal materials were exclusively caribou and associated with the Inuit occupation.

Test Pit 3 (TP3) (1x1m) was located between the entry passage exit and TP1. Small fragments of calcined bird bone and iron nails were recovered. Running through the middle of this pit, north to south, was a 10cm wide, 20cm deep trench with vertical side walls containing thin alternating layers of light beach sand and dark, charcoal-stained sand. The trough aligned with the centre axis of the entryway must have been cut with a mattock to serve as a drainage ditch. Its layering likely records seasonal drainage episodes in which hearth charcoal flushed from the house during the spring thaw alternated with an influx of cleaner sand transported by summer rain. The intact vertical walls and presence of small nails suggest the trench was lined by three planks fastened in a U-shaped trough.

# H3 Excavation

Three units were excavated from the entry passage to the rear of the living floor (Figure 2). Upper level site stratigraphy followed a general podsol pattern displaying turf and humified peat overlying a thin leached beach sand sometimes containing charcoal and bones. Beneath this was a grey sandy cultural layer containing faunal remains and charcoal, followed by a thin black floor layer underlain by the sporadic remains of decomposed wooden planks. The bulk of the finds came from the black occupational layers although some finds came from the upper mixed grey sand. Sterile red-brown sand began below the plank remains. Unlike other LNS Inuit structures excavated, the Hart Chalet houses utilized plank floors rather than rock slabs in their entry passages and house interiors.

We canted the southernmost excavation unit (10N 24W) about 30 degrees east of the N-S grid line to conform with the angled position of the entrance passage. Its northeast corner contained a 70cm high mound of rock, tiles and earth that seemed positioned to function as a door lintel support. Upon excavation this feature had a more complex function indicated by numerous fragments of burned roof tile and charcoal and the lack of a corresponding mound on the western side of the door. Moreover, the cultural deposit along the eastern side of the unit consisted of a thick deposit of caribou bones, charcoal, and fire-cracked rock-clear indication of kitchen activities. The absence of a wall between this cooking area and the entry passage suggests it was a niche in the entryway.

The entry passage was bounded by a distinct sod and rock wall along its west side. At the north end of the unit a huge flat boulder formed the thresh-



Figure 2. House 3 TP1 (behind orange pail), TP2 (on wall, upper right), and TP3 (left of pail). Entryway unit 10N/24W and interior house units 12N/24W (upper grey layer) and 14N/24W (excavated to sterile sand) at center and lower left, respectively. View south.

old between the entry passage and the house interior. There was no indication of a vertical slab cold trap and no lintel supports or lintel rocks. Remains of flat plank flooring were preserved in the water-logged deposits on the threshold rock and sporadically at the base of the entryway deposits. Very few artifacts were found in the mixed deposits above the floor, but thin layers of charcoal-rich soil present on the entry floor produced medium-sized blue beads, nails, a piece of goblet glass, a bit of calcined mammal bone, a lead musket ball, a small triangular ornament made of corroded metal, and the corner of a rectangular soapstone cooking vessel with suspension holes and three decorative incised lines below the outside rim. The second excavation unit (12N 24W) was located directly north of the entry passage unit inside the house. The hearth mound extending into the southeast corner of this unit yielded a number of caribou bones. Throughout the unit the upper mixed grey sand layer yielded caribou bones, nails, chert and quartzite flakes, and a large fragment of a thick-walled tan/pink stoneware vessel. Underneath this layer was a floor layer on which we found wooden planks, nails, a pyrites nodule, a large stoneware urn rim fragment, glass beads, and a soapstone lamp fragment.

The third unit (14N 24W) had a similar stratigraphic sequence with an upper grey sandy layer containing caribou bones along its eastern margin. Like



Figure 3. Artifact sample from TP2 including nails, stoneware, goblet glass, than slabs as in other LNS Inuit Ramah chert flakes, a corner-notched Ramah point, and a dark chert biface base. winter dwellings, but conformed

the other units, artifacts were concentrated in the basal layer on and just above a planked floor. These included tile fragments, three fragments of a small Normandy stoneware storage bottle, pyrites nodules, small flooring nails, a large iron spike, an iron clasp plate for a trunk or box, an iron awl bit, and flakes of Ramah and other types of chert. This unit did not extend far enough into the rear of the dwelling to ascertain the nature of a sleeping platform, if one is present.

# Summary

Despite its brief duration the House 3 excavation completed the task of obtaining information and artifact and faunal samples from each of the houses in this Lower North Shore 17/18<sup>th</sup> century Inuit winter settlement, thus facilitating comparison with several other sites where only single dwelling samples are available. The large size of this dwelling and its clearly marked entryway and doorway made it of special interest in view of the disturbed nature of Houses 1 and 2.

As it turned out, the interpretation of results was less clear than we had hoped. We did not locate an exterior midden (most midden material seems to have been dumped on the house walls and roof), and we found the house structure more complicated than expected. The upper levels of the interior produced caribou skulls and bones, and nails of medium and small size were found in the cultural level that contained vestigial remains of a plank floor. A mound of consolidated soil containing charcoal, caribou bones, burned tile, and rock east of the entry threshold/ door proved to be a hearth mound. Further, the entryway did not include a cold trap. The entry passage was short (1.5-2.0m) and was floored with wood planks rather than slabs as in other LNS Inuit

with evidence of wood floors in Hart site Houses 1 and 2. Of considerable interest was an indication of a kitchen niche in the southeast corner of the house east of the entry passage. This area contained a large number of caribou bones, charcoal, charcoal-stained roof tile, and fire-cracked rocks. A similar arrangement was found at Little Canso Island-1 (House 2) in Jacques Cartier Bay. In Louis Jolliet's report of explorations along the LNS and southern Labrador coast in 1694 (Delanglez 1948: 213, 215) he reported Inuit "mud houses" with exterior cooking places. Another novel feature of House 3 is the plank-lined drainage ditch whose micro-layered deposits suggest a time perspective on the occupancy of the dwelling between one and two decades. Finally, the presence of a charcoal layer on top of the plank floors in the interior and entry area may suggest a catastrophic fire event that necessitated rebuilding and re-arrangement of the original structure. More excavation in the lateral 'bench' and kitchen areas would clarify these structural and occupation sequence issues.

The artifact finds (Figure 3) from House 3 are interesting-not because of their frequency (non-nail finds were rare and the overall artifact count was low) but because of their uniqueness vis-à-vis other LNS Inuit collections and general similarity with the similarly infrequent finds from Houses 1 and 2. Grey Normandy stoneware was present as one or two vessel forms, but a new type of stoneware with a pink paste and surface was also present. Thick-rimmed Normandy stoneware occurred, and a few pieces of light green glazed earthenware also turned up. Medium-small blue glass beads were found in small numbers in scattered locations in floor deposits, but other colours and types like those at Hare Harbour were rare. These distinctions suggest some chronological separation and perhaps different European client relations-more northern European and less Iberian. Two pieces of soapstone-a cooking pot rim and a lamp fragment-came from floor deposits in the entry and door areas. Pieces of iron knife blades, an awl, abraded lumps of iron pyrites nodules, and a trunk latch piece were among the non-nail finds. Relatively few large spikes occurred. Most interesting was the complete absence of clay pipes and marmite earthenware common at the Hare Harbour Inuit site. No bone or wood tools were preserved, nor whalebone sled runners or other items of whalebone, antler, or bone. Almost all of the food bone remains were of caribou. Flakes of fine quality chert and quartzite were common, as also in House 1 and 2, including a few finished biface fragments from prehistoric Indian occupations that became incorporated during the Inuit building activity. Preference of wood over slab rock floors may be due to the availability of European saws, planks, or scavenged ship timbers.

The 2015 excavations added new information consistent with previous data from research at Houses 1 and 2 and slightly different from our data from Hare Harbour and Little Canso Island both in terms of dwelling structure (lack of pavements and lintel doorways, drainage ditches, hearth stacks) and material culture (different beads, new ceramic types, absence of clay pipes). Such patterns and differences may provide clues as to the chronology and regional or social nature of LNS Inuit villages and whether they represent a single homogeneous Inuit occupation of this region, occupations by different pioneering Inuit groups with different trade and social relations with various Europeans groups, or separate occupations occurring at different times during the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Acknowledgements

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# PAO Annual Report 2015 DeBd-07 Andersen Point

Kevin McAleese Independent Researcher



Photo 1. K. McAleese note taking on an internal cobble alignment on the south edge of DeBd-07. AW Taylor photo, 2015.

#### ntroduction

As per the terms of PAO Permit 15.43, test pitting of a probable Beothuk housepit was conducted near Andersen Point (DeBd-07) on the northeast shore of Red Indian Lake in the vicinity of Millertown.

#### Field work overview 2013-2015

In 2013 the author and Mr. A.W. (Bert) Taylor cleared most of the debris from about half the feature and undertook very limited test pitting (Photo 1). A cobble lined floor and walls strewn with considerable wood debris were encountered, but no artifacts recovered. Wood and lithic samples were collected for further analysis. Field work continued in 2014 when soil samples were taken in a systematic manner every two metres along the feature's N-S and E-W axes (Photo 2).

Also in 2014 two artifacts were recovered: a carved wooden stake and a roughly chipped stone tool of a slate-like material, the latter a possible hammerstone (Photo 3, 4). Both were associated with a large flat cobble in the features' NW quadrant (Photo 3).



Photo 2. DeBd-07 cobble alignments looking West. Small holes in lower left foreground are soil sample loci, with more sample loci aligned via grid string lines. K McAleese photo 2014.

The soil samples (Photo 5) were both dry and wet sieved in the Memorial University Department of Archaeology – Ethnobotany Lab., with a variety of seeds recovered. This material is still being analyzed. A charred wood sample produced a RC date of ca. AD 1900 + -10 years (Beta 404738).

# Test pitting

In general three strata were exposed via testpit excavation; a top layer of sandy loam with much organic material, followed by a greasy grayish silt with pebbles and lastly a sandy grit grading into

firmly compressed sand and gravel. The large cobbles exposed generally rested within Level 3,

with the Level 2 matrix covering them (in part) (Photo 6).

Two of the test pits (TP) were placed to cross-cut what was a presumed central hearth area (Photo 2). Two additional units were placed alongside the slumped wall of the depression's East and West "sides." Trowelling through the half metre square test pits soon revealed numerous cobbles generally resting in a matrix of coloured silt/ grayish ash and small amounts of scattered, fire cracked rock (fcr) (Photo 6. 7; TP 1, 3).

The soil matrix of TP 1 & 3 contained pockets of burnt soil, suggesting a hearth in the vicinity. A noteworthy characteristic of TP2 was its series of tightly packed cobbles in Level 2 but extending into Level 3 (Photo 8). This obvious arrangement and placement indicated a prepared platform, floor or foundation (Photo 8). Over on the feature's Western side in TP 4, a few relatively large wooden pieces were exposed within and beyond the TP (Photo 9). No ob-

vious cut marks could be discerned, but the wood cluster may represent collapsed structural/ architectural elements. The proximity of slope, logging debris and limited excavation time prevented a complete uncovering of the items.

# Mapping and Photography

In order to further develop a site map, a narrow base line was cut through the adjacent woods close to the Red Indian Lake shore. It followed a magnetic east-west bearing from Anderson Brook to

Photo 3. DeBd-07 "wood stake" (not in situ) resting on a large slab-like (anvil?) tone Original provenience at trowel, vertically positioned in matrix. K McAleese photo 2014.





Photo 4. DeBd-07 "hammer"(?) comprised of a slate-like material; recovered close to slab-like stone (anvil?). AW Taylor photo 2014.

the site. This facilitated more accurate site and area mapping and photography.

# Data analysis

Significant TP evidence for a hearth (i.e. fcr clusters, stone alignments etc.) was not apparent, but the pockets of burnt soil and fcr bits suggest a hearth was located in the feature's central area.

TP 1 and 3 were sampled for carbon and

charred organic material, a sample of which will be sent this year to Beta Analytic for a date assay. Fcr and matrix samples collected are being studied microscopically.

The two artifacts recovered, a carved wooden stake and a chipped stone tool "hammer" of a slate-like material (Photos 3, 4), were associated with a large flat cobble in the feature's NW quadrant. Its' shape, size and form suggest it may be an "anvil stone" for working various materials (Photo 4).

The artifacts are being analyzed via the Memorial University SEM/x-ray defraction technology apparatus at the SEM -MLA Research Lab, CREAIT Network, Bruneau Centre. A "package" of x-ray element idenlower stretches of the Harpoon River (B. Kean pers.comm. 2015).

Preliminary x-ray scanning of the stone "hammer" has also revealed minute traces of iron residue on both bit "ends" the larger or "north end" in particular (Photo 11). The iron content was noted primarily on the hammerstone "bit ends, not throughout the piece.

Photo 5. Test Unit excavation looking east. Western-most Unit in front of K McAleese, with 2 Units to his left and a 3<sup>rd</sup> behind his right shoulder. AW Taylor photo 2015.



tifications is being produced to help with artifact/lithic material comparative studies within and beyond the region.

The "hammer stone" geochemistry is complex, with a high silica percentage and traces of copper and zinc. Based on visual review, Baxter Kean, retired Dept. of Natural Resources geologist, has suggested that additional (source?) material of this type may be found in the brook valleys intersecting Red Indian Lake at its south-east end (i.e. Mary March Brook) and/or the



Photo 6. Test Unit 1, Level 2 in progress. FCR scattered within matrix. North topmost. AW Taylor photo 2015.

Further x-ray analysis will be done, as will statistical "testing" of this characteristic. But for now the iron residue suggests the "hammer" was used in metal reworking at or near the site. Given that the piece was recovered within 60 cm. of what appears to be an "anvil stone" in the feature's northwest quadrant, this metal working interpretation builds on that association.

Photo 8. Test Unit 2, level 2 in progress. Note tightly aligned cobble cluster. North topmost. AW Taylor photo 2015.



Photo 7. Test Unit 3 level 2 in progress. North topmost. AW Taylor photo 2015.

#### Conclusion

The DeBd-07 depression is clearly on a stretch of Beothuk-settled lakeshore as recorded in the 1820s and earlier. Various primary sources, including the Beothuk woman "Shawnadithit" (Marshall 1996), describe this occupation.

Photo 9. Test Unit 4, level 2 in progress. Note wood pieces (structural?) in Level 2 matrix and overlying cobble cluster. North topmost. AW Taylor photo 2015.







Photo 10. Photo derrick" looking SSw into DeBd-07, with test excavation in progress. Red Indian Lake is approximately 100 m S of the treed ridge past the suspended ladder. AW Taylor photo, 2015



Photo 11. Iron (Fe) residue (in purple) on this highly magnified photo of a high point on the large or "North End" of the "hammer stone." Photo - 64x magnification; SEM-MLA Research Lab, CREAIT Network; February 2016. Pits with low cobble walls and/or internal cobble-lined features have been previously noted in the archaeological record for the Exploits River basin. They have been interpreted as Beothuk, Mi'kmaq and European, depending on circumstances (PAO Annual Reports 2010- 2014).

The limited 2015 field work at Andersen Point has not absolutely confirmed a Beothuk occupation. But despite this the function and cultural affiliation of DeBd-07 is likely a Beothuk constructed housepit (Photo 10), occupied late in the region's Aboriginal "cultural sequence." Further study of the few artifacts recovered and of the soil samples and related organic material will help validate this overall assessment.

In addition to Beothuk occupation, a sequence of settlement of the Red Indian Lake area is suggested by only a few random finds of Recent Indian and Maritime Archaic tools from various Island of Newfoundland interior sites. Mi'kmaq occupation is of course well documented for the19th century. New survey of the Red Indian lakeshore might lead to the recovery of additional artifacts to help interpret the overall sequence. Much of the lakeshore is regularly disturbed by natural flooding. This erosional activity may expose new materials in what could be described as a "seasonally drowned" landscape.

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# Burnside Heritage Foundation (BHF) Inc. Archaeology – 2015

Laurie Mclean BHF Archaeologist



Plate 1. Southeast corner of Housepit 10, DfBa-02.

# ermit No. 15.22 Phase 2 Of An Archaeological Survey Of Two Mile Island, On The Exploits River, Newfoundland

Two Mile Island is an 18 hectare island in the Exploits River, located 68 kilometres inland from the Bay of Exploits and 48 kilometres from Red Indian Lake. Twelve Beothuk housepits were identified there in 1969, making it the largest cluster of housepits on an Exploits River island. A Mi'kmaq housepit was reported there at the same time (Locke Field Notes: np). Subsequent visits between 1982 and 2000 found another Beothuk housepit, a rock feature suggesting a cache or burial, anomalous large pits and small storage pits, but dense vegetation and tree falls prevented re-identifying more than four of the originally report-

ed housepits (Thomson 1983:169). The author, assisted by Grand Falls-Windsor outfitter Don Pelley and MUN archaeology graduate student Dave Craig, were contracted by Newfoundland and Labrador's Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) in 2014 to exhaustively look for 10 previously reported housepits on northeastern Two Mile Island. A combination of surface analysis and rigorous test pitting re-identified nine of 10 housepits located within the assigned study area. Two Mile Island's location, combined with the size and distribution of the nine rediscovered housepits suggested a late Beothuk occupation, possibly one of the last on the Exploits River (McLean 2014b:49). Seven new features were discovered during the survey.



Plate 2. Don Pelley digs a test pit inside Housepit 2, DfBa-03.

In 2015, the PAO requested a similar examination of southwestern Two Mile Island, looking for three previously reported housepits on the island's lower terrace skirting its southern and western shores. The search also looked for a housepit that had been reported on the upper terrace, south from the 2014 study area. The author and Don Pelley performed the required assessment during June 22-30. A rock feature found on the southern edge of the island's upper terrace southwest from the westernmost re-identified housepit from 2014 was tentatively interpreted as Housepit 8 (McLean 2015:19). Housepit 9, a small 14.7 m<sup>2</sup> structure, was rediscovered near Housepit 8, but on a low bank sloping down to the lower terrace. The search for DfBa-02's Housepit 10 and DfBa-03's Housepit 1 focussed on the 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> alder-clogged lower terrace. This vegetation had to be cleared to permit archaeological examination. Using the original site map as a rough guide, a 295 m<sup>2</sup> section was cleared and rigorously test pitted. Negative results here led to the clearing and testing of a 243 m<sup>2</sup> section, 22 metres from Section 1. Two raised walls, built from mounded cobbles and earth, forming a corner representing Housepit 10 were found 38.5 metres southwest from Housepit 8 and 84.5 metres west from Housepit 9 (Plate 1) (Ibid:29).

The search for Housepit 1 at Two Mile-Island -2 (DfBa-03) required further brush cutting. 467 m<sup>2</sup> were cut in different sections where incomplete records suggested the housepit might be located. The northern half of a 31.2 m<sup>2</sup> housepit were eventually found, but the location does not correspond with existing information, suggesting it represents a second housepit at DfBa-03 (Plate 2). Although test pits dug inside the interior of this housepit were sterile, its mounded cobble walls are proof of its status. Test pits dug inside Housepits 9 and 10 at DfBa-02 this summer and inside many of the 47 recently rediscovered interior housepits also did not produce artifacts. This may be partly attributable to looting, but inland housepits appear to contain smaller assemblages than their coastal counterparts and this may be a fundamental distinction between the two areas. There are many more interior housepits, 155 compared to 33 from the coast, suggesting that the inland structures may have been more briefly used, thus ac-



Plate 3. Partially exposed rock-lined pit and cobble platform (Feature 1) at Two Mile Island-2 (DfBa-03).

cumulating less cultural material. Also, many of the inland housepits probably were used as storage houses that would not have been equipped with hearths and associated evidence of human occupation. It is also possible that some of the latest Beothuk housepits will produce evidence for people under stress. This could include smaller toolkits and scarcer food remains. Another consideration concerning smaller inland housepit assemblages addresses the multi-functional aspect of iron projectile points compared to lithic tools.

Perhaps the most exciting discovery of the 2015 Two Mile Island survey was a charcoal and humus—filled, rock-lined pit located 10 metres northeast from DfBa-03's Housepit 2. This  $1.4 \ge 1.0 \ge 0.45$ metre ovate pit was contained within the southwest corner of a triangular flat platform built from round cobbles (Plate 3). The exact size of the platform could not be determined without clearing vegetation and debris from it, but it appears to be within the 13.4-20.8 m<sup>2</sup> range. This is a unique discovery of a presumably Beothuk feature. Eleven similar-sized rock-lined pits found at four Exploits River sites are interpreted as storage pits, but none of these are associated with cobble platforms (Ibid:35). A few pits have produced single bone fragments, but most are sterile. Although it has been posited that some of the other pits may have functioned as roasting pits or boiling pits, the absence of charcoal or fire-cracked rocks from them argues against this (McLean 2014c:36). Feature 1, at DfBa-03, held 45 centimetres of black humus and charcoal on top of thin ash and disintegrated rock. Fire-cracked rocks were not present. Two similar features were found 37 and 43 metres from Feature 1, suggesting a peculiar activity resulting in distinct features for this site (McLean 2015:37).

Feature 1's prominent location on the outer northwest corner of Two Mile Island's upper terrace suggests its Beothuk builders made no attempt to hide it. This means it predates 10 housepits reidentified on the upper terrace during 2014 and 2015. These former structures were built 31 to 48 metres from the river, a much greater distance compared to other inland sites, and most occur further away from their neighbours, compared to the distribution pattern at other multiple housepit localities (Ibid:48, 49). Three housepits re-identified on the lower terrace during 2015 are much closer to the river, implying that the Beothuk who built them were less concerned about hiding from Newfoundland settlers and the lower terrace housepits predate those from the upper terrace. The suggested evidence for two phases of Beothuk occupation at Two Mile Island provides insight concerning Feature 1. Possibly the dense charcoal layer inside the pit, in the absence of fire-cracked rocks, is attributable to a new hearth or roasting pit that had to be abandoned due to a threat, such as hostile settlers. Similarly, the dense charcoal may have been produced by the burning of a structure that covered Feature 1. The activity encapsulated by Feature 1 may have prompted Beothuk to alter their settlement plan at Two Mile Island to one more concerned with hiding from settlers.

# Permit No. 15.25

The author was issued Permit No. 15.25 to implement salvage excavations at the Beaches site (DeAk-01), to monitor 57 archaeological sites within the Burnside Heritage Foundation Inc. study area and continue surveying the Bonavista Bay coast. Beothuk, Recent Indian and Palaeoeskimo components are eroding at the Beaches (DeAk-01) and salvage excavations had been planned for Housepit 2 in 2015. Unfortunately, due to insufficient funding, local BHF archaeological activity was limited to a one-day visit to the multi-component Sailor site (DeAj-01) and Sailor South (DeAj-05) which contains Dorset Palaeoeskimo and Newfoundland settler material. The Sailor site was mostly destroyed by excavation of a gravel quarry during the 1950s. A portion of its Palaeoeskimo component remains, but is eroding. No artifacts were seen on the surface this summer. Sailor South was discovered during the 2005 BHF field season and has been mostly excavated since then. A new home has been built adjacent to the site during the past three years. Various ongoing activities threaten both of these sites and complete salvage excavation of them would be worthwhile. This salvage project should include mapping historic foot paths and associated features remaining on unoccupied land between the two sites. The BHF archaeological interpretation centre was open daily from July 1 until September 30. 558 visitors were welcomed, a slight increase over annual totals for the previous three seasons.

# Permit No. 15.36, 15.36.01 Salvage Excavations at Boom Island (DfAw-03) And Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05), Nimrod's Pool on the Exploits River

Nimrod's Pool, a wide section of the Exploits River five kilometres above the "Great Falls", was named by John Cartwright in 1768 on the second day of his expedition upriver in search of Beothuk. After not encountering Beothuk to this point, he was impressed by the "...beautiful appearance of the river here, followed by a long line of sewelling, with a deer fence..." which raised their hopes of meeting Beothuk (Howley 1915:42). Cartwright's map shows deer fences east and west of Nimrod's Pool and seven wigwams along the banks of the Exploits River (Marshall 1996:331; Cartwright 1768). Amateur archaeologist Don Locke identified 53 Beothuk housepits on both sides of the river and on three islands in the pool in the 1960s (Locke Field Notes: np).

Locke and subsequent professional archaeologists also recovered precontact artifacts from Nimrod's Pool. Twenty artifacts from Wigwam Point (DfAw-01) suggest a Maritime Archaic component (LeBlanc 1973:103) while a Dorset Palaeoeskimo endblade and an endblade preform were recovered from Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05) (Locke Field notes: np; McLean 2013:6). Beaches Recent Indian stone projectile points were recovered from South Exploits (Dfaw-07) (Locke 1974:15; McLean 1990: np) and from Rushy Pond (DfAw-10) (Schwarz 1992:29). Late Little Passage/early Beothuk stone projectile points were obtained from a number of hearths at Boom Island (Dfaw-03) (Locke Field Notes: np) and recent salvage excavation of a formally 12-15 metrelong hearth at Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05) produced a radiocarbon date of 600 + 30 BP (AD 1295-1410 calibrated) (Beta-396195), placing it within the latter Little Passage period (McLean 2014c:21).

The Boom Island hearths have been underwater since their discovery in the 1960s. Damage to Goodyear's Dam, located 2.85 kilometres downriver from Boom Island, lowered Nimrod's Pool's waterline by two to three metres, exposing much of the normally inundated shoreline. A brief springtime visit



Plate 4. Exposed Boom Island terrace (DfAw--03), looking northwest. Upper arrow points to Features 3, 4, 11. Middle arrow points to Feature 12 and lower arrow points to Feature 2.

by PAO archaeologists Ken Reynolds and Stephen Hull, assisted by outfitter Don Pelley, revealed extensive fire-cracked rock features on the surface of Boom Island and Aspen Island. Realizing that much of this material would be re-flooded once repairs to Goodyear's Dam were complete, the PAO requested salvage projects for Boom Island (DfAw-03) and nearby Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05). The results of these projects provided evidence for Recent Indian and Groswater Palaeoeskimo activity in Nimrod's Pool. These data and a review of existing collections show that the significance of precontact occupations throughout the Exploits Valley has been understated (see below).

The Boom Island salvage project focussed on the island's eastern shore where Locke had identified three hearths, Features 2, 3 and 4. Feature 1 is a Beothuk housepit on the island's southwest corner and Feature 5 is a hearth located on the island's north shore, outside the 2015 study area. When the salvage team, consisting of the author and Don Pelley, visited Boom Island on August 17, the river had fallen 30 to 60 centimetres below the shoreline, revealing a 1200 m<sup>2</sup> triangular level terrace (Plate 4). Using the original site map as a guide, Features 2, 3 and 4 were identified, but clusters of fire-cracked rock were visible over much of the terrace's 80 metre-long eastern shoreline. New features 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 were added through surface analysis and Features 9 and 10 were detected through subsurface testing. Three of the new features composed of fire-cracked rocks suggest hearths or middens. Another three features containing fire-cracked rocks and unburned cobbles possibly have similar functions or could be structural. Feature 11 suggests the vestigial portion of a housepit wall built from mounded cobbles.

Twenty-eight non-diagnostic stone artifacts and a modified wrought iron nail, representing Beothuk, were found on the terrace surface. Thirteen stone items and three burned glass fragments were recovered through excavation of four square metre units and test pits. 1012 calcined bone fragments were recovered, including 39 from surface collection and 973 from subsurface context. Excavation of 1.3



Plate 5. Little Passage/Beothuk projectile points from 2015: left and centre are from Feature 3; right is from outer portion of Feature, or adjacent to it.

m<sup>2</sup> at Feature 3 produced a wealth of information. The original Feature 3 assemblage consisted of 33 small fragments from a bone pendant (s), two nonhuman teeth, five iron artifacts and five stone artifacts, the latter including a complete projectile point, a projectile point fragment and an endscraper. This summer's excavation produced evidence for an in situ hearth, consisting of fire-cracked rock on top of black -stained and oxidized subsoil. Six-hundred-twentyfour small calcined bone fragments, a stemmed stone projectile point and the fragment of a stone projectile point were collected from Feature 3 (Plate 5). Interestingly, no flakes were present, indicating the stone tools were not manufactured in this immediate vicinity. Charcoal was in good supply within the hearth and one sample was radiocarbon dated to 320 + 30 BP (AD 1470-1650 calibrated) (Beta-422459), indicating a late Little Passage/early Beothuk visit preceding the intensified post-1750 Beothuk occupation of the Exploits Valley. Another late Little Passage/early Beothuk stone projectile point was found in a square metre unit dug two metres south from Feature 3 (Plate 5).

The data compiled in 2015, along with existing evidence for Recent Indian visits to Nimrod's Pool spanning Beaches, Little Passage and Beothuk phases indicate that precontact Recent Indians were familiar with this area. It is unclear if this usage included annual visits to Nimrod's Pool, but the latter's 40 kilometre distance, measured along the river, inland from the Bay of Exploits is only slightly greater than the 30 kilometre boundary suggested to delineate the near-coastal environment frequently utilized by precontact populations (Schwarz 1992:3). The availability of a healthy caribou population and other resources within Nimrod's Pool would make it a logical extension of the near-coastal environment.

# Salvage Excavations at Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05)

Aspen Island is located 500 metres east from Boom Island. Three sites identified there in the 1960s contain nine Beothuk housepits, storage pits and related features. Five Beothuk housepits, six storage pits, a caribou butchering area or cache, a 12-15 metre long hearth, two fire-cracked rock clusters and an ambiguous cobble cluster were identified at Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05) previous to 2015. As mentioned earlier, a possible Maritime Archaic axe, Palaeoeskimo artifacts and a Little Passage radiocarbon date of 600 + 30 BP (Beta 396195) are evidence for people visiting the site long before 1750 when the Beothuk made a large-scale shift to the Exploits Valley, for the most part forsaking the coast.

The effects of erosion on Aspen Island had been documented in a number of recent re-visits initiated by the PAO. A detailed evaluation of the site undertaken in 2013 showed that four to six horizontal metres of the island's southwest shoreline had been lost and erosion was ongoing (McLean 2014a:27). The sandy river bed at the foot of this eroding bank is littered with fire-cracked rocks and stone artifacts dislodged from their context by erosion. PAO archaeologists Ken Reynolds and Stephen Hull, assisted by Don Pelley, briefly visited Aspen Island-2 in the spring of 2015, following the drastic decrease in river height due to Goodyear's Dam rupturing. They found in situ fire-cracked rocks close to an eroding bank where a Palaeoeskimo microblade, flakes and firecracked rocks had been collected in 2013 (Reynolds and Hull 2015:8; McLean 2014a:23). Flakes and two endscrapers were found on the beach near the firecracked rocks and a Palaeoeskimo microblade was recovered from the base of an eroding bank ten metres away (Reynolds and Hull 2015:8).

The author and Don Pelley subsequently salvaged the exposed hearth which was designated Feature 18 at the site. A 1 x 2.4 metre trench was exca-



Plate 6. Remains of a Groswater Palaeoeskimo hearth at Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05).

vated and four test pits were dug within a few metres north of the trench. The excavation showed Feature 18 was the bottom portion of a small hearth consisting of fire-cracked rocks, dark-stained clay subsoil, oxidized soil, charcoal, a little calcined bone, a small amount of burned fat and lithic artifacts (Plate 6). The hearth and the majority of associated cultural material was confined to a square metre, with some scattering of artifacts beyond this unit. The remnant of a second small hearth was uncovered 35 centimetres north from the main feature in question. 167 stone artifacts recovered from the trench included five complete endscrapers and nine endscraper fragments. These were not immediately diagnostic, but a sideblade and small asymmetric knife were indicative of Palaeoeskimos. Charcoal from the hearth was radiocarbon dated to 2220 + 30 BP (Beta-422460), providing the first dated Groswater Palaeoeskimo component from interior Newfoundland. A review of Groswater assemblages shows that while eared endscrapers are diagnostic of this culture, non-eared endscrapers also frequently occur in their assemblages (Kennett 1986:114,166; Noseworthy 2005:1, 36), fitting this collection to the Groswater criteria. Onehundred fifty flakes, including 131 "flakes" and 19 categorized flakes were predominantly made on finegrained chert, 90.7%/n=136, exemplifying another typical Groswater trait (LeBlanc 1996:22; Noseworthy 2005:26). Similarly, the total 167 stone artifacts recovered from the trench contain 151 (91.0%) finegrained chert artifacts.

The identification of substantial precontact components in Nimrod's Pool shows that the Exploits Valley was more frequently occupied during

Plate 7. Groswater, "eared" endscraper (left) and other possible Palaeoeskimo endscrapers from South Exploits (DfAw-07).





Plate 8. Groswater "eared" endscrapers previously collected at Indian Point (DeBd-01).

this period than has traditionally been considered. This interpretation is supported by a review of existing collections. An "eared" endscraper from the South Exploits site (DfAw-07) is previously unacknowledged evidence for another Groswater component in Nimrod's Pool, located 200 metres southwest from Aspen Island (Plate 7). Similarly, four "eared" endscrapers among stone artifacts from Indian Point (DeBd-01), on Red Indian Lake, represent an unacknowledged Groswater component from Newfoundland's deep interior (Plate 8).

The author's review of Indian Point's (DeBd-01) lithic assemblage revealed most of this material has been overlooked since its recovery 45 years ago. Approximately 1300 stone artifacts from Indian Point in storage at The Rooms include 1250 collected by an amateur archaeologist and the rest during brief professional visits (McLean 2014a:2). A large collection, totalling at least 10,058 stone items that had been recovered during 1969 and 1970 are in storage out of



Plate 9. Housepit discovered/re-discovered at Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05) in 2015.

province. They are not readily available for analysis and are only generally referred to in the preliminary report which serves as the final report for this research. This document lists 12 Indian Point features that produced lithic artifacts (Devereux 1970:13, 35, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43, 46, 47, 51, 54, 54). The author counted 10,058 stone artifacts, not including "lithic samples", from catalogue sheets available at The Rooms in St. John's. The presence of this large lithic assemblage at Indian Point (DeBd-01) shows this site figured much more prominently during the precontact period than has been given credit. It is especially surprising to have such evidence from Newfoundland's deep interior when existing interpretations suggest brief precontact usage of the Exploits Valley. The Indian Point data, along with existing information and the 2015 results from Nimrod's Pool indicate that the perception of precontact inland occupation needs to be re-examined.

Indian Point is somewhat symbolic of the late Beothuk occupation of Red Indian Lake, yet its large lithic assemblage suggests its prominence to precontact hunter-gatherers may have surpassed its significance to the Beothuk. Although Lloyd counted 22 Beothuk housepits there in 1875, only 30 iron objects and a few others of European materials have been archaeologically collected there. In comparison, 263 iron items were recovered from June's Cove (DeBd-03), located on the Red Indian Lake shoreline northeast from Indian Point. June's Cove also produced 143 stone artifacts, one of the larger lithic assemblages from the Exploits Valley. Seven Exploits Valley sites produced more than 30 iron artifacts, making the Indian Point total surprisingly low. The possible impacts of unreported looting, erosion and other disturbance must be considered here, but the list of unanswered questions pertaining to this now mostly destroyed site render it a classic cautionary tale concerning the importance of preserving and researching archaeological sites.

Although the Aspen Island-2 (DfAw-05) project for 2015 was directed at salvaging Feature 18, the exposed hearth, another Beothuk housepit was identified, or re-identified. Four housepits had previously been re-identified at the north end of the site and a fifth one, a previously unreported five-sided housepit found in 2012, is a new discovery or may be one originally referred to as Housepit 9 (McLean 2014a:11, 13; 2014c:32). Don Pelley located another housepit between the latter and Housepit 1 this summer. The new discovery/re-discovery may be one originally called Housepit 13. It is a small ovate house, measuring  $3.8 \times 2.6 \text{ m} (7.68 \text{ m}^2) \times 0.16$  metres deep at maximum (Plate 9). Like a number of other small inland housepits, it was built on a low slope, raising the question of its function as a domestic structure, store house or other purpose. Debris was cleared from the feature's interior and mounded cobble walls, but test pits were not dug.

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# The Southside Cemetery (CjAe-54) and its association with the St. John's Naval Hospital

onstruction workers uncovered human remains at the base of the Southside Hills in 1979, immediately resulting in discussions as to what historical institution they were associated with. Previous documentation and writings have given support to association with the St. Mary's Anglican Church, and with the Royal Naval Hospital. Both were located on the Southside Hills, though they were active nearly a century apart. The Royal Naval Hospital was likely functioning from the early 1700s to the early 1800s (O'Neill 2003), while the St. Mary's Anglican Church was built in 1859, the cemetery was not established until 1879 (Marshall 2012). I compared a summary of the sex and age of the individuals from the Southside Cemetery to the 1879-1888 burial records in the St. Mary's Anglican Church. This was done to analyze if the theoretical population of the Church cemetery is consistent with the Southside Cemetery remains or if a Royal Navy origin is more probable. In addition, an examination of historical documents from the St. John's Naval Hospital suggests that the development of the Royal Naval Hospital and associated cemetery is more complex than previous analyses have suggested.

# Southside Cemetery and St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

In November of 1979, construction workers uncovered human remains while digging sewer lines along the Southside Road in St. John's, which were subsequently excavated by the Newfoundland Constabulary Criminal Investigation Division. There were two newspaper articles written about the remains just after their discovery. The first article published on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1979, highlighted that remains had been uncovered and that it was not the first time that skeletal remains had been found at the site, since a similar situation occurred approximately 15 years previously (Evening Telegram 1979a). This newspaper article suggested that the cemetery was associated with the St. Mary's Anglican Church and Cannon

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R.R. Babb of the Church corroborated this (Evening Telegram 1979a). Yet, the next day the journalist did clarify that "maps and other records indicate there was a British naval cemetery in that vicinity" (Evening Telegram 1979b). It remained unresolved which of these two suggestions, a Church Cemetery or a Royal Naval Hospital Cemetery, were the true association of the cemetery.

Tanya von Hunnius, under the supervision of Dr. Sonja Jerkic and as part of a graduate palaeopathology course at Memorial University, produced a report on the collection from the Southside Cemetery (von Hunnius 1998). The analysis of the remains determined that there was a minimum of 21 individuals based off of the number of un-sided mandibles. According to cranial suture closure, dental attrition, and epiphyseal fusion, the individuals were predominantly less than 30 years of age, with one to two sub adults that were at least 17 years of age (von Hunnius 1998). All but two individuals that were well enough preserved to allow for sex estimation were male. Through locally available documents, von Hunnius (1998) concluded that it was not certain whether or not the cemetery was associated with the Naval Hospital or St. Mary's Church, but her personal opinion was that it was associated with the Royal Navy.

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church was built in 1859 to serve the congregation of Anglicans on the south side and west end of St. John's, but the original building was torn down after a new church was opened in 1962 away from the original site (Cousens 1960; Mills 2002).

I compared the St. Mary's Church burial records to the known demographic profile of the Southside Cemetery remains to determine if they were consistent with those of the Anglican Church. Jill Marshall (2012) transcribed many of the burial records for this cemetery, and a decade of these burials were analyzed for this report. From 1879-1888 there were a total of 356 individuals recorded as being buried in the church cemetery. Gender was determined by the name used and any pronouns used, 155 were female, 198 were male, and 3 were indeterminate. This corresponds with a gender distribution of 42.3%, 56.8%, and 0.8%, respectively. This means that the proportion of the genders of those buried were close to equal. The total mean age with one standard of deviation was  $28.6\pm28.8$  years and ranged from a couple days old to 91 years of age. Of the individuals whose age at death was recorded associated, 40% (142) of individuals were children under the age of 10, 126 of which were less than 5 years old (Table 1). Another almost 34% of individuals were older than 40 (122).

Table 1. The age at death distribution of individuals separated by decade who were buried at the St. Mary's Anglican Church, St. John's, NL from 1879 to 1881.

Age at Death	Number
0-9	142
10-19	37
20-29	32
30-39	24
40-49	22
50-59	20
60-69	22
70-79	38
80-89	16
90-99	2

Assuming that the genders from the records directly correlate to the biological sex of the individuals, the cemetery used by this congregation had nearly equal numbers of sexes and a large age range, but certainly contained many sub-adult individuals. This is not the case in the skeletal assemblage found in 1979 according to von Hunnius (1998). In turn, the alternative is that they were of the Royal Navy. The sex and age of the individuals from the Southside Cemetery supports this claim, as they were almost exclusively male (von Hunnius 1998). This being said there is the possibility that the two individuals were misidentified as female, as sex determination from the skull is not ideal (Gülekon and Turgut 2003; White and Folkens 2005). The majority of those recovered were less than 30 years of age, which von Hunnius (1998) recognized as being an ideal age for the Royal Navy; even the two sub-adults were old enough to have been part of the Navy. In addition, two coins were found on the eyes of one sailor that dated to the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Hett 1980), a full century before the St. Mary's Church began burials at an unknown location. This information taken together asserts that there is a high probability of the association between the Southside Cemetery and the Royal Naval Hospital.

# Location and Origins of the St. John's Naval Hospital and the Southside Cemetery

Now that a highly probable association to the Royal Navy Hospital has been established, it is important to determine what is known about the Hospital itself and the development of the cemetery. Keegan (1937) contributed the first known written recognition of the Southside Cemetery. This historian claimed that a military hospital was at the foot of St. Patrick's Street with a cemetery directly across the harbour. He also stated that construction workers found skeletons and coffins with military buttons inside (Keegan 1937). O'Neill (2003; originally having published in 1975), was the first to describe the Naval Hospital itself by referring to a plaque that has since been removed. According to O'Neill (2003: 735-736), the plaque read:

A small hospital for the treatment of sick and infirm seamen from ships of the Royal Navy serving in the Newfoundland squadron was built near this site about 1725. Originally designed for use during the summer when the squadron was on station this building was found inadequate for the increased number of patients from the large squadrons stationed here throughout the American Revolutionary War and was replaced by a larger building erected nearby in 1779. The old hospital was maintained until Newfoundland ceased to be a separate naval command in 1825. A brewhouse for the brewing of spruce beer to combat scurvy amongst the ships crews was maintained near this site during much of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

This gives a clear start and end date to the use of the Naval Hospital in St. John's as well as when and for whom it was used. O'Neill refers to a cemetery on the Southside that was associated with the Royal Navy (O'Neill 2003: 734-735). Poole (1984: 1041) later added that the original hospital building was converted to a storehouse, but was torn down in 1786. This very general history of the Naval Hospital remained unchallenged until the 21<sup>st</sup> century when Newfoundland archaeologists analyzed cartographic evidence which added and clarified parts of the story of the Naval Hospital. Archaeologist Stephen Mills (2002) produced a Stage 1 Historic Resources Assessment of the land proposed for the sewage treatment plant on the south side of the St. John's Harbour. Through the examination of multiple documents,



Figure 1. A section of "A Part of St. John's Harbour, 1751" by Braham James, highlighting the south side of St. John's Harbour, NL. Note the square building identifying the Navy Hospital on the south-west end of the harbour and the Navy Brewhouse with a square garden further west. Microfiche on file at Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University, NL.

mainly the 1751 (Figure 1) and the 1798 (Figure 2) map of St. John's Harbour, Mills (2002: 7) identified a change of location and orientation between what is identified as being the Naval Hospital. He associated this change with the building of a new hospital during the American Revolution (Mills 2002: 7).

Archaeologist Gerald Penney (2005) produced a memo about the history of the Watering Place Brook, which was used during the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>

> centuries as the King's Watering Place. He examined and described all maps pertaining to the watering hole; however, this location happens to overlap with the presence of the Navy and the Naval Hospital. Penney (2005) stated that the first presence of cartographic evidence of possible Royal Naval structures is the 1741 reference to "Men of Warr tents where they brew". The first appearance of the Kings Wharf and the Naval Hospital was in 1751 (Figure 1). Penney (2005) suggested that it was likely in the 1740s that the hospital was established, as denoted by the cartographic evidence. The 1813 map, not depicted here, is the last surviving map of relevance to the Naval Hospital and places an unidentified large structure where the Naval Hospital had previously been located (Penney 2005).

From these previous studies there is one underlying concept: that the St. John's Naval Hospital was in use from 1725-1825, having been rebuilt once during the American Revolution. This discourse is maintained throughout these histories with the exception of Gerald Penney (2005), yet the original source is not clearly documented anywhere. O'Neill (2003) suggests that this was the information given on a plaque close to the site of the hospital, yet from where its creators


Figure 2. A section of "A Chart of St. John's in Newfoundland" surveyed in 1798 by Francis Owen, Master of His Majesty's Ship Agincourt. Enlarged to show the south-west end of the harbour and to highlight the detail of the Hospital and King's Water Place at River Head, St. John's, NL. Centre for Newfoundland Studies, Digitized Maps.

compiled the details of the hospital is unknown. The information presented without clear documentation has remained largely unchallenged until recently.

Though no known maps clearly identify a Royal Naval Hospital Cemetery, the 1751 map depicts a square beside the Naval brew house (Figure 1); Penney (2005) noted that this overlies what is known to be the Southside Cemetery's location. From an examination of the map, this square is a garden plot, likely associated with the brewhouse. Considering they would not have buried the bodies in the garden while it was in use, this gives earliest possible date for the start of the cemetery, yet it is unclear when the brewhouse was closed. This date lines up with the only chronological evidence directly from the site, the late 18<sup>th</sup> century coins.

#### The St. John's Naval Hospital Muster Records

From previous accounts outlined above, it is known that there was a Naval Hospital in St. John's serving naval seamen, but very little is known about the hospital itself. In order to gain a better sense of the workings of the hospital, the surviving muster records of the hospital (1793-1811) were examined at the National Archives in Kew, England in January 2015. These records clarify the name of the hospital as the St. John's Naval Hospital. Unless otherwise stated, the following information comes from the St. John's Naval Hospital records at the National Archives in Kew, England (TNA ADM 102/733-734).

The first aspect of the St. John's Naval Hospital that can be clarified through the quarterly finances is the structure of the hospital itself. In all previous accounts, it was said that the two buildings (the original and that built during the American Revolution) were purpose-built (Poole 1984; O'Neill 2003). While there are no known surviving records from the earlier time, the known structures used during the 20 years of hospital muster records bring the assumptions about the original construction into question. First, when the records start in 1793 the infirm sailors were all quartered at Garratt Keating's House. They were transferred in 1797 to two separate buildings, with the last transfer occurring a year later into 'A house on the Southside for which we pay no rent". None of these four structures were purpose-built, all being owned privately or previously owned, which brings into question why the Royal Navy would have changed how they quartered the infirm sailors, unless

there were financial concerns. It is also common for the Royal Navy, particularly in early years of the hospitals, to rent out houses or other areas of town within which they would house sick sailors (Coad 1983: 142).

Second, the fact that there were two changes in location just within the 20 years of records is not consistent with previous assumptions. These changes all occurred during the 1790s, the time when according to previous notions, the hospital was still the one that had been built during the American Revolution (Poole 1984; O'Neill 2003). It is unknown if Garratt Keating's house was the original structure from the American Revolution, or if previous accounts were even more incorrect, and that changes in the buildings used for the Naval Hospital were more common than previously thought. It is therefore possible that Penney's (2005) argument for the first hospital being built in 1740s may be correct. However, considering the history of Naval Hospitals in colonial ports, it is likely that there was some form of hospital in Newfoundland before this date, but it may have been more temporary such as in a tavern or occupied house (Coad 1983).

The history of these hospital structures from the muster records also gives information regarding the identities of individuals associated with the running of the Naval Hospital. From May 1797 until sometime during the summer of 1798, the naval patients were housed in accommodations rented from a prominent merchant, Marmaduke Hart who gave provisions to the Royal Navy and one of the Hospital's nurses, Ann Saunders. (Keith Matthews Collection: H055A). It is unclear what happened that caused the patients to move suddenly into two separate houses in non-ideal conditions, but the infirm were not long separated.

During the fall of 1798 they were moved again to a house on the south side of the harbour 'for which they paid no rent'. It is very clear from the muster records that recorded payments for the modifications to the buildings, that the hospital was not built to serve patients, as was the case in many other ports during this period across the Atlantic (Coad 1983: 142-153; Rodger 2005: 195). This final movement in 1798 is the location of the Naval Hospital noted on the 1798 map of St. John's Harbour (Figure 2).

### Conclusion

The remains uncovered in the 1979 excavations at the Southside Cemetery have been shrouded in uncertainty over what institution they were associated with. Considering the known date of at least one individual from the Southside Cemetery, numerous maps, and the lack of females and young children that would be expected of a church population, the cemetery is very probably associated with the Naval Hospital. From an examination of cartographic evidence it is clear that the Southside Cemetery was established no earlier than 1751, though the exact dates are not currently known. This hypothesis can be further tested using isotopic analyses of the remains to identify local and non-local individuals by both their dietary preferences and drinking water sources. This is a focus within my recently completed Master's thesis (Munkittrick 2015) and in an upcoming paper.

The muster records only deal with the decades between 1793 and 1811, and therefore cannot confirm the 1725 to 1825 dates of the hospital. The muster records do however put into question the suggestion of two purpose built buildings, as there were at least five buildings when considered with cartographic evidence. This is not necessarily typical of Naval Hospitals during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as many other parts had purpose built hospitals by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This being said there have not been many studies of smaller Naval Hospitals in the colonies.

The Naval Hospital Muster Records contain invaluable information regarding the sailors themselves and the types of ailments with which they were afflicted. This along with information from isotopic analyses of the remains from the Southside Cemetery will help to better understand the lives of the sailors who were stationed in St. John's during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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## Bois Island (CgAf-01) Survey and Research, 2015



Simon Newcombe Memorial University of Newfoundland

Barakat of Memorial University. Barakat's excavation produced over 4000 artifacts, but no publications or research notes. As such, it is the goal of my research to draw conclusions from the recovered cultural remains and comment upon what daily life on Bois Island may have been like.

One of the steps on the path to drawing conclusions about the recovered artifacts and the site as a whole was to undertake the first complete survey of the island and its visible cultural remains. As Barakat did not produce any research notes on his work, it was necessary to determine where on the island his excavation took place in order to better understand why his findings have long been associated with an officer's barracks. The subsequent survey results (Figure 2) are also valuable for any future investigations on Bois Island and highlight the significant erosion that threatens this unique historical site.

Bois Island has a history as a defensible location since before the construction of the fortifications in question. Residents of Ferryland sought refuge on the island during two separate French raids

Figure 1. Cannons, still in situ, along the Atlantic-facing parapet.

ois Island is an 18<sup>th</sup>-century British military site just off the Newfoundland coast in Ferryland Harbour. The site boasts an extraordinary level of preservation, including cannon that are still *in situ* (Figure 1), but has unfortunately received little research attention since excavations were first undertaken in 1975 by Dr. Robert (Amiss 1709). Prior to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century there was still no reliable defence system in place to protect Ferryland despite the devastating French attack in 1696. As a result, Ferryland was attacked again in 1705 by both the French and, later that year, by First Nations and suffered significant damage (Prowse 1895:246). It was following these attacks that a peti-



Figure 2. Map produced from the results of our survey.

tion was made for the English fishery in Ferryland to be protected (Poremble et al. 1705). This resulted in Bois Island being garrisoned by a small militia force in 1706, but without any fortified structures.

The Ferryland inhabitants once again petitioned for funding to fortify the harbour in 1743 (Smallwood 1984:56). With a sum of 500 pounds, construction began on the Bois Island fortifications and included six cannons, a powder magazine, and a barracks (Carter 1776; Smallwood 1984:56). Over the next six years, the defences were enhanced with a third battery, another barracks, officer's quarters, carpentry shop, smithy, and a bombproof magazine. Parapets were also erected on three sides of the island and, a few years later; more cannons were added to the island's complement.

In the years following the fortifications' abandonment (c. 1815) the island saw use by local shepherds. For approximately 200 years sheep farmers have been carrying out the practice of secluded grazing on Bois Island (Trichur 2014). That is, farmers (specifically the Morry family) load their sheep onto boats every spring and transport them to the island to graze over the spring and summer months (Trichur 2014). Due to the island's steep sides, exposed location, and small size, there has been little human activity to damage or affect the buried cultural remains. In fact, many of the features outlined by contemporary schematics remain visible on the surface and quite apparent from aerial images.

Over the course of June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup> a three-person crew consisting of Anatolijs Venovcevs, Dustin Riley, and myself were transported to Bois Island by Leo Kavanagh, a local fisherman (Figure 3). Taking our survey equipment, we ascended the steep remains of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century wharf and landing place. Greeted by the desiccated remains of sheep skulls staring at us from atop fence posts, we proceeded to



Figure 3. The stalwart field crew sporting the latest in gull defence.



Figure 4. Bois Island is under new management.



Figure 5. One of the many plaques to be found on the Island.

perform a visual survey of the site's state of preservation. This task proved to be difficult thanks to gulls making their nests on the island (Figure 4). They made their displeasure abundantly apparent by aggressively diving at our heads on a frequent basis. Fortunately, despite the best efforts of birds and sheep, we were able to map all visible features on Bois Island. A few of these features proved to be particularly interesting.

One of the many interesting discoveries on the island was the 14 plaques that dot the island and mark the locations of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century structures (e.g. Figure 5). Many of these have fallen into a state of disrepair making them partially or entirely illegible. Their placement is remarkable in that they only appear to mark some of the visible building foundations. Furthermore, no single 18<sup>th</sup>-century map appears to detail all of the structures that received a



Figure 6. Barakat's 1975 excavation area.



Figure 7. The exposed stratigraphy of one of the parapets; the result of erosion.

plaque. This gives rise to questions regarding how the placement of these monuments was informed. However, inquiries at the PAO and the Rooms did not yield any results as to the background of these plaques and their origin remains a mystery. An inventory was discovered in the archives of The Rooms as part of the David Webber Collection, but this document only detailed what was written on each plaque and gave no hint as to when they were put on the island or what research was done beforehand. As a result, it raises the question of why it was thought that Barakat excavated an officer's barracks when the plaque associated with the excavation area clearly reads "barracks". If the plaques predated Barakat's investigations it would seem likely that he would have taken them at face value given the lack of research put into the results of the excavation. On the other hand, if the plaques were placed on the island after the work undertaken in 1975 it would stand to reason that it would inform, at least to some extent, what label the plaque associated with the area in question bore. Investigation into this matter continues though it is possible that we may never learn anymore about them. Determining whether the artifacts obtained in '75 are indicative of an officer's barracks will require a direct analysis of the assemblage. This task is ongoing and serves as the major part of my Masters' research.

The only records of excavations performed on Bois Island are those undertaken in 1975 by Robert Barakat and in 2012 by Tom Cromwell (focused on the powder magazine). That was why the discovery of numerous square depressions (marked on the survey map) randomly dispersed around the island came as such a surprise. It is possible that an unknown group dug some test units on the island without the undertaking being recorded. Thankfully, much has improved as far as archaeological recording practice is concerned over the past 40 years.

The excavation area itself proved to be even more visible than originally anticipated (Figure 6). This was made possible by an apparent lack of backfilling coupled with baulks that did not receive excavation at the end of fieldwork. As stated above, while a nearby area was labeled with a plaque that read "officer's barracks", the excavation area itself was clearly marked by a plaque that read "barracks". It is hoped that once artifact analysis has been completed it will be possible to compare the assemblage with other contemporary assemblages to determine the sort of building that Barakat excavated.

While Bois Island is an exceptional site, its remarkable state of preservation is marred by the encroaching damage being done by erosion. The survey revealed that almost the entire perimeter of the island exhibits this sort of damage (Figure 7). Erosion even extends to the interior in places with steep inclines and has resulted in the loss of between two and three cannons, a well, and parts of the parapets. A further three cannons are also in immediate danger of being lost within the decade. It is the hope that any further archaeological investigation of Bois Island will focus on the parapets in order to gain the information held there before it is lost to the Atlantic. Unfortunately, without immediate and extensive intervention, the cannons that set Bois Island apart from many other military sites will eventually all be lost along with the parapets.

Bois Island is a fantastic site that is one of many in the province that were excavated and the artifacts left forgotten at The Rooms. It is hoped that my project will encourage research into these unexplored assemblages and ignite interest in a truly unique 18<sup>th</sup>-century site with a history so integral to Ferryland.

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# Gerald Penney Associates Limited 2015 Archaeological Activities

n 2015, Gerald Penney Associates (GPA) conducted 12 archaeological investigations: eight in St. John's and four elsewhere on the Island. Star of the Sea Hall Condominiums – #15.01

During the winter and spring of 2015, GPA continued our archaeological monitoring of construction excavations at the former Star of the Sea Hall, Henry Street (CjAe-142, Henry Street 1), where Magna Hotel Group of Toronto proposes to construct a condominium building.

Continued usage of the site since the late 18<sup>th</sup> century – in the form of building-razing/burningrebuilding – has removed most traces of any previous occupation. However, early 19<sup>th</sup> century secondary deposits were identified at two locations in the western end of the site, evidence of either the alteration of Boggan Street or to the Roman Catholic chapel (1784 -1872). The most interesting find was a possible wine cellar or storage area underlying the former Roman Catholic clergy residence (the "Palace", 1807-1874), located near the junction of Henry Street and Dicks Square. Numerous wine bottle fragments, including



Figure 1. French and English (at right) wine bottle fragments, CjAe-142. Star of the Sea Hall Condominiums – #15.01.

### Gerald Penney, Blair Temple & Robert Cuff Gerald Penney Associates Limited

French wine or Champagne, were recovered along with numerous fragments of glass tumblers, all from the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Aside from these finds however, structural evidence from the former Roman Catholic complex and early vestiges of the Star of the Sea Hall were limited.

### Scotia Centre Expansion – #15.02

In June of 2015 (continuing from 2014) GPA conducted brief archaeological monitoring of excavations adjacent to Harbour Drive for the installation of a storm sewer along the southern side of Scotia Centre. Extensive sand overlying modern fill was exposed, associated with the construction of the building in the mid-1980s, with elements dating to the construction of Harbour Drive in the late 1950s/early 1960s.

The site was first investigated in the mid-1980s during initial construction of Scotia Centre, formerly the Ayres Premises (Ayres Cove; CjAe-32). At that time construction excavations exposed evidence of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century land usage, modification, and harbour infill. A large deposit of ceramics was also recovered, believed to be associated with a 1779 fire. Investigations in 2014 identified a late 18<sup>th</sup> century deposit, along with additional land-making infrastructure.

### Temperance Street Condominiums – #15.05

In April and May 2015, GPA conducted archaeological monitoring of construction excavations for a proposed condominium development at the western corner of Water Street and Temperance Street (CjAe-140; Water Street East 15). Two stages of geo-technical testing the previous year had identified structural remains in several locations throughout the site.

Monitoring of fill-removal excavations resulted in the recording of 92 new features, comprising the vestiges of five different structures. Re-use of pre-1892 fire foundations was found in many instances (particularly for the two structures on the immediate



Figure 2. Remnants of Structure 1 (background) and Structure 2 (foreground), both with pre-and post-1892 structural elements. Temperance Street Condominiums – #15.05.

corner). Artifacts were few, with the oldest secure component dating to the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century; this underlay several early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century secondary deposits associated with the initial commercial development of the site during the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Eighteenth-century material was collected from a builder's trench of the former Tobacco Works, confirming the presence of an earlier occupation in the vicinity.

The proposed development was, within living memory, the location of a complex of industrial structures operated primarily by the Standard Manufacturing Company and Matchless Paint Factory. From c. 1865/70 until the Great Fire of 1892, A. Harvey & Co. had two buildings on the corner of Water and Temperance streets (and another on the opposite side of Water Street), housing a grist mill, a biscuit factory, and warehouses and offices. At the rear of these lay the Newfoundland Tobacco Works building. After the 1892 fire, all structures were rebuilt, and others appeared. The two primary (Harvey's) buildings were re-used and attached, and initially housed the Newfoundland Furniture and Moulding Co. and the Island Brand Fish Co. These buildings functioned under various companies for the remainder of the century. Standard Manufacturing had additional buildings on both sides of Hunt's Lane, including the former Tobacco Works. To the immediate west was Hunt's Lane, running from Duckworth Street to Water Street; the immediate, opposite side of Hunt's Lane was little used until after 1892. With the possible exception of one feature, both structures on the west side of Hunt's lane were entirely post-1892.

### 369 Duckworth Street Structural Expansion – #15.19, 15.19.01 & 15.19.02

From June to November 2015, GPA conducted archaeological monitoring of excavations for a structural expansion of civic number 369 Duckworth Street (The Fish Depot and Trinity Pub) into the adjacent (eastward), vacant property (369 Duckworth Street; CjAe-145). An analysis of historic cartography suggested that the property had lain vacant since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Hence, there was a potential for undisturbed 19<sup>th</sup> century (and earlier) components.

Monitoring of excavation resulted in the exposure of a deep northern profile containing extensive infill strata underlying the south edge of Duckworth Street. Cultural material within the infilling was comprised of primarily creamware and printed pearlware. The derived date from these complicated and mixed strata suggests they are associated primarily with a second quarter 19<sup>th</sup> century alteration and modification of Duckworth Street, likely in the aftermath of the 1846 fire. (An 1839 fire is known for the



Figure 3. Stone drain recorded at CjAe-145. 369 Duckworth Street Structural Expansion – #15.19, 15.19.01 & 15.19.02.

area, but this was located to the west between Becks Cove and Mahon's Lane). A secure late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century component was identified on sterile ground.

Evidence of another earlier infilling episode was identified at the site, but it is unclear whether this c. 1800 material is related to the aforementioned road infilling, or to a late 18th to early 19th century structure identified within the centre of the project area. Material included primarily creamware, with "China glaze" (an early pearlware) and Chinese porcelain. Here, no structural remains were identified, but rather the outline of a rectangular excavation in sterile ground at a depth of c. 2.8 m dbs, forming the footprint of the structure. Some of the material within the structural outline appears burnt, implying a fire. It was also more recent (c. 1820s/30s) than that identified in the surrounding infill, suggesting it was razed/ burnt after the infill episode; this infill may be related to the building's construction. A small stone drain flowing southward from this structure was also identified as well, with material similar to the infilling.

### JAG Hotel Parking Lot, George Street West – #15.29

In July 2015, GPA monitored construction excavations for a parking lot on the north side of George Street West, between Buchanan Street and Prince Street, opposite the JAG Hotel. Archaeological site CjAe-29 is located to the immediate north.

Monitoring was required for the excavation and installation of manholes, associated piping, and fence posts. However, when monitoring began the manholes had already been installed; excavation for the piping and fence posts were subsequently monitored. Modern disturbance and late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century debris was encountered throughout. Most excavations did not extend deep enough to locate any potential pre-1846 fire historic resources.

### Former NewTel Building, Condominium Expansion, Duckworth Street – #15.33

In the summer and fall of 2015, GPA monitored excavations at the former NewTel building, on Duckworth Street, west of McBrides Hill (Duckworth Street 1; CjAe-146). Henry Bell Developments LP, Halifax, plan to expand the existing structure for the purposes of a mixed residential/commercial development. Initial investigation involved the recording of a visible stone feature on the vacant property, lying against the west wall of the extant structure. This feature (and the vacant property) is part of the east foundation of a former building, historically a warehouse owned by J. D. Ryan (who had it rebuilt after the 1892 fire; its pre-fire owner is uncertain). During excavations for the structural expansion, more of this, and its attached features were exposed. A deep rear foundation and part of the west wall were exposed, though the latter was severely damaged in places. Excavations are still ongoing, and the remainder of the structure is expected to be exposed in 2016.

Additional excavations occurred in front of the extant structures along Duckworth Street. A twotiered stone foundation from a pre-existing structure was identified, seemingly constructed after the 1846 fire, and destroyed in 1892. Evidence of two stages of road work and subsequent street level/surface were identified, tentatively dated as post-1846 and post-1892 street surfaces. The project continues into 2016.



Figure 4. Section of stone foundation, Duckworth Street (CjAe-146). Former NewTel Building, Condominium Expansion, Duckworth Street – #15.33.

### Anchor Point/Prosser Rock Site Preservation – #15.38

In August 2015, GPA monitored site preservation work at Anchor Point (CjAe-03), an early 18<sup>th</sup> century military fortification at the eastern end of the Prosser Rock boat basin. It was the focus of historical research, testing and excavation in 1988 and further excavation in 1993. A "Site Reserve" was established after 1989 to protect the site.

Local residents had raised concerns in recent years regarding the condition of the site and its surrounding fencing, as well as aesthetic issues such as garbage accumulation. Fisheries and Oceans proposed a preservation strategy whereby archaeological remains would be covered with a protective material, buried with fill, and grassed over, thereby protecting the site and beautifying the small property. The site preservation work was monitored to assure no damage was done to the features; the historic resources were confirmed to be safely covered, re-grassed and fences repaired.

### Salvation Army Property, Springdale Street – #15.42

In September and October, GPA conducted archaeological monitoring of soil remediation and fill removal at the Salvation Army property, Springdale Street. Two structures – the Harbour Light Addictions and Rehabilitation Centre and the New Hope Community Centre – were demolished and removed, as was a large quantity of (hydrocarbon) contaminated soil from the SE portion of the property.

Sections of two stone sewers were identified: portions of a previously identified sewer running under the former Thomas Street into a sewer on Water Street, and a sewer running west from Hutchings Lane (possibly associated with the George Street United Church, c. 1873) into the Thomas Street sewer. A quantity of cultural material was collected from a portion of the latter sewer, dating its usage into the later 19th century. Evidence of a late 18th to mid-19th century occupation was identified, primarily in the form of secondary deposits associated with landscape modification. These overlie traces of a secure late 18th century deposit. Evidence of possible fish flake remains were identified in two places and date to the late 18th and early 19th century respectively. Throughout the property, there is evidence of a late 19<sup>th</sup>/early



Figure 5. Florida Water bottle from CjAe-147, impressed: "[FLORIDA WA]TER", "[MURRAY & L]ANMAN",
"[DRU]GGEST", and "[NE]W YORK". Florida water was a popular cologne/perfume during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and thought to have medicinal properties. It was also imbibed during prohibition and other times when alcohol was scarce. Salvation Army Property, Springdale Street – #15.42.

20<sup>th</sup> century occupation, capped during the clearance and removal of the structures in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Southwest Arm, Burin – #15.13

In May 2014, GPA conducted a HRIA of a proposed residential subdivision near Southwest Arm, Mortier Bay. No evidence of pre-contact use of the study area was encountered. The only artifacts identified were associated with wood-cutting and related activities in the 1960s and more recent disposal of refuse by casual users. Documentary research and field inquiries suggested that nearby "Daverys Cove" may have seen seasonal use in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Figure 6. "Daverys Cove," Southwest Arm, Mortier Bay, looking SW towards the study area from the barachois, cove at right and cosh at left. Southwest Arm, Burin – #15.13.

#### Fermeuse Offshore Marine Base – #15.21

In June 2015, GPA conducted a HRIA of an offshore marine base proposed for the south side of Fermeuse Harbour. Two new sites were recorded: CfAf-36 (Lawes Point 1) and CfAf-37 (Steel Point 1). GPA also revisited CfAf-31 (Lumleys Cove), where testing did not encounter any artifacts.

CfAf-36, a late 19th to early 20th century habitation site located on the east side of Lumleys Cove, is fairly typical with a single family occupation of a generation or two. Small scale shoreline improvement was noticed, as was the remains of a small cellar. No structural remains were identified, though man-made platforms and cleared land suggest probable locations. One of the more interesting finds was evidence of roof slate production. CfAf-37, located on Steels Point, is primarily a 19th century agricultural site, with evidence of cleared land as well as a retaining wall for a trail/road running along the north side of the point from Kingmans Cove to Lumley Cove. The remains of two possible dwellings were identified as were the remains of a stone structure of potentially greater antiquity. Both sites are likely to be impacted by the proposed development.

Fermeuse Harbour abounds with early historic and 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement/homestead sites, including several which are poignant features of the East Coast Trail. Some are unlikely locales for future development, through inaccessibility, while for others



Figure 7. Steel Point, from Northside. Kingmans at left, overgrown clearings representing former habitation sites at centre. Fermeuse Offshore Marine Base – #15.21.

continued protection and eventual further investigation are certainly warranted.

Northern Bay Interior and Cod Looter Site Survey – #15.30

Between July and September 2015, GPA conducted a pedestrian survey of interior Northern Bay. Part of this investigation was a total station survey and limited testing of a previously-recorded site ClAg-02 (the Cod Looter site).

ClAg-02 was constructed with low walls of stone, and probably turf-covered in the manner of a hatch root cellar, using familiar construction methods and materials. The "roof" could also have been wooden, turf-covered sticks and boughs, or canvas. We suggest that ClAg-02 was constructed because of its location near the "Cod Looter Knap" vantage point, which is only 5 m above Cod Looter Pond, but is the highest point on the Northern Bay Barrens making it a good locatural activities.

GPA also recorded numerous stone summit cairns and waymarks throughout the Study Area, and



Figure 8. The Cod Looter site, during total station survey. Northern Bay Interior and Cod Looter Site Survey – #15.30.

tion for spotting caribou. The site is a significant landscape feature of this long-forgotten caribou hunt. Testing identified no sub-surface historic resources.

In part, the walkover survey, combined with desk-based background research, was intended to provide context for the Cod Looter site, as well as for other cultural stone features within the Study Area. Two additional sites were identified and recorded during the field survey: ClAg-05 and ClAg-06 (Northern Bay Garden 1 and 2). Both are located along the northeast end of the Study Area, on opposite sides of a ridge that runs east -west behind the town of Northern Bay, and are comprised of landscape organization features that likely resulted from 19th century agricul-



Figure 9. Two summit cairns on Northern Bay Tolt. Northern Bay Interior and Cod Looter Site Survey – #15.30.

recorded in passing the construction methods of some root cellars (and the remains of root cellars) closer to the shoreline in Northern Bay and surrounding communities. We conclude that several of these cairns and waymarks are of recent construction, although some may well be reconstructions on the sites of long-established features. We judged some waymarks to be of recent construction, and related to traverse of the Barrens by ATVs and snowmobiles. However, numerous waymarks were recorded near a historic route across country between Northern Bay and Hants Harbour, Trinity Bay. This route is apparent on the first available topographic maps and aerial photographs, dating from the 1950s. While the various paths into the interior from Northern Bay and nearby communities likely followed routes established in the 19th century, GPA did not find any artifactual evidence of this use, but rather numerous waymarks of seeming antiquity, but of no definitive date.

While possessing the natural advantage of close access to prime fishing grounds, the thriving communities of the Conception Bay North Shore had over-exploited the local shore fishery by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and experienced periodic, traumatic

"failures" of the cod fishery by the 1860s. Expansion of European settlement in early 19<sup>th</sup> century Newfoundland, and on the Bay de Verde Peninsula in particular, meant that fishing activity and subsistence agriculture expanded into marginal areas. Fishing rooms were established where there was no natural landing through the construction of elaborate, but vulnerable, stages. Barren hillsides such as Northern Bay Ridge were farmed with much effort. Meanwhile, the most important land-based source of food, caribou, were hunted to virtual extinction.

### Lower Churchill (TL 267) Transmission Line, Bay d'Espoir to Sunnyside – #15.45

In September and October 2015, GPA assessed 37 previously-identified Areas of Interest (AOIs) along, or proximate to, a proposed highvoltage transmission line, TL 267, across the southeastern interior.

While test-pitting concentrated on a 40 mwide Right of Way, proximate to two existing transmission lines (TL 202 and TL 206), a contextual survey area 500 m either side of the centerline was also assessed, with a view to identifying and footsurveying natural features suggestive of human site advantage. This 1000 m-wide corridor is referred to below as the Archaeological Potential Mapping corridor.

GPA's survey team found seven groups of features and/or spot finds within the APM corridor. Six were in AOIs previously identified as High potential. One cluster of features (AOI-12, Western Pond Lookout) was in an area previously identified as Medium potential. Local information is that this Awespekiet, was known to, and used by, the Mi'kmaq for generations. It should continue to be an area of interest, but does not appear to be in any danger of disturbance from transmission line construction. It was designated an ethnographic site (01M/14 Ethno 1). With one exception (AOI-33, Coffins Brook) all features and spot finds were more than 100 m distant from the proposed TL 267 centreline. Hence, construction impact should be limited, although routes and methods for access road construction have yet to be determined to November 2015.

The most striking feature – located on the west side of Conne River (AOI-6) – is a "corduroyed" trail, which is readily apparent on the



Figure 10. Portage Road near Conne River. Lower Churchill (TL 267) Transmission Line, Bay d'Espoir to Sunnyside – #15.45.

ground to the south of the existing transmission lines, but overgrown to the north. Although initially confused by our referring to the corduroy road as a "logging road," Conne River elder John Nick Jeddore was able to identify this trail as an old Portage Road, which once traversed nearly 10 miles (16 km) from a dock at Head of Conne (also known as "Colliers") to Bowaters' Camp One. Mr. Jeddore's father, Peter (1893-1971), worked for a considerable portion of his life as a teamster on this route. The Portage Road was in use from Mr. Jeddore's earliest memory – he turned 94 a few days previous to our interview – and probably dates from about 1907. Built to supply loggers feeding a saw mill operated by the Lake family of Fortune, it was later used to supply lumber/pit prop camps operated by Goodyears, and then Bowaters' pulpwood operation from 1938. No longer used to supply the camps after c. 1950, it continued in use by salmon anglers and cabin owners until the recent precipitous decline in the number of salmon in Conne River. The remains of wooden camps, recorded along the sides of this trail, date from the early to mid-20th century. The most northern structure has a felt roof, and is the more recently used (though decades ago). The trail and structural remains are registered as ClAv-01.

The closest previously recorded site to the Right-of-Way is

North Harbour 1 (ClAm-01), a late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century site located at the bottom of North Harbour, Placentia Bay. Subsequent enquiries established that there was once a house on a terrace north of the beach "about 100 years ago", belonging to a family named Coffin from Come by Chance. Working from this lead, documentary research suggests that the house was that of William Coffin (1855-1944) from Haystack, a re-settled community on Long Island, about 28 km south of Coffins Brook. Scant 19<sup>th</sup> century historic resources were identified to the east (ClAm-03) along the bottom of North Harbour River.



Figure 11. Looking south across Western Pond. Most features were found near the erratic boulder at centre. Note the white quartzite boulder placed on top of this erratic as a marker. Lower Churchill (TL 267) Transmission Line, Bay d'Espoir to Sunnyside – #15.45.

### Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society Year in Review 2015 Tim Rast

NLAS President

he Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society (NLAS) had a very active 2015. We organized the Canadian Archaeological Association's bookroom during their annual meeting in St. John's and held a very well attended Symposium in conjunction with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting in November. This past year saw an increase in membership and we held our first field trip to Hant's Harbour. You can read about our Hant's Harbour field trip in a separate report in this volume (See Erwin).

The Symposium in Honour of the 100th Anniversary of the publication of James P. Howley's book "The Beothuks or Red Indians" was a major highlight. This event was held at The Landing in the Smallwood Student Centre on the Memorial University Campus in St. John's. The symposium was free to the public and was attended by nearly 100 people. The evening was opened with a Keynote Address by Gerald Penney (Gerald Penney Associates Ltd., Gerald Penney Rare Books and Maps). The second part of the evening was a panel discussion with five guests; Ken Reynolds (Provincial Archaeology Office), Laurie McLean (Consultant, Burnside Heritage Foundation), Karen- LeDrew Day (Boyd's Cove Interpretation Centre), Dr. Jeff Webb (History Department, MUN), and Dr. Vaughan Grimes (Archaeology Dr. Donald Holly Jr. Department, MUN). (Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Eastern Illinois University) was the guest moderator for the evening. Over two hours the panelists and audience reflected on the life and influences of James Howley and a lively debate developed over the lasting legacy of his 1915 book, "The Beothuks or Red Indians". Our sponsors for the event included the Archaeology Department at MUN and The Provincial Government through the department of Business, Tourism, Culture, and Rural Development.



Figure 1. The Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society attended International Archaeology Day celebrations at The Rooms in October. (Photo: Tim Rast).



Figure 2. Dr. Oscar Moro Abadia speaking at an NLAS organized talk at The Rooms in April (Photo: Tim Rast).

Over the past year the NLAS has provided a range of activities and services to our members, the public, and other organizations. We played an active role in the Canadian Archaeological Association (CAA) Annual Conference that was held in St. John's in May. In addition to organizing the Bookroom, we hosted a meeting for other regional archaeological societies from across the country. This gave us an opportunity to showcase Newfoundland and Labrador archaeology on a national stage, and we were able to raise some funds for other NLAS endeavours through bookroom sales.

We organized more free public talks, a workshop for archaeology students at MUN to prepare them for applying to graduate school, and went on our first field trip. We were successful in applying for provincial government funding for a second year of our Community Collections Archaeological Research Project (CCARP), where we facilitate an archaeologist in the Province to document a private artifact collection. As a point of pride, our CCARP project was highlighted by the Minister of Business, Tourism, Culture, and Rural Development in the public announcement of the Cultural Economic Development Program funding and we were invited to speak about our work during the announcement. The Provincial Government also provided \$500 in funding for our Howley 100th Anniversary Symposium. We are very grateful for these opportunities.

The NLAS is a non-profit organization, so all of this work has been done by a web of dedicated volunteers. Three volunteers who made tremendous impacts on the society moved off of the board of directors at the end of 2015. Anita Kora was our Event's Committee

chair for the past year and her great energy and positive outlook will be missed in this Province as she begins her graduate studies at the University of British Columbia. Catherine Jalbert served as the Vice-President of the society since its inception. She has moved on to Houston, Texas where she continued to participate remotely for the past year. Catherine was involved in all aspects of the society and her legacy will be her robustly crafted NLAS constitution. A strong organization is built on a strong foundation. We will also miss Lori White, who is a founding director of the society and who worked tirelessly as the Treasurer. She was the driving force behind organiz-



we completed the second year of that plan and I'm thrilled to report that the NLAS achieved all of our goals in the Activity Plan for the year, including earning charitable status, a holdover from last year's goals. We've retained most of our 10 board members and are transitioning to a new Executive Committee for 2016. This was my last year as president and I moved into the Past-President position on January 1st. Chelsee Arbour will continue to be the Secretary and Elaine Anton, Jamie Brake, and Amanda Crompton join the Executive Committee as the Treasurer, Vice-President, and President respectively. It has been my great pleasure to serve as the first President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society. Thank you.

Figure 3. Examining the stone features at Hant's Harbour (Photo: Tim Rast).

ing the Howley symposium, the CAA Bookroom, and slaying the many-headed hydra that is the Canadian Revenue Agency in her epic, two year and ultimately successful, quest to gain charitable status for the NLAS. Thank you all.

The NLAS has momentum. The Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society was incorporated in 2013 and in 2014 we gathered together everyone that we could and came up with a three year plan to help guide the growth of the Society. In 2015



# Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society

# Symposium in Honour of the 100th Anniversary of James P. Howley's book,



# The Beothucks or Red Indians

Keynote Speaker: Gerald Penney

Gerald Penney Associates Limited Gerald Penney Rare Books and Maps

Thursday, November 5, 2015 7:00-8:30 PM

UC-3018, The Landing, Smallwood University Centre, MUN, St. John's

FREE ADMISSION EVERYONE WELCOME! Guest Moderator: Dr. Donald Holly Jr.

Department of Sociology/Anthropology Eastern Illinois University

With a panel of discussants from:

- The Beothuk Interpretation Centre
- The Provincial Archaeology Office
- Memorial University
- The Burnside Heritage Foundation

NLAS Annual General Meeting to Follow.



Sponsors: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (BTCRD), The Landing (MUN), Department of Archaeology (MUN), Dr. J. Erwin and E. Anton

# **Provincial Archaeology Office 2015**

he Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) processed 48 Archaeological and three Palaeontological Permit Applications in 2015. We also reviewed and processed eight Grant Applications and one Cultural Property Export Permit Application. As mentioned in the 2014 Archaeology Review a large part of our job is to process land use applications in the province to determine whether the area being applied for has known archaeological sites or has archaeological potential. In 2015 the following applications were processed by the PAO:

Crown Lands	1774
Environmental Assessment	54
Mineral Exploration	285
Quarry	455
Aquaculture	8
ILUC	45
Archaeology Permits	49
Export Permits	1
BTCRD Proposals	5
Research Grants	8
Roads & Water and Sewer Plans	13
Other Projects	10
Palaeontological Permits	4
Zoning Regulations (Service NL)	4
Total	2715

Once again the PAO would like to highlight that we have a reference library dealing with archaeology in Newfoundland and Labrador that is second to none in the province. The titles of all those references are collected in our reference list which is currently a 173 page document. A copy of this document can be viewed <u>online</u>.

### Fieldwork

From June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>, Provincial Archaeology Office staff (PAO), working under permit 15.18, explored and re-visited several sites from as far west as Badger to as far east as Lockyer's Bay in

### Ken Reynolds, Delphina Mercer & Stephen Hull Provincial Archaeology Office

Bonavista Bay. Most of our time was spent on the Exploits River reexamining Beothuk sites which, for the most part were originally found by Don Locke in the 1960s and revisited over the years by several archaeologists including, most recently, Laurie McLean working under contract to the PAO. Our visit to the Exploits was due in part to the recent breach in Goodyear's Dam just above Grand Falls-Windsor. A series of important sites lay just upstream from the dam in an area named Nimrod's Pool by John Cartwright who explored the pool on his trip upstream to Red Indian Lake in 1768. Due to the damage to the dam the water levels at this section of the river were significantly lower than usual. We hoped to discover cultural material at three sites, South Exploits (DfAw-07), Boom Island (DfAw-03) and Aspen Island 2 (DfAw-05) portions of which had formerly been inundated by the river.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> we travelled from St. John's to Grand Falls-Windsor and met up with Mr. Don Pelley, a retired outfitter with a longtime personal interest in the Beothuk, who would be our guide for the next few days. We left Mr. Pelley's house and headed for a small clearing of land on the outskirts of Grand Falls-Windsor, on the north side of the Exploits River known locally as Frenchman's Field (**Figure 1**) where we noted a small depression. Given the amount of man-made disturbance in the area it's unclear whether the depression is cultural or natural. Ground truthing will be required to clarify the situation.

After taking notes on the Frenchman's Field depression we walked along the trail to the Beothuk site called Four Mile Rapid (DfAv-01) which was found by Don Locke in 1967 and contained three housepits. DfAv-01 is the only known Beothuk house pit site on the Exploits River below Grand Falls-Windsor. As with most of the sites we visited on this trip it was difficult to recognize the housepits because they are little more than shallow depressions covered



Figure 1. Yellow dots show our GPS locations for Frenchman's Garden and the Four Mile Rapid Beothuk site. Red line is our track log.



Figure 2. Birch trees grow in the centre of a suspected Beothuk housepit at the Four Mile Rapid site.

Figure 3. The failed Goodyear's Dam.





Figure 4. Showing the area we explored the second day (discussed below). The map includes the South Exploits, Aspen Island, Boom Island, Beaver Island and North Angle sites. It also includes our track log (red line), yellow dots are our GPS locations, red dots are old site locations and the two green dots are the fire-cracked hearth feature and the location of two stone flakes.

in leaf litter and over-growth. With our goal being just checking on their condition, we did no testing. Despite this, we believe we were able to locate three housepits and a possible fourth (Figure 2). There are also at least two storage pits at this site. Again the terrace upon which the site is located requires testing to get a better understanding of what exactly lies under the ground.

The next morning we met with Mr. Pelley and proceeded to the south side of the Exploits River. Here we first explored the shoreline across from Boom Island south to Aspen Island (Figure 4). In this area two sites have been recorded, South Exploits (DfAw-07) first found by Don Locke in the 1970s and Nimrod's Pool (DfAw-12) found by Laurie McLean in 2012.

Several archaeologists have made attempts to relocate the South Exploits site including Thomson (1982 & 1988), Schwarz (1992) and McLean (2012). According to Locke, the site contained at least 10 Beothuk housepits, a single house pit which he attributed to either Mi'kmaq or European settlers and possible Dorset Palaeoeskimo material. As such, this was a large and important site. Thomson and Locke in 1988 relocated two house pits while McLean was able to find what he thought were several housepits. While testing of these depressions by McLean revealed very little cultural material, he did recover two stone flakes from one pit. He also recorded a nearby fire-cracked rock feature and may have also rediscovered the Mi'kmaq or settler house first noted by Locke.

During our exploration we discovered a potential hearth which we thought was new. Having returned to St. John's and looking closely at McLean's recent work in the area, we now know the firecracked rock hearth feature was discovered by McLean in 2012 (Figure 6). Along the shoreline we saw several clusters of fire-cracked rock and both small and medium sized chert nodules, some of which had been worked. Chert occurs naturally at many locations along the Exploits River. This was undoubtedly a further attraction, along with its abundant animal and plant resources, for Aboriginal peoples to the area.

Upon our return to St. John's we compared our photos to the one photo we have from Locke

SOUTH Explorts Site COVE

Figure 5. Map of the South Exploits site from Locke's field notebook.

showing the location of the South Exploits site. We were able to line up several shoreline rocks in both photos showing that we were in the right area for the site and further confirming that McLean was in the right area (Figures 7 & 8).

After exploring the shoreline, we returned to our canoe and headed up river, landing on the eastern end of Boom Island (DfAw-03). We were hoping the water levels would be low enough to see three hearths that Locke had noted on this end of the island. The water levels were not quite as low as we had hoped. Regardless we saw several clusters of fire-cracked rocks in the area which may be the hearths noted by



Figure 6. Our fire-cracked rock hearth feature which was originally discovered by McLean in 2012.

Locke. The shoreline of Boom Island is littered with historic iron objects associated with the lumbering industry and recent artifacts such as pop bottle glass.

We walked around the entire island spotting several areas with possible fire-cracked rocks on the north side. We also revisited a Beothuk housepit on the south side of the island. (See Figure 4, yellow dot noted as Boom Is.)

Having circled the island we returned to the canoe and headed over to Beaver Island (DfAw-02). This island has a large Beothuk housepit which was found by Don Locke in the late 1960s as were most of the sites in the Nimrods Pool area. Thomson made an attempt to relocate the site in 1982 and Schwarz tried in 1992 but both were unsuccessful; however, McLean was able to relocate the site in 2012. This large Beothuk housepit has a substantial rock feature extending from near its west wall and a rich caribou bone deposit also.



Figure 7. South Exploits site photographed by Locke. The rocks along the shoreline circled 1, 2, & 3 line up with the similarly labeled rocks in the 2015 photo.



Figure 8. Our South Exploits site photograph. The rocks along the shoreline circled 1, 2, & 3 line up with the similarly labeled rocks in Locke's photo.



Figure 9. Clusters of fire-cracked rock seen on the eastern end of Boom Island. These may relate to the hearths seen by Locke. (See Plate 4 in McLean, this volume)

We then traveled to the site known as Wigwam Brook (DfAw-01) at the North Angle which was found by Locke but researched by several archaeologists including Helen Devereux in 1968, Raymond LeBlanc in 1972 (the site was the basis for his MA thesis), Callum Thomson in 1982 and 1988, Fred Schwarz in 1992 and Laurie McLean in 2012. Wigwam Brook is a large Beothuk habitation site that may have had as many as 30 surface features when originally found in 1967. In 2012, McLean could only relocate 6 definite housepits (the same number as found by Thomson in 1982), another possible housepit and one fire-cracked rock concentration.

After looking at the known Wigwam Brook housepits we then went east to Aspen Island which has three recorded sites. Aspen Island I (Dfaw-04) reportedly had three housepits when discovered; all three were relocated in 2012 by McLean (Figure 12). Locke recorded nine housepits at Aspen Island II (DfAw-05). As of 2013 five housepits, one caribou bone concentration, three fire-cracked rock concentrations, one long hearth, and six storage pits had been relocated on the site by McLean (Figure 13). It is possible that some of the storage pits noted by Locke were what McLean refers to as storage pits. Finally, one more Beothuk housepit, relocated by McLean, is located at the eastern end of the island at Aspen Island 3 (Dfaw-06).

While on Aspen Island we found a small hearth feature containing 15-20 small fire-cracked rocks, several very fine grain chert flakes and two chert scrapers on the beach in the general area of S16 W14 based on McLean's grid. The grid was established in 2013 in order to map Aspen Island II. Portions of this fire-cracked rock feature are still *in situ* and were salvaged later in the summer (See McLean this volume). About 10 metres away we found a 7.5 cm long chert microblade. Given the fine grain material of the scrapers, the careful workmanship of their manufacture and the presence of the microblade we believe the hearth was used by Palaeoeskimos (Figures 14-15).

The next morning we again returned to the Exploits River with Mr. Pelley. This time we launched our canoe just above Badger, opposite Two Mile Island, where we would spend most of our morning examining more Beothuk housepits. The northeast half of the island had been recently resurveyed for the PAO by McLean in an effort to relocate known sites and attempt to find any new features. This summer the southwest end of the island will be resurveyed by McLean for the same purpose (See McLean this volume).

Curiously, the majority of the housepit features on Two Mile Island are located on the southeast



Figure 10. Beaver Island house pit.



Figure 11. The view of Boom Island from North Angle.



Figure 12. Depression at centre of photo is one of the housepits at Aspen Island I.

Figure 13. Brown leaf litter at centre of photo demarcates one of the housepits at Aspen Island II.





Figure 14.Likely Palaeoeskimo hearth with fire-cracked rocks, flakes and scrapers. (See Plate 6 in McLean this volume)



Figure 15. Microblade and scrapers found near the hearth.

shore. This may have something to do with hunting caribou by the Beothuk. We believe they would drive the caribou towards the river and the island, herding them along the riverbank using a long fence network made up of fallen trees. There would be a gully in the fence at Two Mile Island which the caribou would go through and swim towards the island. If the Beothuk had set up houses on the northwest shore the caribou would likely have been spooked by the associated activity and would not have gone through the gully in the fence.

Starting at the northeast tip of the island we walked down the southeast shore and back up the northwest shore. Along the way we saw several rock formations which may or may not be cultural.

We also saw several Beothuk housepits. Two Mile Island 1 (DfBa-02), like Aspen Island, was heavily used by the Beothuk. Like at Aspen Island several of the housepits on Two Mile Island had associated storage pits.

We spent much of our time on the island searching the southwest tip for a Beothuk housepit (DfAw-03) first recorded by Callum Thomson in 1982 and rediscovered by Reynolds & Holly in 2000. Thomson described the feature as seven metres in diameter, with a raised hearth, sleeping hollows and 2 anvil stones.

On our return up the northwest side of the island we found two very large pits (Two Mile Island (Fatal Island) cultural depression DfBa-14 & Two Mile Island cultural depression (#5) DfBa-16). These features had been located previously by McAleese. It is not clear if these features are natural or cultural. If they are natural they are not common on the island. If they are cultural they required a tremendous amount of effort to construct and their function is not clear.

That afternoon we started our return trip to St. John's. We left the Exploits River and first stopped in Glenwood to check out an old cemetery on behalf of another government department. While many of the graves are not in good shape it does appear as though people in the town are aware of the cemetery and it is occasionally visited. As far as we could tell there were ~10-12 graves with headstones, at least one grave was just a circle of rocks and there may be several more unmarked graves in the area. Most of the graves appear to date to the first half of the 20th century.



Figure 16. Two Mile Island. Red line is our GPS track log, yellow dots are previously recorded features or features we recorded and red dots are the known sites. (See McLean this volume for more on Two Mile Island).



Figure 17. A possible disturbed cache on Two Mile Island (DfBa-04).



Figure 18. Rock formations on Two Mile Island.



Figure 19. Housepit depression is visible in the centre of the photo. A storage pit is visible behind Ken, upper right.



Figure 20. A storage pit associated with the housepit.

Figure 21. One of two massive pits located on the northwest side of the island; note Don & Ken sitting on the lip of the pit. Perhaps they were for storage of caribou carcass?





Figure 22. Some of the Glenwood graves, standing headstone, broken headstone and a grave demarcated by a ring of stones.

The next morning, after spending the night in Gander, we drove to Indian Bay where a small 100 year old Anglican church unfortunately burned down this winter. It had been reported that possibly a part of an early historic Settler/Salmon Fisher site (DgAl-02) may have been located under the church. However, the burned structure has not been cleaned up. So we couldn't see any trace of the reputed site. We also did a brief inspection for a land use application at Lockyer's Bay just north of Gambo, to see whether an Historic Resources Impact Assessment was justified for the area, it wasn't. Having completed these tasks our trip was complete and we returned to St. John's.

PAO staff visited several known archaeological sites on the Northern Peninsula and southern Labrador from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>. We also planned to meet briefly with an individual who had collected part of a shipwreck and conduct several minor assessments. Unfortunately he was out of town.

We departed St. John's on the morning of Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> traveling to Cow Head. That evening we visited the Cow Head, Spearbank site, DlBk-01. The site was first visited by W. J. Wintemberg in 1929 and it was revisited by Chesley Skinner in 1969. Jim Tuck spent several years in the mid-1970s excavating this large multicomponent site which contains evidence for Maritime Archaic, early and late Palaeoeskimo and Cow Head complex Recent Indian occupations. This complex actually derives its name from this site. The site has been revisited by other archaeologists in the years since Tuck's excavations just to check on the site's condition.

Much, if not most, of this site was excavated by Tuck. However, there is still a considerable amount of cultural material visible on the surface of the massive sand dunes which make up the site. This material is composed of numerous flakes, discarded cores and chunks of chert of various colours. While the site may still hold potential for *in situ* historic resources, considerable testing would have to be done to find them.

We spent the next day visiting several known sites including Factory Cove, DlBk-03, which is a large predominantly Groswater Palaeoeskimo site on the south side of the Cow Head Peninsula. The site was found by Jim Tuck in 1976 and was excavated by Reginald Auger in 1981 for his Master's Thesis. The



Figure 23. The massive sand dunes and blow out of the Cow Head, Spearbank site, DlBk-01.



Figure 24. Lithic debris on the surface of the Cow Head, Spearbank site, DlBk-01.



Figure 25. The site of Factory Cove, DlBk-03.



Figure 26. Three angles of the Portland Cove Wreck 1, EbBj-13, ship rib.


Figure 27. The likely location of Portland Creek 6, EbBj-07.

site contained five possible structures, hearths and several flake concentrations. Currently the site appears to be in excellent condition.

From the Cow Head Peninsula we proceeded north to Portland Creek with the intention of speaking with a local individual who had collected part of a wooden shipwreck which was found on the beach in Portland Creek. The wood was likely a ship's rib and is just over 1 m long, about 20cm x 20cm square and curved. It's not clear if this material is from a wreck in Portland Cove or if it was part of a wreck that just happened to wash up in Portland Cove.

Continuing north we tried to check on several other Portland Creek area sites including Portland Creek 6, EbBj-07 and Eastern Head Portland Creek, EbBj-10. Both sites were found by Chesley Skinner in 1969. The first site has a Dorset component and the

other is described as being precontact. We were unable to find definitive evidence for either site. We suspect the Portland Creek 6, EbBj-07 site is buried in sand and is likely still intact. In our attempt to search for Eastern Head Portland Creek, EbBj-10 we suspect that we may not have gone far enough out on the head to find the site.

From here we went to the Mountain Waters Resort which is the location of Portland Creek 5, EbBj-05. This is a badly disturbed, possibly destroyed, site from which four bifaces or biface fragments and 107 flakes were recovered in the late 1980s. The site was originally found by Scott Biggin in 1984 and revisited several times after that.

As was stated above, this site was badly disturbed when it was originally found. Despite thoroughly searching the area we were, again, unable to find definitive evidence for the site. The beach area where the site was lo-

cated has suffered considerable erosion and a lot of development in the form of skids and wharfs for small boats and the maintenance of the road next to the beach. Before considering this site destroyed a more thorough search of the beach, including farther to the southwest should be conducted.

The next morning we traveled to Bartlett's Harbour where in 2014, historian Robert Cuff was on vacation. At the time his wife told him about stories she was told by relatives of how the French lived on the south shore of the Harbour. Out of curiosity Cuff went to look for any trace of this French occupation and found "...evidence of cultural modification, including a "platform" which corresponds roughly to a French lobster factory as mapped by Capt. R.N. Walker (c.1891)" (Cuff 2015). Cuff did no testing so the site needed to be confirmed. We spent the morn-

Figure 28. The location of Eastern Head Portland Creek, EbBj-10 is likely ~200m beyond this point.



made and used much more recently. We also believe the factory was built right on the active beach and has since (mostly) eroded away. The gardens and the former factory are now designated as Bartlett's Harbour 1, EfBf-01.

After the work at Bartlett's Harbour we traveled to St. Barbe and caught the ferry to Labrador. The next day we conducted three small assessments and checked on the location of a proposed quarry. We also revisited an eroding site outside of Forteau called Graveyard EiBf-06 where we noted numerous flakes on the surface and collected a biface preform. The site was originally found by Tuck & McGhee in 1973 and has been revisited several times by archaeologists.

Our first assessment was for a proposed sand quarry across the road from the L'Anse Amour burial mound. The quarry area was walked over and numerous sand blowouts were searched for cultural material and several test pits were also excavated. Most of the area was devoid of cultural material with the exception of two small areas on the outer edges of the proposed quarry.

The first area contained the remains of a small hearth as indicated by a circular arrangement of a dozen flat rocks. Near the hearth were two small white chert flakes. In the same blowout some distance away we collected a small white chert biface tip.

or evibation. vehicle arbour oreline artlett's m and clearing cultural several



Figure 29. One of the bifaces found by Biggin from Portland Creek 5, EbBj-05.

ing of July 1<sup>st</sup> looking for evidence of the French occupation.

After leaving our vehicle on the north side of the harbour we walked around the shoreline of the south side of Bartlett's Harbour for about 1 km and came to a rather large clearing which had indications of cultural modification including several large gardens. Directly on the active northwestern shoreline of the cove we found square iron nails in various sizes, a portion of a possible barrel hoop and small pieces of ceramic. We believe this is the suspected location of the French lobster factory and that the gardens were





Figure 31. Abandoned gardens at Bartlett's Harbour 1 EfBf-01.

Figure 32. Location of the 19th century French lobster factory at Bartlett's Harbour 1 EfBf-01.





Figure 33. Biface preform collected from Graveyard EiBf-06.

More than 150 m to the northwest of the hearth we recorded another small site, L'Anse Amour 4 EiBf-58. This one consisted of 21 white and grey chert flakes on the surface of a trail. Most of the flakes were small biface/core reduction flakes. Four test pits dug around this spotfind were negative for cultural resources.

We then drove to L'Anse au Loup where we walked over an area of a proposed housing lot. The area was very wet and boggy, but test pits were dug in a few drier areas. No cultural material was found on the proposed housing lot. A single grey chert flake was found on the parking lot of a former school. The flake was completely out of context for the area.

Another proposed housing development at the end of Brook Road in L'Anse au Loup was also briefly inspected. The proposed area for development is at a very low elevation and has very little historic resource potential.

Our final task for the trip was to check on the



Figure 34. Hearth feature at L'Anse Amour 3 EiBf-57.

location of a proposed quarry at L'Anse au Diable. The proposed quarry is adjacent to an existing quarry and consists of little more than exposed bedrock and has very little historic resource potential.

With these tasks complete we took the ferry back to the island the next day and returned to St. John's.

On July 31, 2015 three sites previously recorded in 1987 by Gerald Penney Associates Ltd. were revisited by PAO staff and boatman Perry Moulton on a trip to central and western Notre Dame Bay. These included Badger Bay 6 at Lock's Harbour (DiAv-7) and Badger Bay 5 at Little Point (DiAv-6), both on the east side of the bay and Badger Bay 2 at Cooney's Cove (DiAw-6) on the western shore near



Figure 35. Location of Badger Bay 6.

the mouth of the bay.

Badger Bay 6 (Figure 35) was the location of a large multi-component site containing evidence for a Maritime Archaic, Palaeoeskimo and European presence. Overall the site is in good condition though it is overgrown by vegetation and there is erosion occurring on a trail leading up from the beach to the higher terrace. A chert flake was seen eroding out of this trail. Feature 1, a cobble depression measuring 2.5m in diameter, was relocated and photographed.

Badger Bay 5 was reported to contain two suspected Recent Indian tent Figure 36 Th

rings. Unfortunately, after an intensive search of the relatively small area no sign of them could be found. No recent disturbance was noted for this location, so it is assumed that these features are still intact but are either hidden by the thick vegetation growing on the point (Figure 36), or as they were found near the cliff face, they may be covered in fallen rubble. Chert flakes were noted on the exposed portions of the point as was a possible shallow cobble pit.

On the western shore Badger Bay 2 was revisited with

one of the four noted features relocated. Feature 4, a large pit measuring 4.30m by 2.70m by 1.03m was relocated. It was surmised by Penney that this pit dated to the precontact period. However, the presence of flakes and fire-cracked rocks from a tree fall on the eastern lip of the pit would seem to indicate a later date for its construction. It may be related to a network of dry stone walls found about 75 metres to the west. These were not recorded in 1987. The largest wall runs parallel with the beach and measures 12m long by 3m

wide, its height at one location was 57cm (see Figure 37). Other walls were found running perpendicular to the large wall but weren't connected to it. This is probably due to the removal of a section of wall when creating a tractor/skidder path from the beach up into the woods to the site of a former logging camp. According to an informant from Robert's Arm this camp operated in the 1950s and 60s. Whether the pit and walls are related to the lumbering activity or predate them is unknown at this time. However, Penney (1988 pg. 32) found ceramics, glass and iron indi-

Figure 36. Thick vegetation which may be covering Badger Bay 5.





Figure 37. Dry stone walls found at Badger Bay 2.

cating a European settlement at this site. No date for this occupation was given.

A possible tent ring was also found at this

site, located west of Feature 4. It can't be one of the two cobble features found in 1987 as they were located to the east of number four.

On August 1st our interest turned to revisiting a number of coastal sites, some of which we landed at, but the majority of which we photographed from the water. In the latter group were the cave sites of North China Head (DjAw-1) on Long Island, the Big Island Burial site (DjAw-17) and the Devil's Cove Burial site (DjAw-16).

Among the sites that we landed at were Oil Islands (DjAw-15), the location of numerous cobble pits, and at Caplin Cove Head (DjAw-08) on Long Island where one of the two cobble pits recorded for this area was relocated. The second pit was likely hidden below the vegetation.

A new site was located on a tombolo beach on Red Island which is approximately 1.25km southeast of the ferry dock at Little Bay Island. This site (DjAw-21), which may contain rock features, is considered to be precontact based on the site location (see Figure 38). Fire -cracked rocks were noted having eroded out of the vegetated area on the beach's saddle. However in general, coastal erosion was not seen as a major problem in this area of Notre Dame Bay. On the afternoon of August 2<sup>nd</sup> an investigation was made at a reputed Norse site overlooking

the Little River estuary in St. Andrews in the Codroy Valley. This area was brought to the attention of the PAO by a resident who considered the numerous

Figure 38. Location of the new site on Red Island.





Figure 39. Three metre line of bricks.

earthen ridges and mounds that he had found to be evidence of Norse construction. After viewing these features it is our opinion that they are likely attributable to 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping efforts.

On August 3rd the significant fossil site at Blanche Brook, Stephenville was visited and photographed. As well, signage indicating that the fossil areas are protected was given to the Town of Stephenville for them to mount at various entry and exit points.

The PAO has carried out minor archaeological monitoring on various developments on the grounds of the Rooms, the location of Fort Townshend CjAe-23, almost every year since its opening in 2005. This summer we monitored the construction of the new amphitheatre and outdoor lighting scheme in front of the building.

Most of Fort Townshend was archaeologically excavated from 2000-2002 before the construction of the building, so fortunately we know where the major features of Fort Townshend are located. In spite of this we had several concerns with the new amphitheatre which required a deep excavation, would disturb a large area and be close to the casemates of Fort Townshend. Fortunately the work never touched the casemates.

We started the work in July and would make periodic visits to the site or be called in by the contractor when excavation was to occur. This continued on through July and August. Over the course of the monitoring, three small features were uncovered, none of which were related to Fort Townshend.



Figure 40. Showing the drain, its size and interior.

The first feature uncovered was a 3 m line of bricks protruding from the wall of an excavation for the footing of the amphitheatre. The bricks were  $\sim$ 70m below the surface and were likely related to the houses which once stood in this area.

The second feature was uncovered on July 30<sup>th</sup> as a result of having to move a catch basin. The excavation for the catch basin and associated drainage pipe required a rather large hole and trench across a large area of the site. Next to the catch basin and in the bottom of the drainage pipe trench, approximately 2 m below the surface, we uncovered a mortared brick drain. The drain ran perpendicular to the drain-

age pipe trench and was intact on both sides of the trench. The feature was the height of three stacked bricks ( $\sim 25$  cm) and about 10 cm wide.

The only other archaeological feature we discovered came the next day, July 31<sup>st</sup>, in the same drainage pipe trench as the brick drain from the day before. This feature had been heavily disturbed in the past by the installation of a ceramic drainage pipe which went through the centre of the feature. Unfortunately the whole feature had to be removed for the new PVC drainage pipe. The feature, the base of a brick chimney, was found in the wall of the drainage pipe trench.



Figure 41. The chimney base is right above the number 31 printed on the picture. The ceramic pipe is immediately to the left of the chimney base.

We continued to monitor the work at the Rooms for the rest of August but no more archaeological work was required as most of the deep excavation for the amphitheater had been completed in July. The work in August focused on the new outdoor lighting scheme which did not require as deep excavation for the construction and was in an area of mostly back fill.

Last year the PAO was approached by members of the Southwest Arm Historical Society who were interested in learning more about the known archaeological sites in their area and perhaps, with the help of the PAO, recording more sites.

While there has never been a thorough search of the area, four sites are known to exist there. The

first site recorded in the area was at Heart's Ease (DaAj-01) beach which was recorded by archaeologist Urve Linnamae in 1970. She opened a small test trench in the soil covering the beach and recovered several pieces of flaked lithic material including a biface, a retouched flake and a grooved pebble as well as European material.

The second site was found by archaeologist Gerald Penney in 1978. He named the site Claytids (DaAk-03) but the cove in which the site is located is called House Cove. The site consists of a precontact Amerindian occupation as evidenced by the chert flakes and biface preform collected by Penney. This precontact occupation had been disturbed by an historic European community in the cove in the 19<sup>th</sup>



Figure 42. Grooved pebble, biface and retouched flake recovered by Linnamae at Heart's Ease (DaAj-01). None of these artifacts are culturally diagnostic but the biface does not appear to be Palaeoeskimo (Linnamae 1971).



Figure 43. Flakes and large biface recovered by Penney at Claytids (DaAk-03).

Figure 44. Maritime Archaic biface (top) and possible adze or gouge preform (bottom) from Heart's Ease 3 (DaAj-03).





5 centimetres



Figure 45. Map of the area surveyed. Red line is the GPS trackline. Places with a yellow label were visited or are recorded sites.

century. This now abandoned community is part of the archaeology site.

The third site in the area was found by a local individual near where Linnamae found Heart's Ease (DaAj-01). This third site is recorded as Heart's Ease 3 (DaAj-03) and is attributed to a Maritime Archaic occupation based on the style of artifacts recovered. It is very likely that DaAj-01 & DaAj-03 are related sites, possibly the same site. Therefore given the Maritime Archaic cultural attribution assigned to DaAj-03, DaAj-01 is also likely a Maritime Archaic occupation.

The final site known in the area is Heart's Ease 2 (DaAj-02), a Dorset Palaeoeskimo occupation discovered by PAO archaeologist Ken Reynolds in 2002. Reynolds collected a Dorset Palaeoeskimo ground biface tip and a flake. He also noted the presence of fire cracked rock and charcoal.

In September 2015 PAO staff returned to the Southwest Arm area for a day. We met up with two

members of the Southwest Arm Historical Society, Lester Green and Peggy Hogan. Departing from Little Heart's Ease on Mr. Green's boat we spent the day exploring several small areas around Southwest Arm visiting known sites and looking for new sites as well.

Shortly after boarding the boat and departing the dock, Mr. Green pointed out a small point of land on the eastern shore of Little Heart's Ease Harbour. This point once contained either a Job Brother's smoking plant built in 1905 or a canning factory operated by the Clouston family. We didn't stop to test the location.

Our plan for the day was to head out to Heart's Ease Beach, check on the sites there and then make our way back to Little Heart's Ease Harbour. The tombolo beach that forms Heart's Ease Beach is about 350 m long. As stated above DaAj-01, DaAj-02 and DaAj-03 are spread across the beach. The eastern end of the beach is the likely location of DaAj-01 &



Figure 46. Job Brother's smoking plant (DaAk-05) under construction in 1905 which may have been built on the point of land just outside Little Heart's Ease Harbour. (<u>Maritime History Archive</u>).



Figure 47. Heart's Ease Beach, DaAj-01 & DaAj-02 are in the foreground, DaAj-03 is at the far end of the beach. Our European occupation is in the fields of the foreground.



Figure 48. Fox Island, Southport DaAj-05.



Figure 49. Nineteenth century ceramics and lithics from Fox Island, Southport DaAj-05. The Dorset preform is the second last artifact on the right.

03. During our visit to the area we noted that this end of the beach also contained a European occupation as evidenced by the building foundation remains which appear as small mounds in the fields. We also noted the presence of old garden drills. Unfortunately this area has also suffered from looting. There were several small irregularly placed looting holes in the area and we found part of an iron pot sitting on a rock. This European occupation will be added to the DaAj-01 site.

We explored the rest of the beach area, in-

cluding the location of DaAj-03 and found no historic cultural material. We also explored the hill above DaAj-03 for the foundation of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century school house/church which Mr. Green told us about. There were also other buildings on this hill as well as a graveyard. We were unable to find any trace of any of these structures in the dense forest on the hill.

We went back to the boat and headed to the community of Southport with the intention of visiting Fox Island. In his 1876 article *On the Stone Implements of Newfoundland* T. G. B. Lloyd gives a list of



Figure 50. Claytids, the cleared terrace with the cabin can be seen in the centre of the photo.

places where stone artifacts have been collected by locals. He lists Fox Island, Randra Sound as the first place; Randra is a typo for Random. Unfortunately, Lloyd does not specify what was collected at Fox Island, just that stone artifacts were recovered.

Fox Island is a tree covered little island just  $\sim$ 300 m long by  $\sim$ 300m wide and most of the coastline rises steeply from the ocean. Just about the only place that could be used by people now has a wharf. We tied up the boat and briefly explored the area around the wharf turning up several pieces of ceramic, brick, white chert flakes and a Dorset endblade preform. Unfortunately, the site is heavily eroded and may be mostly destroyed.

With the presence of the site confirmed we returned to the boat and made our way back to Little Heart's Ease. While we didn't get out of the boat again until the end of the day, we did stop the boat at the cove that is locally known as Claytids. Mr. Green told us about how this area had a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century historic European occupation and how the local cabin owner has found historic artifacts on his property. This may be an area we will return to this summer, with the land owner's permission. We briefly stopped in House Cove where the Claytids (DaAk-03) site is located, but did not go onshore. We then returned to Little Heart's Ease Harbour, all the while discussing the possibility of another survey this coming summer.

Last summer the PAO was contacted by an archaeologist who had seen a photo of a possible feature uncovered next to a house off the main road in Heart's Content. The feature had opened up naturally under a small side road and Town Council employees had uncovered a small portion to investigate what it was. Initially they believed it was an old foundation that had been poorly back filled and was now collapsing. The local historic society searched their records and found no record of the area having a building on it in the recent past.

In 1998 William Gilbert conducted an archaeological survey at selected locations on the Bay de Verde Peninsula. Part of that survey included the beach of Heart's Content, part of which is right behind where the possible feature was located. Less than 50 m away from the feature Gilbert found late eighteenth and nineteenth century ceramics on the beach near the old boat yard and slipway:

This section of beach is scattered with fragments of



As soon as the excavator began removing the soil we noted the presence of several large flat stones and within a few minutes we could see evidence for a stone wall under the ground. We also noted that the wall seemed to slope.

As the excavation continued we noticed that many of the rocks being removed from the hole had a white mortar on them and there were a lot of bricks and brick fragments. However, there did not appear to be bricks used in the construction of the feature.

The entire feature was emptied of the loose stones and brick. Since there was no brick used in the construction of the feature, we suspect they were

Figure 51. The feature is under the disturbed soil in front of the excavator. Gilbert's Heart's Content 2 (ClAi-08) is located on the beach behind the excavator.

waterworn ceramic and glass. While much of this material appears to be of late eighteenth and nineteenth century in origin, there were also some fragments of coarse earthenware that appear to be older. The main concentration of this material was in the vicinity of the old boatyard and slipway. We also found one artifact that is almost certainly of seventeenth-century origin: on a small section of beach, just north of from a previous fill event. Likely the feature had collapsed in the past and someone had tried to fill the void with the brick.

We suspect the feature is a late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century root cellar. It was 2.10 m wide x 2.20 m long and a little less than 2 m high with a hard packed

Figure 52. First evidence of a wall.



the river, we found a single pipe stem with an 8/64 bore diameter (Gilbert 2009).

Given the proximity of Gilbert's site (Heart's Content 2 ClAi-08), it was arranged for the PAO to be present when the Town uncovered the possible feature in October.

Shortly after arriving in the area of the feature, PAO staff met up with two Town Council employees who had a dump truck and a small excavator. The excavator was used to remove the soil next to the feature.



Figure 53. Showing two walls and the collapsed roof of the structure and the bricks which filled the feature.





Figure 54. Showing a corner back wall of the feature and the mortar covering the lower courses of stone, as well as the loose brick in the interior.



Figure 55. The end wall which had the door is in the middle of the photo. The left side of the photo is inside the structure.



Figure 56. Late 19th to early 20th century ceramics found during the excavation of the feature.

floor. The walls were made of mortared stone, at least along the lower course; the walls sloped inward forming a vaulted ceiling. We suspect the feature had a wooden door which faces the beach.

Whoever made the cellar dug a hole in the soil bank in which the cellar sits, laid the lower courses for he stone walls keeping them vertical for about 1 m. At that point they laid down a thin strip of wood and started to lay the roof stones, slowly curving the roof inward. The whole structure was then covered with dirt. The whole feature would have eventually grown over.

The feature seemed much better constructed than a regular root cellar and the curve of the walls and stone construction reminded us of the interior of the Newman Wine Vaults, on a much smaller scale. The house next door was owned by a merchant, and maybe he was storing something more than root vegetables.

The only artifacts seen in the excavation, aside from recent trash were late 19th to early 20th century ceramics. After the feature was cleared and the town was satisfied as to what the feature was, it was refilled, hopefully to never erode again.

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## Historic Resources Management Program Lower Churchill Project, Central Labrador 2015

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#### ntroduction

Nalcor Energy (Nalcor) is presently developing the Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Project in central Labrador. Extensive Historic Resources Assessment to identify archaeological sites within the Project footprint, including the reservoir and associated transmission infrastructure, has been undertaken since 1998 (e.g., IED/JWEL 2000). Following release of the Project from the environmental assessment process in 2011, construction of Project infrastructure commenced with an Early Works Program in 2012, followed by bulk excavation at the Muskrat Falls dam-site in 2013. Preparation of the reservoir, encompassing the lower reaches of the Churchill River between Muskrat Falls and Gull Island, commenced in 2013-2014. Reservoir creation is scheduled for 2016-2017.

Stage 2 assessment, particularly since 1998, has identified numerous precontact and early historic archaeological sites within the Churchill Valley, in particular, a dense cluster of sites on both the north and south sides of Muskrat Falls itself, another significant cluster of sites at Gull Lake, at the western end of the Muskrat Falls reservoir area, and a third cluster of sites at Sandy Banks, midway between Muskrat Falls and Gull Lake. In addition to these clustered precontact and historic sites, there are a number of dispersed later historic tilt and cabin sites.

#### Previous Work: 2012 - 2014

The Historic Resources Management Program included Stage 1 and Stage 2 field assessment, both within the Churchill Valley, and along transmission corridors as far south as the Strait of Belle Isle. Stage 3 recovery work in 2012 and 2013 was focused on the large cluster of sites at and around the Muskrat Falls dam site. The recovery program in 2012 and 2013 (see Stantec 2014a; 2014b) involved excavation

of 32 archaeological sites (23 on the south side of Muskrat Falls and nine on the north side). One site was clearly historic, containing a small cobble hearth with carbonized bone and an assemblage of historicperiod artifacts. However, the remainder were precontact sites, dating to the Intermediate and early Late Precontact periods. These sites yielded numerous precontact cultural features, including cobble hearths, linear hearths and pits, along with boulder alignments and boulder-filled pits interpreted as the remains of canoe-building activities. The complex of sites on the south side of Muskrat Falls is interpreted as a precontact-period staging area for seasonal (spring and fall) moves up and downstream. Some 70,000 artifacts and pieces of lithic debitage were recovered in association with these features. The lithic assemblages consisted of flakes and artifacts primarily of quartzite, available locally and all along the Churchill River and upper Lake Melville, as well as rhyolite, known to be available in cobble form further upstream along the Churchill River. Less common but still present in quantity at these sites was Saunders chert, available from an as-yet unidentified source, likely in the interior of northern Labrador. The tool types represented in the collection reflected a wide range of domestic tasks, including hunting and food preparation, as well as tool manufacture. At several sites there appeared to be an emphasis on tool blank preparation and tool sharpening. In addition to the lithic artifacts, grit-tempered precontact Aboriginal ceramics were found at four sites on the south side of Muskrat Falls.

In 2014, the focus of recovery work moved upstream to the reservoir area, in particular to the cluster of sites at Sandy Banks, approximately midway between Muskrat Falls and Gull Lake (Stantec 2015). Recovery was undertaken at seven of these sites, four



Figure 1. The 2015 Historic Resources Management Program for the Lower Churchill Project.



Figure 2. Aerial View of FgCg-01 Locus A and Locus B.

of which yielded significant early historic and/or precontact-period artifacts and features. Three of these sites were relatively small, single-component precontact sites. One site (FgCg-06) yielded a linear alignment of firecracked rock clusters that appears to represent a linear hearth or linear array of hearths. Associated with this were quantities of lithic artifacts and debitage, principally of quartzite, but also a variety of relatively "exotic" cherts as well as four small sherds of Aboriginal grit-tempered ceramic. The fourth significant site excavated in 2014 was Sandy Banks (FgCg-01), the presumed site of the 19th-century Hudson's Bay Company trading post, where excavation focused on two loci. Excavations at Locus B, at the eastern end of the site, yielded a large quantity of lithic debitage and artifacts recorded in association with two large, somewhat linear, hearth features. Excavations at Locus A at the west end of the site revealed a small precontact assemblage, including grittempered ceramics, along with a number of more substantial 19<sup>th</sup>-century historic hearth features tentatively interpreted as reflecting historic-period, Aboriginal campsites associated with the trading post. Locus A did not, however, yield evidence for the location of the post buildings themselves. In addition to conventional archaeological excavation, the 2014 program also included surface recording of later historic sites, including tilts, middens and cabin sites.

#### 2015 Historic Resources Management Program

The 2015 Historic Resources Management Program for the Lower Churchill Project (Figure 1) included a number of Stage 2 assessment tasks, as well as limited manual tree-felling. However, the 2015 program was focused primarily on Stage 3 (Recovery) work at two sites in the Churchill Valley: Sandy Banks (FgCg-01) and Tshiashkunish 2 (FfCi-02). Analysis and artifact cataloguing are in progress, cultural interpretations are provisional, pending completion of analysis. A detailed final report on this work is presently in preparation.

### Sandy Banks (FgCg-01)

FgCg-01 is situated on the northern side of Churchill River at Sandy Banks, approximately 20 km west of the Muskrat Falls portage and mid-way between Muskrat Falls and Gull Lake. FgCg-01 is comprised of four separate loci – Locus A, B, C and D. Recovery work at the western end of the site in 2014 focused on Locus A and Locus B. The objective of the 2015 recovery programme was to complete the recovery at Locus A and Locus B, to test Locus C, and to further delineate precontact and historicperiod features and artifact deposits, including the nineteenth-century HBC trading post (Locus D), located northeast of Locus B.

Locus A

Recovery work at Locus A in 2015 involved completing the excavation of six features (Features 1 to 6) initially identified and partially recovered in 2014. Completion of recovery in 2015 did not add significantly to the results obtained in 2014. *Locus B* 

Recovery work at Locus B in 2015 was focused on expanding excavation horizontally to completely encompass the distribution of cultural material, and vertically in order to reach sterile subsoil. The complexity of recovery work at Locus B derived from the fact that the site stratigraphy was quite atypical of precontact occupations in the Churchill Valley. More specifically, precontact lithic debitage and artifacts were encountered to unusual depths (up to 0.60 m below surface) within multiple alternating deposits of sand and clay. This area appears to have been subjected to naturally-occurring disturbance, such as slope failure and/or flooding events. In an effort to better understand possible site formation processes, a site visit was made to a recent slope failure, located on the southern side of the Churchill River, southwest of FgCg-01, which confirmed the dynamic nature of the landscape following mass wasting events along the river, and revealed similar alternating deposits of sand and clay. The deepest deposits at Locus B occurred in the vicinity of Feature 7, a linear, diffuse boulder and cobble feature measuring approximately 5 m long, north to south, by approximately 1.5 m across, east to west. Feature 7 appeared to be *in situ*, located within and below a layer of what is presumed to be alluvial sand, while additional material culture was recovered from an underlying clay deposit. Radiocarbon analysis of a charcoal sample taken from Feature 7 yielded a date of 1900  $\pm$  39 radiocarbon years BP (UOC-1134). A soil profile recorded along an east to west axis revealed a more typical podzolic stratigraphy in the vicinity of Feature 8, another linear-shaped alignment of boulders and cobbles situated at the eastern end of Locus B, which was confirmed by a series of deep 1 m<sup>2</sup> test units excavated at regular intervals across the site.

The lithic assemblage of Locus B is dominated by quartzite debitage, although several pieces of black chert and a small number of Ramah flakes were recovered. Although excavation of Features 7 and 8 both yielded dense scatters of quartzite debitage, Feature 7 also yielded quantities of charcoal, calcined bone fragments and possible traces of red ochre. *Locus C* 

Locus C is situated north of, and directly adjacent to, Locus A. This Locus consists of the deteriorated remains of a twentieth century trapper's tilt and an associated midden of relatively modern debris, including metal fuel containers, glass bottles, ceramic tableware, and metal stoves and trapping equipment. Systematic shovel-testing of Locus C was completed in 2015 to help establish whether earlier Historic-Period and/or Precontact-Period materials were present in among or beneath the dispersed midden deposit. While an assemblage of mid-late twentieth century materials were identified in the duff layer, no earlier cultural materials were identified. *Locus D* 

Locus D is situated on the east side of a narrow seasonal gully, approximately 28 m to the east of Locus B, and extends along a narrow terrace to another gully approximately 50 m further to the east. In 2015, Locus D was confirmed as the specific location of the nineteenth century Sandy Banks HBC Trading Post. Historic records indicate that the Sandy Banks Post was operated intermittently and seasonally between the 1830s and 1870s and that the Post was comprised of at least two (and possibly three) princi-



Figure 3. Aerial View Southwest of Structure 1. The red flagging outlines the building perimeter; note the interior cellar, and the earthen berm surrounding the structure.

pal buildings, including an accommodations building and a store.

Recovery work at Locus D in 2015 involved gridding and opening a total of 244 m<sup>2</sup> although not all units were completed, and further fieldwork is scheduled for 2016.

Recovery has commenced at three potential structures at Locus D.

Structure 1, the easternmost (Figure 3), has been substantially exposed, although excavation is not complete. The external dimensions of Structure 1 measure approximately 4.25 m by 4.9 m. The exterior of the building was banked around the entire perimeter with an earthen berm measuring in places up to 2 m wide. The mounding of earth and duff around the exterior no doubt served as a means of insulating the floor and lower wall-section from the cold exterior draft. Also recorded, in the interior of the building, was a roughly 2 m diameter and 1 m deep pit that may have served as a cellar and/or storage area. The construction and range of artifacts recovered suggest that Structure 1 functioned as a dwelling. The range of associated artifacts (most notably iron nails) also

suggests the presence of a wooden floor. Also recorded just in front of Structure 1 were the dispersed remains of a shattered cast-iron Carron woodstove (Figure 4). The stove, fabricated in Scotland, is a type known to have been shipped to various HBC posts in the nineteenth century (see Hussey 1972). This particular stove, although it had apparently been lined on the interior with relatively thin bricks, had nevertheless fractured at a number of locations, primarily on the sides. The several cracks in the cast-iron, no doubt caused by excessive heat that severely stressed the metal, had been repaired with narrow metal bars riveted to the interior. It is unclear whether these obvious repairs were completed at Sandy Banks, or if, alternatively, the stove was old and had already been repaired before transport to the Post from North West River.

Structure 2 is situated immediately to the west of, and may have shared a berm with, Structure 1. Structure 2 is provisionally interpreted as the remains of a store or trading room, although limited excavation has been undertaken here to date.



Figure 4. Cast-Iron Stove Components Recorded in Front of Structure 1.

Structure 3, the westernmost, is also interpreted as a store or trading room, possibly predating Structure 2. Again, recovery at Structure 3 is presently at an early stage of excavation.

The assemblage of material culture recovered from Structure 1 and elsewhere at Locus D included kaolin tobacco-pipe stems and bowl fragments, a small collection of pharmaceutical bottle-glass, gunflints, and window glass. In addition, a relatively limited range of ceramic wares included several different transfer-printed whitewares and stoneware. It is notable that several whiteware fragments recovered from Locus D in 2015 are identical in form, colour and edge-pattern to a number of wares unearthed from Feature 3 at Locus A in 2014, thus confirming the proposed association of these two site loci. Little wine-bottle glass or other evidence of alcohol consumption has been recovered at the Post thus far. Metals recovered in 2015 include a number of barrel hoops of various sizes, and many small fragments of cut (and sometimes riveted) copper. Aside from a severely corroded pocket-knife, few tools, tool fragments or pieces of trapping equipment have been recovered to date.

The frequency of heated artifacts (i.e. burnt ceramics and melted bottle and window glass), and the presence of charred wooden structural members, suggest that some or all of the Post buildings were destroyed by fire.

Also recovered from Locus D in 2015 were a number of iron rivets and roves in various sizes that, in a number of cases, were complete (i.e., the rivet and rove were joined; see Figure 5). These rivets were almost certainly used as fastenings for clinkerbuilt boats (most likely "flats" or shallow-draft watercraft used for transporting goods to and from the Post), and may indicate that

boat-building or, more likely, repairs were undertaken at Sandy Banks in the nineteenth century. Given that Sandy Banks Post was a way-station in the annual outfit to other HBC posts situated further west on the Churchill River (such as Fort Winokapau), the presence of boat hardware at Locus D is not unexpected. The fact that several of the rivets were complete, with nail and rove attached, suggests that these particular artifacts derived from an actual boat, and were not simply from a supply of fasteners kept onsite.

Evidence for precontact occupation at Locus D is presently relatively limited. One cobble hearth feature with quartzite debitage has been partiallyexposed near the eastern end of the site adjacent to Structure 1.



Figure 5. Iron rivets and roves recovered from Locus D in 2015.

#### Tshiashkunish 2 (FfCi-02)

FfCi-02 is situated approximately midway along the north shore of Gull Lake, on the eastern side of a small, sheltered cove.

Previous site assessment (IED/JWEL 2000) indicated that the site was extremely large (ca. 750m<sup>2</sup>), but that cultural material was discontinuouslydistributed across the site and was concentrated in a number of discrete loci, in some cases separated by small gullies. Following additional tree-felling at the site, programs of surface inspection, examination of treethrows and subsurface testing were undertaken in order to relocate the previous positive testing results and establish the distribution of cultural material. As a result of this work, six more-or-less discrete occupation loci were identified at the site. By the end of the field season, a total of 553 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated at FfCi-02 in these six loci (Figure 6). Recovery work at FfCi-02 is complete.

The results of recovery operations at the site are summarized below for each locus.

#### Locus A

Locus A is situated at the eastern end of FfCi-02, bounded to the south by the shoreline of Gull Lake and to the west by a gully which separates Locus A from Locus D.

Excavation of  $64m^2$  in this area revealed a diffuse cobble hearth feature and a dense scatter of quartzite debitage and artifacts. The lithic assemblage, consisting almost entirely of quartzite, includes surprisingly large frequencies of biface fragments and straight-stemmed projectile points. Excavation in the hearth area yielded a small sample of calcined bone fragments and one charcoal sample.

Locus B

Locus B was situated at the southwestern corner of the site, overlooking the cove on Gull Lake, and the mouth of the brook below. Initial surface inspection following tree-felling identified an array of large boulders protruding from the moss, and one piece of lead visible in a treethrow. Unlike the other loci at the site, Locus B proved to contain evidence primarily for historic-period occupation; precontact material was very sparse.

Excavation of 96m<sup>2</sup> at this Locus revealed that the westernmost area of the excavation is dominated by a large scatter of firecracked rock and a small hearth or burn pit which yielded significant quantities of charcoal and a large sample of bird, fish, and large mammal bone. To the east of this, excavation exposed the remains of an extremely subtle earth -walled tent-ring 4m in diameter with a mounded central hearth containing charcoal and calcined bone (Figures 7 and 8). Earth-walled tent-rings are a welldocumented and readily identifiable feature of historic Innu sites in barren and sparsely-forested terrain in north-central Labrador (e,g, Loring 2015), but this appears to be the first example of such a structure to be identified and excavated in the forested interior of central Labrador.

The associated artifact assemblage was small but clearly pertained to the late 19<sup>th</sup>- or early 20<sup>th</sup>century. Artifacts recovered include seed beads, a thimble, ceramics, bottle glass, heart-shaped (W.C. Macdonald) tobacco brands, tobacco pipe fragments, a gunflint, a lead musket ball, and a portion of a musket barrel.

#### Locus C

Locus C was an essentially precontact occupation area situated immediately northeast of Locus B. Cultural material from Locus B and Locus C over-



Figure 6. Aerial View of FfCi-02.

lapped to some degree, and these two loci were recovered as a single contiguous occupation area. Excavation of  $66m^2$  in Locus C led to the recovery of large quantities of quartzite debitage and artifacts, and to the identification of two firecracked rock concentrations. These firecracked rock concentrations flank an extremely dense scatter of quartzite debitage and artifacts. As with the rock features at Locus B, the rock piles in Locus C themselves contained few artifacts and appear to be discard piles rather than hearths as such. Excavation within the central lithic scatter did lead to the recovery of a small concentration of charcoal and calcined bone, and this is tentatively interpreted as the original location of the central hearth. *Locus D* 

Locus D, the largest excavated area at FfCi-02, was situated between Locus B/C and Locus A, separated from its neighbouring loci by two gullies.

At Locus D, excavation of 176m<sup>2</sup> led to the exposure of three dense clusters of lithic debitage and

artifacts including biface fragments, chert scrapers, and a notched chert projectile point: two concentrations on the slopes flanking the crest between the two gullies, and a third in the northeastern quadrant of the excavation area. The central portion of Locus D yielded relatively few lithic pieces, but did include a small diffuse hearth feature (Figure 9).

Excavations immediately alongside this hearth led to the recovery of large numbers of very small sherds of grit-tempered and apparently very low-fired Aboriginal ceramics in association with a small pit and possible spoil deposit. It is hypothesized that some or all of these sherds may belong to a vessel or vessels that shattered during firing. Because of the fragility of the ceramic sherds, the pit and spoil deposits were isolated and block-lifted using plasterimpregnated gauze and expanding polyurethane foam (Figure 10). The blocks were subsequently excavated at the Stantec office in Goose Bay leading to the recovery of numerous additional ceramic sherds.



Figure 7. Earthwalled Tent-ring at FfCi-02 Locus B, Before Excavation of Wall; The cross-baulks intersect at the central hearth.



Figure 8. Earthwalled Tent-ring at FfCi-02 Locus B, After Excavation of Wall; Note the dark ring of buried sod, and the wall sections visible in profiles.



Figure 9. Aerial View of FfCi-02 Locus D; central hearth and pit/spoil feature with precontact ceramics to the left of the metre stick.

Aboriginal ceramics are normally considered to be a rare and unusual element in Labrador precontact assemblages. Nevertheless, they are increasingly appearing in excavated contexts (see Stapelfeldt 2013; Loring 2013), and Stephen Hull has recently raised the question of whether or not ceramics should be added to the Late Precontact diagnostic toolkit (Hull 2014). Grit-tempered precontact ceramic sherds have now been recovered at seven sites in the lower Churchill Valley: four at Muskrat Falls, two in the Sandy Banks area, and one (so far) on Gull Lake. Ceramics are a thus far small but clearly "normal" element in the material culture of precontact sites in the Churchill Valley. For the central Labrador interior, the answer to Hull's question would appear to be a clear "yes." The context and apparently low firing of the sherds recovered this year at FfCi-02 Locus D suggests the possibility that some or all of the ceramics at these sites may be of local manufacture.

Also of interest at Locus D was evidence for a small mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup>-century occupation in the northeastern portion of the excavation area. Historic materials recovered from the duff layer in this area included a number of firecracked rock fragments, possibly re-deposited from the earlier precontact features at the site, along with a collection of ceramic, glass, and metal artifacts including wire, cans, a fishing lure, .22 cartridge cases, an Aspirin tin, a coldcream jar, and a small feature of melted glass and calcined small mammal bones.



Figure 10. Fred Schwarz and Corey Hutchings Applying Plaster-Impregnated Gauze prior to Block-lifting at Locus D.

#### Locus E

Locus E was a relatively small occupation area situated across a gully to the east of Locus D and north of Locus A. The location behind Locus A initially suggested that this may be a lithic workshop area associated with Locus A, but instead it proved to be the remains of a small habitation area. Excavation of 61 m<sup>2</sup> led to the recording of a small, diffuse central hearth feature containing a variety of wellfashioned, predominantly quartzite, lithic tools. Locus F

Locus F was a discrete and slightly isolated occupation area situated north of Locus B, upstream along the brook which debouches into Gull Lake between FfCi-02 and FfCi-01. Excavation of an area of 90 m<sup>2 in</sup> Locus F led to the recovery of an extremely

dense scatter of quartzite debitage, with small but notable frequencies of rhyolite and chert. Finished artifacts recovered during excavation included stemmed points, and an incomplete notched Ramah projectile point. Firecracked rock was sparse and no welldefined hearth was identified, but the range of lithic raw material types and artifacts suggests an occupation area rather than a lithic workshop.

In addition, there is a small historic component at the site. One ceramic sherd appears to link this to the early-20<sup>th</sup>-century historic component previously recovered at Locus B, while some artifacts, including a wire nail, appear more likely to date to the middle or second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and may be related to the later 20<sup>th</sup>-century component identified in Locus D.

#### 2016 Historic Resources Management Program

As noted, recovery operations at FgCg-01 Locus D are not complete, and further work at the site is scheduled for 2016. Other excavations remain to be completed or undertaken at eight precontact/ early historic sites within the Muskrat Falls reservoir area; the majority of these sites are situated in the extensive site cluster on Gull Lake.

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# The Rooms Provincial Museum Division 2015

Lori Temple The Rooms Provincial Museum Division



Figure 1. Accidental Finds: Archaeology from the Potato Garden, The Rooms Provincial Museum Division.

hroughout 2015 The Rooms Provincial Museum Division has been working with our new EMu collections management software which has greatly improved our ability to manage our collections data. The priority for 2016 will be the continuation of formatting submitted databases from archaeologists into the EMu system and adding photographs for key artifacts in the collection.

The Provincial Museum Division in collaboration with the Provincial Archaeology Office created a temporary exhibit titled "Accidental Finds" currently on display at The Rooms. This exhibit highlights artifacts from the collection that came to light through means other than archaeological excavation. Some of the artifacts include a cache of prehistoric bifaces found by chance from Change Islands, a series of Dorset Palaeoeskimo stone tools located while digging a drainage ditch in Old Perlican, and an inkwell discovered while walking along the beach in Quidi Vidi.



Figure 2. Accidental Finds: Archaeology from the Potato Garden The Rooms Provincial Museum Division.

The Provincial Museum Division, along with other organizations such as the Newfoundland and Labrador Archaeological Society, Memorial University and Gerald Penney Associates took part in a public display celebrating International Archaeology Day at The Rooms.

Some statistics for the Archaeology & Ethnology unit in 2015 include:

- Over 100 requests received for information, loans, research visits, and photograph use.
- 25 different researchers including MA and PhD students from MUN and universities across Canada and Europe, and independent researchers from Newfoundland and England used the archaeology collections and lab space.
- Over 20 museums throughout the province displayed archaeology artifacts from our collections through our Community Loans program. As well, our artifacts are also on loan to the Canadian Mu-

seum of History (formerly the Canadian Museum of Civilization), the National Art Gallery, and several Parks Canada locations.

- Archaeology artifacts were transferred to The Rooms via the PAO through 13 submissions from Archaeologists representing over 23,140 artifacts from 79 sites.
- Two volunteers provided 48 hours of their time helping with various projects in the Archaeology lab.

Anyone wishing to access our collections for research can contact Lori Temple, Collections Manager for Archaeology & Ethnology at (709) 757-8076 or by email at

LoriTemple@therooms.ca

# **European Winter House Investigation**

Anatolijs Venovcevs Memorial University of Newfoundland



Figure 1. The Big Mussel Pond sites in relation to each other, O'Donnells, and the local place names.

his past year has been extremely successful in expanding our current understanding on the 300-year-long European winter housing tradition in this province (see Smith 1987a, 1987b, 1995 for the historical background). In addition to fieldwork conducted at the Sunnyside 1 site (CIAI-05) (see Gaulton, this volume), the author visited five winter house sites of which three were surveyed and partially excavated.

## Big Mussel Pond

The majority of this research took place behind the present-day community of O'Donnells in St. Mary's Bay on the southern shore of a tidal pool called Big Mussel Pond. The area was first visited by the PAO in 2013 when a local resident, Mr. Bill Hickey, informed the office about a site he identified approximately two kilometres away from the community (PAO 2014:145). The site was registered as Big Mussel Pond 1 (CgAj-03) and subjected to a preliminary test pitting survey by the author in 2014 (Venovcevs 2015).

In 2015, work in the area began with a preliminary visit to the site by the author and Barry Gaulton who met up with Bill Hickey who showed them another similar site, registered as Big Mussel Pond 2 (CgAj-05), which lay 500 metres closer to the community than the first site (Figure 1). Big Mussel Pond 1 was also revisited and, with Bill's help, both sites were cleared of vegetation in preparation for further work.

The Big Mussel Pond sites were visited again with Vincent Jankunis, an MA candidate at Memorial University, who assisted the author with a full survey of the two sites. The survey included total station mapping of all visible features, the excavation of 15 30cm by 30 cm test pits at the Big Mussel Pond 2 site, and a systematic metal detector survey of the two sites. For the metal detector survey, the sites were walked at regular intervals with a Fisher CZ-21 "QuickSilver" metal detector and all hits were flagged with PVC flags. Three hits from both sites were ground-truthed with test pits to double check the reliability of the metal detector and, once the results proved positive, the flags were mapped in with a total station to provide the approximate limits and concentrations of metal artifacts across the sites.

Big Mussel Pond 1 was defined by two features, a rock collapse that extended 3 metres northsouth and 2 metres east-west and a semi-circular drylaid stone foundation that abutted the collapse and enclosed an area that measured 4.5 metres northsouth by 4.0 metres east-west. The subsequent excavation revealed that the rock collapse was 70 cm tall and had a volume of approximately 2.1 cubic metres. The semi-circular feature was filled with inorganic sandy soil and contained a possible support post in the centre suggesting that it was a cellar similar to field root pits that were used in Ireland and Great Britain since the eighteenth century (Gage 2012:41-50). A total of 195 metal detector hits were recorded at Big Mussel Pond 1 in an area that measured 155 square metres (Figure 2).

Big Mussel Pond 2 was much smaller. It was defined by one feature, a rock collapse, that extended 5 metres north-south and 2.5 metres east-west. The excavations revealed that the collapse was 50 cm high and its volume was 2.9 cubic metres. A total of 74 metal detector hits were recorded over a 54 square metre area (Figure 3).

The sites were revisited in July and August with three teams of volunteers for a total of ten full days of excavation. All excavation was done stratigraphically with *in situ* artifacts being mapped in with a total station that recorded their locations in three dimensions with millimetre accuracy. All soil was then screened through a 6 mm mesh with 3 mm mesh being reserved for rich organic hearth deposits.

At Big Mussel Pond 1, 13 square metres were exposed. Most of the stratigraphy at the site was relatively straight forward consisting of a thin organic layer above the inorganic soil. Somewhat more complicated stratigraphy was identified around the rock collapse. The collapse, instead of being the remains of a stone fireplace as was identified by Barry Gaulton and Steve Mills at Sunnyside 1, was rather a stone backing to an open hearth that was identified in the units right next to the rock collapse (Figure 4; Gaulton and Mills 2011, 2014a, 2014b; Gaulton, this volume). The thick organic deposit with charcoal and fire-reddened soils was not fully exposed but extends for at least two square metres from the base of the hearth into the neighbouring units. A 40 cm sondage dug into the base of this feature revealed a stratified deposit of dark charcoal-rich organic soil separated by inorganic medium-brown sand (Figure 5). The stratification suggests that the site was reused for more than a single winter.

The excavations at Big Mussel Pond 2 revealed an altogether different composition. There was no evidence of reoccupation at the site and far fewer artifacts were recovered. However, the site did contain what appears to be a stone platform composed of small dry-laid cobbles that formed a rectangular platform that ran toward higher elevation at the base of the hearth (Figure 6). The platform appeared to serve no other purpose beyond creating a level surface over an otherwise low and boggy area.

Toward the end of the fieldwork at Big Mussel Pond, a third site was identified. This site, registered as Big Mussel Pond 3 (CgAj-06) was 500 metres away from the community. It was unique because it didn't contain any visible above-ground features besides a level terrace where the building used to stand (Figure 7). It was subjected to a test-pitting survey where 21 30cm by 30 cm test pits were excavated. One of the test pits encountered charcoal, firereddened soils, and a dry-laid stone base - it was expanded into a 40cm by 40 cm unit and was photographed and drawn. It likely represents the remains of a stone-lined fireplace but one that was completely different from the other two sites. From the positive test pits it is revealed that the site is approximately 64 square metres in size.



Figure 2. The Big Mussel Pond 1 site.



Figure 3. The Big Mussel Pond 2 site.


Figure 4. Exposing the hearth at Big Mussel Pond 1.

The artifacts from all three sites date them too approximately between the 1820s and the 1840s when the community of O'Donnells was first settled by a single English-born family, the Coombs (Ryan and Ryan 2000). However, the limited number of chronologically-diagnostic artifacts does not indicate if the Big Mussel Pond sites were built by one family over the course of several winters or by people from elsewhere in St. Mary's Bay who sailed into Big Mussel Pond for the winter. Feature names around the pond reference people who have never been recorded as living in the community, so either scenario is possible (Figure 1).

However, the artifacts do reveal important information about life at these sites. For one, a large number of nails was recovered. They represent a quarter of the artifact assemblages at Big Mussel Pond 1 and 3 and 15 percent of the assemblage at Big Mussel Pond 2. The large amount of nails contradicts many of the nineteenth-century accounts that winter houses were flimsy structures. Instead, the large number of architectural remains adds further weight to the hypothesis that winter homes were sturdier and better-built than summer dwellings (Smith 1987a:12). Big Mussel Pond 1 even contained some window glass.

The sites also revealed a significant focus on terrestrial resources. Forestry and woodworking were well represented by a saw blade from Big Mussel Pond 1 and a pair of axes and an adze from Big Mussel Pond 3 (Figure 8); an anchor ring and a boat hook were also recovered from the latter site indicative of



Figure 5. Sondage into the hearth at the Big Mussel Pond 1 site.

boat building and repair. Hunting was also emphasized; musket balls and pieces of bird and buck shot were recovered from all three sites. Big Mussel Pond 1 showed evidence of lead ammunition production in the form a single clipped musket ball sprue and 23 pieces of lead scrap (Figure 9). European-made gunflints were quite common – three gunflints were recovered from Big Mussel Pond 1, one from Big Mussel Pond 2, and two from Big Mussel Pond 3 (Figure 10). All gunflints were worn and some show evidence of reuse as fire strikers. While extensive evidence of ballast flint recycling that is seen at Sunnyside 1 was absent, pieces of flint and one ballast-made gunflint suggests that some recycling was taking place even in the presence of commercial sources.

In contrast, fishing equipment was rare, consisting of only four fish hooks and one lead line weight recovered from Big Mussel Pond 1. The lead line weight was old and probably brought to the site to be recycled for ammunition manufacture. Recycling can also be seen in pieces of cut, perforated, and cold-hammered copper and metal scrap recovered from Big Mussel Pond 1 and 2 and a mend hole on a small transfer-printed bowl sherd from Big Mussel Pond 3 (Figure 11).

The faunal remains were extremely calcined and fragmentary. Most could not be identified to a species level but the ones that are show a mix of stored and procured provisions. The few identifiable remains contained the bones of pig (Sus scrofa), common eider (Somateria mollissima), double-crested cormorant (Phalacrorax auritus), and cod (Gadus sp.) from Big Mussel Pond 1 and pig and caribou (Rangifer tarandus) from Big Mussel Pond 2. None of the bones from Big Mussel Pond 3 were identifiable to species level. The presence of pig and cod indicates the presence of stored winter provisions at the sites (Elliott 2015a -c). Stored provisions are also highlighted by a jug from Big Mussel

Pond 3 and a storage jar from Big Mussel Pond 1.

Cooking would have consisted of a mix of wet and dry foods. A large iron pot was identified at Big Mussel Pond 1 and out of 16 unique non-storage vessels recovered from all three sites, 5 are teaware, 5 are flatware, 2 are hollowware, 2 are mugs, and 2 vessels are indeterminate. It is interesting that most ceramics from the Big Mussel Pond sites were undecorated in contrast to the year-round or summer fishery sites from the nineteenth century that had a mix of cheap and expensive ceramics (Burke 1991; Jones 2009; Hatcher 2013). Given the isolation of these winter houses, it is possible that more utilitarian ceramic pieces were chosen to serve the family's needs over the winter. Meanwhile, smoking pipes were common but not as ubiquitous as those recovered from the ongoing excavations at Sunnyside 1. Only three unique liquor containers were identified - one from each of the three sites.

Given their locations at the rear of a tidal pool, their distance away from the water (40 to 85



Figure 6. The exposed stone platform at Big Mussel Pond 2.



Figure 7. Test pitting at Big Mussel Pond 3.



Figure 9. Lead scrap from Big Mussel Pond 1.





Figure 11. Transfer printed pearlware bowl sherd with a mend hole. A, front view; B, profile.



Figure 12. Guinchard tombstone in the Daniels Harbour Winter Housing area; worker's houses in the background.

metres), and an assemblage focused on the exploitation on terrestrial resources, there is little doubt that these sites represent the remains of winter houses. When compared to the results from the ongoing excavations of the 1660-80s winter house site of Sunnyside 1, it is interesting to observe a shift from the large European-style architectural tradition to a less labour-intensive, more ephemeral adaptation to winter life in the forested interior. However, the variation seen within the roughly-contemporaneous Big Mussel Pond sites reveals a range of architectural forms and the agency and ingenuity of their builders when faced with environmental challenges.

Additionally, the excavations are starting to create a "winter house pattern" that we can expect to see as more and more winter house sites are investigated. Hunting and forestry are amply represented by the material culture from these sites in the form of ammunition, gunflints, faunal remains, and woodworking tools. At the same time, ceramics and alcohol containers are less common and less variable. Fishing equipment is almost nonexistent and what is present could have been raw material for the production of ammunition. In light of these findings, it can be suggested that the winter house pattern, albeit variable, would contain items focused on hunting and forestry, exhibit an assemblage limited in quantity, diversity, and quality, and demonstrate repair, reuse, and recycling born out of isolation and necessity (Venovcevs and Gaulton n.d.).



Figure 13. Cellar remains at the Bellburns Winter Houses site.

#### **Daniels Harbour and Bellburns**

To understand winter housing outside of the Avalon and see how it was practiced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the fieldwork included a brief field visit to the Northern Peninsula. The visit was focused on Daniels Harbour Winter Houses (EbBj-11) which was originally recorded by Gerald Penney Associates in 2008 (GPA 2008). The site represents two areas behind the community of Daniels Harbour that were used for winter housing since 1828 when the area first got settled (Payne 1973). While much of the original winter housing area has been impacted by gardening and some house construction, it was believed that some nineteenth century components could still be identified. Unfortunately, the 2007 landslide that necessitated the 2008 field work also led to the relocation of several families away from the shore and into the archaeologically-sensitive area. The construction of workers' houses for the new transmission line also impacted many of the sensitive remains (Figure 12). While gravestones and several house forms were still present in areas further away from the community, much of the earlier material has been destroyed by development.

However, the local informant, Gerald Humber, took the author around the community and told him what he remembered about winter housing in Daniels Harbour. Gerald and the author also visited the cabin of Sandy House, who was the fourth generation of his family to build a cabin on the same property in the winter housing area just south of Daniels Harbour. While his cabin did not serve as a winter house, per se, this case clearly demonstrates the continuity of winter housing in the modern cabin culture (see also King 2012).

The field visit was also extended to the neighbouring community of Bellburns. According to the local history, the Bellburns was occupied since the 1830s and winter housing played an important role in the early community; most people lived in their winter homes between January and late spring where they harvested and sawed logs, trapped, and hunted (House 1972:2-4). Later, areas around winter houses were used for agriculture (House 1972:15). During the visit, the author met Emmanuel House, a Bellburns local, who identified the locations of five former winter houses that stood together in an aggravated family compound that his family used. The houses in this area were utilized between the late nineteenth century and the 1950s/1960s. A single cellar depression was identified and the site was registered as Bellburns Winter Houses (EcBj-02) (Figure 13).

While the fieldwork in this area was brief, it was a good supplement to the research conducted in St. Mary's Bay. It revealed marked differences between late nineteenth and early twentieth century western Newfoundland and the work that has so far been done on winter housing on the Avalon Peninsula. For one, agriculture played a larger role in winter housing. Draught animals, like oxen or horses, were sometimes used to move people to their wintering areas and winter barns were located next to winter houses. The clearing of areas around the winter houses through logging led the way to utilization of these places for gardening. Winter houses themselves were much more permanent in this region; a fact collaborated by historical accounts (Llyod 1886:66; PAO 2014:146-147). The houses were also larger and better built and, instead of lasting for only one or a few winters, they were built to last for at least a generation with each subsequent family member building their own winter house on the same property (Gerald Humber and Sandy House, personal communication, July 27, 2015; Emmanuel House, personal communication, July 28, 2015). The commitment to permanence can also be seen by the presence of grave stones in wintering areas. Further research is needed to determine if these features are specific to the Northern Peninsula, where forested land is rarer and the climate is marginally better for agriculture, or if it was the result of changes in the tradition brought about in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The work also revealed the threat that winter houses face from modern development, a threat not always realized since they are small and often located several kilometres in the interior away from population centres. More importantly, the work identified the significance of oral history in understanding winter housing, a fact emphasized by Philip Smith when he first described the tradition (1987a:33). While further survey and excavation work on winter house sites is valuable, it is much more imperative to go out into the rural communities and systematically interview the elders who still remember winter housing being practiced. Without this exercise, an important part of Newfoundland's intangible heritage will soon be lost.

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# Archaeological Investigations at Phillip's Garden (EeBi-01) 2015: A Report on the Excavation of a Late Phase Dwelling

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#### ntroduction

The Port au Choix Archaeology Project is currently involved in a multi-year research program to understand the Dorset occupation at Phillip's Garden (EeBi-1) leading up to its abandonment approximately 1180 years ago. A portion of the research program focuses on Dorset practices of dwelling construction as a reflection of possible changes in attitudes toward the region during the site's late or terminal phase. To address these research aims, excavation during the 2015 field season was directed toward a late phase dwelling.

Based on radiocarbon dates gathered through testing during the 2013 field season (Wells et al. 2014), a late phase house depression in the southern edge of the site was selected for partial excavation this field season. This depression, formerly identified as Depression 49 has been issued Feature number 437 for consistency with project protocols.

A total area of 42 m<sup>2</sup> was excavated, including the entrance, western perimeter, central depression and portions of the rear and eastern perimeters of the dwelling feature, as well as exterior areas to the west and north of the house. Excavation revealed that the dwelling was a relatively small and lightly constructed structure compared to more typical middle phase houses on the site. There was no axial feature with associated postholes in the central depression, an ephemeral rear perimeter, and a relatively low density of material remains. However, like middle phase dwellings, there was evidence for at least two occupation periods. Faunal remains associated with the dwelling were largely deposited during the earlier occupation.

#### Context

Phillip's Garden was occupied by the Dorset for a period of approximately 800 years beginning nearly 2000 years ago. Renouf and Bell (2009) divided the occupation into three temporal phases, early (1990-1550 calibrated years before present (cal BP)), middle (1550-1350 cal BP) and late (1350-1180 cal BP). The Dorset community at Phillip's Garden grew quickly in response to the abundance and predictability of the harp seal in the area. The Dorset established a large settlement and began to construct large houses with extensive middens predominantly filled with seal bone. Despite the success of this settlement for many centuries, the site was abandoned 1180 years ago.

Details of dwelling architecture toward the end of Phillip's Garden occupation have the potential to reveal changes in how the site was settled. Middle phase dwellings are described from a number of previous excavations (Harp 1976; Renouf 2011). They are large with well-defined platforms, central axial features, storage pits at the rear of the central depression and entrance ways (Renouf 2011; Wells et al. 2012). There is good evidence that middle phase dwellings were re-occupied multiple times (Renouf 2006, 2011). Their substantial construction suggests an invested commitment to returning to the site. This is not the case for the early and late phases; however these periods remain less well known. Renouf and Murray (1999:130) propose that the more ephemeral dwelling architecture dated to the early phase at Phillip's Garden represents a settlement pattern of shortterm, seasonal occupation.

Most of the archaeological investigations at Phillip's Garden have been directed toward the middle phase of the occupation, partially because this period was a more intensely populated period leaving the greatest density of material remains. Until excavations this year, there has been only one late phase dwelling excavated, Feature 55 (Renouf 1993). Like the early phase house, this dwelling was smaller and not substantially built, with only narrow perimeters rather than broad platforms seen in the middle phase. Lighter construction suggests greater mobility and less commitment to re-occupation. The main aim of the 2015 field season was to excavate another dwelling from this phase in order to gain a greater insight into the late phase occupation.

#### Phillip's Garden Excavation Results

#### Architectural features associated with dwelling Feature 437

Dwelling Feature 437 is located in the south central area of Phillip's Garden facing the coast to the north. It is an oval depression cut into the natural beach ridge with a relatively broad front area and entrance way (Fig. 1). The western and eastern sides of the central depression are built up with stones to create berms around the central depression. The rear of the house is naturally higher, but this area too shows evidence of construction with the placement of additional stones. Only three postholes were identified in the excavations; these are located toward the front of the central depression and on the exterior of the western berm. The exterior of the eastern berm was not fully exposed in this excavation.

The dwelling appears to have been initially occupied during the middle phase and again later, toward the end of the occupation (Table 1).

During excavations it was not always possible to separate the occupations due to the thin and homogeneous black soil that occurred in much of the dwelling; nevertheless, a number of areas had deposits showing stratigraphic separation. A midden along the rear of the central depression consisted of a dense deposit of faunal material, charcoal and lithic debris that has been covered by stones. Dates from this midden (Feature 451) place it in the middle phase, while charcoal gathered from the central depression during testing in 2013 and again this field season are dated to the beginning of the late phase. A number of

Figure 1. Dwelling Feature 437 at Phillip's Garden. The area enclosed in orange is the central depression. It is surrounded by perimeter berms to the west, south and east outlined in green. The entrance way is outlined in blue and posthole features are enclosed by yellow lines.



Charcoal Sample Number	Lab no	Measured Radiocar- bon Age	Conventional Ra- diocarbon Age	2 Sigma Calibration
7A269C255	BETA 415912	$1560 \pm 30 \text{ BP}$	$1550 \pm 30 \text{ BP}$	Cal BP 1530 - 1375
7A269D248	BETA 415913	$1690 \pm 30 \text{ BP}$	$1670 \pm 30 \text{ BP}$	Cal BP 1685-1675, 1620-1530
7A269D335 7A269D241	BETA 415914 BEAT 415915	$1690 \pm 30 \text{ BP}$ $1420 \pm 30 \text{ BP}$	1650 ± 30 BP 1430 ± 30 BP	Cal BP 1610-1525 Cal BP 1375-1295

#### Table 1. Radiocarbon dates associated with dwelling Feature 437.

middens outside the dwelling are dated to the middle phase (Features 442 and 449) implying that this period was more intensely occupied compared to the subsequent occupation (Fig. 2).

#### Conclusion

The 2015 excavation of dwelling Feature 437 revealed a relatively small structure that had been occupied both during the middle phase and again toward the terminal period at Phillip Garden. While analysis of the features and material culture recovered from this season continues, this dwelling shows that there is variation in construction at the site throughout its occupation.

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Figure 2. Location of midden features associated with dwelling Feature 437.

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# Report on the MLA-SEM examination of two Precontact-Period pottery shards and three mud samples from the Churchill Valley, Central Labrador

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#### ntroduction

In April 2015, Archaeologist Mr. Roy Skanes of Stassinu Stantec Consulting Limited, provided the author with two small shards of a Precontact-Period ceramic that had been collected from two locations at FgCg-01 (Sandy Banks) - a multi-component precontact and historic-period archaeological site in the Churchill River Valley in Central Labrador. This, and several other sites situated along the Churchill River, are presently being excavated under the direction of Dr. Fred Schwarz as part of the Historic Resources Management Program for Nalcor Energy's Lower Churchill Hydro Electric Project. Mr. Skanes also provided three samples of mud material, which he stated had been collected from two separate locations (Muskrat Falls and Gull Lake). The mud was still quite wet. He requested that the author examine the shards and muds using the Mineral Liberation Analyser- Scanning Electron Microscope (MLA-SEM) laboratory in the CREAIT MAFIIC facility, Bruneau Centre, Memorial University. The objectives of the study were to ascertain the mineralogical nature of the shards and compare them with the mud samples in an attempt to determine whether the ceramic was of local manufacture (i.e., from material similar in composition to the mud samples provided) or, if exotic, to identify potential source locations. The shards were labelled "FgCg-01 - Black" (Cat.# 2244, Feature 1, Locus A) and "FgCg-01 - Beige" (Cat. # 2245, Feature 7, Locus B). The muds were labelled Soil 1, Soil 2, and Soil 3. The author did not collect the samples and has no exact knowledge of their origin aside from what he was told by Mr. Skanes.

During the Spring of 2015, the author had the

material prepared in the CREAIT MLA-SEM facility using procedures described by Wilton and Winter (2012). The samples were analysed over the Summer of 2015 and the data were reprocessed in December 2015.

#### Sample Preparation

Both shard samples were mounted in single 30 mm-in-diameter plastic molds which were filled with epoxy. The epoxy was dried and the resultant sample "puck" for each sample was polished on a Struers Tegra Pol 31 polisher (after Wilton and Winter, 2012). A portion of each of the three mud samples was air-dried and then physically disaggregated. Larger grains (> 250 µm (or 0.250 mm) were removed and the dried mud samples were mounted in similar 30 mm-in-diameter plastic molds with epoxy, dried, and polished. In an attempt to more directly match the mud material with the shards, a portion of each mud sample was placed on a piece of aluminum foil and dried in an oven at temperatures of ca. 40°C. Small chunks of the oven-dried material from each sample were mounted in similar 30 mm-in-diameter plastic molds, filled with epoxy, dried, and polished. The resultant samples were labelled Mud 1, Mud 2, and Mud 3 having been derived from the original mud samples **Soil 1**, **Soil 2** and **Soil 3**, respectively. MLA-SEM

The MLA-SEM laboratory at MUN consists of an associated fast Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) equipped with sophisticated MLA software. The instrument allows for the quantitative evaluation of the abundances, associations, sizes, and shapes of minerals in an automated, systematic fashion. In other words, the MLA allows for the quantitative mapping of mineral phases in individual samples; essentially providing a digital point count of mineral phases.

The MLA software requires that the SEM be configured in back-scatter electron (BSE) image mode wherein minerals that contain denser elements produce brighter images. Essentially the MLA detects mineral particles in the grain mount based on variations in BSE grey scale and then analyses each particle. The MLA assigns a false color to each mineral phase identified in a sample which can be built up to produce a mineral map of the particles in a grain mount. The final products include BSE and falsecolour MLA maps of the samples.

The MLA does not "identify" the mineral phases present, as such, but rather the Energy Dispersive X-Ray (EDX) component of the SEM provides an elemental spectrum (or SIP – Species Identification Protocol) for each phase that the MLA software identifies. The MUN group has developed a sophisticated library of SIP's which can identify almost all minerals present within a given sample; new minerals are added to the library as they are detected. The SIP spectrum simply indicates what elements are pre-

sent in the mineral and their relative concentrations; it does not determine the crystallographic nature of the particle.

The result is a very powerful tool for evaluating the mineralogy, textures, and mineral intergrowths of mineral grains within a polished sample. The MLA essentially provides quantitative data that can define the mineralogical and geochemical nature of geological materials, and in the case of this study, pottery/ceramic shards.

# MLA-SEM Analyses of Each Sample

Both shard samples presented difficulties in polishing as they were soft and readily broke during the polishing process. Consequently the surface of sample **FgCg-01 - Beige** resembles a round atoll missing a centre. Sample **FgCg-01 – Black**, on the other hand, produced a reasonable massive sample.

#### FgCg-01 - Black

Figure 1 is a complete BSE-SEM image of the sample. The shard is about 14 x 6 mm in size and consists of large (sand-sized) lithic (i.e., composed of rock fragments) grains up to 2 mm in diameter within a fine-grained silty matrix. Figure 2 is a higher definition image of the shard. The large lithic fragments consist of subhedral (i.e., lacking well-defined crystal faces) intergrowths of the common silicate minerals diopside (a variety of clinopyroxene), plagioclase (An contents generally around 50), orthopyroxene, and lesser orthoclase with oxide minerals magnetite and ilmenite (Figure 3). The overall textures and proportions of mineral phases suggest that the lithic clasts were derived from the weathering and erosion of a mafic (i.e., dark-coloured, silica-poor) plutonic (i.e. intruded into the Earth, but did not reach the surface) igneous (*i.e.*, formed from a liquid magma) rock. Such a rock would be termed a gabbro. The matrix is composed of very fine particles of predominantly plagioclase and quartz (Figure 4), locally with some biotite

Figure 1. BSE image of shard FgCg-01 - Black (note 10 mm long scale bar).





Figure 2. High definition BSE image of shard FgCg-01 - Black.

Figure 3. BSE image of gabbroic lithic clast in shard FgCg-01 – Black; Opx = orthopyroxene, thin, linear white minerals are magnetite (view is 2 mm across).



Figure 4. BSE image of plagioclase clast in quartz-feldspar matrix of shard FgCg-01 – Black; Cpx = clinopyroxene (view is 1 mm across).







Figure 6. BSE image of plant material "grain" in clay matrix of shard FgCg-01 – Black; note cellular structure ("grain" is view is 0.5 mm long – black line is a remnant of the MLA imaging).

Figure 7. BSE image of plant material "grain" in clay matrix of shard FgCg-01 – Black; note cellular structure ("grain" is view is 0.25 mm across – black line is remnant of MLA imaging).





Figure 8. BSE image of shard FgCg-01 - Beige (note 7.5 mm long scale bar).

#### FgCg-01 - Beige

Figure 8 is a complete BSE-SEM image of the sample and Figure 9 is a higher definition BSE image. The shard is about 10 mm across, but the centre was plucked out during polishing leaving an "atoll"-like form. The shard material generally resembles that in the FgCg-**01 - Black** shard with a fine clay quartzo-feldspathic matrix to larger lithic grains. In this case, however, the lithic grains are composed of subhedral intergrowths of quartz and orthoclase (Figure 9), and quartz and plagioclase; the largest lithic grains are on the order of 2 mm in diameter. Rather than representing a plutonic mafic lithology, these



(mica) grains.

Two unusual grains of plant material were observed to be mixed within the matrix of this shard Figures 6 & 7). What type of plant material that they represent cannot be determined, but the cellular (cellulose?) nature of the material is readily visible in the figures. In fact the matrix clay seems to fill individual cells in the material.



Figure 9. High definition BSE image of shard FgCg-01 – Beige.



Figure 10. Pie-chart illustrating the relative percentages of the top ten minerals identified in shard FgGg-01\_Biege by the MLA-SEM.

were more likely derived from a more granitic type of source rock. In terms of oxide mineral phases, magnetite is much more common than ilmenite; the reverse was true in the **FgCg-01 - Black** shard.

Magnetite grains are up to 0.25 mm in diameter. No plant material was identified in this sample.

A pie chart of the percentages of the top ten mineral phases identified in the shard by MLA-SEM (Figure 10) indicates that the dominant mineral phase is quartz (43%) followed by orthoclase (13%) and plagioclase-An50 (10%). Such a mineralogy is typical of granite. The relative colour differences between the two shards, **Black** vs. **Biege**, probably reflects the differences in their constituent mineralogies. Mafic plutonic rocks are deficient in SiO2 and thus are generally dark, whereas granitic rocks are SiO2-enriched producing a lighter (in this case Beige(?)) colour.

## Soils 1 to 3

As stated in the introduction, only finer material was analysed from each mud sample in the samples labelled Soil, thus no large lithic grains were examined. Irrespective of this differing analysis solely of fine material, the MLA-SEM analyses indicate that none of the samples resemble the shard samples in terms of mineralogy. The top ten mineral phases as identified in each sample are illustrated on the pie charts that constitute Figures 11 to 13. In Soil 1 (Figure 11), the predominant phase is quartz (28%) followed by plagioclase (19%) and orthoclase (12%).

The most relevant point is that the top ten minerals only account for 86% of the minerals in the sample. MLA-SEM analysis indicates that sample Soil 2 (Figure 12) has the most distinct mineralogy compared to both the shards and the other mud samples consisting of 48% clay minerals, perthite (16%), and muscovite (13%). Soil 3 (Figure 13) contains 35% clay minerals, 13% muscovite (mica) and 12% quartz. The preponderance of clay minerals in both Soil 2 and Soil 3 suggest that their constituent material had undergone much stronger weathering than that which comprises

the shard fragments, and, to a certain extent, Soil 1. Muds 1 to 3

In trying to replicate the nature of the shards, the original mud material was baked in an oven and chunks of the resultant material were mounted in epoxy and analysed in a similar manner to the shards. Mud 1

This material resembles a matrix-supported sandstone with rounded to subrounded plagioclase and quartz grains set in a finer silty matrix (Figure 14). The sandy grains average *ca*. 0.2 mm in diameter and are relatively well-sorted (i.e., in general, are the same size and shape). The coarser grains are generally single minerals, rather than rock (aka lithic) grains. In contrast, the shards contain much larger, poorly sorted, coarse grains that are, in general, lithic grains.

## Mud 2

In contrast to **Mud 1**, this sample (Figure 15) consists of very fine clay material generally < 0.02mm in diameter. This clay-rich nature is in keeping with the clay mineralogy defined above for Soil 2. It is very unlike the material in either shard.

#### Mud 3

This sample is transitional between samples Mud 1 and Mud 3, consisting of fine clay portions intermixed with sandy portions (Figure 16). The sandy portions also contain significant platy, micaceous minerals; the muscovite identified in Soil 3. The material, again, does not resemble that of either



Figure 11. Pie-chart illustrating the relative percentages of the top ten minerals identified in shard Soil 1 by the MLA-SEM.



Figure 12. Pie-chart illustrating the relative percentages of the top ten minerals identified in shard Soil 2 by the MLA-SEM.



# Soil-3 - XBSE Area %

Figure 13. Pie-chart illustrating the relative percentages of the top ten minerals identified in shard Soil 3 by the MLA-SEM.



Figure 14: BSE image of sand-sized plagioclase (Plag), quartz, and orthoclase (Ortho) grains in sample Mud 1 (note scalebar in lower right).

Figure 15. BSE image of the clay material that constitutes sample Mud 2 (note scale-bar in lower right).

#### shard.

#### **Grand River Sands**

The author has also examined MLA-SEM data on river sediment from the Churchill River near Happy Valley – Goose Bay provided by Grand River IronSands Inc. (GRI). The GRI material is significantly different from either the shard or mud samples analysed in this study. In all of the GRI samples, iron oxides, biotite (mica) and hornblende (amphibole) are the most common mineral phases by far. In some, biotite constitutes up to 59% of the minerals present in a given sediment sample. The GRI material was collected from active portions of the Churchill River and the extreme mineral and textural variations from the shard material suggests that the original sediment used to make the ceramics was certainly not derived directly from the river system.

#### Conclusions

1)Both mineralogically and texturally, the shards are

different from the mud samples provided. This author must conclude that the original sediment used to create the pottery was not derived from either **Mud 1**, **2** or **3**.

2) The lithic clasts in shard FgCg-01 - Black are gabbroic, whereas those in FgCg-01 -Beige shard are granitic. Both gabbros and granites are common rock types in central Labrador (including the Churchill River Valley) and, in fact, both lithologies are commonly associated in so-called anorthosite complexes. Such complexes include, for example, the Cape Caribou River Allochthon, on the south shore of Grand Lake (e.g., Valvasori et al., 2015), and the Michikamau Intrusion along the western shore of the Smallwood Reservoir (e.g., Dyke et al., 2004). This author would suggest that the precursor material for this pottery was derived from an area underlain by gabbroic to granitic plutonic rocks.

3)The observation of plant material in shard **FgCg-**01 - **Black** was unexpected. The material could possibly just be dirt caught up in the processing of the original sediment to pottery. Alternatively, it could also have been deliberately incorporated within the "clay" to provide greater stability prior to firing. The plant material may also have provided enhanced stability to the pottery itself.

**4)**In terms of further study, the idea arises that if there is sufficient plant material in the ceramic, can it be carbon –dated? Can the plant material itself be identified thus providing perhaps a geographic constraint on origin, or possibly even a seasonal constraint on manufacture?

5)Some of the larger lithic grains in FgCg-01 - Black contained accessory mineral zircon grains that are large enough (> 50  $\mu$ m) to possibly be U-Pb age-



Figure 16. BSE image of the mixed clay and sandy material in sample Mud 3; the sandy material contains abundant platy mica (note scale-bar in lower right).

dated by Laser Ablation Microprobe – Inductively Coupled Plasma – Mass Spectrometer (LAM-ICP-MS). Another study, could be to date the lithic grains and thus possibly constrain the geological unit from which they were derived.

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The upcoming issue of *Etudes/Inuit/Studies* focuses on the Inuit of southern Labrador. Les Inuit au sud du Labrador / The Inuit in Southern Labrador.

Etudes/Inuit/Studies, Vol. 39(1), 2015. With papers by P. Pope, W. Fitzhugh, M. Stopp, H. Rollmann, L. Rankin, G. Mitchell, P. Charest, A. Crompton, A. Faye, and J. Kennedy. If you have any comments or suggestions for the next Archaeology Review please contact Stephen Hull.

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