BC ARCHAEOLOGY FORUM 2025

BURNABY | OCTOBER 18

COLLABORATION & INNOVATION

CO-HOSTED BY SFU ARCHAEOLOGY & THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

BCAPA
BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

SFU FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENT | DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

We respectfully acknowledge the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations, on which SFU Burnaby is located.

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus | Saywell Hall 10081
Moderator: Dr. Sean P. Connaughton

8:00 – 8:55am REGISTRATION
(Refreshments, coffee, tea, water)

9:00 – 9:05am	BCAPA & SFU Welcome / Land Acknowledgement
9:06 – 9:16am	SFU Elder's Welcome: Graunty Terri Mae Galligos, Tla'amin Nation
9:17 – 9:27am	Dean Sean Markey, Simon Fraser University
9:28 – 9:38am	Chair Robert J. Muir, Simon Fraser University
9:40 – 10:05am	**Keynote Speaker Dr. Dana Lepofsky** *The Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Archaeology Project: Protecting and Honouring Indigenous Heritage through Archaeology, Policy, and Planning*
10:06 – 10:12am	**Britt Cleminson & Sadie Edwards, Sugar Cane Archaeology & Esk'etemc First Nation/ University of Northern British Columbia** *The Success of Community-Led Approaches to Cultural Heritage Protection in the Face of Climate Change: A Case Study from the 2024 Chilcotin River (Qw'istkwe) Landslide*
10:13 – 10:19am	**Camilla Speller, University of British Columbia** *ZooMS in BC Archaeology: Expanding the Toolkit for Faunal Identification*
10:20 – 10:26am	**Cara Tremain & Barbara Hilden, Simon Fraser University** *Developing community outreach workshops at the Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Simon Fraser University*
10:27 – 10:33am	**Chelsey Geralda Armstrong, Simon Fraser University** *Reverse Engineering Heritage: How Oil and Gas Archaeological Consultants are Rewriting the AOA Handbook*

10:35 – 10:50am COFFEE BREAK
(Coffee, tea, water)

10:51 – 11:16am	**Keynote Speaker Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn** *Preparing a Future for Indigenous People in Archaeology*
11:17 – 11:23am	**Ginevra Toniello & Roderick Louis, səlilwətaɬ / Tsleil-Waututh Nation** *təmtəmíxʷtən – A sə̓lilwətaɬ History of Connection and Reclamation*
11:24 – 11:30am	**Curt Carbonell & Kelly Steele, Kleanza Consulting Ltd.** *Archaeology Stories on Film*
11:31 – 11:37am	**Maddi Tolmie, University of Victoria** *Coast Salish Prairies as Archaeological Landscapes*
11:38 – 11:44am	**Alessandria Testani, səlilwətaɬ / Tsleil-Waututh Nation** *Layers of Smoke: uncovering a smokehouse near Inlailawatash*
11:45 – 11:51am	**Raini Bevilacqua, K'ómoks First Nation** *Co-management of the Subalpine: Archaeology, Rock Shelters, and the Vancouver Island Marmot*
11:52 – 11:58am	**Jay Hilsden, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Indian Band** *Fish ZooMS: The potential and capabilities of Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry to identify archaeological fish on the Pacific Northwest Coast*
11:59 – 12:05pm	**Ian Sellers & Denis St. Claire, Independent & Tseshaht First Nation** *Tl'ihuuwa Archaeology and Cultural Resiliency Project: 2025 Update*

12:05 – 1:05pm LUNCH
(Lunch, drinks, desserts)

1:06 – 1:31pm	**Keynote Speaker Dr. David Burley** *SFU Archaeology and its Impact in the late 1970s: Formative Years and Personal Reflections*

1:32 – 1:38pm **Max Miner, UBC Oceans and Fisheries**
What the Shell? Molecular identification of fragmentary archaeological bivalve shell through the development of an ancient DNA barcoding assay

1:39 – 1:45pm **Farid Rahemtulla, University of Northern British Columbia**
Research Collaboration on the Babine Archaeology Project: A Different Approach

1:46 – 1:52pm **Jesse Morin, Simon Fraser University/University of British Columbia**
Nephrite (jade) artifact identification and the significance of long-distance exchange in pre-contact western Canada

1:53 – 1:59pm **Jacob Salmen-Hartley, Parks Canada**
Parks Canada Coastal BC Archaeology Update

2:00 – 2:06pm **Walter Homewood, University of Victoria**
Cumulative Effects and Heritage Management Methods and Metrics for Prospective Planning

2:07 – 2:13pm **Greg Morrissey, Campfire Archaeology and Heritage**
Engineering Compromise - Collaborative efforts to preserve Archaeological Heritage

2:14 – 2:20pm **Tina Herd, Sugar Cane Archaeology**
The Advantages and Limitations of Lidar Technology in Emergency Site Mitigation Works: A Case Study from the 2024 Chilcotin River (Qw'istkwe) Landslide.

2:21 – 2:27pm **Evan Hardy & Barbara Hilden, Tsleil-Waututh Nation & Simon Fraser University**
Traditional stories, fresh voices: the youth collections and curation internship project with səl̓ilwətaɬ and SFU's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

2:28 – 2:34pm **Lia Tarle, K'ómoks First Nation**
The K'ómoks Fish Traps: KFN Research & Preservation

2:35 – 2:50pm COFFEE BREAK
(Coffee, tea, water)

2:51 – 2:57pm **Andrew Watson, Millennia Research Ltd.**
DcRu-1446 - A Terminal Pleistocene Archaeological Site on Southern Vancouver Island

2:58 – 3:04pm **Megan Harris, University of British Columbia**
The Full C. fremontii: A Call for a Re-Evaluation of Chenopodium Species in BC Archaeobotanical Assemblages

3:05 – 3:11pm **Emily Purcell, Simon Fraser University**
The big picture from the details: using microremains to see the relationships between people and the land through time

3:12 – 3:18pm **Bryn Letham & Spencer Greening, Simon Fraser University & Gitga'at Nation/UVic**
What's up up north? A brief update on collaborative archaeological research with the Gitga'at Nation, northern coastal BC

3:20 – 4:20pm **Roundtable**
Shared Ground: Cultivating meaningful relationships between CRM & Academic Archaeology
Dave Schaepe, Whitney Spearing, Camilla Speller, Karen Rose Thomas, Chris Verral

4:20 – 4:45pm FINAL THOUGHTS, THANK YOUs, MEET OUR SPONSORS

Please join us for an off-campus social event following the forum at 6:00pm (19+).

Location: The Waldorf | 1489 E. Hastings St. Vancouver

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

Moderator Dr. Sean P. Connaughton

Dr. Sean P. Connaughton is the senior archaeologist and manager for Inlailawatash, a Tsleil-Waututh–owned firm in North Vancouver, British Columbia. As well as having over twenty years of professional experience in both academic and commercial archaeology, he writes, researches, publishes, and teaches. His new book, Unearthing Forgotten Values: Toward a Meaningful Archaeological Practice, reflects his in-field learning from experiences living and working in Indigenous communities in the South Pacific and throughout British Columbia. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Dana Lepofsky

Dana is Professor Emerita in the Dept. of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. Her research has focused on the Northwest Coast and also the South Pacific. She is passionate about using archaeology to bring communities together. She recognizes the extraordinary privilege and responsibility that comes with working with Indigenous communities to document their heritage preserved in the archaeological and eco-cultural records. While not always easy, she is grateful that she gets to practice her archaeology craft on Xwe'etay as a path to deepening her own understanding of and connection to her home.

The Xwe'etay/Lasqueti Archaeology Project: Protecting and Honouring Indigenous Heritage through Archaeology, Policy, and Planning

Britt Cleminson & Sadie Edwards, Sugar Cane Archaeology & Esk'etemc First Nation/University of Northern British Columbia

Britt: An archaeologist and the current CEO of Sugar Cane Archaeology, Britt has worked for Williams Lake First Nation and its corporate entities since 2018. Britt holds a BA in Archaeology (Trent University) and a Graduate Certificate in Heritage Resource Management (Simon Fraser University). Professionally, Britt focuses on community-driven research projects intended to build capacity and support Indigenous title and rights. Sadie: Weytk! Proudly from Esk'etemc First Nation, Sadie (Kumkwimetkwe) has worked both as a Land Guardian for her community and as an archaeologist at Sugar Cane Archaeology. Currently a student at the University of Northern British Columbia (BA Anthropology), Sadie's research interests include connections between community oral histories and the land, the protection of cultural heritage in the face of climate change, and pre/post-contact Secwépemc land use.

ABSTRACT: *The Success of Community-Led Approaches to Cultural Heritage Protection in the Face of Climate Change: A Case Study from the 2024 Chilcotin River (Qw'istkwe) Landslide*
On July 30, 2024, a large landslide occurred on the Chilcotin River and completely dammed the river. The dam created a large lake of debris and excess water up to 15 km behind it before giving way on August 5, 2024. The dam release subsequently flooded the Chilcotin River to its confluence with the Fraser River causing significant damage to archaeological and cultural sites in its path. In the immediate aftermath of the release, Williams Lake First Nation (WLFN) began negotiations with the Province of British Columbia (the Province) sign an MOU for emergency landslide response activities, including the protection of its cultural heritage. In partnership with Esk'etemc (Esk'et) and with funding from the Province, WLFN undertook Phase 1 of its Chilcotin River (Qw'istkwe) Landslide Cultural Heritage Recovery Project (the Project). Fieldwork was conducted by Esk'et, WLFN, and Sugar Cane Archaeology (SCA). With subsequent landslides possible, difficult field access, and the initial extent of damage to cultural sites unknown, the Project team was faced with the task of identifying and prioritizing survey areas across 80 km2 of impact zone. With budget for only a 14-day work scope, it was essential to be able to identify the following key areas: culturally important areas, previously recorded archaeological sites, unrecorded archaeological sites, and areas at high-risk of impact from further floods or

landslides. To determine a Project work plan, the team used a collaborative approach rooted in both Indigenous knowledge (community oral histories, databases) and western science (visual LiDAR analysis and field-truthing). Indigenous knowledge was used to identify culturally important areas for targeted LiDAR analysis. High potential landforms and areas at-risk of further natural impacts were also identified using LiDAR analysis to inform the workplan. Collectively, these areas formed the core of the Project work plan. This presentation is intended to highlight the success of Indigenous-led collaborative approaches that integrate both Indigenous knowledge and western science to create comprehensive Project methodologies. Across the 14-day project field scope, a total of 70 archaeological and cultural heritage sites were visually assessed – resulting in the largest archaeological inventory project conducted on the Chilcotin River to date.

Camilla Speller, University of British Columbia

Camilla Speller is an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department at UBC, and directs research within UBC's Ancient DNA and Proteins (ADαPT) Facility.

ABSTRACT: *ZooMS in BC Archaeology: Expanding the Toolkit for Faunal Identification*
Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS) is a rapidly growing biomolecular technique that identifies archaeological bone and other collagen-based materials through peptide "fingerprinting." By analyzing species-specific differences in collagen, ZooMS can often identify highly fragmented or morphologically ambiguous remains that are otherwise difficult to classify. Within the BC context, ZooMS has proven especially valuable for distinguishing salmon species, identifying marine mammal remains, and working with small, culturally sensitive bone fragments. The ADαPT lab at UBC has worked in partnership with First Nation communities to develop culturally sensitive laboratory protocols and minimally invasive sampling approaches, striving for respectful and collaborative research practice. This talk will highlight the potential of ZooMS as a complementary tool for cultural resource management in BC, with applications ranging from faunal analysis to heritage stewardship.

Cara Tremain & Barbara Hilden, Simon Fraser University

Cara Tremain is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology, specializing in the study of museum collections and the antiquities market. Barbara Hilden is the Director of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and has previous experience working at museums in Canada, the United States, and New Zealand.

Developing community outreach workshops at the Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Simon Fraser University

Chelsey Geralda Armstrong, Simon Fraser University

Dr. Chelsey Geralda Armstrong is an archaeologist and historical ecologist specializing In human-landscape interactions in the past, and how those dynamics relate to the present. She is Assistant Professor in Indigenous Studies and the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University and director of the Historical-Ecological Research Lab.

ABSTRACT: *Reverse Engineering Heritage: How Oil and Gas Archaeological Consultants are Rewriting the AOA Handbook*
In oil and gas consulting contexts, "archaeological potential" has a curious way of being flipped on its head. Models once designed to guide careful investigation are now conveniently reversed or massaged to minimize inspections. This talk walks through two case studies in which practitioners took provincially funded AOAs and, rather than applying them as intended, retooled them to fast-track pipeline permits. Such sleights of hand are not one-off experiments but part of a broader playbook across northwestern British Columbia. Meanwhile, First Nations are left without recourse, and the BC Energy Regulator, the newly minted authority for heritage permitting, sits idle, offering neither enforcement nor meaningful dispute resolutions.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn

Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn is Piikani and grew up on the Peigan Indian Reserve. He is about to retire from a career in archaeology that began in 1980 when the Archaeological Survey of Alberta hired him to join a field crew reconnoitering in the Birch Mountains, north and west of Fort MacMurray. His interest in earth sciences led to degrees in geography and archaeology. After completing his PhD at McGill University, he received a faculty appointment at Simon Fraser University. His main task was to get the First Nations Studies program up and running on the Burnaby campus. He is founding Chair of the Department of First Nations Studies, established in 2012 and now called Indigenous Studies. His internalist approach to archaeology guides his research examining ancient signs of his ancestors on the northern Plains. His research interests include elucidating the historical era, with a focus on the first generations of Piikani to experience reserve life. During his Piikani Historical Archaeology Project he conducted the first archaeological excavation at a residential school in Canada. In 2009 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) contracted him to research unmarked graves and abandoned cemeteries. He continues this work with the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation to study the Brandon Indian Residential School. Their objective is to reclaim the identities of children buried at the school cemeteries.

ABSTRACT: *Preparing a Future for Indigenous People in Archaeology*
The way Indigenous People connect with archaeology is evolving in response to actions and trends occurring in the province, the country, and the discipline. Among the more significant is the current endeavour by the provincial government to overhaul and modernize the Heritage Conservation Act, which is itself long overdue. Ensuring that the first nations perspective is considered amid the din of competing interests is a priority as a large part of the archaeological record represents their history and identity. Given this fact, growing the professional class of individuals who can explain the findings made during surveys and excavations remains urgent. As the country approaches its bicentennial, the Canada we know will undergo significant social and cultural changes that will have long-term impacts on how we practice and experience archaeology. Therefore, developing an approach to archaeology that advances the interest of first nations and emanates from an internal dialogue about the past will lessen dependency on external factors.

Ginevra Toniello & Roderick Louis, səlilwətaɬ / Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Ginevra (she/they) is of settler descent and has been working as the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program Manager at Tsleil-Waututh Nation for the past 8 years. Through their role, Ginevra advocates for the protection and management of archaeological and cultural heritage resources within Tsleil-Waututh territory. They manage a team of 5 archaeology staff who are leading a variety of projects including collections management, repatriation, heritage policy, and research. Roderick (he/him) is a Tsleil-Waututh Nation member who has been working for the Tsleil-Waututh Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Program for the past 5 years. In his current role as Cultural Heritage Coordinator, Roderick assists in archaeological collections management, repatriation, archaeological fieldwork, and research projects. Much of Roderick's work is guided by Tsleil-Waututh Cultural Advisors.

ABSTRACT: *təmtəmíxʷtən – A sə̓lilwətaɬ History of Connection and Reclamation*
sə̓lilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) have lived on the shores of sə̓lilwət (Burrard Inlet, Canada) since time out of mind. təmtəmíxʷtən ("the biggest place for the people") is a prominent sə̓lilwətaɬ village, a central location in sə̓lilwətaɬ Territory and oral histories. Utilizing a multi-disciplinary approach, we explore the history of təmtəmíxʷtən throughout time, examining sə̓lilwətaɬ oral histories and traditional use studies, archaeological evidence, ethnobotany, and colonial history. Many sə̓lilwətaɬ oral histories take place near təmtəmíxʷtən, and sə̓lilwətaɬ peoples have a documented traditional occupation, cultural use, and resource harvesting in the area, highlighting the robust history. Colonial displacement and development have altered much of the landscape, leaving trace archaeological evidence of occupation and plant harvesting. Traditional use data, botanical surveys, and analysis of plant charcoal have provided initial data that allows us to start understanding the ethnobotanical landscape and provide recommendations for the revival of traditional harvesting practices. Through a

partnership with the local regional government, səl̓ilwətaɬ is reclaiming stewardship over təmtəmíxʷtən and working toward reestablishing səl̓ilwətaɬ occupation and use of the area.

Curt Carbonell & Kelly Steele, Kleanza Consulting Ltd.

Curt is an archaeologist with Kleanza Consulting Ltd., based on Vancouver Island, with experience in Coastal, Subarctic Boreal, and Interior Plateau culture regions of British Columbia, as well as in the Lower Athabasca Basin of Alberta, and the Klondike Region in Yukon. He has presented at national and international conferences on the importance of equitable, collaborative, and capacity-building relationships between archaeologists and the host First Nations, most recently at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association, held in St. John's, NL.; Kelly is the Creative Director for Kleanza Consulting Ltd. and the driving force behind Kleanza's Stories and Outreach. She has 25+ years experience in producing, writing, and directing documentaries, social impact campaigns, and podcast content, affording Kelly the opportunity to work in almost every province and territory in Canada. Kelly prioritizes allyship, amplification, and advocacy through storytelling, collaborating with host communities to document oral histories and traditional knowledge about the environment, archaeology, conservation, culture, and language, preserving this on film for future generations, while creating accessible communication and education tools for community members at home and away from their territory.

ABSTRACT: *Archaeology Stories on Film*
Archaeological reporting in Canada is largely inaccessible to the Indigenous communities for whom the archaeology matters most. Our First Nations partners have shared that technical language, report length, and a lack of capacity often result in reports going unread. Inaccessible archaeological reporting perpetuates colonial segregation of research within historically non-Indigenous circles, restricts the dissemination of archaeological research, and stymies heritage education of First Nations youth, thereby creating deleterious feedback effects that impact grass-roots capacity growth. After identifying an 1800-year-old fish weir complex in Minette Bay, near Kitamaat, in northwestern BC, the Haisla Nation Council partnered with Kleanza Consulting Ltd. to collaborate on a documentary that reported on the archaeology of the fish weirs in a manner that was accessible, innovative, centred Indigenous voices, and built capacity. This documentary inspired further collaboration with Haisla Educators and Curriculum Developers to create an educational website as an innovative learning tool. The website houses the film, which is the anchor for curriculum-based lesson plans, student activities, an interactive map, recordings of song and story, photographs, and a vocabulary section – all of which are now used in the classroom. We hope that Archaeology Stories on Film, is a transformative, inspirational, and accessible method of education, and an example of how archaeologists can partner in a meaningful way with Indigenous Communities.

Maddi Tolmie, University of Victoria

Maddi Tolmie is a settler scholar of Croatian, Scottish, and German descent. For her Bachelors, she completed an honours degree in anthropology at Mount Royal University on Treaty 7 territory. Since crossing the Rockies back to the coast, she has been completing her MA at the University of Victoria in Environmental Studies. Her research falls under the school's stream of ethnoecology, where she combines her background in archaeology and anthropology with ethnoecological theory to reframe garry oak ecosystems as landscapes of Coast Salish eco-cultural heritage. Additionally, she is interested in exploring how the American/Canadian border affects heritage and ecosystem management.

ABSTRACT: *Coast Salish Prairies as Archaeological Landscapes*
Garry oak ecosystems (GOEs) are spaces of Indigenous eco-cultural heritage. Garry oaks are the only native species of oak to British Columbia, with much of their ecological home range located on Vancouver Island. With the ongoing effects of colonization and the forced dispossession of Coast Salish groups from the land, GOE stands on Vancouver Island have decreased in area by an estimated 95%. Indigenous fire management and the stewardship of traditional rootfoods, such as blue camas, played a key role in the creation and maintenance of these once widespread savannah ecosystems. It is well recorded that these coastal prairies were cared for through a matriarchal structure, and are home to

Coast Salish food systems, medicines, and spirituality. While the recorded archaeological and ecological legacies of landscape burning and camas cultivation are key aspects of Indigenous histories, these are unlikely to be the only indicators of Indigenous presence and relation within these places. This work follows the completion of a combined surface survey and targeted shovel testing program within one of the last surviving garry oak stands in Scia'new territory – located at CFAD Rocky Point in Metchosin BC. Through the results of 221 shovel tests, placed using a simple random sampling design, I argue that this ecosystem contains a significant amount of archaeological potential, which can no longer be limited to the currently understood legacies of fire and environmental stewardship.

Alessandria Testani, səlilwətaɬ / Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Alessandria (she/they) is an archaeologist of settler descent, specializing in zooarchaeology. They have worked for səlilwətaɬ since 2020 after graduating with an MA from SFU's archaeology program. She operates səlilwətaɬ's Zooarchaeology Laboratory, where the Nation offers zooarchaeological services to other First Nations, academic institutions, and consulting firms.

ABSTRACT: *Layers of Smoke: uncovering a smokehouse near Inlailawatash*
In the Northern Burrard Inlet at the mouth of the Indian River lies the archaeological site DiRr-28, identified by Michelle George and Ginevra Toniello of səlilwətaɬ Treaty, Lands, and Resources Department in 2022. Through column sampling, we were able to recover dense concentrations of burnt salmonid remains from carbon rich layers, interspersed with natural erosion and landslide deposits. Due to the thinness and charcoal-rich nature of the deposits, we have interpreted this site as a salmon preservation area that was used repeatedly between approximately 511-452 mean cal years BP. This aligns with səlilwətaɬ community knowledge and continued use of this area.

Raini Bevilacqua, K'ómoks First Nation

Raini Bevilacqua, M.A. (they/them), is the Archaeologist & Project Coordinator for the K'ómoks First Nation. They live on unceded K'ómoks and Pentlatch Territory.

ABSTRACT: *Co-management of the Subalpine: Archaeology, Rock Shelters, and the Vancouver Island Marmot*
The K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) has been collaborating with the Marmot Recovery Foundation (MRF) to identify high elevation archaeological sites in Strathcona Provincial Park. MRF (https://marmots.org/) has been working for the last twenty years to increase the population of the critically endangered Vancouver Island marmot (Marmota vancouverensis). In 2003 there were less than 30 wild marmots living in a handful of colonies and by 2021 there are now 250 marmots on more than 20 mountains. In 2022 members of MRF identified a rock shelter on Red Pillar in Strathcona Provincial Park, which has an elevation of 2,034 m above sea level. An unexpected rainstorm saw MRF members searching for shelter and under an overhang they found shelter, hearth (fire) feature, and marmot bones with evidence of consumption (cut marks). This shelter could fit up to four people. In 2024, KFN gave a workshop to MRF on how to identify rock shelters in the subalpine. This recent collaboration has lead to the identification of at least four more rock shelter sites.

Jay Hilsden, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Indian Band

ABSTRACT: *Fish ZooMS: The potential and capabilities of Zooarchaeology by Mass Spectrometry to identify archaeological fish on the Pacific Northwest Coast*
Authors: Jay Hilsden, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Indian Band, and Camilla Speller. Archaeological fish remains provide detailed information on paleoenvironmental conditions, marine anthropogenic impacts, and human-animal relationships in the past. Fish bones, however, are challenging to identify to species due to their morphology, a need for accessible and comprehensive comparative collections, and cultural and taphonomic forces creating fragmentary assemblages. Here, we present the potential of zooarchaeology by mass spectrometry (ZooMS), a high-throughput and cost-effective protein-based identification method, to identify archaeological fish to species. Currently, the ADαPT facility has

reference data for more than 40 different fish species commonly identified in Pacific Northwest Coast archaeological assemblages, including 26 flatfish species, all anadromous salmon species, and 10 additional taxa, including sturgeon, Pacific cod, rockfish, sixgill shark, and more. In collaboration with xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) First Nation, we demonstrate the efficacy of this reference data through the analysis of fish elements from several archaeological sites in traditional xʷməθkʷəy̓əm territory, focusing primarily on flatfish. The ZooMS analysis of fish remains across several archaeological contexts will provide insight into the diversity of flatfish caught and consumed by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm ancestors, as well as aiding the reconstruction of marine ecosystems prior to the advent and ongoing process of colonialism. Already, we have identified 11 different taxa, demonstrating ZooMS's ability to identify archaeological fish and thereby support CRM and Indigenous-led excavations and research goals as they relate to Indigenous fishing in the past.

Ian Sellers & Denis St. Claire, Independent & Tseshaht First Nation

Ian Sellers is an archaeologist working with many First Nations across coastal British Columbia on research, rights and title, climate change mitigation, and development archaeology. Since 2008, he has supported the Tseshaht archaeological team, most recently as co-director of the Tl'ihuuwa Archaeology and Cultural Resiliency Project. Denis St. Claire has worked closely with a number of central Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations in the greater Barkley Sound area for more than fifty years. In these decades, he has done extensive field work in both archaeology and ethnography, particularly with the Tseshaht Nation. He remains a Director of multi-season projects and an advisor to the governing Council.

ABSTRACT: *Tl'ihuuwa Archaeology and Cultural Resiliency Project: 2025 Update*
Recent archaeological work at the Tseshaht village of Tl'ihuuwa in Barkley Sound contributes to a cohesive, Nation-driven, cultural historical research program spanning more than five decades. This project adds to consistent excavation data on five sites in Tseshaht homelands, allowing unique and detailed perspective on archaeological site use alongside rich oral historical and ethnographic records.

Keynote Speaker Dr. David Burley

David Burley received his PhD from SFU (1979) and has been a faculty member of the Department of Archaeology since 1985. He has conducted archaeological field research in Tonga, Fiji, and Jamaica. For the past three years, he has directed field schools in collaboration with the Squamish Nation.

ABSTRACT: *SFU Archaeology and its Impact in the late 1970s: Formative Years and Personal Reflections*
It was September 1974 when I first arrived at SFU from New Brunswick as a neophyte PhD student. I had no idea what was about to unfold, or how formative the next four years would be for me personally, or for the future of BC archaeology. This is a story of a different time, without personal computers, the internet, Google Earth, GPS, digital cameras, mobile phones, and so many of the other things critical to present day archaeology. But it also was a time when field research ruled the day, regulatory archaeology was being forged, and First Nations involvement had its nascent beginnings.

Max Miner, UBC Oceans and Fisheries

Max is a Masters student at UBC Oceans and Fisheries. His M.Sc. work takes place in partnership with, and in the territory of, Gitga'at First Nation.He is also a member of the Ancient DNA and Protein Facility at UBC Anthropology.

What the Shell? Molecular identification of fragmentary archaeological bivalve shell through the development of an ancient DNA barcoding assay

Farid Rahemtulla, University of Northern British Columbia

Farid is a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology at UNBC.

ABSTRACT: *Research Collaboration on the Babine Archaeology Project: A Different Approach*
Collaborating with Indigenous communities can be challenging when trying to define specific research questions of interest. Lack of familiarity with the archaeological process can hinder community input on overall research goals and avenues for further work. With this in mind, a different approach was taken upon the initiation of the Babine Archaeology Project in 2010, where consultations between UNBC and the Lake Babine Nation led to defining broad areas of interest to the community. These larger scale guidelines provided a starting point from which to focus on specific archaeological sites and areas of interest. The broader areas of interest are; 1) ancient villages and trails; 2) fish weirs on the river; and 3) rock art on the lakeshore. Several years later and with further guidance from the community, a number of significant findings (highlighted in this presentation) are beginning to transform our understanding of the deep Indigenous history of the area. Without this particular collaborative approach, it is highly unlikely that the archaeological research would have taken the same trajectory.

Jesse Morin, Simon Fraser University/University of British Columbia

Jesse Morin is an archaeologist and ethnohistorian who works for Tsleil-Waututh Nation, K'ómoks First Nation, and Takla Nation, and is an Adjunct Professor at the Department of Archaeology at SFU and the Institute of Oceans and Fisheries at UBC. Jesse holds a PhD from UBC, and is a specialist in stone tools and the archaeology of Salish peoples. Much of his recent research has focussed on using ancient salmon DNA to interpret past fisheries.

ABSTRACT: *Nephrite (jade) artifact identification and the significance of long-distance exchange in pre-contact western Canada*
Nephrite (jade) was used for over 3000 years along the western margin of North America to make ground stone celts for woodworking. Labour-intensive nephrite celts were transported up to 1400 km east of their manufacture origin and are one of the most widely dispersed artifacts in pre-contact Canada. We employ portable X-ray fluorescence, high-resolution gamma-ray spectrometry, and 3D scan-derived density measures to confirm the identification of nephrite and plot all known archaeological occurrences east of the Rocky Mountains in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. We then explore cultural mechanisms that dispersed jade across mountainous and forested regions and across several distinct linguistic boundaries. Nephrite was selected by pre-contact people because the fibrous mineralogy imparted longevity to celts used for intensive chopping and finishing on the Northwest Coast and Canadian Plateau regions (cedar log preparation for boats and houses) but some celts were transported long distances east of the Rocky Mountains to places where people lacked a need for such woodworking tools. Nephrite celts were likely gifts to establish peaceful alliances among disparate groups or prestige items acquired in exchange for hides, meat, and clothing. We link these artifacts to a thousand-year-old migration of Dene ancestors through territory of interior Salish people who produced celts. Jade items are indicators of immense social networks that transcended linguistic divides and served adaptive purposes among forest-dwelling people.

Jacob Salmen-Hartley, Parks Canada

Jacob Salmen-Hartley is an archaeologist working for Parks Canada. He has a master's degree from UVic and has been working as a professional archaeologist in BC for more than a decade. He lives in the beautiful Quw'utsun Valley.

ABSTRACT: *Parks Canada Coastal BC Archaeology Update*
This presentation provides an overview of the coastal BC archaeology program at Parks Canada. I will describe the broader archaeology function at Parks Canada including applicable federal legislation and policy. I will provide an overview of the Parks Canada archaeological system with information relevant

for consulting archaeologists carrying out work on lands managed by Parks Canada. Finally, I will discuss two specific projects where we have been working collaboratively to mitigate the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage.

Walter Homewood, University of Victoria

Walter Homewood is a PhD candidate in the the University of Victoria's School of Environmental Studies. He completed his BA and MA in archaeology at Simon Fraser University and has worked as a professional archaeologist in British Columbia since 2014.

ABSTRACT: *Cumulative Effects and Heritage Management Methods and Metrics for Prospective Planning*
Archaeological sites are a non-renewable resource. Continuous and repeated impacts will accumulate over time and result in all sites within a management area being destroyed. Despite this reality, metrics tracking the rate of site destruction are not collected nor are projections made to estimate a future date of complete material erasure at the site or regional level. Here, I propose a cumulative effects framework for heritage management with the capability of tracking rates of destruction for improved management decision making through a prospective analysis. Based on a methodology originally developed for environmental assessments, I have adapted a cumulative effects framework to incorporated data already collected by archaeologists and widely available through government databases. Archaeology, as an inherently historical field, is well suited to understand how human behaviour has brought us to a point; missing from heritage management is the application of that knowledge to our decision making.

Greg Morrissey, Campfire Archaeology and Heritage

Engineering Compromise - Collaborative efforts to preserve Archaeological Heritage

Tina Herd, Sugar Cane Archaeology

Originally from Australia, Tina has worked with Sugar Cane Archaeology since April 2020. Tina holds a BA(Hon) in History (Flinders University) and a Bachelor of Archaeology (Flinders University). Tina's research interests include the impacts of forestry, industry, and climate change on archaeological sites, ways to support Indigenous title and rights, and where to find the best poutine in BC.

ABSTRACT: *The Advantages and Limitations of Lidar Technology in Emergency Site Mitigation Works: A Case Study from the 2024 Chilcotin River (Qw'istkwe) Landslide*
The use of Lidar technology in archaeological research has risen in recent years and has become a crucial tool in documenting cultural heritage sites threatened by natural disasters and climate change. One such affected area was the landslide which blocked the Chilcotin River on July 30th, 2024, and which severely impacted archaeological and cultural heritage sites along the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers. In the ensuing weeks, Williams Lake First Nation in partnership with Esk'etemc (Esk'et) and with funding from the Province of BC conducted emergency mitigation works on affected sites. Lidar became a critical tool for the field crew to review the areas of greatest concern. Focusing on key sites within the Study Area, this talk will analyse the accuracy of the Lidar compared to the on-site data recorded by the field crew. Lidar is an amazing tool for seeing what we can't see, whether in forestry developments, on private property, or in areas too unsafe to access, but it does not see all. Combined with ground-truthing, though, it is invaluable for archaeological research and emergency site mitigation works.

Evan Hardy & Barbara Hilden, Tsleil-Waututh Nation & Simon Fraser University

Evan Hardy has worked for Tsleil-Waututh Nation for the past seven years. For the past five years he been in the role of Senior Repatriation and Collection Specialist where he has worked to establish sleẇəneẇtxʷ, the səl̓ilwətaɬ archaeological repository, a community exhibit space, and conduct several repatriations. Hardy represents Tsleil-Waututh at the Repository Roundtable, a collective advocacy

group working to change legislation related to archaeological repositories in the province. Barbara Hilden is the director of SFU's Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology. She moved to Vancouver from Aotearoa/New Zealand in 2022, where she had been the director of Northland's Kauri Museum and, before that, head of the collections and curatorial team at Puke Ariki Museum. Barbara has lived and worked in five countries on four continents, working to decolonise and indigenise the museum; create co-curation opportunities; and find pathways to support visitor-centred learning.

ABSTRACT: *Traditional stories, fresh voices: the youth collections and curation internship project with səl̓ilwətaɬ and SFU's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology*
Over the past five years səl̓ilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) has worked to establish an archaeological repository and community exhibit space to facilitate repatriation of səl̓ilwətaɬ belongings. This work has provided the opportunity to build capacity and engage səl̓ilwətaɬ youth. For the past two summers səl̓ilwətaɬ and Simon Fraser University's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology have partnered on a youth collections and curation internship. Over the course of the internship səl̓ilwətaɬ youth learned the basics of handling and caring for collections, accessioning and deaccessioning items, and exhibit preparation and curation. For intern Gordon Dick's (səl̓ilwətaɬ youth) final project he designed, illustrated and curated an exhibit based on the səl̓ilwətaɬ oral history. The exhibit approaches Indigenous archaeology from an alternate perspective. Instead of understanding the archaeological record through oral history, Dick uses archaeological record in the form of lithic material, in addition to his chosen medium, comic illustration, for a mixed medium re-telling of sʔi:ɬqəy – the two headed serpent story. The exhibit incorporates lithic material from Tsleil-Waututh village təmtəmíxʷtən (Belcarra municipal park), the location where the serpent story takes place. The exhibit will be on display at the Simon Fraser University's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology until Spring 2026 at which point it will be transferred to Tsleil-Waututh's community exhibit space and the belongings formally repatriated to the community.

Lia Tarle, K'ómoks First Nation

Lia Tarle is an archaeologist and cultural heritage researcher with experience in museum curation and collections management. As Archaeologist & Repatriation Manager for the K'ómoks First Nation, she is responsible for academic research collaborations, community-based cultural heritage research, repatriation, site protection, and public outreach.

ABSTRACT: *The K'ómoks Fish Traps: KFN Research & Preservation*
The K'ómoks Estuary (DkSf-43) and Goose Spit lagoon (DkSf-44) have provided large, sheltered and stable environments for the development and preservation of wood stake fish trap technology over past 2000 years. Here, the K'ómoks First Nation's Pentlatch Ancestors made one of the largest known fish trap complexes on the Northwest Coast. KFN is undertaking a number of community archaeology projects to document their ancient fisheries practices, and to build capacity for cultural heritage work within the Nation. This talk will summarize fish trap research and conservation projects currently underway at KFN, including drone and GPS mapping of rapidly-eroding fish traps on the north side of the K'ómoks Estuary (DkSf-43), and the conservation of a 6-meter long, 550-year-old wooden fish trap panel.

Andrew Watson, Millennia Research Ltd.

Andrew Watson MPhil is a graduate from the Archaeology program at Simon Fraser University (2000). His Graduate work was on a lithic assemblage from Pupicina Pec, Istria, Croatia (Cambridge 2002). He has worked on three continents and on projects from the Upper Paleolithic to World War 2. He is currently a Project Manager and Coastal Field Director at Millennia Research Ltd where he is preparing to be a North West Coast permit holder.

ABSTRACT: *DcRu-1446 - A Terminal Pleistocene Archaeological Site on Southern Vancouver Island*
The chance find of bison bones in deeply buried-marsh sediments on a construction site in Saanich, located on the southern end of Vancouver Island within the Greater Victoria area, led to the

recognition of cut-marked bones and a multi-month, multi-disciplinary project to understand, record and assess these faunal remains and their setting. The results of this work documented a 1,300 year period of human exploitation of bison, from 14,000 years ago to 12,700 years ago. Over 700 large (mammal?) faunal remains were collected, mainly bison (Bison antiquss?) representing at least four individuals, but also including giant ground sloth (Megalonyx sp.) deer, elk and possibly mountain goat. Other remains include bird, fish, reptile, small mammals, insects, diatoms and plant fossils, providing a complete picture of the Terminal Pleistocene environmental changes at this location. The age of the site, the spectacular preservation of the contents and it's location at the southern end of the coastal migration route give this site international importance. While the site is now inaccessible due to development, work is ongoing to conserve, assess and further understand this find. For the archaeological community this is an exciting new site type to target for future research.

Megan Harris, University of British Columbia

Megan is a PhD candidate at UBC. Their research focuses on the palaeobotanical remains of the Chuchuwayha Rock Shelter in the traditional unceded territory of the Upper Similkameen Indian Band in the southern Interior.

ABSTRACT: *The Full C. fremontii: A Call for a Re-Evaluation of Chenopodium Species in BC Archaeobotanical Assemblages*
Chenopodium is an abundant seed recovered from paleoethnobotanical assemblages in the Fraser and Columbia Plateaus of North America. While prevalent in the paleobotanical record, they are often discounted as incidental environmental inclusions. This genus appears in great abundance across both Plateaus and likely has some role in the lifeways of those Plateau peoples. We have seen from research around the world and at other Plateau sites the importance of *Chenopodium* species in terms of foodways and lifeways. This presentation calls for a re-examination of *Chenopodium* species in archaeobotanical assemblages in BC. Through the lens of the seed assemblage of the Chuchuwayha Rock Shelter in southern British Columbia within the traditional unceded territory of the Upper Similkameen Indian Band (USIB), I examine Chenopodium species within USIB's territory, the ethnographic record, and other sites within the Plateau. These avenues demonstrate that there is more complexity to Chenopodium in archaeobotanical assemblages than has been previously thought.

Emily Purcell, Simon Fraser University

Emily is a consulting archaeologist at Baseline Archaeological Services in Courtenay BC. She recently completed her MA in archaeology at SFU.

ABSTRACT: *The big picture from the details: using microremains to see the relationships between people and the land through time*
Siliceous microremains (phytoliths, diatoms, sponges) have wide application in paleoecological and cultural interpretation, but have not been widely applied in freshwater or archaeological contexts in British Columbia. These microremains are present in both natural and cultural deposits in a Sts'ailes settlement constellation at the confluence of the Harrison and Chehalis Rivers. Results from the analysis of riverine profiles indicate environmental shifts over a 3000-year timespan and suggest that further application of these methods in BC may enhance understanding of the important relationship between people, the land, and climate.

Bryn Letham & Spencer Greening, Simon Fraser University & Gitga'at Nation/UVic

Bryn is a new Assistant Professor at SFU who's primary area of research is in the archaeology and paleoenvironments of the north coast of BC. Spencer is a community researcher from the Gitga'at Nation and a Liber Ero postdoctoral fellow at the University of Victoria. Both have been working as partners on north coast archaeological, ecological, and Indigenous historical research for nearly a decade.

ABSTRACT: *What's up up north? A brief update on collaborative archaeological research with the Gitga'at Nation, northern coastal BC*
The talk presents a brief overview of several collaborative research projects with the Gitga'at Nation in northern coastal BC. Work partnered with Gitga'at researchers and community members, Gitga'at Guardians, and non-Indigenous archaeologists and other specialists (from SFU and beyond) has been compiling archaeological data, paleoenvironmental data, and Indigenous historical information to work towards documenting long-term histories of cultural landscapes on the north coast. This brief talk will showcase several case studies of innovative methods and approaches and some examples of key findings regarding the long-term human-environmental histories of culturally significant locations for the Gitga'at.

Panelists

Dr. Camilla Speller is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. She is the Director of the Ancient DNA and Proteins (ADαPT) Facility, where she directs research into ancient DNA, ancient proteomics, and collagen peptide mass fingerprinting (known as ZooMS). Camilla strives to find new applications for biomolecular archaeology and develop these techniques to make them more relevant and accessible to First Nations communities.

Dr. David Schaepe is the Director & Senior Archaeologist of the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre at Stó:lō Nation. Dave's research is multi-disciplinary in nature, and he possesses nearly 30 years of experience as a community-based researcher addressing issues such as aboriginal rights and title and heritage management policy and practice to name only a few. He is an adjunct professor in Simon Fraser University's School of Resource and Environmental Management as well as at the University of the Fraser Valley's Indigenous Studies and Environmental Departments.

Chris Verral possesses over a decade of experience in cultural resource management in British Columbia. He worked for AMEC, Wood, and WSP before taking a new role last fall as the Civic Archaeologist for the City of Burnaby. In this role, Chris provides advice on technical plans and proposals, reviews and advises on studies conducted by external archaeological consultants and develops internal city policy. He is also an Associate Member and currently a Director of the British Columbia Association of Professional Archaeologists.

Karen Rose Thomas is from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation with family ties to the Semiahmoo and Squamish Nations. She is currently pursuing her PhD in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Karen's dissertation research is a mixed-method, multi-modal and multi-temporal exploration of Coast Salish archaeology, land and relationships. She holds a BA (Hons) from SFU and an MA from UBC Anthropology. Karen is also an archaeologist at Inlailawatash.

Whitney Spearing wears many hats. She is currently the Director of Natural Resources for Williams Lake First Nation, the Lead Investigator for the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School Investigation (as seen in the Oscar-nominated documentary Sugarcane), and Founder of Striata. She's a graduate of UNBC, and SFU Alumni under the Heritage Resource Management Program, and the current President of the BCAPA.

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