MONITORING AND INSPECTION
GRACE ISLET 2014
(LOT A, D.L. 47, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 45887)

HERITAGE ALTERATION PERMIT 2011-0343

May 6, 2015

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Prepared for

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

At the request of Barry Slawsky of #2 Laurier Place, Edmonton, Alberta, archaeological surface inspection and monitoring was undertaken during clearing and initial construction for a private home on Grace Islet (Lot A, D.L. 47, Cowichan District, Plan 45887), Salt Spring Island, B.C. This property is referred to herein as Grace Islet. The work was undertaken under HCA Alteration Permit Number 2011-0343. This report details the results of the monitoring and surface inspection on Grace Islet during the year 2014 at the end of which the project was curtailed. This document thus constitutes the closure report on the required archaeological monitoring of the site and project.

The surface inspection and monitoring on Grace Islet was undertaken in response to reports of human burials and associated archaeological remains on the Islet. s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16 During the first, and notably preliminary, archaeological inventories and site mapping of the project area, an archaeological site known as the Ganges Village Site – DfRu-9 was identified. s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16 . Sometime after 2007, the preliminary mapping of the boundaries of Ganges Village Site was changed to include Grace Islet even though no evidence of archaeological remains was found or noted at the time. Following unconfirmed reports by non- professionals, the owner carried out a two-phased archaeological assessment study, including both Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA) and an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) of the project area to determine the veracity of the reports. s.16
s.16

In 2014, there were three periods of monitoring and visual inspection carried out; in June, July and October of 2014. No burial remains, no evidence of burial cairns, burial cemeteries or anything archaeological was found during the monitoring and visual assessment carried out. No burials, cemeteries, burial cairn or like evidence of prehistoric activity of any sort was found during three separate monitoring visits. Specific monitoring was carried out of all surface disturbance activities. Close visual inspections were undertaken of the removal of all surface soils, vegetation and rock debris within the whole of the proposed building footprint. Nothing of any importance or any evidence suggesting potential was found.

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All observations, conclusions, and recommendations made in this report are the result of research and field visits, investigations and assessments undertaken by Bruce F. Ball.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Nothin' here but history. Can you see what has been done (Steely Dan, The Caves of Altamira 1976).

At the request of Barry Slawsky of #2 Laurier Place, Edmonton, Alberta, archaeological surface inspection and monitoring was undertaken during clearing, initial site preparation and construction of a private home on Grace Islet (Lot A, D.L. 47, Cowichan District, Plan 45887), Salt Spring Island, B.C. (Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4). This property is referred to herein as Grace Islet. The work was undertaken under HCA Alteration Permit Number 2011-0343 issued to Barry Slawsky. This report details the results of the monitoring and surface inspection on Grace Islet during the year 2014 at the end of which the project was curtailed. This document thus constitutes the closure report on the required archaeological monitoring of the site and project. The field inspection and monitoring were carried out by Bruce F. Ball.

Figure 1. Map showing the general location of Grace Islet, Salt Spring Island.

Figure 2. Map showing the location of Grace Islet in Ganges Harbour.

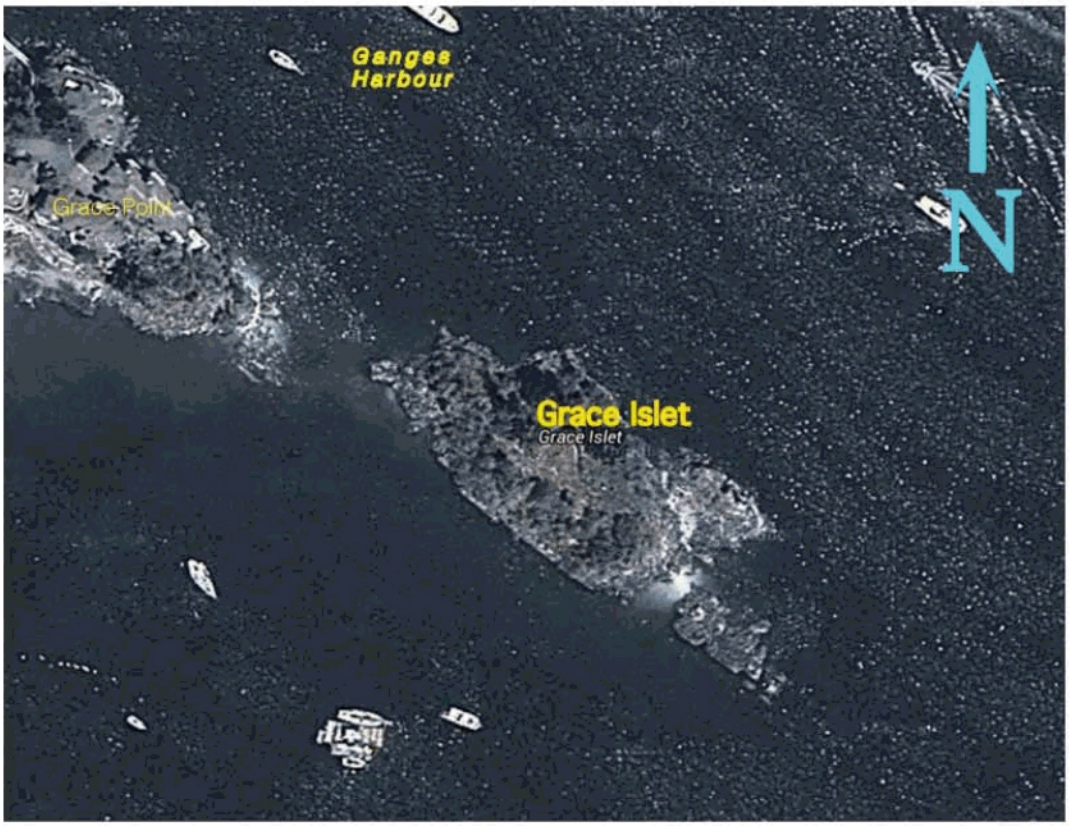

Figure 3. Arial view from Google maps showing Grace Islet relative to Grace point in Ganges Harbour.

Figure 4. Picture showing Grace Islet taken June 5, 2014. View looks South.

2.0 PROJECT AREA

The Grace Islet development property lies on a rocky piece of land situated immediately southeast of a small peninsula of land that juts out from the west side of Ganges Harbour on Salt Spring Island (Figures 2, 3 and 5). Grace Islet encompasses a total landmass of .32 hectares. The Islet is comprised of sandstone bedrock typical of the region, surficial weathered sandstone blocks and shallow soil development. The sandstone bedrock is partly covered by a dark organic soil that has developed over the years and now supports vegetation that includes grasses, Oregon grape, fescue, camas, Garry Oak and a few coniferous trees.

The proposed residential development on the subject property was to consist of the construction of a residential dwelling with foundations, associated infrastructure including power and water, a boat dock, access paths and natural landscaping features. A utility conduit containing service lines (power and water) was previously installed to the Islet and minor hook-ups were needed from the existing terminus to the house. Minor changes to the landscape immediately adjacent to the proposed building footprint were needed. No other ground disturbance was anticipated or undertaken. The actual building footprint covers a small proportion of the total land mass and the residual portions of the Islet were to remain undeveloped.

2.2 BACKGROUND

> Normally, sites located on small islands would have been documented as separate sites and the inclusion of Grace Islet as part of site DfRu-09 has created some confusion about the content and nature of archaeological deposits and other cultural features on this small islet (Simonsen and Somogyi 2010:10).

Recording of archaeological sites in the Ganges/Grace Islet study area may be traced to 1953 when a local resident reported archaeological materials occurring as a result of road building in the town of Ganges. Table 1 provides a list of archaeological projects and amateur reports concerning the archaeological site DfRu-009 recorded as a village situated in the town of Ganges. When the site was first recorded Grace Islet was not included within the site boundaries. And, although an s.13 resident, Beth Hill, had included the Islet as part of DhRu-009, two subsequent regional surveys headed by qualified and accomplished archaeologists did not.

Table 1. List of archaeological reports and surveys relevant to the Ganges/Grace Islet study area (from DhRu-009 Site form).

Date	Affiliation/HCA Permit	Description	Comments
1953	Unknown Collector	Human Remains reported	Location likely Ganges
1966	B.C. Provincial Museum	Artifacts report by local resident	Location likely Ganges
1971	Beth Hill	"Independent Researcher" – unknown	Grace Islet included as part of DfRu-009
1974	Cassidy & Seymour 1974-0001d	Salt Spring Island Archaeological Survey	Site recorded – Ganges town
1975	Acheson, Cassidy & Claxton 1975-6c	The Archaeological Survey Of The Southwestern Gulf Of Georgia	No comment re Grace Islet
1998	Arch Branch	Comment on Site form	Archaeological materials noted in Ganges
2006	s.22 unsolicited report	Letter report of archaeological skeletal remains found by kayakers	Report is not professionally confirmed.
2010	Simonsen 2007-074	AIA report	Isolated remains in disturbed context found
2013	Kristensen 2013-043	Report on the Examination of Disturbed Soils	Isolated Finds – 2 stemmed points found

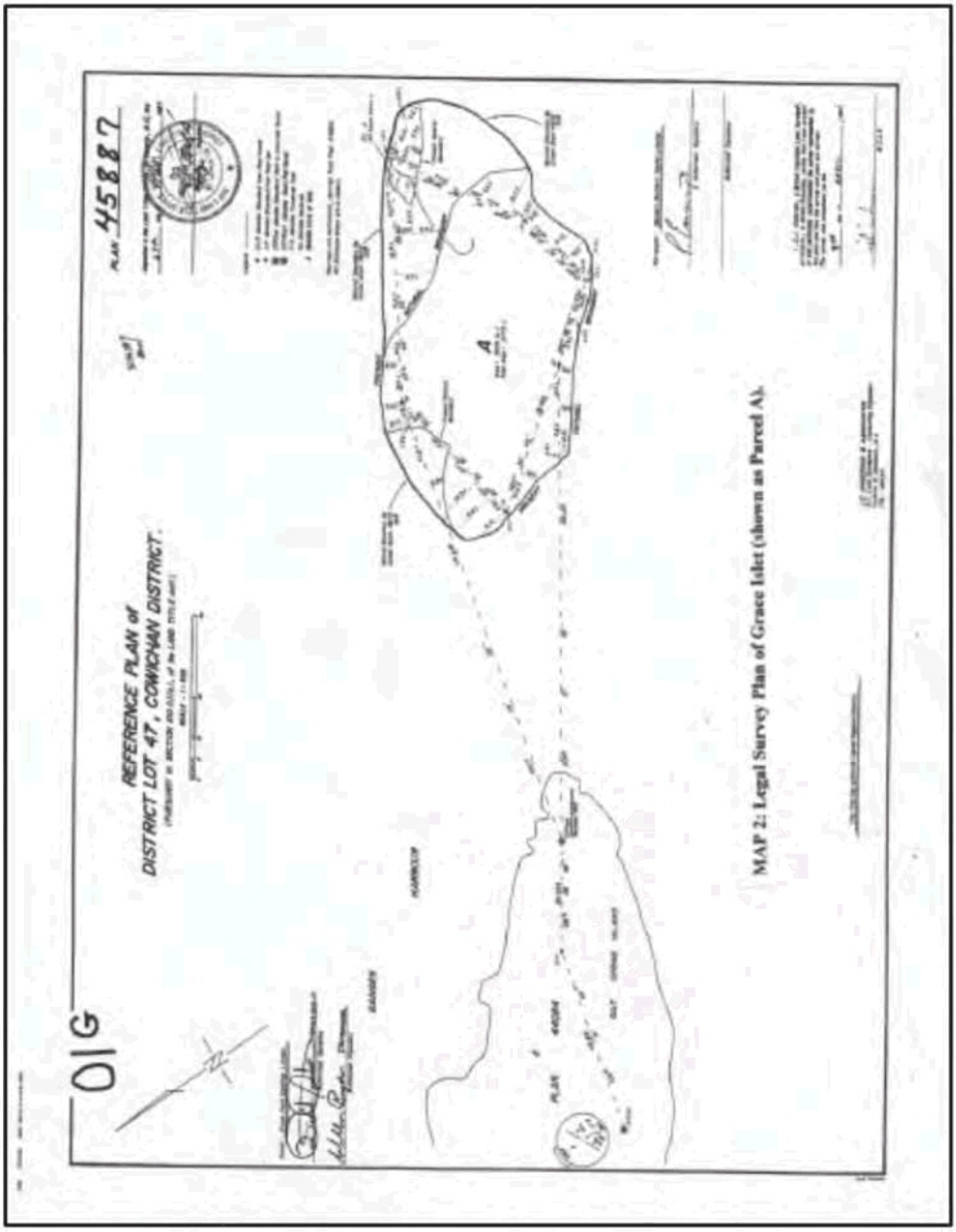

Figure 5. Legal Plan of Grace Island Property from April 9, 1987 survey showing the incorporation of the small piece of land on the east side where a navigational beacon is located.

While, the site form record documents several visits to DfRu-009 since 1953, it is not always clear if the visits included Grace Islet. However, despite the evidence, gradually over the years, Grace Islet was incorporated into the general area of interest known as DfRu-009; mostly the result of an s.13 report from a local s.13 it upon himself to submit a letter report to the Archaeology Branch on behalf of a non-local First Nation.

> Archaeological site DfRu-9, is known as the Ganges village. The site was first recorded in the 1950s, though no formal studies were conducted at the site until 2010. A 1976 archaeological

> survey of the Gulf Islands area reported that the main portion of site DfRu-9, which was situated within the developed area of Ganges, was largely destroyed, though a note in the provincial registry indicated that some areas of intact deposits were still present in 1998 (Detailed Site Report- DfRu-9). Grace Islet was included in the original site record as being part of the larger site. Very few cultural materials have been collected from the Ganges Village part of the site. These include a jade celt, a ground slate point and a polished slate bowl, all held in private collections. The ground slate bowl may likely be a Chinese inkwell (Pers. Comm. Grant Keddie February 21, 2013). As already mentioned above, a 2010 archaeological impact assessment was conducted on Grace Islet by The Bastion Group Heritage Consultants (Simonsen and Symogyi 2010) resulted in 15 rock features and two areas associated with human remains being reported (Kristensen 2013:4).

s.13,s.16

The primary concern raised in 2006, apparently, involved the alleged use of the Islet as a burial place. As most researchers know and understand, there is clear documentation of archaeological burials in geographic situations such as Grace Islet and reasonable evidence exists of the use of various Gulf Island locations by various ethnographic groups.
s.13,s.16

> It is difficult to determine a specific First Nation association to Grace Islet since we have found no specific reference to this location . . . Suffice it to say that at least 10 B.C. First Nation groups have indicated that the Ganges Harbour locale is included in their Asserted Claim to traditional territory in the Gulf Islands region. This does not include any of the adjacent U.S. tribes (such as the Lummi) who are also known to have frequented this area (Barnett, 1955; Hill-Tout, 1978; Suttles, 1951, 1987 and 1990).
>
> Small islands (such as Grace Islet) were often used in the past as burial sites by local Coast Salish people of southern Vancouver Island and adjacent Gulf Islands. Some of these islands (depending upon size and cultural association with individuals who may have been interred there) were also used as temporary camps and processing sites associated with intensive shellfish gathering and processing activity. These cultural and subsistence pursuits often left archaeological evidence in the form of shell midden deposits, rock cairns and other burial features such as above-ground platform burials (Simonsen and Symogyi (sic) 2010 2010:8-9).

The idea that Grace Islet was used for prehistoric burials originates in the 2006 letter submitted to the Archaeology Branch by s.22 in June of 2006. In this letter, s.22 contends that skeletal elements discovered along the southeastern (eastern) shoreline and reported to the RCMP, along with others he reports as human originate from "burial cairns" constructed on the Islet from the existing sandstone slabs that commonly and naturally occur on the Islet. The problem is that there exists little sound data to support the contention.

s.13,s.16 s.22 apparently visited the Islet on April 20, 2006 and describes finding a small grouping of bones on the Southeastern shore. He describes the bones as being "ancient human remains" and the situation as being "the consequence of past vandalism of a rock slab burial feature". No evidence of any sort is presented to support these contentions.
s.13,s.16,s.22

At the owners request, Simonsen carried out a preliminary field inspection of the Islet on July

3, 2006, approximately 6 weeks after s.22 s.13,s.16 visit to the Islet. He was not privy to the letter at the time nor was he aware of s.22 ; activities. The July 2006, a field reconnaissance at Grace Islet, carried out by Simonsen, noted the following:

> Although no direct evidence of ancient human burial remains was observed, several rock features were noted, particularly along the west side of the island and within some of the interior parts. Most of these features conform to the shape and size of previously documented rock cairn structures that are relatively common throughout southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands region.
>
> Small scatters of shell refuse material were observed in association with rock outcrops along the shoreline on the west and south ends of the island. This material appeared to have little or no depth, possibly due to the rocky nature of underlying deposits, and could be of natural origin (i.e. shell refuse associated with seabird and otter consumption of shellfish resources, as is commonly present throughout the Gulf Islands area) rather that the result of past cultural activity.
>
> Most of the island's interior parts contain rock outcrops that are actively exfoiliating (sic). These are interspersed by small meadow-like pockets of tall grass and blackberry vines. As no surface exposures were present in most of these areas, their sub-surface constituents were unknown and could only be confirmed by a sub-surface archaeological testing program – which was beyond the scope of the AOA study.
>
> The island also had considerable evidence of ongoing contemporary use and occupation by unauthorized visitors. This was in the form of short footpaths, empty beer cans and bottles, an old blanket and other recent debris (Simonsen and Somogyi 2010 2010:11).

To summarize, no compelling archaeological evidence, including burials, was found. s.13,s.1 s.13,s.16 Rock piles were noted and described as those typically found throughout the Gulf Islands. These are correctly referred to as rock features but there was no evidence to infer these rock piles were used as burial cairns; s.13,s.16

s.22 was present during Simonsen's AIA field survey of the island on March 14 and 16, 2007 for portions of the first and last day of field work.

> The archaeological field investigation phase of the Grace Islet AIA project was conducted between March 14th and March 16th of 2007 with a crew of six individuals. The latter consisted of Bastion Group Archaeologists, Bjorn Simonsen and John Somogyi, assisted by local First Nations members, Simon Smith (Tsartlip Band), Jackie Jacks (Tseycum Band), Adrian Underwood (Tsawout Band) and Philip Joe (Cowichan Tribes). Archaeologist s.22 of the Hul'quimi'num Treaty Group, was also present (Simonsen and Somogyi 2010:12).

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16 Simonsen's AIA resulted in the identification of 15 locations of rock piles that could be construed as cultural burial cairns and recommended that since the potential existed these rock features may have been burial cairns, irrespective of their evidentiary significance, were avoided and safeguarded in the design and construction of the project, and shielded from disturbance with the construction of wooden covers.

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

since the 2006 report by s.22 the land owner attempted to put forward mitigation on several levels, all of which were either ignored, rejected, denied or rebuked.

s.13,s.16

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Surface inspection and monitoring was carried out during the periods of June 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, July 28, 29 and 30, October 6, 7 and 8. The field crew consisted of Bruce F. Ball and Bjorn Simonsen.

The project began with an initial visual inspection of the entire Islet, led by Bjorn Simonsen who at the time had been involved in the project since 2007. An extensive visual survey of the entire Islet was carried out and each of the identified rock features and location of special interest were examined. During this examination, close scrutiny of the ground surface was maintained for the presence of archaeological artifacts, materials, features or other evidence of past human settlement and land use.

Following the visual reconnaissance and examination, monitoring of all activities involving disturbance of the ground surface within the building footprint was carried out.

4.0 RESULTS

There were three periods of monitoring when surface disturbance was expected. These were in June, July and October of 2014. Construction began June 3, 2014. At this time the soils, grasses and brush was removed from the building footprint and associated staging areas, assembly of wooden boxes to cover the rock features found within the footprint began. The construction activities undertaken June 3 to June 6, 2014 are documented in Figures 4 to 19 following. Nothing of archaeological significance was suggested, seen or found during this period. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

Many of th s.13,s.16 consisted of rocks of such size and weight, and in their placement with their surroundings, it appears unlikely that they would serve as a cairn (cf. Figures 8 and 9). During the clearing it became evident that clearing had occurred sometime in the past prior to the purchase of the property by the current landowner. Several areas displayed significant previous disturbance (cf. Figures 5, 7, 12, 14, 18, 27 and 28). This disturbance was apparent in the homogeneity of the soils and the back dirt and rock piles found on the surface. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

4.1 JUNE 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2014 INSPECTION AND MONITORING

The following pictures document the inspection and monitoring between June 3 and 6, 2014.

Figure 4. Picture taken June 3, 2014 showing initial stages of construction. Note surveyors mapping, first boxes constructed on rock features in center of the picture.

Figure 5. Picture showing tracked back-hoe machine clearing in the northwest of the footprint.

Figure 6. Picture showing one of the rock piles selected for boxing. Note the size of the rocks and the disturbed trench directly behind the rock pile.

Figure 7. Picture showing clearing of the staging area on the northeast side of the Islet. Note all of the materials in view have been previously disturbed. This area consists of primarily fill materials from previous surface activities.

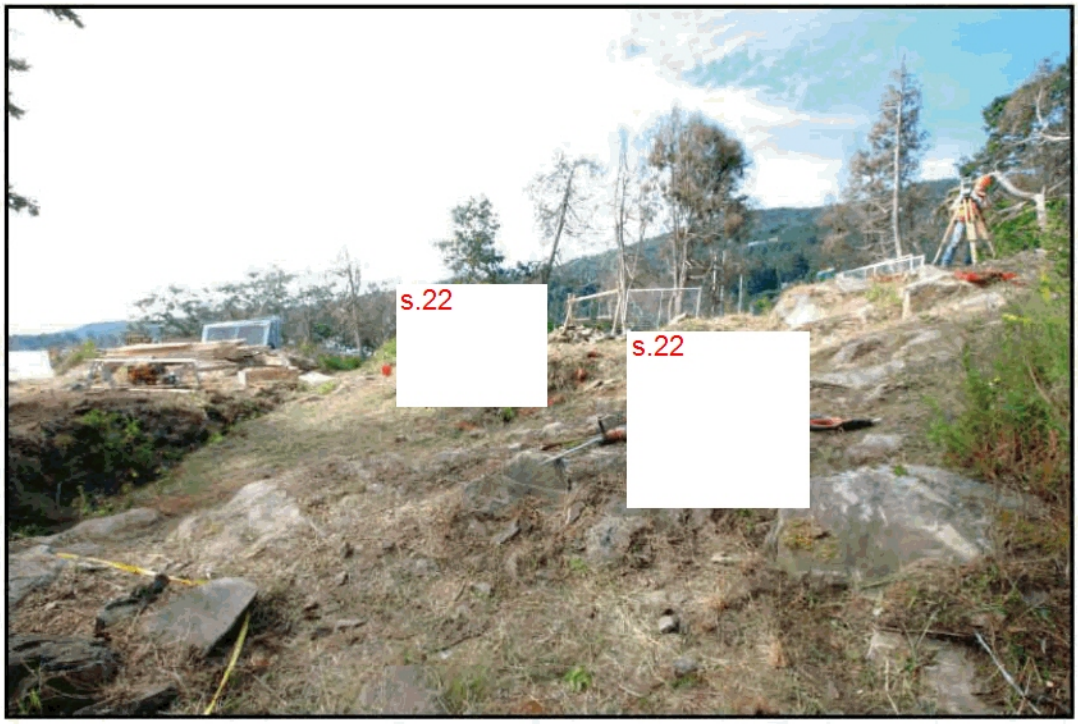

Figure 8. Picture showing surveyors marking the rock features (RF-09) and the boxing (RF-07) on going. Note the size of the rocks in the chosen rock piles.

Figure 9. Picture showing the boxing (RF-07) and the clearing on going.

Figure 10. Picture showing the scraping of the soils and grasses covering the parent sandstone rock. All soils and littermat/duff were removed from the surface down to the parent material.

Figure 11. Picture showing the clearing ongoing (June 4, 2014). All soils and littermat/duff were removed from the surface down to the parent material.

Figure 12. Picture showing clearing around wooden box enclosure (RF6). Note rock pile behind and to the right of the box. This is a disturbed pile of rocks. See the dismantling of this pile in following pictures.

Figure 13. Picture showing the status of the clearing at the end of the 2nd day (June 4, 2014). Note the area surrounding the tree to the right of the individuals was not disturbed s.13,s.16 s.13,s.16 . There were no historical or archaeological materials or evidence found during the previous two days of construction clearing.

Figure 14. Picture showing the disturbed rock pile noted previously in Figure 12. Note the size of the rocks. Box enclosure RF6 is shown on right side of picture.

Figure 15. Picture showing the dismantling and removal of the disturbed rock pile beside RF6. Nothing was found amongst the rocks - no historical or archaeological materials or evidence was found. Note size of rock. Machine had difficulty moving some of the rocks due to their size. This indicates previous surface disturbance occurred on the property with a machine large enough to move sizeable boulders.

Figure 16. Clearing continues around chosen rock piles (RF6 on right). Nothing is found during clearing.

Figure 17. Picture showing the status of the construction on the morning of Friday June 6, 2014. Box enclosures were all but complete, exposure of parent rock almost complete. The last remaining area being along the northeast side in the area of a previously excavated trench. The start of the foundation forms are shown in the center of the picture.

Figure 18. Clearing of the disturbed trench area along the northeast side of the footprint. No archaeological remains, materials or evidence was found in this area of the footprint.

Figure 19. Picture showing the beer can found in the area of clearing shown in Figure 18. The can was a older metal type and a search on the internet suggests the it dates to the early 1980's.

What became clear during the first days of inspection and monitoring was that any evidence of burials, cemeteries or historic or prehistoric cultural activity on Grace Islet was absent.
s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16 . Clearly, if there was evidence to be found it should have been evident. s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16

4.2 JULY 29, 2014 INSPECTION AND MONITORING

The second period of monitoring occurred on July 29, 2014. The activities planned at this time concerned the placement of drainage tiles and crushed drainage gravels around the perimeter of the building foundation and clearing of associated areas.

The following pictures document the inspection and monitoring on July 29, 2014.

Figure 20. Monitoring was undertaken on July 29, 2014 to facilitate the installation of weeping tile (foreground) around the outside edge of the foundation.

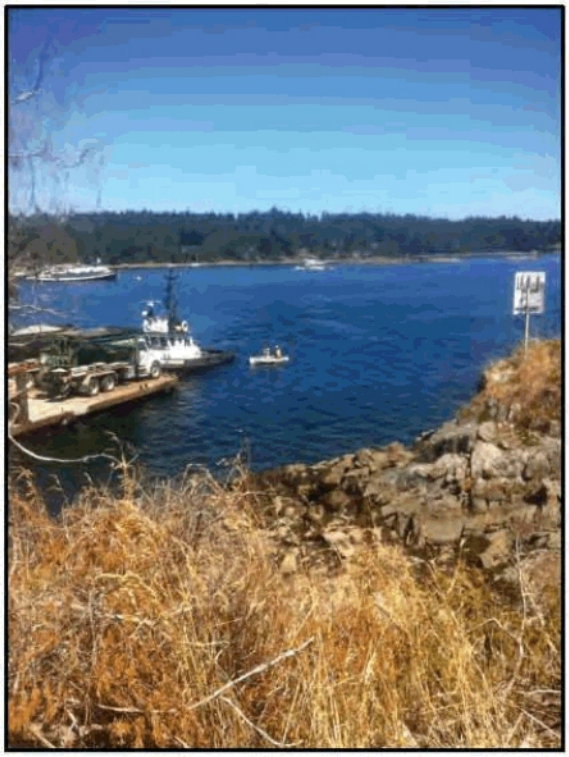

Figure 21. Crushed rock was brought onto the Islet through a process of conveyors from trucks on a barge nestled next to the Islet. Note protestors in center of picture in a canoe. Protestors were cautioned an asked to keep away but choose to ignore all warnings until RCMP arrived.

Figure 22. Crushed rock shown in the foreground was placed around foundation periphery using a backhoe and wheel barrows.

Figure 23. Surface excavation of an area slated for the entrance stairs was undertaken. Nothing was found.

4.3 OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2014 INSPECTION & MONITORING

The third stage of monitoring occurred on October 6 and 7, 2014. Excavation was planned for the installation of water and sewage containers in a previously disturbed area, along the northeastern border and along the main entrance to the building. Additionally, an area identified as RF 16 was inspected.

As a result of an email sent to the Archaeology Branch by s.22 , stating a concern about disturbance to an area he referred to as RF16, the feature called RF16 was examined. Steven Acheson from the archaeology Branch was on site at the time of the inspection of RF 16 s.22 had apparently been on site on Saturday June 7 and/or Monday June 9, 2014 s.13,s.16 . In his email to Acheson at the Archaeology Branch, s.22 states:

> "I'm also concerned that there is at least one reported cairn (feature 16) that I updated on the DfRu-9 site form that isn't being considered in the excavation of the house footprint."

Figure 24. An examination of a reported feature called RF 16 was carried out. The location of RF 16 is shown at the right side in this picture.

s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16 . Secondly, is the fact that this narrative occurs after a full AIA had taken place to record and map all features of interest, including the detail that s.22 had, at the time of the AIA, been on site to inspect and report all features. And, after a close inspection by Acheson, Simonsen and Ball, no clear evidence was found to substantiate the report by s.22 that RF16 was a burial cairn. The sawn piece of wood lying underneath the exposed cobbles indicated recent disturbance and s.13,s.16 s.13,s.16 Finally, the area lay outside the footprint and as such was not in danger of disturbance by construction activities. s.13,s.16

Figure 25. Picture showing the location of the reported feature RF 16. Note the area was not disturbed as s.13,s.16

Figure 26. Picture showing the reported rock feature called RF 16 beside an obviously sawn or recently cut piece of wood. The existence and location of the cut wood indicates RF 16 is historically recent and likely not a burial cairn.

An inspection of the so-called "cairn #16" (RF16; see Figures 23, 24, 25 & 26) revealed the sawn end of a recent piece of wood beneath exposed cobbles, indicating that it is unlikely RF16 is a burial Cairn. s.13,s.16

s.13,s.16

Figure 27. Clearing for the placement of the water and sewage containers begins.

Figure 28. Clearing for the water and sewage pad proceeds. Nothing is found during the excavation.

Figure 29. Workers prepare pad for water and sewage containers.

Figure 30. Water and sewage containers placed in excavated area.

Figure 31. Clearing of overburden along access route for entrance ramp. Unconsolidated soil and rock debris was removed down to parent rock and gravels.

Figure 32. Clearing of soil and rock debris overburden along proposed entrance-way ramp location. Nothing was found along the entire right-of-way. All overburden was removed and re-deposited closer to the building.

Figure 33. Overburden removed along the entrance ramp right-of-way is re-deposited to form pathway to house entrance stairway. Nothing was found along the entire right-of-way.

5.0 DISCUSSION

There were three periods of monitoring and visual inspection. s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16

Field observations and monitoring of the removal of surface soil, vegetation and rock debris overburden from the footprint of a proposed building on Grace Islet in 2014 were carried out for the purpose of monitoring the disturbance of reported human burial remains. s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16

Following all formal procedures, a building permit was sought and acquired in 2006. Over a period of approximately 8 years the owner attempted several times to resolve the matter; to allay fears of disturbance to the piles of rock and stone believed to conceal ancient human burials several proposals were entertained by the land owner, the Archaeology Branch and various other interested individuals and groups. The landowner undertook an AIA of the property in 2007 (Simonsen and Somogyi 2010) and invited members of the Archaeology Branch for visual inspections. An offer was made to local First Nations groups to remove the features and have them placed at an alternate location. Ultimately, the accepted solution would be to allow construction to proceed but to avoid identified locations during construction and basically work around the suspect features. s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16

The findings of the 2014 monitoring program were generally consistent with those of other previous inspections of Grace Islet (cf. Simonsen and Somogyi 2010). s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16 . Specific monitoring was carried out for all surface disturbance activities that occurred during 2014. Close visual inspections were undertaken of the removal of all surface soils, vegetation and rock debris within the whole of the proposed building footprint. s.13,s.16
s.13,s.16

As a result of the various previous surveys and inspections of the Islet undertaken by Simonsen (several visits between 2006 and 2014), Kristensen in 2013, members of the Archaeology Branch (several visits between 2006 and 2014) and even those detractors

s.13,s.16

The purpose of the Archaeology Branch is clearly stated on their web page:

> The Provincial Government recognizes the importance of archaeological sites through the Heritage Conservation Act. Under this Act, the Archaeology Branch is responsible for maintaining and distributing archaeological information and deciding if permits can be issued to allow development to take place within protected sites (www.for.gov.bc.ca/archaeology).
>
> The key piece of legislation affecting archaeology in British Columbia is the Heritage Conservation Act. The Act provides for the protection of British Columbia's archaeological resources, covering sites dated before 1846, located on both public and private land.
>
> The Act prohibits the destruction, excavation or alteration of archaeological sites without a permit. It also allows for the minister to order a heritage inspection' to assess the archaeological significance of a piece of land (www.for.gov.bc.ca/archaeology/legislation).

An AIA was undertaken in 2007 (Simonsen and Somogyi 2010) and nothing of specific concern was identified. Following the procedures, policies, the intent and purpose of, and the general tenor the *British Columbia is the Heritage Conservation Act*, the whole issue should have closed at this point since compelling evidence to indicate otherwise was absent.

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