

LANDS AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



**Lands and
Resources**
Ucwalmícw Tmícw

JULY 2020

NEWS AND UPDATES WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE LÍŁWAT
NATION WEBSITE. WWW.LILWAT.CA

The Land is central to Líłwat culture and identity as expressed
in the Ucwalmicwts phrase

“Pal7míntwal i ucwalmícwa múta7 ti tmicw”
The land and people are together as one.

This core belief is the cornerstone of the
Land's and Resources Department's work to maximize the
Líłwat Nation's control over its land and resources.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Áma Sq'it!

It's hard to believe another three months has passed since our last newsletter. Looking back, I did not imagine our next edition would still be issued under our remote working conditions. But here we are. And now working from home is feeling like the new normal.

Our department has adapted really well to working remotely and I am very proud of all the great work being done. I am also very grateful that Archaeologist and Anthropologist Bill Angelbeck has provided a special write up for this Newsletter edition.

Originally, we were planning to invite Bill to our annual Lands and Resources Department community supper and have him present the carbon-dating results gathered from Signal Hill last year. Given that is not possible at this time, I hope you will enjoy reading Bill's submission.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or would just like to reach out and learn more about the work we are doing.

“Amhalhts'a, T'ul'lec, Ats'xentsut”

“Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe”

Harriet VanWart, Director

Lands and Resources Department

Changes to the Lands and Resources Department

Richenda Grafton, Administrative Assistant

The Lands and Resources Department will be delighted to welcome some new faces to our staff in the near future. We are currently in the process hiring *On-call Archaeological Field Technicians* to assist us as needed with archaeological field work this season. Soon, we will also be posting to hire *On-call Environmental Field Technicians* for our environmental monitoring work in the Territory. We are also adding two new positions to our team: an *Environmental Field Crew Supervisor*, to supervise our environmental field workers, and an *On-Reserve Lands Registration Clerk* who will be taking over the land registration duties from Julia Poetschke. Julia is going to be moving into a new position within the department as the *Project and GIS Coordinator*. Furthermore, my position title has changed from *Office Coordinator* to *Administrative Assistant*.

Archaeological Investigations at Spel'kumtn, Signal Hill

Bill Angelbeck

Last summer, our team conducted archaeological excavations at an ancient village site on Signal Hill, right near Pemberton. The team would park not far south of the McDonald's at the Junction of Highway 99 and Portage Road, and hike with our gear about a mile or so along the trail towards the Green River. The village



was situated on an high overlook with an astounding view of Mount Currie ascending sharply above, and the Green River flowing westward below the bluffs. Two main routes led down from the village to the shores of the river, which reveals that it was well situated for a fishing camp.

Four substantial houses were here, and likely several other campsites with lighter shelters were present. According to Lex Joseph and Johnny Jones, oral historical knowledge compiled in

the Líl'wat archives indicates that the name of this place is Spel'kumtn, and it was associated with the Wolf clan.

This was also a place for lookouts. Further up the trail from the village, leading up higher on Signal Hill, a scout would scan the landscape for travellers coming into the territory, sending plumes of smoke into the sky to alert others. No doubt, this seems related to its current name as Signal Hill.

We had provided a summary of our excavations shortly after completion of fieldwork in a previous newsletter, almost a year ago. Here, we provide some of the results from our analysis so far.



The village appears to have had two types of architecture, with a couple of earth-banked mat lodges, and a couple of pithouses. Again, several other lighter shelters very likely were present, but the surface features are readily apparent for these four, as earth was moved to excavate a floor for an s7istken (pronounced roughly as "ishken"). Mat lodges generally were above-ground shelters, often rectangular in outline but with sides leaning against the other, like an A-frame, with a log frame walled with woven mats. Throughout the Interior, mat lodges typically were used in shoulder seasons of spring and fall, or at seasonal camps at which people would stay for several weeks. Here, however, the lower sides were earth-banked, providing protection from the drafts beneath the mats. Moreover, the floors of the houses were excavated slightly into

the surface, which suggests that these mat lodges were still occupied into the late fall or even winter, with the earth banking providing greater protection from the winds.



From Líl'wat community members over a century ago by the ethnographer, James Teit (1906, page 213) recorded that "A few of the Upper Lillooet live in mat lodges in the winter-time. These generally had a double covering of mats; and all around the bottom, on the outside, bark was placed, against which earth was heaped to the height of from fifteen to fifty centimetres." Teit provided a photo of an earth-banked mat lodge, and the surface features of the remnant structures match the depiction of what would likely remain over the centuries since. So, our excavations provide the first archaeological excavation of such a mat lodge in Líl'wat territory.

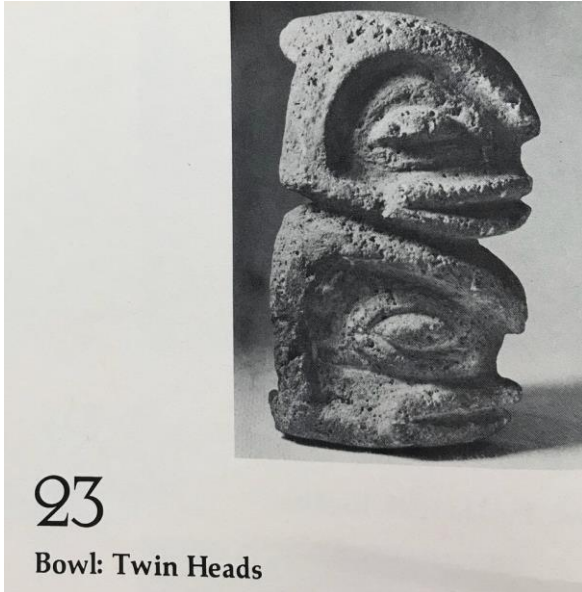
Last fall, we submitted five radiocarbon samples that we unearthed mainly from within the firepits of the houses or from structural beams. Any old organic matter (firewood, roof beams, wood tools, animal bones, etc.) that was used or altered by the ancient inhabitants recovered from a site can be submitted to test how long it has been since the tree or plant was cut down and no longer absorbing Carbon-14 (C-14) radioactive isotopes (C-12 and C-13 isotopes remain stable, so we can determine the age by comparing how much of C-14 is left relative to the stable C-12 and C-13 amounts). Only a small amount of C-14 had dissipated, so the results indicate that these houses were inhabited 375 to 200 years ago.

Some of the artifacts we uncovered do align with that date range as well, as there were a couple of post-contact trade items found in the houses, including a trade bead.



Kristin Oliver, SFU graduate student and research assistant for the project, has conducted research on the artifact. She also inquired with Professor Ross Jamieson, who is a historical archaeologist. He noted that the bead is a wire-wound Canton bead, and not tubular in shape as is the case with most trade beads. This allows us to pinpoint the age more precisely.

These kinds of beads were made in China, and exported to Hawaii and then to Boston, and then sold to be traded commonly during the 1800s via the fur trade through the HBC and Northwest Company. Several thousands of these style beads were excavated from Fort Vancouver in Washington state, which dates to that time, and this one likely found its way through trade to the inhabitants at this village.



Johnny Jones and I also submitted a sample from the “Twinfish Bowl” that had been recovered from a cave on Signal Hill decades ago, and the sculpture was recently repatriated to Líl’wat Nation. The hollow of the bowl was filled with ochre and charcoal. We scrapped some of the charcoal. The C-14 date returned with a result indicating that the bowl was last used 500 to 600 years ago. The style of the bowl is much older, however, and very likely had been made 1500 to 2500 years ago, which would be consistent with the dates for such sculptures. The bowl had been featured in Wilson Duff’s exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery back in the 1970s, with other such sculptures, and travelled as part of art exhibitions displayed in Victoria, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and at the

Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. The Twinfish or Twin Heads Bowl showcased as well in his exhibition book, *Images: Stone: B.C.* in 1975 as exhibit #23 (pages 46 and 171).

There is more yet to analyze from the site, and we’ll present the results more fully in the coming months. We’ll return to continue our archaeological excavations at a village site several kilometres downriver from Signal Hill, near the Green River confluence.

Acknowledgments

Johnny Jones and I would like to acknowledge the crew, most of whom have been a part of these excavations over the seasons, including:

- Oliver James
- Kristin Oliver
- Talon Pascal
- Kristi Bowie
- Alysha Edwards
- Jaime Yard
- among others.

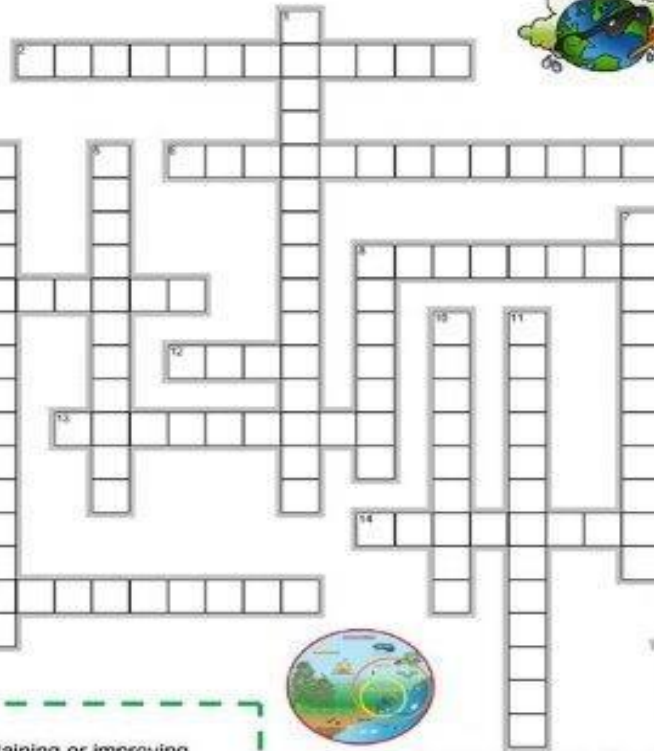
References

Duff, Wilson

1975 *Images: Stone: B.C.: Thirty Centuries of Northwest Coast Indian Sculpture*. University of Washington Press, Seattle.

Teit, James A

1906 *The Lillooet Indians. The Jesup North Pacific Expedition. Memoir of the American Museum of Natural History*, v. 2, pt. 5, New York.



Look Out for Invasive Plant Species

Invasive species are plant, animal and insect species that are not native to our region. They tend to grow rapidly, out-compete native species, and are a significant threat to ecosystems and biodiversity. Invasive plants can alter water flow, lead to stream bank erosion, create and increase fire hazards, damage infrastructure, contain toxic substances, and reduce crop yields.

Last month, the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council (SSISC) was on Lil'wat reserve land to remove Wild Parsnip, an invasive plant species, along Lillooet Lake Road and adjacent residential properties. The removal of Wild Parsnip is a high priority; it grows quickly, outcompetes native vegetation, and contains a toxic sap that can cause severe burns.

Identifying Wild Parsnip:

Wild Parsnip can grow up to 1.5 metres tall. It has very small, yellow-green flowers in umbrella-shaped clusters that bloom from May to September. Its leaves are alternately arranged on stems with mitten-shaped and toothed leaflets, and its stem is light green and deeply grooved.



Yellow flowers form flat umbrella shaped clusters.



The stem is light green and deeply grooved.



Leaves have distinct saw-toothed edges.

If you suspect you have Wild Parsnip or any other invasive species growing on your property, please submit a report to SSISC at 604-698-8334 or

<https://ssisc.ca/report/>.

Do not try to remove Wild Parsnip yourself unless the SSISC advises you it is okay to do so.

Other invasive plants to look out for are Himalayan Blackberry, Japanese Knotweed, and Cutleaf Blackberry.



Himalayan Blackberry



Japanese Knotweed



Cutleaf Blackberry

For more information on invasive species management in the area, visit

<http://ssisc.ca/pemberton>.

LAND USE REFERRALS UPDATE

CARRIE LESTER - REFERRAL MANAGER

We are continuing to review and respond to land use referrals with the Referral Committee, meeting remotely on a monthly basis. Referrals have included forest license renewals and new forestry cut blocks from Lil'wat Forestry Ventures, Squamish Mills, and the Cheakamus Community Forests. For all our forestry referrals we ensure the company has signed a revenue-sharing agreement with the Nation and we assess the cut block locations for archaeological and botanical values. The Referral Committee also completed a review of new Trails Master Plan for the Pemberton Mount Currie area. The Plan emphasizes the importance of any new trail development going through proper consultation with Lil'wat Nation.

Along with the ongoing Referrals, I have been working with the Director of Lands and Resources and other Lands staff, in conjunction with the Province, on the Joffre Lakes Parks Visitor Use Management Strategy; the Meager/Keyhole Hot Springs Visitor Use Management Strategy; and, will soon begin work on the a Visitor Use Management Strategy for Tenquille Lake.

The Visitor Use Management Strategy process is designed to take the time to understand the area, the issues and concerns; identify a common vision for the area; explore management strategies; and then implement, monitor and adjust those strategies as needed.

FISHERIES REPORT

MAXINE JOSEPH-BRUCE – Fisheries and Environmental Manager

Ama swa takem swat. Entsas Lhpatq. Lheltsamecwkan

Good day Everyone, my ancestral name is Lhpatq. I am from this land.

As Fisheries & Environment Manager, I'm so thankful that the Land and Resources Department takes the time to produce a newsletter. I feel that the newsletter provides a good opportunity to share with you what we are doing in the Lilwat Fisheries & Environment department.

Kukwstumckacw Richenda for your time and efforts for coordinating this.

Fisheries Surveys:

The Lilwat Nation Fisheries program is a large-scale salmon stock assessment program that involves counting the returning salmon. One way we conduct the salmon surveys is to walk the banks of the rivers and streams.

Another way we survey the returning salmon, which is specific to the Spring Salmon, is to conduct a survey we call Creel Survey. From April 1 to June 30, the Lilwat Fisheries conducts Birkenhead River Spring Salmon Survey (Chinook Creel Survey). The Creel survey is essentially a process that involves interviews with fishers; we ask fishers where they were fishing, how many fish did they catch and if we can collect a biological sample from their catch. This information helps us learn what the effort is, how much fish were caught and how many are likely to make it to the spawning grounds.

As you may or may not know, the Birkenhead River Spring Salmon are distinct to the river. It is concerning that the Birkenhead River Spring Salmon continue to return in low numbers.

What steps can we take as Lilwat to change this?

Regarding the Sockeye Salmon returns, nearing the end of August, we will begin counting the Sockeye salmon. As in previous years, a fence/weir is installed into the Birkenhead River and a narrow opening in the middle of the river that guides the Sockeye salmon to swim by the underwater camera. The underwater camera is very helpful especially when we experience high-water events.

Once early fall comes around, we'll begin counting the returning Coho Salmon, we count the returning Coho Salmon a couple of ways, such as through the riverbank walks as well as by way of an underwater camera. By using the underwater camera, we can still count if the river is high or murky.

Environment Monitoring Surveys:

The environmental work we do is to conduct environmental monitoring when companies are working in and about a stream. The Environment Monitoring technicians are on-site to collect water quality samples as way to determine if the water is being impacted and so to ensure fish or other aquatic life are not being harmed from the river disturbance.

Also, we have the Lil'wat Environment Monitoring technicians work on projects such as to address flood mitigation, work with industry on construction projects and on projects like the Grizzly Bear hair snag surveys.

In closing, thanks very much for taking the time to read about what Lil'wat Fisheries & Environment program is doing. Should you have any questions or comments for us, please contact Maxine Bruce at 604-894-6115 ext 2465 or email Maxine.bruce@lilwat.ca. Kukwstumckalap, Nilh ti



Salmon carving by Jonathan Joe

The Lands and Resources Department is seeking Lílwat Citizens to join our Project Team for the creation of a Visitor Use Management Strategy for the Tenquille Lake Area in Lílwat Territory

About the Project:

Lílwat Nation is partnering with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) from the Province of BC to proactively address the increasing and changing recreation pressures in the Tenquille Lake area with the goal of minimizing negative impacts to the environment, wildlife, Lílwat cultural resources, visitor experience and public safety. We will work together to define a direction for visitor use management for the area that aligns with Lílwat values and interests, to guide decisions around future adventure tourism and recreation in the area.

The Role of the Project Team:

The project team will meet periodically to participate in and provide input through the Visitor Use Management planning process to help determine the management direction for the Tenquille Lake area. The project team will consist of representatives from Lílwat Nation and FLRNO. Lílwat representatives will include a Council representative, a Referral Committee representative, Lílwat citizens, and staff from the Lands and Resources Department.

Joining the project team will require a commitment until Spring 2021. Project team members will be required to participate in team meetings and *ad hoc* communications. If possible, we would also like to have members attend a field trip to the Tenquille Lake area in late August. Honoraria will be provided for attending meetings. We anticipate that members will be required to commit no more than six to eight hours of time per month.

Requirements:

- An interest in or knowledge of the Tenquille Lake area
- Email address and access to a computer and internet
- Able to participate in online meetings due to COVID-19 (future meetings may occur in person)

If you are interested in joining the project team, please submit by Friday July 24th a letter of interest describing why you would like to be part of this team and confirming you meet the requirements listed above to Richenda Grafton at Richenda.Grafton@lilwat.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact Harriet VanWart at Harriet.Vanwart@lilwat.ca or 604-894-6115 ext.2464

Contact the Lands and Resources Staff:

Harriet Van Wart, Director - harriet.vanwart@lilwat.ca or 604 894 6115 Extension 2464

Maxine Joseph-Bruce, Fisheries and Environmental Manager - maxine.bruce@lilwat.ca
or 604 894 6115 Extension 2465

Carrie Lester, Referrals Manager - carrie.lester@lilwat.ca or 604 894 6115 Extension 2462

Julia Poetschke, Project and GIS Coordinator - julia.poetschke@lilwat.ca
or 604 894 6115 Extension 2463

Lex Joseph, Cultural Technician - lex.joseph@lilwat.ca or 604 894 6115 Extension 2460

Johnny Jones, Cultural Technician - johnny.jones@lilwat.ca or 604 894 6115 Extension 2461

Richenda Grafton, Administrative Assistant - richenda.grafton@lilwat.ca
or 604 894 6115 Extension 2467

We hope you enjoyed the read and please provide any feedback or questions
or if you would like to sign up for a digital copy
of this newsletter, please contact richenda.grafton@lilwat.ca

Answer key

