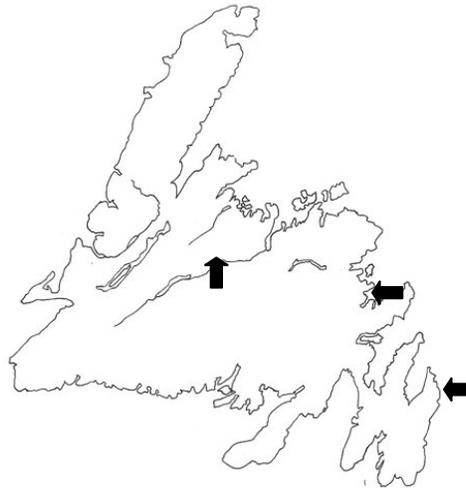




2011 SUMMARY

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Pope's Point (DfBa-01) (Permit 11.10)

The Burnside Heritage Foundation Inc. (BHF) performed three archaeological projects in 2011. Laurie McLean performed an archaeological resources impact assessment at the Pope's Point site (DfBa-01), located in the town of Badger. This site is strategically located at the intersection of the Exploits River and Badger Brook. Its Beothuk occupants camped and hunted caribou there (Howley 2000:37; Marshall

1996:231; Speck 1922:24; Devereux 1965:13; Locke nd). Preceding Paleoeskimo and Maritime Archaic inhabitants probably did so as well. The Town of Badger wanted to build an RV park on the point, prompting Newfoundland and Labrador's Provincial Archaeology Office to request an impact assessment to determine if the proposed development threatened archaeological remains.



Pope's Point, looking across Badger Brook.

The five-day assessment recovered 118 stone artifacts from the site surface and 20 test pits, but other than one Paleoeskimo tip flute spall the items were not indicative of particular cultures. The tests indicated that most of the site has been disturbed or destroyed. The only hope for *in situ* material lies within two to three metre wide strips along Badger Brook and the Exploits River. Given older reports of numerous Beothuk housepits existing at Pope's Point and archaeological evidence for pre-Beothuk occupations there, what we don't know about the site is impressive. The loss of significant archaeological data at Pope's Point is unfortunate and should inspire

concerned people to more successfully manage the rich archaeological resources that are extant along the rest of the Exploits River.



Stone core found on the disturbed surface at Pope's Point.

Bowring Park Archaeology (Permit 11.47)

Laurie McLean taught Memorial University's archaeological field school in 2011. The field work component took place at the Sailor South (DeAj-05) site in Salvage (see below), but in preparation for this activity, nine undergraduate students took a six-week orientation course in St. John's. The orientation course included a major project that required students to measure, photograph and compile observations at three historic sites previously identified by the author while walking through Bowring Park, in St. John's. No artifacts were collected nor were the sites disturbed in any manner by the students.

One of the localities is the former Cherry Lodge, which was a summer retreat of Sir Richard Squires. A site located on the park's southern boundary is a former residence possibly related to nineteenth century agricultural development immediately west of St. John's. A site located on the park's northern limit is a similar occupation or a midden.

Site record forms for the localities were prepared by the author and submitted to the Provincial Archaeology Office. A report is being written by the author. Hopefully, this initial investigation will lead to increased monitoring and eventual excavation of these eroding sites.



Partial view of Bowring Park-North, looking west.



East view of the Cherry Lodge site, Bowring Park.



Student kneels by edge of midden, Bowring Park-South.

Central Bonavista Bay (Permit 11.20)

The BHF had planned to continue excavating the Beaches site's (DeAk-01) eroding bank and mapping the Bloody Bay Cove quarry in 2011. Further surveying of the coastline were planned as well. Excavations were to take place at the Dorset Paleoeskimo Sailor South (DeAj-05), in Salvage, when strong winds did not permit travelling by boat. However, given the logistical challenge of moving 10 people by boat, a decision was made to concentrate excavations on the Sailor South site which is easily accessible. Students began excavating on June 29 and finished on July 26. Rainy days were spent cataloguing artifacts in the Burnside field laboratory. The excavation was not completed as of July 26, however, and Laurie McLean, with assistance from BHF workers and volunteers, spent another 17 days at the site between July 27 and October 25. This was still insufficient time to finish the excavation and we plan to complete the project during 2012.

BHF workers discovered the Sailor South site (DeAj-05) in 2002. Six excavations, totalling 35 m², between 2002 and 2009 uncovered 5949 stone artifacts.



Upper arrow: Sailor South (DeAj-05). Lower arrow: Sailor site (DeAj-01)



MUN students digging Sailor South (DeAj-05).

These include 53 diagnostic Dorset items - endblades, endblade performs, tip flute spalls, microblades and endscrapers. Charcoal from a small hearth was radiocarbon dated to 1130 ± 60 BP (Beta 234871), suggesting it represents a very late Dorset occupation. The hearth is the only feature found to date and one of the goals of 2011's excavations was to find house remains, a midden or other feature. 51 Newfoundland settler items were also

recovered in these excavations. The historic artifacts are attributed to Newfoundland settler occupation of the site well into the twentieth century.

The 2011 excavation was very productive. 3310 stone artifacts and 11 historic items were found by the students. Continued excavation of three of the nine opened squares after July 26 yielded another 109 stone and 2 historic objects. The post-student assemblage is actually much larger as cataloguing of artifacts is ongoing. Following the pattern at many Bonavista Bay sites, the majority of stone artifacts were made on Bloody Bay Cove rhyolite which is available 15 km to the northwest. 65.9% of 2011's 3419 lithics are Bloody Bay Cove rhyolite, followed by 27.9% chert items. 66.6% of the total 9415 stone artifacts collected since 2002 are made on Bloody Bay Cove rhyolite. This includes a significant amount of flaking debris, however, as 48.0% (n=120) of 250 diagnostic items found since 2002 are made on chert, mostly patinated white. 47.2% (n=118) of the total diagnostic set are made on Bloody Bay Cove rhyolite.



DeAj-05 endblade fragments and endblade preforms from 2011.



Retouched and retouched/utilized microblades from DeAj-05.

Although evidence for a new feature was not apparent during 2011, an interesting new stratum was identified under the culture layer. McLean's post-field school excavations uncovered a rubble layer whose significance remains unclear. This had not been found in prior excavation of 35 m² at the site. Excavation of the rest of the culture layer and the rubble level in the nine m² are priority research subjects for 2012.



Rubble layer in S7 W3.

The Beaches Site (DeAk-01)

The Beaches' Maritime Archaic occupation dates to 4990 ± 230 BP (Carignan 1975:38), making it one of Newfoundland's oldest human occupations. The BHF has conducted 13 excavations there since 1989, producing information about Paleoeskimo, Recent Indian and Beothuk occupations of the site. Unfortunately, rising sea level has destroyed unexcavated evidence for the Maritime Archaic use of the site. 90% of the site, approximately 30,000 has washed away since 1872. The BHF has built 130 metres of wooden breakwaters since 1995, attempting to stop this erosion. These structures are annually monitored to measure their effectiveness in fighting erosion and the need for maintenance.

We were limited to two Beaches visits in 2011. Such limited access is frustrating given the ongoing erosion and the resulting need for salvage excavations along the site's southern border. Salvage excavations since 2001 recovered 23,000 Paleoeskimo and



Eroding bank at the southern end of Area B (Paleoeskimo/Recent Indian) at the Beaches site (DeAk-01).



Breakwaters in need of repair at the Beaches site (DeAk-01). A Beothuk housepit lies directly behind the lower section.

Recent Indian objects from the bank. 154 stone artifacts were collected from clumps of bank that had fallen to the beach in 2011. Another 12 stone objects were collected from the eroding bank and beach surfaces. There is a dire need to repair existing breakwaters and construct new sections at unprotected portions of the bank. Our 2011 visits revealed

that one of the six Beothuk housepits remaining at the site is now threatened due to deterioration of the breakwater protecting it. If the breakwater cannot be repaired as soon as possible, this housepit, or at least its southern half, should be excavated in 2012 or 2013 to salvage its information.

Other 11.20 Activity

Laurie McLean performed an archaeological impact assessment at the requested location for building a cabin at Samson's Point, Northeast Arm, Alexander Bay. Extensive test pits showed that the proposed cabin will not negatively impact archaeological resources.

27 stone artifacts and three historic potsherds were collected from the surface of the Sailor site (DeAj-01) which is located 80 metres north of Sailor South (DeAj-05). The Sailor site's Dorset component appears to be the remainder of a multi-component site that was mostly destroyed by mechanical excavation early in the 1950s. Stone artifacts regularly occur on the surface surrounding the vestigial area and the latter is eroding along its coastal edge which also brings mostly rhyolite artifacts to the surface. 167 artifacts collected during pre-2011 visits to the Bloody Bay Cove quarry also were catalogued this year. The Burnside Heritage Foundation Inc. interpretation centre was open daily from June 29 until October 28. There were 619 paid visits to the museum and 74 people visited the Salvage excavations.

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