

**REPORT  
ON  
AN ON-SITE INSPECTION OF SITE ALTERATION ACTIVITY  
AT GRACE ISLET, GANGES HARBOUR;  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE DfRu-09**

**Date of Inspection:** July 9, 2012

**Date of Report:** July 10, 2012

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**Report Prepared For:** Mr. Barry Slawsky (Property Owner)  
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Mr. Paul Pasutto, Innocept Real Estate Outsourcing  
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**Background**

Grace Islet is situated at the entrance to Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island, B.C., directly offshore of Grace Point, which forms part of the village of Ganges. The islet is owned by Mr. Barry Slawsky of Edmonton, Alberta, who is in the process of arranging to construct a residence on the islet. Mr. Slawsky recently retained Mr. Paul Pasutto of Innocept Real Estate Outsourcing Ltd. of Calgary Alberta, as his development project manager with a view to commencing construction of the proposed residence and associated infrastructure, access and landscaping features by late July/early August of 2012.

In 1966, Grace Islet was included within the boundaries of an archaeological site that covers much of Ganges village. This was included in a preliminary archaeological site record of Site DfRu-09 (the "Ganges Harbour Site") and became part of the Archaeological Site Registry system for the Province of British Columbia. The DfRu-09 site record was updated in 1974 by a three-person field crew working for the (then) B.C. Provincial Archaeologist's Office. Although neither of the earlier site documentation forms provide any information about archaeological features or deposits being present at Grace Islet, this small island was nevertheless included in the general site record for the Ganges Harbour Archaeological Site, being Site DfRu-09.

No further archaeological investigations within Grace Islet were carried out until the early part of 2010 when an archaeological team under the direction of the author of this report (Bjorn Simonsen) carried out an Archaeological Overview Assessment (AOA), followed by an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) study at Grace Islet. These

studies were carried out at the request of the property owner, Mr. Barry Slawsky, and resulted in the discovery and documentation of two areas containing partial human remains in the form of disarticulated skeletal bones, as well as 15 “rock features” that were thought to be of cultural origin. However, it must be noted here that no firm evidence has been found to date to confirm that these features were intentionally constructed by humans, much less by local First Nations individuals, as has been suggested by others. Nevertheless the 2011 Bastion Group final report for the 2010 AIA study argues that since it is possible that these features do have a cultural origin, they should be protected from future disturbance that might occur in the course of the planned construction activity on Grace Islet.

Since construction activity was initially planned at Grace Islet for the latter part of 2011, and continuing into the year 2012, the property owner, along with Archaeologist, Kevin Twohig of Terra Archaeology Ltd of Victoria, B.C., applied to the B.C. Archaeology Branch for a “Site Alteration Permit” that would authorize ground altering work at Grace Islet to be carried out under certain conditions oriented to the avoidance and protection of archeological features present. Subsequent to this, Alteration Permit 2011-0343 was issued on October 24, 2011, to the two “Co-Applicants”.

### **Recent Activities at Grace Islet**

In about mid-June of 2012, the report author received a phone call from Kevin Twohig of Terra Archaeology, informing him that the B.C. Archaeology Branch had received a verbal report from Archaeologist, Eric McLay of Gabriola Island, indicating that site alteration work had recently been carried out at Grace Islet. It appears that Mr. McLay was aware that an Alteration Permit had been issued for the Grace islet work but to his knowledge, no archaeological monitoring had accompanied the work done. Following this, various attempts were made by the author to obtain clarification about the reported allegations of clearing vegetation, excavating soil and the commencement of building foundation work at Grace Islet.

At the urging of the property owner, Terra Archaeology and the report author, a site inspection was conducted on Monday, July the 9<sup>th</sup>, of 2012, by a team of five individuals. This included the property owner (Barry Slawsky), Paul Pasutto, Ewan Anderson (representing the B.C. Archaeology Branch), Kevin Twohig (Terra Archaeology) and Bjorn Simonsen of The Bastion Group. A thorough examination was carried out of the recent pre-construction work that had been carried out on the islet by a local contractor hired by Paul Pasutto of Innocept. After a thorough examination, the five examiners concluded the following:

- The nature and scope of the pre-construction site alteration work exceeded what was expected based on the instructions given to the contractor by the property owner and Paul Pasutto.
- It was also agreed that the nature, scope and extent of site alteration work, as reported to the B.C. Archaeology Branch, was exaggerated and incorrect.

- There was agreement that the alteration work was done without any archaeological monitoring, as required under the conditions of the Site Alteration Permit issued in 2011, by the B.C. Archaeology Branch.
- It was agreed that all 15 Rock Features had been located and well marked out by the contractor and that none had been disturbed or damaged. It was also confirmed that the two previously documented locations containing human skeletal remains had not been disturbed and remain intact.
- A number of options for how to manage future construction work on site were discussed, as were possible mitigative measures.
- It was also agreed that a meeting must be arranged between the Tsartlip First Nation and the property owner and his representatives and that this meeting should take place as soon as possible. No further development work is to take place on the island until this meeting has taken place.
- It was agreed that no further development related work should occur until authorized by the B.C. Archaeology Branch.

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