

## APPLICATION FOR SITE ALTERATION PERMIT AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF EXPIRY DATE

**Name of Applicant:** Property owner, Mr. Barry Norman Slawsky of #2 Laurier Place, Edmonton, Alberta, T5R 5P4; Telf.: (780) 887-3432; Fax.: (789) 434-2421; Email: Sercbcc@Sercbc.com.

**Date of Application:** May 6, 2013

**Location of Project:** This Application pertains to property encompassing all of Grace Islet, situated at the northwest approaches to Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island, B.C. More specifically, the subject property bears the legal description of Lot A, District Lot 47, Cowichan District, Plan 45887. Grace Islet is situated immediately southeast of Grace Point at Ganges Harbour (see Map 1) and is included within the previously described boundaries of archaeological site DfRu-9 ("Ganges Village Site").

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 1. Description and Type of Alteration:

As the owner of property known as Grace Islet at Ganges Harbour, I now plan to proceed with my earlier plan to construct a dwelling and associated infrastructure (boat dock, access paths and natural landscaping features) at my property on Grace Islet at Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island, B.C. I currently hold a valid Site Alteration Permit issued to me by the B.C. Archaeology Branch on October 24, 2011 (Permit No. 2011-0343). This Permit was last amended on December 14 of 2012 to allow for the screening of disturbed soils for the purpose of recovering any archaeological items that might be present. This work has now been completed and a final report has been submitted and accepted by the B.C. Archaeology Branch. Although the December 14, 2012, Permit expiry date was April 15 of 2013, the Archaeology Branch recently extended this date to June 15 of 2013. I am now requesting that the B.C. Archaeology Branch extend the expiry date of the October 24, 2011 Alteration Permit to November 30, of 2016.

I note that my request for an extension to the permit expiry date will facilitate my ongoing development planning and subsequent construction of a dwelling and related infrastructure at Grace Islet. Although some minor changes to my original development plans will undoubtedly be necessary, I am committed to the original plan and approach to the preservation of a number of rock features that were previously discovered on the island. This includes:

- Establishing no-development zones around all known rock features.
- Any rock feature that may be included within the footprint of the planned dwelling, will not be disturbed and will be protected by the construction of security fencing and by "boxing" each of these features by constructing a

perimeter barrier around them to insure that they are not disturbed in the course of construction activity or future use of the property.

- Special attention will be paid to the two areas on the island where human skeletal remains have been previously discovered.
- Although both of these locations are outside of the permitted development zone for the island, it is my intention to cordon off these areas for the duration of construction work at Grace Islet to insure that there is no access or damage to either of these locations.

## **2. Background:**

### **2.1 Previous Archaeological Investigations**

Prior to the present Application for Permit, a two-phased archaeological assessment study was carried out at Grace Islet by The Bastion Group Heritage Consultants of Victoria, B.C. The first of these was an Archaeological Overview Study (AOA) that included a background literature and file review of past archaeological site survey and other archaeological documentation of the “Ganges Village” archaeological site (DfRu-9). This was followed by a detailed on-site field reconnaissance. Subsequent to the AOA study, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) investigation was undertaken in April of 2007, under Heritage Inspection Permit 2007-041, issued to Bastion Group Archaeologist, Bjorn Simonsen. This latter investigation included the re-interment of a small collection of human skeletal remains that had been previously removed from Grace Islet by the Ganges RCMP detachment.

Although the 2007 AIA investigation found no evidence of either surface or sub-surface archaeological deposits (such as shell midden matrix), the field crew – which included several individuals from the nearby Saanich Peninsula and Duncan First Nation Bands – recorded the presence of several “Rock Features” at Grace Islet. Although no direct evidence was found that might confirm that these features are cultural in origin, it was determined that this was possible since they resemble similar features that have been recorded within the Salish Culture Area as stone cairns, some of which have been found to contain ancient burial remains (see Simonsen and Somogyi, 2010).

Subsequent to the above archaeological investigations at Grace Islet, a further investigation by an archaeological crew from Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. of Duncan, B.C., was carried out at the request of local First Nations groups and the B.C. Archaeology Branch. The focus of this investigation was on the screening of soil fill that had been inadvertently removed and stockpiled on the island in the course of preliminary site clearing and related work in preparing the island for construction activity. This resulted in the recovery of minimal archaeological material from a large spoil pile. I also note that no human remains were found in the course of this examination (see Madrone Environmental Services Ltd. report of March 19, 2013).

## 2.2 Planned Protective Measures

Following the proposed protective measures as outlined in a Permit Application from The Bastion Group in 2007, and further protective measures and archaeological procedures as outlined in their final Archaeological Impact Assessment Report of September 30, 2010, it is my intention to include all of these measures in the course of future Archaeological Monitoring activities at Grace Islet to be carried out under the authority of the Permit Amendment and Permit Expiry date extension being applied for here. These measures will include the following:

- Designing and siting the proposed dwelling and associated structures in such a way as to avoid disturbance to all identified cultural features.
- Incorporate any identified cultural features into the design of new structures in a way that would protect them from future damage.
- Construct paths, patios and other structures on above-ground piles so as to avoid direct damage to cultural features.

The current plan for siting the proposed dwelling and its access points has been carefully designed to take all of the above into consideration. The Project Architect is now in the process of amending the original building design. This will avoid damage to any of the rock features on the island, or incorporates features into the building or landscape design of the project and will result in the following protective measures:

- Rock Features 3, 11 and 12 will be in an open area that will be minimally landscaped without any impact to the cultural features.
- Rock Features 9 and 14 will be spanned by floating decks and remain untouched.
- Rock Features 10 and 13 will be on undisturbed grades with deck areas built around them, but leaving the features undisturbed.
- Protective fencing and other protective measures and features will be incorporated into the construction plan to further insure the protection of rock features that may fall within the footprint of the house.
- All other Rock Features, as well as the two locations that were previously found to contain human skeletal remains which are well outside of any allowed construction zone, will remain undisturbed and protected.

## 3. Description of Concurrent Archaeological Studies

As property owner I am committed to having all stages of the proposed development project subject to Archaeological Monitoring. This will include the following components:

- A pre-development orientation meeting with project construction-crew members to make them aware of the presence of cultural heritage features and the presence of human remains. This will include information about local First Nations burial

practices and the importance of such places in the spiritual life of local First Nations.

- All identified rock features and the location of human remains will be flagged and otherwise identified in the field by means of temporary fencing and other means (such as boxing them behind protective barriers). All such locations will be treated as no-work zones. Any excavation or other ground preparation work that might be required in the immediate vicinity of a rock feature will be closely monitored by the Archaeological Monitoring Team on site to insure that no damage to cultural features.
- Access paths and walkways (such as access between the house construction site and the wharf area) will be routed around rock features and a non-disturbance buffer of two meters will be imposed.
- Any construction equipment, tools or construction material that might require storage on the island during the project development, will be placed in areas having no rock features or identified human remains. These areas will be determined prior to the start-up of construction work and their location and extent marked out by the Archaeological Monitoring Team.
- At the conclusion of the construction work, site cleanup and other project wind-up activity on the island, will also be monitored by the Archaeological Monitor crew.
- Lastly, the Archaeological Monitor will work closely with the Landscape Design Consultant to insure that any future landscaping work on the island does not impact on any of the rock features or areas that contain human remains. If necessary, archaeological monitoring will extend into the landscaping stage of development if any potential threat to cultural features is identified.

Archaeological Monitoring will be directed by one or more Professional Archaeologist(s) from the Victoria office of Terra Archaeology Ltd. and The Bastion Group Heritage Consultants of Victoria B.C., under the overall direction of Terra Archaeologist, Kevin Twohig or an alternate from the same firm, to be named later if necessary. Terra Archaeology personnel will be assisted by members of local First Nations who have shown an interest in the proposed Grace Islet development.

## **5. Disposition of Materials and Associated Remains**

Should any archaeological remains or other significant cultural materials be collected in the course of the proposed project, these will be fully documented as to provenience and cultural association, after which they will be delivered to the Royal B.C. Museum for future curation (Grant Keddie, contact person).

Should any human remains be found in the course of the proposed archaeological monitoring program, construction work will immediately cease and contact will be made with local First Nations who may assert a claim or interest in such finds for the purpose of consulting with them regarding the handling and disposition of the remains. The B.C. Archaeology Branch will also be informed and consulted and the on-site Archaeological Monitor will adhere to the current Archaeology Branch policy regarding found human remains.

## **6. Alteration Schedule and Permit Expiry Date**

Expected during the period from July 1, 2013 to November 30, 2016. This might change depending on construction schedules or other factors. Suggested Permit Expiry Date is November 30, 2016.

## **7. Archaeological Field Personnel**

To be determined.

## **8. Previous Permits Held by Applicant**

Alteration Permit 2011-0343

## **REFERENCES**

Madrone Environmental Services Ltd.

- 2013 *Report on the Examination of Disturbed Soils Within the Site Boundaries of Grace Islet, Saltspring Island, B.C.*  
Permit Report 2011-0343 prepared for the B.C. Archaeology Branch and Mr. Barry Slawsky

Simonsen, Bjorn and John Somogyi

- 2010 *Results of an Archaeological Impact Assessment at Grace Islet, Ganges Harbour, Saltspring Island, British Columbia.*  
Permit Report 2007-041; on file with the B.C. Archaeology Branch, Victoria

