

Photos courtesy of Parks Canada



Floor of the bilge, slightly ahead of midships. Survey lines placed by excavation team are made of aluminum.

of Culture and Tourism of Newfoundland.

Unlike other outports, Red Bay has a permanent year-round population of about 300, compared to the estimated 800 Basques who inhabited the harbour

400 years ago. The Basque establishments in Labrador gradually fell into decay after whaling galleons were recalled for the Spanish Armada's attack on England.

Mr. Grenier and his team hope to com-



Diver in process of excavation within a small aluminum grid.

plete their underwater survey of the Basque sites in the area and start excavation next year. He says the discovery is a "unique example" of sixteenth-century ship construction.

Students in big dig at Maritime Mic Mac campsite

A Mic Mac campsite at least 2,000 years old has become the latest archaeological project of the University of New Brunswick.

Chris Turnbull, provincial archaeologist and a lecturer in anthropology at the university, describes the campsite, on which excavation was begun this summer, as possibly the biggest archaeological site in the Maritimes.

It has been estimated at about 300 metres long, 50 metres wide and two metres deep.

The campsite, called the Oxbow, is located on a flood plain near the estuary of the South West Miramichi River. Centuries of silt washing down the river have covered up and helped preserve layers of artifacts representing different periods of habitation.

Dr. Turnbull says the crew working on the site this summer uncovered relatively recent artifacts, from the 1700s, near the surface. As they dug deeper, they came across objects at least 2,000 years old.

The site contains fireplaces, tools,

pottery and arrowheads. Dr. Turnbull hopes "to figure out the domestic side of life" of the people who lived there 2,000 years ago.

He says some of the cooking pots which were found have baked on carbonized food inside. Small blackened rocks were also found around the fireplaces. These, he says, were probably heated in the fire, then dropped into pots of water — a method of heating water similar to today's electric immersion heaters.

Dr. Turnbull hopes analysis of the Oxbow artifacts over the winter will help build up an archaeological picture of the region, which he says does not yet exist.

He also wants to be able to compare findings from the Oxbow site, a Mic Mac habitation, with findings from a similar site on Fulton Island in the St. John River, a Malecite settlement excavated in 1974. It was also two metres deep, and contained artifacts ranging from 300 to 2,500 or 3,000 years old.

(From University Perspectives, October 10, 1978.)

New containment facility at NRC

At the 1971 Asilomar Conference in California the international scientific community expressed concern with the risks involved in studies with recombinant DNA molecules. As a result, guidelines for recombinant DNA research and facilities to house such activities were adopted by various agencies, Canada's National Research Council among them.

The Council has since begun construction of a facility, one of the first of its kind in Canada, in which a variety of recombinant DNA experiments could be performed. Of the C Level variety, the facility will use segregated cubicles from which all air is purified by special filters and will include equipment and procedures carefully designed for the safety of personnel.

The measures should enable the Division of Biological Sciences to proceed with its new program for the construction and reproduction, by cloning, of genes for the synthesis of insulin, for the fixation of nitrogen, and other beneficial biological activities.