



Sunbury Neighbourhood Association

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Archaeology

The Glenrose cannery site has had 10,000 years of human occupation and is an internationally renowned wet site. It is well documented in RG Matson's book, *The Glenrose Cannery Site* and is featured at the Royal BC Museum with an extensive display and collections as well as at the Museum of Anthropology at U.B.C. who are the stewards of the site. Dg Rr-006 as it is known in the scientific community, has been showcased at a national festival in Edinborough, Scotland and a world exposition in Paris, France, both of which highlighted the Glenrose site as "an example of B.C. native history of world calibre". Collections from our Provincial museum had people lined up around the block waiting to see the native history of British Columbia, of which the Glenrose site was a large part.

In 1981, Colin Hanson pressed the Government of the day to protect "The last remaining archaeology sites in the Fraser Valley; The Glenrose site, the St. Mungo site and the Spetifore lands. The Spetifore lands are now covered with condominiums, and the last two sites "of great local heritage value and international heritage value..." are still unprotected. The St. Mungo site was deemed important enough to force the footing for the Alex Fraser Bridge to be moved at a significant cost. We believe that since the Glenrose site is the more important of the two in terms of a world heritage scale, that it should force the movement of the SFPR.

Excavations were carried out at the Glenrose Cannery Site during 1973 and 1974. The site consists of three components: the Old Cordilleran (8150 - 5700 B.P.); the St. Mungo era (4300 - 3300 B.P.); and the Marpole (2300 - ca. 2000 B.P.).

Well-preserved faunal material found throughout most of the site provides a good picture of the prehistoric subsistence patterns. Five thousand years of continuous deposition shows a slowly increasing adaptation to riverine and foreshore resources. Analysis of the mammalian fauna showed stability throughout the midden. Fish remains also showed stability with salmon dominant throughout, while avian material was concentrated in the upper two components. Summer indicators were found in the lower portions, and herring, a winter indicator, was found only in the Marpole Component. Shellfish remains occurred primarily in the upper two components, and appear to have had dietary significance equal to all mammals combined.

It was concluded that the Old Cordilleran Component was occupied during the summer, and was dominated by land mammal hunting. The St. Mungo Component

was occupied at various seasons, but was dominated by riverine and foreshore resources. Occupation in the Marpole Component was during the winter, and the same resources were found as in the St. Mungo Component. These findings indicate how early man developed from a hunter gatherer with a nomadic lifestyle and little or no difference in family or community status...to a society that learned advanced tool making, storage and preservation of foods, and community minded living in more permanent villages.

The reason archaeological sites greater than 10,000 yrs.B.P. are not found, is because the ocean levels were much lower then. After the melting of the last ice age the oceans rose to their current levels and covered any previous shore sites, making the Glenrose site one of the oldest available sites in the world.

In British Columbia, we utilize and promote native symbols, design, art and history, and we are happy to bundle them up and send them off around the world to showcase what the great academics and professors of the world say is unrivalled. Yet, here at home, we don't protect them. If the Glenrose site is not protected, in the future they will look back and say **what fools we were!**

There are many questions that need to be addressed in regards to the current SFPR plans.

- Do the plans call for bridging over the cannery site or fill in? Site capping is acceptable only when it can be shown that deposits are not comprised by compaction, accelerated decomposition, horizontal displacement, or possible deleterious changes in soil chemistry. Has this been addressed?
- What price are we putting on our internationally acclaimed heritage?
- A recent report states, "some form of archaeological mitigation will be required" for both the St. Mungo Site and the Glenrose Cannery Site. What form of mitigation will take place?
- Has the Heritage Advisory Association 'advised council on the development issue relating to the history, heritage, conservation, and preservation' of this extremely important example of an internationally renowned archaeological site?

The residents of Delta want our archaeological history protected for future scientific and educational reasons and we look forward to working with you in pressing the Provincial Government for protection of this internationally important site.

Habitat

British Columbia is the most biologically diverse province in Canada. Because of the diversity of ecosystems in the province, a large number of the total number of species in Canada is found here. British Columbia is home to more than 60 per cent of Canada's birds, vascular plants, mammals and insects. Diversity in all living things enriches our lives, but more importantly, biodiversity is essential to life on earth. Biodiversity not only maintains a functional environment; it is a resource for food, shelter, clothing and other materials. The economy relies on biodiversity since it provides renewable economic resources and ecosystem services, medical and scientific benefits, **and is priceless in term of cultural and aesthetic values**. The economic value of biodiversity in the form of natural resources is easy to measure, since its biomass is directly used in commerce. However, the value of biodiversity associated with maintaining these natural resources is much more difficult to assess. Biodiversity provides a variety of ecosystem services, which are critical to human survival and the economy. Different organisms are responsible for controlling invasive or pest species, maintaining soil fertility, pollinating and thereby maintaining diverse vegetation, purifying air and water, detoxifying and decomposing wastes, and regulating climate. These ecosystem services are complex natural processes that are interrelated in ways that are not completely understood. Therefore, the impact of losing any one of these processes on our economy is unknown.

The Fraser River is one of the great rivers of the world, draining nearly 250,000 square kilometers into the Strait of Georgia (Pacific Ocean). The estuary, a coastal body of tidal water where fresh water is mixed with seawater, is a significant natural area with some of the most productive biological systems in the world.

Nowhere in the British Columbia are the environmental pressures and competing demands for space and resources greater than in the fertile and heavily populated area around the Fraser estuary. Over the next 20 years, the growing population in the Vancouver area will reach three million people. These people will be looking to the Fraser River estuary to satisfy demands for housing, commercial and industrial developments, expansion of ports, and recreation. At the same time, the region's residents want to protect fish and wildlife habitat and improve the environmental quality of the estuary.

Many of the species in British Columbia are at risk of extinction. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has identified over 100 species in British Columbia that are at risk. In addition to the species that are nationally at risk, the Provincial Government, through the B.C. Conservation Data Centre (CDC), identifies species at the risk of extirpation, or extinction, from the province. The CDC currently has identified 597 Red-listed species and 835 Blue-listed species in B.C. Red-listed species are either extirpated, endangered, or threatened and are considered to be the most at risk. Blue-listed species are considered to be vulnerable to human activities and natural disturbance, and are

monitored to evaluate whether their populations are declining. These 'species at risk' lists identify species that are in need of protection. There are potentially many more species at risk that have not been included on the current lists because of a lack of ecological data and funding.

The potential loss of wide ranging, common species, like the Downy Woodpecker, which excavates cavities that are used by secondary nesters such as owls and squirrels, could dramatically alter ecological processes and species relationships throughout the Fraser River estuary. The most difficult value of biodiversity to measure is its aesthetic beauty and cultural heritage. Individuals and groups use their own measuring stick to assess these values. Some idealize it, and some define themselves in part by it.

In 1937, British Columbian artist Emily Carr wrote in her journal "It is wonderful to feel the grandness of Canada in the raw, not because she is Canada but because she's something sublime that you were born into, some great rugged power that you are a part of." Unfortunately, benefits from economic goods, ecosystem services and societal values are in jeopardy because biodiversity is declining.

Although, species extinction is a natural process, human consumption of natural resources has accelerated the rate of extinction of species to more than 100 times greater than known background rates. This loss is an early warning of a rapidly deteriorating environment. The documented extinction and endangerment of species, loss or degradation of habitat, depletion of natural resources and associated economic impacts lead to a loss of cultural heritage. The rate of biodiversity loss must be decreased if we are to retain the magnificence of a rich biota, and sustain the natural resources that maintain our growing human population. Wildlife corridors and riparian areas must also be maintained to keep the biodiversity of the region intact.

In an effort to better identify areas and their different protection needs, an international colour classification system has been developed and adopted by governing bodies and their representative agencies. In North Delta, the bluffs and the adjacent shoreline have been designated with red listed and blue listed habitat as well as red coded and yellow coded foreshore areas respectively. Since Red Listed species are considered to be extirpated, endangered or threatened, their habitat is essential and is the highest on the list for protection.

Red coded habitats include productive and diverse habitat features that support critical fish and wildlife functions onsite or as part of a more regional context. Blue listed species are considered vulnerable and the associated habitat is especially important in the Fraser corridor, as it is essential that migratory continuity be maintained for amphibians and small mammals as well as for fish. Isolated populations have reduced genetic fitness that will affect their long-term survival.

In the latest review by the **Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP)**, some areas between the Alex Fraser Bridge and Gunderson slough were upgraded to red coded, adding to a growing list of red coded and red listed species/habitat in our area. Development in red coded areas is restrictive and may only occur provided that mitigation is applied through site location and/or design to avoid impacts on habitat features and functions of the area. **Habitat compensation is not an option as a rule. The only circumstances whereby exception to the above guideline can be considered are where the project is specifically undertaken in the interest of public health and safety.** That is not the situation in North Delta. Even in public health and safety cases, alternative siting and design mitigation must be pursued **to the maximum extent possible.** Areas such as these are protected for a reason...not so they can be swept aside with monetary compensation. No amount of money can make up for the loss of irreplaceable habitat.

In keeping with the objectives and policies of the Delta's Official Community Plan, we will be working with Delta Council in:

- 'Developing a wildlife management plan for parks and environmentally sensitive areas including a habitat inventory' on our bluffs.
- 'Protecting the natural environment and heritage features' along our riverfront. And...
- Pressing the Provincial and Federal Governments to stand behind their environmental protection designations and policies by adequately funding North Delta's habitat preservation.

As well we expect the Greater Vancouver gateway Council to respect these tenets and support us in preserving habitat that should never have suffered further threat.

Heritage

In almost every country and city in the world, Governments are protecting and reclaiming their heritage. Growing understanding of the outstanding universal value of urban heritage goes well beyond the value of the individual buildings it contains.

The preservation of cultural heritage,” explains the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, “is essential for two separate sets of reasons: because of its universal aesthetic and historic value on the one hand and because of its importance to the societies and cultures that are its custodians on the other. Cultural heritage provides a link between past and present and as such boosts individuals’ and communities’ sense of identity and social cohesion. In this way it also cements the foundation on which societies build their future.” However, preserving individual buildings and monuments while carelessly altering their urban environment causes these monuments to lose their meaning and, arguably, much of their value, according to the World Heritage Committee and the experts that advise it.

To quote Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson: “In Canada, our material well-being and our social conscience have combined to create a country that is often described as the best in the world. While we are proud of this accomplishment, we know that our present good fortune is built on the convictions and actions of earlier Canadians. Their efforts brought our society into being, and its present and future growth will be safeguarded by our knowledge of the perils and opportunities that history offers.”

Canada is a nation with a rich river heritage. Rivers molded this country and its peoples. We use rivers as travel routes and as a source of livelihood. We swim and fish in their waters, are challenged by their rapids and wilderness, find peace of mind and solitude along their shores. Rivers are part of our lives and our dreams. Rivers are the threads that weave together the natural and human elements of Canada. But many of our rivers have been severely impacted by dams, diversions, pollution and development. As a result, much of our river heritage is threatened and may be lost forever.

North Delta was built upon the river by pioneers who came here to fish and farm. Families that have lived here since the 1800s and brought up generations of children, are still here because of the livability of our neighbourhoods. Many of our streets are named after these pioneers, yet the current plans for the SFPR, threaten to evict these very families, and expropriate their homes. We have a rich heritage in Delta and therefore a lot to lose. While the South Fraser Perimeter road is an important part of the infrastructure required for the movement of containers and goods, it should not come at such a dear cost to our community. Under the current plans we stand to lose the Johnson house which was built in 1915, his son’s house and store on Centre Street, the Jensen House, the Nesbitt house on the hill above the cannery, built by Richard Nesbitt, manager of the cannery for years, the Bartlett house and

Watchman's shack in the ravine by the Cannery, and the Glenrose cannery itself, the last working cannery on the Fraser River, will have its access blocked and so the oldest remaining North Delta business will be told to move on. Other heritage homes that are not on the expropriation list will be seriously devalued by being close to, or under a freeway and the resultant pollution that goes with it.

As well as heritage buildings being lost, the families that built them are being driven out of North Delta.

The Sheaves have lived on River Road all their lives with Sheaves Court named for them. Now they don't know if they should bother putting a new roof on their house, because for years they have heard a freeway is coming.

Iverson Crescent was named for her husband, yet at 91 yrs. of age, Mrs. Iverson sits on her porch watching the river as she has done for 75 years on River Road, and wonders where she will go. Her son lives next door and works the river. His boats and the net shed his family have leased for decades will be gone. Her daughter, three doors down, wonders where they could buy equivalent properties where the family can stay intact.

Several very long term families and dozens of others will be sent packing, as well as home based businesses that have been built upon the river. Bill Hill's house is not in danger of expropriation, however his view of the mountains and the river he played on as a small child over seventy years ago will be obscured by a raised freeway that is planned in front of his home. These families are our heritage and what is happening to them is scandalous, immoral and criminal. We must all work to preserve and protect North Delta's heritage and those families that created it!

As stated in the Delta motto 'yours to protect through hand and heart'and as per Delta's Official Community Plan, let's work hard to make our community **Livable** by creating a sustainable, healthy and safe community in which today's quality of life will also be enjoyed in the future; **Planned** by fostering development in a planned and integrated manner that respects natural systems, manages urban growth, provides transportation choices and reinforces community identity; **Complete** by developing a community in which people of all ages, family structures, backgrounds and interests can live, work and play; and most of all, **Green** by protecting the natural environment and heritage features of our community.

Investments in modern infrastructure and facilities should not make us lose the proven social, cultural and economic assets that our heritage represents. The Sunbury Neighbourhood Association is not willing to give up our heritage and our founding families to make way for a freeway that will expedite the movement of goods, but at such a huge cost to our community. There is another option!

The Sunbury Neighbourhood Association is looking forward to working with The Greater Vancouver Gateway Council to plan an infrastructure that allows for the movement of goods to and from our federally mandated ports and the rest of Canada, while protecting our community with its deep, rich heritage, archeological importance and irreplaceable habitat. We would also like to have the answers to the following questions:

- How many homes/businesses would be expropriated and what is the expropriation process?
- How many would suffer what most would consider to be “unacceptable” noise/visual impacts and how can these possibly be mitigated?
- What other major inconveniences would people suffer and to what extent?