



## Archeological Site Notes

By Snowfield Development Corp

Submitted to Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

## KEY LAND USE PERMITTING QUESTION

**Can the MVEIRB provide guidance to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board with respect to "Rules and Distance of Engagement" for the mineral exploration industry along the shores of Great Slave Lake? Otherwise the Permitting Board's hands are promptly tied once again if and when Land Use Permit applications are made for claims that border Moose Bay, Jackfish Cove, Goulet Bay, for instance, or elsewhere on Great Slave Lake or the Mackenzie River.**

A preliminary survey performed by the YKDFN gives unequivocal direction that many additional potential archeological sites exist along the shores of Great Slave Lake.

There is little to no policy in place to guide the exploration industry when and where staked mineral claims embrace inhabited, formerly inhabited and/or navigable portions of the Mackenzie River watershed.

In addition to mineral claims being explored throughout the Slave Geological Province, there are mineral claims staked on Crown Land along much of the north shore of Great Slave Lake from Yellowknife Bay to beyond Thor Lake.

From YKDFN archeologist Callum Thomson's presentation to the MVEIRB Hearing, pg 262 of the Nov 25 transcript:

So, that suggestion is -- is over to the Board and perhaps there needs to be some consideration given to earlier research into archeological sites that might be present so they can be avoided.

...it's generally accepted that terraces and bedrock outcrops adjacent to lakes and rivers are areas of high potential for archeological sites...

Many of the known archeological sites in the north have been found during the course of road, power-line and pipeline construction and to a lesser extent, mineral exploration and mining. The potential for a diamond drill site or winter road to overlap an archeological site is low and in the few unfortunate cases where it has happened, the damage is slight; according to archeologist Callum Thomson, Nov 25 MVEIRB Hearing:

So I've seen places where drill rigs have been set right on top of prehistoric sites and have done a little bit of damage. page 260

So winter drilling and winter access road construction are not completely devoid of the potential for impact on archaeological sites although that potential is very low. page 261

## **Snowfield's Archeological and Cultural Commitments**

- Snowfield welcomes the opportunity to perform selected, preliminary shoreline archeological site inspections within its mineral claims in order for the company to responsibly direct its exploration activities.
- During the course of preliminary shoreline archeological site inspections, we would seek to engage one or two elders so that no one will disturb known and potential gravesites, as well as to aid in the identification of cultural sites.
- Archeological survey documentation would be reported to aboriginal groups, appropriate government agencies and the MVLW Board. Such information would be kept confidential per archeological regulatory guidelines.

## **ENCLOSURES**

Archeology in the Yukon: Our Link to the Past (Yukon Government brochure)

Burial Sites: Part of Our Heritage (Yukon Government brochure)

## **PRIOR SUBMITTALS**

North Slave Metis Alliance Information Requests (8 pg)  
(five topics including Archeological Sites)

Documentation of Past Land Use Along the North Shore of Great Slave Lake  
Based on an Interview with Hugh Arden, Metis Elder (2 pg)

# Memorandum

**To: Robert T. Paterson**  
**Snowfield Development Corp.**

**From: Patrick McDowall**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003**

**Re: Surface Reconnaissance During Line-Cutting and Sample Collection at Mud Lake Grid, Summer 2003.**

## Introduction

During the summer of 2003 I was engaged by Snowfield Development Corporation to participate in a month long field season. My primary role was to complete a program of line cutting and sampling within the Snowfield claims south of Drybones Bay. At the completion of the field season some 37 kilometers of line had been cut in one locale (as part of a single grid) and several dozen till samples were collected from various locations in the claims.

Although I had been employed by Snowfield for the purpose of geological prospecting, my background in archaeology allowed me to add a further dimension to my work. It is the nature of outdoor work that one is constantly watching the ground and observing surface characteristics. Thus, throughout the period of my employment, I was additionally able to monitor for cultural remains during my line-cutting and sampling duties. Since my academic background included the study of First Nation cultural history I am aware of the type of possible artifacts or site characteristics that could exist in the area. It is also important to note that three of my co-workers during the program were themselves members of the Dogrib nation. They were respectively Chris Abel, Shawn Godard and Felix Beyonie from N'Dilo. Their background allowed them to be both aware and sensitive to the existence of possible cultural remains.

It is necessary at this stage to list and describe the locations where detailed fieldwork took place. Please refer to the provided aerial photograph (Figure 1) for further information as to where the project was conducted. The field camp itself was located on the shoreline of the Great Slave Lake, directly southeast from Burnt Island. It was a non-permanent field camp that was erected in an area where recent camping had already occurred. No surface artifacts were observed in this area throughout the fieldwork season. The grid is located approximately some 800 meters southeast from the field camp. The area of the grid is comprised mostly of swamplands and thick bush interspersed with rock outcrops. During extensive travel throughout this grid area I did not observe any surface

cultural remains. In both the swampy areas and atop the outcrops I did not come upon any surface artifacts or habitation sites. The fact that the grid lies some distance from a fresh water supply and is generally low-lying supports the fact that it would be unlikely for a habitation site to exist here. It is possible that there are a number of trail routes and traplines in the grid area however I did not come upon any evidence of these. My co-workers also reported that they did not observe any definite evidence of surface cultural remains.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

I have an academic archeological background. I did not observe any cultural remains within the line-cutting area or the field camp area during the 2003 line-cutting program. However, I firmly believe that the area between the grid and the shoreline requires further archaeological survey work due to its proximity to Great Slave Lake.

Figure 1



# Resume

**Name:** Patrick Gennen McDowall

**Birth date:** 29<sup>th</sup> August 1978

**Address:** Apt. 109, 1009 West 10<sup>th</sup>, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1H9

**Telephone:** 604-733-2948

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**Languages:** English and conversational Spanish

**Education:** B.C. High School Graduation, IB Program  
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology (Specialization in  
Archaeology), University of British Columbia.  
Degree completed in 2002.

## Work Experience:

**01/07/96-30/08/96** **Limac Associates, Vancouver, Canada**

**Position:** Field Supervisor

**Project Location:** Ireland/Northern Ireland

**Duties:** Engaged in a two-month contract for a junior prospecting company in Ireland and Northern Ireland. During this time I was responsible for project management, collection of soil samples and public relations in issues regarding the required use of private lands.

**01/05/97-20/07/97** **Northstar Diamonds, Sweden**

**Position:** Field Technician

**Project Location:** Finland

**Duties:** Employed by this Swedish based company to carry out a regional sampling survey in the far north of Finland. This contract involved intensive fieldwork in rural areas of Lapland where self-reliance and public relations skills were imperative. In the carrying out of my duties I became familiar with map reading, GPS technology and field based computer skills.

**28/07/97-26/08/97**

**Lunt Roman Fort Excavation,  
University of British Columbia Archaeology Field School**

**Position:** Site Worker

**Project Location:** United Kingdom

**Duties:** Learnt basic archaeological skills in this field school under the direction of Professor Anthony Barrett. Became familiar with the use of survey tools, screening, artifact tagging and site report forms.

**01/05/98-26/06/98**

**Poplar Resources Ltd, Vancouver, BC Canada**

**Position:** Field Technician

**Project Location:** Finland

**Duties:** Involved in a diamond prospecting program with this Vancouver based company. The survey was conducted in southern Finland and involved the sampling of both alluvial and glacial soils.

**02/07/98-21/08/98**

**Humeima Excavation, Jordan  
University of Victoria Archaeology Site**

**Position:** Site Worker

**Project Location:** Jordan

**Duties:** Excavated an Abbasid palace at the Humeima site located in rural Jordan. The excavation was under the direction of J.P. Oleson (University of Victoria, Canada) and was partly funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. I excavated numerous layers of one room in the palace, screening, keeping daily reports and collecting floral and faunal samples for later laboratory analysis. This was an intensive two month long excavation that allowed me to develop and harness a number of important field excavation techniques.

**20/02/99-21/03/99**

**Poplar Resources Ltd, Vancouver, BC Canada**

**Position:** Survey Technician

**Project Location:** Free State, South Africa

**Duties:** Employed on a contract basis to carry out a magnetic survey for Poplar Resources on their Karmel Diamond project in South Africa. It was a relatively short program but I was able to utilize my computer skills in the collection of the magnetic data through the use of a back-mounted Gem magnetometer unit.

**10/05/99-09/08/99**

**Thunderbird Marina, West Vancouver**

**Position:** Yard Worker

**Location:** West Vancouver

**Duties:** Employed for the summer by Thunderbird Marina in Vancouver. I was responsible for basic maintenance and the dry-docking of boats. I became proficient in using the large dry-docking mobile crane and also a forklift that was utilized for the transportation of the smaller powerboats.

**01/05/01-07/07/01**

**Poplar Resources Ltd, Vancouver, BC Canada**

**Position:** Field Supervisor/IP Survey Technician

**Project Location:** Bottenbacken, Sweden

**Duties:** The first month of my contract with Poplar involved project management and the supervising of the cutting of some 100 kilometers of line in central Sweden. The purpose of this was to enable an IP (Induced Polarization) survey to be carried out. For the balance of my contract I joined an IP crew from Scott Geophysical Services and carried out the intended survey over the Bottenbacken property. I became proficient in computer data collection, radio communications and understanding the importance of teamwork in these rural locations.

**12/08/02-20/06/03**

**Hillside Construction, Vancouver**

**Position:** Carpenter's Assistant

**Location:** Vancouver

**Duties:** Employed at a large construction site that has been proceeding for some five years now. Learnt the skills required for basic carpentry, electric tool proficiency and forming techniques. The majority of the work I was involved in at the site was outside and thus I had to be able to operate in all forms of adverse weather conditions.

**01/07/03 – 24/08/03**

**Snowfield Development Corp, Vancouver**

**Position:** Fieldworker

**Project Location:** Ticho Project, Northwest Territories, Canada

**Duties:** The area of exploration for the duration of my contract was around the vicinity of Yellowknife, in the North West Territories. This diamond exploration program involved the cutting of line for a geophysical survey grid and the collection of a number of alluvial samples. The maintenance and re-supplying of the fly camp was also my responsibility during the exploration season. I also gained proficiency in the use of chainsaws and moving gear with an ATV.

## **Countries Worked:**

Canada, Sweden, Finland, South Africa, United Kingdom, Ireland, Northern Ireland,  
Jordan

## **References:**

1. Wayne Melvin      Director and Managing Director      Tel. 604-718-5454  
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