The Gateways Project 2008

Land and Underwater Excavations at Hare Harbor, Mécatina

William Fitzhugh and Ben Ford
June 2009

Produced by Abigail McDermott
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1-Strategies of Intervention

The Smithsonian’s St. Lawrence Gateways Project utilizes a variety of archaeological methods during different phases of the land and underwater project: investigation and research to find new sites; preliminary area surveys; mapping and recording; systematic excavation; and the production of archaeological reports.

Investigation: The 2008 summer season took place during the first three weeks of August during which we conducted archaeological research in the Hare Harbor/Petit Mecatina area, St. Augustine, and Brador region. Most of the fieldwork was directed to the Hare Harbor-1 (EdBt-3) site on Petit Mecatina Island, which has been investigated yearly since 2002. Attention was split between the land site and underwater site. Survey work was done this summer at a small tent ring site on Cumberland Island named Place Merkit (EhBn-8), and the Hart Chalet site (EiBh-47) in Brador.

Site Surveys: On land, the same survey, evaluation and mapping techniques, using standard field data forms were employed as in previous years. Sites were photographed and sketched, and test pits were used to determine subsurface stratigraphy and presence of cultural deposits. Notes on the soil, cultural deposits, and notable features were measured and drawn. Ground surface elevations were taken and depths of rocks and excavated artifacts, samples, and features were also measured. Several balks were mapped as well to identify the stratigraphy of the soil. Artifacts recovered were given temporary field numbers for identification and were recorded as to location and depth recovered. If portions of a structure were visible, they were mapped in relation to the grid as well. Record photographs of all objects were taken.

Systematic Excavation: For a site requiring full scale excavation such as Hare Harbor-1 (EdBt-3), we established a grid of coordinates in meters based on a datum point with a recorded height above sea level and latitude/longitude. The grid established in 2002 was based on x/y coordinates and employs 2x2m units named from the point at the northeast corner of the square (e.g. 12North/22East) to maintain accurate recording and maps. Artifacts uncovered are numbered in the field and are described and traced in field notes. Significant artifacts are photographed in situ, and immediately after removal. Photographs and maps of the structural aspects are also made. Excavation and testing in 2007 focused on expanding the A3 excavation area at Hare Harbor-1 (EdBt-3) site at Structure-2, a blacksmith shop, at which work was conducted expanded through 2005-7. The 2008 excavation expanded the excavation along the northern hillside and below the upper level floor pavement. Upon completion of the excavation, with all squares excavated to sterile peat, the entire A3/S2 site was back-filled and sodded over to maintain the structural integrity of the site as Area 3 is part of the natural drainage system for the overall site.

Systematic Underwater Survey: For the Hare Harbor-1 underwater site (EdBt-3) excavation, experienced divers were brought in to expand excavations begun in 2006-7 in the central areas of the submerged deposits. The depth of and slope of the area was recorded using a depth gauges on dive computers, and a map of features was made using a triangulation from the master site grid. A line extension was also made to make triangulation more precise given the steep grade of the site area. Work in 2008 involved repairing damaged or missing grid markers and lines and tags. Two dredge units were employed to excavate three 2x2 meter test pits in quadrants B and D near two of the large ballast piles (see map in Ben Ford’s report). Each of these test pits
was excavated by trowel and resulted in recovery of artifacts, animal and fish remains, wood and other materials. All finds were photographed and were kept submerged in salt water until they could be cared for in the lab.

**Processing, Analysis, and Reporting:** All of the artifacts collected were catalogued in the field and photographed, then packaged to be delivered to an archaeological laboratory of the Ministère de la Culture du Québec for cleaning, preservation, and cataloguing by Frédéric Simard at the Center of Conservation. All field notes and details of activities are kept with the records of the excavation in previous seasons. Photographs, illustrations, maps and field notes appear in this report. A detailed report of the 2008 project is presented here and several published reports have also been issued.

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**Acknowledgments**

The 2008 field season was made possible by the assistance of many individuals and organizations. Our excavation team included Abby McDermott (administrator, Arctic Studies Center), Will Richard (project photographer and Arctic Studies Center Research Collaborator from Georgetown, Maine), William Fitzhugh, Christine Ecchevaria Bender (author and volunteer from Boise, Idaho), and Alix Penland (volunteer). Underwater archaeologists, under the direction of chief diver Ben Ford (Texas A&M University), included Laurie Penland (Smithsonian Dive Program), Christie Leece (Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago), Vincent Delmas (University of Montreal), and William Fitzhugh. Major support and equipment for the underwater program was provided by Brad Loewen of the University of Montreal. *Pitsiulak* skipper Perry Colbourne guided our vessel, supported diving operations, and was our primary bakeapple provider. Louise Colbourne and the wider Colbourne clan, Boyce Roberts and Michelle, Christine Vatcher and Wilson Evans, Paul and Cynthia Rowsell, Clifford and Florence Hart and many others provided hospitality, material, and social support. We thank Nick Shattler and Clifford Hart for guiding our fieldwork in St. Augustine and Brador. We received important assistance from Frank Rochefort and Geneviève Meunier in the Quebec Archaeology office. Frederic Simard provided technical assistance in the processing and cataloguing of the 2008 artifact collections. Sophia Perdikaris analyzed the faunal remains and Brenda McLeod performed the DNA analysis of our whale remains. My assistant, Abby McDermott, in addition to participating in the field program, supervised project planning and travel plans and performed many administrative miracles that made the project possible, in addition to writing the logs for the last few days of the trip, together with Will Richard. Zaborian Payne monitored our activities from her perch as funds manager, contracting officer, and administrator par excellence back at the Smithsonian. Funding was provided by a Smithsonian endowment grant.
The Smithsonian’s St. Lawrence Gateways Project has been conducting archaeological fieldwork along Quebec’s Lower North Shore since 2001, and since 2002 has concentrated on expanding knowledge of Inuit settlement history along the region’s outer coast and on interactions with Europeans and other native groups. Discovery of a 17th century Basque site at Petit Méctina in 2001 focused our work on this site in the Harrington Harbor region, partly because little is known – and less has been archaeologically discovered – about later period Basque activities in the Gulf region, and because our initial investigations at the Hare Harbor Basque site turned up several Inuit artifacts that suggested an Inuit presence at the site. In subsequent years we uncovered two Basque structures – a cookhouse and a blacksmith shop – or at least structures that included such activities, and each succeeding year small numbers of Inuit or Paleoeskimo artifacts were found, including a small Growater Paleoeskimo site and traces of Middle Dorset occupation, which established new western boundaries for these cultures. The Inuit materials also were the western-most finds of this culture and suggested direct Inuit participation in Basque whaling and fishing activities and maintenance of camp and shore facilities; but the nature and extent of Inuit involvement at the Basque site remained unclear. As our work progressed our surveys east of Harrington in the St. Augustine region turned up other evidence of Paleoeskimo and early Inuit settlement, and in 2007 Inuit artifacts were found at the Hart Chalet site in Brador in direct association with Basque tiles and early European materials. The 2008 field season was dedicated to resolving the question of Inuit presence at Hare Harbor – known to local French-speakers as “Eskimo Bay” – and to clarifying the nature of Inuit finds at the Hart Chalet site. We could not have imagined more exciting results if we had invented them!

The following presents a narrative of the project, written as a day-by-log. Scientific data and results are presented in the field report section of this document.

Field Team
This year’s field team included William Fitzhugh and Abigail McDermott from the Smithsonian’s Arctic Studies Center; Christie Leece, a former Smithsonian crew member now working at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago; photographer and geographer Will Richard of Georgetown, Maine and a Smithsonian Research Collaborator; Laurie Penland, the Smithsonian’s Assistant Scientific Diving Program Specialist, and her daughter Alix (volunteer); Benjamin Ford, Dive Team Leader and a graduate student in underwater archaeology at Texas A&M University; Vincent Delmas, graduate student at the University of Montreal; and Christine Bender (volunteer), a professional writer and researcher of Basque culture associated with the Basque Museum in Boise, Idaho. As usual our skipper, Perry Colbourne of Lushes Bight, Long Island, located in the Green Bay region of northern Newfoundland, acted not only as captain and occasional cook but also as surface steward for the dive team, monitoring air supply and diver safety. At the conclusion of this report we note the contributions of many others to the 2008 project.

2008 Field Narrative

23-24 July The project began with my arrival in Newfoundland early in the morning on 24 July after a grueling day of flights that took me from Washington to Chicago, Toronto, Halifax and Deer Lake, Newfoundland, where I arrived without my luggage. I was immensely relieved to be greeted in Deer Lake at 12:38 am on the 24th by a grinning Will Richard, who had arrived by car from Maine earlier in the day. Ivy Nault’s B&B had closed, but I was fortunate that Will had arranged accommodation with his friends Greg and Joanne Wood, even though their house was under renovation. It was a real pleasure to breathe some cool, clean Newfoundland air after my three weeks in stifling Washington D.C., and the few mosquitoes only seemed to reaffirm one’s relevance in the great chain of being.

Will’s Volvo station wagon, a veteran of the Maine-to-Lushes Bight run, was full of wine, spaghetti, various sauces, and his home-grown black trumpet mushrooms. We did not have many provisions to add
in Deer Lake, and proceeded to Springdale where we paid calls at the Bank of Montreal and Leonard Harvey’s accounting firm. Leonard has been providing excellent support in managing Perry Colbourne’s Smithsonian employment funds, making all the necessary disbursements to Canadian provincial and federal authorities and ensuring Perry’s salary checks are deposited on schedule. At the bank I discovered that Joan had grown up in Port aux Choix in the house next to the one Elmer Harp rented while he was excavating the Phillip’s Garden site in the 1960s, and where I lived the summer of my first archaeological venture as a Dartmouth junior. She recalled the Harps with fondness and was present for the celebration the town threw for them ten years or so ago. She was happy to hear they are still well.

Will and I had already been warned that the Long Island ferry was operating on a new schedule, serving both Long Island and Little Bay of Islands in a triangular circuit, rather than the simple hourly run between Long Island and Pilley’s Island as in the past. Apparently the regular ferry – and its operators, Dennis and Steve Colbourne, Perry’s brothers – had been shifted way down the coast near the Avalon Peninsula, and were now having to commute on a three-week on-and-off schedule, basically living aboard the vessel and out of their parked cars, while another ferry and its crew served their home region. This makes it a bit more difficult to smuggle gas cans back to Long Island.

We found Perry down at the Lushes Bight wharf working on the Pisitulak, whose blue and white paint looked clean and snappy. The zodiac was on board and all the gear was installed and ready to go. In fact Perry had had her out for a trial cruise and everything checked out well, including the GPS navigation system. What we did not have, and I needed to get, was the dive compressor, tanks, and weights that we have been leasing from Robert and Kelly Linfield, owners of Diver Masters in Gander, a three hour drive to the east. I had called them a week ago to let them know I wanted the same gear package as last year and they agreed it would all be ready for me to pick up tomorrow. We unloaded Will’s car and stowed our gear and Will’s food and wine. Back at Perry’s house we caught up with his wife, Louise, daughter Jill, and Perry’s brother Dennis and Uncle Jim Colbourne now retired from Iron Ore of Canada after thirty years working in the Schefferville iron mines. It was quite hot all afternoon and I had no trouble agreeing to a swim in the pond in the middle of the island after supper with Louise, Jill and her boyfriend Matthew.

25 July, Friday (Lushes Bight)  By 3am it had cooled enough to sleep comfortably on the boat but by 7:00 Will and I were up and having coffee at Perry’s, ready for the early morning ferry. The drive to Gander was uneventful and we got to there by 11. This is the Linfield’s last year in Gander, as they plan to move back to Twillingate, their original home area, before next summer, now that their kids are out of the house. Another reason is the need for a more diversified business plan, for the dive business has been slacking off during the past couple of years as more and more Newfoundlanders head off the island for work. When they return they don’t have the same amount of free time or money while on vacation. Furthermore, the Newfoundland population as a whole is getting older and less adventuresome. So Robert has bought a boat and is into the fishing business, maintaining the dive shop as a side enterprise. Somehow we managed to get the compressor (which Robert had fixed up with a new gas engine which should give us full tank pressure), tanks and weights into Will’s Volvo. After a lunch and some hardware purchases we drove to Grand Falls and bought two new large truck batteries for the Pits to replace two that died last summer.

We arrived back on Pilley’s Island with enough time before the ferry to pay our bill at Budgell’s sports store and drop in for a hello to Ben Fudge, manager of what used to be the Triton Marine Service Center, which we found had been converted into a fabrication plant producing diamond drill rigs for the mining industry, mostly for use in the Canadian Arctic and Yukon. The rigs are small trailer-sized houses mounted on sleds that contain diamond drill gear and other seismic and testing equipment, as well as living quarters for the operators. Everything is modular and made to be hauled by truck or helicopter. Assembled, each rig is worth about 1 million dollars, Ben said – with a grin – since a good chunk of that price goes into his and his fabricators’ pockets. His contract will be at least ten years, seeing him well into retirement! So much for the boat-builder who shifted from wood to plywood to aluminum construction
and now says boat-building is a thing of the past: “too many boats around now, and no fish.” Time to move on. He’s a good example of the enterprising Newfoundlander’s approach to life.

While we waited for the ferry cars kept rolling into the ferry line, and each one seemed to bring someone we knew from the island, like Melvin Colbourne, another of Perry’s brothers, who was Perry’s mate on our trip up to Frobisher Bay. Then Kay Colbourne, a sister who had traveled with us on the Lower North Shore lined up. She’s home for the summer from her teacher’s job in God’s Lake, Manitoba, a Cree Indian community. Then came Maurice, married to another Colbourne sister, and finally in came a car with Washington DC plates – Abby McDermott and her husband Steve, who were finishing up a honeymoon trip through the Canadian Maritimes at Lushes Bight, where Abby was jumping off to be part of our field team. They had had a great trip, having ferried across to Argentia, the former US naval base I also once visited in spring 1966 during my tour as engineer officer on USS Peregrine. Coming up the Avalon they stopped at the Ferryland archaeological site, the first American settlement established – but hardly lived at – by the Lord Baltimore, before he decided there were greener pastures to the south in Maryland. There Abby chanced upon Jim Tuck, busy mapping some recently uncovered structures. “Dr. Tuck, I’m Abby McDermott and I work for Bill Fitzhugh. Do you know him?” “Well, sure. I’ve known him for fifty years.” End of conversation. Jim is not known for casual loquacity.

Meanwhile Perry had traveled in the other direction, to Deer Lake, to fetch Christie Leece from the plane, due in at 8pm. However, like my experience, weather and delays kept him guessing when and if she might arrive; but eventually she arrived, and my missing luggage also; so by midnight everyone was assembled. One of Perry’s daughters, Jane, had also come in from her summer wildlife job in Springdale and had wonderful tales to tell about catching and re-catchng black bears, studying the decay cycle of meat-eating insects, and doing DNA studies to determine bear lineages and territoriality. Louise, Perry wife, returned home sunburned at 11pm after a long day of cod-fishing out around Gull Island with Dennis and others. No one seemed to know where she’d gone, so Kay and Perry’s mother, taking pity on the starving gringos, made a meal of cod tongues for us at 10pm while she recounted her spring trip to the Bahamas. She seems to be getting younger every year! Visiting with her was a member of the Colbourne clan I had never met before because she lives on the mainland; Rosemary is mute but is a charming, lovely person full of humor and smiles.

26 July, Saturday (Lushes Bight) This was another very hot day for this part of the world, and everyone around Lushes Bight seemed to be looking to jump into the water, fresh or salt. Will and I secured the compressor and dredge hoses and pipes on the top deck and stowed the dive tanks for the trip. We took the 11am ferry and did some grocery shopping in Triton. Arriving back on Long Island, I got conned into taking the girls ‘tubing’ – dragging them around the harbor on a big inflated plastic ‘doughnut’ behind the speedboat, all the time being harangued by Jill for not going fast enough. The moderate southwest breeze made for a bumpy ride, and staying on the tube was not easy. Christie and Abby had successful rides, but when I opened the engine on Jill’s second run, she hit a big wave and went flying into the water nose first – and loved it! Perry was down at South Brook rendezvousing with another brother, Eugene, an oceanographer from St. John’s, who was driving west for his vacation and had some parts we needed for our boat engine. By evening we were all set and Louise cooked us a roast ham dinner. While these activities were going on most of Lushes Bight was either off fishing for capelin in long-liners or out in small boats at the subsistence cod fishery. This program allows five fish per person per trip, up to a maximum of fifteen per boat. The fish we saw brought in were small to medium-sized, but the fish do seem to be returning to the coast again. By evening we were all packed and ready to go first thing in the morning, and Abby and Christie had moved aboard.

27 July, Sunday (Lushes Bight to Quirpon) Conditions looked fine at 5:30am, and after goodbyes and a shot of coffee, we steamed out into the bay, past Gull Island and on to Cape St. Charles, the sea growing calmer as we got away from land and approached the Horse Islands. I was surprised to see newly-painted cottages in the small harbor on the south side of the eastern Horse Is. Perry says people
have been fixing up the old houses there and using them for a bit of fishing and berry-picking during the summer months. During the period when fishing was prohibited, it was impossible to occupy these off-shore outposts, so re-occupying such locations is another benefit of the private fishery. The wind puffed up a bit as we crossed the outer reaches of White Bay, but died again beyond that. For most of this crossing we sat out on the cabin deck reading or snoozing. Abby turned out to have no problems with the swells, only once having to resort to the ‘hard tack’ seasick remedy – chewing on a piece of this rock-hard bread takes your mind off mild attacks of motion sickness. Late in the afternoon we were off of St. Anthony and Will was able to use his cell-phone to call Boyce Roberts in Quirpon, alerting him to our progress. After a full 15-hour crossing, we pulled into Quirpon Harbor at 9:30 just as the last light faded and the fog came rolling in, and when we docked we found Boyce sitting by the pier in this car, having spotted our approach from his house, known as “Roberts Rooms.” We quickly repaired to his place for one of his fine dinners, prepared with the assistance of his girlfriend, Michelle, and soon his daughter Jamie came by to say hello with her 2-year old son Nick, who has inherited some of his grandfather’s sense of humor. Jamie has been working as a waitress at Gina and Adrian’s Norseman Restaurant, and Nick spends his days with Gina’s boy, also the same age, at a day-care they have arranged. This year the Norsemen is open from 11:00am to 9:00pm and still has Wade doing a couple of evening music performances, but they have discontinued the dinner theater. The new hours are easier on the staff, and business has been good—up 40% in June from last year—but now seems to be dropping off. The Parks Canada LAM site also has seen a drop, but Norstead has had a strong increase in visitation. The real test may be next year, if the high gas prices don’t drop, and they are probably the reason for the drop-off in mid-summer this year. Boyce filled us in on his winter work for one of the mining companies in northern Alberta, where he drives a truck. It’s deadly work, mostly standing by waiting for orders, living in your truck or your quarters as in a cocoon while the winter stands outside the security wall. But the pay is great and Boyce is a ‘new man’ now that he has found work which allows him to remain at home from late April through October. No trucks can roll in that remote land of muskeag and swamp until freeze-up, so it’s a near-perfect match for him, and Michelle has enough seniority in her Telus phone company job and puts in enough long overtime hours in the winter to be able to take quite a bit of time during the summers. We were still trying to leave at first light for Quebec, so we said goodbye and Boyce drove us back to the boat. The pier has been mostly empty for the past couple of years since the fishery started landing their catch in St. Anthony. It’s nice not having to double up with fishing draggers, but the downside is that they have locked up the wharf bathrooms, so showers and clothes washing are now longer available.

28 July, Monday (Quirpon)  
Rising at 6am we found the signs not propitious for an early departure. The wind was gusting from the southwest and weather reports called for 20-25 knots throughout the day; but by evening it was to drop and shift into the southeast. So we decided to stay for the day and introduce Abby to the L’Anse aux Meadows site and say hi to Gina at the restaurant. Boyce loaned us his car, and Perry made an excursion up the hill near the dock to check on the bakeapples, which were barely pink and at least a week away from picking. This is great news as it means the berries around Mecatina will be just ripening when we get there. We had a nice chat with Wade and Mike (‘Bjorn the Beautiful’), presenters at the LAM Norse longhouses and found quite a few tourists present. We had met one of the tour guides, a French-Canadian who rents Boyce’s cottage, the night before. The Viking site looks good and has had some up-keep, including a new fence and internal wall-boards. This fall they plan to rebuild the roof, which was partially damaged in a fire a couple years ago.

We learned that the Parks Canada dive team has been here for a few days, doing some surveys in the Epaves Bay. They are scheduled to give a presentation on their finds this evening, but we will be underway by then. However, when we dropped in for lunch at the Norsemen, we found the Parks Canada divers all there and learned about their project. They all know Erik Phaneuf and also thought highly of Ben Ford, our dive chief this summer. En route to LAM they had had difficulties with their boat tailer, making it impossible to use their large zodiac and sounding equipment. Nevertheless they did a survey and located some boat remains, though probably of a recent period. More interesting was their work at Red Bay over the past couple of years, where they found a large 16th century vessel off the steamer pier.
where it had been uncovered by steamer prop wash. Last year they tested it and re-buried it in sand and cement-filled tires to keep it safe from further erosion. They believe there are many other vessels in Red Bay, which is probably paved with oak. It seems that the combination of poor holding ground and fierce north winds that come down off the surrounding hills has resulted in the frequent maritime disasters, the same conditions that caused the historic mid-20th century wreck now sitting on the beach at Saddle Island. Later I dropped off one of our 2007 field reports at the LAM firehall which has been their base of operations this week. It was good to meet them all in person. Parks and our project at Mécatina seem to be the only underwater operations in this part of Canada this summer, a surprising situation given the wealth of underwater archaeological resources that exist in this part of the world.

After picking up some supplies and doing laundry and showers at Boyce’s we took advantage of the dropping wind and made the three-hour run to Cook’s Harbor, which has become our staging point for the westward crossing of the Strait of Belle Isle. At least here you can get an accurate idea of conditions, and since the wind tends to build during the day, if it’s calm in the early morning you usually have enough time to make the seven-hour crossing before conditions get rough. This time we arrived in Cook’s Harbor before sunset, and as we tied up we noticed an unusual small homemade boat anchored off-shore, with three dogs and a bearded sixty-ish man aboard, dressed nearly in rags. He climbed into his equally homemade skiff and made a bee-line for our boat. He climbed up over the stern and alighted on deck stroking his grizzly beard and emitting a powerful aroma. He had a monstrous head of hair, including two plate-like masses of felted locks on either side, among other dreadlock strands. The twinkle in his eye and sly smile anticipated the next 30 minutes during which he ranted semi-coherently about the ‘forces’ aligned against him, including the RCMP, the army, Canadian Forces, and the British-Canadian-American alliance. We heard about his father who had had his inventions stolen, about how he had built the Matthew, Cabot’s discovery vessel, and how he worked for thirty years in St. John’s – at what I can’t imagine, but whatever it was seems to have driven him around the bend. All the while, Will was hanging back taking pictures of a definitely bizarre individual. Fortunately, when it became clear we were becoming exasperated and about to abandon the encounter, he took his leave and rowed over to one of the fishing boats, whose captain he engaged in more argumentation. He grew up on the west coast near Port aux Choix and must have had a productive life at some point. He was obviously a skilled boat-builder and sailor who had retreated to his small craft and dogs and was now sparring with the entire world. Perhaps the dogs can make better sense of him than I could. There’s a more interesting story here than we could figure out, and I’m sure a visit to the authorities would be illuminating since he appears to have been a thorn in the side of officialdom for decades.

29 July, Tuesday (Cook Harbor to Tabatière) The night was quiet, but somehow I could not get myself to an upright position until about 6am. By this time there was a light breeze from the southeast, a thick fog, and intermittent rain—not bad for crossing the Strait. So we hauled in our lines and inched out of the harbor, but apparently not quietly enough to avoid our grizzly friend, who was perched on his cabin roof, silhouetted in the fog with his bare ass pointed in our general direction, slapping his behind with his hands in a gesture of sincere appreciation. It was a sight to behold, and one I’ll never witness again. The meeting was so unique that I’m curious to know more about this incorrigible anti-everything rascal.

The crossing was less spectacular than the departure, and mercilessly uneventful – no ships, no whales; only the usual fulmars and gannets. As usual, fog descended as we approached Blanc Sablon, but once we had rounded the bend and started west down the Quebec shore it dissipated somewhat and left us with a moderate southwest breeze to knock through. Only after entering the St. Augustine channel did the fog lift enough for us to use the range markers to navigate the pass through the islands and shoals in the eastern Grand Rigoulette. Not a boat or person appeared until we were at the Tabatière harbor buoy, when a local hot-rodder drove his speedboat across our bow, missing us by inches. Tabatière has a new look: its dock has been re-built and there are many changes to the fish plant, including the loss of one section that blew down in an easterly gale last fall, fortunately at night, so no one was hurt. A big shrimp transport was tied up, delivering shrimp from Newfoundland for processing. The new dock is a tremendous improvement,
and the plant seems to be under new management. The slipway has about six draggers tied up, most of whom have already caught their shrimp quotas for the season.

30 July, Wednesday (Tabatière to Harrington)
A thick fog had settled in as we arrived last night about 10pm and remained thick in the morning, though the wind was light. We were still on ‘Newfoundland’ time, an hour and a half ahead of Quebec’s ESD time, so we ended up waiting for quite awhile for the plant’s cafeteria to open so we could enjoy a nice diner-style breakfast. But when I went to check it out with the cook she nearly fainted. “No. NO. You can’t be up here! Didn’t you read the sign on the door?” “No,” I said, lying, but I thought she might relent at the sight of wandering mariners. But no, she would not even listen to the case. I’m sure she recognized me, but there have been new rules posted and the plant is now a very tight operation, as it probably should be, for code and security reasons in a fish processing operation. But one thing has not changed – the offal this place dumps into the bay; it looked like a slurry in the water around us. So after our own home-cooked bacon-and-eggs breakfast we pulled out into the fog and after having a bit of trouble waking up the computer navigation system, we got locked in and headed for Mécatina, arriving three hours later with the breeze at our backs and anchored in the usual spot at the head of Hare Harbor. End of major voyage of about 400 miles, accomplished in 35 hours, expending about 1200 liters of fuel. About 1400 liters remain in the tanks, enough to get us back home; but with trips back and forth to Harrington and the need for fuel ‘ballast’ to keep us from rolling too much, especially with our load of dive gear on the upper deck, we’re going to need to buy another 1000 liters in Harrington.

With the weather still fine, we unloaded the archaeological gear, set out the speedboat off-haul anchor at the site and went ashore to clean up the land site. We removed the tarps off both the cookhouse (Structure 1) and blacksmith (Structure 2) shops, the former having become ‘rooted’ by grass growing through the tarp fabric to soil below. The excavated floor was basically clean and looked the same as when we left it four years ago. We may dig one or two squares here to check on sub-floor deposits, where I suspect we’ll find some Groswater material, and perhaps an earlier Basque level, as in the blacksmith shop. This is the structure where we had found Inuit soapstone lamp and pot fragments and oil lamp stains on the paving stones.

At the blacksmith shop we re-lined the grid and started removing paving stones to continue our earlier excavations in squares 16N/18E, 20E, and 22E, the three northern squares in this structure. It was not always easy to determine what was above and below the pavement, as there were large gaps between some of the slabs, and many paving slabs have other rocks or slabs below them, apparently placed as foundations to level off the upper slabs. These squares had pockets of water in their low areas, and as we began excavating more groundwater was released, requiring some bailing. But soon charred and uncharred timbers and planks began to appear. Calcined bones were found in the middle of 16N/18E, below similar remains found higher up in this square last year. A baleen strip and worked birch wood were also present, and several charred remains of east-west plank or timbers. Square 16N/20E to the east began to reveal many plank or timber subfloor remains, the base of a 10-12 cm thick vertical post, tiles, nails, a clay pipe stem, a white glass bead, and most importantly, a beautifully carved miniature Inuit-style soapstone lamp about 4cm long and 2cm wide. It looked to be a near-perfect replica of a Thule or early Labrador Inuit woman’s lamp. This is a very special find, for it almost certainly means a young Inuit girl was present and adds more support from previous finds of full-size soapstone lamps and pot fragments, and the lamp stains in the ‘cookhouse,’ for the presence of at least one Inuit family at the site during the Basque occupation period. Square 16N/22E also began to produce sub-pavement timber remains and sections of tile paving, as well as finds including a musket-ball, pipe stem and a small mica sheet. Fortunately the mosquitoes were not too troublesome, and we found we had made a good start with this new phase of sub-pavement excavation in only a few hours’ work.

Following initial work at the site (see 30 June excerpt in archaeological report) we returned to Pitsiulak, where Perry informed us an approaching northeasterly storm that was to begin later in the evening and
last throughout the next day. Not wanting to have a re-play of last summer’s midnight escape from a similar storm, for which Hare Harbor offers poor protection, or chance missing the arrival of our dive crew on the *Nordik Express* tomorrow evening, we decided to leave and lose the ‘extra’ day of digging. There was already a brisk NE breeze, but we arrived at Harrington easily and found a spot at the end of the pier just as the storm began to get nasty. Within a few minutes some kids set off a burst of fireworks—perhaps not in honor of our arrival—making our return to Harrington a bit classy nevertheless. A run to Rowsell’s store produced the makings of a taco dinner, and a chance to say ‘hi’ to friends and hear a bit of news about the past year (‘winter was ‘good’ – i.e. cold; the spring very late, and the past month foggy and ‘hot’). The most important news (from Perry’s perspective) was that the bakeapples are still a week from ripening, and are plentiful. About eight or ten long-liners were hunkered down on the lee side of the pier beside us waiting out the storm, and there was the usual gaggle of teens kibitzing behind the freezer container at the end of the pier.

31 July, Thursday (Harrington)
The wind was off the pier, so we weren’t being banged around and slept ok. Spent the morning we cleaned up the boat and visited with Christine Vatcher-Evans, our fine hostess in Harrington. Wilson Evans had just gone off with a group of kids to St. Mary’s Island for the day. Christine was fine and had their daughter Sarah home as their older daughter, Alexandra, had gone directly from school in Quebec to a summer job at a tourist resort at Lake of the Woods and in the fall will be entering the University of Ottawa, where she hopes to study humanities. The house was immaculate and gorgeous, as always. Wilson had started dredging a slipway from his boat ramp into the cove. When he returned in the evening he told us of the government’s big push for the environment and resources, which has resulted in new funds and equipment, including a new and larger patrol boat. The LNS is about to see some major changes with the new commitment to complete the coastal road, to dam a number of the rivers for hydropower, and to establish several regional parks. The Mécatina River dam has been given a reprieve for a few years to facilitate completion of other river projects first; but all of this industry will transform the region from a neglected and isolated place barely receiving governmental recognition to a new status which will bring lots of change, hopefully among them more interest in history and culture. Throughout the rest of the day we did errands, fetching oxygen loaned from the nursing home in case we have any diving emergencies, clearing up some email, and getting groceries aboard. Helen Evans called Christie at Christine’s with a crucial bit of information – the presence at the fish plant of a few late season lobsters – which we quickly commandeered and Christine graciously offered to prepare for us. After dinner we watched Wilson’s videos following humpback whales up close in his patrol boat on a day when the sea was as smooth and transparent as glass; you could see every detail as the whales swam along next to the boat. Back aboard, we awaited the arrival of the dive team on the *Nordik*. It was not long before the familiar face of Vincent Delmas appeared like a grinning ghost in the window, and we were soon re-uning with Laurie Penland, her daughter Alix Penland, Ben Ford (our dive team leader), and Christine Bender, author and volunteer from Boise Idaho and our representative from the Basque world. Gear was stored and the new-comers found and bunks and by 2am chatting from the darkened galley and staterooms ceased.

1 August, Friday (Harrington to Hare Harbor) The wind dropped overnight, and by mid-morning we could depart for Mécatina. After loading a few more groceries and getting some iron bar stock for grid stakes from Colin Rowsell’s welding shop (I also ordered three new grapnels) we set off about 11am and found the seas still pretty steep, giving our new arrivals a taste of the Gulf. As usual everyone started out lounging on the cabin deck, but within a few minutes had ducked into the cabin, wet with spray. Vincent and Chris got a bit under the weather, but after arriving at HH and having a lunch of hot beans, we were ready for shore and a tour of the site, leaving a team there working on the 16N squares. I stayed with the shore team to orient Alix and Chris, who had never excavated before. The others went diving, with Christie and Vincent giving Ben Ford and Laurie a tour of the underwater site. This initial dive was cut short when Christie’s fins slipped off and she began an uncontrolled ascent with everyone hanging on trying to sink her, to no avail! Fortunately, they were not deep and had only been down for fifteen
minutes, so no damage was done. The wind stayed brisk all night and the anchor chain growled as the Pits swung back and forth, prompting Alix, who has a phobia about violent weather, to cry out, thinking the boat was going ashore. Laurie reassured her: “Perry and Bill have spent many summers in the north, and know what they are doing” (sort of). From our anchorage we could see the lights of Providence out through the harbor entrance, so they probably have seen us and may come visiting as in previous years.

2 August, Saturday (Hare Harbor to Harrington)  The wind was still up in the morning, but had shifted to the southeast, which is a better wind direction for this harbor than northeast as the swells break on the northern shore outside the harbor. After getting the shore team set up Ben, Christie, Laurie, Vincent, and I went diving. Perry and Ben dumped the dredges on the bottom where we intended to begin by excavating a square ten meters upslope (north) of Erik’s pits (TPB1), southeast of the intersection of A2 and B (TPB3), and just west of the A1/C intersection west of the bottom of Stone Pile 5 (TPD1). The rationale for the B quadrant square is to make a second test of site stratigraphy alongside a ballast pile, and for the western pit, to see what deposits exist in a less central area of the site. Vincent, Laurie and I went down and set up the TPB3 and TPD1 pits, and Christie and Ben followed positioning the dredges, discovering that TPD1 had to be moved to the east side of that quadrant because the pump hose would not reach the more distant site. We found quite a few grid lines were broken or missing; otherwise everything was normal and last year’s pits were easily visible and uneroded. After a lunch of hot baked beans from Will’s stash, we returned to the site. The divers started operating the two dredges, and the land crew continued excavations below the S2 stone pavement. So far it seems that the sub-pavement deposits are only 10-20 cm deep, most of which are charred flooring and support timbers, on which I recovered scraps of charred woven fabric, perhaps sailcloth or part of a garment. Will finished 16N/18E, defining further the tile-paved walkway extending down toward the lower site. We also began opening up the tier of 16E squares along the western side of the structure, following the boulders piles downslope in this area.

As the day progressed I began getting pressure to return to Harrington for the annual summer party that was taking place this evening. We had been waiting to see what the weather would do, and by mid-afternoon conditions were not bad, so as soon as the divers were up we returned to the boat and battened down for the trip. Once outside and around the southern tip of Mécatina we had a fairly easy ride in, arriving to find the Nordik Express at the pier, on her westbound leg. The town dinner was still going on, so our salty-looking crowd trooped up and found lots of food left, including crab legs. Amy Evans was there with the United Minister, John Jay, and his wife, and Bob Bryan, the founder of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation and Arch-Deacon of the Anglican Church. They are presiding over a joint Sunday service tomorrow morning, smoothing over some difficulties the two churches have experienced in recent years resulting from divisive issues over the use of shared facilities, and other matters. The evening unfolded like other summer parties we had attended here, except this time there was no live performer, only computer-driven music. The real highlight was a skit performed by Naomi Rowsell and several QLF summer interns, celebrating the 400-year anniversary of the founding of Quebec and New France by Samuel de Champlain. The skit, written, directed, and acted by the kids, involved a confrontation between Cartier, the high-principled ‘explorer and discover,” Marguerite de Roberval (the unfortunate ‘saint’ of the Lower North Shore), a French noble lady, and an Inuit woman, each presenting interesting and different views of history from their particular perspectives. Many of our friends were there, including Amy Evans, and Sharon and Jim Rowsell, who is now ‘mayor’ of Harrington. After the skit everyone danced until long after we returned to the boat.

3 August, Sunday (Harrington to Hare Harbor)  Paul Rowsell left the pier at 4:00am bound for Romaine with the QLF interns, who had stayed after the departure of the steamer to present their skit. We rose at 8am to more of the same southeast wind and cloudy skies. Chris and I put on clean shirts and went to church to take part in the ‘historic’ joint service. Bob Bryan made a number of remarks in his typical ‘personal’ style, using anecdotes and stories, noting that he was still flying his plane and would be “until my last breath.” He also had very kind remarks for the Smithsonian’s work here on the Lower
North Shore. The music was very interesting and unfamiliar, but moving, especially in that small church with 40-50 attendees and no instrumental accompaniment other than Amy Evans, seated behind us, who has been a lay reader and stalwart of the church in Harrington for decades. She was always the first to sing and set the pitch, which was mercifully low for my voice now. Everything was *a capella* without harmony. Amy was also recognized by Bob Bryan for receipt of an honorary doctorate from the Anglican college in Quebec City this past spring, a well-deserved honor for her long service.

We left Harrington about 1:00pm with a fresh stash of groceries from Ransom’s story, now under new ownership, and with a quart of bakeapples Vincent had picked on the hill above town. The trip down was smooth, but by the time we arrived the day was too late for a dive, as the cliff cuts off the sun after four, making underwater work difficult. So most of the crew went off berry- and mussel-picking, while Chris and I went to the site, which produced more carbonized canvas-like fabric, resting right on the charred floor planks. Supper was an elegant spaghetti dinner *à la* Will from his Maine Italian grocery, replete with wine, a great salad produced by Chris, and steamed mussels. Talk went on into the evening as this was the first night we’ve been together on the boat without strong winds and a growling anchor chain. The mosquitos also joined the discussion. When word got around about my niece’s Olympic rowing accolades, we discovered that Chris Bender had once contended for a spot on the US Olympic archery team.

**August 4, Monday (Harrington)**  

The day started off grey, which became the usual pattern this “summer”, and grew worse. Nevertheless, we got in a whole day of digging and diving, and Perry did some bakeapple picking, and when he was climbing back aboard the Pits lost the VHF radio overboard. But there were good things too. We got a start on the two underwater pits, Christie’s and Vincent’s producing a piece of plank and Ben’s and mine a few tile fragments. The outwash of our dredge uncovered a 15cm diameter timber lying still partly buried and aligned at approximately 340 degrees a meter east of TPB3. Preliminary inspection did not reveal any cuts, bolts or fittings. Otherwise the pits were just getting started, and we were not yet down into the cultural deposits. Laurie took some pictures of the work even though the water was pretty murky from the southeast breezes that hold surface water in the bay. The plus side is the temperature, which according to our dive computers reached 58-60 degrees. I only dove during the afternoon and then returned to help the land crew.

On land, we discovered that Will’s square had been partially excavated last year, accounting for the Oh Henry! wrappers he was finding. By afternoon he finished the bottom levels and shifted to 14N/20E. Chris continued excavating 18N/16E which has a large concentration of rockfall from the cliff that may have been cleared from the area of the structure when it was being built. She found few tiles and only a single nail, and the deposit was a sandy well-drained soil with a layer of concentrated charcoal a few cm beneath the humus. A large charred log running north-south lay in the northern part of the square. Abby cleared the remaining pavement rocks from 16N/20E and mapped the underlying planks, a number of which run in an E-W direction and were preserved only in the water-logged eastern part of the square. The northern part had no peat and consisted of a sandy deposit remaining from the large rotted rock in 18N/20E. The western part of the square had no preserved planks or wood structure because this area was not water-saturated. I continued clearing the wood-planked sub-floor in 16N/22E, finding the bottom sections of several new posts, several of which had their bases reinforced with small vertically-set rocks. More charred fabric remains came from the charred top of the planks along the western edge of the square, and nearby I found what may have been the remains of a round lead or pewter button, but now was a mass of corrosion which crumbled upon excavation. Along the southern border of the square I found three sandstone grindstones just under the upper rock pavement, probably associated with the ‘black-smith’ component rather than the underlying plank floor. Associated with the plank floor were two small pieces of glazed (eroded) earthenware with a painted design in two shades of blue similar to the design of last year’s porringer bowl. In case it does not survive (the glaze was flaking) I made a drawing as the colors were too dark to photography effectively. To the south in 14N/22 E Alix reopened the square excavated last year to expose the planking/log paving in its eastern half and began removing the paving stones.
from the western area, finding a charred shred of fabric similar to the material found in 16N/22E. This area also produced a large bifurcated chunk of lead directly under a large paving slab, probably part of the site’s upper component. Will began work on 14N/20E and removed several of the large slabs in the northeastern part of the square. Near the bottom of the cultural zone (no planks found) he recovered a miniature soapstone lamp that at first seemed to be Late Dorset type because of the fine carving and a star-like pattern of engraved lines or gouge-like cuts in the bottom of the vessel, but on second inspection had the semi-lunar shape of a Thule or Labrador Inuit lamp with a beveled long side. A missing corner piece makes it difficult to confirm the identity. He also found two charred sticks resembling Inuit wick-trimmers. This area of the structure, in the middle of its southern section, may have been the entrance to the lower floor structure, accounting for the presence of so many thick, large slabs, some of which are set vertically and might have been part of an Inuit house cold-trap entry construction.

We worked until 6:30, when the light started to dim. Vincent was deep into preparations for a ratatouille meal when we arrived back at the boat. We had already noticed a peculiar swirling cloud formation in the northeast and began to be curious about the weather. Turning on the VF we got the report that a storm was predicted for this evening and tomorrow with northeast wind reaching 30-60 km/hour. Once again, this is not a safe direction for our harbor, so we decided to retreat to Harrington, since the storm sounded like a two-day affair and our ‘refuge’ harbor of last year in the Providence Islands is not a great alternative. After a rapid ‘batten-down’ effort, bringing the zodiac back aboard and securing all the dive gear, we left the harbor, enjoying a bright red sunset in the north but being wary of the low, leaden-colored clouds that were beginning to stream in from the east. Fortunately we found a slot at the Harrington pier and finally returned to Vincent’s dinner and the two bottles of excellent wine he had brought in from Montreal. Later Perry heard on the news that the center of his huge storm system is in eastern Newfoundland, where it is having a big impact 600 miles to the east of us.

5 August, Tuesday (Harrington) About 8am the pier came alive, forcing us to meet the stormy day, and the weather forecasts of 40-60 km/hour winds suggested we might be here for more than a day. After one of Will’s great pancake breakfasts I distributed unit record forms for the land crew to fill out for their squares to facilitate record-keeping, and Ben started an artifact log for the underwater finds. People split up for washing chores at Helen’s and Christine’s while I took the route of the fish plant shower and its hot water supply for my bucket laundry system. That part of the operation went smoothly, but later in the day the wind gremlins took my towel and Looking Both Ways T-shirt from the clothesline to Davy Jones. Most of the fishermen were at their boats off-loading miles of gill nets and cleaning or marking them for repair. Many were tangled, rolled up, or ripped. I was amazed to hear that these six-foot high nets have begun to ensnare 45-foot long bottom sharks. The Harrington fishermen have been discovering them in their nets fairly frequently in that past couple of years. They come up rolled up in the nets, mostly comatose or dead because of the pressure change from 150 fathoms, and seem to be appearing as a result of warmer Gulf waters. Craig Bobbitt, the mechanic at the fish plant who keeps records of all sorts dealing with the operation of the plant says this year the sea water temperature has risen to 16 Celsius from its usual average of about 10. He attributes the change to the increased frequency of easterly winds which are blowing warm surface water into the Gulf and reducing the influx and turn-over of cold deep water that are a product of westerly winds. This is not only producing warmer diving conditions but must also be having major ecological effects. The plant has daily water temperature records that go back fifteen years. Craig hunted up the 2007 records which were still in Madelene’s office, and they showed a high temp of 22º Celsius in July and a range of 4-6º Celcius in August. While we were finishing breakfast there was a squawking from the end of the pier and I discovered a full-figured young lady in a bikini launching herself into the storm-tossed waves. A former Harrington resident, she is visiting relatives here with her family, and now lives in England.

During the afternoon Will and I paid a visit to Bob Bryan in his hilltop cottage at the west end of town. He was very interested in our work at Mecatina and the North Shore’s early culture history and geology. One of his old haunts was Cross Harbor, and he really lit up talking about flying in there – which few pilots
other than he would do because of the short take-off distance; once aloft he would ‘hang a right’ and go out through Hare Harbor, of course not knowing about the Basque site directly below, but marveling at the complex geology of Mecatina that only becomes evident from the air. We also reminisced about some of the people I had met further west along the coast during our first survey in 2001, including Les Forman, now deceased, who had a cottage at the mouth of the Kegaska River where we found some archaeological material. Bob also had seen the big cache of Ramah chert blades that Willie Stubbert had found, and had received one of the blades as a gift, later loaning it to the new Rowsell House Museum in Harrington. I also learned that Ellen Obed, residing in Nain, was a relative of his through his first wife and had been with her when she wrote the play Borrowed Black which was performed at the Kennedy Center about ten years ago. Bob was very impressed with Will’s “Far Northeast” book and offered to help us find some support for publication next year. For most of the rest of the day I worked on illustration assignments for the Genghis Khan catalog, through a great dinner of fruit salad and baked beans and brown bread, and a charade game the crew got into after dinner, until nearly midnight. The wind seemed to be abating, and so we hoped for a departure for Mecatina in the morning.

6 August, Wednesday (Harrington to Mecatina) At 6am the wind seemed passable and I roused the crew and we prepared to get underway, hoping for two good days of work before having to return for Christie’s departure Friday morning. We arrived at 8:45am and got to work at 9:30 after a breakfast of Abby’s fried egg and cheese sandwiches. Despite the storm the site was not flooded and we were able to pick up where we left off. Chris’ big 20x20cm timber extended south to the square line and had several large nails in it. Its purpose is not clear—probably a roof beam—but at some point large rocks fell on it from the cliff. A large pyrite nodule was also found here, and what appears to be a pavement appeared on the top of a large bounder, partially obscured by rock-fall. It also looks like two large upright slabs of granite once had been standing on either side of the corner of the Basque structure at its NW corner, one along the west side whose top had broken off and fell into the square, and along the north wall a second large upright had fallen into the square toward the south. In 14N/20W Will found a small iron awl in a wood handle in the upper soil above the rock pavement while removing the balk between this square and 14N/18W. I joined him in disassembling the cluster of large slabs in the south side of his square, which had probably been part of the entryway of the lower level structure, and recovered the broken arm of a miniature bow with carefully-carved notches for the bow-string, just above the sterile peat in Level 2. We also uncovered a vertical slab and a deep paving slab that may indicate an Inuit winter house house cold-trap entry. The divers made progress on their two pits, with fish bones and wood chip levels starting to appear in both. Some timbers were beginning to show but so far the only artifacts are tile fragments. The sun appeared about noon – the first time we’ve seen it since Quirpon – and stayed with us through the evening.

7 August, Thursday (Mecatina to Harrington) We rose early to get in a full day of work before leaving for Harrington and the dinner Christine was cooking in honor of Christie’s departure tomorrow. I spent the day on land and we nearly completed excavating the entryway and started 14N 14E, the western extension of the tile walkway. Immediately, tiles showed up under the turf. Chris’s ‘industrial’ hearth square was given a nice brushing up, and we took photos. After considering how the thin pavement slabs might have formed, and the fact that they wrapped over the entire surface of the large boulder beneath it, and were composed of the same type of rock, I began to think that it must be the result of natural thermal spalling of the surface of the boulder on which it rested. Earlier it had appeared to be the paved foundation of a forge or smithy, but this hypothesis became untenable because the feature lacks masses of charcoal, scorching, and an abundance of fire-cracked rock. In 14N 20E we cleared more of the Lower 2 entry and found a concentration of calcined bone paste east of the entryway rocks, lying on the Level 2 charred plank floor. Will found a vertical plank lining the side of an entryway parallel with the paving stones that were beginning to appear, which may be part of a retaining wall. Underwater, pit TPB3 was reduced to a 1x1 meter square in order to save time for other work, since no artifacts were appearing, and Laurie and Vincent got to the bottom of the deposit at 85 cm and will be ready for recording its stratigraphy tomorrow. Ben and Christie also got down toward the bottom of TPD1, finding a whale bone
and levels of wood chips and fish bones, in that stratigraphic order. Christie had to be out of the water by
3pm to give her time for full decompression before her plane flight tomorrow, and so we were able to leave
by 4pm.

We arrived in Harrington at 5:30pm, and after buying some basic boat supplies before the store closed, we
went to visit the Evans. Over the next couple hours a major feast unfolded, with lots of good wine, roast
turkey and chicken, ham, a wonderful multi-bean and onion salad, and desserts including a lemon cream
pie, bakeapple crumble, a magnificent chocolate cake, and other delectables. Helen, Miles, and Jake
also came and provided food, and Jake, age 4, entertained the entire gathering with his droll humor and
4-year old center-stage antics. After a great evening we made our goodbyes, Christie hoping the Evans
family would visit her in Chicago. We learned that Wilson would soon be competing in a major three-
day sporting event called “Coast Raid” (running, kayaking, and other events) beginning in Old Fort and
ending in Blanc Sablon about the same time we will be there on our way back to Newfoundland. We hope
to see them there. We turned in about 11pm just before the Nordik Express arrived. At midnight, Christine
and Sarah, only one hour after hosting our dinner, went aboard to travel to Mutton Bay for a visit to
her parents. We decided she needs to be elevated to ‘domestic saint’ for her wonderful hospitality and
domestic finesse. During the evening she told me the tiny cave she showed me three years ago was not the
real “Madeline” cave; she had discovered there is a larger one and promised to take me there next year.

8 August, Friday (Harrington to Mecatina) Christie was up at 5:45am taking some pictures of the
town in the rising sun, with a moderate southwest breeze, but it was clearly a good day for flying. We
all lined up for a group photo in front of the boat and then waved goodbye as she chugged off in the
water taxi. The taxi skipper explained that this summer most of the grey seals are up along the west side
of Mecatina rather than hanging out at the river mouth in Chevery. We grabbed some showers, codfish,
the plant’s last lobsters of the season, and beer from CMR Sales and, returning to the boat discovered
the Chevery barge in-bound and needing our berth. So we cast off in a rush. As we exited the Narrows
Ben asked if anyone had seen Vincent. Well, now that you mention it—no! A quick search confirmed he
was not aboard, so either he had fallen overboard (unlikely!) or was on shore. In our haste we had left
him in the fish plant shower! When we returned he was standing on the pier looking clean, sheepish, and
put out! I think abandoning a crew member behind in port was a ‘first’ for the Pitsiulak. The ride was
increasingly wild, as the southwest wind blew up to 25 knots. We anchored and decided one dive today
would be all we could manage, so the land crew went ashore for a couple of hours’ work, returning at
12:30pm for lunch and then returned to the site. Will followed the paving stones south into 12N 20E,
whose upper level we had excavated in 2005, finding several paving stones aligned N-S. Re-excavating,
we found some of these aligned with the pavement to the north and tomorrow will see if these are part
of an entrance tunnel construction. 14N/14E is turning out to be nearly completely covered with roof tile
fragments just beneath the sod. Will and I laid out a new line of 2x2 meter squares at 20N along the base
of the hillside and Chris began clearing 20N/20E. Our purpose here is to search for the rear wall of the
blacksmith shop or Inuit house and to see if there is any industrial activity, like furnaces, among the large
rocks on the hillside.

The diving operation seemed jinxed from the start. When we arrived in Hare Harbor the wind was fierce,
blowing straight into the cove. We decided to wait and see if it would abate, and by 2pm conditions
improved so we went over and re-set the boat anchor to windward. Ben and Laurie went down first to take
photos of Ben’s pit (TPD1) while Vincent starting mapping TPB3 and I collected ballast rocks. When I
reached Ben he was clearly upset, gesticulating at the dredge and trying to talk to me, eventually writing
on his pad, “I’ve repositioned the dredge three times but it keeps being pulled away.” It seemed hopeless
and in the process he’d used much of his air, so we went to the surface, where we discovered the wind had
dragged the speedboat and dredge hoses way off to the east, across the off-haul, tangling the hoses. Laurie
and Vincent had better luck and managed to make a nice stratigraphic diagram of TPB3. From all this
we learned we need to have our boat nearly directly over the dredges, hoses clear, and better anchoring
arrangements if the wind is blowing. Returning to the boat, I found the satellite phone had been ‘locked’
by someone entering the wrong pin code and could not be used. We’ll see if it works in the morning. Dinner reversed the day’s glitches – four great lobsters and a beef stew that Perry had cooked up. The wind died and mosquitoes showed up, and a misty-looking half-moon. Hope for calmer conditions tomorrow.

**9 August, Saturday (Hare Harbor to Harrington)** This was another day of frustrations, again caused by weather. I got up at 6:30am to find the water showing calm and glassy far out to sea beyond the harbor. Within a few minutes, however, the distant water surface began to darken, and in the sky a great black cloud rolled in from the east. Within a few minutes the ripples turned to waves as the front rolled over us. Checking the weather report I found a storm forecast for the northern gulf with northeast winds building to 25-30 knots during the day. Once again it was our nemesis, the northeast wind. We suited up to get a dive in before the storm grew strong, but just as we were about to head out stronger gusts convinced us, along with the previous day’s problems, to take a pass and instead retreat expeditiously to Harrington. We had to load the zodiac aboard (serving as a container for all the dive gear) and within a couple hours were tied up again, a bit chagrined at our incessant comings-and-going from town. I found Wilson eating the left-over bean salad from the party on Thursday and getting ready to go off hiking with a buddy for several days on the west side of Mecatina. The weather convinced him to forego his first plan to hike up to a lake in the middle of the peninsula, swim with a tent in a waterproof bag out to an island, and camp. This is definitely the tough-guy camping style. Instead they will sleep on the boat and hike the near shore. He offered us the run of his house, for laundry and showers and phone use—all of which were gratefully accepted. During the day a variety of cookies were baked and Perry struggled to find out why our electrical system was draining our batteries. The only answer seems to be a malfunctioning charger on the generator. The main engine does fine with charging but our runs are too short back and forth to charge the big batteries. The generator should do this nicely, but even after an entire day with the generator on the batteries show no improvement. I spent much of the afternoon and evening working on Genghis Khan catalog photos and baked a codfish dinner, complemented by Chris’ sheep-herder corn dish. While Perry went to the town bar – which is open only on Saturday nights – the crew stayed aboard and played games, revealing their most embarrassing moments and composing funny bumper-sticker slogans while I sat typing away on Genghis Khan illustration lists, only to lose the entire evening’s work when I accidentally exited the program! This time a Genghis jinx! Over night the wind fell and the Nordik completed loading frozen fish and pulled out. Perry had some bad news from home, discovering the family’s little fluffy but skinny cat got sick last week and died. He was a much beloved creature, but may have had some genetic problem as his/her sibling died suddenly also at a young age.

**August 10, Sunday (Harrington to Mecatina)** Sunday or not, Harrington rises early, and before seven Paul and his wife Cynthia were off in their boat, probably headed for the beach on the mainland behind Harrington Island. The fish plant was open and I caught a quick shower before we left. I made sure everyone knew I was off the boat, remembering Vincent’s trauma of two days ago. The weather was improved but there still was a strong east wind, and the ride was pretty bumpy, but our by-now-seasoned team had no problems and we had a few diversions, seeing some whales and a small sailboat running downwind to the west. This is only the second sailboat we’ve seen this summer – the Lower North Shore is still pretty exotic for cruising. We were in the water by 10:30am and found it very murky. I set up a new square at the intersection of the baseline with B-line for Laurie and Vincent who have finished TPB3 and were photographing it and finishing their data recording. Ben continued with his D pit, finding its deposit to be a mixture of levels that were separated in the B pits, containing wood, fishbone, and a clayey deposit all together. Last year we thought the clayey level might be fish offal because it was associated with the bones; but when we brought some up today we found it to be clay mixed with birch bark and other woody materials. I wonder if it might mark a catastrophic event in the cove, like a large rockfall from the cliff that dislodged some of the bank and its marine deposits. Laurie and Vincent also identified a new level with shells which they first spotted in the photographs and verified in the pit in the afternoon. The big event of the underwater team came in the afternoon when Laurie and Vincent went down to move their operation to TPB4. With poor visibility prevailing they failed to find the pit and swam off west
along the shore, looking for the ballast piles. Reaching 50 feet depth they realized they were lost, and then spotted the baseline E marker located at the bottom of Stone Pile 2, 30 meters west of their intended work. However, at that point they looked down and spotted a large nearly intact ceramic jar, in three nearly intact pieces, sitting mostly uncovered and strangely lacking any overall marine encrustation on its exposed surfaces. Apparently it must have been fairly recently uncovered by current action, although why that would happen is not clear. The jar has a narrow mouth and an everted rim, a rounded body and a slightly pointed base. It’s like nothing we’ve ever found before at Hare Harbor, and Ben seems quite sure it is an olive jar style of Iberian origin, retaining some of the features of the old amphora design for transporting olives and olive oil. The jar is in excellent condition and quite solid. Laurie got great pictures of it in situ and as she and Vincent brought it up, Vincent carrying it on his belly while swimming on his back, like a sea otter with mollusks. Tomorrow we’ll see if this area has interesting deposits that can be excavated, or whether the piece is a loner, as seems likely given the large rocks and cliffs along this part of the shore. We immediately photographed the jar and put it in wet storage.

On land Abby continued excavating 14N/14E and its tile pathway; Chris got into the large rocks in her hillside square, finding the same thick charcoal layer under the humus that we found in the house, and relatively little else other than a couple nails and an almost complete roof tile, a rare find. Will and I continued tracing out the entranceway on the south wall, which required us to re-excavate 12N 18E, which was an unpleasant and heavy duty task, there being nearly 50cm of thick, wet goopy peat to deal with. By evening time we had uncovered to the entrance passage floor and found a parallel set of entryway roof poles collapsed onto a plank floor with some side wall rocks and paving slabs. Tiles are found on the basal deposit, but very few other artifacts. It does indeed look like an Inuit type entry passage whose stone slab cold trap stone construction has been disturbed or partly dismantled. Tomorrow we need to see if the entry extends into 10S 18E, in which case there will be more grueling re-excavation into the middle of the A3 bog. In my 2005 notes I reported the idea that this might be an entry for a structure to the north, but at that time we were thinking only about a blacksmith shop, not an Inuit house. And it seems that we did not dig deep enough to find the flat floor boards in the deepest part of the entry, hampered as we were then by lots of rain and flooded excavation conditions. This year it has been very dry, without which we could not have made the progress on the Level 2 structure.

By evening the wind nearly died out and the flies emerged. Supper was tacos by Abby, who, in a coincidence, will have her birthday tomorrow, on the same day as Will. We will need to see how best to celebrate this double affair. Toward the end of the day someone stopped by the Pits in a speedboat – a small party from Têté à Baleine, speaking French. Ben and Alix had a brief conversation with them and they left without coming to visit us at the site. Perry has been snatching a few hours here and there for bakeapple picking on the hills around the harbor because the surf has been too high to land outside.

11 August, Monday (Hare Harbor) This was the best day we’ve had on the project so far – sunny, warm, with a light easterly breeze. All of this no doubt in honor of Will’s and Abby’s birthdays. We are accustomed to Will’s as a break in the summer season, but to have two on the same day is nothing short of miraculous. In their honor we had a rather relaxed schedule and some extra-special meals. We were up by 7am for a pancake breakfast, for which I was provided with Will’s special recipe, of course with bakeapples. Divers visited the site of the olive jar find and decided it was probably a chance loss and not a depositional hotspot, so we cancelled the idea of a test pit at this far western end of the site. By the end of the day Ben had finished the eastern half of TPD1 and was ready to take its measurements. We will leave the western half unexcavated since the deposit, while deep, seems to be completely mixed, with fish bones, bird bones, and wood all intermingled without stratigraphic separation, and no artifacts to boot. So we are not learning much we don’t already know. Laurie and Vince wrestled their dredge from TPB3 to the new TPB4 location south of Eric’s pits to try our luck in this deeper locus. Randy Cox buzzed us in this small yellow airplane, not just once, but twice, on his eastbound leg and on his way home. On his first pass he cut his throttle over the Pits, and it seemed like he was going to land. It would have been a great day for it as the harbor was very still, with no sea swell. But then he powered
up and wagged his wings and turned and made a second pass, flying right up over the site. The plane has pontoons, so he could make a landing in the water if necessary.

During the afternoon Alix, Will, and I suited up for a survey of the shallow western end of the bay, looking for the whale bones Wilson saw there, and collecting mussels for the birthday dinner appetizer. Both tasks were successful. There are quite a few whale bones located in the southwestern corner of the harbor in 2-3 meters of water at low tide, some small fragments and vertebrae on the surface and larger pieces embedded in the sand. There is no telling how much may be buried in the sand and gravel deposit. Several vertebrae showed a range of sizes from 40-50cm in diameter to 15-20 cm. Will photographed some of these and I collected two fragments of ribs of small and medium-sized whales. At least on the surface these finds do not seem to continue into the deeper water which drops off as a sandy bottom to the limit of visibility, which today was about 5-6 meters. Whale remains are also absent from the shallower waters, whose bottom is gravel and near shore, well-rounded boulders. A few pieces of modern porcelain and white glass were lying in shallow water, but no Basque or other early remains.

Abby and Alix continued work on the tile-paved walk, which seems to end east of 12E, and in the NW corner of this square (14N/14E) Alix caught the edge of a hearth feature filled with charcoal-stained soil, reaching down to the sterile cobble and sands of a former beach, about 20 cm below the surface. She and Abby did a nice job isolating the tile pavement concentration. Chris worked on the hillside square 20N/20E, finding a few more large tile fragments and huge rocks in the northern half of the square and in the southern part a large charred beam, which seems to mark the north wall of the Area 2 upper level structure. The charcoal level from this beam extends down-slope into the mass of charcoal we found last year along the north wall of the structure. Now we need to see this beam’s extent east and west. Will and I mapped the rocks resting on the aligned poles that seem to be the roof of the entryway of Level 2 structure and uncovered the poles for mapping. Very few artifacts occurred in the level above the poles, which rest on a similarly aligned slab pavement, itself resting on wood planks with the same orientation. A crumbled sandstone grindstone was recovered, and two pieces of glass. The end of this passage, which resembles an Inuit winter house entryway, seems to lie at the 10N line, but I shall have to check this on the field notes from 2005. Its western wall is composed of blocky rocks embedded in a thin layer of pure charcoal. Perhaps this is the so-far missing hearth area of this structure.

Supper was a Vincent-produced birthday extravaganza with pizza, spaghetti with a great sauce seasoned with herbes de provence, and chocolate cake embellished with ‘Idaho rocks’ (sugar-coated chocolate nuggets), and two great bottles of wine, Chateauneuf du Pape, and one from Will’s dwindling stash. Mosquitoes are bad outside tonight. Last night just at bedtime Perry and I watched a huge pink moon slip down into the crack between the hills at the head of the bay and disappear with a blink, while we marveled at the speed of our spinning globe.

August 12, Tuesday (Hare Harbor to Harrington) The weather forecast this morning brought news of another northeasterly storm due to strike the Lower North Shore this evening, building tomorrow to winds of 25-30 knots with heavy rain. This would certainly force us to make another retreat to Harrington and would surely fill our excavation with water, making it impossible to drain and dry out enough for further work, except for the well-drained and higher locations. It also meant we would probably only get another two days of work this week before Laurie, Vincent, Alix, and Chris leave on the Nordik on Saturday. So there was much to do today, and the weather cooperated nicely. Even though the dark clouds continued to build up in the south all day long, the winds remained light and the temperature was warm. I stayed working on land so we could finish our excavations before being flooded out. The underwater folks worked double-time also and were able to fit in three dives – quite a feat! Ben finished mapping and moved his dredge over to TPB4 so they could power into this square and be able to finish it in a couple of days. We’ll see if this area is as productive as Erik’s two squares a few meters upslope to the north. Ben tore a small hole in his sleeve that gradually flooded his suit, and ended up one cold guy by the time the dive was over. One interesting find was made by Laurie – a roof tile with several star marks on it
Alix finished her tile walkway square, finding nothing under the surface tile distribution other than the hearth in the northwest corner of her square. Chris took out the charred beam in her hillside square and followed the charcoal lens down into the north side of 18N/22E. The charred beam seems to define the back edge of the blacksmith shop, but it might possibly be the rear wall of the Level 2 structure, with a raised bench running along the back of the house in the 18N series of squares. She then opened a 1x1 meter square in the SE quad of 20N/18E. We’ll see if the charred beam runs along here as well as to the east. Abby excavated the NW quad of 12N/18E, about which there was question as to whether it had been excavated in previous years or not. In the end it seemed that the western half of the square had been dug but not the eastern half adjoining the tunnel entry square, 12N/20E. However rather than being a large cooking hearth, this square had a relatively shallow deposit, with a large concentration of rocks in the eastern side that formed part of the wall of the entry tunnel. A heavy charcoal deposit was found along its eastern wall, extending down into the tunnel, so this area may have been a hearth area located in the northwestern part of the tunnel where it joins the house. Will and I worked on both 14N/20E and 12N/20E, which came clearly into focus as an Inuit winter house entrance passage. The passage was lined with medium-size rocks and had been cut into the peat, which sloped down smoothly to the tunnel floor. We found a series of unfinished knotty timbers on top, partly burned, being use part of a collapsed tunnel roof. Below this, a scattering of barrel staves and bottoms had been thrown in top cover parts of the muddy floor. Under these were slab rocks lying on sterile peat. At the north end of the tunnel one of these short planks turned out to be the bottom of a rectangular work box with a stout handle that had been turned up-side-down and placed as a step into the house proper. Inside the box we found a wooden tool hand, fragments of tile, and wood shavings, but no pirate treasure! At the very end of the day we raced to finish cleaning up the entry for photographs and final mapping, and as I puzzled over some remains at the base of the thick charcoal level on the west side of the entry I turned up a grindstone, a wood tool handle, a fragment of a barrel stave, and much to my surprise, another broken arm of a bow, this time a functional child’s bow with similar bowstring notches as the miniature bow found a few meters away at the inner end of the tunnel! There can be no question now about this L2 structure being an Inuit habitation. A few minutes earlier, Will had found three pieces of a partially-burned lath-turned wooden plate wedged into the sterile peat alongside the work box. If we are able to continue work in this low-lying area of the site after the storm we shall probably have other surprises as well. Abby did a nice job drawing and describing all the barrel parts that were used as floor boards in the entry and house floor as well as the wood “carpenter’s box.”

We returned to the boat at 6:30pm to find the crew loaded and ready for departure to Harrington. The weather still had not closed in, but before we got in to town the northeast breeze had locked in and it was starting to rain. Dinner was a tuna-macaroni casserole made by Chris, with a tasty but over-ripe honeydew melon for dessert. By 10:30pm everyone was ready for bed, one hour later than last night, when the huge birthday feast had everyone racked out by 9:30pm.

August 13, Wednesday (Harrington Harbor) Today brought some really bad weather, a strong northeaster blowing up to 30 knots with heavy rain. Fortunately we were well-berthed on the leeward side of the pier and had to deal only with the sea surging back and forth, fraying our bowline in the process. After a breakfast of sausage and eggs by Christine, we set about various chores – cleaning up, visiting, and writing notes. I worked most of the day assigning illustrations to the Genghis Khan catalog, long overdue now. I had a long talk with Wilson and met his “Coast Raid” triathlon partner, Andrew Rowsell, an old buddy from childhood who is in charge of fisheries for the northern gulf region. I learned that the Innu are much more active along parts of the coast than I had thought, making much use of the coast west of Cape Whittle, although sealing is not one of their prime activities. A call to Zaborian Payne in the Anthropology Department of the SI got me through to the Iridium office, so I was finally able to unblock my satelite phone, using a long string of code numbers. I also picked up three small grapnels I asked...
Clinton Rowsell to make. Ben, Will, and I got a good look at the Rowsell House Museum and enjoyed the high quality presentations, especially the history of Harrington and its older people. Of course there was a good story about Bob Bryan’s contributions. One of his donations to the museum is a Ramah chert cache blade which Huey Stubbert had given him years ago. There was also a Maritime Archaic semilunar knife, one of the long, thin varieties, and a Maritime Archaic double-ended gouge that had been found at the Tabatière gravel pit site, loaned by Jim and Sharon Ransom. Will and I had planned to talk with them today but they are off on vacation in Newfoundland, seeing one of their sons. The girls spent quite a bit of time making cookies, I think some 128 or so. Some were peanut butter cookies with a chocolate drop in the center that reminded me of a Mongol hat. Many of these went Wilson’s way, in gratitude for his and Christine’s hospitality. After disappearing for four hours Vincent came back, soaked, with a large pail of bakeapples picked around the pond, which he then bottled in small jars as gifts for the rest of us. He also called Erik Phaneuf and filled him in on our progress. Erik thinks our star-stamped roof tile is a product of the French Basque region dating to about 1650 and believes our Iberian small-mouthed vessel is an olive oil jar dating to about the same period. His baby is doing well, but he is quite envious of us being out in the field.

August 14, Thursday (Hare Harbor) This was a fine day that began with the wind dropping, so we got an early start for Mecatina. Just before leaving I tried to send my illustration list out on Paul Roswell’s store computer. My SI email came up fine, but the system would not accept attachments or even send a message. It seems the email system frequently fails in Harrington. A small government survey boat passed us off Point Antrobus, but it was not Wilson Evans. We got right to work on the dives and site, and I worked ashore in the morning. We finished up the entrances, cleaning up the excavation, recording planks, and with Ben’s assistance in the afternoon excavating under planks. We found a number of new post holes, some with axe-cut bases and one large one with a saw-cut base, probably a post for the Basque blacksmith component rather than the Inuit house. Two of the posts appear to be at the edge of the slight rise at the north end of the pavement that is probably the edge of the sleeping platforms. One of these posts was a vertically-set rectangular sawn plank about 3x12 cm in dimension. Excavations around the south and west sides of the entrance tunnel failed to reveal any new deposits, but they helped define the end and walls of this feature, which included a fairly substantial rock stack along its south side, amidst a large amount of nearly pure charcoal. Ben finished recording his TPD-1 pit and moved his dredge to TPB-4 south of Eric’s two 2007 pits, working two dredges here to hasten the work. In the afternoon Laurie and I repaired the baseline, which had become torn up by dragging anchors and dredges.

During the afternoon I heard a croaking sound and found a rock ptarmigan walking underneath the datum triangle. “Chris,” I said, “a bird is walking under the triangle next to you.” She looked up just at the creature reached the northern side of her square, cocking his head one way and then the other as though inspecting the project, then strolling off into the ferns, nonchalant as ever. Earlier in the afternoon we heard the sounds of falcons overhead and saw two young fliers wheeling about with an adult bird in tow. Later I discovered Will and Laurie had found the remains of a dead peregrine on the hill south of the site – I suppose this was one of the parents, which explains why we have seen only one adult and two young birds this year. The third significant animal sighting in Hare Harbor was a mink that greeted us standing on his hind legs on our landing rock like the mayor of the town and only reluctantly gave ground when Will stepped out of the boat in front of him.

Then there was the large brazen lobster that shutdown Ben’s and Laurie’s TPB-4 excavation this afternoon. This lobster was a one-of-a-kind menacing, fearless creature who appeared in their pit suddenly with claws up and open and advanced with impunity into the center of the unit. Ben teased it with his trowel, trying to get it to nip it with his claws – a common game in lobster encounters – but this fellow ignored the trowel and wanted something more substantial – like flesh. Instead of being leery of the dredge pipe it flaunted the suction and lunged forward, with good effect, for Ben and Laurie retreated immediately. This character seems to have come from nowhere; unlike the small lobsters we had seen lurking among the ballast piles, it had remained hidden until now, apparently deciding it was time for a
showdown. By all accounts it was a rout, as Laurie and Ben freely admitted. This lobster had evaded the fate of many of his (or her) fellows who succumbed to the lure of baited lobster pots until, becoming too large to even enter a pot and seeing many of its brethren carted off, had no other enemies and became king of the ballast piles. The incident certainly gave us all a new respect for the intelligence and chutzpah of these interesting and delicious crustaceans. There is more going on in their brains than we give them credit for when we toss them blithely into a pot of boiling water.

August 15, Friday (Hare Harbor)  Our last day of excavation was blessed with sun and little wind, and we were able to put in a long day. I worked on the land site, which needed attention to lots of details. We continued excavating beneath the floor planks, most of which were recycled barrel or tub staves and bottoms, which Abby drew and measured. Chris continued to excavate the southern half of 20N -- finding the remains of a large east-west burned beam that may have been the back of the smithy or the Inuit house, interrupted by numerous large pieces of rockfall. There were several other charred remnants of smaller timbers or planks south of this beam. There were very few tiles below the surface level of this square. Will and I cleaned up the entry passage, in which we found the remains of spruce log roof beams running parallel to the entryway, resting on a floor paved with barrel staves and bottoms, which in turn were resting on a somewhat scattered arrangement of flat slab rocks lying on sterile peat. The outer (south) end of the passage seems to have ended at the south edge of 12N20E, although rocks continued into the next square to the south, 10N 20E. Excavation of this area in 2005 produced evidence of a N-S alignment of flat slabs that probably represents the extension of the entry passage for at least another meter to the south. The west margin of the entryway was marked by a large, dense concentration of charcoal and rocks, at the base of which the Inuit bow and two grindstones were found yesterday. It was easy to see where the cut had been made in the peat when excavating the entrance passage. Abby and I did a number of profiles for the entrance tunnel area that clearly show the excavated nature of the entrance passage from its beginning, where we found two complete roof tiles and the inverted tool box, to its end a the south wall of 12N20E. Later I checked the 2005 data from 10N20E and found paving stones and barrel parts aligned with the entry tunnel.

The divers worked at a variety of tasks. Ben completed two tests in the whale bone area beneath the cliff, finding its deposits very thin, with a few tiles and wood chips or fish bones and little stratification. It seems that the whalebones in this area are mostly visible on the surface. Further excavation here might recover a flensing tool or other butchering implements, but the prospects for major finds seem limited. Laurie and Vincent made a tour of the site area and then surveyed the north side of the harbor, without any special finds. Will and Alix returned to the head of the bay for snorkeling and were later joined by Laurie and Vincent, who gathered a large stash of big mussels.

By mid-afternoon we were ready to begin reconstructing the site. When we arrived on the 30th of July we had removed the tarps from Structure 1 (cook-house), hoping we would be able to do some excavating beneath its pavement rocks to see if an earlier occupation was present, whether Basque, Inuit, or possible even Groswater Paleoeskimo. But as it happened we were never able to begin this project and also were unable to excavate any of the boggy area between Structure 2 (blacksmith shop) and Area 2. So the first task in closing up the site was re-covering S1, whose tarps had very effectively restricted any vegetation re-growth for the past five years. Work here will have to wait for 2009. About 4pm the divers arrived and we began to back-fill S2. We returned all the barrel parts to their approximate original position and filled the entrance tunnel with its rocks. After all the back-dirt was in place – and many mosquitoes had been satiated – we re-paved the blacksmith shop floor in the northern half of the excavation and re-sodded the southern portion, creating a quite dramatic effect – a rectangular expanse of pavement surrounded by grass. I hope that someday it will be possible to use this as the basis for reconstructing the history of the site – Basque cook-house, smithy, Inuit dwelling, and harbor area, with an on-site plaque for information and a museum display in Harrington Harbor village.

Today’s meals were quite spectacular. Vincent prepared a baked codfish lunch with a soup made from all
the leftovers that had been accumulating for the past couple of days, and baked a bannock besides. The weather was so sunny and warm that many of us ate outside on the foredeck. Vincent had joined Perry in a massive cleaning effort, mopping all decks and washing the windows. But there was a price to pay when the rubber floor runner from the lower deck went over the side while being aired on the life-rail. Ben, who had already struggled moving one of the dredges, volunteered to dive for it. But in gearing up, he forgot to close his dry suit zipper fully and while hunting for the mat got completely soaked, and failed to find the mat to boot. Dinner was chicken baked in a spicy tomato sauce, with mashed potatoes and green peas, cooked by Perry. The last bottle of Will’s wine was uncorked to the accompaniment of thanks to all for a project well-accomplished. The evening was quiet, but the forecast called for strong southwest wind by mid-day tomorrow, so we needed to get started early to finish in time to leave before the wind.

16 August, Saturday (Hare Harbor to Harrington) Morning dawned overcast with a light easterly wind and some fog in the distance, but the predicted strong SW breeze held off for a few hours. We had two chores to finish before leaving – sampling the ballast piles and collecting archaeological gear from the site. Laurie and I dived and rigged up a bag transfer system with Perry and Ben on the surface: one line from the sample bag to the surface and another that we held to bring the bag back to the bottom. Meanwhile, the speedboat followed our bubbles from one ballast pile to the other. We started at the east end of the site and worked to the west end along the baseline and then returned along the upper portion of the site sampling the upper parts of SP-4 and 6. ‘Gladiator lobster’ remained in hiding and we recovered about 4-5 ballast rock samples from each of the major piles, except SP1, 4, and 7. But since we could only retrieve small rocks from the ballast piles it was difficult to know if we were getting a good sample because of the presence in the ballast piles of local country rock (granite, gneiss) derived from local cliff-fall and shore rocks. While reducing the 30-35 sample rocks to a size suitable for identification and sectioning, I found a number of specimens that probably are local origin. Later I also found that limestone is not as rare along this coast as I had imagined and that not all limestone we come across along the shore is of Basque origin. Nick Shattler says there is a limestone outcrop in the country north of St. Augustine, and there may be sources in the seabed of the Gulf of St. Lawrence that gets ashore. Limestone is also a fairly common find in Inuit sites, where it is used as grindstone material, but in these cases it is usually not the honeycombed perforated variety we have in abundance in the Hare Harbor ballast. These holes all contained small mollusks and other sea life whose secretions appear to be the principal agents producing the holes and perforations seen in this rock.

After the dive I bagged and photographed the samples, keeping them keyed to their different ballast piles, and the crew cleaned up the archaeological gear. Will and I made the last pictures of the site, and we returned to the boat, finding Perry had everything loaded and was ready to leave. During the transit to Harrington the southwest breeze began to freshen, but we were tied up by the time it grew strong. I returned the oxygen tanks we had on loan from Fay at the hospital; we filled our fresh water tanks and took on 1200 liters of diesel fuel for $1800 Canadian. This makes a total purchase of 3200 liters this summer and accounts for about $5000 of our project budget – a huge chunk! I said goodbyes to the fish plant folks and we all repaired to the town restaurant for a pizza dinner. All afternoon the crew had been packing and preparing for their departure on the Nordic, which was arriving about 3pm and leaving at 7pm. Larry Ransom loaded all the bulky gear into a container, including the artifacts which we had carefully prepared for shipment and delivery to the Quebec archaeological repository in Quebec City. They will be delivered to our colleagues, Frédéric or Anja Herzog when Laurie passes through Quebec City on her way back to Washington, D.C. This relieves us of the problems of delivery from Newfoundland in past years. We decided to save the tool box and one section of a roof post. All the underwater materials were packed wet in seawater; we found that the big olive oil jar fit perfectly into a plastic pail. I typed up the underwater find list Ben prepared.

The departure of the “Quebec crew” was a sad one and came upon us as suddenly and surprisingly as always. Ben, Vincent, Christine, Laurie and Alix all stood and waved from the upper deck of the Nordic, while Perry, Will, Abby and I waved back from the deck of the Pits far below. After the ferry departed, I
turned and followed Will’s earlier track to Sharon and Jim Ransom’s refurbished old family home on the east side of town, across the big trestle bridge. This had been Jim’s uncle’s or grandfather’s place and they had left it pretty much as it was originally – a warren of small rooms filled with old antiques and historical materials from their collecting activities. We met Jim’s older brother Lloyd at Jim’s place and talked about the need for a more aggressive approach to the Harrington Heritage and Tourism Board. They have many good ideas but it has been slow getting the town to take steps in this direction, because of more urgent priorities, like finding the money for student workers in the fish plant, repairs to the boardwalk, and other high priority items. We decided that we would do a show-and-tell for the town next year and set up a site visit and a training program for students. Afterwards Will and I stopped at Christine’s and Wilson’s to see some of the Olympics and take a shower. In the process I forgot my camera, but did not realize this until after we had left town.

17 August, Sunday (Harrington to St. Augustine)   We left Harrington about 6:30am with a moderate southwest wind and had a pretty good ride to Mutton Bay, arriving at 10am to find Wilson’s boat at the pier and his family up at Phil Vatcher’s. Christine and her sister were helping a friend move into a house across the bay, but she made coffee for us, and we had a nice visit with Phil and his wife. Phil was glad to get a copy of last year’s field report and showed me the map location of some limestone rocks he had collected from a couple of islands between Tête a la Baleine and Mutton Bay and from the cove southwest of the Mutton Bay entrance. They might indicate another Basque site, but it’s possible they come from geological sources along the North shore somewhere, or from the bed of the gulf or the Quebec interior. We borrowed Phil’s truck to get a couple of cans of gas for the speedboat (paying $80 for 10 gallons!) and left for St. Augustine. As we were leaving, Wilson was untying his bicycle from the front life-rail of his boat and getting ready to pedal off up the mountain, into a rainstorm. Off Tabatière there were some beautiful scenes of the town against silvery water, mist, and storm clouds. Thereafter it grew calm as we entered the Grand Rigoulette and soon anchored in the cove just south of the ship channel at Tickle Island. There were still big black storm clouds over St. Augustine, but they soon cleared and left us with a near full moon and crystal-clear sky and northern wind. I called Nick Shattler and arranged for him to take us in the morning to the sites he had found last year.

18 August, Monday (St. Augustine to Cumberland Harbor)   In the morning the air was as clear as a bell and the sun shone brighter than we’d seen all summer, a result of the clearing northwest wind. While we were having breakfast several speedboats passed on their way out to cabins in the islands, where bakeapples were still available. Nick showed up a bit after 9am and said he had to find his brother-in-law who would take us to the first site, in the southwestern part of the Rigoulette, which he was not so familiar with. A bit later he returned with Reginald Shattler, a husky older man with a large curvy mustache and smiling eyes. We piled into both boats and raced through the narrows and out to a place on the outer coast called ‘Mickey’s Island’, near where Reginald has a summer cottage – which we spied as we sped past – an attractive, well-kept place. A bit further and we pulled up to a small cove with the ruins of a cabin where Mickey, an unmarried loner, used to spend his summers, dying some 20-30 years ago. In a narrow cleft between the granite knobs about 50m north of his old house was the remains of a cemented field rock foundation covered with grass and roughly of squarish shape, backed into the bedrock hillside. Sometime before Mickey’s death, two men from St. Augustine had excavated parts of this structure, searching for buried treasure, in the process knocking most of its cemented fieldstone walls down. According to Nick and Reginald, the walls of the structure had been about four feet high. Today the best-preserved walls, on the north and east sides, are only 20-40cm high and in other areas have been knocked down completely. A large mound of rocks – possibly a hearth pile or maybe simply the remains of the early digging effort – was present inside the east wall, and the south wall seems to have been built across the top of a large rock outcrop, with a possible doorway in the western part of this wall. Coarse, straw-like grass was growing over the structure. It was difficult to see what had been disturbed and how much, but we could see that a considerable amount of coarse, friable mortar had been used in the foundation, which also included pieces of slate and the occasional brick. We came away wondering who would have built a residence is such a hidden, unpleasant spot, literally in a cleft in the rocks. Nick tends to think this
might be an early Inuit house, and there is some merit to this idea since I can’t imagine a European living in such a small cramped place. But until we know more about the site, revealing its exact dimensions and features, interpretations like this are premature. Nick would like to see a full excavation of this site conducted, believing it might make an interesting project for the town to sponsor, as a contribution to the village’s little-known Inuit history. He believes the town mayor, who had been involved in the initial work at the site, would be supportive of a project here.

We returned to the boat for lunch, raised anchor and with Nick’s guidance proceeded through the northern run to Cumberland Harbor, on the south side of L’Anse aux Portage. Previously Nick had found a tent ring in a small cove on the outer side of the island, a place locally known as ‘Place Mekit’. Nick’s cottage is on the western side of the harbor, so he knows this area like the back of his hand. It is also very good bakeapple country. As soon as we landed, Perry charged off into the berry fields, while the rest of us followed Nick to the southeastern end of the island where we found a small raised boulder beach with a boulder grave or cache containing no human bone but part of a burned spoon bowl and a seal wrist bone, several cache pits, and near the crest of the beach pass, Nick’s tent ring. It did indeed look like an Inuit dwelling type and was placed with its rear up-hill portion on a flat exposure of bedrock and its lower (southern) work area on the peat-covered cobble beach. The structure was nearly circular, bordered by hold-down rocks, and had several large rocks in the central area, where we found lots of charcoal and a fair number of animal bones, mostly seal. All of the cultural materials were in the upper peat, below which was sterile peat in which the beach cobbles were embedded. Over the course of the afternoon what began as a test pit to explore the deposit ended up as a full-scale excavation of the entire tent ring. In addition to the bones we found fragments of green bottle glass (with bubbles) and a large piece of iron strap metal. The site setting, possible grave, structure type with a cleared sleeping area at the rear of the structure, and early glass, suggest this was an Inuit summer tent structure, although we did not find diagnostic Inuit material culture. Toward the end of the afternoon Wilson Evans’ and Paul Rowsell’s boats chugged past on their way to the Coast Raid games that were to begin in a few days in Old Fort. Returning to the boat we found Perry ‘high’ on his second pail of bakeapples. Nick had to leave immediately for town to meet a biologist flying in from Quebec to check his mussel farm for growth stats. Overall I think the prospects for a project in St. Augustine are excellent, and the Mikey’s and Cumberland Island ‘Place Mekit’ sites are indeed good prospects for Inuit occupation, a subject that the town is very interested in exploring now, after years in which research on their Inuit and Innu ancestry was neglected because of discriminatory attitudes.

By the end of the day the wind settled down and you could hear the roar of surf outside the harbor. It’s great to get to know about this harbor, which is the finest one along this part of the coast and was mentioned originally by Jacques Cartier. Weather looked good for an early departure for Blanc Sablon, and we made a large feast of the halibut I purchased when we left Harrington.

19 August, Tuesday (Cumberland Harbor to Brador)  We were up at five with fair weather and a moderate southeasterly breeze. The run to Blanc Sablon took about five hours, mostly in a crossing sea, which made the ride uncomfortable and carried away our prize balloon bumper, which must have been unsecured and rolled out of the zodiac. We normally tie up at the Blanc Sablon pier, but after last year’s storm created such havoc I wanted to explore the Brador pier which is located in protected waters only a short distance from Clifford and Florence Hart’s place. We had called the Harts en route and invited them to the boat for a late breakfast after we arrived. They are both fine, but getting on and off the boat proved to be a challenge, as it had been for René Levesque, Selma Barkham, and Ray and Margaret Mason. After an hour of swaying at the pier, eating bacon and pancakes, Florence began to feel seasick, and we had to get her back ashore. Meanwhile all around us herring gulls were making raucous work on the spoils from the fishing boats that were being unloaded. By this time the weather had turned sour, so we rented a car from the Pelletier dealership and spent the afternoon visiting the new heritage center and Quebec-Labrador Foundation office located at the intersection of the ferry landing road and Rt. 138. the Heritage Center features nice displays that were prepared by the Sept Isles Museum. We met the local
board director, Rejean Dumas, and heard about some good work on cultural heritage and archaeology being done by Dwight Bilodeau in Old Fort. At this end of the LNS everyone is quite positive about the highway construction work and tourism development, and have facilities planned for future traffic. During breakfast we had a surprise visit from the Harrington Coast Raid contingent – Paul, Cynthia, Wilson, Christine, and Andrew—who had commandeered a car and were cruising around preparing for the race. Posters were all over the place in Blanc Sablon. We learned that the race will be 275 km long with this distance being covered by contestants who draw three of six possible means of conveyance: running, kayaking, mountaineering, cycling, and swimming – all having mandatory waypoints, with the contestants wearing GPS locator devises for monitoring and safety. The race begins Thursday in Old Fort and works its way to an ending in Blanc Sablon on Saturday. We met some of the other contestants in the supermarket – a couple from Yellowknife – and saw many more running on the road.

Back at the boat we discovered Perry on the dock watching the Pitsiulak surging back and forth against her mooring lines even though the swell seemed negligible. The outer (west) side of the pier where we were tied up – all the fishing boats being on the inner cove side – seems to have a problem with even small seas because of the gradually shoaling water on this side of the wharf allows the swells to crest up as they approach shore, creating a surge that was sucking the vessel back and forth. It was really amazing to see how strong this force was, straining the lines and abrading them on the edge of the pier so that after a few hours they would have chaffed through. For a temporary solution we moved the Pits farther out toward the end of the pier where the water was deeper, eliminating the worst of the surge.

During the evening we returned to the Harts and a wonderful time listening to Clifford play his accordion and shooting the breeze about the old days. He has some recordings of his signing and playing, but it’s a pity more is not available. He still remembers the tunes and plays well, with Florence egging him on (“Clifford, play ‘Turkey in the Straw!’”). For the past several years they have been telling me about the ‘tile sluiceway’ that René’s team had found at their chalet site and interpreted as a Basque oil-rendering feature, and about four blue glass beads, also found at the north end of the grassy clearing behind the house. When Clifford excavated the drain line extending out from the east side of the cottage, he said they found ‘buckets’ of large iron nails. Fearing that someone might find them and loot the site they threw the nails into the bushes east of the house. Florence will look and see if they still have the beads. Last fall they wrote the National Museum of Canada about their Maritime Archaic collection and got a nice letter back from David Keenlyside, not on CMC stationary, but instead on the letterhead of a private heritage organization that David seems to be affiliated with now. Florence says the cache of slate celts they found had come from 12 feet below ground level. That’s pretty deep for a cache burial! Several weeks ago they displayed their collection at the opening of the Heritage Center. We also learned that the Blanc Sablon River, where Jean-Yves Pintal has been working for many years, has been given a Provincial Heritage site designation to help promote and protect its sites, one of which, according to Rejean Dumas, who worked for him at the time, had three stratified components, the oldest of which was dated at 8700 years old. When we got back to the boat after the evening at the Harts we found her rolling but no so badly we could not sleep.

20 August, Wednesday (Brador to Blanc Sablon) We were planning to continue our explorations at the Hart’s ‘chalet’ near the Brador River today, but the weather did not look promising, and a strong north wind was predicted. Will, Abby, and I had already loaded the rental car with our gear, and Perry was about to head to the Harts for laundry and a shower when one of the fishermen – whose young grandson was distracting him by squirting him with a hose – told us we should move our boat inside the pier because the outside is bad in a north wind. The options for an inside berth were not great, however, as we were too large to be moored third out alongside the other long-liners. Anchoring was not a good option either as we were not familiar enough with the shoals in the nearby small bays. Basin Harbor (Isle du Basin) is a good harbor, but its bottom is soft and unsuitable for our type of grapnel anchor. Since we needed fresh water anyway, we decided to shift over to our old standard – and ‘nemesis’ – the public wharf at Blanc Sablon where he had had such a terrible night in an easterly storm last summer. At least we would have good
protection from a northerly wind here, and no undertow.

Abby drove the car around and met us on the Blanc Sablon dock, where we found ourselves in the fog and caught in a torrential down-pour so that we could not even see the Newfoundland ferry approaching behind us. After securing the boat and collecting our rain gear we headed to the Harts, where Abby and Perry remained while Will and I went on to the chalet, where we found the access road flooded by run-off from the heavy rain. It did not take us long to wake up our old friends, the black flies, which are particularly numerous in the marshy land along this side of Brador Bay, where granite hills rise steeply behind the scattered row of cottages set back into the spruce thicket.

The grass had grown back over our test pits of last year, which we should have marked with stakes. I had Will expand my 2007 TP4 into a 1x1m unit on the side of a mound of earth where I had found the stone bead, whalebone sled runner, iron point and other materials. Will’s pit was quite productive, and had the same complex stratigraphy I had noted last year, with 10-15 cm of dark black sandy soil below the grassy turf, underlain by thin (< 1.0cm thick) bands of lighter sandy soil alternating with greasy black humic soil that represented vegetation stabilization episodes. Below 5-10 of these bands was a pure sand horizon 2-5cm thick, overlying a 1-2cm thick band of peat – clearly marking the old original ground surface – and below that, the grey leached sand of the original beach. Artifacts and bones, primarily of seal but including some large and small mammal remains (most of the large bones have been cracked for marrow extraction and boiling), were numerous in the upper black soil but were also found sporadically in the banded peat layers below. Artifacts included several nails and a large iron spike, two pieces of grey Normandy stoneware, the remains of an iron axe wedge with a battered top, and a white quartz flake near the junction with the sterile grey sand. I started a new 50x50cm TP8 near the northwest corner of the Hart’s cottage, an area we had not previously tested, thinking that the declivity running toward shore here might have been where Levesque had found the paved tile ‘sluiceway.’ Here I found a very simple podsol section with turf, an 8-10 cm level of black earth with artifacts and bones, lying on grey leached beach sand. Bones were quite numerous and well-preserved, and artifacts included a shattered pipe stem (with quite a large bore diameter), several nails, tile fragments, and two flakes of chipped stone, one of tan chert from the lower black zone and a flake of dark chert in the upper grey sand. The latter probably represent a prehistoric component beneath the historic period Inuit occupation.

Test Pit 9, east of TP 4 on the other side of the earth mound, turned out to be a revelation. Earlier I had asked Clifford and Florence whether there had been any earth-moving around their cottage that might account for the lumpy surface in the grassy area behind their house. No, they reported, nothing other than digging out some soil to level the house; this earth I could clearly see as a low mound bordering the edge of the foundation. TP9 was 30 cm east of the line extending north from the east wall of the Hart cottage, about 25 cm east of the near vertical east face of the earth mound. I could not fathom how such a sharp wall could have been maintained unless it marked the edge of a bulldozer cut, and the Harts had said no machinery had ever been down in the cottage area. The pit which was located under an old spruce tree, had a thin grassy turf and was underlain by a few cm of black earth in which I found a few bones and a single well-preserved iron nail. About 10 cm from the surface I found coarse reddish-brown sand lying at the water table, and water immediately began to seep into the pit. Almost immediately I realized that the only way you could have a vertical cut while still retaining a black earth cultural zone was if the earth moving and ‘lumpy ground’ was present before the cultural deposition. Stepping back, I began walking the crest of the mound and realized it made a corner near the northwest corner of the cottage and had a depression on the south side from which a few rocks were protruding. From these rocks the depression extended south several meters, lined on either side by low-mounded earth. West of the test pit the mound extended a couple of meters north and then turned east into the spruce thicket, changing from an earth mound into a soil cut that dropped about 30-40 cm to a level surface. By this time I realized I was tracing the walls, floor, and sleeping platform of a rectangular semi-subterranean Inuit house similar to those at Belles Amours and found along the Labrador coast, but which, except for its southwestern corner, was almost completely obscured by thick spruce and birch vegetation. Measuring the walls as best as I could,
given the impenetrable growth, I found the structure to have rectangular dimensions, 9m across the long rear (northern) wall, west and east walls of 4-5m, a southern wall of ca. 8m, and a distance from the rear wall to the inner entrance of 6.5m. The east wall runs along the edge of the path cut between the gravel access road to their house. A 5-6 meter entrance tunnel extended south from the depression in the southern wall paralleling the Hart cottage east wall 2-3 meters to the east.

This discovery immediately explained our test pit finds of the past couple of years. Since our first visit to the site I had puzzled over the thick layer of seal and other bones and their association with Inuit artifacts in a thick surface deposit across the entire back yard of the cottage, and the stratigraphy in TP4 and 9. Turning to the northern part of the clearing where Christie had found many bones and the early Inuit ivory needle-case last year, I realized that the narrow depression she was excavating, which extended south toward my TP9 of this year, might be the entrance passage for a second Inuit house located in the spruce thicket north of the clearing. In fact, as I was mapping out the outline of House 1, the Harts arrived and confirmed that there was a ‘big hole’ north of Christie’s test pit, as well as another to the west of the clearing where Levesque had found iron nails and bones. The existence of an entry for the second house was also suggested by several rocks in the earth near Christie’s pit, which I presume is its entryway. The third house, to the west, is not so obvious and I did not have time to explore for it in the bush.

The existence of two and possibly three large Inuit winter houses similar in size and structure to the large three-house settlements on Eskimo Island in Hamilton Inlet is an important contribution to the early Inuit history of southern Labrador and the Lower North Shore. Although the actual finds are still few and include an early Inuit needle-case, blue glass beads, a stone cylindrical bead, an iron arrow or harpoon point, a sled runner fragment, and abundant roof tiles, Normandy stoneware, a wide range of other European materials, and excellent preservation of bone and ivory. However, they all point toward a late 16th or early 17th C. occupation by a large group of Inuit who had made a push into the Straits region, most likely in the early 1600s following the reduction of Basque whaling that occurred after the 1580s. The substantial amount of iron, tile, and ceramics suggests either direct trade or access to Basque materials from abandoned sites. Whether a Basque occupation is also present at the Hart Chalet site remains an open question, but seems likely, and could have been the reason for the unusual inner bay location of this site, in the midst of the forest zone rather than on the outer coast. Such a settlement would certainly have presented a challenge to the Innu people who had occupied these regions for many centuries since the departure of its previous Inuit occupants—Dorset people ca. 1500 B.P. or Groswater Paleoeskimos ca. 2000 B.P.

By late afternoon the rain and squalls had ceased and the sun broke through the clouds, but the predicted north wind did not materialize. We returned to the Harts, where Florence cooked up a fine spaghetti dinner. On the news came the announcement that Newfoundland had signed a major agreement for gas and oil development that was, in financial terms, the largest energy agreement ever made and which was predicted to transform the economy and future of Newfoundland. By 10pm we were back aboard, had parked the rental car for morning pick-up, and were poised for an early departure. The forecast called for strong northern wind to shift into southwest during the day. Hopefully we could get across the Strait before the southwest wind took hold, as towing our speedboat in a big following sea is always a challenge.

21 August, Thursday (Blanc Sablon to St. Anthony) The two shrimp-draggers moored outboard of us left at 4:30am and the weather seemed fine, with a light north wind of 10-15 knots blowing off the land. We got underway at 6:30am and the wind dropped steadily as we approached Newfoundland, whose northern tip remained bright and silvery in contrast to the dark clouds we were leaving behind in the gulf. By noon we were off Cape Norman and turned east, running south of Great Sacred Island. Perry toyed with the idea of taking the shallow inner passage across Noddy Bay, past L’Anse aux Meadows, but in the end decided not to take a chance since there was a strong ocean swell and the channel had only 3 fathoms: “One for the boat, one for the swell, and one for luck and the GPS accuracy – and that’s not a great margin!” he said. We had already noted several instances where the GPS location of the boat had
not matched the narrow channels in the St. Augustine region, where steering the vessel though a passage that on the chart looked deep enough for the boat actually put you on a shoal nearby. A weather eye, constant checking of the sounder, and a skeptical faith in computer navigation is always needed in these narrow places. We pulled into Quirpon at 3pm and since we were anxious to keep moving, we called Boyce Roberts and Michelle on the sat phone to say hello and tell them we could not stop for a visit. They were home and wished us well. Boyce will head for Alberta and the oil fields in November. Meanwhile he confirmed that the fishing had been only so-so, and the weather pretty much a bust, although it had produced a good crop of bakeapples. Two hours later we were tied up at the government wharf in St. Anthony, with enough time to show Abby the Grenfell properties and buy a few groceries at the new coop store. The arrival of the Canadian Coast Guard tug Harp with a broken-down long-liner in tow forced us to move to a new berth on the west side of the wharf, and soon the wharf manager peremptorily demanded we shift again to accommodate the arrival of a 450-foot cruise liner due to dock at 7:30am. But until then we could stay put. Shortly before dark the red sailboat we had seen off Quirpon crossing from Labrador showed up and tied alongside. Aboard were a gentleman from St. John’s with a strong British accent, and his son, returning from a summer in Nain and heading for St. John’s. They had pulled in to St. Anthony to restock fresh water and tea, and left a couple hours later, needing to get across While Bay before strong southwest winds predicted to reach 40-60 knots by midday tomorrow began; they needed to be back in St. John’s by Monday morning.

22 August, Friday (St. Anthony) The breeze did not wait long to come up, and by 6am it was already blowing too hard for us to even think about leaving for Englee or the Fiche Islands at the southern entrance of Hare Bay, where Perry had fished as a young man. At 7am we had to shift across the harbor to the new shrimp processing docks, where we watched with amazement the arrival of the Vista Mar which seemed to fill the entire harbor and at 400 feet extended way beyond the ends of the government wharf. She put so many lines ashore that one of the long-liners on the inside of the pier had to cut his dock lines get underway. We then shifted to his empty spot to wait out the wind. We were surprised to find a small lively fellow dressed as a Viking waiting at the gangway to welcome the tourists, who were assembling for tours in school busses for trips to L’Anse aux Meadows and Norstead. It was our old friend Wayne Hines, who had worked for many years as a re-enactor at the Parks Canada LAM site, and later at Norstead. Peter Harholdt had photographed him for our catalog, “Vikings: the North Atlantic Saga.” While waiting for the tourists to assemble Wayne posed with me for Will. Later I gave him our ship’s copy of the Viking book, which he had never received. To beat the tourists we made a quick trip to the Grenfell craft shop, buying a few items, but noticed that the more traditional craft materials, including parkas made of ‘grenfell cloth,’ had given way to industrial products made in China, and to a few craft providers in northern Newfoundland who were producing carvings made from moose bone and antler like those done by the Labrador Inuit, none of whom were represented in the shop. Only Gina at the Norseman Restaurant in L’Anse aux Meadows is selling real Labrador art and craft materials. In the old days these used to be produced at the Grenfell Hospital in St. Anthony and Labrador or Quebec by their Inuit and Innu patients who were convalescing and could make a few dollars on craft production to help defray the cost of medical treatments. One interesting note along these lines came up when I met Robert Simms, a St. Anthony resident whose father had been a long-time employee of the Grenfell Mission, working as a handyman and engineer. According to Simms, one day his dog came home with a model kayak in his mouth. (I think I reported this story in my journal a couple of years ago). Simms has no idea where the dog picked up the kayak, but I suppose it must have been made by one of the Inuit patients and somehow the dog got hold of it. In any case, he trotted home with it and it’s been a family heirloom for many years. Simms told me someone had offered him $3000 for the model, but he was not interested in selling. As in our previous meeting, I urged him to bring it to me for inspection, but he has never done that. After our visit to the Grenfell shop we went up to the Grenfell residence, hoping to find it open for visiting; but it was closed; so we hiked up the trail to the ‘tea house’ at the top of the hill behind the house, encountering a mother and chick ptarmigan on the path.

Wayne Hines gave us a lift to the lighthouse restaurant, always a great setting for a meal. The restaurant
is next to the Viking Hall where we had had a banquet during the Viking conference in the fall of 2000. They still have Viking dinners, accompanied by Wayne’s demonstrations, twice a week during the tourist season. On the way up the hill we watched the Vista Mar exiting the harbor, and it soon became obvious she was having problems on account of the wind, which was gusting to 30-35 knots. As we left the pier, she had cast off and made a neat 180º turn in place and started out the harbor; but when approaching the reef that bars in inner harbor she was not going fast enough to hold her stern up into the crosswind and it was pushed into the shallow water near the eastern end of the shrimp dock. She was able to get her stern back out and inched between the channel buoys, her stern barely clearing the northern (red) buoy. Following this, her stern again was pushed into the shallow water of the northern cove and her engines kicked up a huge stir of mud getting her rear end back out into deep water. The Coast Guard cutter Harp appeared at this point, but the VM continued on her own for the next 30 minutes, jogging forward and astern, zigzagging sideways through the entry channel all the way out into the open bay. Although it seemed likely that she had touched and perhaps was damaged, she made it out, stopped to assess her condition just outside the entrance, and then powered up and steamed on north, bound for Cartwright. The wind was very strong and the spectacle riveted the attention of hundreds of people, many of whom joined us on lighthouse hill where we could see everything unfold below us. It is a miracle she made it out unscathed and a tribute to the Italian captain’s skill and coolness under fire, although one has to question his decision to depart the pier in this windstorm.

After lunch Will and I climbed the ca. 450 step stairs up the hill to the radio beacon, where Will took some pictures. Then we descended the west side of the hill into town, emerging into a yard full of disassembled buses. For the rest of the afternoon I spliced one of our mooring lines that had chaffed nearly through and Will and I washed and photographed the finds and bones from the Cumberland Island and Hart Chalet sites, finding a few worked bone pieces, a large number of cracked mammal long bones, and a few fish and bird remains. After a chili dinner that Abby prepared I called home and got a shock, hearing from Lynne that she had been having with her left ear—throbbing, loud heart-beats and sounds of coursing blood—had been preliminarily diagnosed as a form of tinnitus resulting from malformed blood vessels near the audio apparatus, vessels that were susceptible to rupture and would need surgery or radiation to correct. She had learned this about a week ago and been expecting my call, but during that week I had found the line busy or unanswered. Chris Geiger, her sister from Palo Alto was visiting her and had helped out, but her anxiety was so high that on one occasion she had been rushed to the hospital thinking she was having a stroke. I needed to leave immediately as she had more tests in three days and decisions to make about treatment. The latter was a great concern because our friend Stephen Loring had suffered an aneurism several years ago that almost took his life. Bob Simms offered to help get me to a land-line phone and gave Abby and me a ride to Danny Keats’ home—it turned out he was the owner of the buses—where we learned there was a flight to St. John’s at 3:10 pm tomorrow and that seats were available. We then drove to the Grenfell nurses residence (now a hotel), where we were able to get online and make reservations from St. Anthony to St. John’s and Montreal. I let Lynne know and called my brother Josh at see if he could pick me up in Montreal, but I found him away in Chappaqua, N.Y. at his high school reunion. However Wibs, his wife, readily agreed to meet me in Montreal. Little did I realize that Wibs had just learned that eldest son, Jeb, had just been diagnosed with advanced-stage liver and colon cancer. Returning to the boat we found Perry stoical about the situation. Once before I had left the Pits wind-bound in St. Anthony, that time with Ted Timreck, because of schedule commitments in Washington. Will and Abby agreed to stay with him and get the boat back to Lushes Bight as soon as the wind dropped. There was plenty more food and we had discovered a cache of beer under the foc’s’le benches that had been overlooked. The weather reports called for more wind tomorrow.

22 August, Saturday (St. Anthony to Fairlee, Vt.) My participation in the 2008 Gateways Project was not supposed to end this way, but seeing as it did, it was about as quick and clean as it could have been. In the morning I called Danny Keats and arranged for a taxi ride to the airport, though ‘Moose alley,’ where once he spotted 138 moose during a single one-day trip to and from the airport. He’s hit four in his life, but is still alive, although one of those incidents cost him as much as $12,000 in repair bills.
During the morning I packed and straightened up my things and finished my field notes for St. Augustine and Brador. I gave Abby some money for emergencies and decided to leave all of my dive gear except my dive computer and regulator, which needs servicing, with the boat. Perry and Abby promised to rinse and dry this stuff along with the dredge pumps and other gear. We’ll see if Bob Linfield can come down and pick up the compressor, tanks and weights. Danny arrived at 1:30pm and I said goodbyes to the team, now down to three—Perry, Will, and Abby. The plane arrived from Goose Bay and got me to St. John’s at 4:30 with plenty of time to make the connection to the Air Canada flight to Montreal. There I discovered Wibs had changed plans and rushed out to Ohio to see her son. However, she had arranged for my niece, Eliza Fitzhugh, to pick me up, and her mother Didi came along for company. We met within minutes of my arrival and safe delivery of my luggage, and we were on the road and in Fairlee inside of three hours. To be home and with Lynne from St. Anthony to Fairlee inside of 24 hours was nothing short of a miracle, considering the Pitsiulak is still in St. Anthony waiting for a break in the weather. It is particularly disturbing that it’s the ‘good weather’ that is holding here up – fair weather wind off the land that probably dissipates to calm 40-50 miles off-shore – and that ‘bad weather’ – fog, rain, and low visibility that usually comes with light breezes – is the kind now needed to get her home. I felt plenty guilty to be back in Vermont while they are still ‘out there,’ but that’s the nature of things, and I have much to be thankful for, having had a great field season and being able to turn my attention to urgent family affairs.

During the next few days CAT scans and angiograms resulted in a positive diagnosis of her condition as a Dural Arterio-Venus Fistula, a tangle of unwanted blood vessels that had formed between the brain’s outer skin (dura) and the skull behind the left ear. Doctors at Mary Hitchcock Hospital decided her case was relatively benign – other than the whooshing sound – and could be left alone and monitored every six months. If it became dangerous because of venus back-flow into the brain or the sound turned out to be impossible to live with, it could be operated upon surgically or by angioplastic (endo-vascular) methods that seal the offending blood vessels with ‘glue’.

23 August, Saturday – 24 August, Sunday (St. Anthony)
The following narrative is courtesy of Abby McDermott and Will Richard
Bill departed around at 1pm on Saturday, after hearty good-byes and remonstrations not to go on a wild spending spree with the ‘emergency cash’ he left in Abby’s care. The winds were obviously too high to consider a safe departure from St. Anthony, so Will, Abby and Perry found various ways to entertain themselves. Abby went on a quest to find a book store, but succeeded only in taking a long walk around most of St. Anthony’s harbor. Perry caught up with old friends and exchanged fish tales with other wind-bound skippers, and Will read and worked on his manuscript. For dinner, we enjoyed another meal at St. Anthony’s notable Lighthouse Restaurant, and then returned to the Pits for the evening. Around 10pm that night, after we had tucked ourselves in to our bunks, the house at the head of our pier set off an impressive fireworks show. Abby and Perry enjoyed the display from the safety of the Pits, because at times it seemed the high winds might blow the pyrotechnics onto the pier.

On Sunday, we awoke to winds gusting up to 80 kph off of the coast of the Great Northern Peninsular. Abby took a long hike up the road to the lighthouse, and then mostly out of boredom, decided to tackle the stairs up the high hill behind the lighthouse to the radio beacon, as Bill and Will had done on Friday. She got some great photos of a small ‘inukshuk’ someone had constructed, which seemed to look down on St. Anthony’s harbor like a protective totem. In the afternoon, the galley of the Pits again filled with the pleasant smell of baking cookies, as Abby attempted to stave off cabin fever. The most exciting development of the day was the appearance of Björn Bergstrand, a Swedish sailor who had navigated across the North Atlantic solo on a 30 foot sailboat. On April 12, he left Sweden and sailed to the Shetlands, Faeroes, Iceland and Greenland before arriving in Newfoundland. He set a course straight from Nuuk, Greenland to St. Anthony, covering 840 nautical miles (966 statute miles) over 13 days, for an average of 74.33 statute miles per day. Will and Perry had noticed his sailboat moored on the pier, and invited him on board the Pits for dinner. We broke out the last bottle of wine for the occasion and enjoyed a good Newfoundland style fish fry supper, which was made all the more enjoyable by Björn’s company.
We followed up dinner with a trip across the pier to Björn’s sailboat, which he let us explore. He informed us that he plans to sell his boat and build another larger boat with a partner that will be fabricated of steel and be egg-shaped like Fridtjof Nansen’s arctic vessel. We crawled into our bunks early that night with hopes of departing before the winds picked up again.

25 August, Monday (St. Anthony to Conche)
We dragged ourselves out of bed at 5:30am to find the wind had calmed considerably. Perry listened to the weather reports and decided we probably had about 4-5 hours before the winds really started up again, and with any luck could make it to Englee. We made some coffee and ate whatever we could throw together quickly, and set out at 6:25am. However, by the time we were off the Gray Islands the wind had picked up considerably. Will was barely able to close-haul the speed boat in the rough seas. Abby and Will did the best they could to assist Perry, while also attempting to keep seasickness at bay. Perry was probably more concerned for our safety than he let on. The final straw was a particularly violent roller that pitched the Pits hard, causing Perry’s coffee cup to fly off the helm, spill its contents on the navigational computer, and crash into the keyboard, knocking off some of the arrow keys needed to control the mouse. Perry remained calm, never losing his cool for a moment, and with a few curses, steered the Pits into the safety of Southwest Crouse Harbor. He had planned to round the point to Conche itself, with its pier, stores and other amenities, but with the tide against the seas the waves were too rough to risk it. We all took a deep breath, pulled ourselves together, and then assessed the damage, which other than the bruised computer, was minimal.

We dropped anchor in the harbor, and then decided to take the speed boat over to the fishing docks and see if anyone was ‘out and about.’ We found one accommodating gentleman, who was happy to let us tie our speedboat up to his dock. He said Conche was only a mile or two away, so despite the threatening rain clouds looming overhead, we set out on foot. Along the walk we noticed a number of signs that pointed out Conche’s French and Basque heritage – including a small billboard along the road that featured a drawing of a Basque ‘chalupa,’ or small boat. We crested the hill, and observed Conche’s quaint houses surrounding the commercial pier backed by the harbor with the Gray Islands off in the distance. We were about to head into the town’s center when we spied the French Shore Interpretation Center housed in the former Grenfell nursing station along Conche’s main road. We decided the small admission fee was well worth it, and inside we found some very interesting displays highlighting the culture and history of Newfoundland’s “French Shore.” The displays were quite professional and informative, and featured items donated by local residents of Conche as well as Croque and Grandois/St. Julien’s that illustrated the Irish and English ancestry of today’s Dorset site with a notice informing visitors that the Conch Archaeology Project plans to carry out further investigations at this local site.

However, the real treasure of the interpretation center is still a work in progress: a 200 foot long embroidered tapestry that tells the history of the French Shore in vivid color and marvelous detail, and is clearly inspired by France’s Bayeux tapestry from the middle ages. The project was launched in 2007 when a former artist-in-residence, a French landscape painter named Jean Claude Roy, convinced the interpretation center that the history of the French Shore lent itself to this striking visual medium. Seven local women embroiders are employed by the French Shore Interpretation Center, and they turn Jean Claude’s carefully researched paintings, which incorporate the motifs of the original Bayeux tapestry, into a steadily growing tapestry. Museum Director Colleen McLaine explained all this to us, and also took us down to the studio where we were able to see the ladies at work on the loom. Colleen had met Perry and Will at a 2007 conference in Plum Point, Newfoundland, and was happy to run into them again in Conche. All and all, we were very impressed with the beauty and scope of the project. Hopefully it will receive the attention it deserves when the tapestry is debuted as part of the heritage center’s renovation in July 2010 and will raise the profile of Conche and knowledge of the history and heritage of the French Shore, which is still remarkably little-known even to Newfoundlanders.

We stopped in the general store in Conch to pick up a few supplies (and some used mystery novels for
only a dollar each!), and managed to sweet-talk the proprietor into giving us a lift back to the Pits in Southwest Crouse Harbor. Before returning, we took the speedboat to the other side of the harbor to investigate the Dos de Cheval Archaeology Site: a French fishing room from the height of the French Shore period that is being excavated by Peter Pope of Memorial University of Newfoundland. We had heard a rumor that a former Pits crew member, Mary Melnick, was part of the field crew. That evening, we made a simple spaghetti dinner and then went to bed early with hopes that the wind would finally, truly abate in the morning, giving us a good day to make the final leg of the trip to Lushes Bight.

26 August, Tuesday (Conche to Lushes Bight)

We awoke to find the winds calm and decided it was now or never, so we pulled up anchor and left. The navigational computer was crippled from the incident with the coffee cup the day before, and Perry had to do battle with it all day. Despite our frequent offers of assistance, he stayed at the helm for the entire trip. Perhaps he was afraid that if he took a break, that would jinx the near perfect weather we were enjoying, because you could not have asked for a better day to be underway. We enjoyed a few dolphin visits, and Abby and Will spent much of the journey up on deck, scanning the horizon for birds and whales. We made it in to Lushes Bight by 4pm, and Louise and Jill Colbourne were on the dock, having spotted us from their living room window. It was certainly good to be back on dry land, and within a few hours of Deer Lake airport, or the Port-aux-Basque ferry terminal. After some wild speculation as to what day we would actually reach Lushes Bight, it was reassuring to know that both Abby and Will wouldn’t miss their ferry or flight reservations. In fact, Will got on the phone almost immediately, and decided that he would take the ferry at 7am the next morning, rather than wait until Thursday. He ate a hurried dinner, thanked the Colbournes’ for their hospitality, and then jumped into his trusty Volvo so he could get off the island by 7 PM and spend the night with friends in Deer Lake. Now the Pits crew was down to just Perry and Abby, who would not be leaving for another three days!

27 August, Wednesday – 29 August, Friday (Lushes Bight to Deer Lake, and onward!)

Abby was unable to change her flight reservations, so she settled in to her comfortable lodgings at the Colbournes, temporarily taking over Jane’s room. Over the next few days, she worked with Perry, Jill, Louise and Matt to clean out the Pits (mostly the galley), take apart the zodiac, hose down and dry Bill’s dive equipment, and enjoy many family meals. There was a lot of laundry to be done, and at one point, both Louise and Mamie’s clotheslines were completely full. Abby enjoyed watching Jill’s latest DVDs, and had a rather intense lesson in the preferred card game of the Long Island ladies club: Ok-o (sp). The game is similar to bingo, but much more complex and features rules and intricacies invited by Louise, Jill, and the other ladies. Probably the biggest challenge to the would-be player is the need to come prepared with $5 in Canadian nickels! Luckily, Abby managed to cobble together the requisite amount through the charity of the other players around the table.

On Friday, Perry took Abby to the airport in the afternoon. Of course, after asking her a number of times if she had everything, Abby realized she had left her favorite scarf behind on Jane’s bed, and they had to race back to the house, almost missing the 1pm ferry. After stopping at Budgell’s to pay some final bills and to pick up an invoice for the Pits new pilot house door, Perry and Abby drove to Deer Lake, arriving with time to spare. However, that was not the end of the adventure. It turned out that Abby’s trip home resembled Bill’s trip to Deer Lake, with a cancelled flight forcing her to miss her connection to Washington, DC from Montreal. However, she managed to made it back in one piece, arriving at Dulles International airport at 9am on Saturday August 30. It was certainly a great adventure, and Abby hopes to sign on to another summer aboard the Pits, if only to finally master how to tie a good clove hitch!

Concluding remarks

The 2008 Gateways project was a highly successful one that answered many questions posed by earlier research at the Hare Harbor Basque site and produced important new information on Inuit occupations
of more easterly regions of the Quebec Lower North Shore. Most important were the identification of an Inuit winter dwelling beneath the S2 blacksmith shop which was occupied for a short period during the early phase of the Basque operation at this site. This structure, distinctively Inuit in style with an excavated entrance passage, a stone lintel construction, and diagnostic Inuit artifacts, was burned shortly after it was occupied and a stone pavement was laid down immediately on top of the remains and served as a floor for a blacksmithing operation. Later that structure was also burned. Underwater excavations produced a large olive jar and a marked roof tile and new samples of ballast rock, fauna, and whale bones were collected.

Survey and test excavations in St. Augustine provided more information about early Inuit occupations of these regions, with a tent ring of possible Inuit origin, while tests at the Hart Chalet site in Brador resulted in discovery of a new Inuit winter village dating probably to the early 17th C. located in the forest zone near the mouth of the Brador River. The excellent preservation of this site and its contents should provide excellent data for evaluation Inuit adaptations and accommodations to the arrival of Europeans at the southern edge of the Inuit world.

Details on scientific results are given elsewhere in this report.
Introduction
The 2008 Gateways project took place during 23 July and 29 August. Principal goals were (1) investigation of the sub-floor deposits of the S2 shore structure at the Petit Mécatina site at Hare Harbor; (2) expansion of excavations at the underwater site to elaborate stratigraphic contexts, including sampling of the ballast piles; and (3) testing possible Inuit sites in St. Augustine and Brador.

During the past year research on the 2007 collections and earlier finds was summarized in a paper titled, “Ship to Shore: Landscapes Above and Below Water at the Late 17th/Early 18th C. Basque Site at Petit Mécatina, Lower North Shore, Quebec” presented at the January, 2008 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology in a symposium on underwater archaeology organized by Ben Ford of the University of Texas. A second paper, “Whales, Codfish, and Basques: Archaeology of a Late-17th Century Basque Site in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Quebec,” authored by William W. Fitzhugh, Anja Herzog, Sophia Perdikaris, and Brenna McLeod, was read by Anja Herzog at the CTHS Congress in Quebec on 12-14 June, 2008 and is now in press in the Congress proceedings. The SHA paper was a summary of the project results to date while the CTHS paper presented zooarchaeological findings from 2007-8 based on faunal remains, primarily fish and whales, recovered from the underwater site. More detailed studies of fish remains from the 2007 samples and analysis of 33 samples of whale bone is also underway. A third study – analysis of the Hare Harbor artifact collections by Anja Herzog is being published in the CTHS proceedings and will be presented as a master’s thesis for Laval University. A study of ballast to determine source location is anticipated but has been hampered by absence of fossils in the ballast samples.

The 2007 field work produced important new discoveries, including stratigraphic evidence from the underwater site as well as finds of large earthenware storage vessels, glass, rope, barrel parts, flint, and other materials. Publication this year of the Parks Canada Red Bay underwater site report by Robert Grenier and associates (2008) facilitated comparison of the Mécatina and Red Bay finds. Both collections have similar porringer and storage jars, suggesting that some of the underwater finds might date to the late 16th century, a date also suggested by a yellow-glazed plate or platter found in a deep deposit north of the blacksmith shop onshore. However, end-dates have not been determined for these ceramic types, which may continue in use into the 17-18th centuries. Fragments of these 16th century types are also found in the cookhouse and blacksmith structures together with later ceramic types (e.g. Normandy stoneware) and other materials (glass beads, clay pipes, gun flints, gun parts, and sounding leads) from Iberian and West European sources that date to the 17th or early 18th centuries.

In addition to Basque materials our 2008 research uncovered evidence of an earlier component beneath the blacksmith shop upper (S2, Level 1) pavement. The Level 2 pavement consists of a wood floor that has been preserved by burning and saturation with water and contains organic materials not present in the drier upper level of this structure. At first it seemed that the Level 2 represented an early phase of the blacksmith shop that had burned and been re-built with a stone floor. However, its artifacts and architecture revealed it to be an Inuit winter dwelling associated with the early phase of Basque occupation. With this introduction we turn to presentation of 2008 fieldwork.

Archaeological Permit
The 2008 season was conducted under a permit (08-Fitz-01) from the Quebec Government’s Ministry of Culture and Communications administered by Frank Rochefort, with assistance of Geneviève Meunier, granted 21 July 2008. This permit authorized research and excavations at Petit Mécatina and at the Harp Chalet site in Brador, as well as survey work along the Lower North Shore from Blanc Sablon to Harrington Harbor.
Field Reports

1. Hare Harbor 1 (EdBt-3), Petit Mécatina, Quebec Lower North Shore

The 2008 field season at Hare Harbor had three goals: (1) further exploration of the underwater site, including sampling of the ballast piles; (2) investigation of the wood pavement beneath stone floor in Structure 2; (3) expansion of excavations around the periphery of Structure 2 blacksmith shop; and (4) if possible, excavation beneath the stone pavement of Structure 1 cookhouse. The first three objectives were met, but time prevented work at S1, which is scheduled for 2009. The 2008 results are presented by excavation unit for each area excavated: Western S2 Area; S2 Entrance Passage; S2 House Interior; and S2 North Wall.

Western S2 Area

10N/11E  On 14 August Abby McDermott began excavating a 1x2m square between Areas 2 and 3 to investigate the stratigraphy of peat micro-layers that had been observed by Yves Chrétien in 2005. The upper sod was removed, but it was near the end of the season and time did not permit excavation below the sod level, so this unit was back-filled to await a future opportunity.

11N/2W  On 14 August, Alix Penland excavated a 1x1m test pit north of Area 2, finding several cobbles and flat slabs immediately under the vegetation mat. The square contained several pieces of tile in a 2-3cm thick cultural level resting on sterile sand. The results did not merit further investigation.

Hare Harbor Structure 2 Unit Summaries

(metric designations designate the northeast corner of each unit)

After removing the tarps that covered S2 during the winter, we verified the exposed rock pavement with maps produced in 2005-7 and corrected discrepancies. Then we removed the rocks and slabs that formed the S2 upper pavement (Level 1). Posts that had been found between pavement rocks in 2007 were relocated and plotted; these posts can be attributed to the S2 Level 1 blacksmith shop structure and had saw-cut bottoms. New posts identified in 2008 might be associated with Level 2 (S2b) blacksmith structure; but some buried beneath paving slabs must be associated with the earlier Level 2 (S2a) Inuit structure. Most of these posts had pointed axe-cut bottoms.

Stratigraphic Summary  At the time we began the 2008 excavation we assumed the charred wood planking that appeared immediately below the S2b stone pavement was an earlier floor of the blacksmith shop and that the toy soapstone lamp and triangular Ramah chert point found in 2007 were associated with the Groswater Paleoeskimo occupation twenty meters to the west. However, the discovery below the stone floor of toy soapstone lamps of a distinct Thule/Labrador Inuit type and evidence of an Inuit subsurface entrance passage were convincing evidence that the charred Level 2 sub-floor was part of a Labrador Inuit winter dwelling. This earlier occupation was defined stratigraphically only where it had been sealed by the Level 1 Basque pavement. In areas peripheral to this pavement Basque and Inuit occupation surfaces could not be distinguished stratigraphically. In these areas the burning of the Basque structure had collapsed the Basque and Inuit floors into a single 3-6cm thick cultural horizon that included both Inuit and Basque materials resting on sterile compressed peat. In the western end of the structure an Inuit toy lamp and calcined bone that were part of the Inuit occupation were found in the same level as the crushed tile of the Basque walkway.

Crushed Tile Pathway

In 2007 we found a pavement of crushed roof tiles originating on the border between 16N/18E and 14N/18E leading west on top of sterile peat down-slope toward A2 and S1. Excavations in 2008 provided a more complete picture of this feature.
14N/14E Immediately beneath the turf in this 2x2m unit excavated by Alix Penland and Abby McDermott was a 5-10cm thick, one meter wide layer of crushed roof tiles running E-W across the center of the unit. Crushed tile extended east into 14N/16E but terminated before reaching the 12E line to the west. Three large blocky rocks were present in the SW quadrant. A 50cm diameter, 20cm deep hearth pit with charcoal and broken roof tiles was located in the NW corner, extending out of the square to the NW. The rest of the unit reached sterile beach sand at 10-15cm depth. A piece of European flint, a small encrusted ballast stone and two nails were found in the 5-8cm thick culture layer.

Structure 2a Entrance Passage

12N/18E Will Richard excavated this 1x1m unit to see if 2005 work had reached sterile soil. Heavy rain had flooded the 2005 units and some may not have been completely excavated. However, it appeared that this unit had been fully excavated. The only artifact found was the end of a barrel stave near the southern edge of the unit 161 cm below datum.

11N/18E Abby McDermott excavated this 1x1m unit. The eastern two-thirds of the unit had numerous slabs and flat rocks that were part of the S2b (Level 2) floor, including several large roof tiles. Three large blocky rocks along the eastern wall appear to have been part of the original entryway wall of S2a (Level 1) and were embedded in a thick deposit of nearly pure charcoal that extended to the east into the entrance passage square. Along the 18E line, the sterile peat descended sharply from ca. 150 to 180cm b.d., marking the western edge of the entry tunnel. No artifacts were found.

12N/20E This 2x2m unit and 14N/20E to the north contained the sunken entrance passage of a Labrador Inuit winter dwelling and were excavated by Fitzhugh and Richard over the course of several days. Its upper level had been excavated to ca. 140cm b.d. in 2005, but work was terminated because of flooded conditions. After shoveling out the back-filled material, cultural deposits were encountered from 140 to 185cm. Rocks were found embedded in sterile peat on either side of an excavated, sunken passageway oriented SSW to NNE, 25 degrees east of magnetic North. First encountered were several parallel logs 18-15cm in diameter (ca. 165cm b.d.) whose branches had been roughly trimmed by axe cuts a few cms from the trunk. These poles appeared to be the remains of roof timbers that had collapsed onto the entry passageway floor. Below these rough-hewn timbers, barrel staves and bottoms had been laid down as passage flooring at depths from 170 to 180cm b.d. The broken arm of a child’s hunting bow, the butt end of a wooden tool handle, two decomposed sandstone grindstones, and a barrel stave end were found along the west side of the entrance passage at depths of 166 to 186cm b.d. Below these staves the passageway was paved with small slabs at ca. 175-185cm b.d., resting on sterile peat. A series of flat slabs were positioned along the east side of the passage at depths of 160-165cm b.d.

14N/20E This 2x2m unit at the inner end of the entrance passage was capped by four large, thick rock slabs, three of which were more than 50cm across while a fourth was nearly a meter across. Although having been used for the Level 1 blacksmith shop pavement, these rocks were recycled from their original use as door posts and lintel for the Inuit entryway. One upright slab that bordered the west side of the entry portal in this square was still in situ, its top at 141cm b.d. A continuation of the collapsed spruce pole roof beams and the rough flooring of barrel staves found in 12N/20E continued into this unit, at slightly shallower depths, ca. 160-165cm b.d. due to upward slope of the entry tunnel. One of these pieces of wooden ‘flooring’ turned out to be the bottom of a European-style tool box which had been turned upside down to use as a step into the house. This box was made with sawn planks fastened with both wood and iron nails; its strap handle had been broken but was still in place, and inside the box we found a tool handle, a whetstone, and wood shavings. Two large pieces of roof tile had been used as paving stones on the passage floor north of the box. Fragments of a lathe-turned wood platter had been wedged between the box/step and the sterile peat wall of the entry. Other artifacts found on the west side of this entry area included a fragment of a miniature Labrador Inuit style soapstone lamp, bowl and stem fragments of a clay pipe, two Inuit lamp wick-trimmers, a piece of lead (musket ball?), the broken
arm of a toy bow, green bottle glass, and several nails, and various barrel and tub staves. All were found in secure undisturbed context below the Level 1 stone pavement. To the north and east of the work-box step doorway, the remains of barrel stave paving were present, sloping downward into the entry, and on this surface we found scattered deposits of calcined bone, most of which was uncollectible and had been reduced to bone paste.

The following narrative reports the sequence of finds in these two entry passage units:

4 August: Will began work on 14N 20E by removing several of the huge slabs in the northeastern part of the square. No plank floor was found, but near the bottom of the cultural zone he recovered a miniature soapstone lamp that had the semi-lunar shape of a Thule or Labrador Inuit lamp. He also found two sticks with charred ends resembling Inuit wick-trimmers. This area of the blacksmith structure, located in the middle of its southern pavement, may have been the entrance to the lower floor structure, accounting for the presence of so many thick, large slabs, some of which are set vertically and may have been part of an Inuit house cold-trap entry construction.

6 August: Will found a small iron awl in a wood handle in the upper soil (Level 1) above the rock pavement while removing the balk between this square and 14N 18W. I joined him in disassembling the cluster of large slabs in the south side of his square, which had probably been part of the entryway of the lower level structure. Here in water-logged deposits just above the sterile peat at the bottom of Level 2 I found the broken arm of a miniature bow which had carefully-carved notches for the bow-string. We also uncovered a vertical slab and a deep paving slab that may be part of an Inuit winter house cold-trap entry.

7 August: We cleared more of the Level 2 entry and found a concentration of calcined bone paste east of the entryway rocks, lying on the Level 2 charred plank floor of Structure S2a. Will found a vertical plank lining the side of an entryway parallel with the paving stones that were beginning to appear, which may be part of the passage wall.

8 August: Will followed the paving stones south into 12N 20E, whose upper level we had excavated in 2005, finding several paving stones aligned N-S. Excavating below this level, we found stone slabs in line with the passage pavement to the north.

10 August: Will and I continued tracing out the entranceway cut in the south wall in 12N/20E, which required re-excavating the 2005 12N 18E unit. By evening we had uncovered to the entrance passage floor and found a parallel set of entryway roof poles collapsed onto a plank floor with some side wall rocks and paving slabs. Tiles are found on the basal floor deposit, but very few other artifacts. It looks like an Inuit entry passage whose stone slab cold trap stone construction has been disturbed or partly dismantled.

11 August: Will and I mapped the rocks resting on the aligned roofing poles of the entryway. Very few artifacts occurred in the level above the poles, which rest on a similarly aligned slab pavement, itself resting on wood planks with this same orientation. The end of this passage seems to lie at the 10N line. Its western wall is composed of blocky rocks embedded in a thick layer of charcoal. Perhaps this is the Inuit structure’s cooking hearth. In Inuit winter houses such hearths are often located on the right side of the entry passage as you leave the house.

12 August: Will and I worked on both 14N20E and 12N20E, which came clearly into focus as an Inuit winter house entrance passage. The passage was lined with medium-size rocks and had been cut into the peat, which sloped down smoothly to the tunnel floor. We found a series of unfinished knotty timbers on top, partly burned, being use part of a collapsed tunnel roof. Below this, a scattering of barrel staves and bottoms had been thrown in top cover parts of the muddy floor. Under these were slab rocks lying on sterile peat….At the very end of the day along the west side of the passage pavement I turned up
two eroded grindstones, a wood tool handle, a fragment of a barrel stave, and the broken arm of another wooden bow, this time a functional child’s bow with similar bowstring notches as the toy bow found a few meters away at the inner end of the tunnel. In addition to its Inuit artifacts and architecture, this S2a structure is full of Basque tiles and barrel staves used as flooring. The Inuit who lived here had access to Basque materials. The occupation had to be in winter because in summer this tunnel would have been filled with water, as it was often during our excavations.

15 August: Will and I cleaned up the entry passage. The outer (south) end of the passage seems to end at the south edge of 12N20E, although rocks continued into the next square to the south, 10N 20E. Excavation of this area in 2005 revealed a N-S alignment of flat slabs that probably represents the extension of the entry passage for at least another meter to the south. The west margin of the entryway is marked by a large, dense concentration of charcoal and wall rocks, at the base of which I found the Inuit bow and two grindstones. It was easy to see where the cut had been made in the peat when excavating the entrance passage. Abby and I did a number of profiles for the entrance tunnel area that clearly show the excavated nature of the entrance passage from its beginning at the inverted tool box to the south wall of 12N/20E.

S2a Dwelling Interior

Directly beneath the Level 1 slab pavement was the charred remains of a Level 2 wooden floor that had been paved with poles, staves and bottoms of barrels and tubs, and in a few cases sawn planks. However the spatial limit of this lower floor was not always easy to discern because the wood pavement had decayed when not covered with the Level 1 stone pavement. Only a few pieces of wood flooring and patches of calcined bones were noted in the drier western part of the structure, west of the Level 1 slab pavement. The southeastern part of the structure had a floor composed of thin spruce poles oriented east-west south of 13N, while east of 20E the pole pavement ran north-south. Wood was best preserved in the northeastern part of the structure which was saturated with water draining from the hill to the north. This drainage followed a path diagonally through the eastern part of the structure into the entry passage and the bog to the south. In 14N/22E the S2a slab pavement was underlain by a floor of N-S slats and poles. In 16N/22E the S2a wood slats ran in an E-W direction, extending two-thirds of the way across the interior of the S2a structure. Traces indicated that the western part of the structure, west of 18E, had once been paved with wood staved and planking that had either been burned off or had rotted away. The east-west center of the floor, roughly following the 15N line, also had the remains of several roof posts, many of which had been reinforced with small rock slabs wedged into the peat around the base of the posts. No vertical slabs or internal features or hearth structures were noted, although in one instance a plank had been set vertically along the rear of the dwelling, possibly marking the front of a sleeping platform running along the north side of the house interior.

14N/16E The proximal end of a Ramah chert microblade and a decorated clay pipe stem were found in this unit, which had been partially excavated in 2007. The microblade probably originated from the Groswater Paleoeskimo occupation south of Area 2.

12N/18E Abby excavated the NE quad and Fitzhugh and Richard the SE quad of this unit, whose western quads were dug in 2005. The abundance of charcoal and burned slabs along the western wall of the entrance passage in 12N/20E suggested 12N/18E might contain a cooking hearth. Instead we found a relatively shallow deposit, with a large concentration of rocks in the eastern side that formed the western wall of the entry tunnel. The charcoal deposit seems to have been associated with the Level 1 Basque floor.

14N/22E This 2x2m unit lies immediately east of the inner door and its box step. Beneath the upper pavement were poorly preserved remains of timbers and planks running E-W across the southern one-third of the unit, while Level 2 flooring in the northern two-thirds ran N-S and consisted, in most cases of barrel parts located at 135-140cm b.d., resting on sterile peat. Two upright post bases 3-4cm thick were
found in the NW quadrant. A bifurcated chunk of lead, charred canvas-like fabric, some nails and pieces of sheet iron, and a fragment of decorated earthenware were on this floor, as well as part of a small animal skull in the midst of a deposit of calcined bone. The skull disintegrated as soon as it was uncovered.

16N/16E This unit contained a jumble of large blocky rocks that had been piled up between 14-20N along the 15E line. These rocks probably originated as rock-fall from the cliff that had been removed when clearing the floor of the Inuit S2a dwelling to be used as part of its west wall. This square had been partially excavated in 2007. Its SW corner contained the eastern edge of the crushed stone pathway that runs west from S2 downslope to A2 and S1 cookhouse. The 2008 work recovered a decorated clay pipe stem and a piece of ballast stone.

16N/18E This unit whose Level 1 deposit above the stone pavement was excavated in 2007 marks the western edge of the S2 stone and wood pavements which terminate roughly along the 17E line. In the northeastern quadrant poorly preserved remains of burned barrel stave flooring appeared directly beneath the S1a stone pavement together with patches of calcined bone paste, a 14cm diameter post, a burned bone, and a clay pipe stem. The western half of the unit had no Level 1 stone pavement. In the SW quadrant the crushed tile pavement walkway resting on sterile compressed peat and butted up against the western edge of the blacksmith floor.

16N/20E This unit was excavated down to the stone pavement level during the 2006 field season and was not excavated further in 2007. Removal of the pavement in 2008 revealed a horizon of burned and rotted barrel staves in the waterlogged eastern half of the unit. These planks were best preserved in the SE quad where 8-10 could be identified running largely E-W, but with others crossing N-S. Throughout the southern half of the unit the L2 deposit was only 2-4cm thick and consisted of rotted and charred wood, with charcoal chunks and stains. This level rested on sterile humified peat. In the northern portion of the unit the cultural level was 1-3cm thick and rested on a large rotted slab of schist that was decomposing to sand. Nine upright wood posts were embedded in the sterile peat trending NW-SE across the middle of this unit. Other Level 2 finds included patches of calcined bone paste, a beautifully-carved miniature soapstone lamp with a cross incised in its bowl, a white glass bead, an olive-colored glass (or stone?) tubular bead, two iron nails, a clay pipe stem, and a piece of worked birch bark.

16N/22E Water from the hillside drained southwest through the middle of this 2x2m unit, resulting in a loss of data due to mushy peat, ponding water, and boggy conditions. Nevertheless wood flooring was well-preserved in the eastern and western parts of the unit, generally at a depth of 130-135cm b.d. Barrel stave flooring ran E-W across the northern half of the unit and N-S in the southern half. A large concentration of tiles appeared along the SE wall and four upright post bases with slab-reinforced bases were found embedded in subfloor peat. Most of the upper surfaces of the planks were heavily charred, especially in the drier parts of the unit, and in one area a charred patch of canvas-like fabric was found. Most other artifacts came from the western part of the square and included clay pipe stems, a lead musket ball, mica, a charred animal tooth, a fragment of two-color painted glaze from an earthenware vessel fragment, a corroded lead or pewter button (decomposed upon excavation), a barrel bung plug, and sandstone grindstone fragments.

Structure 2 North Wall and Hillside
The 2007 excavations revealed the northern edge of the S2 workshop and house floor where it met the rising slope of the hillside to the north. However burned beams or footings also extended north of the 18N line up the hill, where large amounts of charcoal, some nails, and roof tiles were also found just below the turf. In order to define the northern limit of the structure and see if furnaces or other structures might have been built into the hillside, we excavated several units along the northern periphery of the structure.

18N/16E This unit lies at the base of the cliff bank where rock, sands and other detritus has accumulated after eroding from the cliff. The surface of this unit slopes down steeply to the south, intersecting the rear
area of S2. The unit is filled with large blocky rocks, some of which may have fallen directly from the cliff above while others must have been placed here after being cleared from the floor area of S2 when the Inuit house was being constructed. They appear to mark the NW corner of that structure and lie beyond the S2a blacksmith shop stone floor. These rocks align with rocks in 16N/16E and probably formed the west wall of the Inuit structure S2a.

After the sod was removed, charcoal appear just below the turf and continued in varying degrees to sterile soil. The upper soil consisted of a mixture of dark organic soil mixed with decomposed granite that became sandy near the center of the square, probably due to continued decomposition of the rockpile. Nails were found in the crevices between large rocks in the northern section of the unit. A few tiles pieces were uncovered just above a charcoal layer. A nearly continuous layer of charcoal appeared over a dense brown clay-like layer. Ten centimeters down in the center of the square a large, thick charred timber appeared oriented N-S. This timber probably supported the western edge of the S2a Inuit roof. What may have been an E-W oriented timber or plank extended outward from both sides of this beam, in which nails had been embedded. After the beam was mapped and photographed it was removed and more nails and a piece of charred canvas fabric (at 104cm b.d.) were found. In the SE quad a pavement of thin schist slabs had fire-spalled from a parent boulder. Artifacts from this unit consisted of many large nails and spikes, some of which were embedded in the N-S beam. A pyrites fire-starter was also recovered.

A large triangular meter-high rock had been tipped up on edge just outside the west side of the unit, probably to serve as a roof support. An even larger rock had been tipped up beyond the north wall, also to serve as a roof support. After S2 burned, the top portion (89cm b.d.) of the former rock broke off and fell into the west side of this unit.

19N/18E   This 1x2m east-west unit was excavated to trace the extent of the large burned beam along the north edge of the structure, noted above in 18N/16E. As in that square, this unit was dominated by cliff-fall rocks in the east and west sides of the unit. Below the sod was a sandy layer containing charcoal flakes and chunks, and in the N and NW part of the unit a ‘stack’ roof tiles rested on a thick layer of charcoal. Several large nails were found, as well as a continuation of the charred E-W beam in 20N/20E. Two smaller boards intersected this beam and probably had been attached to it. The large beam must have been the structure’s northern roof timber. A brown clayey soil underlay the cultural level and rested on sterile sand. A western profile was drawn from 19N/17E to 18N/17E to document the intersection of the house and hillside.

20N/20E   This 2x2m unit at the base of the hill slope lay directly east of the previously-described square and contained the same jumble of cliff-fall rocks. Most were lying on sterile sand. Immediately beneath the sod was a several centimeter thick layer of heavy charcoal mixed with nails and tiles. The charred beam found in 19N/18E extended E-W across this unit. The charcoal level beneath the sod extended down-slope into the mass of charcoal we found last year along the north wall of the structure, along the 18N line. There were several other charred remnants of smaller timbers or planks south of this beam. Beneath the charred beam the soil levels remained the same as in 19N/18E, decomposed rock soil overlying a brown clay-like level, overlying a thin layer of charcoal, and then sterile sandy soil.

General notes on Structure 2:
14 August:   We finished up the entrances, cleaned up the excavation, recorded planks, and in the afternoon excavated under the plank flooring. In the process we found a number of new post holes, some with axe-cut bases and one large one with a saw-cut base. This post probably dates to the Basque component rather than the Inuit house. Two of the posts appear to be at the edge of the slight rise at the north end of the pavement that and may coincide with the edge of the sleeping platform. One of these uprights was a vertically-set rectangular sawn plank about 3x12 cm in dimension.
15 August: On our last day of work at Hare Harbor we continued excavating beneath the floor planks, most of which were recycled barrel or tub staves and bottoms. By mid-afternoon we were ready to begin reconstructing the site. About 4pm the divers arrived and we began to back-fill S2. We returned all the barrel parts to their approximate original position and filled the entrance tunnel with its rocks. After all the back-dirt was in place we re-paved the blacksmith shop floor in the northern half of the excavation with rock slabs and re-sodded the southern portion, creating a rectangular expanse of pavement surrounded by grass. I hope that someday it will be possible to use this as the basis for reconstructing the site with its Basque cook-house and smithy, an Inuit winter dwelling, and a plan of the harbor deposits as well as a museum display in Harrington Harbor.

Underwater Work at Hare Harbor 1
While research was being conducted on the land site, the dive team was busy with work on the underwater site in the adjacent cove. A full report on the underwater archaeology conducted is presented elsewhere in this report authored by our dive captain, Ben Ford. Here I provide a brief narrative of that work abstracted by my field journal.

2 August: After getting the shore team set up Ben, Christie, Laurie, Vincent, and I went diving. Perry and Ben dumped the dredges on the bottom where we intended to begin excavating a 2x2m square ten meters upslope (north) of Erik’s pits (TPB1), southeast of the intersection of A2 and B (TPB3), and just west of the A1/C intersection west of the bottom of Stone Pile 5 (TPD1). The rationale for the B quadrant square is to have a second test of site stratigraphy alongside a ballast pile, while for the western pit, we wanted to see what deposits exist in a less central area of the site. Vincent, Laurie and I went down and set up the TPB3 and TPD1 pits, and Christie and Ben followed and positioned the dredges. We found quite a few grid lines were broken or missing; otherwise everything was normal and last year’s pits were easily visible and uneroded.

4 August: We started the two underwater pits, and Christie and Vincent at TPD1 found a piece of plank and Ben and I (TPB3) recovered a few tile fragments. The outwash of our dredge uncovered a squared 15cm diameter timber lying still partly buried and aligned ca. 340 degrees a meter east of TPB3. Preliminary inspection did not reveal any cuts, bolts or fittings. Laurie took some pictures of the work even though the water was pretty murky due to the southeast breezes that hold surface water in the bay. The plus side is the temperature, which according to our dive computers reached 58-60 degrees.

6 August: The divers made progress on their two pits, with fish bones and wood chip levels starting to appear in both. Some timbers were beginning to show but so far the only artifacts are tile fragments.

7 August: TPB3 was reduced to a 1x1 meter square in order to save time for other work because no artifacts were appearing. Laurie and Vincent got to the bottom of the deposit at 85 cm and will record its stratigraphy tomorrow. Ben and Christie also got down toward the bottom of TPD1, finding a wood chips, a whale bone, and fish bones, in that stratigraphic order.

10 August: Ben continued with TPD pit, finding its deposit to be a mixture of levels that had been separated in the B pits, containing wood, fishbone, and a clayey deposit all together. Last year we thought the clayey level might be fish offal because it was associated with the fish bones; but when we brought some up today we found it to be clay mixed with birch bark and other woody materials. I wonder if it might mark a catastrophic event in the cove, for instance a large rockfall from the cliff that dislodged some of the bank and its marine clay deposits.

The big event for the underwater team came in the afternoon when Laurie and Vincent went down to move their operation to the new unit, TPB4. They missed their pit and swam off west along the shore. Reaching 50 feet depth they realized they were lost, and then spotted the baseline E marker located at the bottom of Stone Pile 2, 30 meters west of their intended work. At that point they looked down and
spotted a large ceramic jar, in three pieces, with only one small section missing, sitting mostly uncovered and lacking marine encrustation on its exposed surfaces. Apparently it must have been fairly recently uncovered by current action. The jar has a narrow mouth and an everted rim, a rounded body and a slightly pointed base. It’s like nothing we’ve ever found before at Hare Harbor, and Ben is sure it is an olive jar of Iberian origin, retaining some of the features of the old amphora tradition. The jar is in excellent condition and quite solid. Laurie got great pictures in situ and as she and Vincent brought it up, with Vincent carrying it on his belly swimming like a sea otter eating molluscs. Tomorrow we’ll see if this area has interesting deposits that can be excavated, or whether the piece is a loner, as seems likely given the large rocks and cliffs along this part of the shore. We immediately photographed the jar and put it in wet storage.

11 August: Divers visited the site of the olive jar find and decided it was a chance loss and not a depositional hotspot, so we cancelled the idea of a test pit at the western end of the site. By the end of the day Ben had finished the eastern half of TPD1 and was ready to take measurements.

During the afternoon Alix, Will, and I did a snorkel survey of the western end of the harbor, looking for the whale bones. We found quite a few in the southwestern corner of the harbor in 2-3 meters of water at low tide, some small fragments and vertebrae on the surface and larger pieces embedded in the sand. There is no telling how much may be buried here in the sand and gravel, or at deeper depths. Several vertebrae showed a range of sizes from 40-50cm in diameter to 15-20 cm. Will photographed some of these and I collected two fragments of ribs of small and medium-sized whales. The bones do not seem to continue into the deeper water, but this is difficult to determine without tank scuba diving.

12 August: Ben finished mapping TPD1 and moved his dredge to TPB4 so we could double-time this square, which is only a few meters south and below Erik’s squares (TPB1, 2). Laurie made another interesting find on the sea floor surface – a roof tile covered with stamped star marks on its end – something I have never seen on any of the tiles we’ve excavated on land. This mark may give us a place of manufacture and date.

14 August: Work continued on TPB-4 with two dredges. In the afternoon Laurie and I repaired the baseline, which had become torn up by dragging anchors and dredges.

15 August: Ben completed two tests in the whale bone area beneath the cliff, finding its deposits very thin, with a few tiles and wood chips or fish bones and little stratification. It seems likely that most of the whalebones here are visible on the surface. Further excavation might recover a flensing tool or other butchering implements, but the prospects for major finds seem limited. Laurie and Vincent made a tour of the site area and then surveyed the north side of the harbor, without any notable finds.

16 August: Laurie and I dived to sample the ballast piles as the last operation of the season. We started at the east end of the site and worked to the west end along the baseline and then returned to sample the upper parts of SP-4 and SP-6. We recovered about 4-5 ballast rock samples from each of the major piles, except for SP1, 4, and 7. Since we could only retrieve small rocks from the upper surfaces of the piles it was difficult to know if we were getting a good sample because of the presence in the ballast piles of local country rock (granite, gneiss) derived from local cliff-fall and shore rocks. While reducing the 30-35 sample rocks to a size suitable for identification and sectioning, I found a number of specimens that probably come from Hare Harbor. Later I also found that limestone is not as rare along this coast as I had imagined and that not all limestone we find along the LNS shore is of Basque origin. Nick Shattler says there is a limestone outcrop in the country north of St. Augustine, and there may be sources in the seabed of the Gulf of St. Lawrence that get ashore. Limestone is also a fairly common find in Inuit sites, where it is used as grindstone material. An important discovery of our sampling project is that the cavities in the limestone blocks all contained small mollusks and other types of sealife whose secretions appear to be the principal agents producing the holes and perforations seen in this rock. After the dive I bagged and
photographed the samples, keeping them keyed to their respective ballast piles.

2. Hart Chalet site, Brador (Borden EiBh-47)

Will Richard and William Fitzhugh spent an afternoon at the Hart Chalet site west of the mouth of the Brador River on 20 August, 2008 to follow up on the test pits excavated here in 2007. René Levesque had found Basque tiles and four blue glass beads in the northern part of the grassy area behind the Hart cottage, and this year the Harts mentioned they had found many large iron nails and spikes along the east side of the cottage while installing a drain line. Our brief visit in 2007 produced an Inuit ivory needlecase from the region of Levesque’s finds, where he said he had discovered a ‘tile sluiceway.’ Our 2007 TP4 at the western edge of a mounded area of soil near the rear of the cottage produced a tubular stone bead, an iron harpoon or arrow point, a sled runner fragment, tiles, nails, and other materials. The mixture of Inuit and Basque materials, and the large amount of bones present, including fish, bird, seal, caribou and other mammals, raised many questions, foremost being the nature and context of the Inuit and Basque materials. Although we only spent a few hours at the site, important findings were made that do much to explain the mixture of Inuit and Basque materials.

Test Pit 4 expansion. Will expanded my 2007 TP4 into a 1x1m unit on the side of a mound of earth where I had found the stone bead, whalebone sled runner, and iron point. Will found the same complex stratigraphy I had noted: (1) a zone of grassy turf underlain by (2) 10-15 cm of dark black sandy soil, in turn underlain by (3) thin (< 1.0cm thick) bands of lighter sandy soil alternating with greasy black humic soil that represented vegetation stabilization episodes. Below 5-10 of these bands was (4) a pure sand horizon 2-5cm thick, overlying (5) a 1-2cm thick band of peat – clearly the remains of the original ground surface – and below that, (6) the grey leached sand of the original beach. Artifacts and bones, primarily of seal but including some large and small mammal remains (most of the large bones have been cracked for marrow extraction and boiling), were numerous in the upper black soil but were also found sporadically in the banded peat layers below. Artifacts included several nails and a large iron spike, two pieces of grey Normandy stoneware, the remains of an iron axe wedge with a battered top, and a white quartz flake near the junction with the sterile grey sand.

Test Pit 8. I started a new 50x50cm pit near the northwest corner of the Hart cottage, an area we had not previously tested, thinking that the declivity running downslope (south) toward the shore in this area might have been where Levesque found the tile ‘sluiceway’. Instead of a tile-lined feature I found a very simple podsol stratigraphy with (1) turf; (2) a 8-10cm level of black earth with artifacts and bones; lying on (3) grey leached beach sand. Bones – mostly seal – were numerous and well-preserved, and artifacts included a shattered clay pipe stem with quite a large bore diameter, several nails, frost-shattered tile fragments, and two flakes of chipped stone, one of tan chert from the lower black zone and a flake of dark chert in the upper grey sand. The latter probably represent a prehistoric component beneath an historic period Inuit occupation.

Test Pit 9. A test a few meters east of TP 4 on the other side of the low earth mound, turned out to be a revelation. Earlier I had asked Clifford and Florence whether there had been any earth-moving around their cottage that might account for the lumpy surface in the grassy area behind their house. No, they reported, nothing other than digging out some soil to level the house. The mound running north of the cottage’s east wall had nothing to do with leveling the house. TP9 was 30 cm east of the line extending north from the east wall of the Hart cottage, about 25 cm east of the near vertical eastern side of the earth mound. The pit was located under an old spruce tree, and its stratigraphy was simple: (1) a thin grassy turf underlain by (2) a few centimeters of black earth in which I found a few bones and a single well-preserved iron nail. About 10 cm from the surface I found (3) coarse reddish-brown sterile sand lying at the water table, and water immediately began to seep into the pit.

Discussion. I immediately realized this stratigraphy had to result from the excavation and occupation of a pithouse. Stepping back, I began walking the crest of the mound and realized it formed a rectangle
with a large sunken interior. A few large stones were protruding from the edges of a gap in the south wall and from these rocks a low depression extended south for several meters, lined on either side by low mounded earth. West of the test pit the mound extended a couple of meters north and then turned east into the spruce thicket, changing from an earth mound into a soil cut that dropped about 30-40 cm to a level surface. By this time I realized I was tracing the walls, floor, and sleeping platform of a rectangular semi-subterranean Inuit house similar to those at Belles Amours and others along the Labrador coast, but which, except for its southwestern corner, was obscured by thick spruce and birch vegetation. Measuring the walls as best as I could, given the impenetrable spruce growth, I found the structure’s rear (northern) wall to be 9m, the west and east walls of ca. 4-5m, the southern wall ca. 8m, rear wall to the inner entrance, 6.5m, and the entrance tunnel ca. 5-6m, 2-3m east of the Hart cottage’s east wall.

This discovery immediately explained our test pit finds of the past couple of years. Since our first visit to the site I had puzzled over the thick layer of seal and other bones and their association with Inuit artifacts in a thick surface deposit across the entire back yard of the cottage, and the stratigraphy in TP4 and 9. Turning to the northern part of the clearing where Christie had found many bones and the early Inuit ivory needlecase last year, I realized that the narrow depression she was excavating, which extended south toward my TP9 of this year, was probably the entrance passage of a second Inuit house located in the spruce thicket north of the clearing. As I was mapping out the outline of House 1, the Harts arrived and confirmed that there was a ‘big hole’ north of Christie’s test pit, as well as another to the west of the clearing where Levesque had found iron nails and bones. I did not have time during this visit to explore for the third pit that the Hart’s reported lies a few meter further to the west.

The existence of two and possibly three large Inuit winter houses similar in size and structure to the large three-house settlements on Eskimo Island in Hamilton Inlet is an important contribution to the early Inuit history of southern Labrador and the Lower North Shore. Although the actual finds are still few they point toward a late 16th or early 17th C occupation by a 50 or more Inuit who probably pioneered year-round settlement in the Straits in the early 1600s following the reduction of Basque whaling after the 1580s. The substantial amount of iron, tile, and ceramics suggests either direct trade or access to Basque materials from abandoned sites. Whether a Basque occupation is also present at the Hart Chalet site remains an open question, but seems likely, and could have been the reason for the unusual inner bay location of this site, in the midst of the forest zone rather than on the outer coast. Such a settlement would have presented a challenge to the Innu people who had occupied these regions for many centuries since the departure of Dorset people ca. 1500 B.P. or Groswater Paleoëskimos ca. 2200 B.P.

3. Cumberland Island 1, St. Augustine (EhBn-8)
Nick Shattler of St. Augustine asked me to spend a day with him checking out sites he had noticed in the outer islands during the past year. One of these was a boulder tent ring in a small raised boulder beach on the southeast side of Cumberland Island near L’Anse aux Portage. Here we found a small stone mound resembling an Inuit grave or cache. The mound contained no human bone, but part of a burned wood spoon bowl and a seal wrist bone were found among the rocks, and nearby were several cache pits. Near the crest of the beach pass was an Inuit-style tent ring with a sleeping area in the rear up-hill portion of the ring on a flat bedrock exposure, and its lower (southern) work area on the peat-covered cobble beach. The structure was nearly circular, bordered by hold-down rocks, and had several large rocks in the central area, where we found charcoal and animal bones, mostly seal. The stratigraphy was typical of Inuit tent ring sites, with (1) a few centimeters of turf composed by moss and berry bushes, underlain by (2) a loose brown peat containing cultural materials, charcoal, and bone, underlain by (3) sterile humified old peat packed between beach cobbles.

All of the cultural materials were embedded in the upper peat. Over the course of the afternoon what began as a test pit ended up being an excavation of the entire tent ring. In addition to the bones we found fragments of bubbly green bottle glass and a large piece of iron strap metal. The site setting, possible grave, the structure type with a cleared sleeping area at the rear, and early glass, suggest this might be an
18-19th C. Inuit summer camp, although we did not find any diagnostic Inuit material culture.

Project Summary and Results
The Gateways Project 2008 made important contributions to the archaeology and history of Basque operations along the Quebec Lower North Shore and to the archaeology of early Inuit settlement and cultural interactions at the southern boundary of their territorial range in the 16-18th Centuries. This summer’s research completed excavations at Structure 2 at the Hare Harbor Basque site on Petit Mecatina, near the modern village of Harrington Harbor, and continued exploration of underwater deposits at the Basque ship anchorage adjacent to the land site. Beneath the S2b Basque ‘blacksmith shop,’ which had burned, we found the remains of an earlier burned structure (S2a), a rectangular Inuit dwelling with a four meter long entrance tunnel. Underwater, we expanded the scope of our test pits, making several important artifact finds, confirming the deposit’s stratigraphic sequence, and obtaining new fish, whalebone, and ballast rock samples. A brief survey and excavations in the St. Augustine area with Nick Shattler revealed a probable Inuit circular tent-ring on Cumberland Island dating to the 17-18th C. This site may shed light on the history of Inuit settlement in St Augustine, which currently is the westernmost village with an identifiable Inuit ancestry. Finally, continued exploration of the Hart Chalet site in Brador Bay revealed the presence of a large 16-17th century Inuit village which may be the earliest and most substantial Inuit settlement ever occupied in the Straits region. With two large rectangular ‘long houses’ confirmed and a third likely present, the Hart Chalet site, with its excellent bone preservation and abundant Inuit material culture, accompanied by large quantities of European iron, wood, ceramics, and roof tiles, offers an unprecedented opportunity for investigating early Inuit adaptations to European contact.

Specific results: Following are more specific results of the 2008 field season.

1. Hare Harbor Inuit Winter Structure. After clearing the pavement of S2a (blacksmith shop) we removed the stone pavement that lay directly on top of a wooden flooring that was preserved in much of the northeast part of the structure. While some of the wood floor was made of sawn planks, the majority were barrel and tub staves and bottom slats, whose orientation was E-W in the rear part of the structure and N-S in the eastern wing. Both Inuit and Basque artifacts were present on this S2a floor, and calcined bone remains were found throughout. In some places there were several layers of planking. The most diagnostic feature of this lower component was a sunken entryway that extended south from a cluster of heavy slabs located in the south-central part of the blacksmith shop. Larger than the other upper component floor slabs, these rocks were probably the remains of the Inuit house entrance doorway. Beneath these rocks we found two large roof tiles and a ‘doorstep’ step made from an up-turned European-style toolbox. An entrance tunnel excavated 30-40 cm below the surface of the sterile peat extended south from this point into the boggy area beginning south of the 10 north line. The tunnel contained the remains of collapsed roof logs, which lay upon a floor paved with slabs and barrel staves. Clusters of large (8-14cm) and small (3-6cm) posts were found in the waterlogged peat beneath of the Inuit house floor. Some of these appear to have been used as uprights for the S2b blacksmith shop, while others were for the lower Inuit house. In most cases it could not be determined which posts belonged to which structure because discovery required the removal of the upper stone pavement. However, those with sawn bases were associated with the upper component and those with axe-cut bases were associated with the Inuit occupation.

2. Inuit House Assemblage. Unlike the floor of the blacksmith shop above, the lower floor and entryway contained a mixture of both European (Basque) and Inuit artifacts. Among the finds were a number of iron nails, two glass beads, a small number of clay pipe stems and bowl fragments, a nodule of pyrites, a lead musket-ball, charred remains of coarse fabric (canvas?), barrel and tub parts, a possible lead button, several grindstones, a piece of European flint, small amounts of glazed earthenware, glass fragments, a wood toolbox, two wood tool handles, and part of a lathe-turned wood platter. The most important finds, however, were Inuit implements.
that would not be present in a European site. These include the broken end of a tiny model bow, the broken end of a child’s bow, three small toy soapstone lamps (one discovered in 2007), and several lamp wick-trimmers used to tend soapstone oil lamps. Soil conditions did not favor preservation of bone but calcined bone paste was frequently found. The absence of more European artifacts, and especially of wood pieces that might be expected to have survived in the water-logged section of the house where floor boards were present, suggests that the Inuit house was occupied for only a short period, perhaps only a single winter season.

3. Underwater Finds. Bad weather and a small dive team restricted our underwater work, but nevertheless we were able to get in about 50 person-hours of dive time and completed two 2x2 meter test pits, two 1x2m pits, and made an exploratory test. Our most surprising finds – a large nearly complete olive jar with a narrow spout and pointed base, and a roof tile with multiple star markings – came from surface contexts rather than excavations. The pits in D-quadrant proved to have little stratigraphy and few interesting remains while the two new pits in B-quadrant (TPB3 and 4) reaffirmed stratigraphy noted in 2006-7 and produced similar materials, although few new items were found. A test in the area of whalebone concentration at the east end of the baseline A1 revealed a shallow deposit without stratigraphy. We recovered ballast rock samples from Stone Piles 2, 4, 5, 6, and 12. We also recovered faunal remains, rope, and a few new whalebone samples.

4. Internal Site Chronology. Discovery of an Inuit house below the blacksmith shop adds an important new dimension to the Hare Harbor site occupation and its history. It would appear that the first structures to be constructed at the site were the Inuit house (S2a) and S1, interpreted as a cookhouse on the basis of its large hearth and extensive domestic debris on its paved floor. Inuit appear to have been present during this structure’s use, accounting for the broken soapstone lamp, pot fragments, and lamp oil encrustations on several of the paving stones, a common feature found on Inuit house floors. The Inuit occupation of S2a seems to have been brief, possibly only one winter, with relatively few European materials (nails, ceramics, tiles, etc.) present on its floor. Sometime after these structures (S1 and S2a) were built S2a burned, leaving only its entrance tunnel and some of the planking in the water-saturated eastern part of the house floor remaining. Later, a rough stone floor similar to that found in S1 was laid down at S2b using the large entryway slabs from the Inuit house, and the structure was used as a blacksmith shop. After this, S1 and S2b may have both been in use at the same time, although differences in their artifact assemblages may suggest chronological separation. Still later, S2b and its heavy sill beams and roof supports also burned to the ground, possibly more than once. Tile fragments and charcoal found in multiple thin matted peat lenses in the boggy area between the two structures indicates the Hare Harbor site had many re-occupations, perhaps spanning several decades, most probably in the mid-to-late 1600s.

5. Inuit-Basque Interaction at Hare Harbor. The presence of an Inuit winter dwelling helps explain the presence of Labrador Inuit soapstone pots and lamp fragments at the S1 structure. The large pot and lamp fragments and oil-stained pavement rocks in S1 suggest an Inuit woman (or women) served as cook or domestic helper at the shore facilities of this Basque whaling and fishing station. The toy soapstone lamps – girls’ toys – and the small hunting bows – both boys’ toys – at S2a show that an Inuit family, including children, were present and that their residency included both summer and winter seasons. Quite likely they helped support the Basque whaling and fishing operations during the summer and fall and served as care-takers and defenders for the shore facilities during the winter/spring period when the Basques had returned to Europe. According to a 1729 report by Martel de Brouague of Brador, an Inuit family was murdered at Mecatina ca. 1728 by a party of French and Indians who resented Inuit encroachment into the Gulf. Bone remains were found throughout the S2a floor area but they consisted of patches of calcined bone paste, and nothing specifically human was identified. Although there is no direct
archaeological evidence for a massacre at Hare Harbor, this area has long been known as “Eskimo Bay” by local people of the nearby village of Tête a là Baleine.

6. Inuit at St. Augustine. In previous surveys in the St. Augustine region we located Inuit stone fox-traps on Canso Island and had recorded local stories of an Inuit grave containing a stone pot or lamp at L’Anse au Portage. This summer we were invited to test a site discovered a year ago by Nicholas Shatter in a small cove on the southeastern end of Cumberland Island. Near the tent ring we found several stone cairns or caches, one of which contained a seal bone and the bowl section of a burned wood spoon. A few meters upslope was a circular tent ring whose upper (rear) portion was exposed bedrock, and central and lower section was covered with moss and vegetation. Excavation produced a number of seal bones, a few nails, a piece of heavy iron strap, and fragments of green bottle glass with bubbles. The location and architecture of the site, the faunal remains, and the artifacts suggest this may be an 18-19th C. Inuit summer camp, although no diagnostic Inuit artifacts were found.

7. Discovery of an Early Inuit Village at Brador. Blanc Sablon has long been known as a target of early Labrador Inuit interest following the appearance of Basque and other European whalers and fishermen in the mid-16th Century. Archaeological evidence of Inuit settlement in this area or in the wider Strait of Belle Island region, however, has been lacking. Until now, the only Inuit sites known are scattered remains from St. Paul River and two briefly-occupied (and as yet unexcavated) winter houses at Belles Amours Point found in 1993 (Dumais and Poirier 1994) dating, probably, to the early 1800s. During our 2007 survey we found several 16-17th C. Inuit artifacts in a forested location near the mouth of the Brador River at the Hart Chalet site. This summer’s work revealed the presence of two and possibly three large sod-walled winter houses at this location. The Hart Chalet site appears to have been occupied by a large group of Inuit who were trading with or scavenging from Basque sites in the Straits. It contains large amounts of Basque roof tiles, European ceramics, and large spikes and nails, and has extensive middens with Inuit and Basque artifacts. This site is considerably earlier and more productive than Belles Amours and may have been involved in supplying the European materials found in the large Inuit village on the central Labrador coast at Eskimo Island in Hamilton Inlet. The location of the Hare Harbor and Brador Inuit sites establishes a new southern boundary for Inuit occupation and provides an opportunity for exploring Inuit relations with the European in this focal region of early European activity at the northern Gateway into North America.

Conclusion: The 2008 Gateways field season produced important new information on Basque and Inuit occupations of the Lower North Shore. Underwater archaeology at Hare harbor made important new artifact finds and expanded previous samples of faunal remains and ballast piles. Excavation beneath the floor of the S2 blacksmith site produced a new occupation component—an Inuit winter residence occupied concurrently with the S1 Basque cookhouse. Presumably this Inuit family was engaged in assisting the Basque with whale-hunting and fishing as well as the operation of their shore facilities. In addition they appear to have served as custodians and caretakers for the premises during the winter and spring after the Basques had returned to Europe to deliver their cargo and refit for the next field season. In this circumstance a single Inuit family would have been highly vulnerable to attack by European competitors or Indians. We also found evidence of a possible Inuit occupation at St. Augustine and in Brador Bay identified a large Inuit winter settlement with extensive middens and artifact deposits. These data add substantially to knowledge of southern Inuit extensions into the rapidly expanding European economic and settlement zone in southern Labrador, the Straits, northern Newfoundland, and the Gulf.

(Endotes)

1 Arctic Studies Center, P.O. Box 37012, Department of Anthropology MRC 112, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20013-7012. email: Fitzhugh@si.edu ; http://www.mnh.si.edu/arctic/html/pub_field.html .
4 - Research Area 2001-2008

Fig. 4.1: Area of research 2001-2008

Fig. 4.2: Map of 2008 voyage area, including 2008 survey sites
Borden Number: Ed Bt-3
Height ASL: ca. 9.14 meters
Military Grid Ref.: 50º 33.73’ N   59º 18.12’ W
Culture(s): Groswater, Dorset, Basque (primary deposit)
Tentative Dating: ca. 1700
Areal Extent of Site: The entire area from the stone outcrop shelter to the southern ledge to the shore contains cultural materials. The along the shore also contains cultural materials-the extent of this area has yet to be determined.
Nature of Soils/Sediments/ Vegetation Cover:
Grassy, alders, and some juniper under the dry areas of the shelter. There is drainage through Area 2 from the boggy area (A3) down to the shore. Spruce clusters cover the boggy area in the eastern part of the site.
Collection Procedure: Controlled excavation-piece-plotted except for small pieces of tile, test pits of underwater deposit. Samples taken are now at Goverment Archaeological Laboratory, Quebec for analysis, preservation, and cataloging by Anja Herzog.


Fig. 4.3: Map of Petit Mécatina Hare Harbor-1 site. Section of map 12 J/11

Fig. 4.4: HH-1 areas of excavation 2002-2008.
Fig. 4.5: HH-1 Area 3N showing artifacts and other materials from the Basque occupation period

Key
C - ceramic
- - clay pipe piece
- - glass bead
3 - baleen
4 - quartz
5 - tool
6 - lead
B - bone
8 - point
m - mica
10 - worked wood
W - whetstone
13 - mussel
16 - dorset scraper
18 - ground slate
21 - fish hook
22 - flint
23 - knife blade
24 - sounding weight
25 - feathers
26 - fur
27 - pyrite
28 - gun parts
29 - chert
30 - ochre/paint
31 - wood spoon/bowl frags
32 - ballast stone
33 - cloth
34 - soapstone lamp/fragment
35 - wick trimmer
36 - awl
37 - toy bow fragment
38 - barrel stave/bung
39 - wood carpenter’s box
40 - wood tool handle
41 - grind stone
42 - bark
43 - charred tooth
44 - Dorset soapstone object
R - roof tile
T - nail
- - iron spike
- - iron fragments
- - iron plate
- - encrusted iron
- - iron ring

Diagnostic Inuit Pieces
Soapstone lamp (34), 14N 20E
Bow fragment (37), 12 N 20E
Soapstone lamp (34), 16N 20E
Soapstone vessel (34), 18N 20E

Diagnostic Dorset Pieces
Miniature Lamp frag. (34), 16N 22E
Dorset point (not shown, excavated in 2007), 14N 20E
Fig. 4.6: HH-1 Area 3N showing artifacts and other materials from the Inuit occupation period
Hare Harbor-1 Profiles

Fig. 4.7: Profile of the Inuit entrance passage running from 14N 19E to 10N 18.5E.

Fig. 4.8: Profile of the 18N line from 27E to 17E.
Fig. 4.9: Profile across the excavated Inuit entrance passage at 12N, from 20E to 17E.

Fig. 4.10: Profile across the excavated Inuit entrance passage at 11N, from 20E to 17E.

Fig. 4.11: Profile across the excavated Inuit entrance passage at 10N, from 20E to 17E.
Fig. 4.12: HH-1 Area 3N at the close of the 2008 excavation season.

Fig. 4.13: Piece of lead found in 14N 20 E black cultural layer under a rock exposed in 2006.

Fig. 4.14: Top of fragment of suspected soapstone lamp, found in 14N 20E black cultural layer.

Fig. 4.15: Bottom of fragment of suspected soapstone lamp, found in 14N 20E black cultural layer.

Fig. 4.16: Whetstone from 14N 20E found in black cultural layer.

Fig. 4.17: Two large pot sherds from from 14N 20E, found in black cultural layer.
Fig. 4.18: Two wood wick-trimmers from 14N 20E, with soapstone lamp fragment from figs. 4.14, 4.15.

Fig. 4.19: Awl with iron point (top) shown with whetstone from fig. 4.15, both from 14N 20E.

Fig. 4.20: First Inuit toy bow fragment from 14N 20E, found in the plank floor level.

Fig. 4.21: Three pieces of a turned wood platter found in NE corner of carpenter’s box, 14N 20E.

Fig. 4.22: Carpenter’s box from 14N 20E. Found upside down, as shown here, with “handle” at the bottom. Artifacts found inside the box also shown.

Fig. 4.23: Second Inuit toy bow found in basal strata at lowest level of charcoal in 12N 20E.
Fig. 4.24: Clay pipestem from black cultural level in 16N 16E.

Fig. 4.25: Barrel or tub bottom with wooden nail (3 cm) from 16N 22E.

Fig. 4.26: Planks removed from NE quadrant of 16N 22E, assumed to be part of wood flooring.

Fig. 4.27: Piece of burned cloth found in black cultural level on top of burned plank in 14N 22E.

Fig. 4.28: Toy Thule/Labrador Inuit miniature soapstone lamp from 16N 20E (top).

Fig. 4.29: Toy Thule/Labrador Inuit miniature soapstone lamp from 16N 20E (bottom).
HH-1 Artifact Drawings - Land Site

Fig. 4.30: HH-1 land site artifact drawings and notes (following pages).
1. iron nail head - 32
   top of blk cultural layer
2. iron nail head - 37
   in humus zone
3. iron nail - 96
   top of blk cultural layer
4. cloth? - 101
   in blk cultural level
5. nail - 104 in brown
   humus
6. nail - 107 in brown
   humus
7. nail head - 87 in blk cultural layer
8. nail - 126 in blk cultural layer
9. nail - 119
   on top of the
   large charred beam
   in blk cultural layer
10. large round punk head - 118
    embedded in the large charred beam,
    in blk cultural layer
11. nail embedded in trabeculae east side
12. " " " " " " - 133
13. " " " " " west side - 138
14. Nail embedded in charred beam -122
15. Nail embedded in charred beam - 131
16. Encrusted iron orb - 142

1. Corroded nail. -61 cm.
   Just below turf layer.

2. Section of corroded nail. -46 cm.
   Just below turf layer

3. Corroded nail. -80 cm.
   In charcoal layer

1. Iron nail fragment - 28
   Right beneath the turf layer

Hare Harbor
20 N 70 W
8 August 2008
Artifacts
1. Clay pipestem -130
with in 61C cultural level

2. Piece of ballast stone -113
on top of turf level

3. Ramah cheet microblade
proximal fragment

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1. Portion of wood barrel stave? -161
in dark peat coming/col State

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Hare Harbor -1
16N, 16E
2 Aug. 2008
Will Richard

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Hare Harbor -1
11N 18E
14 Aug. 2008
Richard
1. Large iron nail -149
   in blk cultural layer, under the cracked
   cone stone recorded on 2006 excavation map

2. Clay pirestem fragment -151
   in blk cultural layer, 8 cm from post

3. Large pot shard - dark color, no obvious decoration

4. Second large pot shard -155 (part of 3) -155
   in blk cultural layer under 2006 rock

Note: Artifacts 3 and 4 do fit together perfectly!
5. Fragment of possible soapstone kern? - 155
in blk cultural layer under 206 rock

6. Clay pipesmoke fragment - 153
in blk cultural layer - under 206 rock

7. Piece of lead - 160
in blk cultural layer - under 206 rock

8. First wick trimmer - 192?

9. Second wick trimmer - 192?

10. Whetstone
among pavement rocks, in blk
cultural strata - 133

11. Awl with iron point in wood handle
5 cm below ground - 129 cm
surface in black culture level above
pavement.

12. Nail fragment - 139
4 cm below ground surface in blk cultural level
above pavement.
13. Pipesem fragment - 131
in the lower level 2 - second cultural layer (blk. soil) (plank floor)

14. Five by bow fragment - 154
in the plank-floor level - same as #13

15. Lead piece base of efflux on serpice peat - 150

16. Pipe bowl fragment - 131
underneath large slab in rock feature

17. Green glass shard bottle - 146 cm

18. Mica sheet - 153 on entranceway floor

19. Charred barrel stave end - 166

20. 3 pegs of a turned wood platter - 170 at NE corner of wood box in effluent peat

20a. Chilled

full size. 20 b

20 c
21. Wood Work Box upside-down in inner end of entrance passage
top (box bottom) at -164.1, -184 cm at base
(see Abby's drawings)
place upside-down to use as step into house

22. Foot handle in inverted box (worked wood piece + chipped: thin, 1st present)
rounded side

23. Green sandstone whetstone
too fragile to collect -172 standing on edge
Have Harbor 1
19 N 20 E
12 August 2008
Box elements
* All measurements in cm.

3-D view
Not: The box was found 'upside down' with piece C on top.

Other artifacts within the box:
- 9+ pieces of tile
- 4+ pieces of wood - shingles/slivers
- 1 longer worked piece of wood 20 cm. long

Wooden tool handle?
(thead)
Harbour - 1
14N 30E
12N 30E
Wood planks
12 Aug. 2002
* all measurements in cm
1. Fragmented thin grindstone on log roof timbers - 186
   See WF photo
2. Wood handle buff - 185 in charcoal
   Below plank floor
3. Grindstone in charcoal/wood deposit - 180
4. Barrel stove end fragment - 180
5. Inuit dry bow? - 185
   Basal strata - at the lowest level of charcoal and broken things
1. Lead jigger/weight - 128
   in blk cultural zone

2. Piece of burned cloth - 148
   in blk cultural zone on top of charcoal/burnt plank

3. Two pieces (fitting) of blue-glazed earthenware
   with dark blue over-design - 137

4. Nearly complete nail - 127
   in blk cultural layer, on rock pavement

5. Nail, very rusted, discarded - 127
   in blk cultural layer, on rock pavement

6. Iron fragments above plank floor - 137

7. Nail fragments " " - 137

8. Iron rust scraps " " - 137 (with scale)

9. 2 iron nails - 134
   top of charred plank level
1. White glass bead 0 - 122
2. Nail head - 121
3. Toy Thule / Lab Inuit miniature - 128
   soapstone lamp (toy)
4. Iron nail shears - 142
5. Clay pipestem - 140
6. Glass / stone bead
   (olive drab color) - 144
7. Shaped birch bark fragment - 149
   bottom of blk cultural layer

15. Sandstone grindstone - 130 highly fragmented
    in the ground - could not read it (see photo)
1. Clay pipe stem -137

2. Lead musket ball -138

3. Mica sheet (not collected) -138

4. Charred tooth -134

5. Gray glazed ceramic fragments -135cm

6. Carved wood rod, pointed -131 base of culture level on sterile peat


   It has a hemmed edge (piece)

   A second clump of the same fabric sound just 1m N of 7a = 7b

8. Piece of worked wood on top of charred planks -140

9. Corroded lead (?) button - could not be saved as it was only a mass of corrosion product but of the type found here on lead -138

10. Barrel bung carbonized top 1/2. -139 cm

11. Clay pipestem fragment -139 on sterile peat layer

12. Sandstone under upper rock pavement

13. Sandstone fragment -133 under paving slabs -126

14. Two pieces of glaze:

   One with sheared body

   Attached, the other just the glaze fragment

   with blue paint -136 on sterile peat

Wool intact (carbonized)
Planks salvaged from NE quadrant of 16N 20E assumed to be part of the wood flooring. Only these were complete enough to record.

1. Tub bottom

2. Plank w/ square cut edges all around

3. Barrel/tub bottom w/ curved edges

4. Plank w/ straight edges

Note: all approx. 1 cm. thick
Flanks removed from NE quadrant of 16N99E
- assumed to be part of the wood flooring

Note: all except 4 are approx. 1 cm thick
The 2008 underwater excavations at Hare Harbor-1 (EdBt-3) were a continuation of the previous four seasons of fieldwork exploring the mooring cove associated with the Basque depot site previously discussed in this report (permit number 08-FITZ-01). The goals of this year’s underwater investigations were to better understand the chronology and uses of the submerged portion of the site through the recovery of diagnostic artifacts and the identification of sediment lenses associated with specific activities. The underwater work was coincident with the terrestrial excavations and an attempt was made to combine the two aspects of the site into a holistic interpretation of EdBt-3.

Methods

The underwater work included the excavation of five test units and a snorkeling survey of the head (southwest portion) of Hare Harbor between 1 August and 16 August 2008. The water temperature during this time averaged 13 degrees Celsius and visibility ranged from 4.5 m to 9m. The underwater archaeologists were William Fitzhugh, Christina Leece, Vincent Delmas, Laurie Penland, and Ben Ford, who were assisted by snorkelers Alix Penland and Wilfred Richard. Surface support and dredge management was provided by Perry Colbourne. The divers completed 80 dives totaling nearly 65 hours.

Excavation was conducted using two water dredges (also known as a water eductors) constructed of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe and fire hose, each powered by a 5.5 horsepower Honda™ trash pump (Fig. 4.30). The pumps were generally operated at half throttle to provide better control over the removal of sediments. Sediments were either troweled or hand-fanned to put them into suspension and then sucked into the dredge mouth. No means of screening the dredge spoils were available but the spoils were inspected during and after each dive. The fine-grained and dense nature of the sediments within Hare Harbor allowed the excavation of pits with relatively straight walls. Each test unit was recorded after excavation by cleaning the walls with trowel and dredge and then making a measured drawing of at least two perpendicular walls on Mylar™ plastic drafting film. Additional notes were also taken after each dive and transferred to daily excavation log sheets.

All raised artifacts were catalogued and photographed on the deck of the research vessel MV Pitsiulak and placed in clean plastic bags with provenience information marked on the bag. A small amount of seawater was included in each bag to keep the artifacts wet. The artifact bags were then placed in storage bins with seawater for transportation to Quebec City. The majority of artifacts discovered on the harbor floor were collected and saved; however, where large amounts of fishbone or wood chips were encountered only a sample was collected.
Results

Five test pits were excavated during the 2008 season (TPB-3, TPB-4, TPD-1, TPY-2, and TPY-3); these excavation units were distributed throughout the site (Figure 2). Several isolated finds, including two ceramic artifacts, were also found and will be discussed following the test pits.

**TPB-3**

TPB-3 was situated along the southeast margin of SP-6, one of the three major ballast piles that define the center of the underwater site, with the intent of investigating the relationship between the ballast stones and the surrounding stratigraphy. The placement of this excavation unit was also designed to test whether the artifact-rich zone identified in TPB-1 and TPB-2 (Fitzhugh and Phaneuf 2008) extended up the slope. The pit was excavated as a 1x2m unit for the initial 40cm below surface (cmbs), but was reduced to a 1x1m unit between 40cmbs and 93cmbs. The 1x1m was excavated in the eastern half of the 1x2m unit.

**Stratum A** of TPB-3 consisted of nearly sterile marine sands that accumulated after the site was abandoned (Figure 3). This stratum extended from the surface to 26cmbs and consisted of a mottled grey and brown medium to coarse sand. Several ballast stones and tile fragments, as well as a single fragment of brown, free-blown bottle glass, were noted on the exposed surface of this stratum and were interpreted as artifacts that had been transported by post-depositional forces. A low density of other ballast stones were also noted within this stratum suggesting that the stone piles were periodically disturbed after the site was abandoned. This stratum also contained a worked wood fragment (27x4x3cm) that was shaped and partially dubbed (Figure 4). Interestingly, this fragment also contained a small hole that was...
likely intended to hold a peg or other fastener.

*Stratum B* was separated from *Stratum A* by a clear stratigraphic boundary over most of the excavation unit. This stratum was defined by a high density of cod fish bones within a very dark grey brown fine sandy silt extending from approximately 26cmbs to 36cmbs (Figure 5). The stark differences in color and texture between strata A and B provided a demonstration of the superb excavation characteristics of the sediments within Hare Harbor. After schnitting, or scarping, the surface of the *Stratum B* with a trowel it was possible to see veins of lighter colored sediment marking the paths of digging mussels. *Stratum B* had a “greasy” texture suggesting the possibility of a high fat content and likely corresponds to the Layer 2 identified in TPB-1 and TPB-2 (Fitzhugh and Phaneuf 2008). It was also noted that the fish bones appeared to increase in size with depth. Consequently, seems that the size of the fish exploited at the site decreased over time or that depositional factors led to a sorting of the bones within the sediment matrix. The only other artifacts noted in this stratum were tile fragments, which are ubiquitous throughout the site.

*Stratum B* formed partially around the stone pile. The westernmost portion of this stratum contained a denser concentration of shell hash and dead coral likely as a result of marine life in the stone pile. The presence of these remains within *Stratum B* suggests that the stone piles were deposited prior to or coincident with *Stratum B*. Thus, the ballast piles seem to have been created during the same period that cod fish were processed at the site. However, the piles may have begun accumulating during earlier periods with the cod-fish stratum developing later and partially burying the pile. This observation supports the conclusion that the exportation of codfish was one of the primary economic reasons for the use of the site but does not rule out other earlier commodities.

*Stratum C* (36–40 cmbs) consisted of lighter colored and sandier sediments than *Stratum B* and contained no evidence of human occupation. Instead, this stratum was dominated by marine shells. *Stratum C* overlaid a second thin, sterile deposit (*Stratum D*; 40–45 cmbs) defined by dark brown medium to coarse sand and coarse gravel. It is possible that these strata represent slump incidents that transported sterile sediments from upslope. The fact that they separate two distinct occupation levels suggests that they are the result of natural, but perhaps rapid, sediment accumulations between human occupations.
Stratum E was a deposit of diverse cultural materials in a dark brown silty medium sand matrix with gravel inclusions. This stratum extended from 45 cmbs to 70 cmbs and was analogous to Layer 3 in TPB-1 and TPB-2 (Fitzhugh and Phaneuf 2008). While roof tile fragments and possible ballast stone fragments were identified in this stratum the wooden artifacts, including roots, small branches, large and small chips, and two logs, were predominant. The roots and small branches were primarily in discrete lenses in the lower half of the stratum. The wood chips ranged in size from approximately 2 cm to 20 cm in length and many displayed clear axe or adze marks. Two logs, measuring 20 cm long and 12 cm in diameter, were also noted near the bottom of this stratum. These were found crossed 70 cm east of the B Line and 10 cm south of the A-2 Line at a depth of approximately 60 cmbs. One of the pieces had a wedge-shaped end formed by axe cuts (Figure 6). The wood from this stratum has not been definitively identified but appeared to be from coniferous trees, including white and black spruce (Picea glauca, mariana), and birch (Betula spp.) species (based on bark). Similar types of wood were identified throughout the excavations.

Below Stratum E was a 5-cm thick layer of dense white clay (Stratum F; Figure 7). This stratum has not been interpreted but may have formed from decomposing sedimentary rocks as several notably hard areas were identified in the matrix.

Beneath Stratum F, Stratum G, the final cultural layer extended from 75 cmbs to 93 cmbs. This stratum was nearly identical to Stratum E but included fragments of rope and little, if any roof tile shards. It is likely that Strata E and G represent the same activities; however, it is not certain what this activity was. The dense deposits of wood debris underlying dense fish bone deposits are likely associated with the initial construction of the shore facilities, including structures and flakes. The deposits of mixed wood and fish remains noted elsewhere in the site (see below) may then be the result of site maintenance coincident with fish processing. However, the amount of wood debris at the site is surprising, covering a large area with a dense and thick deposit. It is possible, therefore, that wood generated by the initial clearing of the area was squared and shipped to Europe as a first cargo, prior to the exportation of fish.

Stratum H was undisturbed marine sediment, similar to Stratum A but lacking the ballast stones and tile
fragments of that layer.

**TPB-4**
TPB-4 was excavated south of TPB-1 along the east margin SP-5. The pit measured 1x2m with its long axis oriented north-south. This unit served a similar purpose as TPB-3, to explore the extent of the dense artifact deposits noted in TPB-1 and TPB-2 (Fitzhugh and Phaneuf 2008). The stratigraphy and artifacts of this test pit were very similar to TPB-3, although the deposits tended to be thinner. The paucity of artifacts in TPB-3 and TPB-4 as compared with TPB-1 and TPB-2 suggests that the majority of artifacts were discarded or lost near the widest point of the stone pile. Assuming that the piles were created by the removal of ballast from the holds of ships, the widest portion of each pile corresponds to the most common dumping location - to one side of the ship’s waist. Thus, the waist of the vessel seems to have also been the preferred location for waste disposal.

**Stratum A** of TPB-4 represented the post-occupation accumulation of marine sediments over the site (Figure 8). This stratum extended to 5cmbs and consisted of a grey silty fine to medium sand with shell, coral, and tile fragment inclusions. The shell and coral were particularly abundant near the stone pile and likely resulted from marine life growing on the pile.

**Stratum B** extended from below Stratum A (5cmbs) to approximately 20cmbs and consisted of a compact olive grey silty sand matrix containing assorted cultural materials. The particle size of the sand matrix of this stratum increased from fine to coarse with distance from the stone pile. While this change may have to do with the depositional environment of the stratum, perhaps decreased water flow caused by the stone pile, further research is required to substantiate the phenomenon. This layer contained wood chips, ballast stones, rope fragments, roof tile fragments, copious amounts of fish bone, bird bones, an unidentified iron concretion, and a possible smoking pipe stem. While these artifacts were generally distributed evenly throughout the excavation unit, some dense concentrations were noted (Figure 9). In particular, the fish bones were particularly dense in the southern and western portions of the unit (Stratum G), while tile fragments and wood chips were concentrated in the northern portions (Stratum E). The ballast stones were particularly dense in the northwestern portion of the pit, closest to SP-5. In this area the ballast stones were noted resting on the bottom of Stratum B; farther from the pile, the stones were supported by the stratum matrix or exposed on the surface. Thus, this layer, similar to Stratum B in TPB-3, seems to have been deposited coincident with the formation of the stone piles. It is also noteworthy that wood chips in TPB-4 were recovered only from beneath ballast stones, indicating that ballast dumping occurred after the wood chips were deposited. The rope fragments were both beneath and intertwined with the ballast stones. Stratum B also contained a lens of shell hash (Stratum F) in an olive grey silty medium sand matrix. This feature may have resulted from an animal burrow or anchor furrow.

Beneath Stratum B, **Stratum C** extended to 25cmbs. This layer was identical to Stratum B except that it contained significantly less fish bones, except the lens represented by Stratum G. Strata B and C appear to have been formed in the same depositional environment from similar materials with the exception of full-scale fish processing. It is possible that the vicinity of TPB-4 was not subjected to fish refuse dumping as early as the remainder of the site or that Stratum C represents an initial occupation of the site that did not rely as heavily on cod processing.

Stratum D consisted of a grey medium sand with stone inclusions. This stratum was sterile and was deposited prior to the Basque occupation of the site.
TPD-I

TPD-I was excavated approximately 10m west of SP-5. This unit measured 1x2m with its long axis oriented north-south. It was situated to explore the stratigraphy and artifact deposits of the western portion of the site away from the central stone piles.

Stratum A of TPD-1 ranged from 4 to 10cm in thickness and consisted of a grey medium sand with shell inclusions (Figure 10). This matrix contained a substantial amount of roof tile fragments.

Beneath Stratum A, Stratum B extended to approximately 24cmbs. This layer consisted of a grey fine sandy silt that was sticky to the touch. A substantial number of wood chips, roof tile fragments, and fish bones, were recorded in this stratum, in addition to two flat wooden fragments (possible stave pieces), one barrel stave end including the croze, and two barrel bungs (Figure 11). Wood chips became particularly dense below 15cmbs (Figure 12). Stratum B also contained three whale phalanges situated approximately 20cmbs.

Stratum C was identified below Stratum B and extended to approximately 44cmbs, although this deposit was shallower (35cmbs) along the eastern portion of the pit. This layer was difficult to distinguish from Stratum B and no strong boundary was identified. Stratum C consisted of a gray silty fine sand with a high organic content giving the stratum an overall clayey texture. The primary artifacts recovered from this stratum were wood chips, fish bones, and roof tile fragments. The wood chips of this layer were generally larger than those of Stratum B, some as long as 20 cm. This stratum also included a dense concentration of bark along the eastern wall (Figure 13). This concentration appears to have originated from the same timber shaping activities that created the wood chips. The fish bone was concentrated in the northeast portion of the excavation unit, while the tile fragments appeared to be densest at the upper and lower margins of Stratum C. Also recovered from this level were two pieces of dark green free-blown bottle glass, two bird bones, and a chert flake (Figure 14).

Both Stratum B and Stratum C contained a mixture of fish bones, roof tiles, and wood chips, and likely resulted from similar activities during the occupation of the site. The changes in sizes of wood chips and densities of fish bones may have resulted in slight changes in site use or localized disposal practices but both indicate that structure maintenance and fish processing were the major waste creating activities of the site. This pattern is similar to Strata B and C in TPB-4 and is dissimilar to the distinct fish bone and wood chip strata identified in TPB-3.

The lowest layer in TPD-1, Stratum D, consisted of a sterile olive grey gravely and sandy silt with shell inclusions. Much of the gravel and sand inclusions appear to have originated from decaying quartzite rocks that were also included in the stratum matrix. Finally, linear patches of gravel and sand with nearly no silt were noted in this layer.

TPY-2 and TPY-3

Two 1x1m test pits were excavated in the vicinity of the eastern whale bone concentration identified during the 2007 season (Fitzhugh and Phaneuf 2008). The purpose of these excavations was to determine
if the whale bone concentration was primarily on the surface or if it included buried bones. It was also hoped that these pits would provide information about whale processing activities carried on at the site. However, neither test pit yielded revealing stratigraphy or artifacts.

TPY-2 consisted of approximately 10cm grey silty medium sand (Stratum A) overlaying 5cm of dense root or peat deposits (Stratum B;Figure 15). Both of these strata included roof tile fragments and rocks but no other artifacts. Below this stratum the test pit included nearly 85cm of undisturbed marine sediments (Stratum C).

TPY-3 similarly contained no artifacts except for bones associated with an articulated flipper that were noted on the surface. Beneath these bones the sediments were entirely natural marine sediments consisting of grey silty medium sand with shell inclusions (Stratum A).

Isolated Finds
In addition to the artifacts recovered from the test excavations, several artifacts were recorded or recovered from the surface of the underwater site during the season. These artifacts included two worked timbers, a smaller piece of worked wood, ceramic shards from two vessels, and a decorated roof tile.

The worked timbers were situated adjacent to TPD-1 (T-1) and TPB-3 (T-2). Timber T-1 was previously recorded but had not been carefully inspected. Inspection of this 15m long and 50cm diameter timber revealed that it had been partially squared but retained a natural taper. No fasteners or fastener holes were noted on the timber. Timber T-2 was partially uncovered by the exhaust of the dredge used to excavate TPB-3. This timber measured approximately 4m long and 45cm in diameter but tapered nearly to a point at its up-slope end. The taper resulted from erosion and decay of the timber. This timber also appeared to be partially squared but contained no evidence of fasteners. It is unlikely that these timbers were used in structure or ship building due to the lack of fasteners but they may have been intended for construction and lost before they could be used. Alternatively, they may have been part of a cargo of timber.

A small (19x3x2cm) piece of shaped wood was recovered from south of the southeast corner of TPD-1 (Figure 16). This artifact was also uncovered by the dredge exhaust. The purpose of this piece is unknown but it may be a plank fragment. No fasteners or holes were noted.

Also recovered from immediately south of the southeast corner of TPD-1 was a ceramic shard (Figure 17). The shard was a body fragment from a wheel-thrown earthenware or stoneware vessel. The vessel wall was approximately 4mm thick and the
The second ceramic vessel, an olive jar, was found in three pieces during a site tour conducted by Vincent Delmas and Laurie Penland (Figure 18). The vessel was discovered lying near a 1m diameter angular boulder at the south end of the E-0 line. Hand fanning in the area did not reveal any other artifacts. While the vessel was missing a portion of the body, it was possible to reconstruct the vessel and all of the diagnostic features were present (Figure 19). The jar measured 32cm high and had a diameter of 25cm at the widest point (the shoulder) with a mouth opening of 7cm and a 2cm thick lip. The only decoration on the vessel was an incised ring just below the neck; all other surface texture was caused by the wheel-throwing process. The jar was made of a brick-red paste and tempered with grit. The walls were generally 6–8mm thick, but there was at least one area where the clay had expanded during firing because of air trapped in the paste that caused the wall to balloon to 1.8 cm. This form of imperfection is not uncommon in olive jars due to speed with which they were produced (Marken 1994:106).

This type of vessel is commonly referred to as an olive jar in the archaeological literature, but falls into the historical types known as botijuelas, botijas medas peruleras, or bojitas de medias arrobas (Goggin 1964:253; Marken 1994:49). Vessels of this type were utilitarian cargo and storage vessels employed to carry any commodity that could fit through their mouths, including olive oil, olives in brine, wine, condiments, vegetables such as beans and chick peas (either raw or prepared), lard, tar, and vinegar, they were also re-used to hold water. Unglazed vessels such as the one recovered from Hare Harbor were more often used to carry heavier liquids and dry goods (Goggin 1964:256; Marken 1994:117). This specific vessel conforms to Goggin’s Middle Style, Shape B olive jar. The Shape B type of jar did not change substantially between the Middle and Late Styles, other than sharper shoulders on Late Style jars (Goggin 1964:272). The Middle Style was relatively stable over more than two centuries and vessels of this type are dated between 1580 and 1800 (Goggin 1964:277). In fact, a vessel with a very similar body shape to the Hare Harbor jar was recovered from the wreck of a Spanish Armada ship lost in 1588 (Marken 1994:60). The lip of the Hare Harbor vessel, with its slightly triangular section, however, suggests a late 17th to 18th century date of manufacture (Marken 1994:51). This date conforms well to the ceramic assemblage recovered during the 2007 season (Fitzhugh and Phaneuf 2008).

It is also interesting that this vessel lends some support to Marken’s theory of olive jar construction in two ways. Marken’s theory of olive jar construction in two ways. Marken’s theory of olive jar construction in two ways.
(1994:108, 112) posited that the neck and shoulders of olive jars may have been formed in a mold with the body of the pot built up from the mold, forming the vessel upside-down. First, the Hare Harbor jar does not have throwing marks above the shoulder, suggesting that the upper portion of the pot was not pressed by fingers on a spinning wheel. The lack of throwing marks could have been caused by the use of a mold but it may also have resulted from the use of a tool or sponge to smooth the surface. Second, the fact that the jar was constructed upside-down is supported by the presence of a ring of clay on the interior of the vessel near the base. In order to close the base, the potter would have needed to introduce a collar of clay near the base so as to have sufficient material to close the base in a single action and preserve the integrity of the jar (Marken 1994:109). The expanded portion of the wall noted near the base of the Hare Harbor jar may be the remains of such a collar.

Finally, a stamped roof tile was recovered from south and west of TPD-1 (Figure 20). This tile was nearly complete and was decorated with a block of 19 floral stamps near the intact end of its convex side. The stamps were arranged in nearly parallel rows but their overall placement was not precise. Similar stamps (a minimum of 14 partially covered with marine growth) were also noted on the intact end. Each stamp consisted of eight triangles forming a circle and resembling a flower or pizza. The function of these stamps is unclear; however, the number and placement of them is not consistent with a makers mark. It is uncertain if they were intended to be decorative or served a purpose, such as to mark the end of a tile lot. This tile is unique at Hare Harbor but a similar mark does appear on a porringer recovered from the Place Royal Site in Québec and dated to circa 1700 (Erik Phaneuf, Personal Communication 2008).

**Ballast Stone Collection**

Stone from each of the stone piles was systematically collected by William Fitzhugh. An effort was made to collect a representative sample of the stone types contained in the individual piles. However, the sample was limited to the types of stones exposed on the surface of each pile and to stones that were small enough to be handled by a diver. Each sample was placed in a mesh bag and hauled to the surface where samples from each pile were kept separate. The stones were then broken into smaller pieces for transportation and bagged and labeled by stone pile provenience. These samples have not yet been analyzed but will be submitted for lithographic analysis with the goal of identifying their place of origin. The origins of the stones bear directly on the last ports that the vessel visited prior to travelling to Hare Harbor.

**Whale Bone Survey**

In response to reports by local fishermen of whalebones located in the shallows near the head of Hare Harbor, a snorkeling survey was conducted in this area. This survey identified a concentration of whale bones in 2–3m of water. Bones were not noted in either deeper or shallower water adjacent to this concentration. The visible bones...
Site West Survey

In order to partially investigate the area between the known Hare Harbor underwater site and the whale bone concentration at the back of the bay, a diver survey was conducted along the north margin of the bay. Two divers swam a single transect from the west edge of the known site to the end of the bay following the shape of the bay. No artifacts or cultural deposits were noted during this survey.

Conclusion

Based on four seasons of work on the underwater portion of Hare Harbor 1, some hypotheses and preliminary conclusions can be formed. The underwater assemblage is dominated by fish bones (primarily cod) and wood chips indicating that cod processing was one of the primary occupations of the site. Whale processing and possibly timbering were of secondary importance. The fact that whales were processed at the site, possibly along the steep cliffs that form the east edge of the underwater site, is attested by the presence of whale bones in this area. These bones, combined with those found at the head of the bay, suggest that whales were flesned near the terrestrial site but that the carcasses were disposed of away from the harbor. Whale hunting, however, appears to have been an opportunistic activity undertaken by the site’s occupants and was secondary to cod fishing. The number of bones at the site is too many to represent those of a single whale that drifted into the harbor and DNA analysis indicates that at least two different species of whale (humpback and bowhead) representing many different individuals are present in the assemblage; however, there are also too few identified bones in the harbor to represent a concerted whaling campaign. Not all of the whale bone areas have been tested but the majority of the bones appear to be on the surface (see TPY-1, TPY-2, and TPY-3). However, some of the bones are buried (see TPY-1) and are located above and below strata containing dense concentrations of fish bones, suggesting that whaling occurred coincident with, or intermittently between, cod fishing campaigns. Historic documents indicate that Basque sailors and ships regularly transitioned from whale to cod fishing between voyages and it is not inconceivable that a cod fishing vessel would carry a small amount of whaling equipment to take advantage of auspicious circumstances (Grenier et al. 2007:1-43).

Evidence of timbering is less definitive. The underwater site contains dense and widespread deposits of wood chips and two partially shaped but unutilized timbers have been identified. These artifacts may be evidence of partially squaring timbers for export. However, they may also be the product of constructing and maintaining shoreside facilities such as structures and cod drying flakes. Without knowing the amount of wood that was necessary to maintain the shore facilities on a yearly basis and the number of years that the site was utilized it is impossible to determine if the wood debris on the harbor floor represent wood use within the site or processing for export. However the evidence from both 2007-8 indicates that wood chips and bark represent a distinct concentrated horizon in the underwater stratigraphy; they are not found distributed throughout the cultural sediment levels, suggesting a particular event or activity limited to the early occupation of the site. Additional confounding factors include whether there was sufficient timber in the region to support even a small scale timber industry and whether there was a market for the timber in Europe during the 17th and early 18th centuries.
Regardless of the ancillary industries that accompanied cod fishing at Hare Harbor, the primary focus of the underwater site appears to have been around central ballast piles and near the widest points of these piles in particular. The most stratigraphically complex units and those with the thickest cultural deposits were generally those excavated in Block B. Of these units, those excavated near the widest portion of SP-5 (TPB-1 and TPB-2) contained the highest density of artifacts. This evidence suggests that much of the activities in the harbor took place on the ships. Hypothetically, a ship was moored with lines running from its stern to a commonly used point on shore and bow anchors holding it perpendicular to the shore. Ballast from this ship was then unloaded using a crane in preparation for loading the cargo of barreled cod fish. The use of a crane is one explanation for the lozenge shape of the ballast piles, as the crane can be used most efficiently to dump ballast on one side of the vessel rather than tossing it over both sides, which results in a lobed ballast pile. The crane was likely attached to the mainmast, generally immediately abaft the main cargo hatch on ships of this period. Both this hatch and the mainmast were situated within the waist of the vessel. The waist is the portion of the main deck between the forecastle and the raised after decks. The dense artifact distribution in this area also suggests that much of the ship’s waste was disposed of by throwing it over the side in the vicinity of the waist.

Future work at Hare Harbor can follow several avenues. It would be interesting to excavate adjacent to SP-6 and SP-4 to see if they follow a similar pattern of refuse disposal to SP-5. Similarly, an excavation unit placed on the west side of SP-5 would further explore the relationship between ship position and refuse disposal and may elucidate a preference for ballast disposal to port or starboard. Additional test pits placed in the northeast or extreme westerly portions of the defined underwater site would provide further information about the distribution of strata and artifacts across the site. It would also be interesting to explore the stone piles more thoroughly. One possibility would be to systematically remove all of the stone from one portion of a pile. This exercise, while time consuming and arduous, has the potential to expose artifacts within the pile that could date the piles, to provide additional information about how the piles were formed, and partially eliminate the possibility of structures buried beneath the piles. Beyond the known underwater site, a remote sensing survey of the entire bay would determine if other features, such as shipwrecks, are located in the vicinity. This survey should include side-scan sonar at a minimum but would also benefit from magnetometry.

Finally, connections are being made between the terrestrial and submerged portions of the site. Evidence from the terrestrial component of the site indicates that Hare Harbor was a location where vessels could not only load a cargo but also be repaired and possibly resupplied. For example, one of the structures on the shore was likely a blacksmith shop with the capability of repairing ship’s hardware damaged or lost during the trans-Atlantic journey. It is likely that the terrestrial site existed due to the cod fishery and that the sailors and fishermen depended on the settlement to carry out their trade. This interconnectedness sets up a reciprocal relationship between mariners and landsmen at the site that will likely require documentary research to explore fully.

References Cited
Fitzhugh, William W. and Erik Phaneuf

Goggin, John M.

Grenier, Robert, Marc-Andre Bernier, and Willis Stevens (eds.)

Marken, Mitchell W.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat. #</th>
<th>Level/depth</th>
<th>Prov.</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<td>40cm</td>
<td>NW corner</td>
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Site Name: Place Merkit
Cumberland Island-1, St. Augustine
Borden Number: EhBn-8
GPS: 51°13.533’ N \ 58°17.645’ W
Map Ref.: 12 O/2
Culture: Historic Inuit
Tentative Dating: 18th - 19th c?
unknown
Areal Extent of Site: ~ 25 m sq.
Site Type/Seasonality: Inuit summer camp
Site Location: Positioned on a boulder beach, about 10 m from the shoreline.
Description of Site: See site report.
Nature of Soils/Sediments/Vegetation Cover: A thin cover of moss and berry plants over a loose brown peat containing cultural mateirals, over sterile humified brown peat between boulders.
Raw Materials: Seal bones, iron, green bottle glass.
Collection Procedure: survey, excavation of Inuit tent ring.

Please see the map on the following pages for of excavation area.

Cairn grave: Burned spoon, seal wrist bone.
Tent ring: Green bottle glass, iron, bone, shell

Samples Taken: Yes, collected and cataloged.
Potential for Further Work (# of Squares, Depth of Deposit ?): Uncertain
Color slides: Yes, digital shots
Surveyed by: William Fitzhugh, Will Richard, Abigail McDermott
Date: 18 August 2008
Fig. 5.2: Cumberland Island (EhBn-8) site maps and artifact drawings (following pages).
Place Merkit T.R.
Cumberland Island
N 51°13', 533'
W 58°17.645'
+/- 10 feet

B. N 51°13', 543'
W 58°17.650'
+/- 12 feet

C. N 51°13.540'
W 58°17.666'
+/- 11 feet

A - burial with burned spoon and astralayus bone
B - cache
C - tent ring

- boulder beach
- exposed rock

5. bone
6. bone

7. bone

9. bone

10. bone

8. shell

11. bone
18. large bone found with smaller bone fragments

13. piece of scrap iron

14. canine tooth - beaded scale?

15. Many small pieces of broken green glass

No; small piece of flat green glass window.

17. green bubble glass
Fig. 5.3: Burned spoon fragment, returned to cairn burial.

Fig. 5.4: Seal wrist bone found in rocks outside cairn burial structure.
Fig. 5.5: Shell collected from Inuit tent ring.

Fig. 5.6: Glass and iron collected from Inuit tent ring excavation.

Fig. 5.7: Inuit tent ring site, after the afternoon excavation.
Site Name: Hart Chalet  
Borden Number: EiBh-47  
Height ASL:  
GPS: 51°29.921' N \ 57°15.736' W  
Culture: Basque, Inuit?  
Tentative Dating: 16-18th century? 16-17th century?  
Site Type/Seasonality: Not known – Basque component is presumably open water season.  
Site Location: Located around – and certainly under – the cottage owned by Clifford and Florence Hart, just west of the falls and south of Route 138 in Blanc Sablon. Material has been collected and excavated from the site previously by René Levesque and by myself, as well as by Clifford Hart in the past.  
Description of Site: The location is full of archaeological materials, several phases of prehistoric culture (Maritime Archaic, Intermediate Indian, Groswater, Late Indian) as well possibly Inuit or Inuu, Basque and other European groups. This is my third visit to the site and was to see if we could locate some of the features that Clifford says René Levesque found around the cabin. The grassy area is slowly being grown over by trees over the years and some areas René dug may now be in the woods where Florence Hart says there are pits and mounds.  
Nature of Soils/Sediments/Vegetation Cover: Grassy – bones begin to be found immediately below the sod, with iron nails and small tile fragments. General stratigraphy is turf, cultural zone, old ground surface peat, leached grey sand.  
Areal Extent of Site:  
Raw Materials:  

Collection Procedure: Expansion of 2007 TP4 to 1 X 1 m square unit, and addition of 50 X 50 cm TP8 and TP9  
Samples Taken: Yes  
Potential for Further Work (# of Squares, Depth of Deposit ?): See field data and site report.  
Color slides: Yes, digital color photos.  
Surveyed by: William Fitzhugh and Will Richard  
Date: 20 August 2008
Fig. 5.10: Hart Chalet (EiBh-47) site maps, TP locations, and artifact drawings (following pages).
Hart Chalet
Aug. 2008
Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 expansion (Will Richardson)

1. Normandy stone ware fragment (black earth level)

2. Iron shaft (black earth)

3. Iron axe wedge (black earth)

4. Iron spike (lowest black earth - upper grey sand)

5. Grey stoneware in lowest black earth - upper grey sand

6. Quartz fragment upper tan-grey sand

7. Tile fragment lower black earth (in a larger concentration of frost-shattered flakes)
1. pipe stem fragments (3) in black soil
2. iron nail in black soil
3. iron nail, chiselled
4. large chert flake in lower black soil
5. flake of dark charcoal in upper grey sand
6. iron nail in upper black soil
7. tile fragment (grey) in n
8. iron nail in upper black soil
9. bone/ivory fragment, worked in lower black soil
10. frost shattered tile flakes (10-15)
Fig. 5.11: Artifact photos from the Hart Chalet (EiBh-47) site 2008 test pits. For more details, please see artifact catalog (following pages).
Belvin, Cleophas

Drouin, Pierre

Dumais, Pierre, and Jean Poirier

Fitzhugh, William W.

Fitzhugh, William W.


Fitzhugh, William. W. and Matthew D. Gallon

Fitzhugh, William, and Helena Sharp

Fitzhugh, William W., Yves Chrétien, and Helena Sharp

Fitzhugh, William W., Erik Phaneuf, and Christy Leece

Grenier, Robert, Marc-Andre Bernier, and Willis Stevens (eds.)

Levesque, René