

**NEW SHOSHONI VENTURES LTD.**  
609-475 HOWE STREET  
VANCOUVER, B.C.  
V6C 2B3

TEL: (604) 682-1643 FAX: (604) 682-1666  
[info@newshoshoni.com](mailto:info@newshoshoni.com)

The Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP  
Minister  
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON  
K1A 0A6

August 2, 2005

2005-08-03 A09:37

Via E-mail to: [minister@inac.gc.ca](mailto:minister@inac.gc.ca)

Via Fax to: 819.953.4941  
613.996.9955

*Refer to  
A1479  
5-5/6/04*

**Re: MV2003C0008 Land Use Permit Application**  
**New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd.**

Dear Honourable Minister;

On behalf of the management of New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd., I would like to inform you that the company has recently completed an archaeological assessment of the areas that are proposed for drilling under the above Land Use Permit Application.

Although an archaeological assessment is normally conducted subsequent to the granting of an exploration permit, the company took this step in order to provide as much factual information as possible, to assist the permitting process, which the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board ("MVEIRB") has previously referred to the Minister.

The MVEIRB's conclusion and recommendations to the Minister to decline this permit were largely based on the perceived archaeological sensitivity of these claims.

The archaeological assessment was carried out by Thomson Heritage Consultants of Calgary, Alberta, in consultation and with the co-operation of the Yellowknives Dene. Thomson Heritage Consultants has a history of performing archaeological work for the Yellowknives Dene and the mining industry.

A13936

The conclusion reached by Callum Thomson, M.A., author of "Interim Report on an Archaeological Assessment of Exploration, Claim Blocks at Drybones Bay, Great Slave Lake, NT", is:

**"It is my professional opinion that the likelihood of disturbance of archaeological and more recent heritage sites and features by New Shoshoni's continuing mineral exploration programme in the areas examined, especially in the target areas identified by NSV, is minimal, given the above mitigation recommendation (avoidance and 30 m buffer zone) and that approval should be given, from a cultural heritage perspective, to the project as proposed."**

(A copy of the report is attached.)

The company began the consultation process with the Yellowknives Dene in the fall of 2004, when Mr. Don Morin, an aboriginal resident of Yellowknife, NT and former Premier of the Northwest Territories agreed to be a facilitator between the company and the Yellowknives Dene, to help resolve land use issues in the Drybones Bay area of the Northwest Territories. The company and Mr. Morin have maintained a continuous dialogue with the Yellowknives Dene since that time.

Chief Peter Liske of Detah, Northwest Territories recommended that Morris Martin, a member of the Yellowknives Dene, be the liaison person who would be part of the archaeological assessment team and report back to the Yellowknives Dene Band Council. Mr. Martin's insightful contribution to the archaeological assessment was noted by Mr. Thomson and is greatly appreciated by the management of this company.

In light of the above conclusion reached by Mr. Thomson, a professional respected by both the Yellowknives Dene and by mining and exploration companies, the company would appreciate a positive response to our Land Use Permit Application, with appropriate conditions attached.

Company representatives and former NWT Premier Don Morin are available to meet with the Minister if, in the Minister's opinion, such a meeting would advance progress on this Land Use Permit Application.

Sincerely;

***Ralf Hillebrand***  
President, NewShoshoni Ventures Ltd.

Attachment enclosed

**INTERIM REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF  
EXPLORATION CLAIM BLOCKS AT DRYBONES BAY, GREAT SLAVE  
LAKE, NT**

**PREPARED FOR NEW SHOSHONI VENTURES LTD., VANCOUVER, BC**

**PREPARED BY CALLUM THOMSON, THOMSON HERITAGE  
CONSULTANTS, CALGARY AB**

**JULY 29, 2005**

**CLASS 2 PERMIT NO. NWT 2005-976**

**Preface**

This Interim Report is intended to provide the client, New Shoshoni Ventures Ltd. (New Shoshoni) and government regulators including the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Museum (PWNHC) and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) with instant information on the above project that might be considered in land use-related decision-making processes. A full report will be prepared in due course. This interim report has been prepared on board the vessel MV Nosmo King, Dave Smith, Owner, which was used as a floating camp in Drybones Bay from July 25-29. Due to the immediate pressure of other work and the limitations of office facilities aboard the Nosmo King, this report will not be provided with the standard formatting and illustrations other than an accompanying hand-edited map.

**Acknowledgements**

This survey was requested and supported by New Shoshoni, Mark Tommasi, Vice-President. Assistance in the field was provided by Euan Thomson, Thomson Heritage Consultants, and by Morris Martin, Yellowknives Dene First Nation Land and Environment Committee. Dave Smith provided the excellent vessel MV Nosmo King as a field base and Air Tindi flew us to and from the study area by Cessna 185.

**Introduction**

In 2003, at the request of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN), a preliminary archaeological survey was conducted by Callum Thomson between Wool Bay and Matonabee Bay. The results of that survey, during which 61 new sites were found, indicated that additional sites would be found during more intensive and extensive surveys. The YKDFN, among others, were concerned that archaeological and more recent sites exhibiting their and others' land use in the study area might be negatively affected by continuing mineral exploration and other activities in the area. Oral history indicates that the Yellowknives Dene have a long history of use and occupancy of the coast and interior between the Yellowknife area and Gros Cap. The results of the 2003 archaeological survey provided confirmation, if any was needed, and added evidence that the area has been occupied well into the precontact period. In 2004, additional surveys

were undertaken in the area between Drybones Bay and Matonabee Bay for Snowfield Development, with 43 new sites being found. Later in the summer, continuing research with the YKDFN between Gros Cap and Taltheilei Narrows on the East Arm, and on the North Arm north of Yellowkife resulted in the recording of 75 more sites. Given this density of sites, most of which are located within 1 km of the present shoreline of Great Slave Lake, New Shoshoni requested this present survey to identify any additional sites that may be affected by their proposed exploration activities, without appropriate mitigation.

### **Project Objectives**

The New Shoshoni project was aimed at developing a more comprehensive inventory of archaeological and other heritage sites within their Drybones Bay claim blocks 4476, 4477 and 4478, with particular focus on areas on intensive activity such as drill sites, the exploration camp, access roads and other areas that had not previously been surveyed. Any sites found, along with the 40-odd previously known sites in this area, could then be assessed for potential negative effects from the present stage of mineral exploration. It was intended that the results of this preliminary assessment would be provided to regulators and other interested parties to help inform their decision on the continuing exploration work, and would provide New Shoshoni with a set of baseline information from which to refine – if necessary - the company's existing heritage conservation measures.

### **Methodology**

The field work was undertaken from a base on MV Nosmo King, a 40 foot ex-fishing boat moored in a sheltered bay on the south side of Drybones Bay. Each day we accessed the shore nearest to our intended targets by canoe, and then walked to our targets. Within the 14 main target areas, as provided by New Shoshoni on a 1:50,000 map, and en route to and from them we examined all adjacent trails, bedrock outcrops and drill sites. Our principal targets consisted of the following areas (see attached map):

- Claim Block 4478, located at the mouth of Drybones Bay and encompassing much of the south and north sides of the bay, and the scatter of islands, but excluding the main kimberlite area at the southwest corner of the bay: 4 targets along the south side of the bay east of 4476;
- Claim Block 4476, which lies at the center of the three blocks, surrounded by 4478 to the north and 4477 to the south, incorporating the main kimberlite area which includes the peninsulas at the southwest corner of Drybones Bay, and three islands north of the peninsulas: 10 targets encircling the kimberlite area;
- Claim Block 4477, south of 4478 and 4476, extending down the shore from the mouth of Drybones Bay, including the north half of Burnt Island, and part of the bay east of the kimberlite area: no targets.

Where archaeological sites or more recent camp sites were found they were documented by GPS coordinates, photos, a sketch map and notes on location and contents.

## Results

Thirty-three archaeological sites were found during our three full days of survey in the areas described above. Most contained one or more boulder features such as tent rings, hide drying rings, birchbark presses and hearths; a few were quartz quarries where veins had clearly been exploited and sometimes contained recognizable artifacts. Modern camp sites were not included in the inventory. The sites found are summarized below. The site coordinates and other information will be sent to the Canadian Museum of Civilization for assignment of Borden numbers, the official site designations; meantime, field numbers have been used. The coordinates in the site summaries below are all in NAD 83, and the topographic map used in the report (digital version of 85 I/4) will also be set at NAD 83 (according to guidelines from the PWNHC). However, the attached sketch map is an old topographic sheet using NAD 27, so for this purpose the sites are presented in NAD 27. In the site descriptions, the following conventions are used:

F	Feature
GPS 354	Consecutive GPS identifier
Hide drying ring	Circular or rectangular outline of boulders whose function, according to YKDFN elders, was to hold down moose or caribou hides during the drying process. These were most commonly found on flat bedrock outcrops exposed to wind and sun.
Tent Ring	Circular or rectangular arrangement of boulders used to hold down the base or flaps of tent walls and to anchor guys.
Toboggan Press	A linear arrangement of boulders used to keep toboggans flat while stored
Birchbark Press	A linear arrangement of boulders used to flatten sheets of birchbark for use in canoe making.
Quartz Vein	White quartz vein thought to have been exploited for use in making stone tools
Photos	All photos were taken digitally; a CD with representative photos will be included with the final report

**July 25, 2005, arrived at camp (boat) at 4.30 p.m. and got camp organized. After supper, walked over the bedrock outcrops between the boat and the NSV camp and located some additional features. Early bed (9.30) after 4 a.m. rise. Weather: showers, warm, moderate northwest wind.**

KaPf-6 (Revisit) F-2 GPS 354, 0354263E, 6892998N. Tent ring 2.

Site 1 (KaPf-80) (see July 28 for details).

**July 26, 2005, up at 6.30 and away at 8. Surveyed the vicinity of target areas in the 4476 Claim and most of 4478 Claim, along the south side of Drybones Bay from the islands to the east end. Twelve new sites found, and several previously recorded sites revisited. Weather warm, light breeze, occasional light shower. Canoeed about 12 km and walked about 4 km (straight line – deviations within each study area**

**increased distance to nearer 10 km). Wildlife sightings today included an anxious bald eagle and a shy porcupine.**

Site 2 (KaPf-81). F-1 GPS 358, 0352971E, 6893034N. Photo 26-3. Birchbark press.  
Site 3 (KaPf-82). F-1 GPS 359, 0352897E, 6893108N. Photos 26-4, -5. Birchbark press.  
Site 4 (KaPf-83). F-1 GPS 360, 0352798E, 6893156N. Photos 26-6, -7. Birchbark press.  
KaPf-8 (Revisit). F-3 GPS 361, 0352874E, 6892945N. Photo 26-8. House foundation.  
Site 5 (KaPf-84). F-1 GPS 362, 0352984E, 6893000N. Photo 26-9. Birchbark press.  
Site 6 (KaPf-85). F-1 GPS 364. 0353207E 6893073N. Photo 26-14. Tent ring.  
Site 7 (KaPf-86). F-1 GPS 365. 0353393E 6893511N. Photo 26-15. Hide drying ring.  
Site 7 (KaPf-86). F-2 GPS 366. 0353380E 6893484N. Photo 26-16. Birchbark press.  
Site 7 (KaPf-86). F-3 GPS 367. 0353412E 6893469N. Photo 26-17. Tent ring.  
Site 7 (KaPf-86). F-4 GPS 368. 0353414E 6893476N. Photo 26-17. Tent ring.  
Site 7 (KaPf-86). F-5 GPS 369. 0353411E 6893442N. Photo 26-18. Birchbark press.  
Site 8 (KaPf-87). F-1 GPS 370. 0353520E, 6893212N. Photo 26-19. Tent Ring  
Site 8 (KaPf-87). F-2 GPS 371. 0353545E, 6893200N. Photos 26-20, -21. Canoe.  
Site 9 (KaPf-88). F-1 GPS 372. 0354174E, 6893307N. Photo 26-22. Birchbark press.  
Site 9 (KaPf-88). F-2 GPS 373. 0354192E, 6893307N. Photos 26-23, -24. Birchbark press.  
Site 9 (KaPf-88). F-3 GPS 374. 0354176E, 6893296N. Photo 26-25. Hide drying ring.  
Site 9 (KaPf-88). F-4 GPS 375. 0354223E, 6893296N. Photo 26-26. Tent ring.  
KaPf-38 (Revisit). F-2 GPS 376. 0355890E, 6894937N. Photo 26-29. Two Birchbark presses.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-1 GPS 377. 0356113E, 6895110N. Photo 26-31. Tent ring.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-2 GPS 378. 0356112E, 6895113N. Photo 26-32. Tent ring.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-3 GPS 379. 0356094E, 6895114N. Photo 26-33. Tent ring.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-4 GPS 380. 0356083E, 6895108N. Photo 26-34. Birchbark press.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-5 GPS 381. 0356065E, 6895099N. Photo 26-35. Birchbark press.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-6 GPS 382. 0356064E, 6895086N. Photo 26-36. Birchbark press.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-7 GPS 383. 0356065E, 6895081N. Photo 26-37. Birchbark press.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-8 GPS 384. 0356060E, 6895047N. Photo 26-38. Birchbark press.  
Site 10 (KaPf-89). F-9 GPS 385. 0356117E, 6895133N. Photo 26-39. Birchbark press.  
Site 11 (KaPf-90). F-1 GPS 386. 0355806E, 6894745N. Photo 26-43. Birchbark press.  
Site 12 (KaPf-91). F-1 GPS 387. 0355074E, 6894054N. Photo 26-54. Tent ring.  
Site 13 (KaPf-92). F-1 GPS 389. 0354831E, 6894101N. Photos 26-55, -56. Hide drying ring and two birchbark press.

**July 27, 2005, up at 6.30 and away at 8.30 under overcast skies, warm, very little breeze – buggy. Today we headed northeast and completed a survey of the shoreline and near interior bedrock outcrops from the east side of the second, bifurcated, inlet on the south side of Drybones Bay, round the bottom of the two split bays and north up to the old New Shoshoni camp, then west along the bottom of the first deep bay, north up the west side, and then crossed the passage to the two large islands on the south side of Drybones Bay, forming the north side of the kimberlite area, where we completed the survey on the north side of each island.**

**Got back to camp at 5. Fifteen new sites found today, for a total of 28 to date. We also re-visited several from the 2003 survey that we encountered on our route. Today's wildlife included the same eagle and a rabbit. Today's mileage included 10 km by canoe and at least 7 km on foot.**

Site 14 (KaPf-93). F-1 GPS 390. 0354426E, 6893795N. Photo 27-1. Tent ring.  
Site 14 (KaPf-93). F-2 GPS 391. 0354379E, 6893766N. Photo 27-2. Tent ring.  
Site 15 KaPf-94). F-1 GPS 393. 0354427E, 6893725N. Photo 27-3. Tent ring.  
Site 16 (KaPf-95). F-1 GPS 394. 0354625E, 6893700N. Photo 27-4. Tent ring.  
Site 16 (KaPf-95). F-2 GPS 396. 0354657E, 6893701N. Photo 27-5. Hide drying ring.  
Site 16 (KaPf-95). F-3 GPS 397. 0354677E, 6893678N. Photo 27-6. Birchbark press.  
Site 17 (KaPf-96). F-1 GPS 398. 0354909E, 6893349N. Photo 27-7. Hide drying ring.  
Site 18 (KaPf-97). F-1 GPS 399. 0354726E, 6893169N. Photo 27-8. Tent ring.  
KaPf-39 (Revisit). F-3 GPS 402. 0354931E, 6893078N. Photo 27-11. Hearth.  
Site 19 (KaPf-98). F-1 GPS 403. 0354497E, 6892819N. Photo 27-14, -15. Tent ring and birchbark press.  
Site 20 (KaPf-99). F-1 GPS 404. 0354316E, 6892839N. Photo 27-19. Birchbark press.  
Site 20 (KaPf-99). F-2 GPS 405. 0354285E, 6892826N. Photo 27-20, 21, 22, 23. Quartz quarry and workshop, with two quartz biface fragments.  
Site 21 (KaPf-100). F-1 GPS 406. 0354294E, 6892925N. Photo 27-24. Hide drying ring.  
Site 22 (KaPf-101). F-1 GPS 407. 0354301E, 6893007N. Photo 27-25, -26. Tent ring.  
Site 22. (KaPf-101). F-2 GPS 408. 0354326E, 6893077N. Photo 27-27. Hide drying ring.  
Site 22 (KaPf-101). F-3 GPS 409. 0354267E, 6893005N. Photo 27-28. Boulder feature.  
Site 23 (KaPf-102). F-1 GPS 411. 0353215E, 6892872N. Photo 27-32. Birchbark press.  
Site 24 (KaPf-103). F-1 GPS 414. 0353977E, 6892705N. Photo 27-33, -34. Quartz quarry.  
Site 25 (KaPf-104). F-1 GPS 415. 0352872E, 6893392N. Photo 27-35. Tent ring.  
Site 26 (KaPf-105). F-1 GPS 417. 0353984E, 6893566N. Photo 27-37. Camp and stove.

**July 28, 2005. Heavy rain overnight, intermittent showers in the morning, clearing to sunny. Calm, buggy, with breeze in the afternoon making conditions very pleasant. Last night I had reviewed the site records and found two that had to be deleted as they had been recorded previously, so this morning spent an hour updating the report, site numbers and photo catalogue. Up at 6 and off to survey at 7.30. As vegetation was soaking wet and it looked as though things would dry by lunchtime, we decided to spend a couple of hours surveying down the west shore from the mouth of Drybones Bay, and cut east back to Greg Robertson's cabin where Morris picked us up. The west side of the peninsula proved to be very rich in sites and we had to abandon our efforts there as we needed to complete other target areas. After a quick lunch at the boat we set off to find the far interior drill target area south of the cemetery inlet, and followed a snowmobile trail that Morris knew of, which took us right to the area. There we followed the south shore of the large lake and then explored the higher bedrock outcrops several hundred metres south**

and around the target area. No sites were found and potential is considered to be minimal-low for the presence of archaeological sites. From here we headed back to the NSV camp bay and re-checked the area on the high bedrock outcrops south of the camp, finishing recording two sites we had found the first night. We arrived back at the boat at 4 and started the report, finishing at 9 p.m. Today we covered 5 km by canoe and 6 km on foot, finding seven new sites.

Site 27 (KaPf-106). F-1 GPS 418. 0352974E, 6892578N. Photo 28-1. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-1 GPS 419. 0353006E, 6892651N. Photo 28-2. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-2 GPS 420. 0353026E, 6892643N. Photo 28-3. Hearth.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-3 GPS 421. 0353052E, 6892655N. Photo 28-4. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-4 GPS 422. 0353058E, 6892651N. Photo 28-5. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-5 GPS 423. 0353060E, 6892626N. Photo 28-6. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-6 GPS 425. 0353077E, 6892610N. Photo 28-7. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-7 GPS 426. 0353084E, 6892602N. Photo 28-8, -9. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-8 GPS 427. 0353095E, 6892605N. Photo 28-10. Tent ring.  
Site 28 (KaPf-107). F-9 GPS 428. 0353074E, 6892572N. Photo 28-11. Tent ring.  
Site 29 (KaPf-108). F-1 GPS 429. 0353157E, 6892534N. Photo 28-12. Birchbark press.  
Site 29 (KaPf-108). F-2 GPS 430. 0353185E, 6892495N. Photo 28-13. Birchbark press.  
Site 29 (KaPf-108). F-3 GPS 431. 0353169E, 6892462N. Photo 28-14. Birchbark press.  
Site 29 (KaPf-108). F-4 GPS 432. 0353151E, 6892380N. Photo 28-15. Birchbark press.  
Site 30 (KaPf-109). F-1 GPS 434. 0353094E, 6892466N. Photo 28-16. Tent ring.  
Site 31 (KaPf-110). F-1 GPS 435. 0353106E, 6892300N. Photo 28-17. Tent ring.  
Site 31 (KaPf-110). F-2 GPS 436. 0353108E, 6892244N. Photo 28-18. Tent ring.  
Site 31 (KaPf-110). F-3 GPS 437. 0353096E, 6892221N. Photo 28-19. Tent ring.  
Site 31 (KaPf-110). F-4 GPS 438. 0353069E, 6892240N. Photo 28-20. Tent ring.  
Site 31 (KaPf-110). F-5 GPS 439. 0353096E, 6892180N. Photo 28-21 to -24. Quartz quarry.  
Site 32 (KaPf-111). F-1 GPS 440. 0353189E, 6892097N. Photo 28-25, -26. Tent ring.  
Site 32 (KaPf-111). F-2 GPS 441. 0353270E, 6892095N. Photo 28-27 to -30. Tent ring and lithics.  
Site 33 (KaPf-112). F-1 GPS 447. 0354455E, 6892852N. Photo 28-39, -40. Tent ring.  
Site 1 (KaPf-80). F-1 GPS 449. 0354260E, 6892758N. Photo 28-41 to -47. Quartz quarry.

### July 29

Up early to pack, make the boat shipshape, and haul our gear over to Greg Robertson's wharf for pick up by Air Tindi at 10 a.m. This preliminary report is being sent from Yellowknife, and will be followed up by a more complete report later.

### Discussion

Thirty-three new archaeological sites were found during three days of survey. Sites were primarily found on bedrock outcrops where some or all of the following attributes, among others, were present:

- A large expanse of flat bedrock without shade, exposed to sunlight and wind;



- Availability of boulders (invariably, rather than slabs) for constructing hide drying rings, tent rings, toboggan presses and birchbark presses;
  - A view of the surrounding terrain;
  - Close to Drybones Bay or Great Slave Lake;
  - Access to water; and
  - Frequently, the presence of quartz veins, some of which show signs of precontact use.
- Other sites, where camp features such as stove parts were found were more often located adjacent to the lake or bay on a level grassy terrace.

We inferred from the presence of the many features interpreted as hide drying rings that, prior to access to guns, hunters would set snares, deadfalls or other traps on a prescribed round of trails in good moose or caribou habitat, check the snares or traps, remove the quarry, butcher it and remove the hide, take the meat, sinew and other parts to camp, and take the hide to known, nearby outcrops where boulders were readily or previously available for holding down the edges of the hide during drying and processing. The abundance of what we interpreted as birchbark presses or less commonly perhaps toboggan presses suggests that at the end of the winter trapping season, when open water is available, toboggans would be cached beneath several boulders so that the bed would not curl, ready to be used again the next year, while birchbark was stripped from large trees, straightened under a row of boulders, softened, and then used in the building of canoes. According to Morris, this process might have taken as much as a week, and the canoes would last for only one season. As each hunter/trapper needed his or her own canoe and a new one had to be built each year, it is little wonder that so many of these structures have been noted around Drybones Bay over the past two years of archaeological survey.

The discovery of more than 30 new cultural heritage sites within the New Shoshoni Claim Blocks, including some well back from the shore of Great Slave Lake or Drybones Bay, supports the findings of the 2003 and 2004 surveys, primarily around Drybones Bay, that this area is rich in sites that display a long and varied period of land use. While we made every effort to fully check all bedrock outcrops encountered, some were too large or took us too far from our intended course so were not completely surveyed. Some sites were just beyond the limits of time available to record completely, so other features remain to be added to the inventory. Other bedrock outcrops were not inspected and parts of the shoreline were not surveyed. As a result, it can be expected that other sites will be found within areas already inspected, as well as in parts of the study area not yet surveyed.

Surprisingly little evidence was found of recent (*i.e.*, during the last 50 or so years) camps. This suggests that deep, sheltered bays like Drybones with easy access to interior rivers, ponds and lakes, as well as islands, which are more exposed to breezes and less at risk from fire and bears than the mainland, were preferred during the last few decades. In Drybones Bay, and neighbouring Matonabee Bay to the south, there is a proliferation of old cabins, and oral history on their occupants. No such new sites were found in our present study area, suggesting that the many boulder features that we did find predate the period of intensive land use by the Yellowknives Dene over the past century or so.

Certainly, the utilized quartz veins and the few artifacts noted are from the precontact period (*i.e.*, prior to about 1750 A.D., when trade metal and other goods became available and replaced traditional tools and utensils made of natural elements such as stone, bone, wood and antler); many of the boulder features may also date to the precontact period. The lack of artifacts at most of the boulder features also suggests either a very early historic period use, or prehistoric use, as camp waste such as tin cans would most likely be preserved if they had been used within the last 100 or so years.

### **Assessment**

During a preliminary and admittedly cursory analysis on board the Nosmo King, no sites were found to lie directly within any of the target areas (some of which are in the lake and so adjacent land was surveyed). However, a more careful comparison of site locations and target areas will be made within the next few days. No sites were noted in any of the drill sites found. Some sites were found in the general vicinity of target areas, but at some distance. No sites were found which exhibited any evidence of disturbance from exploration activities.

While there is potential for negative effects from staking (*e.g.*, use of boulders from an archaeological feature to support stakes on bedrock outcrops), road and camp construction and drilling, no evidence was found for any such effects on the New Shoshoni claims. In general, there are not many areas of overlap between exploration activities on the Snowfield claims and areas where sites are present. Drilling takes place wherever anomalies are found, which in this area are most often beneath lakes and ponds and in boggy areas, again, places where sites are generally not found. Sites are most often found on bedrock outcrops, which may be at risk in the future if exploration activities focus more on land than through lake ice. Construction and use of camps can present some risk, but at this stage of exploration, there is an established camp and no plans were provided by NSV suggesting construction of a new camp.

### **Recommendations**

Because of the absence of evidence for site disturbance during this stage of mineral exploration by New Shoshoni and because of the observed lack of overlap between the current and proposed areas of intensive work and the location of most recorded archaeological sites, it is recommended that New Shoshoni's proposed exploration programme be approved. However, because of the density of archaeological sites in the vicinity of Drybones Bay, the incomplete inventory as a result of incomplete survey coverage, even after three seasons of work, and the relative proximity of some known sites to areas of proposed exploration activity, it is strongly recommended that New Shoshoni plot on a large scale map all known sites within 100 m of any drill site or other area of disturbance, and ensure that a suitable buffer zone (at least 30 m) be maintained around each site.

Measures to help Snowfield employees continue to support the company's heritage conservation policy (as exhibited by the excellent support provided during this project and the evident respect for the environment) and abide fully by applicable heritage legislation include:

- Use of a desktop or field archaeological evaluation of any new areas of intensive land use, such as camps that have not previously been surveyed, bulk sampling locations, areas of intensive drilling activity, and new access roads;
- Provision of an education programme for line cutters and drillers on how to recognize archaeological features and avoid disturbance;
- Annual review of exploration and construction (e.g., camps) plans to assess the need for additional field surveys;
- Continuing access to archaeological advice in the event of encountering a feature that requires interpretation (i.e., identification as an archaeological site).
- Consideration of an extended programme of field survey in this region, perhaps with support from the PWNHC and YKDFN, to identify additional sites, inspect a broader range of environment types where sites may be present, and continue to build a picture of land use and occupancy that may be of interest to other land users and to regulators.

### **Conclusion**

**It is my professional opinion that the likelihood of disturbance of archaeological and more recent heritage sites and features by New Shoshoni's continuing mineral exploration programme in the areas examined, especially in the target areas identified by NSV, is minimal, given the above mitigation recommendation (avoidance and 30 m buffer zone) and that approval should be given, from a cultural heritage perspective, to the project as proposed.**

Respectfully submitted

Callum Thomson, M.A.  
Principal, Thomson Heritage Consultants  
26 Hutton Place SW  
Calgary, AB T2V 3B6  
Tel: (403) 212-1360  
E-mail: [thomsonheritage@canada.com](mailto:thomsonheritage@canada.com)