

Poets Cove Trial Date Set

Island Tides, 5 October 2006, p.5

Dates for the Poets Cove trial have been set: September 24 - October 12 in Victoria Provincial Court. An earlier trial date in January 2006 had been delayed so the parties could receive further archaeological information.

This trial will be the first time the BC government has attempted to enforce its provincial Heritage Conservation Act.

It concerns allegations that Poets Cove Resort and Spa destroyed a large ancient Coast Salish village and cemetery archeological site during construction of the \$40 million dollar luxury resort on South Pender Island in 2003.

Robert Morales, chief negotiator for the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group, said, 'Poets Cove is the worst case of an ancient First Nation archaeological site being destroyed by development in the recent history in Canada. First Nations believe that it is important for the citizens of British Columbia and Canada to hear the details of the Poets Cove case, not only to publicly denounce this developers' actions, but to act as a deterrent to those in the future who may offend the provincial heritage law'.

'No court decision can ever replace the loss of the rich cultural legacy and human memories that rested at this ancestral place in the Gulf Islands over the last 5,000 years,' declares Morales. 'Our First Nations look forward to the completion of this court trial, and the reburial of our Coast Salish ancestors in their original resting place at Poets Cove'.