



Cataline's Pack Trail

Irene Bjerky, *C'eyxkn*

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Resume

Credentials:

- ❖ Aboriginal Basketry researcher, specializing in Fraser Canyon/N'Laka'pamux baskets, and in particular the Pearson/Freeman collection at Yale
- ❖ Former Volunteer Researcher, Curator, Archivist, Project Director & Co-manager at the *Historic Yale Museum*
- ❖ Volunteer & Former President, *Yale & District Historical Society*
- ❖ Descendant of N'Laka'pamux Spuzzum basketmakers, Genealogist for local Yale & Spuzzum aboriginal families; and Keeper of my own family history
- ❖ Research contractor for *BC Heritage Branch*
- ❖ Research contractor for *Canadian Museum of Civilization* of Hull, Quebec
- ❖ Contributing writer/researcher to *Enduring Threads: Ecclesiastical Textiles of St. John the Divine Church, Yale, BC*; ISBN # 0-9735385-0-3
- ❖ Student of two Cultural Resource Management courses through the University of Victoria: "***Making Museums Matter***", and "***Curatorship and Community***".
- ❖ Attendee of many workshops and sessions at conferences of the BC Museums Association, the BC Heritage Society, and several other Heritage and Historical organizations.
- ❖ Member of *Yale First Nation* community
- ❖ Historical writing contributor for the *Hope Standard Newspaper*
- ❖ Member of the *Hope Writers Guild*

Projects:

- ❖ ***Langley Basket Research Project, Southwell/Freeman Collection, 2006***, Basketry Analysis and Historical & Genealogical Research of Makers & Collectors

- ❖ ***Research and Biographies of Yale & Spuzzum Basketmakers, 2002***, for display of Yale baskets at *Emily Carr House*, Victoria, BC under Jennifer Iredale, BC Heritage Branch.
- ❖ ***Fraser Canyon Baskets, 2003***, Research, Biographies and Photography of N'Laka'pamux baskets in local private collections and the Historic Yale Museum collection; for Dr. Andrea Laforet of the *Canadian Museum of Civilization* in Hull, Quebec.
- ❖ ***The Hope Family History, 2002***, a collection of histories, biographies and ancestral family charts for the Hope Family of Yale First Nation; a Christmas gift presentation from myself for all family members.
- ❖ ***Fraser Canyon Roots: Culture of Yale & Spuzzum Basketmakers, 2003***, a digital compilation of all of my basketry photographs, biographies, family charts, family photos, and photos of my *Fraser Canyon Roots* annual basketry workshop. This is published on a compact disk, and is available for sale in the Historic Yale Museum gift shop. It is also available to all workshop participants, and for donation to any museum or organization that wishes a copy for research. I have previously donated copies to the National Museum of the American Indian, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Carson City Museum, the Pyramid Lake Cultural Center, the Bishop Museum in Hawaii, the National Congress of the American Indian, the Coast Salish Consortium, the Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association, the California Basketweavers Association, and numerous other museums and organizations around British Columbia.
- ❖ ***Fraser Canyon Roots Aboriginal Basketry Workshop, 2003 & 2004***, an annual event that brings together the basketmakers of Yale and Spuzzum, with people who want to learn the craft or just to learn about it. We have had two of these events so far, and participants have expressed the desire to continue to attend. The workshop is held on the last weekend of August. We are also planning another event, a materials-gathering field trip to be held in late May/early June; to continue the knowledge and tradition of collecting cedar roots, chokecherry bark, and bear grass.
- ❖ ***Basketmakers of Yale & the Lower Fraser Canyon, 2003-04***, a BC Digital Collections project under the funding direction of the BC Museums Association. This grant enabled us to acquire the digital equipment we needed (camera, scanner, video capture, CD-burner, software, etc.) to digitize our collections, produce CDs and online exhibits, and do all of the above-mentioned projects. The Basketmakers exhibit will be online very soon through the Virtual Museum of Canada's Community Memories page. Project proposal written by Irene Bjerky.
- ❖ ***Colourful Characters in Historic Yale, 2003-04***, our first online exhibit through the Virtual Museum of Canada's Community Memories, which can be viewed at http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/PM.cgi?action=Search&LM=CommunityMemories&scope=CommunityMemories&AP=cm_search&LANG=English&tab=Exhibits

[&anchor=15](#) , and click on “Colourful Characters”. Project proposal written by Irene Bjerky.

- ❖ ***Cottonwood House Inventory Update, 2004***, my most recent project for the BC Heritage Branch. I was part of a team headed by Jennifer Iredale to do the physical inventory for Cottonwood House Heritage Site near Quesnel, BC, and to digitally photograph some of the outdoor artifacts. My continuing contract included updating the HERA2 database and uploading photographs to that site.
- ❖ ***Enduring Threads: Ecclesiastical Textiles of St. John the Divine Church, Yale, BC; ISBN # 0-9735385-0-3, 2004***, a team effort headed by Jennifer Iredale.
- ❖ ***Yale First Nation Fisheries Stewardship Authority, Fishwheel Project, 1997-2000***, I was first a director, then president of the *YFNFSA*, and first a Fishwheel Technician then the Project Manager for the Fishwheel Project, which was funded by the *Department of Fisheries and Oceans* and the *Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition*. My duties included proposal and report writing.
- ❖ ***Yale First Nation Fisheries Stewardship Authority, Canyon Cleanup Project, 1997-1999***, in partnership with *Yale First Nation* and the *Yale & District Ratepayers Association*. Project proposal written by Irene Bjerky.

Sincerely,

Irene Bjerky, *C'eyxkn*
Volunteer Researcher, Yale & District Historical Society