To dig or not to dig:
What is left to discover in San Juan County?
by Russell Barsh

"There are hundreds of archaeological sites in San Juan County. Why aren't there more research digs? What could future archaeological research tell us about the islands' past that we don't already know? How useful are new technologies such as stable isotope spectrometry and sequencing ancient DNA? Who benefits from archaeology now, and who should benefit in the future?

Russell Barsh studied paleontology, human ecology, and law at Harvard, taught at the University of Washington's American Indian Studies Center, and worked as an adviser to United Nations agencies on indigenous peoples' intellectual and cultural property rights before returning to the islands in 2001. He co-founded the conservation biology nonprofit KWIAHT and has published widely on Salish Sea ecology and ethnohistory, and contributed to recent research excavations in the islands."

For more information contact the Orcas Island Historical Museum at 360-376-4849 or email curator@orcasmuseum.org.