

## **The Zooarchaeology of Snooks Cove: Culture Change in the Post-Contact Period**

Eliza Brandy, MA Candidate

Department of Archaeology, Memorial University

The site of Snooks Cove in the Hamilton Inlet of southern Labrador was occupied by the Inuit from the precontact period through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and became an important link in the trading network of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Until recently, this later historic period of European contact has received little attention. This is largely due to the fact that it is difficult to archaeologically determine the ethnicity of households in southern and central Labrador, since the Inuit, European settlers, and Métis families all occupied very similar looking sod dwellings. During this period, the Labrador Inuit experienced great sociocultural shifts resulting from increased contact with European hunters and traders.

My project will contribute to Dr. Lisa Rankin's (MUN) ongoing work in Labrador by developing criteria for archaeologically distinguishing Inuit and European identity based on evidence of animal use patterns. My research involves one field season of excavation at Snooks Cove, which has revealed two consecutive Inuit houses, and the analysis of the faunal remains recovered here. I hope to discover that this zooarchaeological evidence will correspond with the choices made by the inhabitants of Snooks Cove around their continued settlement there, and that it will reflect the cultural changes occurring for both the Inuit and Europeans of Labrador. In this way, my faunal analysis can contribute to the development of criteria for archaeologically distinguishing an Inuit ethnic signature that can be used in the future interpretation of contemporaneous sites in Labrador.