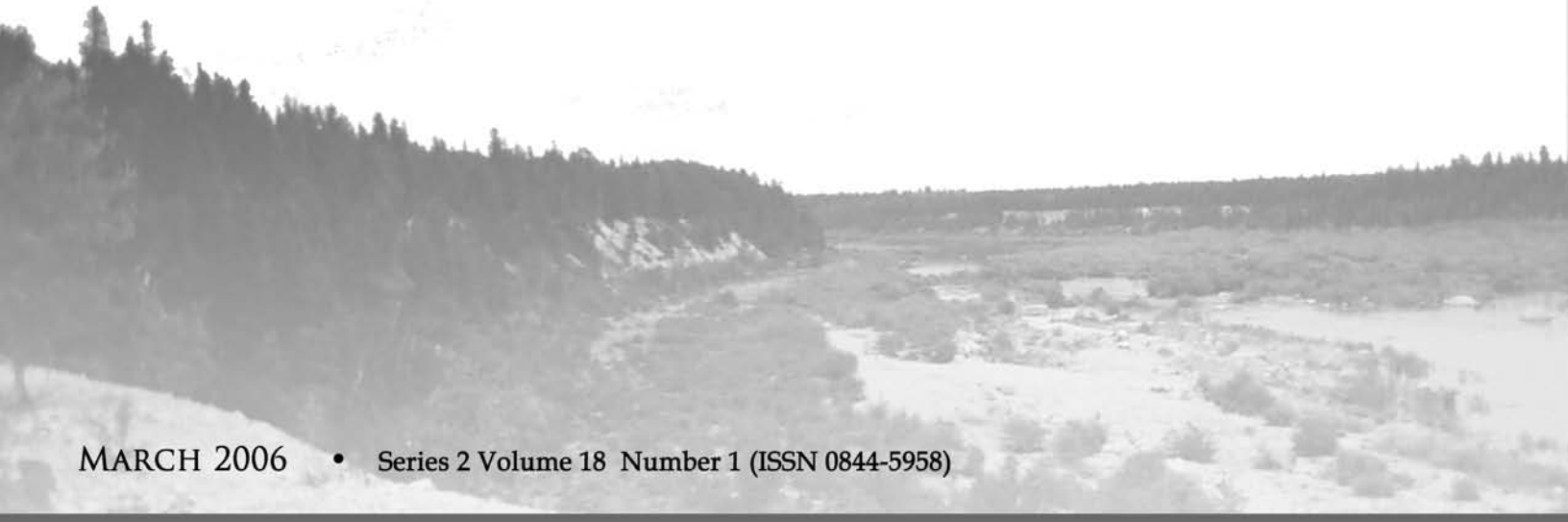

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The Manitoba Archaeological Society
Founded 1961

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ON THE FRONT COVER

Landscape shot:
Saskatchewan River - (See page 5 for full picture)

Artifact:

Camel design coin or medal
recovered from the
Tailrace Bay Site

(See page 4 for story)

The MAS needs your help!!

Enter the MAS logo design contest

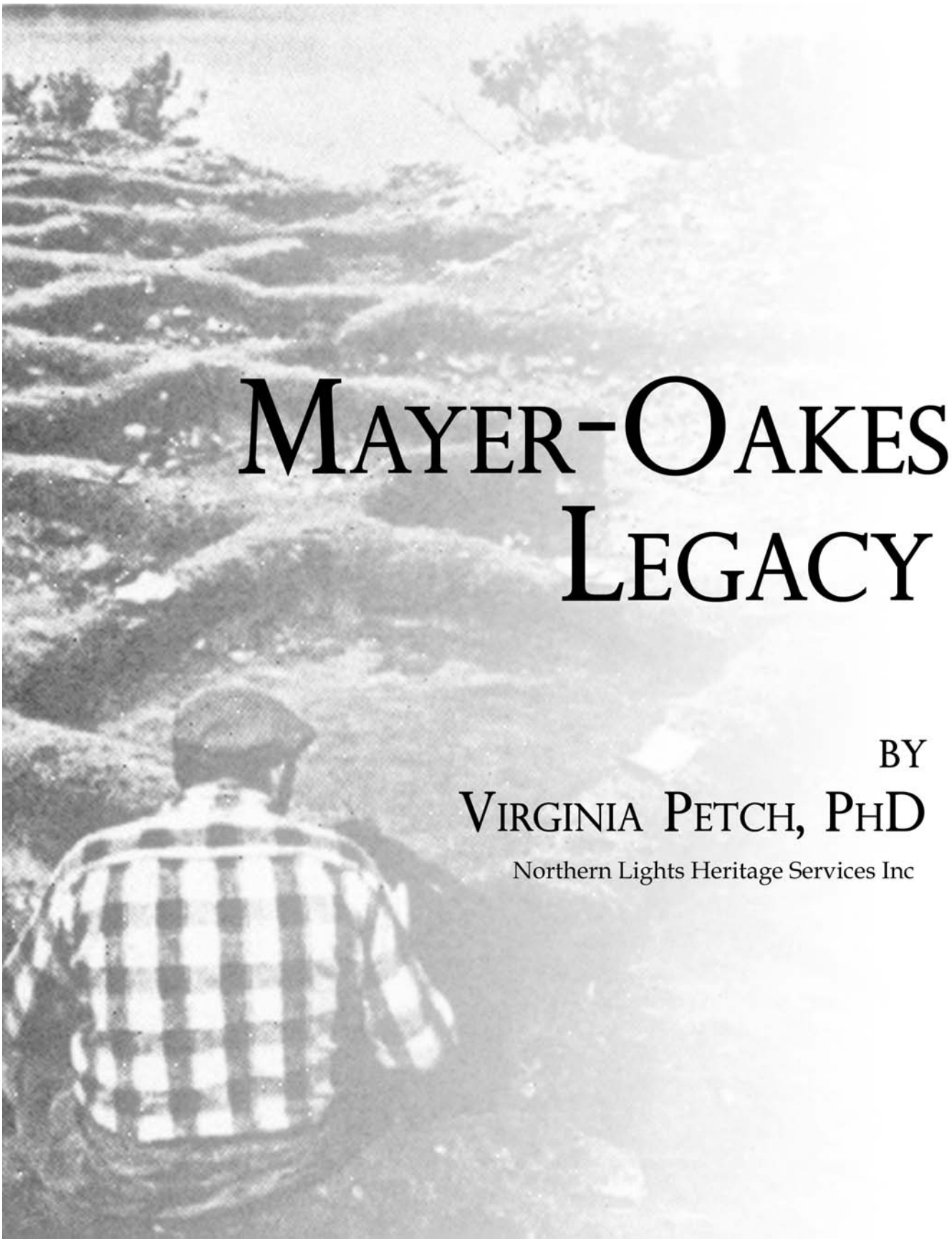
The Manitoba Archaeological Society is looking for a new logo and we need your help.

We are looking for a new eye-catching logo that can be used by the MAS for our letterhead, newsletters and journals. The idea is to capture the human side of archaeology, moving away from static items found in archaeological sites. The logo may or may not include the letters MAS. Also keep mind that the logo will be reproduced in a small format; therefore, the design cannot be too detailed or complicated.

Do you think you have the right stuff? Please submit your entries to the MAS in electronic format (e.g., scanned as saved as JPEG or TIFF format) to the Newsletter Editor Myra Sitchon at (myrasitchon@gmail.com) before June 1st, 2006.

Our current logo

A short list of logos will be chosen by the MAS Executive and published in the next Newsletter for all members for voting. The individual whose logo is chosen will be awarded a one-year membership to the MAS free and have their design widely distributed on all MAS projects. We anticipate having a new logo in place by Fall 2006.



Mayer-Oakes Legacy

BY

Virginia Petch, PhD

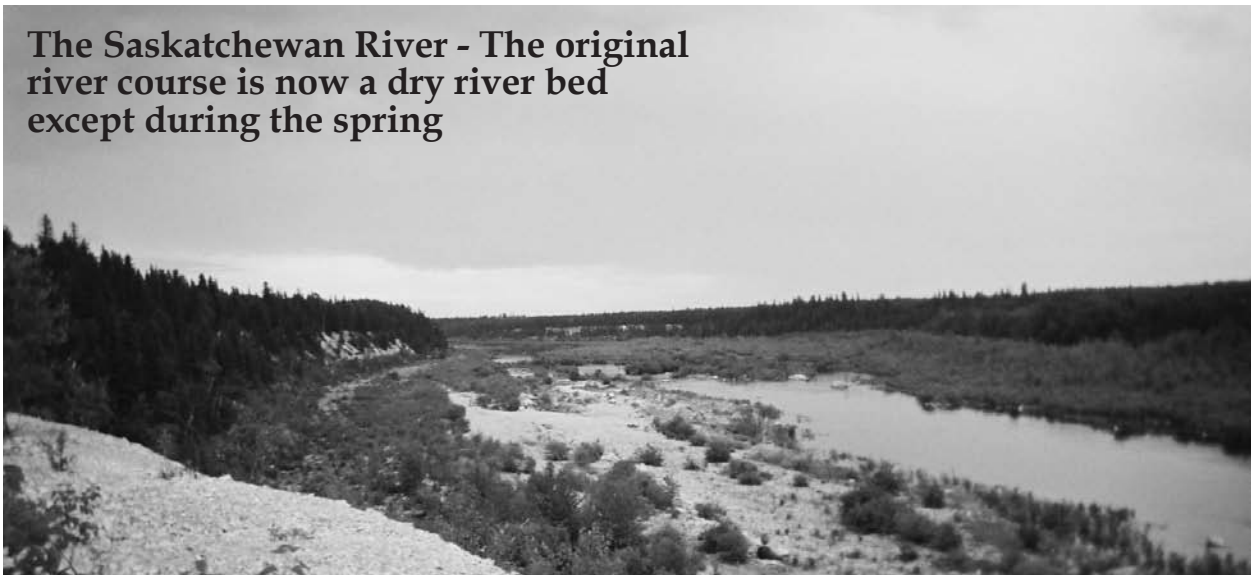
Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc

A variety of buttons indicate the close relationship with the Hudson's Bay Company

Leigh Syms' commemorative review of Mayer-Oakes' outstanding career is very timely (September/December 2005 issue). As part of post-impact studies and archaeological investigations, Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc has been working with the community and First Nation of Misi Pawastik (Grand Rapids) for the past seven years.

Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc has recently completed a 2-year reanalysis of the artifacts recovered from the 1961-62 Grand Rapids Forebay Survey and the excavations at Tailrace Bay. We have provided the University of Manitoba with a complete reanalysis of all artifacts discovered by Mayer-Oakes. In addition, as part of our private research, we have developed a Ceramic Master Chart for all of the Native ceramics that were found during his investigations, plus those found by Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc during our field investigations. We are hoping that we will be able to publish the results of this massive work in the *Manitoba Archaeological Journal* in the near future. The report is being revamped and edited for this purpose.

During our follow-up investigations at the Tailrace Bay Site, we discovered a historic component on the terrace behind the site. This area was remote-sensed and a cabin feature identified. Testing within and around the site indicated the presence of a log foundation. Last summer we conducted a public excavation with the Grand Rapids School students. The



The Saskatchewan River - The original river course is now a dry river bed except during the spring

Student participating in public excavation

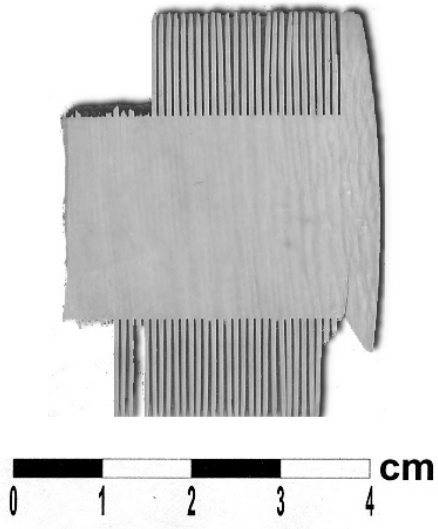
results of this study will be available in the spring. We intend to return this coming year to complete the excavation.

In addition to this work, Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc has written a popular history of the Pre-European Contact period. While modest in its appearance, it will provide the community and First Nation with an account of the long and interesting history of life at Misi Pawastik before the arrival of Europeans. We are currently working with the community, the First Nation and architects to develop displays for the new arena currently being constructed.

Continuing research on the Saskatchewan River system, including Cedar Lake and Moose Lake, is confirming old theories of human habitation and revealing new and interesting details of human occupation.

Mayer-Oakes set the stage for archaeology in Manitoba. Although I never had the privilege of meeting him, I greatly appreciate his significant contribution to Manitoba archaeology.

Partial bone comb recovered from site



Plains Conference Abstracts 2005

The 2005 Plains Conference was held from the 19th to the 23rd of October in Edmonton. Ten papers and one poster display were presented that were either based on research conducted within Manitoba or otherwise have direct relevance to the archaeology of the province. The abstracts of these presentations are provided below in the order of the historical position of their subject matter, from the earliest times to the most recent. These abstracts together present a useful synthesis of the current thinking that is happening with respect to the prairie and parkland regions of the province.

Pioneering the Postglacial Prairie Landscape

John W. Ives, Provincial Archaeologist, Alberta Heritage Resource Management

Environmental reconstructions for Western Canada, as terminal Pleistocene deglaciation proceeded, have tended in recent years to be increasingly severe. When these scenarios are combined with archaeological evidence restricted to well-stratified early sites, we are left with a perception that human settlement of the Canadian prairie provinces occurred weakly, late in time. A more realistic view would be that large parts of Western Canada began to be inhabitable between 11,000 and 12,000 radiocarbon or 13,000 to 14,000 calendar years ago, and quite conceivably, even slightly earlier than this. If we take into account the relatively high density of fluted points from surface and thinly stratified sites in Western Canada (more than 300 are recorded), quite a different perception emerges: fluted point makers left a strong landscape signature, and were undoubtedly beginning to colonize Western Canada in the Clovis time range (prior to 11,000 radiocarbon or 13,000 calendar years ago). In fact, "hot spots" in the deglaciating landscape – like deltas or game crossings on early drainages – may have been particularly attractive to early human populations.

Palaeo-Indian Colonization of the Glacial Lake Agassiz Region, 11,500-7,500 BP

Leo Pettipas, Manitoba Archaeological Society; David Meyer, University of Saskatchewan

The earliest evidence of colonization of the Glacial Lake Agassiz region of southwestern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan comprises surface finds of Clovis points. Adaptive radiation across the length and breadth of unglaciated North America culminated in the distribution of the Clovis Complex and its regional derivatives over a wide range of macro-habitats. These included

shrub tundra and boreal environments that variously characterized the Dakotas during the Late Glacial period between 13,000 and 10,000 years ago. Clovis populations gradually expanding into the western precincts and hinterlands of Lake Agassiz were inherent components of the northward-migrating environments to which they were adapted. The Clovis movement through the study area was an extremely slow process that need not have involved exploration parties and follow-on groups originating in a different ecological setting geographically remote from the study area. A notably different scenario presents itself in the case of the Folsom Complex. This was a grassland-adapted configuration with a focus on bison hunting. Folsom in all likelihood originated on the grasslands well to the south of the study area while the latter still lay beneath the late glacial spruce-dominated forest. Any movement into the forest adjacent to Lake Agassiz probably involved exploration parties from small groups of migrants whose culture, upon entry into the forested setting, underwent a certain degree of adjustment to the new environment. By the time Lake Agassiz began its final drainage ~ 9300 BP, its southern and western environs were dominated by bison-rich grassland communities. Late Plano groups living in the region gradually colonized the slowly emerging lake bottom, possibly including large tracts of terrain presently inundated by modern-day Lake Winnipeg.

The Distribution of Palaeo-Indian Materials and Their Relationship to the Fossil Beaches of Glacial Lake Agassiz in West-Central Manitoba

Gary Wowchuk, Swan River Archaeological Society

The Swan River valley in west-central Manitoba has received a great deal of attention by both avocational and professional archaeologists over the last 40 years. Leo Pettipas, Eugene Gryba and others have reported a large amount of Palaeo-Indian material and site locations from the study area. This material consists of artefacts sharing diagnostic traits consistent with fluted/basally-thinned points, Goshen points, Cody Complex diagnostics, and Agate Basin-like points and are manufactured from both local and non-local lithic materials. The area also provides us with time-sensitive boundaries in the form of the fossil beaches of Glacial Lake Agassiz. As the lake levels dropped, they left behind very distinct strandlines and wave-cut scarps. Of special interest are the Upper and Lower Campbell strandlines, which are almost continuous across the entire study area. As a result, we are able to use the distribution of various Palaeo-Indian diagnostic types and the time-sensitive Lake Agassiz strandlines to make some rather interesting observations. The distribution of some of these diagnostic types clearly shows that fluted/basally-thinned points, Goshen points, and Cody Complex material do not occur below some of the higher Agassiz beach levels, whereas Agate Basin-like material can be found throughout most of the study area. This may lead us to some reconsideration of the Palaeo-Indian sequencing in this part of the northern plains.

Evidence for Ceremonial Treatment of a 1600-Year-Old Bison Skull

B.A. Nicholson, Brandon University; Sylvia Nicholson, Brandon University

During the 2004 field season, a bison skull was encountered in an excavation unit at the Crepeele Site. The skull was in a supine position oriented along a northeast-to-southwest axis. The bone was badly degraded and was removed on a plywood sheet and transported back to the lab for a more careful exposure. Cleaning was assigned to a student for removal of the surrounding soil and the soil encased in the fragile cranium. It was found that only the horn cores, premaxilla, and the frontals were still intact. The most durable elements of the skull, the petrous bones, teeth and the occipital condyles had been removed,

creating an open bowl defined by the remaining bone.

As the soil was removed from the interior of the skull, a number of fired clay fragments were encountered and set aside. Upon examination it appeared that a shallow bowl of raw clay had been fired from within at sufficient heat to bond with the surrounding sand matrix and resist decomposition for some 1600 years. The surrounding site matrix and the material within the skull were aeolian sands. It appears that the clay had been introduced deliberately. The interior of the bowl had been decorated with red ochre pigment using clusters of dots and other indeterminate shapes. While similar bison skull alignments have been noted elsewhere in the region, the crudely formed, fired and decorated clay bowl is unique in the region.

Preliminary Research on the Presence of Net-Impressed Pottery in Manitoba and Minnesota

Dave Norris, University of Saskatchewan

Ceramic assemblages recovered from archaeological sites serve as important identifiers in establishing and defining cultures and placing those cultures on a diachronic time scale. Stylistic attributes used in conjunction with surface treatments and methods of manufacture offer the best approach to segregating one type of pottery ware from another. In southern Manitoba, ceramic assemblages from several sites have net-impressed surface treatment, and historically have been associated with the Rock Lake Focus. South of this region, in Minnesota, a net-impressed ware named "Brainerd" has been recovered from several hundred sites. Alternatively, across the plains of Western Canada, net-impressed pottery has been recovered in components of the Avonlea horizon. This presentation is an introduction to preliminary research concerning the nature of net-impressed pottery in Western Canada. To date, only a literature summary has been completed; however, ongoing research will include a comparison between the net-impressed pottery of Manitoba and Minnesota. The nature of net-impressed pottery in Manitoba needs to be determined before questions concerning its relationship to wares from the south and west can be addressed.

Residue Analysis on Stone Tools from the Hokanson Site, DiLv-29

Andrea Richards, Lakehead University; Carney Matheson, Lakehead University; Scott Hamilton, Lakehead University

Over the past 20 years, a number of researchers have been detecting and identifying residues on stone tools. This includes animal blood, tissue and hair, plant tissue and starch grains. Continued methodological refinement sometimes permits identification of the biological origins of these residues. This has significant research implications in situations of poor organic preservation, as a means of critically evaluating conventional methods of subsistence interpretation, or to infer tool function. As part of a pilot study, a sample of stone tools from the Hokanson Site (DiLv-29), a bison kill and processing site in southern Manitoba, was microscopically examined in search of residues. As the site is thought to contain spatially segregated activity areas associated with large-scale bison procurement and processing, a sample of tools from different localities and reflecting divergent functions was examined for residues. Preliminary results are presented as well as methodologies that preserve samples for future analysis.

Changing Lifestyles? Blackduck Adaptive Transitions from the Boreal Forest to the Northeastern Plains

Scott Hamilton, Lakehead University; James Graham, University of Manitoba; B.A. Nicholson, Brandon University

Over the past 1,000 years, several archaeologically-and ethnohistorically-defined societies moved from the subarctic and northern temperate forests onto the northeastern plains. This involved economic shifts from generalized foraging with a heavy reliance on aquatic resources to a more specialized bison-focused economy. Such transitions in subsistence and habitat are generally thought to have required significant technological and social reorganization. In order to archaeologically explore these transformations, we compare Blackduck sites found in northern Minnesota and northwestern Ontario to those located in southern Manitoba. This comparison focuses on land use, prey choice and seasonal variability in socio-political organization.

Establishing Site Seasonality: Importance, Problems and a Potential Solution

Tomasin Playford, Brandon University

Seasonality is often presented as one of the most influential environmental variables affecting subsistence, settlement patterns and the social organization of people inhabiting the Canadian northeastern plains during the Late Precontact time period. Models explaining population dynamics for southern Manitoba have been developed (i.e., Nicholson, Pettipas, Syms). Integral to the development of these models was the examination and interpretation of sites with a known season(s) of occupation. A review of the methods used to infer seasonality reveals a lack of empirical data regarding many of the seasonality estimates. Given the important effect seasonality had on past groups, it is imperative that assessing site seasonality be as vigorous as possible. New techniques that are accurate, precise and easy to apply must be developed, but a review of current seasonality measures indicates that at least one method, foetal bison osteological development, has not been attempted.

Identifying New Late Woodland Ceramic Traditions in the Swan Valley, Western Manitoba

E. Leigh Syms, The Manitoba Museum; Teija Dedi, The Manitoba Museum; Ed Winters, The Manitoba Museum; Valerie McKinley, University of Winnipeg; Gary Wowchuk, Swan River Archaeological Society

Extensive collecting from numerous sites and limited excavations at two sites has produced evidence of regionally distinctive precontact Native ceramics. Based on these samples, the "Craigsford Complex" and "Smith Creek Complex" are defined and evidence of other undefined ceramic traditions is identified. These are interpreted as evolving from the Duck Bay Complex of the Rainy River Composite through the Craigsford Complex to the Smith Creek Complex. There are general trends toward less decoration and more plains-like traits such as narrow lip-notching. Based on a number of uncalibrated radiocarbon dates and thermoluminescence dates, suggested temporal ranges are AD 1350-1500 for the Craigsford Complex and AD 1500-1700 for the Smith Creek Complex and undefined ceramics.

The Sandy Lake Composite: An Updated Taxonomic Designation for a Widespread Late Woodland Ware

Jill Taylor-Hollings, Lakehead University

In 1964, Cooper and Johnson first described Sandy Lake Ware, a Late Woodland entity distinct from the previously identified Blackduck pottery in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. Although the ware was originally thought to be localized, participants of the Lake Superior Basin Workshop in 1988 compiled information indicating examples in southeastern Manitoba, northwestern Ontario and one assemblage in North Dakota. More recently, the author examined many collections

and determined that the northwestern extent of Sandy Lake Ware into western Manitoba as well as more sites in North Dakota and northwestern Ontario. Currently, this pottery has been found in archaeological sites across four different biomes: the eastern woodlands, southern boreal forest, northeastern plains, and parklands.

Although Sandy Lake Ware is distinctive from contemporaneous Late Woodland pottery, there have been misidentifications and confounding of taxonomic issues by Canadian and American researchers. It has been attributed to a complex, a tradition and both the Wanikan and Psinomani cultures. While continuing to study Sandy Lake Ware and amass information from the various locations where it has been found, it became clear that there was now enough information available to address these taxonomic issues based on pottery attributes, temporal range, geographic setting, inferred economy of the site occupants, other artifact types, and associated archaeological cultures. Thus, following Canadian researchers' use of Syms' (1977) taxonomic system to define Laurel, Rainy River and Selkirk pottery across a similar geographic range, the new terminology of this ware being part of the "Sandy Lake Composite" and smaller divisions of complexes is proposed.

Sedentism and Precontact Tribal Organization on the Northern Plains: Colonial Imposition or Indigenous Development?

Dale Walde, University of Calgary

This paper explores the influence of sedentary and semi-sedentary "tribally" organized eastern woodlands and Middle Missouri horticultural villagers on Canadian plains hunter-gatherer social organization during the millennium prior to European contact. Tribal organization of Canadian plains bison hunters has been suggested to have been caused by the acquisition of domesticated horses from Europeans, which enabled the ritualized mass killing of bison, large group size, and a more complex material culture. That is, the complex culture of plains groups at the time of European contact is held to be the result of that contact. It is clear, however, that the material culture correlates of semi-sedentism, complexity, and tribal social organization begin to appear in the archaeological record of the Canadian plains with the development of horticultural villages to the south and east, and the appearance of certain aspects of village material culture (primarily specific types of pottery and lithic raw materials) in Canadian plains archaeological assemblages well prior to any European influence. Expansion of horticulture slowed dramatically upon encountering the plains peoples who, I suggest, adopted certain aspects of the culture of their horticultural neighbours and sometime invaders, including a segmentary tribal social organization, sodalities, and limited use of traded horticultural products, primarily maize. By adopting a communal bison hunting subsistence system that included the construction of gathering facilities such as pounds and jumps, people increased their food production capabilities while reinforcing their tribal social structure. These cultural changes occurred as a result of acculturative resistance to apparently expansionist horticultural neighbours. The complex culture of Canadian plains peoples appeared well prior to the appearance of Europeans and is an indigenous development.

Privacy Legislation

Since January 1, 2004, the Society is required to comply with federal privacy legislation (the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act). The Society must have a policy on how it will use personal information and must have members' permission for such use. To date, the Society has used members' personal information strictly for mailing out Society publications and notices for events and activities organized specifically by the Society or in partnership with other heritage organizations. The membership application form seeks permission for the use of such information collected.

Submissions

The guidelines for submissions to the MAS Newsletter are as follows:

• Articles should be 300 words or longer. They can be submitted in any format as long as they are legible. Any form of Mac or PC software is acceptable, but when in doubt use Notepad or Wordpad. Emailing is a great way to submit your articles. They can be submitted to **myrasitchon@gmail.com**.

• You are encouraged to send photographs with your submission. If you are sending them, they will be scanned and returned. Digital pictures are preferred and should be sent at the highest resolution setting possible on your camera. **Photos sent at a resolution less than 300 dpi may not be included.** If the file size is larger than 4MB, please email to get further instructions. Please indicate the content of each photograph.

• Letters may be edited for length, although all material will be included if possible.

• The Newsletter is published 4 times per year in March, June, September, and December. Deadlines for articles are roughly 1 month earlier. To ensure that your article is included in the correct issue, please submit early.

Please send all Newsletter correspondence to:

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