

First Nations Liaison (Field Monitor) Weekly Report

Completed by: Austin Paul

Report covering the period from October 16th – November 5th, 2015

Date: October 16th, November 2nd, 3rd, 2015

Activities Conducted:

River sediment sample acquisition in the Mactaquac Head pond near Woodstock, Davidson Lake and Miramichi Lake.

Pertinent Tasks:

- Navigate watercraft to predetermined G.P.S. waypoints along the Mactaquac headpond, Davidson Lake and Miramichi Lake.
- Sterilize all tools and sample jars with a solution of Nitric Acid.
- Drop a sediment grabber into the water. Once the grabber has reached the river bottom, a weight is dropped which clamps the jaws of the grabber shut. The grabber is then pulled back to the surface.
- A five centimeter coring tube is used to extract sediment profiles which are then placed in sterile jars, labeled and stored in a cooler.
- These samples will be used to analyze the constituents of the sediment cores.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: The area of the Mactaquac head pond is currently used for fishing and pleasure craft use. Traditionally the area had been used for travel, hunting, fishing and plant resource extraction. The submerged snowshoe islands were a source of Calmus root and black ash.

The Woodstock area was heavily travelled by First Nations individuals for thousands of years. George Frederick Clarke identified and excavated sites in Grafton, Bulls Creek, Lanes Creek and a submerged island within the mouth of the Meduxnekaeg River. Below Woodstock is the submerged archaeological site at Meductic flats which marked the portage-head of the Maliseet Trail and contained both a village and cemetery.

Davidson Lake vents its waters into the Pokiok stream. Lake George is the headwater for the Pokiok stream and is a high potential area in terms of archaeological resources. George Frederick Clarke discovered artifacts at the mouth of the Pokiok stream. Considering the high potential for archaeological resources near Lake George and the known site located at the mouth of the Pokiok stream, Davidson Lake would undoubtedly contain archaeological material. Presently, I have not been able to find any literature concerning the archaeology of the area.

Miramichi Lake vents into the Southwest Miramichi River, as such it is not part of the St. John River watershed. The area was used to collect baseline data for the sediment studies conducted by the

Canadian Rivers Institute. Nashwaak Lake was the ideal location for testing, however while conducting fieldwork in the area; no public boat launches were identified. Seeing as Nashwaak Lake and Miramichi Lake are closely situated (9km) and share similar attributes, the later was chosen for the representative sample. C.R.I. needed sediment samples from the headwaters of the major watersheds to make a comparison with sites further downstream. In theory, the sediment from the headwaters should contain the least amount of contaminants.

Miramichi Lake vents into the Southwest Miramichi River via Lake Brook. George Frederick Clarke had excavated a significant site near the confluence of Lake Brook and the SW Miramichi River (Clarke 1970. *Someone Before Us*. Pg. 136), as such, the lake itself must have pre-contact archaeological sites. A pre-contact portage trail existed at the north-eastern end of the lake, leading to the SW Miramichi and another portage was located on the south-eastern end of the lake, leading to Napodogan Lake (Ganong 1899. *A Monograph of Historic Sites in the Province of New Brunswick*. Pg. 252).

While using a public boat launch on Miramichi Lake, I identified pre-contact lithic tools debris embedded in the road. I conducted a pedestrian survey to locate any potential artifacts before we had to use the boat launch. This led to the identification of 9 Tobique chert flakes (bi-products of stone tool manufacture), one Tobique chert core (the parent piece of material used to create flakes) and a biface tip fragment of a bleached felsic volcanic toolstone. All artifacts were bagged and taken to archaeological services for analysis and curation. The coordinates of the archaeological site are: 46° 27'02.09" North. 66° 57'35.90" West. . In accordance with the Heritage Conservation Act, the site will be registered using the Borden system; a Canada wide system designed for recording archaeological sites.

Photographs





Above: Miramichi Lake



Above: Lithic tools found on the shore of Miramichi Lake. From left to right: 9 Tobique chert flakes, a felsic volcanic biface tip and a Tobique chert core.

Date: October 27th, 28th, 2015

Activities Conducted

Striped bass fisheries in Washademoak Lake, Kennebecasis River and Hammond River

Pertinent Tasks

- A gillnet was set up in strategic areas and left out for 20 minutes, after which, the nets would be checked and the fish released back into the river.
- The goal was to capture large striped bass for the purpose of tagging. No striped bass were encountered, although 2 short-nosed sturgeons were picked up in the nets and promptly released.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: Washademoak Lake is the location of a bedrock outcrop of very beautiful chert or toolstone. Most specimens are bright red/pink in color and are highly translucent. This outcrop of chert has been used by First Nations individuals for thousands of years and many archaeological sites are located in the general area. Below is a photograph of a projectile point that I created using Washademoak chert.

The Kennebecasis and Hammond Rivers also contain many archaeological sites and suitable outcrops of toolstone are located in the general area. I have not yet discovered any pre-contact artifacts while working on-shore.

Photographs





The projectile point depicted above is not a pre-contact artifact, but a replica that I produced.

Date: October 20th, 21st, 22nd, 2015

Activities Conducted

Attended community-based open houses related to the Mactaquac Project. The locations were: The Woodstock First Nation, The Best Western in Woodstock, The St. Thomas University and the Delta in Fredericton.

Pertinent Tasks

- The set-up and tear-down of displays related to the Mactaquac Project.
- Answer questions related to the Mactaquac Project in particular the First Nations engagement process and my role as the First Nations Field Monitor.
- Keep records of any suggestions or comments made by the public.
- One of my duties while conducting fieldwork includes the identification and preservation of archaeological sites within the project area. Seeing as I have identified a previously unrecorded archaeological site below the limits of the Kingsclear First Nation (identified by the discovery of a biface thinning flake- the byproduct of stone tool manufacture), I was asked to provide a display of pre-contact artifacts to promote discussions surrounding the topic of archaeology. The artifact that was discovered earlier in the year was photographed, assigned GPS coordinates and taken to Archaeological Services New Brunswick for further study. In accordance with the Heritage Conservation Act, the site will be registered using the Borden system; a Canada wide

system designed for recording archaeological sites. Once registered under the Borden system, an alteration permit would be required for any work involving ground disturbances. This permit also outlines the need for First Nation consultation.

Questions

- How do First Nations individuals feel about the Mactaquac Project and what seems to be the preferred option? *Answer: There are mixed feelings about the project as a whole, some people support the idea, while others do not. There are proponents of all options: some people would like to see the river returned to its natural state while others see the economic value of building another dam.*
- What are the major concerns put forth by First Nations individuals? *Answer: The environment seems to be a paramount concern of many First Nations individuals. Fish passage is a major concern: both passage upstream and down. Finally, job creation is a major concern and interest. The idea was put forth that a proactive training program should be put in place to train First Nations individuals to fill the technical positions that would be needed to complete the Mactaquac Project.*
- Many questions were asked about the artifact display. The display had artifacts spanning the time period from 500 years before present to 12,000 years before present, as such, the discussions and questions varied considerably. I explained that I have been collecting artifacts from beaches for the last 7 years and that all of the artifacts are in the process of being catalogued by Archaeological Services and UNB. I also explained that it is my hope that my home community of Kingsclear First Nation will develop a facility to house the artifacts that I have acquired so that the younger generation may be inspired to learn more about their culture in the distant past.

Date: November 4th-5th, 2015

Activities Conducted:

Vibracore testing in the Mactaquac head pond near the former mouth of the Mactaquac stream and Snowshoe Island.

Pertinent Tasks:

- A great deal of work was done on shore, preparing coring tubes and trouble-shooting issues concerning equipment.
- Seeing as we would be working on large boat in the head pond, safety protocols were discussed at length.
- The Captain would navigate a vessel known as the “Sea truck” to the different study areas and the crew would deploy anchors and prepare gear.

- The Vibracore machine would be lowered into the water and pulled back up to ensure that the core was sealed tight.
- Using a crane and winch, the Vibracore would be lowered to the bottom of the head pond and would run for 2-3 minutes, at which time the Vibracore would be raised.
- Once raised, the core would be capped off, removed from the machine and labeled.
- A total of 4 successful cores were acquired, these cores will be used to analyze the sediment and soil stratigraphy and its constituents.

Interests and Concerns from a First Nations Perspective:

Traditional Resource Sites: Snowshoe Island had been a very important area for the Wolastoqiyik people prior to the development of the dam, as such, there are undoubtedly archaeological sites located on the island. While conducting the fieldwork, I made a careful analysis of the core samples ensuring that no pre-contact archaeological material was disturbed during coring.

Photographs



