First Nations Liaison (Field Monitor) Weekly Report

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Report covering the period from September 14th -28th, 2015

Date: September 14thand 15th, 2015

Activities Conducted

The acquisition of bathymetric data in Belleisle Bay.

Pertinent Tasks

- A side-scan sonar device was mounted to the rear of various water craft.
- Three teams worked together to cover all of the areas for mapping.
- The sonar has the capacity to accurately map a 50 meter swath of river bottom.
- The teams would navigate the water craft to their start points along the river and begin mapping, travelling from one river bank to the other and gradually moving upstream.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: Belleisle bay was undoubtedly used by First Nations groups to harvest various forms of aquatic species.

Traditional land use sites: Although no pre-contact archaeological material was found along the shorelines of the study area at this time, there should be sites nearby. There are many varieties of quality tool stone present in the area, which would have been an attractive feature in the past.

Photographs

Date: September 17th, 22nd and 25th, 2015

Activities Conducted

The retrieval and replacement of acoustic receivers in the St. John River near the mouth of the Nashwaaksis Stream, the mouth of the Nashwaak River, the mouth of the Oromocto River and Grand Lake.

Pertinent Tasks

- Navigate via watercraft to G.P.S. coordinates assigned to the submerged receivers throughout the river and lakes.
- Some receivers were moored onto navigation buoys and others were attached to cinder blocks placed on the river bottom.
- The receivers that were attached to mooring buoys were replaced by divers. Receivers attached to cinder blocks were retrieved by dragging a grappling hook and pulled up to the surface by hand.

Interests and Potential Concerns from a First Nations Perspective

Traditional resource sites: The St. John River and its tributaries remain an important resource area for fish procurement and travel. The Grand Lake area has a great abundance of wildlife: deer, moose, bear and waterfowl populations are quite healthy. The lake itself has been used to pursue a wide range of fish for thousands of years.

Traditional land use sites: The mouths or confluences of streams have always been an attractive feature for many reasons: fish frequently congregate near the mouths of streams, the areas usually provide strategic vistas allowing for advance warning of approaching vessels, and are the equivalent of highway junctions to use a modern analogy. There are archaeological sites on nearly every river confluence along the major waterways in New Brunswick.

The Grand Lake area is very archaeologically rich, most of the coastline is dotted with archaeological sites. One of the most noteworthy sites is the Cow Point Burial ground located at the end of the Scotchtown Road. The site was excavated in the 1970's, at which time 60 human burials were exhumed. Most of the mortuary features were interpreted as cremation burials and were radiocarbon dated to 3750 years before present. Many unidentified archaeological sites undoubtedly exist in the area. The oldest sites would be located on high ground. In the immediate post-glacial period, ancestral Grand Lake was considerably larger in volume, as such, lake levels would have been much higher. The higher water levels created beaches which are now left stranded on high terraces, these beaches would have been used by the Native inhabitants.

Photographs

Date: September 28th, 2015

Activities Conducted:

River sediment sample acquisition in the Mactaquac Head Pond.

Pertinent Tasks:

- Navigate watercraft to predetermined G.P.S. waypoints along the Mactaquac Arm.
- 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.

Traditional land use sites: The information regarding archaeological sites located under the head pond is scant however, the snowshoe islands and former mouth of the Mactaquac stream would undoubtedly contain pre-contact archaeological material. Due to the nature of the landforms in the Keswick area (high ridges and glacio-fluvial outwash deposits), this general area would have been an attractive feature to people occupying the region in the Palaeo Period (12,500-9000 years before present).

Ancient sites may be located on some of the landform features and would most likely be situated on high ground.

Photographs