

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Atkinson site DiMe-27 2003

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12081>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Sub sub series

Series Number: 2.1.1

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 2003

Material Details: Field journals have been scanned in multi-page PDF files. Artifact catalogues are PDF files in spreadsheet format. Photographs are in jpeg format.

## History /

### Biographical:

Based on the results of the testing in 2002 and the radiocarbon date of 6,500 years before present, further excavation was warranted at the Atkinson site. In 2003 Field Chief Holly Alston and crew Shayne Kolesar and Andrea Richards opened a 42m test excavation (units 1 - 4) that included the hearth area.

The site area was covered with a huge sand dune that was slowly sliding into the river as the supporting bank eroded away. As the dune was removed a late woodland camp was found at the dune interface and a large chunk of charcoal dated this occupation to 440+/-60 B.P. cal.1440A.D. This indicated that the dune was a relatively late incursion over the site. This occupation is likely connected to subsequent testing to the east in 2005 that came to be known as Atkinson II.

### Methodology:

The crew began shovel shaving the upper strata with the intention of establishing an arbitrary datum when artifacts were encountered or when a level 25cm above the hearth was reached. At 25cm above the hearth an arbitrary surface datum was established and excavation in 5cm levels began. The overbank deposited matrix was a dense, compacted silt clay and it was necessary to soak the excavated materials in buckets and then water screen the material with a high pressure pump over ¼ inch hardware cloth.

Lithic flakes were found at 10cm below datum, above the hearth level. In the next level, large bone, a broken projectile point and additional flakes were found. Increasing amounts of bone and lithic flakes were found as the excavation continued through levels 3 to 5. The top of the hearth was identified at 28cm below datum, below a 2cm layer of well-sorted sand. This sand layer was confined to a small area directly overlying the hearth. It was considered to be a deliberate quenching of the hearth.

After the conclusion of excavating level 6 the hearth was profiled and photographed. The charcoal and ash layer of the hearth was shown to be directly below the sand layer. Levels 6 and 7 revealed a bison bone bed that was consistent with primary and secondary butchering including elements from the vertebral column and appendicular skeleton. Two additional Gowen (Mummy Cave Series) projectile points were also recovered adjacent to the hearth. Level 8 continued to produce larger amounts of bone and many lithic flakes. Level 9 produced a few bone fragments and a small number of lithic flakes. At the conclusion of the excavations, the crew shoveled sand down from the dune to protect the site over winter and through any subsequent spring flooding.

### Scope and Content:

Sub-sub-sub series contains: Summary information of field methodology, number and coordinates of excavations, personnel and their staff position; Field journals are daily records of recoveries, features and activities at the site; Site records include excavation level and unit summaries, feature sheets, profiles; sample records and maps; Artifact catalogues are lists and identifications of all artifacts recovered; Photographs are of excavation units, features, the landscape and personnel.

Name Access: Atkinson site 2003

Subject Access: Archaeology  
North Lauder locale  
Atkinson site DiMe-27  
Atkinson site 2003



## Atkinson site DiMe-27 2004

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12190>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds  
Description Level: Sub sub series  
Series Number: 2.1.2  
Accession Number: 1-2010  
GMD: multiple media  
Date Range: 2004  
Material Details: Field journals have been scanned in multi-page PDF files. Artifact catalogues are PDF files in spreadsheet format. Photographs are in jpeg format.

History /  
Biographical:

In 2004 Tomasin Playford and her crew of Andrea Richards, Sarah Graham and Shane Kolesar cleared sand cover from over the 2003 excavations and extended sand clearing back from the north edge of the 2003 units to permit implementation of four additional units. During this sand clearing a hearth was identified together with small numbers of lithics and pottery body sherds. This occupation had been noted during sand clearing in 2003 and a charcoal sample was collected and radiocarbon dated to 1440 A.D. This hearth was assigned to Atkinson II, a later occupation.

Four units (5, 6, 7, & 8) were surveyed in adjacent to the 2003 units. Excavation proceeded by means of shovel shaving until the datum pegs from the previous year were located. The new units were then given datum pegs and string boundaries and the high pressure pump was set up for water screening of silt/clay matrix.

Continued to shovel shave levels 1 - 4 and recovered small burned and unburned bone fragments. Level 5 produced a projectile point, an end scraper and a large heat-treated Swan River Chert (SRC) flake. Other SRC flakes were also recovered. Levels 6 and 7 yielded large numbers of flake debitage. The matrix in levels 5-7 contained a scatter of small, bright red ochre particles. The river began to rise on the ninth of June and the site was sandbagged on June 11th, temporarily bringing an end to excavation for Atkinson 1. Tomasin and her crew were relocated to the Crepeele site, west of Lauder.

On July 20th, Tomasin and her crew returned to the Atkinson site and commenced cleaning up the earlier excavation following the flooding. Following the clean up, excavations were resumed on the units that had been opened. An additional Gowen point was recovered from level 8 as well as some poorly preserved bison bone. A lot flakes and small amounts of bone were recovered on west side of block and larger bone and flakes in bone bed along the east side in levels 8 - 10. Two bifaces were recovered in level 11 and a third in level 13. The excavations were terminated at level 18 when water started coming up through the unit floors.

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Name Access: Atkinson site 2004

Subject Access: Archaeology  
North Lauder locale  
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