

S. J. McKee Archives



Sarah site DiMe-28

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions11829>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Sub-series

Series Number: 1.3

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 2003-2004

History /

Biographical:

The Sarah site was chosen for excavation based on the results of the Casselman survey. The survey recovered significant amounts of faunal remains, some ceramics and lithics from the test pits. Excavations took place in 2003 at Crepeelee West (Units 1-5) and Crepeelee East (Units 6-9). The site was subsequently renamed the Sarah site DiMe-28. In 2004 another 9 units were excavated (Units 10-18).

Based on the recoveries it was determined that the Sarah site is a stratified site with woodland ceramics in the upper occupation and late woodland points in both of the upper occupations. These upper occupations produced abundant bison bone including foetal bone. The lower occupations produced less bone and no foetal bone, although absence of foetal bone in the lower occupations does not necessarily indicate a warm season occupation. This could be due to sample error or peritoxic factors such as scavenging of the fragile bone by dogs or other carnivores.

The dates from the Sarah site include 550+/-40 B.P.; 1430+/-80 B.P.; 2810+/-80 B.P.; 3120+/-130 B.P. The lower occupations did not yield any diagnostic materials although debitage was abundant. These occupations were most productive at the edge of the large sand dune at the southern edge of the excavations. It is assumed that the major portion of these occupations have been overridden by the dune in the past 3000 years. Heavy earthmoving equipment would be required to remove this overburden which limits the possibility of future excavation.

Environment

The Sarah site is a large area located at the eastern end of the Crepeelee locale. Ground cover is a mosaic of aspen poplar groves and patches of mesic grass prairie. Excavation profiles indicate that this has been the situation since early precontact times, although as local climatic conditions change (primarily rainfall), the relative size of these areas and where they may have occurred also changed. The soil is aeolian sand sheet derived from delta outwash deposits along the western edge of glacial Lake Hind. The present topography is a variable dune landscape reworked by aeolian activity that creates a mosaic of microhabitats. These include forested patches in the lee of sand dunes with grassland on the southern and western exposures and small damp lowlands that support balsam poplar, willows, red osier dogwood, high-bush cranberry and water birch. There is no permanent water source in the area although a small seasonal stream meanders through a damp lowland to the east of the Sarah site.

Scope and Content:

Sub-series has been divided into sub sub series including: Sarah 2003 and Sarah 2004,

Name Access: Sarah site DiMe-28

Subject Access: Archaeology
Crepeelee locale
Sarah site DiMe-28