

# S. J. McKee Archives



## ARCH 3: Lovstrom locale

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12406>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds

Description Level: Series

Series Number: 3

Accession Number: 1-2010

GMD: multiple media

Date Range: 1985 to 1991

History /

Biographical:

The Lovstrom locale first came to the attention of Dr. Nicholson through conversations with landowners Mr. and Mrs. Herb Lovstrom in 1985. Lovstrom is a multi-component archaeological locale located 25km south of Brandon overlooking the Souris River channel. The landowner's surface collection and the presence of bone and artifacts in a cultivated field indicated the presence of one or more sites.

Limited testing was conducted in 1985 and 1986, followed by major excavations in 1987, 1988 and 1991. Eight sites of block excavations with a total of 132 1m<sup>2</sup> excavation units were completed. The locale area extends approximately 500m north from the edge of the Souris Valley escarpment and over 200m east from the Jock's Creek escarpment.

Physical and biological environment As has been noted above, the locale is bounded on the south by the Souris channel and on the west by the incised channel of Jock's Creek and a till plain extends to the north and the east. This plain is characterized by buff colored glacial till with numerous rocks embedded in the surface. Surrounding these rocky knolls are dark-soil hollows where the various cultural occupations are found. The depth of the topsoil layer suggests a long term grassland cover with the present oak forest likely developing in historic times due to the elimination of bison grazing and the controlling of prairie fires in late historic times. A small cleared patch of farmland is found within the boundaries of the locale area. This area has provided a substantial surface collection of artifacts.

Present vegetation in the area is a mosaic of aspen/oak forest groves and mesic grass prairie that includes introduced species such as brome grass. In poorly drained areas, willow and red osier dogwood are present. The Lovstrom locale is found in a forested area dominated by oak with an under story of saskatoon, chokecherry, pin cherry, and hazelnut brush. Poison ivy is abundant as well as sarsaparilla.

The major faunal resources in Precontact times would have been bison, with elk and mule deer playing a minor role. Antelope may have been present also. Small animals included snowshoe hare, cottontails, porcupines and beaver. Canids, including wolf, coyote, fox and domesticated dog were present, as well as mustelids such as badger, mink, and weasel. Fragments from a fisher were also recovered in the excavations.

Summation.

The Lovstrom locale has eight sites. The sites were designated and excavated as Blocks A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H. Many of the sites are multi-occupations.

The Vickers materials are primarily confined to Blocks D, E, F, G and H. Vickers Focus materials overlie Blackduck/Duck Bay materials. Blackduck and Duck Bay materials are found in the lower levels of all excavation blocks and in most test units. The Vickers occupations at the Lovstrom locale, based upon ceramic wares and an overlapping of C14 dates, appear to have been contemporary with the Lowton type site to the east, near Belmont. A small protohistoric occupation was identified overlying part of Block D. Faunal remains are abundant with bison clearly dominating the assemblages. Lesser amounts of canid are present as well as small mammals including beaver, hare and mustelids. Small amounts of avian species are also present.

#### Publications

Nicholson, B.A.

2011 The Role of Pocket Gophers (*Thomomys talpoides*) in Restructuring Stratigraphic Relationships at the Lovstrom Site. *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 35:323-331.

Nicholson, Bev, Scott Hamilton, Matthew Boyd and Sylvia Nicholson

2008 A Late Plains Woodland Adaptive Strategy in the Northern Parklands: the Vickers Focus Forager-Horticulturists. Invited Paper for Papers in Northeastern Plains Prehistory, eds. Michael G. Michlovic and Dennis L. Toom, *North Dakota Journal of Archaeology* Vol. 8:19-34.

Nicholson, Bev and Scott Hamilton

2001 Cultural Continuity and Changing Subsistence Strategies During the Late Precontact Period in Southwestern Manitoba. *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 25:53-73.

Nicholson, Bev

1996 Plains Woodland Influx and the Blackduck Exodus in South-Western Manitoba During the Late Precontact Period. *Manitoba Archaeological Journal* 6(1):69-85.

Nicholson, Bev and Mary Malainey

1991 Report on the 1991 Field School Excavations at the Lovstrom Site (DjLx-1), Southwestern Manitoba. *Manitoba Archaeological Journal* 1(2): 51-93.

Nicholson, Bev and Jane Gibson

1990-91 Lovstrom Site Field Report, 1987 Excavations. *Saskatchewan Archaeology* 11&12:46-68.

Nicholson, Bev and Ian Kuijt

1990 Field Report and Interpretations of the 1988 Archaeological Excavations at the Lovstrom Site (DjLx-1) in Southwestern Manitoba. *North Dakota Journal of Archaeology* 4:166-205.

Nicholson, Bev

1990 Ceramic Affiliations and the Case for Incipient Horticulture in Southwestern Manitoba. *Canadian Journal of Archaeology* 14:33-60.

Nicholson, Bev

1986 The Lovstrom Site: Culture Contact in Prehistory. *Manitoba Archaeological Quarterly* 10(1):35-71.

#### Scope and Content:

The Series has been divided into nine sub-series, including (1) Survey (2) Block A; (3) Block B (4) Block C; (5) Block D; (6) Block E; (7) Block F; (8) Block G; (9) Block H

Name Access: Lovstrom locale

Subject Access:     Archaeology  
                          Lovstrom locale

Arrangement:

Series is arranged by site/block and by year of field work.