



North Lauder locale Radiocarbon Dates

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions12326>

Part Of: RG 7 Beverley Nicholson fonds
Description Level: Sub-series
Series Number: 2.5
Accession Number: 1-2010
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1997-2000
Material Details: Radiocarbon date reports have been scanned in multi-page PDF files.

History /

Biographical:

The North Lauder locale has a long archaeological and geological history that is important for understanding the forces that shaped the region. Archaeological research in the locale shows that the area has been occupied by humans for at least the past 6,500 years. Environmental forces provided an area of diverse resources that attracted early peoples.

Archaeologists from Brandon University have been conducting research in the North Lauder locale that has focused on the Atkinson site, a 6,500 year old hunter-gatherer site and Flintstone Hill.

The geomorphology of the glacial Lake Hind Basin over the past 11,000 years is known primarily through the study of a cut bank along the Souris River. Flintstone Hill contains the most complete stratigraphic record for the post-glacial period on the northern plains. The site has been extensively studied by geoarchaeologists, geologists and paleoenvironmentalists over many years and their findings have contributed to our understanding of the region.

Radiocarbon dates were obtained from the Atkinson site and Flintstone Hill.

Radiocarbon dating

The technique of radiocarbon dating was developed by Willard Libby and his colleagues at the University of Chicago in 1949.

Radiocarbon dating is used to estimate the age of organic remains from archaeological sites. Organic matter has a radioactive form of carbon (C14) that begins to decay upon death. C14 decays at a steady, known rate of a half life of 5,730 years. The technique is useful for material up to 50,000 years. Fluctuations of C14 in the atmosphere can affect results so dates are calibrated against dendrochronology. Radiocarbon dates are calibrated to calendar years.

Dates are reported in radiocarbon years or Before Present. Before Present refers to dates before 1950. The introduction of massive amounts of C14, due to atomic bomb and surface testing of atomic weapons, has widely increased the standard deviation on all dates after A.D. 1700 causing these dates to be unreliable.

Accelerated mass spectrometry can more accurately measure C14 with smaller samples and can date materials to 80,000 years.

Scope and Content:

Sub sub series contains radiocarbon dates from: the Atkinson site and Flintstone Hill.

Name Access: North Lauder locale Radiocarbon Dates

Subject Access: Archaeology
North Lauder locale
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