CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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consisting of typical Blackduck rim sherds (Pl. 7:1-3), a uniface (Pl. 7:4), end scrapers (Pl. 7:5,7,9), shaft straightener (Pl. 7:6) and a small rectilinear unifacial blade (Pl. 7:8).

From the 9-12" level are cord impressed body sherds and typical Blackduck rims (P1. 8:17,18), a large biface blade of black chert (P1. 8:19), end scrapers (P1. 8:20,21), side scrapers (P1. 8:22), a small uniface (P1. 8:23) and a core (P1. 8:24). From the 6-9" level comes a plain expanding pipe bowl (P1. 8:15), various rim sherds (P1. 8:12-14) and a quartz biface (P1. 8:16). Some of these specimens such as the pipe bowl and stamped rim (P1. 8:13) may relate to the following Sandbar phase.

Most of the lithics illustrated from the lower levels are manufactured from a brown chalcedony-like chert.

A large faunal sample (3,672 specimens) was recovered from the Snake Arm site (Appendix 1). Beaver again appear as an important subsistence animal followed by moose, caribou, muskrat and dog. A possible dog burial was recorded at the site (see faunal appendix by J. A. Burns in Pollock 1974a).

The Sandbar Phase (1400 A.D. - 1650 A.D.)

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The Sandbar site (DcHu-1) together with the 0 to 6" levels and some artifacts from the 6-9" levels of Snake Arm Inlet site constitute the Sandbar Phase, a terminal phase of the Blackduck tradition. This phase is distinguished by the presence of pipes (Pl. 9:5), Lalonde High Collar pottery (Pl. 9:1), Blackduck ware of poor quality (Pl. 9:2,3) and drills (Pl. 9:9,10). Also present are stamped Michigan ceramics. At the Sandbar site itself which is situated on Missinaibi Lake a few miles from the Snake Arm site, a large artifact sample was recovered through excavations in 1974. Some of these are: a large triangular projectile point (Pl. 9:7), a smaller triangular point (Pl. 9:8), several end scrapers (Pl. 9:11-16), side scrapers (Pl. 9:17-19), small unifacial flake tools (Pl. 9:21), bifaces (Pl. 9:22,23) and wedges (Pl. 9:24-26). Historic items such as a musket ball (Pl. 9:20) and trade beads (Pl. 9:27) were found in the 0-3" levels of the site. No physical stratigraphy was inherent in the clay soil.

Artifacts of this phase from the Snake Arm Inlet site are as follows: from the 3-6" level were recovered a quartz biface (Pl. 8:11), an end scraper (Pl. 8:10), a pipe bowl (Pl. 8:9) and a shoulder-neck sherd (Pl. 8:8). In the upper or 0-3" level trade beads are represented (Pl. 8:7), triangular projectile points (Pl. 8:1) plus one side and two end scrapers (Pl. 8:2,3,5). As well, a quartz biface (Pl. 8:4) and a small unifacial tool are present (Pl. 8:6).

It is interesting to note that George Hunt (1940:8-9) depicts a Nipissing trading route along the north shore of Lake Superior up the Michipicoten River to the Missinaibi and down the Missinaibi River to the Moose River and James Bay. The return route is up the Abitibi River over the height of land and down the Sturgeon River to Lake Nipissing. This route does not conflict with the archaeological evidence and would go far towards explaining the influence of Late Ontario Iroquois pottery in northeastern Ontario.

The Pansy Island Site (Undefined Algonquian Phase)

The ceramics and lithics from Pansy Island (Cillm-1) differ markedly from the Snake Arm Inlet and Sandbar phase materials.

The Pansy Island site is located on Biscotasi Lake, part of the Spanish River System flowing into Lake Huron. It is located not far from the previously described Riordan site. Four two meter squares were excavated during testing operations.

Significant in regards to this site are the almost exclusive use of grey to black chert for tool manufacture, the wide, broad based projectiles (Pl. 10:5,6) associated with Mackinac ware ceramics (McPherron 1967) (Pl. 10:1-4). These could date the site circa 1200 A.D. - 1300 A.D. The Pansy Island site shows little similarity to the Snake Arm and Sandbar phase materials some 100 miles to the northwest. Pansy Island appears to represent an undefined regional phase closely related to late Woodland sites in Michigan (McPherron 1967). Other artifacts from the site include: a corner notched point (Pl. 10:7), end scrapers (Pl. 10:8-10,12,13,17,20), side scrapers (Pl. 10:11,14), unifaces (Pl. 10:19), biface fragments (Pl. 10:16,18), random utilized flakes (Pl. 10:20-22) and a wedge (Pl. 10:15).

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over cord decorated ceramics (Pl. 13:1,2,4,5). The smoothed over cord ceramics do not fit well into either the Blackduck or Selkirk traditions and appear to represent a new or aberrant type (J. V. Wright, pers. comm.).

Some native copper is present (P1. 13:26) as are large hammerstones and anvil stones (not illustrated). Finally, small bifaces are present (P1. 13:22), (Pollock 1973b:6). Dominant manufacturing materials are red, black, brown and grey lowland cherts with many pieces showing signs of thermal alteration. The Valentine site can be dated by a late prehistoric Huron rim sherd to 1450 A.D. (P1. 13:3). Most of the sites relating to this phase may be located on medium to large sized lakes forming headwaters of the Mose River tributaries. As little survey work has been done on these river systems, settlement pattern of riverine orientated sites remains a mystery.

Duck Bay Site (Valentine Phase) -- Related to late prehistoric Cree, the materials from the Duck Bay site are later in age than those of the Valentine and Phipp's sites and represent the termination of the Valentine phase. The Duck Bay site (DiId-12) is located in Nagagamisis Provincial Park, part of the Nagagami River system which flows into James Bay via the Albany River (Pollock 1973a). Thus it represents an entirely different drainage basin than the Phipp's and Valentine sites which are on the Moose River drainage system. The Duck Bay site contains punctated pottery (Pl. 14:1-2) with somewhat smoothed over cord maleated bodies (Pl. 14:3). The Duck Bay pottery bears some resemblance to the Clearwater Lake punctate pottery type of the Clearwater Lake phase (Hlady 1970:111). Hlady relates this phase to the Woodland Cree during the early historic and late prehistoric periods 1200 A.D. to 1780 A.D. (Hlady 1970:114,121). The pottery also bears some resemblance to Blackduck and like the Valentine ceramics appears to represent an aberrant or new type. Drills are present (Pl. 14:4,5) as are end and side scrapers (Pl. 14:6,7). Small unifaces (Pl. 14:8,9) are present as are linear flakes (Pl. 14:10) and bifaces (Pl. 14:11,16). Cores were very frequent at the site, most showing signs of thermal alteration (Pl. 14:12-15). Finally some small reddishbrown trade beads were recovered during excavations (Pl. 14:17).

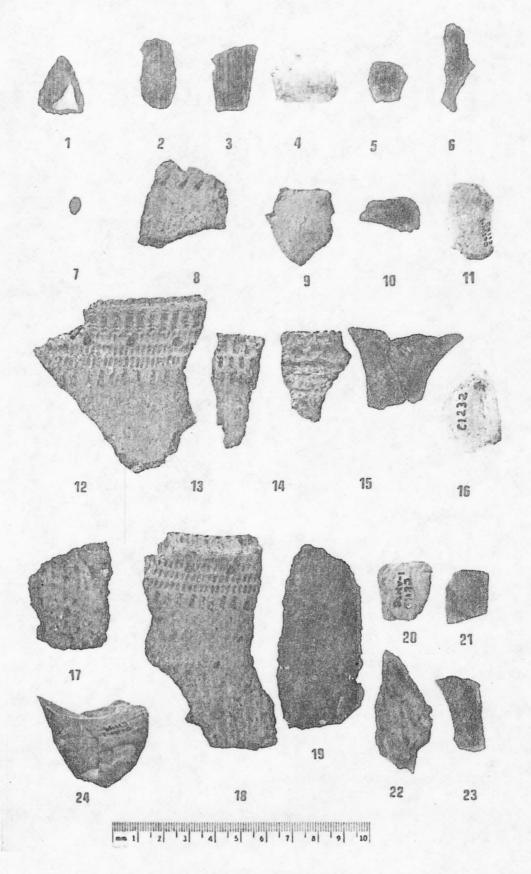


PLATE 8: Specimens of the Sandbar Phase (Numbers 1 to 11) and the Snake Arm Inlet Phase (Numbers 12 to 23)

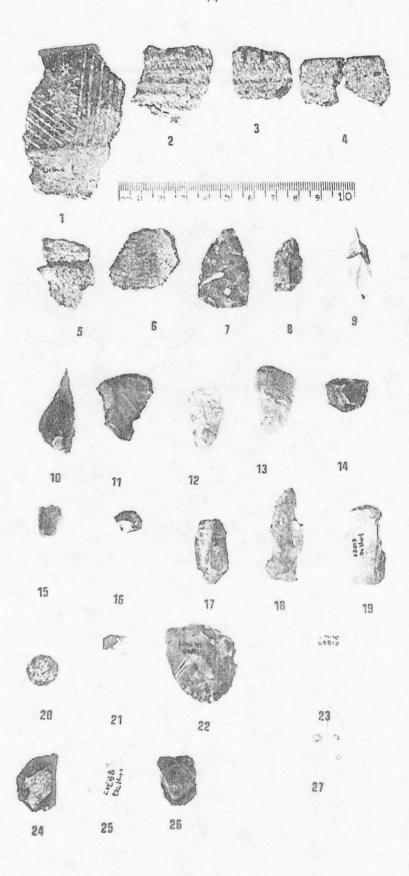


PLATE 9: Specimens of the Sandbar Phase, from the Sandbar Site (DcHu-1)

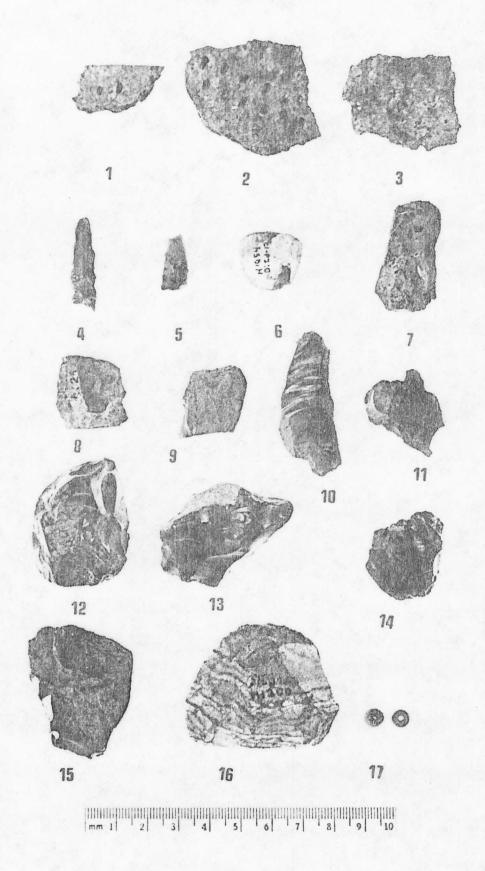


PLATE 14: Representative Artifacts from the Duck Bay Site (DiId-12)