

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE ALBANY RIVER; YEAR 2:

TRIANGULAR LAKE TO WASHI LAKE

by

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Although extensively tested in a grid pattern, only two of the shovel tests produced materials. Both of these tests were at the extreme north end of the site at the edge of the terrace. Each yielded a single Hudson Bay Lowland chert micro thinning flake. There is much recent activity evident in the area with glass and tin containers found throughout the area. A tent frame with a rusted tin stove is situated at the north end of the site. Just to the west of the site is a winter portage, which ends at EjIx-4.

The cultural affiliations of this site are prehistoric of unknown affinity and modern.

#### EjIx-4 (Dominion Day Site)

This site is located on the west bank of the Eabamet River across the river from the point where EjIx-1 is found. There is a slight bend in the river here with a set of navigable rapids 200 metres downstream from the site. Vegetation consists of a mixed canopy of poplar, birch, and white spruce, with rose, willow, and small poplar also present. Inland vegetation is thick black spruce forest. The five to fifteen centimetres thick humus is underlain by a matrix of light sandy rock-bearing clay. Some fifteen metres back from the terrace edge, this matrix passes from light sandy clay to a heavy granular clay. Artifacts were found on the terrace two metres above the present water level.

There has been recent activity in the area and much of the known site area has been partially cleared. The downstream end of the winter portage, which begins at EjIx-3, is found on the edge of the site. Recent camping debris is scattered over the area, with broken-down tent and drying frames, bottles, cans, plastic debris, and "Pampers" diapers visible.

Ceramic material from the site includes two rims judged to come from juvenile vessels (Figures 10a-b,11), and a single, poorly-made, cord-wrapped object impressed rim sherd (Figures 10c,11). The first juvenile rim is smoothed on both the interior and exterior and has a notched lip with irregularly placed exterior punctates that do not produce bosses. The rim is 0.22 cm to 0.31 cm thick at the lip, 0.58 cm thick one centimetre below the lip, and thickest (0.65 cm) at the neck. The lip is slightly outflaring. The vessel has a small amount of fine mineral temper. The other juvenile rim is smoothed on both the interior and exterior surfaces and is undecorated. The lip is inflaring and 0.29 cm thick at the lip, 0.42 cm thick one centimetre below the lip, and thickest (0.45 cm) at the neck. The cord-wrapped object impressed rim is poorly made. The exterior and the lip are fabric impressed, while the interior is roughly smoothed. Cord-wrapped object impressions are found running roughly vertical on the exterior and obliquely across the irregularly smoothed lip. The rim contains a small amount of mineral temper and is 0.76 cm thick at the lip and 0.54 cm thick one centimetre below the lip.

✓ The two beads recovered from the site are a red, six sided, seed bead and a robins egg blue seed bead. No worked or utilized lithics were recovered from the site. Table 3 enumerates the material recovered from the shovel tests placed in a five metre grid across the site.

Table 3: EjIx-4 artifact frequencies

Item	F	%
Lithics	(44)	(26.4)
HBL chert micro flakes	30	18.0
HBL chert thinning flakes	9	5.4
HBL chert decortication flake	1	0.6
HBL chert core reduction flake	1	0.6
HBL chert shatter flake	1	0.6
quartzite shatter flake	1	0.6
quartzite thinning flake	1	0.6
Ceramics	(55)	(32.9)
sherdlets	35	21.0
fabric impressed body sherds	14	8.3
exfoliated body sherds	3	1.7
juvenile rim sherds	2	1.1
cord-wrapped object impressed rim sherd	1	0.6
Bone	(65)	(38.9)
bone fragments	65	38.9
Historic	( 3)	( 1.7)
glass seed beads	2	1.1
Dominion twelve-gauge shotgun shell	1	0.6
Totals	167	99.9

This site is rich, with 20 of 42 shovel tests yielding material. The recent activity that has taken place on this site is destroying the archaeological resources, and steps should be taken to sample the site before further destruction occurs.

The known cultural affiliations of the site are Terminal Woodland and modern use.

#### EjIx-5 (Winter Road Site)

The Winter Road site is found on the east side of the exit of Eabamet Lake into the Eabamet River. The site is on a low northwest trending point. There is an island off-shore near the centre of the river. The vegetation is predominantly poplar with birch, rose, alder, and willow growing thickly in the area. The vegetation has been disturbed by a winter road on the site's southern margin along the shore. The thin humus is underlain by a black sand, laden with organic material. A yellow/white sand is found below this black sand.

impressions have been impressed after the upper oblique impressions. This is the only rim from the Albany River that shows the flaring of the lip to have been done prior to the exterior decoration of the vessel.

The cultural affiliations of the site are either late Archaic or Initial Woodland, Terminal Woodland, and modern use.

#### EiIt-1 (Claim Point Site)

This site is located on the northern shore near the western end of the western arm of Washi Lake. The site is situated on the tip of a south-east facing point on and behind a gently sloping rock outcrop. The site faces the open water of the lake to the southeast. A deep reed-choked bay is to the north of the point. The vegetation of the site is mixed poplar and white spruce canopy with smaller spruce, rose, alder, and saskatoon forming the low bush. Grasses and moss form the low growth, especially on the back edge of the outcrop. Behind the outcrop the soil consists of five to ten centimetres of humus underlain by a brown clay.

Heavy recent use has been made of the area with a wooden tent frame, tins, bottles, and camp activity visible. There are two recent squared claim posts at the tip of the point. Aboriginal artifacts recovered include a single Hudson Bay Lowland chert thinning flake from a shovel test behind the outcrop. From the surface a riveted metal object of unknown function (Figure 28a) and a portion of a copper kettle (Figure 28b), which has been cut from the rim portion of the kettle, were found. The vessel is 0.11 cm thick and has a rolled lip with a perforation presumed to be a suspension hole below the lip.

The cultural affiliations of the site are prehistoric of unknown affinity, historic, and modern use.

#### EiIs-1 (Gloucester House)

Gloucester House is a major inland Hudson's Bay Company Post on Washi Lake, established in 1777 and finally abandoned in 1818. The site was first recorded by K. C. A. Dawson in 1969 (Dawson 1976: 72), and revisited in 1976 by B.M. Newton and J. A. Mountain, at which time a large beach collection and a pace-and-compass map was made. A description of the site and artifacts and a background on Gloucester House has been published (Newton and Mountain 1980). In the 1979 field season, Balmer mapped the site with a transit and recorded a number of previously un-recorded features (Balmer 1980: 13-16, Figure 6). The map is reproduced in this report (Figure 5).

Artifacts recovered during the 1979 season came from the water's edge below the low bank at the site and included a pipe stem with a bore diameter of 0.195 cm (Figure 28c); a white porcelain bead (Figure 28d), 1.59 cm long, and 0.62 cm in diameter, with a 0.155 cm bore; and a heavily worn George II (1727-60) half-penny (Figure 28e). The half-penny is a Type One, young bust, and dates between the period 1727 and 1739 (Craig 1966: 347). A flat headless object, apparently a nail (Figure 28f), 7.93 cm long, 1.04 cm wide at the top, and 0.47 cm thick at the top, was also recovered. No testing was undertaken as the site is well documented; however, a metal detector scan revealed the presence of many concentrations of metal objects in the site area.

Gloucester House would appear to be presently undisturbed, but is highly visible and hence vulnerable to looting. The considerations in protecting a resource of this nature in an isolated area should not be based on the economics of gaining access by plane to monitor the site. The very publication of the location of the site may be questioned by some; however, it is hoped that public education, augmented by frequent patrolling of the site, will afford it the protection it deserves. Arrangements with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for regular monitoring of the site are presently nearing completion.

#### EiIs-2 (Washi Lake Site)

This site, first recorded by K. C. A. Dawson in 1969 (Dawson 1976: 72), is located on a southeast facing sand beach on the north shore near the central portion of the western lobe of Washi Lake. The vegetation of the site is mixed poplar and spruce, with willow, rose, and saskatoon forming the low growth. Recent clearing and regrowth has altered the vegetation in the area. Behind the beach there is a 15 centimetres thick humus growth underlain by a grey clay.

Much recent activity has taken place on the site. A mining camp with rock samples, tables, frames, and garbage occupies an area some 20 metres square behind the central portion of the beach. Aboriginal materials, all beach recoveries, include six thinning flakes, two micro thinning flakes, a shatter flake, and two projectile points. All of the materials are of Hudson Bay Lowland chert. One point is complete (Figure 28g), 4.06 cm long, 1.84 cm wide, and 0.61 cm thick, with asymmetrical side notches. The area below the right notch appears to have broken away during manufacture. This area has been thinned. The second point (Figure 28h) is side-notched, has a roughly straight basally-thinned base, and is missing its tip. Maximum dimensions are 3.84 cm long, 2.20 cm wide, and 0.77 cm thick. This point would fit well into Archaic or early Initial Woodland period materials. The material recovered reinforces Dawson's opinion that the site is a product of the Shield Archaic culture (Dawson 1976: 72).

The cultural affiliations of the site are either late Archaic or early Initial Woodland, and modern use.

#### EiIs-3 (Floating Bottle Site)

This site, first recorded by Barry Newton in 1976, is directly across the narrows to the south of Gloucester House at the east end of the Washi Lake narrows. The site is on and behind an east-facing beach on a small point. The vegetation of the site is mixed poplar, black spruce, alder, and willow with a thick moss and labrador tea ground cover. A thick yellow/brown clay occurs below 15 centimetres of moss and humus in the flat area behind the beach.



Little recent activity was noted at the site with only a few tin cans found on the surface of the moss. The following artifact descriptions include those from Newton's 1976 collection and from the 1979 season. Materials include a tubular white porcelain bead (Figure 29a), 2.92 cm long and 0.49 cm in diameter, with a bore hole of 0.16 cm and an iron spike (Figure 29b), 12.68 cm long and 0.66 cm square below the head, with the rounded head 0.70 by 0.77 cm. Other materials include four mended articulating fragments of a hand-blown green glass "Kick-up" bottle, which has air bubbles and swirls. The glass ranges from 0.49 to 0.97 cm thick, is heavily patinated, and on one sherd the basal portion of the exterior of the "Kick-up" is present. Two barrel hoop fragments, respectively 2.57 cm wide and 0.27 cm thick and 3.11 cm wide and 0.22 cm thick, came from the water out from the beach. A piece of cut copper kettle, 0.10 cm thick, was recovered from a test pit behind the beach.

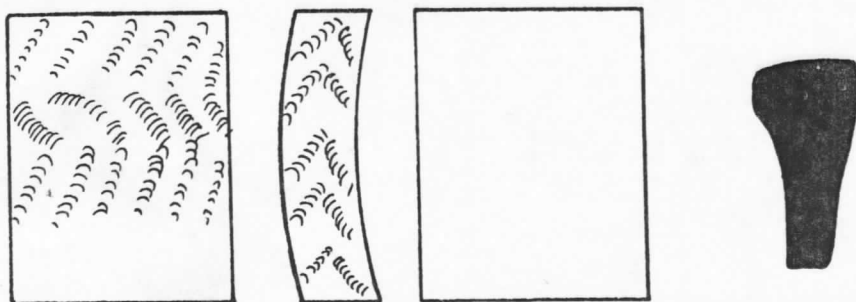
From the point tip near the bank, a complete square-bladed iron spade (Figure 6) was recovered. The spade is made from two pieces of iron plate forged together at the sides and end and partially forged at the top. The central area of the top portion has been spread to create a socket into which a wooden handle was inserted. Above the main body on both the dorsal and ventral faces are flanges to support the handle. There is a single rivet that passes through the handle to affix it to the body of the spade. Across the top on either side of the handle, there is a reinforcing section of iron plate that also serves as a foot rest. The above description is virtually identical to that provided by B.M. Newton (Newton and Mountain 1980: 71, Fig.41) for two portions of spades recovered at Gloucester House in 1976. However, here the similarity ceases and the problems of function and morphology arise. A 9.00 cm long heavy iron spike has been hammered through the shovel face and welded fast to the back of the artifact. The spike is sharp, but not necessarily sharpened, and has been bent upwards. The angle formed between the spike and the blade is about 75°, but it is uncertain whether the bend is intentional or whether the upward bend results from use or post-depositional modification. A request for information relating to artifact including complete metrics and a discussion of its function (Riddle 1979:27-28) produced no positive reply. It must remain a problematical tool.

Aboriginal materials include a Hudson Bay Lowland chert core and a fragmentary Hudson Bay Lowland chert projectile point (Figure 29c). The maximum dimensions for the point are 4.00 cm long, 2.24 cm wide, and 0.76 cm thick. It is not possible to assign a cultural affiliation to the point.

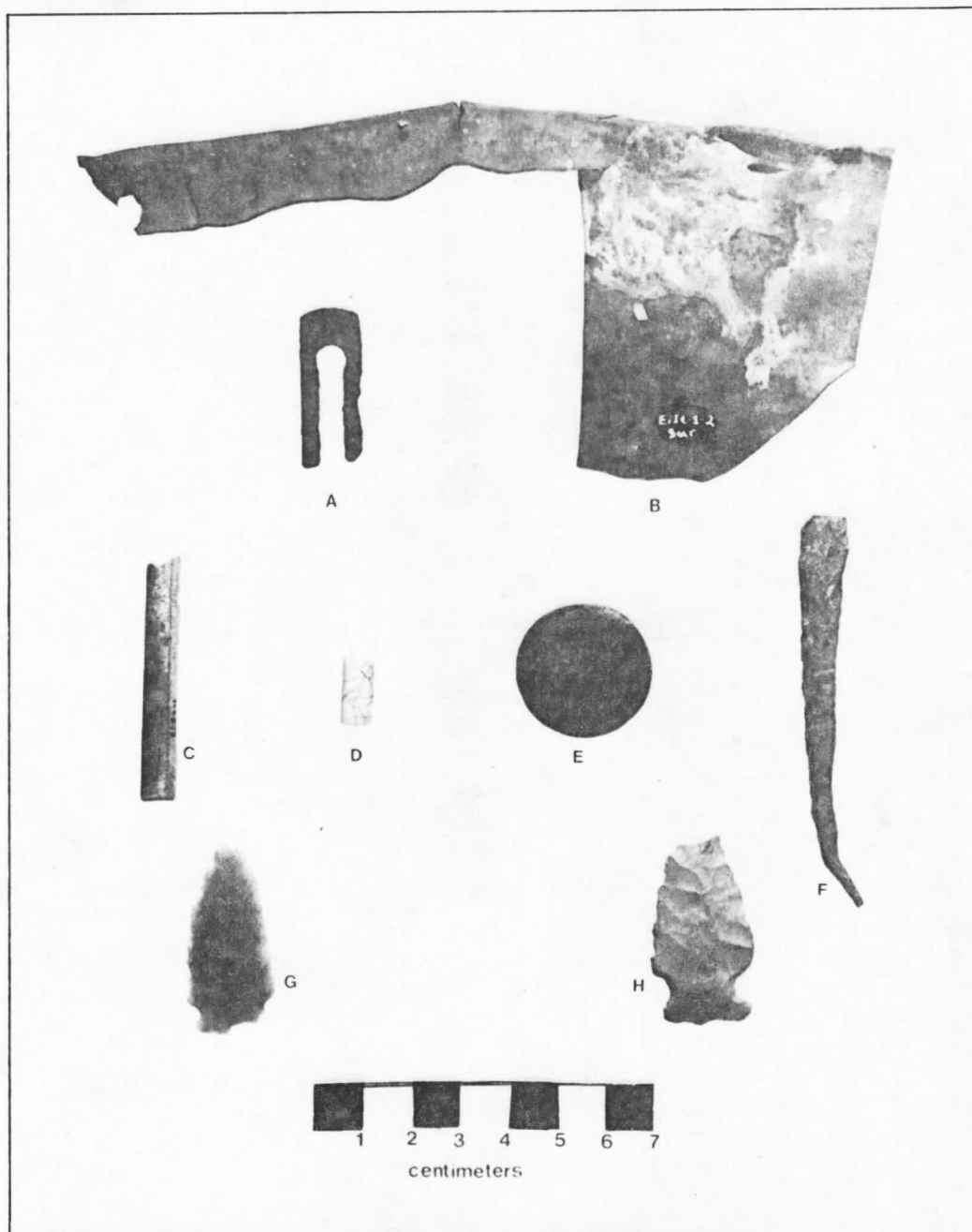
The cultural affiliations of this site are prehistoric of unknown affinity and fur trade historic, likely relating to the occupation of Gloucester House across the narrows.

#### EiIs-4 (Twin Island Site)

This site is located on a long sand and cobble beach, one and one-half kilometres northwest of the narrows of Washi Lake in the western lobe of the lake. There are two small off-shore islands at the western end of the site. The western area of the site is a swampy point with thick willow,



VI-27: Visual attributes of ceramic rim sherd from EhIt-7. (Figure 26c).



VI-28: Artifacts from EhIt-1, EiIs-1, and EiIs-2: (a) riveted metal object of unknown function; (b) EhIt-1, portion of copper kettle; (c) EiIs-1, kaolin pipe stem; (d) EiIs-1, porcelain bead; (e) EiIs-1, George II British half-penny, Type 2; (f) EiIs-1, headless nail; (g) EiIs-2, projectile point, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; and (h) EiIs-2, projectile point, Hudson Bay Lowland chert.



VI-29: Artifacts from EiIs-3, EiIs-4, EiIs-8, EiIr-1, and EiIr-2: (a) EiIs-3, porcelain bead; (b) EiIs-3, iron spike, (c) EiIs-3, projectile point, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; (d) EiIs-4, projectile point, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; (e) EiIs-8, end scraper, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; (f) EiIr-1, projectile point, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; (g) EiIr-1, oval strike-a-light; (h) EiIr-1, English gun flint; (i) EiIr-1, end scraper, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; (j) EiIr-1, retouched flake, Hudson Bay Lowland chert; and (k) EiIr-2, retouched flake, Hudson Bay Lowland chert.