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INVESTIGATIONS
AT
WAPISU LAKE
1972 TO 1976

by

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Historic Remains

Remains of some 56 items of modern manufacture were found, mostly in Level 1 (litter and humus layer), in all but three of the excavation units (Table 10 and 11). Glass beads were the only artifacts found in Level 2, and these are the tiny blue and white sorts which are still used on contemporary crafts. Four features contained modern debris, including 72-1 (Unit A), 72-2 (Unit F), 72-8 (Unit M) and 72-10 (Unit N).

Porcelain

Fragments from one-half of a shallow white bowl or soup plate with blue floral motif (transfer), bearing part of a trade mark including the words "Earthen" and "Canada" came from Unit M (Level 1 and Feature 72-8). Five pieces from a pink, glazed, undecorated saucer (?) were found in Unit F (Level 1).

Plastic

Fragments from a small yellow plastic plate; partial labels from two small white containers bearing the words "23 Inspec." in green on one, and on the other, "Canada Approved, Est. 23" in blue ink; one brown hair pin; a small black fine-toothed comb with teeth along opposite edges; one tooth from a large translucent comb and two buttons, were scattered over the excavation area. None of the plastic items were recovered from Features.

TABLE 10

Historic Artifacts From Test Excavations

	UNITS													TOTALS
	S*	A	B	C	D	F	G	H	J	K	M	N		
Ceramic						3					9		12+ (2 vessels)	
Glass:														
phials		4				1							5+ (3 containers)	
beads	1		2				6			1			10	
button							1						1	
Plastic:														
dish											1		1+	
hairpin					1								1	
combs						1			1				2	
buttons			1			1					1		3	
Rubberized Fabric								1					1+	
Leather Strap							1						1+	
Brass:														
grommet		1											1	
.22 casing		1											1	
.30 casing						1							1	
"bullet shell"		1											1	
Lead: "bullet"						1							1	
Metal:														
common nails			1			5		1			1		8	
slot-head screw						1							1	
wood-staple		1											1	
dinner knife						1	1						2	
tea spoon				1									1	
container lids	1	1									1		3	
tin can											4		4+ (1 can)	
cut strips	1	2			1	1						2	7+	
coiled wire						1							1	
ring fastener						1							1	
electrical contact											1		1	
Total Number of Items per Unit	5	6	4	1	2	18	9	2	0	2	18	2	69 (56 artifacts)	

* surface or beach finds

+ refers to numbers of fragments; the number of artifacts represented is given in brackets, when known.

Glass

Basal fragments from three slender, cylindrical, thin-walled phials are described as bead containers, apparently used by the local Cree. Other items include 10 beads and one white opaque button. The beads range in both size and colour. Those with diameters of 2 mm are most common, including 4 royal blue, one peacock blue and two white. Two off-white beads are slightly larger (3 mm) in diameter, while the largest bead (6 mm) is a pale blue. The bead containers were recovered from Features 72-1 and 72-2 and do not co-occur with the beads.

Leather

Only one fragment of leather was found, and this is a strip cut from either a belt or strap, with some of the buckle holes remaining.

Rubber

A single fragment of rubberized fabric appears to have been purposefully cut from a larger item.

Metal

Metal artifacts were the most common modern recovery and include a variety of eating utensils, as well as ammunition, carpentry items, and containers. These are summarized in Table 4. Metal artifacts were recovered from a number of Features, including 72-1 (Unit A), 72-2 (Unit F), 72-8 (Unit M) and 72-10 (Unit N).