

Based solely on the surface collection of stone projectile points and scrapers, native copper and remnants of historic trade goods, archaeologists have accumulated evidence of the importance of MacLeod Park and its surrounds to indigenous peoples inhabiting this area over at least the past 3000 years. The significance of the area as indicated by the documented surface remains of prehistoric peoples' seasonal passage here, and likely seasonal occupancy, corresponds with traditional knowledge that the Elders of present day Aboriginal inhabitants in the Kenogamisis (meaning Little Long Lake) area relay to new generations.

A key and telling clue in the archaeological record that indicates the longstanding importance of the MacLeod Park area is the fact that the archaeologically significant evidence we have is representative of every period of the prehistoric cultural development of peoples in this part of North America that we know of, dating back to the middle Archaic Period.

Surface findings have included a "groundstone" piece that is one of only two found in all of Northwestern Ontario (the other was discovered on a Lake Superior Island) that has its origins in the maritime region. Indicative of the fact that this area was a choice one of small, highly mobile, family based groups of specialized hunting bands whose life-ways were very much attuned to the varying opportunities the environment afforded, are the discovered remnants of the subsistence related ingenuity and industriousness of these nomadic northern woodlands adapted cultures.

Discoveries as late as the early 1980's have included small rectangular blanks of copper believed to have been the most convenient form for the metals' transportation and trade. This malleable metal was valuable for the many possible uses. Typically it was worked into implements such as needles, awls, hooks and specialized cutting edges.

Our research, to date, leaves us with a sense that not only was the Kenogamisis a place where bands would seasonally locate fairly consistently over long reaches of time but it could well have been an area where trade-wares and tools were both cached and bartered.

It is interesting to note that the remnants that archaeologists have recorded from the MacLeod Area indicative of cultural presence during the historic period includes evidence of trade goods representative of even the earliest phase of this period.

The MacLeod Park area is definitely an archaeologically special area. The lay of land and water has provided it with ages old value as an area for fishing and enjoying the other bounties of the seasons. There is every reason to encourage the visiting public to refrain from disturbing but, rather, to report to Park staff the

whereabouts of anything that they have encountered in their land and water travels in and around the park that could contribute to the story that the forests and lakes whisper about the wise and courageous peoples it has known.

This story from the archaeological record will be all the richer and our quest to learn about past inhabitants of this area will be aided by many more well informed minds, eyes and ears if we are enabled to properly represent..to graphically display and otherwise interpret to our visitors and ourselves, the nature and meaning of previously collected signs of important prehistoric and significant historic human activity in this values-rich, ages-old, "coming together" area.