

## Archaeologists discover ancient Manitoba site

A small research team of Manitoba archaeologists and volunteers have discovered what may be one of the most important archaeological finds in the province.

Provincial Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources Minister Norma Price said the team has uncovered evidence of human activity dating back 8,000 years — some 5,500 years earlier than the "Golden Age of Greece" in the fifth century B.C. Mrs. Price said it was a rich find, with some 6,000 artifacts uncovered.

The team is led by Winnipeg archaeologist Dr. A.P. Buchner, who was hired by the Manitoba government as project archaeologist during the three-year, \$168,000 examination of the Winnipeg River sites.

Many archaeological sites along the Winnipeg River were flooded by dam construction after the turn of the century. Recent construction and repairs at Seven Sisters, built in 1931, and Great Falls, built in 1922, required that water levels be lowered for a three-year period, beginning last fall, to the extent that some of the archaeological sites are again above water.

The site that has been worked on this

year was brought to the attention of archaeologists in 1976 by Warren Sinnock of Great Falls, after whom the site was named. Up to 11 archaeological students and volunteers have been working on the site, which is along the east bank of the Winnipeg River, above the Great Falls dam.

### Evidence of man

Dr. Buchner says there is some evidence of man in Manitoba at least 8,000 years ago. Ten miles west of McArthur Falls on the Winnipeg River, a mammoth bone which had been worked into a tool was found over 30 years ago, thus clearly pointing to a considerable antiquity for man in the province.

The bone is now in the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. Various kinds of spearheads and other stone tools which, by their shape, appear to date to the earliest or "Paleo-Indian" stage, have been found across the southern half of the province; however, only two other Paleo-Indian sites have been excavated archaeologically, and the Sinnock Site is the first to produce the full range of tools in a sub-surface context.

The 6,000 artifacts from the site include numerous spearheads, large knives, scraping tools and axes suggesting that hunting, butchering, hide preparation and probably cooking took place at or near the site.

The age of the site and the large amounts of natural acids in these forest soils have resulted in the almost total destruction of organic remains — thus closing the door to many important lines of analysis. Nonetheless, an exhaustive investigation of the stone tools, the site soils, chemical and radioactive analysis of the few scraps of animal bone recovered, and an examination of the distribution of the different kinds of artifacts has been made.

Laboratory research on the findings is presently being carried out at the University of Winnipeg.

## Farmers help farmers

Farmers from Canada and two East African countries are pioneering a practical new kind of international co-operation during 1981.

The Farmers Helping Farmers Exchange Program is being partly funded by a \$208,860 grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan has announced.

The program enabled a group of 22 Prince Edward Island family farmers to spend three weeks in Kenya and Tanzania during January. In August a similar group of African farmers will visit Prince Edward Island. In both settings, the visitors will live and work with their hosts on family farms. They will learn about common problems, share valuable experience, and gain first-hand knowledge of a variety of agricultural efforts. They will also do the groundwork for future development projects.

The exchange program, supported by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union, is a people's initiative which should generate broader knowledge and support of international development among a significant segment of the population of the Maritime provinces, as well as strengthen agricultural co-operation. Members of both groups will take part in extensive briefing programs, and are expected to report back to many community groups after the exchange.



Archaeologist Dr. A.P. Buchner (left) and Cultural Affairs and Historical Resources Minister Norma Price (right) examine some arrow-heads and other artifacts which were discovered at the Sinnock archaeological site. In the background are photos of the discovery site with students working on the recovery operation. About 6,000 artifacts recovered at this site make it one of the richest archaeological finds of the decade in Manitoba, giving evidence of human activity dating back 8,000 years.