

Brunswick's History

possibly indicates a great change in the path of the Miramichi River.

Finally several large pits were dug, the largest about 42 meters square and 2 meters deep. The archaeologists use a technique known as "shovel-shining". Shovels are used for digging until an artifact, large or small, is unearthed. The digger then switches to a trowel, and at this level starts scraping the soil away. Other tools, such as brushes, tweezers, and grapefruit knives are also used.

Every object found is labelled and its position noted on a map. As well, man-made disturbances in the ground, called "features", are studied and mapped. These include such things as hearths and fire-places, garbage and storage pits, and postholes.

The majority of artifacts found here are small arrowheads and pieces of pottery, which have been partially reconstructed by the workers. As well, some organic garbage and small copper tools have been discovered. Generally, the deeper you dig, the older the layer of soil and any artifacts contained in it are. Some objects have been radio-carbon dated at 2300 years of age. However Allen said that they are still in the process of dating many objects and that it is likely people were here at least 10,000 years ago.

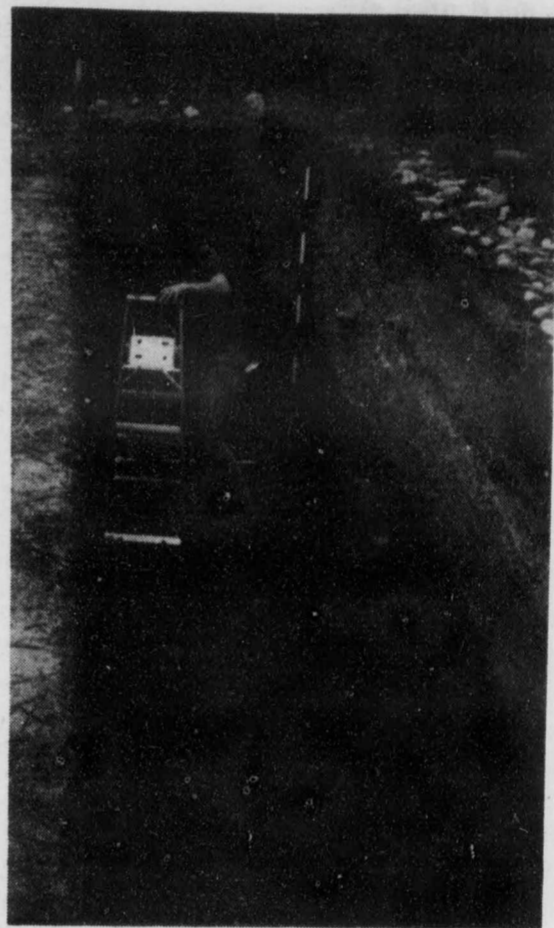
While, like everything else, perhaps not as glamorous as in the movies, archaeology is hard work but "fun", one of the workers said. "The more we piece together about New Brunswick's prehistory, the better we will ultimately understand the present."



The Shovel-Shining technique at work

The Anthropology Society is going to show a film entitled "The Man Hunters" at 12:30 on Wednesday, October 4, in Carleton 217. Everyone is welcome, bring your lunch and coffee will be served.

Story & Photos
by
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One of the deeper Oxbow pits

A special thanks to Frances Stewart for help with this article.



A student archaeologist taking a break



All soil is sifted or screened to catch any overlooked artifacts