

Prince Edward Island's Oldest Artefact

By Jack Sorensen

My dad, Aage Sorensen, was born in Hegring, Denmark, on May 14, 1910.

At the age of 18, Aage decided to emigrate, arrived in Tryon, PEI and found employment with Arthur Howatt as a farm labourer.

An important event occurred in Dad's life but he was never aware of its significance. In 1938, while picking potatoes on the farm of Albro Howatt, Dad found what he thought to be an Indian arrow head and brought it home and placed it in his shaving kit, where it remained for the rest of his life.

After becoming more interested in the artefact in 1984, I showed it to amateur historian and jeweller, Byron Burns. He immediately contacted archaeologist, Dr. David Keenlyside who identified it as a 10,600 year old Paleo-Indian spear point. This discovery created an intense amount of interest and a story was written in the Island Magazine #16 by Dr. Keenlyside. After reading the article, Roma (Howatt) MacKay, granddaughter of Mr. Howatt, called me to say she had been with Dad when he found the point. She later led Byron Burns, Dr. John Maloney, and me to the exact spot where the point was found.

The spear point, found in the upper reaches of the Tryon River, is evidence of people visiting this area about 11,000 years ago.

Tryon and Area Historical Society

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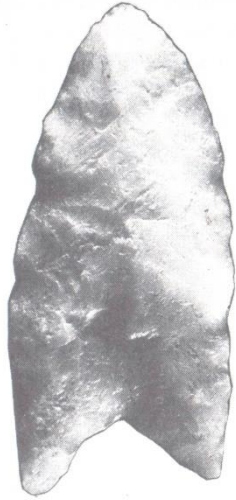
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Called the Paleo-Indians, these people had originally migrated from Asia by way of the Bearing Straits. They were part of a culture that existed in North America as far back as 18,000 years, and maybe even beyond. Nomadic in nature, they explored the entire North American continent, leaving behind Stone Age implements and charcoal remains of their campfires. They were hunters, following herds of walrus, caribou and other animals which were necessary for their survival in this harsh climate.

The landscape at that time would have looked different than it does today. Scientists tell us that much of North America was covered with vast icefields and the water levels would perhaps be as much as 100 feet lower than current levels. Most of what is now the Northumberland Strait was connected to the rest of the continent.

It is believed that the people who dropped this spear point had walked across Strait from Debert, Nova Scotia, heading towards greener areas in western PEI. People of this ancient culture traversed this ice bridge, hunting and exploring this virgin territory, and leaving this important artefact behind in what is now Tryon.

The Tryon & Area

Historical Society Inc. is

dedicated to the collection,

preservation, and promotion

of the human and natural

history of the area.

We're on the web:

tryonareahistoricalsociety.com

Mi'kmaq Presence on Prince Edward Island

By Tammy MacDonald,

Research Director, MCPEI,

10 Nov 2010

Mi'kmaq oral history tells the story of the world being covered with water.

Sebanees arrived on Prince Edward Island in his boat of ice, carrying all the animals and fish his Mi'kmaq family would need to survive.

Archaeological campsites containing fragments of fish, seal, bear, beaver and stone tools, dating from 300 to 10,000 years ago, have been found in a number of places throughout PEI, including Rustico Island, Greenwich, and Hog Island. Shell middens, containing oysters, clams, other shellfish, were first remarked upon by PEI's British settlers in the early 1800's. So, both Mi'kmaq oral history and archeological records clearly agree: the ancestors of the Mi'kmaq arrived in Mi'kma'ki, including PEI, at least 12,000 years ago, most likely following the caribou, and other large land mammals, as well as the plants growing on the edges of the retreating ice of the last Ice Age.

Contact with Europeans brought about many changes to the Mi'kmaq people of the Island. Life became one of feast and famine. Besides the radical and rapid decline of population due to diseases, the majority of the Mi'kmaq now oriented their lives towards the collection and exchanging of furs for an ever-expanding assortment of European goods, some of which made the Mi'kmaq lives easier – copper pots instead of tree stumps and heated rocks, iron knives instead of flaked stone; some made life harder – liquor.

Arrival of the French on Mi'kma'ki (Prince Edward Island)

By Tammy MacDonald,
Research Director, MCPEI,
10 Nov 2010

The French considered the Mi'kmaq to be Allies of their Nation; treating the Mi'kmaq, for the most part, on a Nation-to-Nation basis. Isle St. Jean (as Prince Edward Island was first known) commandants were urged to treat the Mi'kmaq with respect and kindness. The French military outpost of Port La Joye (near Charlottetown) was the scene of annual celebrations and giving of presents between the French and the Mi'kmaq celebrating their alliance. The small population of Acadians, with no big attempts to colonize Isle St. Jean until the mid- 1700's, ensured the Mi'kmaq were able to maintain their traditional way of life. Furthermore, there are many oral stories, as well as some documents, in both the Island Acadian and Mi'kmaq communities, that talk about the interaction between these two cultures. One can almost picture the Acadians arriving on Isle St Jean, confronted with a seemingly endless amount of backbreaking work to even produce enough food to live – being befriended by the Mi'kmaq and helped to survive.

Remembering Millie R. Gamble: Teacher, Nurse, Photographer, Naturalist

Monday, August 15, 2016

Time: 1:30 – 5pm

Place: Millie Gamble Road, then Tryon Baptist Church

Come celebrate Millie's legacy, see her camera, pictures, diaries, postcards and more!

Acadians Settle Riviere des Blondes (Tryon River)

By Fran Albrecht (using information from 1752 Census)

The next people who gathered in the Tryon area were the Acadians (or Acadiens) in the early 1700's. According to the 1752 census, there were five families identified as living along the Tryon River, which at that time was called the Riviere des Blondes. Francois Renauld, his wife Francoise and their three daughters lived on the northwest shore of this river. Pierre Robichaud dit Cadet and wife, Suzanne, and their eight children also lived on the northwest shore. Three Bourg families (Alexandre, Francois and Jean), their wives and 16 children all lived on the east side of the river.

The census identified all five men as "ploughmen". Each family had a few cows, oxen and pigs, with clearings large enough to sow six bushels of wheat in the upcoming spring of 1753.

The Acadian families also farmed the salt marshes along the Riviere des Blondes. Evidence of their work is still visible in the marshes today. To harvest the marsh grass, they first had to stop the tremendous flow of the tides, through a system of dykes and dams. The name of the "Abido" bridge comes from the Acadian word "Aboiteau". An aboiteau is a hinged wooden sluice used to keep the salt water from flooding the marshes.



Samuel Holland

(photograph of oil on canvas) Artist Unknown
Date Unknown [Public Archives and Record Office of Prince Edward Island](#) 2320/6-4

Map Notes Acadian Homes

In a survey completed by Samuel Holland in 1764 – 1765, twenty buildings were noted on his map as belonging to Acadian settlers. We acknowledge the research done by historian Doug Sobey in identifying fairly accurately where those buildings were located. The land and river surrounding those properties is an important part of Tryon's landscape and is worthy of our respect. (Jack Sorensen, president TAHS)

In 1752, five Acadian families lived along the Riviere des Blondes, with clearings large enough to sow 6 bushels of wheat in the upcoming spring.

