

Abstract Submission for 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference

Title of Presentation:
Conservation Values of Archaeological Surveys of Rivers

Category: River Conservation

Presenter:

Virginia Petch
2739 Pembina Hwy
Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2H5
Phone/Fax: 204-231-8190
Email: vpetch@northernlightsheritageservices.ca

Abstract

The archaeological record is more than a collection of pretty colored arrowheads and other assorted artifacts. The record not only provides a cultural chronology of human occupation but also affords an opportunity to examine the types of animal resources that were used for food, tools and clothing. The presence of faunal and floral material in the archaeological assemblage can assist in determining the long or short-term presence of certain species within an ecoregion.

Biographical sketch:

Virginia was born in Winnipeg, MB and raised in Red Lake, Ontario. After a career as a Health Record Administrator at the Lake of the Woods District Hospital in Kenora, Ontario she returned to university graduating with degrees in Native Studies, Anthropology and Education from Lakehead University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Manitoba.

After a short career with the Manitoba Provincial Government she established Northern Lights Heritage Services in 1991. Since that time she has conducted field research and study in archaeology and anthropology across Manitoba, northwestern Ontario, northern Saskatchewan and Nunavut.

Virginia accredits her big break in archaeology to Gary Dickson, Historic Resources Branch, who in January 1987 popped his head around the corner of her office and asked her if she wanted to go for a trip on the Hayes River. That trip, which she considers to be the thrill of a lifetime, strengthened her commitment to First Nations and Aboriginal people.

Virginia is the recipient of the Prix Manitoba Award in heritage for communication and education. She has developed an Indoor Excavation© edu-kit which is used as a teaching aid in northern and inner city schools.