

Abstract Submission for 5th Canadian River Heritage Conference

Title of Presentation:

Heritage and History of the Cyril and Aiken River: Archaeological Evidence of Pre-Contact Seasonal Movement between Gull and Fox (Atkinson) lakes in northern Manitoba

Category: Celebrating River Heritage

Presenter:

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Abstract

Archaeological investigations of Gull and Fox Lakes resulted in the recovery of native pottery sherds of identical construction and surface treatment suggesting seasonal movement between the two areas by the same pot maker. The Cyril and Aiken rivers are examined as an alternative route to the Hayes River.

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.