A 5,000 year old human burial at *Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug*, Big Trout Lake, n. Ontario.

**Introduction**

In 1997, human skeletal remains were discovered along the north shore of Big Trout Lake at *Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug* in the *McKay First Nation* of n. Ontario. Discovered by people who were hunting near the lake, the remains were found on an esker ridge at location 2 that yielded two burials. The burial area is no more than 1 metre above the current bottom of Big Trout Lake, which drained through the Maniwaki River to a small stream mouth, with the protection offered by the Post Island, was a favoured location. The right portion of the mandibular molar tooth row in the was recovered under disturbed conditions. The excavation of the burial area involved the *McKay First Nation* and a team of archaeologists from the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The excavation followed standard archaeological protocol and was supervised by Arthur Hinshelwood. Artifacts were recovered from disturbed and contemporary contexts. The remains were given to Chief and Council at the *McKay First Nation*. The actual discovery location is defined by a wooden stake with LAT 50 28 54.856 137 05 10.0, while GPS-derived coordinates use NAD'83).

**The Site Location**

Big Trout Lake is the primary headwater lake of the Fraser River, a major river system that drains water from the majority of the Canadian Prairies and the southern portion of the northwest territories. The region is currently within the southwestern limits of the Laurentide Ice Sheet, which covered much of this area during the Last Glacial Maximum. Very little is known about the early postglacial landscape, and even less about the occupations of early humans in this region. It is not yet understood which factors were most important in determining where people went and what they did. The area is also part of a region that drains into Big Trout Lake. Local informants indicate that the river was a source of fish and game for the *McKay First Nation*. The lake was named by the *McKay First Nation*.

**The Nature of the Burial**

The ancient burials at both Wapekeka and Big Trout Lake were recovered in the same time period. Both burials are from the Late Archaic period. The nature of the burials and the artifacts found support the hypothesis that the people who occupied the *McKay First Nation* region had a seasonal lifestyle. The site at location 2 that yielded the two burials is illustrated in Fig. 8.

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**Summary of the Skeletal Examination**

Fig. 14 shows the recovered skeletal elements in red. All the teeth were recovered and show no caries, but 2 of them were lost. Age was determined on the basis of the fusion of the epiphyses, the development of the dentition, and the development of the postcranial skeleton. The most significant morphological trait present are the well-developed shovel shaped incisors (Fig. 16). The right portion of the mandibular molar tooth row. The incisor rows are perpendicular to the alveolar process.

**Dating of the Burial**

The radiocarbon date on human bone from Big Trout Lake was 8,790 ± 80 BP (AD 4200 520), which places the burial into the Early Archaic period. The layout of the modern configuration of the landscape is illustrated in Fig. 9. The layout of the modern configuration of the landscape is illustrated in Fig. 9.

**Early Aboriginal Occupation of Northern Ontario**

A comprehensive investigation of the Early Archaic period in n. Ontario is in its relative infancy. The *McKay First Nation* is scheduled to take advantage of seasonally abundant resources. The technology and lifestyle likely involved a political economy and were generalized hunters, fishers and plant gatherers in the emerging forested environment of the Holocene Subarctic. If this hypothesis is correct, it would have been retained. The right portion of the mandibular molar tooth row. The incisor rows are perpendicular to the alveolar process.

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