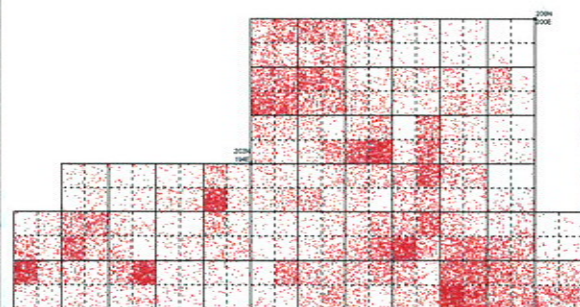
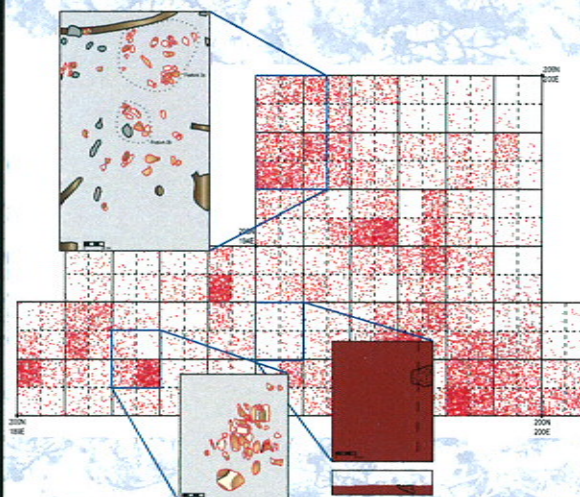


## The Excavation



A total of 52 square meters were excavated in 2005 and 2006. From these excavations we recovered 18,624 pieces of debitage, 70 unidentified animal bone fragments, 458 pieces of fire-cracked rock and 193 stone tools. One of the goals of our excavations was to find discrete work areas, hearth features, and other activity areas that would allow us to explore in greater detail the types of activities that were being undertaken at FgQf-16. Fortunately, we were able to identify three separate features that were most likely food processing areas and two, possibly three, other areas that are related directly to stone tool manufacturing.

## Features



Three separate features were uncovered at FgQf-16. Each of these features consisted of fire-cracked rock, charred wood, and in one case, heavily burnt animal bone fragments. These types of artifacts are consistent with activities associated with hearths and food preparation. Each of the three features had charcoal or bone samples taken so that radiocarbon dates could be obtained. Feature 1 came back with a date of 1,620 +/- 40 B.P. Feature 2 had a date of 1550 +/- 40 B.P. Feature 3a and 3b had dates of 1480 +/- 40 and 1470 +/- 40 B.P. respectively. The return of such closely dated features leads us to believe that they represent a late cultural component at FgQf-16 not represented in the projectile point types.



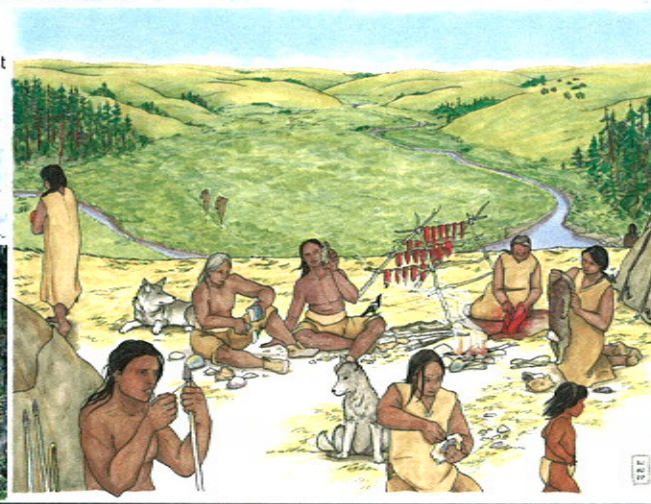
Feature 1: Hearth



## Excavations at the Upper Lovett Campsite (FgQf-16) from 2005 to 2006 Dan Meyer and Jason Roe Lifeways of Canada Limited

FgQf-16 is a multi-component site located to the south of the Hamlet of Robb in the Foothills of west-central Alberta. The site is on a beautiful 15 metre high terrace overlooking the confluence of the Lovett River and a smaller creek to the south. Today the area is vegetated by a mature pine forest on the higher terraces with large expanses of open grassy areas and water-logged fens snaking in between.

The decision to excavate FgQf-16 stemmed from the HRIA work we had been, and are currently doing, along the Eastern Slopes on behalf of West Fraser. In order to make sense of the data we have been collecting on the 100's of new archaeological sites being found, we felt it was necessary to establish a foundation from which we could build a regional culture history. Even though we still have a lot more work to do we have been able to piece together some of the mystery of the Eastern Slopes.



## Projectile Points



Arrow heads, dart points, and spear heads are some of the most diagnostic tools that archaeologists have for placing an archaeological site into temporal and cultural context. At FgQf-16 a total of 15 projectile points were recovered. The earliest type of projectile point (c, d, and e) may be examples of stone tips used with spear technology. The remaining projectile points are all dart points that would have been used with a spear thrower or atlatl, and are associated with the Mummy Cave series. Stone tips "f," "g," "h," "i," "j," and "k" all belong to the Embarras Phase. The two projectile points on the bottom left are interesting in that they do not fit morphologically or technologically well with any known projectile point types. In other words, they have some traits that are similar to known point types, such as McKean, and other traits that are generally associated with others. Projectile point "n" is a good example of an unnotched Oxbow point that represents the tertiary stage of the Early Middle Period and the rest of the Middle Precontact Period. The stone tip on the far right of the bottom row, "o," could either be an example of an Early Precontact Period spear point or conversely a point from the McKean Complex. The identification of this point is difficult because the toolstone has desilicified making any of the telltale features on the surface of the stone obscure. We believe FgQf-16 represents a camping site where a variety of activities took place. Projectile points "a" and "b" are good examples of what can be found at places where stone points are being manufactured. One is a broken point tip ("a") and the other is a preform ("b"). The artifact was either lost or discarded just before the finishing touches were added to make it an identifiable projectile point. One of the hallmark traits that associates most of these projectile points with the Middle Precontact Period is that they are all made from locally derived toolstone. The materials used include fine-grained quartzite, pebble cherts, siltstones, and Nordegg Member Silicified Siltstone. Interestingly, these point types and the tool types discussed below have been recovered at a number of other archaeological sites along the Eastern Slopes.

## Embarras Bipoins

This particular tool type has been recovered from a number of archaeological sites in and around the Eastern Slopes of Alberta. At FgQf-16 there were eight, mostly broken, Embarras Bipoins recovered from the 2005 and 2006 excavations. Embarras Bipoins date to the Embarras Phase (7,000 - 4,000 y.b.p.). The vast majority of these tools are made from high quality quartzite, a toolstone that can be found in the vicinity of FgQf-16. The reductive technology used to manufacture these tools is distinct and currently being studied by Jason Roe as part of his Masters Thesis. So far, these tools have been identified as a multi-purpose hand-held tool.

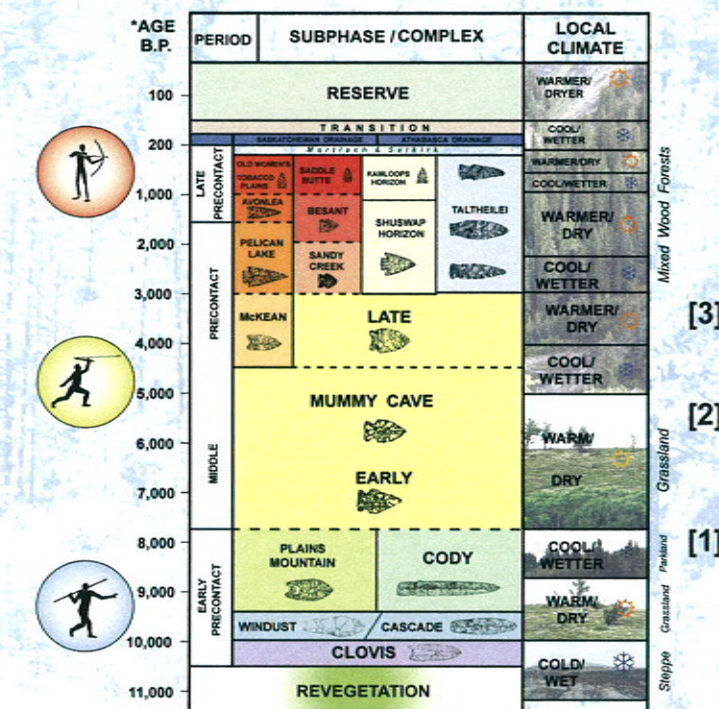


## Reverse Unifaces

Reverse Unifaces are another distinct tool type that has been found at FgQf-16 and a number of other archaeological sites in and around the Eastern Slopes of Alberta. At FgQf-16 a total of twenty-one Reverse Unifaces were recovered. This unique tool type is almost always made from local quartzites. The very interesting technological feature of these tools is they are exclusively unifacial, where the ventral surface of a large quartzite spall is percussion flaked and the dorsal surface, the outside of the cobble, is left unmodified. Another interesting feature of these stone tools is found in the debitage produced during the manufacturing process. The striking platform of many large shaping and thinning flakes can have extensive platform preparation scarring on the dorsal side and cortex on the ventral. Our preliminary analysis of these tools has shown that the broader of the two short ends can exhibit use-wear traits that are consistent with working harder materials such as bone or wood.



## Culture History of the Eastern Slopes



In many ways the culture history of the Eastern Slopes is still at a nascent stage when compared to areas like the Northern Plains. Even the culture historical overview provided above is heavily influenced by what archaeologists know from the Plains. Fortunately, the data collected from FgQf-16 has vastly increased our understanding of the culture history of the area. FgQf-16 has a strong Middle Precontact component that has allowed us to define three new regional phases of the Middle Precontact including [1] the Wallace Phase (7,750-7,000 B.P.), [2] the Embarras Phase (7,000-4,000 B.P.) and [3] the Lovett Phase (4,000-3,000 B.P.).

## Blood Residue Results



The soils in the boreal forest are not conducive to the preservation of animal bone. At FgQf-16 only 70 unidentified bone fragments were recovered during our excavations. Fortunately, another form of testing allows archaeologists in these situations the opportunity to see what people may have been eating. Blood residue analysis is done on stone tools, using a variety of antisera, to determine what types of blood may have come into contact with an artifact. A number of the stone tools found at FgQf-16 were sent away to be tested. The results were very encouraging because a number of the tools tested positive for four different species of animals. The results included rabbit, bovine, chicken, and bear. An antiserum will react to blood residue from the same family of animal. As a result, bovine can react with both cow and bison, with bison being a far more likely possibility in the case of a Precontact site in Alberta. If we consider the types of animals that may have been present when people occupied FgQf-16, Snow-shoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*), Buffalo (Bison bison), Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*), and Spruce Grouse (*Falcipennis canadensis*) were likely part of their diet during certain time periods. They may also have served other purposes, such as a source of sinew for hafting tools.

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