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Isolated Copper Artifacts From Northwestern Ontario

Over the last three years, there have been a number of finds of copper artifacts in the area immediately north of Lake Superior. Most have been single finds, and all are fabricated from native copper. The following records descriptions of the finds.

LARGE CHISEL—PORT ARTHUR (Fig. 1)

This was found in lucustrine deposits, about twelve feet below the present surface, during sewer excavations on the first terrace above Lake Superior in downtown Port Arthur in 1962. It is now in the collection at Lakehead University. The chisel is rectangular in section, has a flat base, and a slightly convex upper side. The bit is spatula-like and is bevelled on the flat side. The surface has been pounded smooth and is a copper brown colour with virtually no green discolouration. There are numerous flaws in the metal.

MEASUREMENTS:

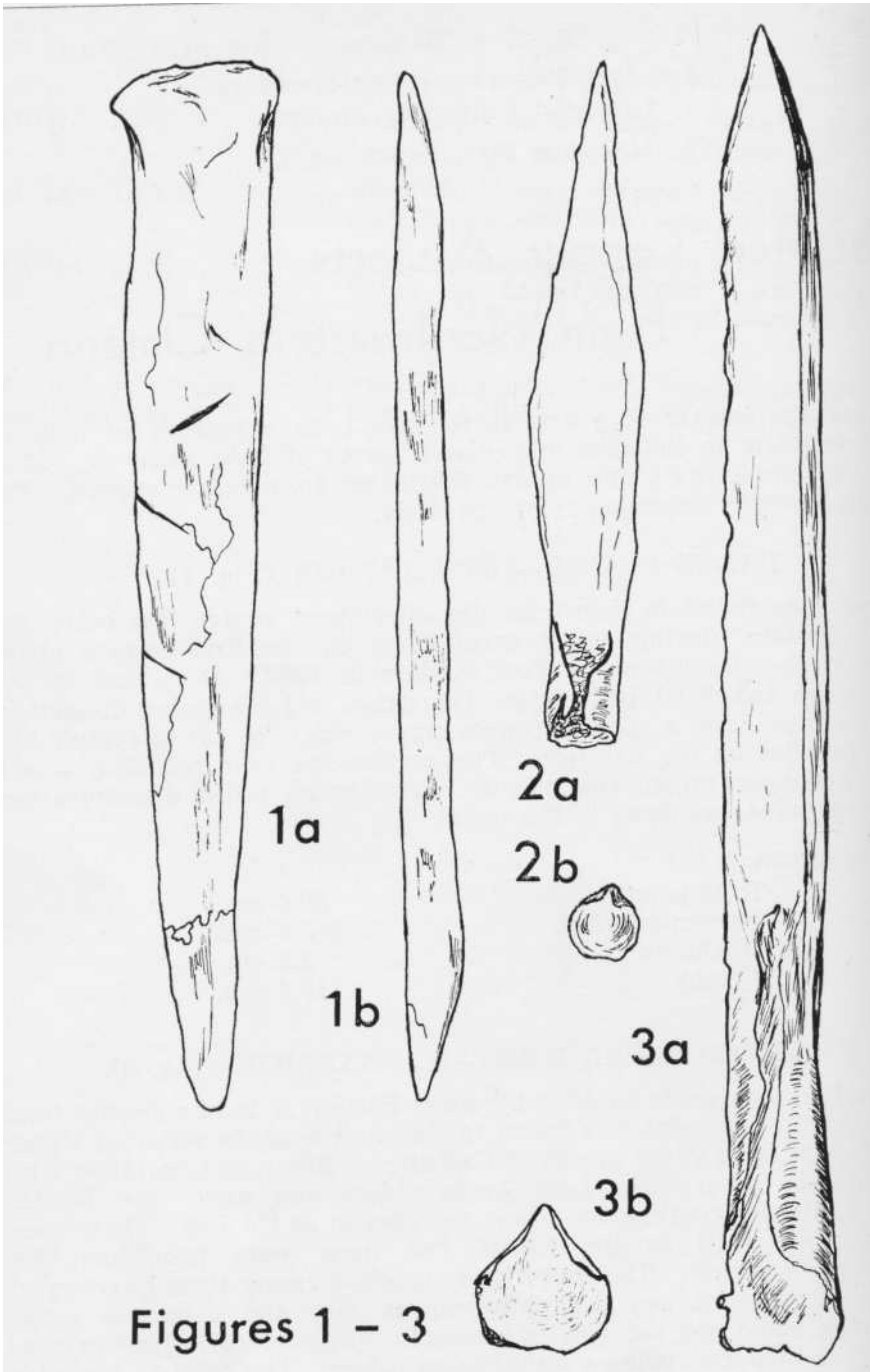
Total length	32.0 cm.
Maximum width	4.6 cm.
Thickness	1.2 cm.
Weight	113.4 gm.

SOCKETED SPEAR POINT—KASHABOWIE (Fig. 2)

The find was made in 1964 by Basil Battley, a local collector from Port Arthur. The point was found in the shallow shore water of Upper Shebandowan Lake at the mouth of Kashabowie River, in association with flint artifacts of possible Late Archaic date and under the Borden system of site designation, the site is referred to as Dd Jo-1. There were fragments of wood in the socket, but these were insufficient for more accurate dating. The socket is rounded, forming three-quarters of a circle. The point has a slightly convex face and a narrow point. Neither the blade nor the face is bevelled. The surface is pock-marked but is not discoloured, being a light copper colour. The point is deposited in Mr. Battley's collection.

MEASUREMENTS:

Total length	10.5 cm.
Socket length	1.7 cm.



Figures 1 - 3

Fig. 1—Large chisel: 1a, face view; 1b, side view, x 0.4.

Fig. 2—Socketed spear point: 2a, face view; 2b, view of socket, x 0.9. Fig.

3—Socketed spear or pikehead : 3a, face view; 3b, view of socket, x 0.9.

Socket width	1.1 cm.
Socket thickness	1.0 cm.
Maximum breadth of blade	1.7 cm.
Thickness of blade	0.3 cm.

SOCKETED SPEAR OR PIKEHEAD—LAKE NIPIGON (Fig. 3)

The find was made in 1965 by Hector King of Armstrong, Ontario, and reported by Keith Denis of the Thunder Bay Historical Society. The artifact was found on the eastern shore of Lake Nipigon at the mouth of the Sturgeon or Namewaminikan River. The surface is greenish and pitted. The blade has a rectangular outline; the socket is rolled and ovoid in section.

MEASUREMENTS:

Total length	19.4 cm.
Socket length	6.3 cm.
Socket thickness	0.2 cm.
Socket breadth	1.9 cm.
Width of blade above socket	1.2 cm.
Thickness of blade above socket	1.9 cm.

LARGE PIKE—NIPIGON (Fig. 4)

The find was made by Mike Makkne of Nipigon in 1963, approximately ten feet beneath the surface of the ground. It was found in a highway cut at the Nipigon River and is now in the possession of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. The pike is rectangular in cross-section. The head is pointed and there is a slight roll at the butt end. The surface is uniformly heavily patinated and bright green in colour.

MEASUREMENTS:

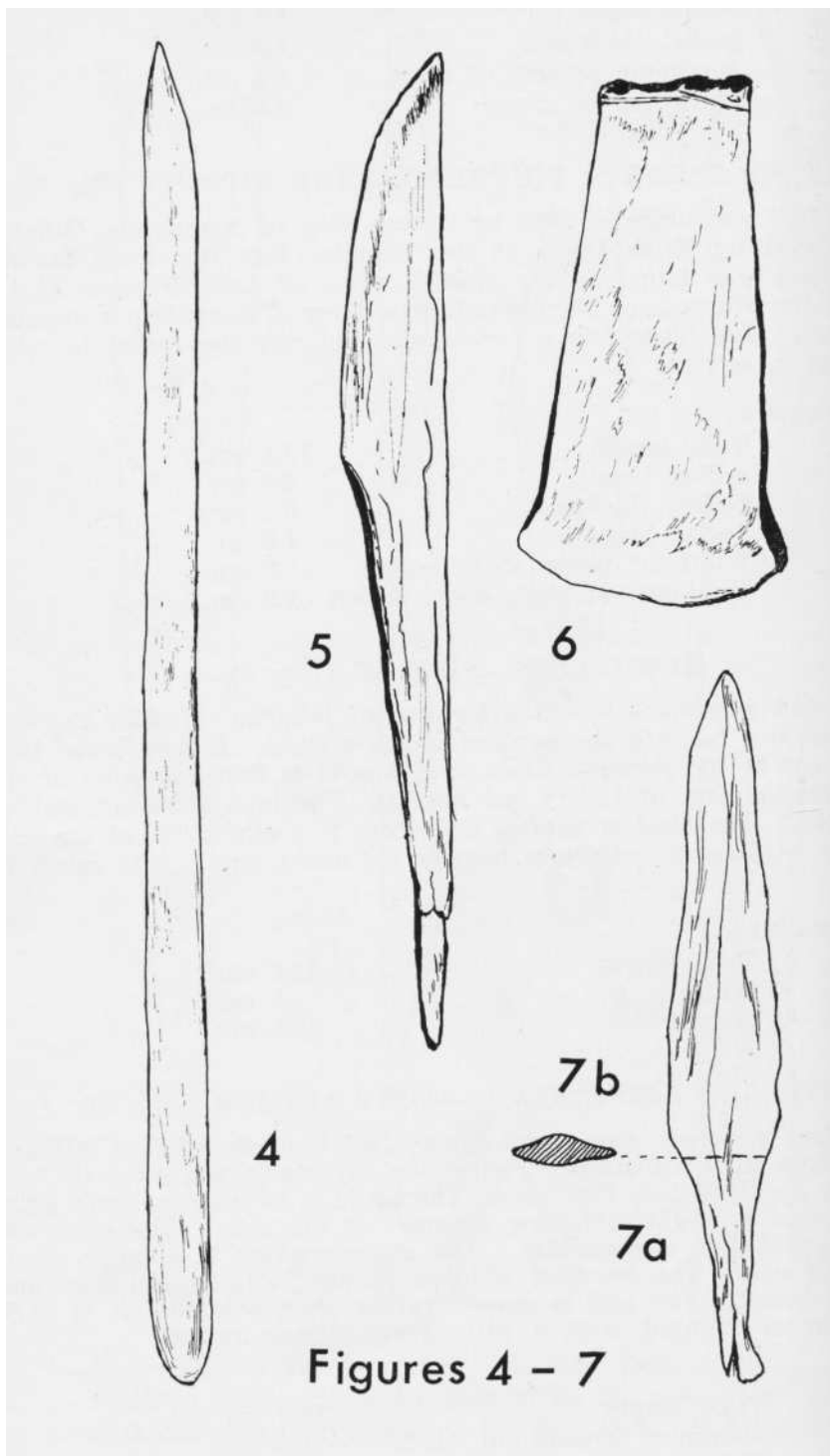
Total length	44.6 cm.
Width	1.5 cm.
Weight	59.5 gm.

BEVELLED KNIFE BLADE—PORT ARTHUR (Fig. 5)

The find was made some years ago by Jack Swingler of Fort William. It was found approximately 1" below the surface in a garden in Port Arthur in the McVicars Flat area. The blade is bevelled on both sides and face, and is slightly "hollow ground" on one face. The sides are flattened parallel to one another. The upper surface is angular, as is the tanged end. The bevelled edge is thinned to a knife edge and slightly serrated. The end is curved rather than pointed. It is dark reddish copper-coloured with a little green discolouration.

MEASUREMENTS:

Total length	15.7 cm.
Maximum breadth of blade	1.6 cm.
Thickness of blade	0.2 cm.



SMALL CELT—PORT ARTHUR REGION (Fig. 6)

The find was uncovered some years ago by a local farmer, and reported by Basil Battley. It was found immediately north of Port Arthur on an old glacial beach. Both surfaces at the cutting edge are ground, flattened and bevelled to a width of 2 to 7 mm. There is an area of sharp bevelling 1 to 2 mm wide on one side. This side also shows a few deep striations which may indicate filing. There is a deep dent in one end of the bevelled edge and several cut marks near the base. The surface is pitted or perforated and the cutting edge and the base are light copper-coloured, while the body is green. The celt is deposited in Mr. Battley's collection.

MEASUREMENTS:

Total length	9.1 cm.
Width at bit	4.3 cm.
Width at poll	2.2 cm.
Thickness at bit	0.1 cm.
Thickness at poll	0.3 cm.
Maximum thickness of body	0.7 cm.

TANGED POINT—MALACHI LAKE (Fig. 7)

The point was found by Basil Battley, on an old beach approximately one-quarter of a mile beyond the present shore of Malachi Lake. The point is heavily patinated, and bright to mossgreen in colour. The blade is ridged on both sides and diamond-shaped in cross-section. The narrow tang is split at the bottom.

MEASUREMENTS:

Total length	11.9 cm.
Maximum thickness of blade	0.3 cm.
Maximum width of blade	1.9 cm.
Tang length	3.7 cm.
Width of tang	0.4 cm.



PLATE I

