**Final Report for the Rural Museum Archaeological Outreach Project**

**Brandon University (BU) Grant Account # 2573**

**Submitted by Dr. Mary Malainey, Department of Anthropology, Brandon University (PI)**

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This project was a collaboration between Dr. Mary Malainey (BU Anthropology), the Manitoba Archaeological Society (MAS) and the Association of Manitoba Museums (AMM). We received $2700 in funding from the BU Community Outreach Service towards all BU student and some BU faculty project-related travel, communication costs and miscellaneous expenses. These funds were then used to help leverage $5500 in additional funds from the Manitoba Heritage Grants program for project-related equipment and supplies, printing costs, expenses incurred by and relating to the participation of the MAS representative as well as most BU faculty project-related travel.

Students participating in the project were enrolled in the full term summer course 12:441 Rural Museum Archaeological Outreach, which began 2 July 2015. Prior to this, AMM staff sent e-mails to curators/representatives of rural museums in southwestern Manitoba to inform them of the project and solicit their participation. Dr. Malainey developed an artifact identification and analysis guide, data recording forms for twelve artifact types and a MS Excel®-based artifact cataloguing program and amassed all the necessary project-related equipment and supplies.

A total of four senior Anthropology students participated in the project: Zoey Black, Krista Murray (nee Mills), Ariel Neufeld and Britney Weber. The students completed four days of in-class training by Dr. Malainey and Mr. Gord Hill (Manitoba Archaeological Society) at Brandon University on July 2, 3, 6 and 7, 2015. The training period was used to verify the artifact identification skills of the students and provided a real world test of the artifact identification and analysis guide, data recording forms, catalogue program, photography set-up and camera equipment. Students were required to spend 21 days (8:30 am to 4:30 pm) on project-related work at rural museums. Weekdays from July 8th to 15th, the student team travelled to Neepawa and analyzed precontact artifacts at the Beautiful Plains Museum. Weekdays from July 16th to August 6th, they travelled to Killarney and analyzed archaeological material and developed new/modified artifact displays for the J. A. V. David Museum. Lastly, they analyzed precontact artifacts at the Carberry Plains Museum from August 7th to 11th. Dr. Malainey visited the Beautiful Plains Museum twice, the J. A. V. David Museum four times and the Carberry Plains Museum three times to provide student support or return borrowed artifacts and distribute copies of the reports. Mr. Gord Hill visited each of the museums once to provide student support and interview museum staff about their artifact collections.

Although Dr. Malainey informed the students that they had fulfilled the required hours for the course, they decided to put in the extra time to complete the analysis of precontact materials at the Carberry Plains Museum. Each student worked 15 hours outside of scheduled class time on project-related tasks. With the approval of Sarah Woods and Dr. William Ashton, funds from this grant were used to retroactively hire the students at the Student Assistant I rank (wage: $10.97 per hour plus 6% vacation pay or $11.63 per hour) for their additional work. The total cost ($174.45 \* 4 students) was $697.68, plus payroll costs.

Funds were available to pay them because mileage costs were lower than anticipated. The board of directors at the J.A.V. David Museum in Killarney was among the first to express their interest in the project. Although, the museum was outside the targeted 50-75 km range, closer museums had not responded to repeated e-mails from the Association of Manitoba Museums about the project. Furthermore, the precontact collection at the J.A.V. David Museum largely consists of material donated by Gordon Randall. The BU Department of Anthropology also has a large amount of precontact material donated by Gordon Randall. Consequently, the Rural Museum Archaeological Outreach project provided a means of studying this part of the Randall collection for the first time. In order to complete the analysis, students worked as one team of four, instead of two teams of two, which reduced mileage costs. The amount originally budgeted for travel was $2394; the actual cost was just under $1700. The actual travel cost ($1694) plus the student payment ($697.68 plus payroll costs of $45.84) was very close to the budgeted amount. The remaining $316.41 went towards a portion of Dr. Malainey’s mileage expenses, photocopying and office supplies. No communication costs were incurred.

Dr. Malainey spent 11 days editing the reports the students prepared on the museum collections and preparing them for printing. Each report began with general descriptions of the collections (i.e., groupings of artifacts received from individual donors) examined and general summaries of various artifact classes and graphs showing frequencies of types. Appendix I consisted of copies of the data sheets; these included drawings of all flaked stone tools (i.e., projectile points, bifaces, unifaces and modified flakes) and most potsherds. Color photocopies of artifact photos were included in Appendix II. The artifact identification and analysis guide that Dr. Malainey prepared for the class was included in Appendix III. Reports were distributed to the museum staff in person in order to explain how to use the information and associated materials.

In the original grant application, Dr. Malainey wrote “The project will be deemed successful if: 1) the participating students complete the course and develop very strong artifact identification and interpretation skills, 2) the rural museums are pleased with the improvements to their displays of precontact artifacts and 3) increased interest in the project is expressed by rural museums in other communities.” In all aspects, this project was a tremendous success. The students analyzed over 1700 artifacts at the three museums visited and collected excellent “research quality” data. All student participants indicated that they found the experience very rewarding. Staff/museum board members were thrilled with the professionalism of the students, the information they received about their artifact collections and, where possible, the display enhancements. We now have a waiting list of other museums that would like to participate in the future. All three museums had very old and rare types of artifacts in their collections. The Beautiful Plains and J. A. V. David Museums loaned projectile points made by some of the first post-glacial inhabitants of the region to us in order to have their identifications confirmed by experts in the Early Precontact Period of Manitoba.

Dr. Malainey, Ms Britney Weber (student participant) and Mr. Gord Hill each presented papers on the project at the MAS conference in Winnipeg in September 2015. Dr. Malainey and Mr. Gord Hill gave a presentation about the project at the AMM conference in Winnipeg in October 2015. Currently, students in Dr. Malainey’s Pottery Analysis class are comparing the vessels in the collection donated to Brandon University by Mr. Gordon Randall to the pottery he donated to the J. A. V. David Museum in Killarney.

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