

Archaeology Team Is Rewarded With Small Artifacts Found Every Day at Fort Site

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Canadians and Native Americans; bottle tops; brass buttons adorned with designs; a pewter British military button made prior to 1768, and iron knife blades that will be identified as French or British artifacts by close investigation of their shapes this winter. Further, the dig has produced the upper jaw and bolt mechanism of a flintlock musket, and a lead seal fastened to a bolt of cloth and stamped CDI, for Compagnie des Indes (the Company of the Indies), which operated until 1769.

With so many reconstructed buildings, authentic clothing reproductions, and period weapons at Fort Michilimackinac, the group can easily compare their findings to determine how an object was used. "It is easy to make that leap from an individual thing to how it would have functioned in a community because there are similar things already here," Dr. Evans said.

Helping confirm civilian use of the house, Amber Rose, a student working on the project, found a musketball of a trade-caliber weapon just before Dr. Evans described this year's findings to *The St. Ignace News*.

The team cuts into the earth like a layer cake. They have surpassed the modern litter layer, and arrived at the demolition layer. Ultimately, they will uncover the full British and French occupation periods. In the process, they may even discover a thin layer of charcoal, a remnant of the fort's construction found elsewhere on the site, marking the day the French burned brush on the beach, making way for

construction, Dr. Evans said.

During their occupation, British records provided only that a trader lived in the house, as of the most recent report. The French kept more detailed records of who lived there, including Charles Gonneville, who traded in the 1730s, '40s, and '50s, before vanishing from the historical record, Dr. Evans said.

Learning how he lived, and how he lived differently from the British people around him, is a focus for her team.

"We have the basic outlines of our puzzle. Now we are filling in the details. We are able to supply comparative data for all kinds of projects out there," she added, speaking of the overall Fort Michilimackinac project.

The archeologists have been in close contact with the Fort St. Joseph excavation project in Niles, where a structure from the same period is under the auspices of Western Michigan University. There, archeologists are finding artifacts comparable to the Fort Michilimackinac dig.

"One of the interesting things about that is that we can see where things are the same and where they are different, what things were true at all forts, and what things might be different at our fort because [it was] a more strategic location, and a bigger fort," Dr. Evans said.

So far, discoveries at Fort Michilimackinac have pointed out just how hard the British worked to move their operations.

"At first we did not realize the scope of it, what a really massive, thorough job they had done. We

knew they had moved buildings, and we knew there was pretty much nothing left, but we had not realized the scope of it for a long time," Dr. Evans said.

As she explained her project, tourists stopped to ask questions of her team. This day, field supervisor Justin Baetsen of Western Michigan University took his turn to answer the day's inquiries. Meanwhile, Lierin Holly of the University of Evansville in Indiana, Ms. Rose of the University of Alaska at Anchorage and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and Ms. Smith sifted and sorted material through metal screens.

Each is focused on 5-foot by 5-foot square in the earth, where they analyze everything from large artifacts to the soil and its changes over time.

Among the most interesting aspects of this dig for the team has been the reaction of visitors to their efforts.

While the team agrees the media has made the public more aware of archeology, "for the vast majority of our guests, this is the first time they have ever seen a real archeology dig, watched it happen, and they can talk to a real archeologist. They get very excited," Dr. Evans said, particularly because discoveries are made here every day.

Ms. Holly termed the excavation and interpretations "the actual face of archeology." For her, explaining her field and what she is doing at the fort is the best part of the job.

"I'm in it to bring it to the public," she said.

The team provides a powerful

experience for visitors, a chance to understand history through interpretation, Mr. Baetsen said.

These things have been buried

Competition Results Announced for Pickford Hay Days

Hay Days: From page 12

minutes, 10.16 seconds. Janet Hess of Sault Ste. Marie was women's division winner, with a time of 52 minutes, 46.49 seconds.

First place age division medals were awarded to Lee Kanitz, Hessel, 39:31.69; Tyler Goetz, Sault Ste. Marie, 43:13.64; Scott Sherlund, Caledonia, 47:11.64; Steve Spalding, Waterford, 47:08.24; Jim Elzinga, Conway, 57:14.98; Carmen Haley, Sault Ste. Marie, 60:52.25.

Second place medals went to Mark Nyberg, Pickford, 67:09.11; Randy Vining, Sault Ste. Marie, 42:15.89; David Wallick, Katonah, New York, 60:44.25; Don Morrison, Rochester, Minnesota, 57:16.01; Laurie Herman, Cincinnati, Ohio, 54:32.83 seconds.

Hay 5k Results

There were 36 competitors in the race.

Matt Schlosser, 15, of Cedarville, won the 5k run with a time of 21 minutes, 0.82 seconds. Victoria Cusick, 13, of Pickford, was the female winner with a time of 25 minutes, 36.69 seconds.

Age division winners were Jordan Vandergeest, Whitehall, 23:32.58; Paul Morrison, Pickford, 21:15.63 seconds; William Hoske, Fruitport, 29:04.34; Alan MacArthur, Sault Ste. Marie, 21:15.63; Dan Crimin, Sault Ste. Marie, 23:50.13; Jim Jackson, Grosse Isle, 22:18.49; Tom Spencer, Rudyard, 33:25.63; Stacie Schultz, Twin Lake, 29:48.64; Wendy Snyder, Moran, 25:45.26; Nancy Kennedy, 26:01.59; Carol Suarez, Dearborn,

for so long that being able to connect them to the public is highly rewarding, Ms. Rose added.

The opportunity to see and

understand what archaeologists are doing, almost at the very moment the past is uncovered, she said, is exciting.

Seventeen teams competed in four age categories.

Division 1: 1st, Chase Massey, Jade Ledy, and Kamen Labinski; 2nd, Austin Marshall, Drew Marshall, Carter Tallaire, and Hunter Frazier.

Division 2: 1st, Jacob Hatfield, Ian Firack, Isaac Terrian, and Eric Carson; 2nd, Zach Snider, Seth Van Loven, Ben Skinner, and Derrick Edington.

Division 3: 1st, Jacob Andrzejak, Dennis Wondergem, Jared Hatfield; 2nd, Abbie Andrzejak, Amber Colosky, Kristi Gough, and Stacey Beard.

Division 4: 1st, Tim Gough, Charlie Nelson, Paul Morrison, and Matt Schlosser; 2nd, Charlie Halsey, Cody Becks, Jacob Eddy, and David Hurban.

Youth Pool Tournament:

Willie Weston won the overall championship. Age group champions were Kirk Peffers, Claire Morrison, and Charlie Halsey. Second place awards were given to Aaron Weston, Rob Wallis, and Ben Morrison.

Lawn Tractor Pull:

601 to 800 pound bar: First, Logan Fegan; second, Travis Rye; third, Steve Batho; fourth, Jonathon Kamper.

801 to 1,000 pound bar: First, Logan Fegan; second, Travis Rye; third, Jonathon Kamper; fourth, Caitlyn Hancock.

Ping Pong Tournament:

Seventeen and younger: First, Ben Morrison; second, Paul Morrison; third, Seth Gruenberg; fourth, Claire Morrison; fifth, Seth Becker.

Eighteen and older: First, Paul Gruenberg; second, Brandon Delgado; third, Ryan Hering.

Softball Tournament

The Brew Crew of Newberry defeated the Goetzville team.

28:14.32.

Second place medals went to Tom Kennedy, Grand Rapids, 22:38.94; Ian McCulloch, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 26:43.31; Chris Burke, Somerville, Massachusetts, 34:39.85; Thad Ledy, Pickford, 21:45.49; Russell DeFreitas, Sault Ste. Marie, 26:44.81; Jerry Morningstar, Hessel, 28:25.58; Rebekah Fitzgibbon, Plantation, Florida, 31:36.34; Kate Rye, Chicago, Illinois, 32:41.43; Cindi MacDonald, Kalamazoo, 27:41.13; Debra Laakko, Ypsilanti, 33:39.11.

Hay 2k Results

Matthew Kennedy, 14, of New Haven, Indiana, finished first in the 2k Fun Run/Walk with a time of 7 minutes, 42 seconds. Championship trophies were awarded to first place runners younger than 13. These were awarded to Jacob Andrzejak of Pickford and Alyssa McCord of Pickford.

First place age division winners were Trevor Hackney from White Hall, Brad Reedy from Holt, Robert Buzzard from Brimley, Victoria Vining from Sault Ste. Marie, Heidi Hagen, Missy Hagen, Nancy Ramsey, Marlene Hatfield, and Sarah Ramsey, all from Pickford.

Second place medals went to Kamen and Heidi Labinski from Cedarville, Blake Henderson from Fort Wayne, Kelsey Rambo, Arlene Petkus, Dylann Pierce, and Emily Blenkhorn of Pickford, and Claire Morrison from Sacramento, California.

Checkers Tournament: The event was won by Ben Gulder of Pickford.

Horseshoe Tournament: John Willette and Bud Jacek took first place; Don and Judy Jones of Pickford took second.

Three-on-Three Basketball:

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