

Thessalon First Nation Receives Ancient Copper Spear Tip



Thessalon First Nation was informed of a recent discovery by Marc Guttenberger, a resident of Goulais River, Ontario. Marc had discovered a copper spear tip within the band's traditional territory. He contacted the Sault Ste. Marie Museum and the Milwaukee Public Museum about his find. They reviewed the artifact and approximated its age to be between 5000 and 9500 years old.

Our ancestors have been here since time immemorial and rightfully so, the Museums suggested a meeting take place. The band connected with Marc and held a meeting this past week. A sacred fire was lit for the day so Chief & Council and Marc and his family could meet in good spirits to discuss the spear tip. Marc generously agreed to repatriate the artifact to the community. Thessalon First Nation will have the item reviewed and dated. After which, Thessalon First Nation's leadership and Marc Guttenberger will meet again to finalize the repatriation of the spear tip with a ceremony.

Copper has always been an important element to our Ojibwe people. We use it as medicine, as part of our sacred bundles and as an everyday tool. Thessalon First Nation is excited for this opportunity to have one of our ancestor's items return home.