

moisture to penetrate and are designed for use in cold, dry winter conditions. This style is identical to winter boots described and illustrated by Ms. Issenman in an earlier publication (1997:51, 52, 122):

Winter boots of caribou or seal can have a depilated seal-skin foot with a furred upper. With a spring melt, *ipirautiik*, waterproof boots, replace the furry boots. These boots are made of dehaired, sometimes, shaved sealskin.... (p. 51)

The photographs in *Uvattinnit* provide an excellent depiction of traditional Inuit clothing, useful for those interested in contemporary Inuit outerwear styles. Unfortunately, the format for this photographic essay sets the stage for possible future misinterpretation by presenting individuals in an artificial context, removed from contemporary issues, lifestyles, and lifeways. We recommend this publication for individuals interested in Inuit clothing and individuals interested in work published on the North.

REFERENCE

ISSENMAN, B. 1997. *Sinews of survival: The living legacy of Inuit clothing*. Vancouver, British Columbia: UBC Press.

*Alison Edmunds and Jill Oakes
Department of Native Studies
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
R3T 5V5*

DECHYOO NJIK (MIVm-4) AND THE TRADITIONAL LAND USE PATTERNS IN THE SOUTHWEST PORTION OF THE OLD CROW FLATS, YUKON TERRITORY. By MÉLANIE FAFARD. Whitehorse: Heritage Branch, Government of the Yukon, 2001. Occasional Papers in Archaeology No. 8. ISBN 1-55018-998-0, vii + 101 p., map, b&w illus., bib., errata sheet. Softbound. Free.

The Yukon Heritage Branch has published Mélanie Fafard's M.A. thesis from the University of Alberta as No. 8 in its Occasional Papers in Archaeology series. The title, *Dechyoo Njik (MIVm-4) and the Traditional Land Use Patterns in the Southwestern Portion of the Old Crow Flats, Yukon Territory*, clearly introduces readers to the author's objectives: to document the range of activities in the Old Crow Flats and improve the current understanding of pre-contact/contact period land use patterns. Fafard used several lines of inquiry to achieve these objectives, including the excavation of part of MIVm-4, oral history interviews with elders from Old Crow, research among early historical and ethnographic documents, and comparison of the findings from this site with those from two other sites in the region.

Dechyoo Njik occupies a grassy clearing on a point bar terrace at the confluence of Shaeffer Creek and Dechyoo Njik ("Goose with Red Bill and Feet Creek") about 40 km north of the Porcupine River in the southwest corner of Old Crow Flats. This region was traditionally occupied by the Vuntut Gwitchin, who relied mainly on caribou for their subsistence. In late spring, after intercepting the northern migration of the barren-ground caribou at traditional crossing locations on the Porcupine River, the Vuntut Gwitchin moved for the summer months to the Old Crow Flats area, where they hunted, trapped, and fished. Dechyoo Njik is one site that demonstrates these activities; in this case, the main emphasis appears to have been on fishing and fish processing, but waterfowl, muskrat, and berries were also important.

Fafard's excavations and analyses indicate that the site was occupied during at least two distinct periods of time. The first identified occupation took place during the Klo-kut Phase of the Late Prehistoric Period in the northern Yukon (ca. A.D. 700 to contact). Unfortunately, no stratigraphy was noted during the excavations, and few diagnostic artifacts were recovered. The two radiocarbon dates obtained (<180 B.P. from a piece of worked caribou antler and 555 ± 40 B.P. on charcoal) indicated occupation late in the Klo-kut Phase and suggest either repeated occupation or that occupants collected and burned old wood. The second period of occupation was during the Historic Period, probably after 1880.

The large number of features identified, which include hearths, ash deposits, refuse pits, habitation depressions, and a probable cache, suggest that processing of fish caught at the site was most likely the principal activity. Fafard describes and analyzes the lithic, bone and antler, and bark industries, the wood remains, the Euro-Canadian goods, and the faunal remains in great detail, comparing them with material collected at the Klo-kut and Rat Indian Creek sites, whose occupants focused principally on migrating caribou. She concludes that the site has indeed helped in an understanding of recent land use in the Old Crow Flats area. In this I concur: the site clearly fills a seasonal gap between the two crucial caribou-hunting seasons of spring and fall. The site's occupants most likely trapped, caught, and processed large quantities of fish, some of which were cached for later use, and also obtained muskrat, waterfowl, and berries. Fafard's careful analysis and her use of ethnographic analogy help us to understand how these tasks were carried out and where some of the raw materials used were derived.

In spite of its utility, the report demonstrates a surprising lack of attention by the author and editors. More careful editing and a few simple changes would have improved the readability. The study area map shows only the northwestern corner of the Yukon and lacks both an inset to orient the reader within this part of the Arctic and a scale. The use of American spellings for such words as *metre*, *behaviour*, and *colour* is irritating. Every other page or so has at least one typographical or grammatical error. The quality of

reproduction of site plans and artifact photographs is poor, resulting in ambiguities in the site plans and insufficient detail, contrast, and sharpness in the photos. Figures, tables, and photographs invariably are inserted several pages after the first reference to them, requiring the reader to thumb forward to find the item under discussion. While the report layout is neat and easy to follow, many of the tables have errors in formatting and, occasionally, in content. The chapter on faunal analysis would have benefitted greatly from a table or other graphic means of summarizing seasonality. As though the author (and editors) had run out of energy by the end of this 100-page volume, the “References Cited” section contains quite a few errors. These include at least a dozen wrong publication dates (explained as a computer glitch in an errata statement); references listed but (as far as I could tell) not used; errors in spelling of names; and some formatting problems (again, the editors provide an apology).

During a recent pipeline survey in Gwichya Gwich’in territory farther east, I noted many abandoned and active fishing camps in comparable locations. Fafard’s report might have gone a stage further by making a comparison between the Dechyoo Njik site components and the features of a modern fishing camp. Perhaps future research in the Old Crow Flats area will add to Fafard’s work and more completely fill the gap between the Late Prehistoric Period and the recent Historic Period.

However, this is a good contribution to knowledge and a fine example of how to publish the useful results of a focused M.A. research project simply, effectively, and relatively quickly.

*Callum Thomson
National Manager, Archaeology
Jacques Whitford Environment Limited
Suite 500, 703 – 6th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2P 0T9
cthomson@jacqueswhitford.com*