

An interesting piece of pottery was found by a diver in Otter Lake in July 1977. It appeared to be a ceramic vessel lying in the lake bottom silt at a depth of about 60ft about 1000ft off shore. It is most likely the vessel fell from an overturned canoe since it is unlikely that water levels in the lake have altered sufficiently in the past several thousand years to suggest submergence of a habitat.

Roughly two-thirds of the vessel remained intact. A narrow section of the rim and much of the lower body were missing. The vessel was decorated on the exterior surface utilizing what appeared to be a stamping technique. The rim decoration appeared to be made using a sharp-edged linear implement.

The context of the specimen made it difficult to determine any temporal or cultural interpretations especially since knowledge of the cultural history of this area are not well known. A number of features of the vessel do, however provide some clues. The vessel's form, rim handling and body decoration is typically "Terminal Woodland". The association of horizontal zones of diagonal or "oblique" motifs on the rim exterior, lip and rim interior is found in Terminal Woodland artifacts from southwestern Quebec to western Lake Erie dating between 600 - 1000 AD. The incipient collar places the vessel at the later end of this time range.

Excerpted from an article entitled "A Prehistoric Ceramic Vessel From Otter Lake Near Perth Ontario" by David L. Keenlyside of the Archeological Survey of Canada that was published in The Ottawa Archeological Society, Vol 7.

