

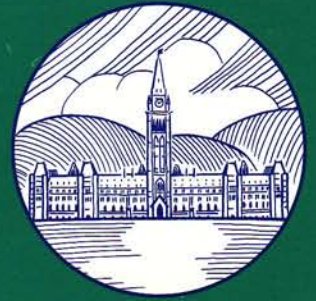
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A NEW ASSEMBLAGE OF VERTEBRATES FROM CHAMPLAIN SEA SEDIMENTS (LATEST PLEISTOCENE) NEAR ST-NICOLAS, QUEBEC

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Over the past three summers, the first three authors have recovered approximately fifty vertebrate specimens from sand and gravel pits exposing Champlain Sea deposits in the vicinity of St-Nicolas, Quebec. Parts of the pits have been exposed for a long time and are well known Champlain Sea fossil localities, first recorded by J.W. Dawson in the late 19th century. The newly reported vertebrate remains are from fresh exposures which are part of a westward extension of a previous pit. Fossils belong to at least six taxa, including two species of fishes (Atlantic Wrymouth, *Cryptacanthodes maculatus*, and Eelpout, *Lycodes* sp.), two species of aquatic birds (Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia*, and Oldsquaw duck, *Clangula hyemalis*), and two species of marine mammals (seal, *Phoca* sp., and Beluga, *Delphinapterus leucas*). The fish and bird records are new for Champlain Sea deposits. The material consists of well preserved but disarticulated and isolated (mostly postcranial) elements, indicating transport and/or redeposition. The bones, together with abundant barnacle, mollusc, and brachiopod shells, as well as occasional wood fragments, are found in the upper part of a thick (5 m) unit of cross-bedded coarse to fine sand overlying marine clays and underlying shallow marine silts and clays. The sand unit represents a regressive phase and is interpreted as fluvial-estuarine or tidal in origin, based on its sedimentary character and fossil content. Next to Ottawa area assemblages (e.g. Green Creek, Eardley, Breckenridge), the St-Nicolas locality is, in both sample size and taxonomic diversity, the richest known deposit of Champlain Sea vertebrates.