

## MESSAGE FROM THE STONEAGE

The oldest artifact in Konnevesi Local History Museum is the ice pick of Neiturintaipale. It was found in the field by Elvi Janhunen in 1958. She was the hostess of Häyrynen farm, which is located northside the canal. The model of this 360mm long stone artifact is similar to this of the ice pick found in Rovaniemi. Other artifacts like this have been found mainly by the Kemijoki River. About 30 artifacts have been found in Central Finland.

Stone blacksmith made the ice pick from actinolite and polished the blade. Smaller ice picks had woodshaft but bigger ice picks were probably used without the shaft.

The place, where the ice pick was found, is about 95m above sea level, on the shore of Northern Konnevesi. Due to land plowing big changes in the waters of Central Finland happened after the ice age. After the ice melt, water height was about 150m in the area of Neiturintaipale, but water level began to decrease rapidly and 7000 B.C. it was at its lowest, less than 100m. After that water started to rise again and Ancient Päijänne was born. Its water flowed northwest, and it stretched from the current Southern Päijänne to the contemporary northern border of Central Finland, which was a coast at that time. In 4200 B.C. water level was at its highest, 106m, in the area of Neiturintaipale. It was about 10m higher than today. Soon the lake broke a new channel to the South, water started running, and lakes Muurasjärvi, Alvajärvi, Keitele, Konnevesi and contemporary Päijänne were born.

Janne Vilkuna, professor of museology, estimated that the ice pick was left behind by the first inhabitants of Central Finland around 6000 B.C. In this area stone age was around 6500-1500 B.C.