

SANGAR CONSTRUCTION C/O U & N ENTERPRISES LTD.

# STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3650 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST

DECEMBER 05, 2023

ORIGINAL REPORT





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ALEXANDRA MULLAN- P1006

## STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

3650 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST  
SANGAR CONSTRUCTION C/O U & N  
ENTERPRISES LTD.

PART OF LOT 4, CONCESSION 2 NORTH OF DUNDAS  
STREET, GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF TRAFALGAR,  
COUNTY OF HALTON, NOW CITY OF MISSISSAUGA,  
ONTARIO

ORIGINAL REPORT

PROJECT NO.: 221-12612-01  
DATE: DECEMBER 05, 2023

WSP

WSP.COM



December 05, 2023

Original Report

Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment

3650 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST

Part of Lot 4, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street, Geographic Township of Trafalgar, County of Halton, now City of Mississauga, Ontario

Prepared for:

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) was retained by Sangar Construction c/o U & N Enterprises Ltd. (the Client) to conduct a Stage 2 archaeological assessment for the proposed development at 3650 Eglinton Avenue West, Mississauga, Ontario. The study area is located on part of Lot 4, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street (NDS) in the Geographic Township of Trafalgar, County of Halton, now the City of Mississauga, Ontario (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

This archaeological assessment was triggered by the requirements of the *Planning Act, 1990* and has been completed to ensure that the Client is compliant with the *Ontario Heritage Act, 1990*. The archaeological assessment was carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM) 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment for the project area identified archaeological potential and recommended a Stage 2 archaeological assessment for the entire study area (WSP 2022). The primary objectives of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment are to document archaeological resources identified on the property, determine whether the archaeological resources require further assessment, and recommend Stage 3 assessment strategies for any archaeological sites identified that are determined to possess Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI).

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment consisted of a test pit survey conducted at 5 m and 10 m intervals on May 4, 2023. As no archaeological resources were found during the Stage 2 field survey, the study area has no further cultural heritage value or interest.

This Stage 2 archaeological assessment has resulted in a recommendation that no further archaeological assessment is needed for the study area.

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment was carried out following the MCM *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) to meet the requirement for compliance with the *Ontario Heritage Act, 1990*. The recommendations provided in this report are not considered final until the report has been reviewed by the MCM and accepted into the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports*.

# PROJECT PERSONNEL

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## APPENDICES

### A MIICHI SAAGIG ORAL HISTORY

# 1 PROJECT CONTEXT

## 1.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment are as follows:

- To document archaeological resources identified on the property.
- To determine whether the property contains archaeological resources requiring further assessment.
- To recommend appropriate Stage 3 assessment strategies for archaeological sites identified, if applicable.

## 1.2 DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) was retained by Sangar Construction c/o U & N Enterprises Ltd. (the Client) to conduct a Stage 2 archaeological assessment for the proposed development at 3650 Eglinton Avenue West, Mississauga, Ontario. The study area is located on part of Lot 4, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street (NDS) in the Geographic Township of Trafalgar, County of Halton, now the City of Mississauga, Ontario (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

This archaeological assessment was triggered by the requirements of the *Planning Act, 1990* and has been completed to ensure that the Client is compliant with the *Ontario Heritage Act, 1990*. The archaeological assessment was carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism's (MCM) 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists*.

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment determined that the study area has potential for the presence of archaeological material (WSP 2022). A Stage 2 archaeological assessment was recommended for all areas retaining archaeological potential. A site inspection was not completed with the Stage 1 assessment, therefore the entire study area, outside of the building footprints, was determined to possess archaeological potential.

Permission to access the property to conduct the Stage 2 archaeological assessment was provided by the client and no limits were placed on this access. The Stage 2 test pit survey was completed on May 4, 2023

## 1.3 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### 1.3.1 HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

The following sections provide a general review of the pre-contact and post-contact periods of southern Ontario as well as the history of the project areas to provide a generalized historical framework for the archaeological assessment.

### 1.3.2 PRE-CONTACT PERIOD

The pre-contact period in Ontario has been reconstructed, primarily, from the archaeological record and interpretations made by archaeologists through an examination of material culture and site settlement patterns. Technological and temporal divisions of the pre-contact period have been defined by archaeologists based on changes to natural, cultural, and political environments that are observable in the archaeological record. It is pertinent to state that although these divisions provide a generalized framework for understanding the broader events of the pre-contact period, they are not an accurate reflection of the fluidity and intricacies of cultural practices that

spanned thousands of years. The following presents a sequence of Indigenous land-use from the earliest human occupation following deglaciation to the more recent past based on the following periods as defined by archaeologists:

- The Paleo Period
- The Archaic Period
- The Woodland Period
- The Post-Contact Period

## PALEO PERIOD

Paleo period populations were the first to occupy what is now southern Ontario, moving into the region following the retreat of the Laurentide Ice Sheet approximately 11,000 years before present (BP). The first Paleo period populations to occupy southern Ontario are referred to by archaeologists as Early Paleo (Ellis & Deller, 1990).

Early Paleo period groups are identified by their distinctive projectile point morphological types, exhibiting long grooves, or 'flutes', that likely functioned as a hafting mechanism (method of attaching the point to a wooden shaft). These Early Paleo group projectile point types include Gainey (ca. 10,900 BP), Barnes (ca. 10,700), and Crowfield (ca. 10,500) (Ellis & Deller, 1990). By approximately 10,400 BP, Paleo projectile points transitioned to various unfluted varieties, such as Holcombe (ca. 10,300 BP), Hi Lo (ca. 10,100 BP), and Unstemmed and Stemmed Lanceolate (ca. 10,400 to 9,500 BP). These tool types were used by Late Paleo period groups (Ellis & Deller, 1990). Both Early and Late Paleo period populations were highly mobile, participating in the hunting of large game animals. Paleo period sites often functioned as small campsites where stone tool production and maintenance occurred (Ellis & Deller, 1990).

## ARCHAIC PERIOD

By approximately 8,000 BP, climatic warming supported the growth of deciduous forests in southern Ontario. These forests introduced new flora and faunal resources, which resulted in subsistence shifts and a number of cultural adaptations. This change is reflected in the archaeological record by new tool-kits that are reflective of a shift in subsistence strategies and has been categorized as the Archaic period.

The Archaic period in southern Ontario is sub-divided into the Early Archaic (ca. 10,000 to 8,000 BP), Middle Archaic (ca. 8,000 to 4,500 BP), and the Late Archaic (ca. 4,500 to 2,800 BP) periods. Generally, in North America, the Archaic period represents a transition from big game hunting to broader, more generalized subsistence strategies based on local resource availability. This period is characterized by the following traits:

- An increase in stone tool variation and reliance on local stone sources,
- The emergence of notched and stemmed projectile point types,
- A reduction in extensively flaked tools,
- The use of native copper,
- The use of bone tools for hooks, gorges, and harpoons,
- An increase in extensive trade networks, and
- The production of ground stone tools and an increase in larger, less portable tools

The Archaic period is also marked by population growth with archaeological evidence suggesting that, by the end of the Middle Archaic period (ca. 4,500 BP), populations had steadily increased in size (Ellis, et al., 1990).

Over the course of the Archaic period, populations began to rely on more localized hunting and gathering territories and were shifting to more seasonal encampments. From the spring into the fall, settlements were focused in lakeshore/riverine locations where a variety of different resources could be exploited. Settlement in the late fall and winter months moved to interior sites where the focus shifted to deer hunting and the foraging of wild plants (Ellis et al., 1990, p. 114). The steady increase in population size and the adoption of a more localized seasonal subsistence strategy led to the transition into the Woodland period.

### EARLY AND MIDDLE WOODLAND PERIODS

The beginning of the Woodland period is defined by the emergence of ceramic technology. Similar to the Archaic period, the Woodland period is separated into three timeframes: the Early Woodland (ca. 2,800 to 2,000 BP), the Middle Woodland (ca. 2,000 to 1,200 BP), and the Late Woodland (ca. 1,200 to 350 BP) (Spence et al., 1990; Fox, 1990).

The Early Woodland period is represented in southern Ontario by two cultural complexes: the Meadowood Complex (ca. 2,900 to 2,500 BP), and the Middlesex Complex (ca. 2,500 to 2,000 BP). During this period, the life ways of Early Woodland populations differed little from that of the Late Archaic with hunting and gathering representing the primary subsistence strategies. The pottery of this period is characterized by its relatively crude construction and lack of decoration. These early ceramics exhibit cord impressions, which are likely the result of the techniques used during manufacture rather than decoration (Spence et al., 1990).

The Middle Woodland period has been differentiated from the Early Woodland period by changes in lithic tool forms (e.g. projectile points, expedient tools), and the increased decorative elaboration of ceramic vessels (Spence et al., 1990). Additionally, archaeological evidence suggests the rudimentary use of maize (corn) horticulture by the end of the Middle Woodland Period (Warrick, 2000).

In southern Ontario, the Middle Woodland has been divided into three different complexes based on regional cultural traditions: the Point Peninsula Complex, the Couture Complex, and the Saugeen Complex. These groups are differentiated by sets of characteristics that are unique to regions within the province, specifically regarding ceramic decorations.

The Point Peninsula Complex extends from south-central and eastern Ontario into southern Quebec. The northernmost borders of the complex can be found along the Mattawa and French Rivers. Ceramics are coil constructed with conical bases, outflaring rims, and flat, rounded, or pointed lips. The interior surfaces of vessels are often channelled with a comb-like implement, creating horizontal striations throughout. The exterior is smoothed, or brushed, and decoration generally includes pseudo-scallop stamps or dentate impressions. Occasionally, ceramics will have been treated with a red ochre wash (Spence et al, 1990).

The Saugeen Complex is found generally in south-central Ontario and along the eastern shores of Lake Huron. The Saugeen Complex ceramics are similar in style to Point Peninsula Complex; however, the vessels tended to be cruder than their Point Peninsula counterparts. They were characterized by coil construction with thick walls, wide necks, and poorly defined shoulders. Usually, the majority of the vessel was decorated with pseudo-scallop stamps or dentate impressions, with the latter occurring more frequently at later dates (Spence et al., 1990).

## LATE WOODLAND PERIOD

There is much debate as to whether a transitional phase between the Middle and Late Woodland Periods is present in Ontario, but it is generally agreed that the Late Woodland period of occupation begins around 1,100 BP. The Late Woodland period in southern Ontario can be divided into three cultural sub-phases: The early, middle, and late Late Woodland periods. The early Late Woodland is characterized by the Glen Meyer and Pickering cultures and the middle Late Woodland is characterized by the Uren and Middleport cultures. These groups are ancestral to the Iroquoian-speaking Neutral-Erie (Neutral), the Huron-Wendat (Huron), and Petun Nations that inhabited southern Ontario during the late Late Woodland period (Smith, 1990, p. 285).

The Pickering and Glen Meyer cultures co-existed within southern Ontario during the early Late Woodland period (ca. 1250-700 BP). Pickering territory is understood to encompass the area north of Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay and Lake Nipissing (Williamson, 1990). Glen Meyer is centred around Oxford and Norfolk counties, but also includes the southeastern Huron basin and the western extent is demarcated by the Ekfrid Clay Plain southwest of London, Ontario (Noble, 1975). Villages of either tradition were generally smaller in size (~1 ha) and composed of smaller oval structures, which were later replaced by larger structures in the Late Woodland period. Archaeological evidence suggested a mixed economy where hunting and gathering played an important role, but small-scale horticulture was present, indicating a gradual shift from hunting-gathering to a horticultural economy (Williamson, 1990).

The first half of the middle Late Woodland period is represented by the Uren culture (700-650 BP) and the second half by the Middleport (650-600 BP). Uren and Middleport sites of the middle Late Woodland share a similar distribution pattern across much of southwestern and south-central Ontario. (Dodd et al., 1990). Significant changes in material culture and settlement-subsistence patterns are noted during this short time. Iroquois Linear, Ontario Horizontal, and Ontario Oblique pottery types are the most well-represented ceramic assemblages of the middle Late Woodland period (Dodd et al., 1990). At Middleport sites, material culture changes included an increase in the manufacture and use of clay pipes as well as bone tools and adornments (Dodd et al., 1990; Ferris & Spence, 1995).

The appearance of evidence of small year-round villages, secondary ossuary burials, and what are thought to be semi-subterranean sweat lodges suggest a marked increase in sedentism in southern Ontario during the Uren and Middleport cultures (Ferris & Spence, 1995). The increasing permanency of settlements resulted in the development of small-scale cultivation and a subsequent increased reliance on staple crops such as maize, beans, and squash (Dodd et al., 1990; Warrick, 2000; Ferris & Spence, 1995).

Archaeological evidence from the middle Late Woodland sites also documents increases in population size, community organization and village fissioning, and the expansion of trade networks. The development of trade networks with northern Algonquian peoples has also been inferred from findings at Middleport sites along the northern parts of southwestern and south-central Ontario. These changes resulted in the more organized and complex social structures observed in the late Late Woodland period.

During the late Late Woodland period, village size significantly increased as did the complexity of community and political systems. Villages were often fortified with palisade walls and ranged in size from a few longhouses to over 100 longhouses observed in large villages. Larger longhouses oriented differently than others in the village have been associated with primary familial groups and it has been suggested that longhouses that were located outside of palisade walls may have been for visiting groups for the purposes of trade or social gatherings (Ramsden, 1990). More recent research has indicated that smaller, temporary camp or cabin sites were often used seasonally for the tending of agricultural fields or as fishing camps (Ramsden, 1990). By this time, large-scale agriculture had taken hold, making year-round villages even more practical as a result of the ability to store large crop yields over winter.

The villages in the vicinity of the study area were typically associated with the Huron-Wendat nations who occupied areas as far east as the Trent River and as far west as the Niagara Escarpment. They typically inhabited each village for several decades until the agricultural land was exhausted, and communities moved to more fertile areas. Throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth century, community movement often included northern migrations and the incorporation of multiple smaller villages into larger coalescent villages.

The Huron-Wendat eventually dispersed from the Toronto area in the seventeenth century, during the period of French contact, to settle in their historic homeland of Wendake, which included territory in present-day Simcoe and Grey Counties. Today, “Wendake” is the name of the Huron-Wendat reserve located in Quebec, Ontario, which was formerly known as the village of Huronia. This coalescence and subsequent movement northward was thought to be the result of a number of socio-political factors, including increased conflict with the Haudenosaunee, an increased complexity in political organization, stronger trade relations with northern Algonquian groups, and interactions with early European traders (Ramsden, 1990; Birch, 2012; Ferris & Spence, 1995).

Oral histories of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga Anishinaabeg) reflect increasing levels of inter-community relationships, integration, and trade between different groups. For example, these oral histories speak to the arrival of, and relationships with, the Huron “corn growers” (Migizi & Kapyrka, 2015, pp. 127-136). In addition to archaeological interpretations, oral histories also provide a valuable contribution to our understanding of the occupation and movement of Indigenous peoples in Ontario. The following oral history, provided by Michi Saagiig elder Gitiga Migizi, speaks to the occupation of this area of southern Ontario by the Anishinaabeg throughout the pre-contact and post-contact periods (see Appendix A for the full text):

The traditional homelands of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga Anishinaabeg) encompass a vast area of what is now known as southern Ontario. The Michi Saagiig occupied and fished the north shore of Lake Ontario where the various tributaries emptied into the lake. Their territories extended north into and beyond the Kawarthas as winter hunting grounds on which they would break off into smaller social groups for the season, hunting and trapping on these lands, then returning to the lakeshore in spring for the summer months.

The Michi Saagiig were a highly mobile people, travelling vast distances to procure subsistence for their people. They were also known as the “Peacekeepers” among Indigenous nations. The Michi Saagiig homelands were located directly between two very powerful Confederacies: The Three Fires Confederacy to the north and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to the south. The Michi Saagiig were the negotiators, the messengers, the diplomats, and they successfully mediated peace throughout this area of Ontario for countless generations.

Michi Saagiig oral histories speak to their people being in this area of Ontario for thousands of years. These stories recount the “Old Ones” who spoke an ancient Algonquian dialect. The histories explain that the current Ojibwa phonology is the 5th transformation of this language, demonstrating a linguistic connection that spans back into deep time. The Michi Saagiig of today are the descendants of the ancient peoples who lived in Ontario during the Archaic and Paleo periods. They are the original inhabitants of southern Ontario, and they are still here today.

The traditional territories of the Michi Saagiig span from Gananoque in the east, all along the north shore of Lake Ontario, west to the north shore of Lake Erie at Long Point. The territory spreads as far north as the tributaries that flow into these lakes, from Bancroft and north of the Haliburton highlands. This also includes all the tributaries that flow from the height of land north of Toronto like the Oak Ridges Moraine, and all of the rivers that flow into Lake Ontario (the Rideau, the Salmon, the Ganaraska, the Moira, the Trent, the Don, the Rouge, the Etobicoke, the Humber, and the Credit, as

well as Wilmot and 16 Mile Creeks) through Burlington Bay and the Niagara region including the Welland and Niagara Rivers, and beyond. The western side of the Michi Saagiig Nation was located around the Grand River which was used as a portage route as the Niagara portage was too dangerous. The Michi Saagiig would portage from present-day Burlington to the Grand River and travel south to the open water on Lake Erie.

Michi Saagiig oral histories also speak to the occurrence of people coming into their territories sometime between 500-1000 A.D. seeking to establish villages and a corn growing economy – these newcomers included peoples that would later be known as the Huron-Wendat, Neutral, Petun/Tobacco Nations. The Michi Saagiig made Treaties with these newcomers and granted them permission to stay with the understanding that they were visitors in these lands. Wampum was made to record these contracts, ceremonies would have bound each nation to their respective responsibilities within the political relationship, and these contracts would have been renewed annually (see Gitiga Migizi and Kapyrka 2015). These visitors were extremely successful as their corn economy grew as well as their populations. However, it was understood by all nations involved that this area of Ontario were the homeland territories of the Michi Saagiig.

The Odawa Nation worked with the Michi Saagiig to meet with the Huron-Wendat, the Petun, and Neutral Nations to continue the amicable political and economic relationship that existed – a symbiotic relationship that was mainly policed and enforced by the Odawa people.

Problems arose for the Michi Saagiig in the 1600s when the European way of life was introduced into southern Ontario. Also, around the same time, the Haudenosaunee were given firearms by the colonial governments in New York and Albany which ultimately made an expansion possible for them into Michi Saagiig territories. There began skirmishes with the various nations living in Ontario at the time. The Haudenosaunee engaged in fighting with the Huron-Wendat and between that and the onslaught of European diseases, the Iroquoian speaking peoples in Ontario were decimated.

The onset of colonial settlement and missionary involvement severely disrupted the original relationships between these Indigenous nations. Disease and warfare had a devastating impact upon the Indigenous peoples of Ontario, especially the large sedentary villages, which mostly included Iroquoian speaking peoples. The Michi Saagiig were largely able to avoid the devastation caused by these processes by retreating to their wintering grounds to the north, essentially waiting for the smoke to clear.

Often times, southern Ontario is described as being “vacant” after the dispersal of the Huron-Wendat peoples in 1649 (who fled east to Quebec and south to the United States). This is misleading as these territories remained the homelands of the Michi Saagiig Nation.

The Michi Saagiig participated in eighteen treaties from 1781 to 1923 to allow the growing number of European settlers to establish in Ontario. Pressures from increased settlement forced the Michi Saagiig to slowly move into small family groups around the present day communities: Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Scugog Island First Nation, New Credit First Nation, and Mississauga First Nation. The Michi Saagiig have been in Ontario for thousands of years, and they remain here to this day.

Migizi and Kapyrka pp. 127-136 (2015)

Early contact with European settlers at the end of the Late Woodland period resulted in extensive changes to the traditional lifestyles of most populations inhabiting Ontario including settlement size, population distribution, and material culture. The introduction of European-borne diseases significantly increased mortality rates, resulting in a drastic drop in population size (Warrick, 2000).

### 1.3.3 POST-CONTACT PERIOD

By the 1650s, the Neutral had been dispersed as a result of increasing conflicts with the Haudenosaunee, and the warfare and disease that had arrived with European colonization. A significant number of the Neutral had also been adopted into Haudenosaunee populations. The large-scale population dispersals gave way for the Haudenosaunee to occupy the north shore of Lake Ontario and continue their offensive northward to Anishinabek territory where they were faced with opposition by the Mississauga. The Mississauga and their allies, the Ottawa and Chippewa nations, successfully fought the Haudenosaunee and drove them south of Lake Ontario to re-inhabit southern Ontario. The Mississauga later participated in a significant number of treaty agreements with the British Crown, establishing the foundation of Euro-Canadian settlement in southern Ontario (Ferris & Spence, 1995).

The land on which the study area falls is located within the boundaries of the Head of the Lake Purchase (Treaty No. 14). The Head of the Lake Purchase was signed by the Crown and the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation in 1806 and included an area of previously unceded land between the Toronto Purchase (Treaty No. 13a) of 1805 and the Brant Tract (Treaty No. 8) ceded in 1797 (Duric, 2017a). Present day cities included within the Head of the Lake Purchase include Mississauga, Oakville, and parts of Burlington.

### HALTON COUNTY

The area that later became Halton County was settled in 1783 by the United Empire Loyalists (Walker & Miles, 1877). During this early settlement, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe ordered a military route to connect York (now Toronto) to his envisioned capital of London to the west. The route, then known as York Road, was cut through Halton County in 1793, generally following an existing First Nations' portage trail. York Road (now present-day Dundas Street) was not developed into a regulation-sized road until after the signing of the Head of the Lake Purchase in 1806 (Duric, 2017a).

The land on which Halton County was formed was subsequently ceded to the Crown through a series of treaties including all or parts of the Brant Tract (1795), Treaty No. 13a (1805), the Head of the Lake Purchase (1806), the Ajetance Treaty, No. 19 (1818), Treaty No. 22, and Treaty No. 23 (Duric, 2017b). The Ajetance Treaty, named after the Chief of the Mississauga of the Credit, covers the northern half of the county, including present-day Georgetown and Brampton. When the Mississaugas of the Credit negotiated the Ajetance Treaty with the Crown in 1818, the Nation was left with three parcels of land, one on each of the banks of Twelve Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek, and the Credit River. Two years later, William Claus, Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Department, oversaw the negotiation of these remaining parcels of land in the 1820 Treaties No. 22 and No. 23. Treaty 22 included all of the Twelve Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek parcels, and the northern and southern segments of the Credit River parcel. Treaty No. 23, signed the same day, involved the remaining land along the central portion of the Credit River (Mika & Mika, 1983, p. 671; Duric, 2017c; Heritage Mississauga, 2018).

Surveys of the area began shortly after treaty negotiations for the land were signed in 1806 using Dundas Street as a reference line to establish the earliest townships (Riendeau, 1985, p. 17). Halton and Wentworth Counties were created in 1816 as part of the Gore District. At the time, Halton County included the townships of Nelson, Trafalgar, Flamborough, and Beverly. By 1821, expansion resulted in the addition of Esquesing, Erin, Nassagaweya, Eramosa, and Garafraxa Townships. With the establishment of the Wellington District in 1838, Erin, Eramosa, and Garafraxa Townships were removed from Halton County (Mika & Mika, 1981, p. 216). After the passage of several Acts of Parliament, the abolishment of the Gore District, and territorial reorganization, Halton County was reduced to the townships of Esquesing, Nassagaweya, Nelson, and Trafalgar in 1851.

The central location of Halton County and its proximity to Lake Ontario made it an ideal centre for trade, with harbours constructed in Bronte, Oakville, and Burlington (Mika & Mika, 1981, p. 218). Farming was a prosperous endeavor with soil suitable for agriculture and abundant land for grazing livestock. The arrival of the Grand Trunk Railway, the Great Western Railway, the Hamilton and North-Western Railways, and the Credit Valley Railway further boosted prosperity and settlement in larger communities such as Milton, Oakville, Acton, Georgetown, and Burlington, and many smaller communities, including Eden Mills, Milton Heights, Campbellville, Omagh, and Palermo (Mika & Mika, 1981, p. 219). In 1857, the towns of Milton and Oakville were incorporated, followed by the villages of Georgetown, Burlington, and Acton in 1865, 1873, and 1874, respectively (Walker & Miles, 1877). Between 1958 and 1962, several amalgamations and annexations of towns and townships resulted in the reorganization of the county. By 1974, Halton County had been replaced by the Regional Municipality of Halton.

## TOWNSHIP OF TRAFALGAR

Trafalgar Township was surveyed in 1806 by Samuel Wilmot and was initially called Alexander Township. It was later renamed in honor of the defeat of the French and Spanish at the Battle of Trafalgar by the British led by Admiral Nelson (McKeon & McKeon, 1986, p. 24; Oakville Historical Society, n.d.). The earliest settlers arrived in 1807 and enjoyed a favourable environmental setting, as the land was well drained by Twelve Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek, and their various tributaries (Walker & Miles, 1877). Some lots were reserved for the Crown and for the Anglican Church, but the rest were quickly claimed by settlers who were required to clear and fence at least five acres, build a house, and clear the road adjacent to their land (Oakville Historical Society, n.d.).

By 1817, the population of the township reached 548 with four saw mills and one grist mill in operation (Walker & Miles, 1877). Richard Bristol surveyed the northern part of the Township of Trafalgar in 1819 and the first post office in the township was established at Post's Corners in 1820. By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, a total of 28,375 hectares (ha) had been settled, 11,404 ha of which under cultivation, and there were 23 saw mills and 7 grist mills in operation (Walker & Miles, 1877). The population of Trafalgar reached 4,513 by 1850, and by 1862, additional industries included three foundries, a woolen factory, a brewery, a tannery, a steam engine and machine works, and a shingle factory. The 1871 census of Trafalgar, which did not include the Towns of Oakville and Milton, counted a population of 5,027 (Walker & Miles, 1877). In 1962, portions of the Townships of Trafalgar and Toronto Gore, and the Villages of Port Credit and Streetsville were amalgamated to form the City of Mississauga (McKeon & McKeon, 1986, p. 77).

### 1.3.4 STUDY AREA SPECIFIC HISTORY

To better understand the historic land use of the study area, the 1858 Tremaine's *Map of the County of Halton, Canada West* and the 1877 Walker & Miles *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton* were reviewed to examine whether historic features are located within, or in proximity, to the study area. This analysis contributes to the determination of archaeological potential.

The 1858 Tremaine map illustrates that present day Eglinton Avenue West, Ninth Line, and Winston Churchill Boulevard had been constructed along historic lot and concession lines. All surrounding lots are owned as indicated by landowner names, and the portion of the lot in which the study area is located is illustrated as being owned by G. Albertson (Figure 3). No structures are shown within, or directly adjacent to, the study area. It should be noted that the lack of structures on the map does not preclude the presence of structures on the property at that time. Illustrating all homesteads on the historic atlas maps would have been beyond the intended scope of the atlas and, often, homes were only illustrated for those landowners who purchase a subscription.

By 1877, Trafalgar Township had been divided into Trafalgar North and Trafalgar South, with the study area located within Trafalgar Township South. The portion of the lot on which the study area is located remained under the ownership of George Albertson and a structure and orchard are illustrated directly adjacent to the southeast study area boundary (Figure 3). The existing residential structure within the study area appears to coincide with the structure illustrated on the 1877 map.

The existing residential structure on the property is a one-and-a-half storey rectangular dwelling constructed in red brick in the vernacular architectural style. The house was built some time around 1865 and it replaced an earlier one-storey frame house built after 1842. George Albertson, his wife Margaret, and two sons were listed as living on the property in a one-storey frame house in the 1861 census. In 1873, William Albertson sold the northern half of Lot 4, Concession 2 NDS to his son George, who farmed the land until his death in 1891. In 1892, his widow, Margret, sold the farm to Thomas Wright Stevenson, who later sold it to Wilbert Clark Andrew in 1899 (Heritage Resources Consulting, 2013). The existing structure is listed on the City of Mississauga's Heritage Register but not designated (City of Mississauga, n.d).

#### AERIAL IMAGERY

To better understand the more recent land use of the study area, aerial imagery from 1954, 2004, and 2020 was consulted (City of Mississauga, n.d.). In 1954, the land surrounding the study area was entirely agricultural and a barn was located adjacent to the southeast limit of the study area. By 2004, the residential development to the east had been constructed, and further development was in progress on the north side of Eglinton Avenue West and to the south of the study area. The barn to the southeast of the study area that was present in the 1950s had been demolished. By 2020, the commercial development surrounding the study area was under construction, and the surrounding area had been developed into its current configuration (Figure 4).

## 1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

### 1.4.1 CURRENT CONDITIONS

The study area is approximately 0.41 hectares (ha) in size and consists of manicured lawn surrounding the existing residential structure located at 3650 Eglinton Road West. There is a paved driveway leading southeast from Eglinton Avenue West towards the house and garage. The study area is bounded by Eglinton Avenue West to the north and commercial development to the south, east, and west. The immediately surrounding area is commercial and residential, and a woodlot is located to the north on the opposite side of Eglinton Avenue West.

### 1.4.2 PHYSIOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

The study area is situated within the South Slope physiographic region (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 172-174). The South Slope is situated between Lake Ontario and the Oak Ridges Moraine. This physiographic region is higher than the glacial Lake Iroquois Plain and extends from the Niagara Escarpment to the Trent River (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 172). The South Slope is primarily a ground moraine with irregular knolls and hollows with Chinguacousy clay loam soil (Chapman and Putnam 1983: 174).

The region contains a variety of soils, and much of the area has been used extensively for agriculture. While the soils in the eastern portion of the region are sandier, those in the west, where the study area is located, tend to have a higher concentration of clay. The area is well drained and suitable for farming. Initially, grain was the most popular crop, which eventually gave way to commercial mixed farming and orchards (Chapman and Putnam 1983: 174).

Proximity to water sources is an important indicator of archaeological potential. These environmental features would have served as potable water sources, riverine and lake resources, and transportation routes during the pre- and post-contact periods and made for attractive settlement areas for Euro-Canadians and early Euro-Canadian industries. Based on the 1954 aerial photograph (Figure 4), a small tributary once ran approximately 130 m southwest of the study area that was filled in as a result of the construction of the surrounding commercial property. The study area is approximately 1.5 kilometers (km) east of an unnamed tributary of Joshua Creek and 2.7 km west of Sawmill Creek. The Credit River is located approximately 4.5 km east of the study area, and Lake Ontario is 10.5 km to the south.

### 1.4.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

A search of the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports* indicates that one archaeological assessment has been conducted within 50 m of the study area boundaries, and no previous archaeological assessments have been conducted within the study area boundaries. It should be noted that reports that have not yet been submitted to the MCM or accepted into the Register of Archaeological Reports are not made available to consultant archaeologists who did not complete the work and who are unaware that previous archaeological work has been conducted. Table 1 provides details on the archaeological assessment within 50 m of the study area.

**Table 1: Previous archaeological assessments on or within 50 m of the study area**

Year	PIF/License #	Title	Researcher
1997	95-014	<i>Archaeological Assessment of Draft Plans of Subdivisions 21T-94025, 21T-94033 and 21T-94034, "Churchill Meadows Secondary Plan Area", City of Mississauga, Regional Municipality of Peel (Erin Mills Neighbourhoods 402, 403, 404N, 404S, 405, 406, 407 and 408) and Stage 3 Investigations at Three Sites, AjGw-235, AjGw-237, and AjGw-240</i>	London Museum of Archaeology (LMA)

In 1997, the LMA conducted Stage 1, 2, and 3 archaeological assessments for three plans of subdivisions encompassing a total of 413.4 ha within the City of Mississauga, bordered to the north by Britannia Road, Winston Churchill Boulevard to the east, Highway 403 to the south, and Ninth Line to the west (Figure 5). The current study area falls within the general boundaries of this study but was not included in the assessment. The Stage 2 field survey resulted in the identification of 15 archaeological sites, 11 of which are pre-contact Indigenous and four are post-contact Euro-Canadian. Nine of these site identified during the 1997 LMA Stage 2 assessment s are located within 1 km of the current study area, the closest of which (AjGw-236) is approximately 130 m to the southwest. Of the 15 identified sites, three were recommended for a Stage 3 archaeological assessment (AjGw-235, AjGw-237, and AjGw-240) (LMA, 1997).

A Stage 1 archaeological assessment of the study area for the present project was conducted in 2022 by WSP. The Stage 1 assessment identified the study area has archaeological potential and recommended a Stage 2 archaeological assessment for the entire study area. The recommendations from the Stage 1 are presented in Section 1.4.5.

### 1.4.4 REGISTERED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

A search of the *Ontario Archaeological Sites Database* (OASD) indicates that there are 12 registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the study area (MCM, 2022). Of these 12 sites, six were pre-contact, five were Euro-Canadian, and one has not been assigned a time period or cultural affinity in the OASD. Details on the sites are provided in Table 2.

**Table 2: Registered Archaeological Sites within 1 km of the Study Area**

Borden	Site Name	Time Period	Cultural Affinity	Site Type	Current Development Status
AjGw-636	-	-	-	Unknown	No further work required
AjGw-260	Johnston Rogers Homestead	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Homestead, midden	-
AjGw-246	Churchill Meadows 15	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	Findspot	-
AjGw-245	Churchill Meadows 14	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	Findspot	-
AjGw-244	Churchill Meadows 13	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Homestead	-
AjGw-24	Cold	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	Findspot	-
AjGw-237	Churchill Meadows 6	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Homestead	-
AjGw-236	Churchill Meadows 5	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Homestead	-
AjGw-235	Churchill Meadows 4	Post-Contact	Euro-Canadian	Homestead	-
AjGw-234	Churchill Meadows 3	Early Woodland	Indigenous	Findspot	-
AjGw-233	Churchill Meadows 2	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	Other camp/campsite	-
AjGw-232	Churchill Meadows 1	Pre-Contact	Indigenous	Findspot	-

-denotes no information listed

The closest archaeological site, AjGw-236, is located approximately 130 m southwest of the study area and was initially identified in the 1997 Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment conducted by LMA. This site was identified in an agricultural field and consisted of approximately 104 Euro-Canadian artifacts within an area measuring approximately 49 m east to west by 14 m north to south. The artifacts were found to predominantly date to after 1880 and as such no further work was recommended (LMA, 1997).

### 1.4.5 STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A Stage 1 archaeological assessment was completed for the present project by WSP in 2022 under PIF# P1006-0095-2022. The following recommendations were made:

- Areas of archaeological potential within the manicured lawn must be subject to test pit survey at 5 m intervals as per Section 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011). Test pit survey can be increased to 10 m intervals in areas of confirmed disturbance based on professional judgement.
- Areas of visually confirmed disturbance, steep slope, or permanently low-lying and wet areas can be subject to photo-documentation only.

## 2 FIELD METHODS

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment was conducted on May 4, 2023, under the license P1006-0095-2022 issued to Alexandra Mullen, MA. Martha Tildesley (P399) served as the licensed field director. Weather conditions for the day were overcast with some sunny periods and the temperature reaching a high of 12°C. Lighting was adequate at all times for the identification of any potential archaeological resources or cultural layers. Permission to access the property was provided by the client.

The study area contained a house in the middle of the property, a newer shed built next to an older foundation, and a paved driveway leading to a parking area. The Stage 2 field survey was conducted following the recommendations of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment (WSP, 2022) and Section 2.1 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MCM, 2011). Areas of manicured lawn were subject to test pit survey.

The test pit survey was completed following Section 2.1.2 of the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM, 2011). Test pits were initially placed at intervals of 5 m and increased to 10 m intervals when disturbance was encountered. Given the levels of disturbance in the study area, approximately 75% of the test pit survey area was assessed at 10 m intervals, while the remaining 25% was assessed at 5 m intervals. Test pits measured at least 30 cm in diameter and were excavated at least 5 cm into subsoil and the bottom and sides of all test pits were examined for stratigraphy, cultural features, and evidence of fill or previous disturbance. All soil was screened through 6 mm mesh and the test pits were subsequently backfilled.

The majority of the study area was disturbed. In the southern corner of the study area, test pits were dug to approximately 60 cm, but they filled with water quickly. In the northern corner, on the manicured lawn, the area contained a heavy gray clay mixed with gravel and soil. Near the older structure, there was a slab of concrete that disturbed the area.

# 3 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

## 3.1 CONCLUSION

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment completed by WSP in 2022 indicated that parts of the study area had potential for the presence of archaeological resources. Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological resources were recovered during the Stage 2 field survey.

During the Stage 2 test pit survey, there was significant evidence that the entire study area was disturbed. This was evident by the mottling of the soil in the northern manicured lawn. The soil was a mix of grey clay with dark red soil and gravel. Areas that were not subject to test pit survey were comprised of pavement and building footprints. Test pits dug from the southwestern corner of the property had a mix of older and modern debris, identifying the area as disturbed soil.

Based on the findings of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment, archaeological potential has been removed from the study area as a result of significant past ground disturbing activities.

## 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

This Stage 2 archaeological assessment has concluded that no archaeological sites or artifacts were identified, and the study area was significantly disturbed. As a result of these findings, no further archaeological assessment is recommended for the study area subject to assessment of this report.

The recommendations provided in this report are not considered final until the report has been reviewed by the MCM and accepted into the *Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports*. The Stage 2 archaeological assessment was carried out in accordance with the MCM's *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2011) to meet the requirements for compliance with the Ontario Heritage Act, 1990.

## 5 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

This report is submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011a) that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, a letter will be issued by the Ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.

It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 requires that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.

Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological licence

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## 7 IMAGES



**Image 1: Test pit w/ reddish clay on top. Extremely wet and beginning to fill with water. Photo facing north.**



**Image 2: Typical test pit with disturbed mottled soil. Photo facing north**



**Image 3: East side of the residential structure. A removed addition to the building was evident from the large amount of brick found in the soil. Photo facing northwest.**



**Image 4: Paved driveway and residential structure in the study area. Photo facing southwest.**



**Image 5: Shed on property. Photo facing northeast.**



**Image 6: Foundation of older shed. Photo facing northeast.**



**Image 7: Crew conducting test pit survey at 5 m intervals. Photo facing southwest.**



**Image 8: Typical test pit with grey clay and reddish gravel. Photo facing south.**



**Image 9: Typical test pit with mottled subsoil throughout. Photo facing north.**



**Image 10: Crew conducting test pit survey at 5 m intervals. Photo facing southeast.**



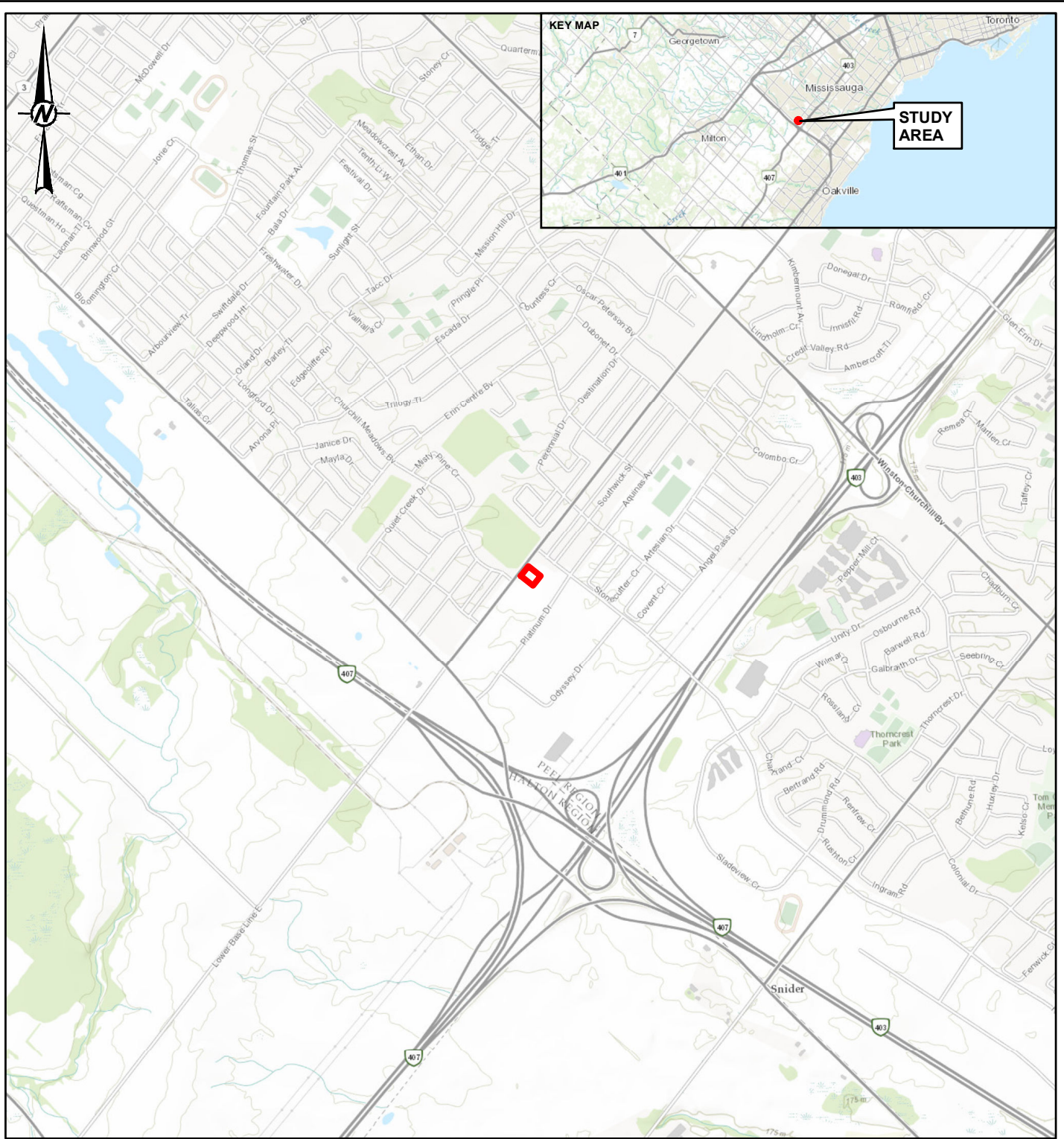
**Image 11: Disturbed area with a filled-in hole. Photo facing east.**




**Image 12: Water testing stations and sewers in the study area. Photo facing southeast.**

## 8 FIGURES

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LEGEND

 STUDY AREA



NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO
2. SERVICE LAYER CREDITS: SOURCES: ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, INTERMAP, INCREMENT P CORP., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GEOBASE, IGN, KADASTER NL, ORDNANCE SURVEY, ESRI JAPAN, METI, ESRI CHINA (HONG KONG), (C) OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT

U & N ENTERPRISES LTD

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT 3650 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST

TITLE

PROJECT LOCATION

CONSULTANT

YYYY-MM-DD 2023-12-04

DESIGNED ML

PREPARED BR

REVIEWED RF

APPROVED AM

PROJECT NO.  
221-12612-01

CONTROL  
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FIGURE  
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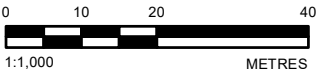


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SCALE 1:500,000

- LEGEND**
- STUDY AREA
  - ROADWAY
  - TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOUR, METRES
  - TOWNSHIP, CONCESSION AND LOT



**NOTE(S)**  
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

**REFERENCE(S)**  
1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO  
2. IMAGERY CREDITS: SOURCES: ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, INTERMAP, INCREMENT P CORP., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GEOBASE, IGN, KADASTER NL, ORDNANCE SURVEY, ESRI JAPAN, METI, ESRI CHINA (HONG KONG), (C) OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY  
SOURCE: ESRI, MAXAR, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY  
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

**CLIENT**  
U & N ENTERPRISES LTD

**PROJECT**  
STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT 3650 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST

**TITLE**  
STUDY AREA IN DETAIL

CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2023-12-04
	DESIGNED	ML
	PREPARED	BR
	REVIEWED	RF
	APPROVED	AM

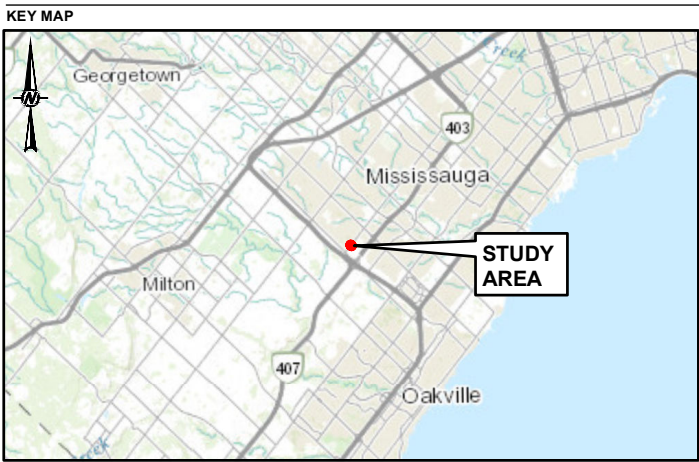
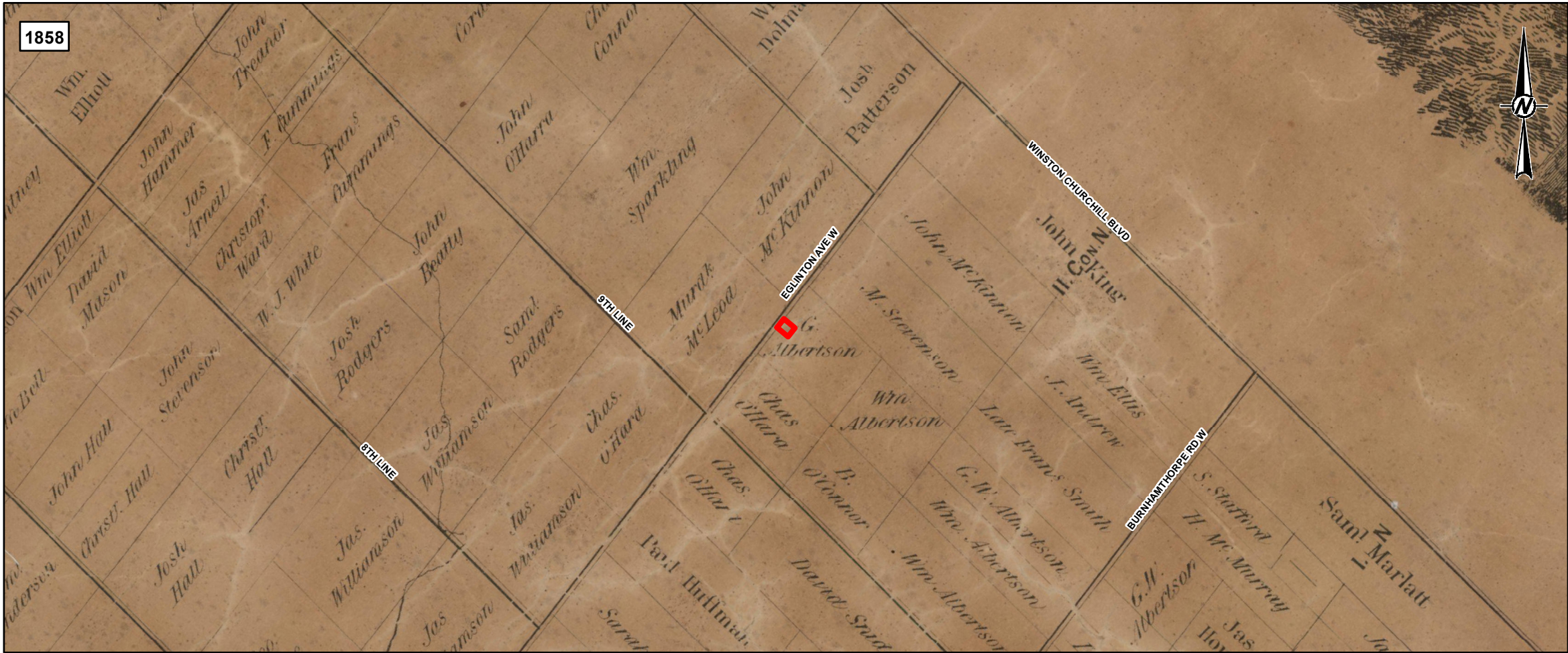


PROJECT NO.	CONTROL	REV.	FIGURE
221-12612-01	0001	0	2


IF THIS MEASUREMENT DOES NOT MATCH WHAT IS SHOWN, THE SHEET SIZE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FROM: ANSI B

28mm

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LEGEND

 STUDY AREA

NOTE(S)

1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)

1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO  
2. IMAGERY CREDITS: SOURCES: ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, INTERMAP, INCREMENT P CORP., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GEOBASE, IGN, KADASTER NL, ORDNANCE SURVEY, ESRI JAPAN, METI, ESRI CHINA (HONG KONG), (C) OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY  
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT

U & N ENTERPRISES LTD

PROJECT

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT 3650 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST

TITLE

1858 TREMAINE MAP OF THE COUNTY OF HALTON, CANADA WEST AND 1877 WALKER & MILES' ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE COUNTY OF HALTON

CONSULTANT



YYYY-MM-DD	2023-12-04
DESIGNED	ML
PREPARED	BR
REVIEWED	RF
APPROVED	AM

PROJECT NO.  
221-12612-01

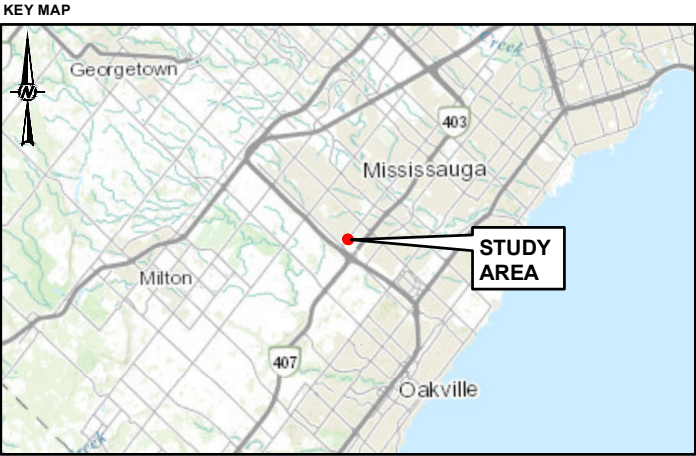
CONTROL  
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FIGURE  
3



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- LEGEND
- PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
  - STUDY AREA
  - ROADWAY
  - TOWNSHIP, CONCESSION AND LOT



NOTE(S)  
1. ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE

REFERENCE(S)  
1. CONTAINS INFORMATION LICENSED UNDER THE OPEN GOVERNMENT LICENCE - ONTARIO  
2. IMAGERY CREDITS: SOURCES: ESRI, HERE, GARMIN, INTERMAP, INCREMENT P CORP., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GEOBASE, IGN, KADASTER NL, ORDNANCE SURVEY, ESRI JAPAN, METI, ESRI CHINA (HONG KONG), (C) OPENSTREETMAP CONTRIBUTORS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY  
SOURCE: ESRI, MAXAR, EARTHSTAR GEOGRAPHICS, AND THE GIS USER COMMUNITY  
3. COORDINATE SYSTEM: NAD 1983 UTM ZONE 17N

CLIENT  
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PROJECT  
STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT 3650 EGLINTON AVENUE WEST

TITLE  
PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS WITHIN 50 METERS

CONSULTANT	YYYY-MM-DD	2023-12-04
DESIGNED	ML	
PREPARED	BR	
REVIEWED	RF	
APPROVED	AM	

PROJECT NO. 221-12612-01 CONTROL 0001 REV. 0 FIGURE 5

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MIICHI SAAGIG ORAL  
HISTORY

# APPENDIX

## MICHI SAAGIIG HISTORICAL/BACKGROUND CONTEXT

The traditional homelands of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga Anishinaabeg) encompass a vast area of what is now known as southern Ontario. The Michi Saagiig are known as “the people of the big river mouths” and were also known as the “Salmon People” who occupied and fished the north shore of Lake Ontario where the various tributaries emptied into the lake. Their territories extended north into and beyond the Kawarthas as winter hunting grounds on which they would break off into smaller social groups for the season, hunting and trapping on these lands, then returning to the lakeshore in spring for the summer months.

The Michi Saagiig were a highly mobile people, travelling vast distances to procure subsistence for their people. They were also known as the “Peacekeepers” among Indigenous nations. The Michi Saagiig homelands were located directly between two very powerful Confederacies: The Three Fires Confederacy to the north and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to the south. The Michi Saagiig were the negotiators, the messengers, the diplomats, and they successfully mediated peace throughout this area of Ontario for countless generations.

Michi Saagiig oral histories speak to their people being in this area of Ontario for thousands of years. These stories recount the “Old Ones” who spoke an ancient Algonquian dialect. The histories explain that the current Ojibwa phonology is the 5<sup>th</sup> transformation of this language, demonstrating a linguistic connection that spans back into deep time. The Michi Saagiig of today are the descendants of the ancient peoples who lived in Ontario during the Archaic and Paleo-Indian periods. They are the original inhabitants of southern Ontario, and they are still here today.

The traditional territories of the Michi Saagiig span from Gananoque in the east, all along the north shore of Lake Ontario, west to the north shore of Lake Erie at Long Point. The territory spreads as far north as the tributaries that flow into these lakes, from Bancroft and north of the Haliburton highlands. This also includes all the tributaries that flow from the height of land north of Toronto like the Oak Ridges Moraine, and all of the rivers that flow into Lake Ontario (the Rideau, the Salmon, the Ganaraska, the Moira, the Trent, the Don, the Rouge, the Etobicoke, the Humber, and the Credit, as well as Wilmot and 16 Mile Creeks) through Burlington Bay and the Niagara region including the Welland and Niagara Rivers, and beyond. The western side of the Michi Saagiig Nation was located around the Grand River which was used as a portage route as the Niagara portage was too dangerous. The Michi Saagiig would portage from present-day Burlington to the Grand River and travel south to the open water on Lake Erie.

Michi Saagiig oral histories also speak to the occurrence of people coming into their territories sometime between 500-1000 A.D. seeking to establish villages and a corn growing economy – these newcomers included peoples that would later be known as the Huron-Wendat, Neutral, Petun/Tobacco Nations. The Michi Saagiig made Treaties with these newcomers and granted them permission to stay with the understanding that they were visitors in these lands. Wampum was made to record these contracts, ceremonies would have bound each nation to their respective responsibilities within the political relationship, and these contracts would have been renewed annually (see Gitiga Migizi and Kapyrka 2015). These visitors were extremely successful as their corn economy grew as well as their populations. However, it was understood by all nations involved that this area of Ontario were the homeland territories of the Michi Saagiig.

The Odawa Nation worked with the Michi Saagiig to meet with the Huron-Wendat, the Petun, and Neutral Nations to continue the amicable political and economic relationship that existed – a symbiotic relationship that was mainly policed and enforced by the Odawa people.

Problems arose for the Michi Saagiig in the 1600s when the European way of life was introduced into southern Ontario. Also, around the same time, the Haudenosaunee were given firearms by the colonial governments in New York and Albany which ultimately made an expansion possible for them into Michi Saagiig territories. There began skirmishes with the various nations living in Ontario at the time. The Haudenosaunee engaged in fighting with the Huron-Wendat and between that and the onslaught of European diseases, the Iroquoian speaking peoples in Ontario were decimated.

# APPENDIX

The onset of colonial settlement and missionary involvement severely disrupted the original relationships between these Indigenous nations. Disease and warfare had a devastating impact upon the Indigenous peoples of Ontario, especially the large sedentary villages, which mostly included Iroquoian speaking peoples. The Michi Saagiig were largely able to avoid the devastation caused by these processes by retreating to their wintering grounds to the north, essentially waiting for the smoke to clear.

Michi Saagiig Elder Gitiga Migizi (2017) recounts:

*“We weren’t affected as much as the larger villages because we learned to paddle away for several years until everything settled down. And we came back and tried to bury the bones of the Huron but it was overwhelming, it was all over, there were bones all over – that is our story.*

*There is a misnomer here, that this area of Ontario is not our traditional territory and that we came in here after the Huron-Wendat left or were defeated, but that is not true. That is a big misconception of our history that needs to be corrected. We are the traditional people, we are the ones that signed treaties with the Crown. We are recognized as the ones who signed these treaties and we are the ones to be dealt with officially in any matters concerning territory in southern Ontario.*

*We had peacemakers go to the Haudenosaunee and live amongst them in order to change their ways. We had also diplomatically dealt with some of the strong chiefs to the north and tried to make peace as much as possible. So we are very important in terms of keeping the balance of relationships in harmony.*

*Some of the old leaders recognized that it became increasingly difficult to keep the peace after the Europeans introduced guns. But we still continued to meet, and we still continued to have some wampum, which doesn’t mean we negated our territory or gave up our territory – we did not do that. We still consider ourselves a sovereign nation despite legal challenges against that. We still view ourselves as a nation and the government must negotiate from that basis.”*

Often times, southern Ontario is described as being “vacant” after the dispersal of the Huron-Wendat peoples in 1649 (who fled east to Quebec and south to the United States). This is misleading as these territories remained the homelands of the Michi Saagiig Nation.

The Michi Saagiig participated in eighteen treaties from 1781 to 1923 to allow the growing number of European settlers to establish in Ontario. Pressures from increased settlement forced the Michi Saagiig to slowly move into small family groups around the present day communities: Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Scugog Island First Nation, New Credit First Nation, and Mississauga First Nation.

Note: This historical context was prepared by Gitiga Migizi, a respected Elder and Knowledge Keeper of the Michi Saagiig Nation.

## SOURCE

Migizi, G. & J Kapyrka (2015). Before, During, and After: Mississauga Presence in the Kawarthas. In D. Verhulst (eds.) *Peterborough Archaeology* (pp.127-136). Peterborough, Ontario: Peterborough Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society.

