

February 27, 2019

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Re: Update on the Archaeological Assessment of the Mohawk Institute Property

1.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

In the spring of 2017, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. (ARA) and the Ontario Archaeological Society (OAS) committed to providing archaeological services in advance of restoration work on the Mohawk Institute building located at 184 Mohawk Street, Six Nations (Brantford, ON). This property is included in the *Save the Evidence* campaign and is considered to be the Woodland Cultural Centre property.

Prior to the construction of the Mohawk Village Memorial Park, a meeting at the Woodland Cultural Centre on July 14, 2017 was called to discuss the scope of work; in consultation with community members, stakeholders and Six Nations Elected Council representatives the scope of work was expanded to include an approximately 2.02 ha (5 acre) parcel south of the entrance driveway and extending east from Mohawk Street to a bush line at the rear of the Institute building. This portion of the work is considered to be the Mohawk Village Memorial Park property. The archaeological work at 184 Mohawk Street was initiated in advance of restoration efforts and a memorial park installation on the property, both of which are anticipated to include deep land alterations.

According to the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database (OASD) maintained by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS), no previous archaeological assessments have been documented on the property – though this is not unexpected given that the archaeological provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act and the Planning Act are not in force on reserve lands. ARA and the OAS offered their services to the project as part of a “Reconciliation Project” to ensure that, despite these legislative shortcomings, significant archaeological remains on the property could be conserved.

1.1 Woodland Cultural Centre Property

1.1.1 Gardens North of Driveway–Stage 2 Property Assessment

At the request of the Woodland Cultural Centre (WCC), a Stage 2 test-pit survey was conducted on the WCC property on the north side of the entrance driveway comprising lands bounded to the west by Mohawk Road, north by the property fencing, east by the Woodland Cultural Centre building and south by the entrance driveway. The test-pit survey consisted of excavating roughly 30cm diameter pits to the depth of 5 cm beyond culturally sterile subsoil on a 5-metre grid. Subsoil depth in this area varied across the study area. Soils from the excavated pits were screened through 6 mm (1/4 inch) hardware cloth screen to look for artifacts. Artifacts collected from the screened soils were retained for further analysis and reporting and are currently stored at ARA's Ancaster office location.

Test-pits and three 1 x 1 metre test units were excavated within an area that measures approximately 2.57 ha (6.35 acres). The test units were excavated to intensify the survey around the location of a single projectile point found during the test-pit survey. The test units contained normal stratigraphy (i.e. roughly 30cm of topsoil over sterile subsoil) and did not result in the identification of additional artifacts. All artifacts recovered during the Stage 2 assessment are currently being processed by ARA and project volunteers.

1.1.2 Gardens Additional–Stage 2 Property Assessment

At the request of a field liaison representative from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, two additional test-pits were excavated at the rear of the Woodland Cultural Centre building near the bush line to the east of the Haldimand Car art installation. One test pit in this area produced more than 30 pieces of pre-contact Indigenous lithic debitage (flakes from the production of stone tools). This area will be recommended for further work that should be undertaken if land alterations are proposed for this location in the future. Artifacts retained from this additional Stage 2 test pit assessment are currently located at ARA's Ancaster location for processing.

1.1.3 Gardens North of Driveway–Stage 3 Targeted Assessment

The partial Stage 3 excavations at the bases of the removed apple trees involved the excavation of one-by-one metre units on a 5-metre grid directly adjacent to the tree stumps that were to be removed within the orchard area following the archaeological work. This work was undertaken to address concerns that the apple trees in the orchard represented the location of Institute-era children's burials. Subsoil depth in this area generally reached a depth of 30–40 cm. Soils from the excavated units were screened through 6mm (1/4 inch) hardware cloth screen to look for artifacts. Artifacts collected from the screened soils were retained for further analysis and reporting and are currently stored at ARA's Ancaster office location.

Artifact totals and a full analysis is not currently available for this portion of the assessment, as processing is still underway. No human remains were identified or recovered during the targeted assessment at the base of the apple trees in the former orchard.

1.1.4 Archaeological Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during foundation waterproofing activities along the northeast elevation of the Institute building (rear Boy's side) in May 2018. A roughly one metre wide trench was excavated to the depth of the foundation footings of the building to allow for the tarring and papering of the foundation walls below grade. Some artifacts were recovered from disturbed soils in this area and have been transferred to the Woodland Cultural Centre.

In May 2018, archaeological monitoring was conducted during the installation of a new hydro vault, north of the grassed area on the north side of the 1960s stairwell addition to the Institute building. No archaeological materials or human remains were recovered during the archaeological monitoring of the hydro vault installation.

In November 2018, archaeological monitoring was conducted during the excavation of a new gas line, extending north from the southeast corner of the 'North Gardens' toward the Woodland Cultural Centre building. The line terminated along the east elevation of the Woodland Cultural Centre building at a new gas meter. Approximately 10 artifacts were recovered during this work and have been retained by ARA for processing. No human remains were located during the installation of the new gas line.

1.2 Mohawk Village Memorial Park Property

1.2.1 Firepit Footprint–Stage 3 Site-Specific Assessment

The Stage 3 excavations within the footprint of the proposed firepit (situated along the bush line south of the Institute building) consisted of 22 one-by-one metre test units on a 5-metre grid across the study area, and two 2x2 metre test units on the south and east elevations of the Institute building. Subsoil depth in this area varied from 1 metre to more than 1.5 metres in depth. Soils from the excavated units were screened through 6mm (1/4 inch) hardware cloth screen to look for artifacts. Artifacts collected from the screened soils were retained for further analysis and reporting and are currently stored at ARA's Ancaster office location.

The Stage 3 assessment revealed more than 25 distinct stratigraphic lots (soil layers) and 18 features were observed and recorded. Remaining Stage 3 archaeological work in this area includes the excavation of three 1x1 metre infill units. Thousands of artifacts were recovered during the Stage 3 assessment within the footprint of the firepit which are currently being processed at ARA's Ancaster laboratory facility.

Soils in this area are within a deeply buried context. It appears that an intact (undisturbed) layer spans the impact area of the firepit at a depth of +1.3 metres. Archaeological testing in this area proved difficult due to the deeply buried context, with many units collapsing after heavy rainfall as a result of an approximately 40 cm thick sand cap occurring approximately 70 cm below the ground surface. The area of the firepit footprint is being recommended for Stage 4 mitigation prior to the installation of the firepit. ARA anticipates concluding the Stage 3 assessment in this area in the spring of 2019, which will be followed by a recommendation for Stage 4 mitigation. Prior to determining the Stage 4 mitigation strategy, ARA will be required to engage with the Six

Nations community, Woodland Cultural Centre and the Mohawk Village Memorial Park board of directors.

1.2.2 Archaeological Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring was conducted during the installation of a new sewer line extending east from Mohawk Road to an existing manhole located at the western part of the Stage 3 firepit excavation area. Enamelled tin cups and bowls were identified within the former girls' play yard to the east of a treeline that extends southward from the entrance driveway. These artifacts have been retained by ARA for processing. Additionally, the sewer installation impacted the archaeological site within the footprint of the firepit. Specifically, Features 5, 7, 9–13 and 18 were impacted during earth moving activities within the 30 metre wide excavation area for the sewer line. No human remains were identified during the installation of the new sewer line.

Archaeological monitoring was also conducted during the installation of the footings and foundation of a washroom facility for the Mohawk Village Memorial Park. No human remains were identified during this work.

2.0 NEXT STEPS

2.1 Mohawk Village Memorial Park Property - Firepit Footprint

Prior to commencing construction for the firepit feature, Stage 4 mitigation of development impacts is recommended. Mitigation options include excavation and avoidance, though it is anticipated that Stage 4 excavation will be the preferred option to allow for the construction of the firepit feature.

2.2 Woodland Cultural Centre Property

Regarding further archaeological work, should earth moving activities be planned for the unassessed areas within the Woodland Cultural Centre property, additional archaeological assessment is recommended.

2.3 Artifacts

All artifacts that have been recovered to date are housed at ARA's laboratory facility in Ancaster. The artifacts that have been recovered from Stage 1–2 and 3 testing within the North Garden and Firepit Footprint areas are currently being processed and will be catalogued and analyzed during the winter months of 2018-2019.

2.4 Challenges

There have been some challenges with this project; mostly regarding coordination of earthmoving and construction activities between ARA and the various contractors working on site. Specifically;

- a) There has been a repeated lack of notification that would allow ARA to schedule an archaeologist to be on-site in advance of ground disturbing activities.

- b) In some cases, the ground disturbance in question is being carried out on lands that have not yet be subjected to archaeological assessment. This means that there is a possibility that significant archaeological materials or human remains might be impacted.

ARA and the OAS are offering their services on a pro bono basis. As such, there is no reason why sufficient advance notice would impact project budgets. To assist in alleviating this challenge, please contact Sarah Clarke at sclarke@arch-research.com or at 519-755-9983 with as much notice as possible in advance of construction activities on the property.

If you have any questions regarding this document, please contact our office at your earliest convenience.

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