BACKGROUND RESEARCH REPORT

The Archaeology and History of Teiaiagon,
Baby Point,
City of Toronto, Ontario
(Public)

CITY OF TORONTO ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submitted to:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

One of the components of the ongoing development of the Archaeological Management Plan of the City of Toronto (ASI 2003) has been the identification of a series of Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (ASAs) within the City. Each ASA represents a large, archaeological site or combination of sites that is to be considered to be of heightened concern from a planning perspective, in that development and small scale land use alteration that is not subject to comprehensive planning control under the Planning or Environmental Assessment acts may adversely impact extant archaeological deposits.

The Baby Point area (Figure 1), which is the location of an extensive historic period Aboriginal community of Teiaiagon,\(^1\) represents one of the largest, and potentially most complex, of the ASAs.

Located on the west side of Jane Street and south of St. Clair Avenue and encompassing the level summit and slopes of a large promontory overlooking the main channel of the Humber River, as well as adjacent areas of tableland and flood plain on both the east and west sides of the river, the Baby Point ASA, as currently defined, includes five separate aboriginal archaeological sites that have been registered within the Ontario Archaeological Site Database (OASD) maintained by the Ontario Ministry of Culture: Humbercrest (AjGu-5), Baby Point 1 (AjGu-6), Baby Point 2 or Baby Point Taiaigon (AjGu-7), Baby Point 3 (AjGv-20), and Baby Point 4 (AjGu-40). The first four of these components were registered within the OASD, in 1971, by Victor Konrad formerly of York University, on the basis of historical evidence that had been subject to little detailed field verification. The fifth component is represented by the full archaeological documentation of human burials encountered in the front lawn of a modern residence within the ASA. This work was carried out by Historic Horizon Ltd. and Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI), both of which are Toronto-based archaeological resource management firms.

Baby Point 1 (AjGu-6), Baby Point 2 or Baby Point Taiaigon (AjGu-7) and Baby Point 4 (AjGu-40) are all located, or reported to be located on the main promontory on the east side of the river. The Humbercrest site (AjGu-5) is reported to be located to the north of the promontory on the slopes of the river valley. Baby Point 3 (AjGv-20) is reported to be located on the west side of the river. With the exception of Baby Point 4 (AjGu-40), the locations of these components should be considered only provisional, as site data provided by Konrad within the OASD is often erroneous.

This document presents a summary of all currently available historical and archaeological data related to Teiaiagon in a summary to predict, in a preliminary fashion, the potential extent of the site, its constituent archaeological deposits and areas of potential/archaeological integrity within the modern residential and urban park landscape of the Baby Point area.

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\(^1\) Various spellings have been utilized for the settlement of Teiaiagon over the past century, based on different phonetic and linguistic considerations.
Figure 1: Location of the Baby Point ASA within the Lower Humber Watershed
2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The lower Humber River is located within the Iroquois Plain physiographic region of southern Ontario, which is generally characterized by light, well-drained sandy loam soils that developed on outwash materials deposited by glacial Lake Iroquois (Chapman and Putnam 1984). Teiaiagon is located on a ridge that defines the north limit of the Iroquois Plain and represents the former Lake Iroquois shore cliff. The Humber valley itself is a glacial spillway that cuts through the cliff. Glacial Lake Iroquois came into existence by about 12,000 B.P., as the Ontario lobe of the Wisconsin glacier retreated from the Lake Ontario basin. Isostatic uplift of its outlet, combined with blockage of subsequent lower outlets by glacial ice, produced a water plain substantially higher than modern Lake Ontario. Beginning around 12,000 B.P., water levels dropped stepwise during the next few centuries in response to sill elevations at the changing outlet. By about 11,500 B.P., when the St. Lawrence River outlet became established, the initial phase of Lake Ontario began, and this low water phase appears to have lasted until at least 10,500 B.P. At this time the waters stood as much as 100 metres below current levels. However, isostatic uplift was already raising the outlet at Kingston so that by 10,000 B.P., the water level had risen to about 80 metres below present. Uplift since then has continued to tilt Lake Ontario upward to the northeast, propagating a gradual transgressive expansion throughout the basin. The flooded mouths of creeks and rivers that rim the basin—such as are preserved at the mouth of the Humber and at Grenadier Pond to the east—provide visible reminders of this process (Anderson and Lewis 1985; Karrow 1967:49; Karrow and Warner 1990). In the early nineteenth century the lower valley and river mouth formed a landscape of “ponds and marshes separated by lofty hummocks and ridges of sand,” as it was described on R.H. Bonycastle’s No. 1 Plan of the Town and Harbour of York, Upper Canada, published in 1833.

The Humber River is one of the most important drainage features along the north shore of Lake Ontario and is fed by a multitude of tributary creeks. In total, the Humber watershed drains an area of over 850 km² (Klose and Bacchus 1984:2). As a result of Euro-Canadian forest clearance and agriculture, it is likely that the Humber and its tributaries have been substantially altered since the precontact-early contact period. Deforestation has likely resulted in larger volumes of water flowing into the streams as surface run-off, increasing both the temperature of the watercourses and their sediment content. In addition, the removal of the forest cover has permitted solar radiation to further warm the waters. These and other modern alterations are also likely to have resulted in increased rates of waterflow, which concomitantly, have exacerbated erosion and degradation of the watertable. Prior to land clearance, therefore, it is probable that stream levels in the area of the study area were both lower and slower. In any case, the Humber was not navigable above Teiaiagon due to the presence of rapids, which coincide with the Lake Iroquois shore.

Under the widely used ecological zonation developed for Ontario by Hills (1959), the Humber River is situated in Ecological District 6E. The climax forest in this region, under median moisture regimes and eco-climates, tends to be dominated by hard or sugar maple (Acer saccharum), and beech (Fagus grandifolia), often in association with red oak (Quercus rubra) and hemlock (Tsuga canadensis). Red maple (Acer rubrum), white oak (Quercus alba), white ash (Fraxinus americana), yellow birch (Betula lutea), balsam fir (Abies balsamea), white cedar (Thuja occidentalis), and American elm (Ulmus americana) are other species of intermediate importance in the climax forest. White pine (Pinus strobus), although classed as a mid-successional species, is moderately tolerant of shade and competition. It is therefore capable of maintaining a presence in subclimax and climax communities. Konrad (1973:126), using pre-European vegetational classes based upon species mentioned in association by early nineteenth century land surveyors, and the drainage preferences for those species, characterized the general area as having been covered by maple, oak, basswood, pine, hemlock and beech.
The broad understanding of the potential character of the forest cover can be further refined through consideration of some of the few comparatively undisturbed habitats recorded along the lower and middle reaches of the Humber. The steep slopes of the river valleys, and the floodplains themselves supported complex communities of sugar maple in association with eastern hemlock, white birch (Betula papyrifera), balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera), tamarack, yellow birch typical of mixed forests, together with numerous Carolinian species, including butternut (Juglans cinerea), blue beech (Carpinus caroliniana), black cherry (Prunus serotina), and witch hazel (Hamamelis virginiana), as well as numerous prairie-type species (MTCRA 1982: Humber drainage ESA #6, 7 and 8). Indeed, prior to European clearance, the dry soils of the Iroquois Plain supported open oak woodlands or savannahs, as well as pine barrens, remnants of which may still be seen in High Park (Varga 1989). This landscape was a marvel to the first European settlers in Ontario, and Elizabeth Simcoe recorded her impression of the mouth of the Humber (which she called St. John’s Creek, after Rousseau dit Saint Jean) in 1793:

I rode to St. John’s Creek. There is a ridge of land extending near a mile, beyond St. John’s House, 300 feet high & not more than three feet wide, the bank towards the river is of smooth turf. There is a great deal of Hemlock spruce on this river, the banks are dry & pleasant (Innis 1965:106).

The mouth of the Humber, as well as the rich littoral zones along the shore, attracted seasonal fishing expeditions during which large quantities of fish were caught and processed for consumption later in the year. Salmon, for instance, were reported in some abundance prior to alterations of the watercourses due to the clearance of the local forest cover (Scadding 1873:36).

3.0 The North Shore Aboriginal Travel Corridors

The linear fabric of the Humber, and indeed most of the other watercourses draining the north shore of Lake Ontario would have provided a permanent system of landmarks to orient travellers. Canoe travel would have been limited to the lower portions of these waterways. These watercourses would also have tended to orient foot travel to a parallel path, as trails would have been directed parallel to the watercourse orientation by virtue of the difficulty of negotiating steep ravines, swampy lowlands, and troublesome water crossings.

These systems linked Lake Ontario to the upper Great Lakes through Lake Simcoe. Perhaps the busiest and best documented of these routes was the Toronto Carrying Place trail, which followed the Humber River valley northward over the drainage divide to the headwaters of the West Branch of the Holland River (Austin 1995; Robinson 1933:viii-ix). A related branch of this trail ran from the mouth of the Rouge River northward to the headwaters of Little Rouge and over the drainage divide to the East Branch of the Holland River at Holland Landing (Robinson 1933:53). Farther east, there were two routes northward from Lake Ontario into Rice Lake: a canoe route with many portages from the Bay of Quinte up the Trent River (Frost 1973:77). Finally, between the Rouge Valley Trail and Rice Lake Portage, there was the Scugog Carrying Place, the third major north-south trail axis. Each of these trails leading inland was advantageously routed. Moving inland, the Toronto Carrying Place skirts the west end of the Oak Ridges Moraine, while the Rouge Valley Trail, Rice Lake Portage, and Scugog Carrying Place all take advantage of the only stretches where the moraine narrows to only one or two kilometres. Given the physiographic, hydrographic, and ecological foundations on which these major north-south trails were established, they are likely of great antiquity.

While there is certainly a correspondence between each of these travel routes and local Late Woodland settlement distribution, it is reasonable to presume that the residents of these communities simply availed
themselves of the same access routes and resources that were of importance to their ancestors. It is also likely that they served, in part to define the precontact territories of communities.

4.0 THE RELATIONSHIP OF BABY POINT TO THE HUMBER RIVER CARRYING PLACE TRAIL

The site of Teiaiagon afforded a natural stopping place for traffic along the Humber branch of the Toronto Carrying Place route, as the river was not navigable upstream from Baby Point, even for small canoes, but it did represent a place at which the river could be forded (Robinson 1965:33). It may not even have been navigable this far inland. It has been suggested that the actual landing point for northbound canoe traffic upstream from Lake Ontario was at the narrow end of a “hog’s back” promontory on the east bank of the river about 400 metres north of the river mouth. This location corresponds roughly to the intersection of Riverside Drive and the South Kingsway (Robinson 1933:33; Austin 1995:5). The trail ran north along the crest of the hog’s back, more or less along the present course of Riverside Drive, veering slightly to the east away from the river northward to the approximate location of the present day Bloor Street and Armadale Avenue intersection. At this point it turned sharply northwestward, across Jane Street and along the line of Humberview Road and Humbercrest Boulevard to travellers directly in line with Baby Point to the immediate west (Austin 1995:6).

5.0 THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SITE OF TEIAIAGON

Although there is abundant evidence for Archaic through Late Woodland period use of the Baby Point area, it is believed that the most intensive use of the site occurred in the later seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

The years immediately following the dispersal of the Huron, the Neutral and their Algonquin allies in the 1640s and 1650s are poorly documented. Migrations, fission and amalgamation of formerly independent groups, and shifting territories further complicate the picture. The continuing effects of European diseases, warfare and periods of starvation through the mid-and late seventeenth century contributed to further population reductions among all aboriginal peoples. Those who survived were freely adopted into remaining groups.

During this period, the Five Nations Iroquois established a series of settlements at strategic locations along the trade routes inland from the north shore of Lake Ontario (Konrad 1981:135). From east to west, these Iroquois villages consisted of Ganoeious, on Napanee Bay, an arm of the Bay of Quinte; Quinte, near the isthmus of the Quinte Peninsula; Ganaraske, at the mouth of the Ganaraska River; Quinto, at the mouth of the Trent River on the north shore of Rice Lake; Ganestiquiagon, near the mouth of the Rouge River; Teiaiagon, near the mouth of the Humber River; and Quinaoatoua, on the portage between the western end of Lake Ontario and the Grand River (Konrad 1981:135). Ganestiquiagon, Teiaiagon and Quinaoatoua and were primarily Seneca; Ganaraske, Quinte and Quintio were likely Cayuga, and Ganneious was Oneida, but judging from accounts of Teiaiagon, all of the villages might have contained peoples from a number of the Iroquois constituencies. It seems likely that at least some of the people who occupied the Seneca north shore sites were former Huron who had been incorporated into Iroquois communities and were thus descendants of the South Slope Iroquoian communities of the sixteenth century. Some of these individuals may even have had first-hand familiarity with the area as a result of forays south from Huronia prior to the dispersal of the Huron Confederacy.
The 1680 map *Lac Ontario ou de Frontenac—Lac de Toronto* showing the north shore Iroquois villages.

Pierre Raffeix's 1688 map *Le Lac Ontario avec les Lieux circonvoisins & particulièrement les cinq nations Iroquoises*
There are limited references to Teiaiagon in the historic sources, which have been summarized by Percy Robinson in his 1933 *Toronto during the French Régime* and by Victor Konrad in his article “An Iroquois Frontier: The North Shore of Lake Ontario during the Late Seventeenth Century”. While Robinson (1933:20, 24) assumes that the Seneca village of Teiaiagon had been established prior to 1673, Konrad (1981:133) does not wholly accept this assumption, given the failure of any deputations from Teiaiagon to attend the 1673 negotiations between the Iroquois and French held at Cataraqui. Konrad (1981:133) suggests either that the settlement had not yet been established, or if it had, it was only a satellite of Ganestiquiagon on the Rouge, rather than an autonomous village.

Sometime in the 1670s, however, a party of traders from Cataraqui who were employed by Cavelier René-Robert La Salle apparently visited Teiaiagon, and may have sparked an outbreak of considerable disorder and drunkenness (Robinson 1933:31). The Recollet missionary and explorer Father Louis Hennepin is known to have spent three weeks at the settlement in the late autumn of 1678, while La Salle spent time there in the summer of 1680 and perhaps on two occasions in 1681 (Robinson 1933:37-39). In 1682, three Frenchmen at the site were robbed of their goods (Robinson 1933:31-32).

Although the major importance of Teiaiagon derived from its position as a terminal for fur trade traffic between the northern interior and the French and English outposts to the east and south, it is likely that the settlement exhibited many attributes common to the Iroquoian village settlement pattern, in that it was surrounded by horticultural fields, etc. It is likely that Teiaiagon and the other north shore villages were smaller than their contemporaries in the Five Nations homeland on the south side of Lake Ontario, as they are identified on some maps as “small villages of the Iroquois” as opposed to the term “towns” by which some of the New York sites appear to be identified. This has led Konrad (1981:138) to suggest a population of perhaps 500-800 people for the largest of the north shore sites, occupying between 20 and 30 longhouses.

By the early 1680s, Teiaiagon appears to have emerged as the most important of the north shore sites, as the western branch of the Toronto Carrying Place overtook the eastern arm along the Rouge River as the more heavily used route to the interior. The Sulcipian missionary Abbé Mariet set up a subsidiary mission at Teiaiagon. This was the only mission, other than the order’s main base at Quinté, established among the north shore Iroquois (Konrad 1981:140).

Due, in part, to increased military pressure from the French upon their homelands south of Lake Ontario, the Iroquois abandoned their north shore frontier settlements by the late 1680s, although they did not relinquish their interest in the resources of the area, as they continued to claim the north shore as part of their traditional hunting territory (e.g., Lytwyn 1997). The settlement vacuum, however, was immediately filled by the Anishnaubeg, a collective term for the Algonquian-speaking groups of the upper Great Lakes such as the Mississaugas, Ojibwa (or Chippewa) and Odawa. At the time of European contact in the early seventeenth century, the Anishnaubeg “homeland” was a vast area extending from the east shore of Georgian Bay, and the north shore of Lake Huron, to the northeast shore of Lake Superior and into the upper peninsula of Michigan (Rogers 1978:760). Individual bands were politically autonomous and numbered several hundred people. These groups were highly mobile, with a subsistence economy based on hunting, fishing, gathering of wild plants, and garden farming (Rogers 1978:760). During the Late Woodland period, extensive exchange systems had developed between the Odawa, Ojibwa and Cree of northcentral and northeastern Ontario and the Huron and other Iroquoian groups to the south. The Odawa, in particular, played an important role in this trade through dominating traffic in goods on the upper Great Lakes.

European diseases, warfare and periods of starvation, throughout the mid-seventeenth century contributed to population reductions among all the peoples of the Anishnaubeg. Those who survived were freely
adopted into remaining groups. The Mississauga and other Ojibwa groups began expanding southward from their homelands in the upper Great Lakes in the late seventeenth century, coming into occasional conflict with the New York Iroquois, although alliances between the two groups were occasionally established as well. Groups settled at various locations (Rogers 1978:761), including, seemingly, at least some of the former Iroquois north shore settlements. While the continued appearance of these sites on maps produced during the remainder of the French regime probably reflects, to a certain degree, simple copying of earlier sources, it seems that the Iroquois' north shore villages, such as Teiaiagon, were taken up by the Anishnaubeg.

As recorded during a Council Meeting held on 30 June 1700, between the Five Nations Iroquois and the English colonial governor in Albany, New York, a Five Nations Chief proclaimed:

Some of the Dowaganhaes [Anishnaubeg] having had a conference with our Indians att their hunting this last winter, concluded to desert their habitations and to come and live and settle upon ye Lake of Cadarachqui [Lake Ontario], near the Sinnekes [Seneca] country att a place called Kanatiochtiage and accordingly they are come and settled there and have sent five of their people to Omndonage to treat, being sent from three Nations who are very strong, having sixteen castles. - They say Wee are come to acquaint you that wee are settled on ye North side of Cadarachqui Lake near Tchojachiage [Teiaiagon] where we plant a tree of peace and open a path for all people, quite to Corlaers house [Albany], where wee desire to have free liberty of trade; wee make a firme league with ye Five Nations and Corlaer [Governor of New York] and desire to be united in ye Covenant Chain (O’Callaghan 1853-1887:4:693-695).

Since the same settlements continued to function in the fur trade, their original village names tended to remain on some early eighteenth century maps (Konrad 1981:141-142). The duration and scale of further Anishnaubeg settlement at Teiaiagon is unclear. A 1736 French report on the disposition of people on the north shore of Lake Ontario states that:

There are no Iroquois settled. The Mississagués are dispersed along this lake, some at Kenté [Bay of Quinte], others at the River Toronto [Humber River], and finally at the head of the Lake, to the number of one hundred and fifty [warriors] in all, and at Matchedasch. The principal tribe is that of the Crane (O’Callaghan 1853-1887: 9:1054-1058).

It is possible that Baby Point was occupied by Anishnaubeg on a seasonal, if not year-round basis, given the continuing importance of the Toronto Carrying Place. The French, at various times, constructed fortified buildings where trade could be conducted on the Humber River, which would have attracted Anishnaubeg interest. The first building was known as the magasin royal, and it was one of several constructed around Lake Ontario in 1720 at key trading sites. Although no description of the magasin built on the Humber exists, it probably resembled the one at Lewiston, New York, which comprised a 30 x 40 foot musket-proof blockhouse surrounded by a palisade (Robinson 1933:77). It is not known if the magasin was situated at Baby Point itself or if it was closer to the mouth of the Humber (Robinson 1933:77). In 1750, the Chevalier de Portneuf constructed a storehouse enclosed by a palisade, known as Fort Toronto, on the east bank of the Humber, however, the structure was deemed too small for an adequate garrison and a new fort was built on the present-day CNE grounds (Robinson 1933:100). Robinson (1933:112) believed that the smaller Fort Toronto probably occupied the site later used by Jean-Baptiste Rousseau dit Saint-Jean on the east bank of the Humber river mouth.

The French abandoned Fort Toronto in 1759 during the Seven Years War, which ended with the British takeover of French possessions in Canada. When British troops arrived at Fort Toronto, they found a
“Chippewa” man and took him to Niagara, where the British commander Sir William Johnson released him and gave him gifts to try and open a communication with the Ojibwa and other nations who had been allies of the French. The British then held council with the “Missassagas and other Indians” from the north and west side of Lake Ontario (Sullivan 1921:3:131).

An Anishnaubeg presence on the lower Humber likely persisted throughout the balance of the eighteenth century, and into the early nineteenth century until the land purchases comprising the Toronto Surrender and encroachment of Euro-Canadian settlement rendered the traditional Anishnaubeg lifeway untenable.

5.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BABY POINT

In 1888, David Boyle, Ontario’s first professional archaeologist, provided the first description of the archaeology of Baby Point:

Within easy distance of Toronto is the Village of Lambton Mills, on the River Humber. This locality has long been noted as one rich in Indian relics. An old trail to Lake Simcoe and the Georgian Bay followed the valley of this river for a good many miles, and here and there throughout its course are found indications of the old encampments and potteries.

A little south of Lambton Mills, on the Baby Estate, there must have been at one time a considerable Indian population of as stationary character as it was possible for the nature and habits of the aborigines to permit.

On the summit of a club-shaped plateau, having an area of about ten acres, and being fully one hundred feet above the bed of the Humber, a number of native burial pits have been opened at various times, and much valuable material taken from them. It is quite certain that when this portion of the farm is freed from underbrush further interesting discoveries will be made.

On the flats to the south of this elevation, and facing the Baby residence, Mr. Raymond Baby pointed out a camping ground, or village site, as indicated by remains still turned up by the plough, and I am quite sure that inspection of the corresponding flats to the north would reveal even more numerous proofs of old time habitation (Boyle 1888:12).

Boyle’s initial report reproduces two Middle Archaic (Laurentian) ground stone gouges (Boyle 1888:Figures 65 and 66). These items were donated to the Royal Canadian Institute by Mr. James Kirkwood, “an enthusiastic collector” (Boyle 1888:40). Boyle also provides a description of a Late Archaic birdstone that “has been ingeniously shaped from a piece of richly grained slate as to make an oval mark containing a dark spot, take the place of the eye” (Boyle 1888:37). The next year, Boyle published an illustration of a finely made Conical Ring type ceramic smoking pipe recovered from the site (Boyle 1889:Figure 15), which had also been found by Kirkwood.
Middle Archaic period gouges (circa 6000-5000 B.C.) illustrated in Boyle’s 1888 Archaeological Report.

Ceramic smoking pipe illustrated in Boyle’s 1889 Archaeological Report.

The Baby property as it appears on the map of southwestern York Township in the 1878 Illustrated Atlas of York County.
On May 24 1889, Andrew F. Hunter, a talented avocational archaeologist and to some degree a rival of Boyle’s, visited the site. His field notes were later summarized and his sketch map was reproduced by A.J. Clark, another talented avocational archaeologist who was active in the early twentieth century. Mr. Raymond Baby showed Hunter “the burial ground” on the promontory and the site on the lower plateau. “Mr. Hunter viewed them as being really two camping grounds, independent of one another” (Clark n.d.). Hunter also reported that Mr. Baby “knew of no iron relics having been found” although his map indicates an area where “iron tomahawks and many stone implements have been found”.

Clark’s reproduction of Hunter’s sketch map, and the accompanying key, identifies five major areas:

7a Camps at which iron tomahawks and many stone implements have been found. This ground had then (1889) been cleared for 25 years and most traces had been obliterated.

7b Burial grounds. Covered with underbrush and mounds. Isolated graves. Beads have been found in graves. Ten acres of graves.

8 Camps of another village overlooking river. Said to have been Mohawk. No iron relics.

9 Mississauga camp across river.

10 The Humber trail passes this site (Baby) after traversing the Kennedy Estate which is hilly. There is a portage at this point on account of the shallowness of the river and it may have crossed over the hill as indicated by the dotted line.

Although Clark’s summary makes no mention of it, Percy Robinson reported that Hunter had discovered traces of a palisade, noting that “these relics of a fortification might be ascribed to Teiaiagon, the Mississauga village, or the Toronto Post of 1720 (Robinson 1993:30 note 1, 33).
A.J. Clark first visited Baby Point on November 11, 1916. His records (Clark n.d.) note that he found an adapted metal tool—a gouge or scraper. This item showing the Indians’ use of discarded material (perhaps a section of an exploded gun barrel) was dug by A.J.C. from a refuse heap on the north side of Baby’s Point, at a point overlooking the Humber River Valley toward Lambton Mills.

Until 1934, the last year of his life, Clarke returned to Baby Point every November 11th. These visits do not appear to have involved active investigations, or at least there are no records for any resultant discoveries.

After Clark’s time, archaeological interest in Baby Point, if it had not waned, did not seem to involve further fieldwork. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Baby property was subdivided and a new residential neighbourhood was built. Native artefacts and burials were recorded during the construction of many of the houses (Historic Horizon 2001:3), some of which may have been reported in the local press. At about the time, however, Percy Robinson produced the most enduring descriptions of Teiaiagon, summarizing the earlier reports and introducing some new anecdotes:

A.J. Clark’s sketch map of the site, incorporating the areas defined on Hunter's map, and showing the location in which he found a metal tool (marked by the star). It is also interesting to note that he has marked the position of a spring on the south edge of the promontory.

On this site all kinds of relics of the aborigines have been found, indicating very ancient occupation; there are traces of all tribes, and iron implements have been
discovered showing occupation after the coming of the white man [a footnote states that “relics have been discovered by Mr. R.J. Dilworth\(^\text{2}\), Mr. A.J. Clark and others”]. Hundreds of graves have been opened and are still encountered when excavations are made. Traces of a palisade were observed by Mr. A.F. Hunter in 1889. At least four distinct village sites have been discovered on Baby Point and there is an area of nine or ten acres full of mounds and isolated graves (Robinson 1933:33).

The Baby Point site has much to offer those who like to reconstruct the past… On the opposite side of the stream [from Baby Point] and just above the “Old Mill”, has been placed the site of the Mississauga village of Toronto of Sir William Johnson’s time. The Old Mill itself is, no doubt, on the site projected in 1751 by the Marquis de la Jonquière.

Whether the relics discovered by Mr. Wm. Mansell\(^\text{3}\) in 1924 on the brow of the hill behind his residence on Baby Point belonged to the Senecas of Teiaiagon or to the Mississaugas of Mississauga Toronto would be difficult to determine. These relics, which consisted of a large number of iron trade axes bearing the usual markings, some nondescript fragments of metal and two broken clay pipes of European manufacture, are proof that the site was occupied by the aborigines since the coming of the white man. The tomahawks were found on the crest of the hill where it overlooks the Humber sweeping down from Lambton Mills. At the foot of the hill there is a stretch of swampy land; the slope is still well-wooded and intersected with numerous paths. Quantities of bone of every description, found on the slope of the hill, jawbones of deer, ribs of bears, and fragments of partridge bones, indicate that the inhabitants of the village found the slope of the hill a convenient place for the disposal of refuse. Eight of the iron tomahawks discovered in 1924 were found in a cluster or circle, and suggest the gloomy thought that this lovely spot was at some time desecrated by one of the atrocities described so minutely by the early missionaries and explorers. In burning a prisoner, it was customary for the Indians to add to the torment of the victim by suspending from his neck a collar of axe-heads heated in the flames and held together by a withe (Robinson 1933:34-35).

Only in the early 1970s did the site receive renewed attention from an archaeological perspective. As part of his effort to develop a comprehensive inventory of archaeological sites in the Toronto Region, Victor Konrad, of York University reviewed the available documentation concerning Baby Point, and registered four separate sites within the provincial site database.

The **Humbercrest site (AjGu-5)** was recorded as a burial ground occupying part of Humbercrest Boulevard, north of St. Marks Road, on the basis of the fact that “bone material has been found scattered over a number of properties” (Konrad 1971 Site Record Form).

The **Baby Point or Baby Point 1 site (AjGu-6)** was said to be located on Baby Point Road, on a slope at the rear of a residential property. It was said to be an ossuary that “has been known to local residents for over 50 years, although no material has recently been reported” (Konrad 1971 Site Record Form).

The **Baby Point 2 or Baby Point Taiaigon (AjGu-7)** was assigned to the historic Seneca and Mississauga village “north of Humberview Road… on the expansive plateau overlooking the east bank of the Humber River” (Konrad 1971 Site Record Form).

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\(^{2}\) R.J. Dilworth was a prominent financier who lived on Baby Crescent, according to the City of Toronto directories of the period, although the precise address is not listed.

\(^{3}\) The 1924 *City of Toronto Directory* does not list William Mansell as resident in the Baby Point area.
Finally, Baby Point 3 (AjGv-20) was described as a burial or burials located on the west bank of the Humber opposite Baby Point (Konrad 1972 Site Record Form).

Despite the fact that the significance of the archaeological resources of Baby Point has been recognized for over a century, the first detailed investigations to have been completed there were carried out by Historic Horizon Inc. in 1999 under the project direction of Heather Henderson (Historic Horizon 1999, 2001). This work, which took place at a property on Baby Point Crescent, initially entailed a Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment conducted in advance of the construction of an addition to the side and rear of the existing house at that address. Test pitting in the areas to be affected by the construction project did not result in any discoveries as these areas proved to be heavily disturbed. It was noted that the front lawn of the house, however, appeared to be largely intact and exhibited potential for the presence of archaeological deposits. As this portion of the property was not to be impacted by the construction, it was not investigated at that time (Historic Horizon 1999:10). Historic Horizon’s conclusions regarding the front yard were confirmed when, a few months later, backhoe excavation of a trench for a new gas line through the front yard of the property disturbed a human burial. This feature was registered as the Baby Point 4 site (AjGu-40).

The remains were those of a woman in her twenties, who was laid in an extended position with her head to the west and her left arm placed across her chest. The right arm and portions of the right torso had been removed by the back hoe. The grave was a shallow pit measuring approximately 1.75 metre in length, 65-85 centimetres in width at the top and 40-55 cm in width at the base. The interment lay approximately 1.25 metres below modern grade. The grave had been excavated to a depth of approximately one metre below the original grade, which was capped by a thin soil horizon associated with the 1930s construction of the house and subsequent importation of topsoil (Historic Horizon 2001:10).

The interment was accompanied by five artifacts: a brass finger ring was recovered from soil disturbed by the back hoe and was assumed to have been worn on her right hand; two additional brass rings were found in situ on the fingers of her left hand; a small fragmentary brass kettle containing a fragment of a fur pelt was found on the right side of the body; and finally a finely made antler comb was recovered from the soils disturbed by the back hoe (Historic Horizon 2001:11). The grave goods are all consistent with a date of the mid- to third quarter of the seventeenth century (Historic Horizon 2001:15-18). The antler comb, which bears a carved openwork motif of two human figures wearing European style clothes, suggests a Seneca affiliation.

In 2006, a second burial was found under similar circumstances when improvements to natural gas services to properties on portions of Baby Point Road, Baby Point Crescent, L’Estrange Place, Baby Point Terrace, and Jane Street were subject to archaeological monitoring (ASI 2007). The burial was located on city owned lands on the street frontage of a Baby Point Crescent property. The remains were those of a woman, laid in an extended position. She was aged between 35 and 60 or older and had suffered from several pathologies: caries and tooth loss; arthritis; a non-specific infection; and possibly tuberculosis. She was accompanied by a suite of grave goods consistent with a date of the mid- to third quarter of the seventeenth century. The offerings are comprised of a brass pot containing an ash wood bowl which in turn contained squash, acorn and grapes, an moose antler hair comb, two iron awls, an iron knife, and an iron axe. The basic form of the antler comb is openwork carving of a complex combination of panther,
bear, human and possibly rattlesnake. Secondary decoration in the form of fine incised motifs includes linear, spherical and geometric designs on the bodies of the animal figures. Taken together, these various symbols represent a complex amalgam of concepts related to spiritual power, shape-shifting and medicine (ASI 2007).

7.0 MAPPING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF BABY POINT

An effort has been made to provide a preliminary assessment of the location of the major archaeological components of the site as identified by previous researchers, by means of overlaying the nineteenth century sketch maps on modern city base mapping. This exercise has provided only a very rough approximation in view of the generally poor data that are available; only the burials documented by Historic Horizon (2001) and ASI (2007), and to a lesser extent the addresses reported to Konrad, can be located with accuracy. Even under the best of circumstances, when the scale of the various historic maps used in creating overlays, and the constancy of reference points and the consistency with which both they and the target feature are depicted on the period mapping can be controlled, this method entails a considerable margin of error. In the present instance, the available maps consist of nothing more than rough sketches.

Moreover, the land use history of the area is of such complexity, that judgements concerning integrity cannot be made with any real confidence. For instance, the front yards of the Baby Point Crescent properties where burials have been found, proved to be largely undisturbed, but whether the same can be said for adjacent properties remains to be seen.

It is clear, however, based on the material recovered from the site over the past 125 years that the Baby Point area was occupied by at least Middle Archaic times and that it continued to attract aboriginal
settlement at least into the eighteenth century A.D. At times the site supported a substantial population occupying a semi-sedentary, formally organized village, and associated cemetery.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the current lack of data concerning the distribution of archaeological deposits within the general Baby Point area, both in terms of their original locations and their potential integrity, it is recommended that a limited campaign of test excavations be carried out on City-owned property within the front lawns and boulevards within various parts of the Baby Point ASA. This work would be undertaken in each of the general areas identified on the Hunter and Clark sketch maps, as overlaid on the modern streetscape (Figure 2), as well as the specific lots identified by Konrad on Humbercrest Avenue in order to provide a preliminary understanding of the character and extent of archaeological deposits and their potential survival.

It is recommended that properties on the following streets be examined:

- Lestrange Place between Baby Point Road and Baby Point Crescent (Hunter/Clark Area 7b);
- Orchard Crest Road between Langmuir Crescent and Humberview Road (Hunter Clark Area 8);
- Baby Point Crescent between the split from Baby Point Road and the narrow connection between them (Hunter Clark Area 7a);
- Kingscourt Drive between the Kingsway and Bloor Street West (Hunter Clark Area 9);
- Humbercrest Boulevard between St. Marks Road and St. Johns Road (Konrad’s Humbercrest site).

The test excavations, which would entail the excavation of one metre units in selected locations and minimal damage to lawns, would be preceded by a reconnaissance in order to identify specific properties of interest, based on visual assessment of potential. Although the excavations would be restricted to City lands, due notice, in the form of a general information flyer for area residents and specific notifications to property owners in those areas selected for testing, would be required in advance of the onset of any work.

9.0 REFERENCES CITED


ASI (Archaeological Services Inc.) 2007 Archaeological Monitoring of Natural Gas Laterals Installation/Repair and Associated Works and Stage 4 Archaeological Investigation of Burial 1 at 23 Baby Point Crescent, within the Archaeologically Sensitive Area of Baby Point (AjGu-6), in the City of Toronto. Report on file, City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services and Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Toronto.


1853-1887 Warwick and Sons, Toronto.


