

Seneca Heights Woodbridge

Almont Park

16th Century Indigenous
Archaeological Village

160 Monsheen



City of Vaughan
Consent Application B014/21
160 Monsheen Drive Lot Severance

Deputation of
Douglas Peng of
10 Tayok Drive, Woodbridge ON
(Opposing Application)

October 28, 2021



Purpose of Deputation

- **Provide historical context** of the Indigenous archaeological site that once occupied the northeast quadrant of Seneca Heights in Woodbridge where 160 Monsheen Drive is situated
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- **Express that the positive recommendation provided by the City is premature** as the applicant hasn't yet performed an Archeological Assessment. This should have been completed before the Staff Report.
 - **Express that the approval of this application may still contravene** Vaughan's own Official Plan, York Region Planning for the Conservation of Archaeological Resources in York Region, York Region Official Plan, and the Vaughan Archaeological Master Plan (aka recommendations set forth in Vaughan's Archaeological and First Nation Policy Study **even with a positive archaeological assessment**



The province must ban the bulldozing of important native sites by developers without the consultation or even notification of First Nations people, says a spokesperson with the Huron-Wendat nation.

Purpose of Deputation Continued...

- **Provide recorded evidence that the City of Vaughan has been notified of these archaeological issues** prior to this consent application decision as approval after this notification may harm the relationship between the City of Vaughan and the Huron-Wendat Nation; especially after the 2005 Teston Site Ossuary incident.
- **Provide notice that a core group of Seneca Heights residents will appeal** if this application is approved. We will also notify stakeholder groups



Toronto Star
article of the
Teston Site Ossuary
On Aug 29, 2010

Historical Context

- Site of Late Woodland Huron Aboriginal Village established in the early 16th century (circa 1520)
- Consisted of 17 longhouses (multi-family homes), palisade (fortress walls that surrounded the village), various middens (waste disposal sites) and a burial ground. Largest longhouse was 184' x 30'
- Occupied 3.6 hectares or approximately 9 acres on what is now the Seneca Heights neighbourhood in Woodbridge, Ontario.
- Estimated that 580-870 people once inhabited this village.
- The village was abandoned and in ruins by the time the Town of Woodbridge sprung up in the mid-18th century (circa 1855)



- Many archaeological excavations were performed in the last 75 years confirming its existence. First documented excavation was performed in 1947 and 1949 by the late Prof Emerson of the University of Toronto and the last excavation was performed in 1982 by Robin Dods of the Ontario Archaeological Society.

- This site is registered as the McKenzie-Woodbridge Site (AkGv-2)
- 18 human remains were found and documented at the site. Archaeologists estimate a total of 185-696 human remains still exist given the size of the settlement.
- Ceramics, pottery and other artifacts have also been found and collected in the area. Some are stored with the Ontario Archaeological Society and used as teaching tools.



Seneca Heights Neighbourhood

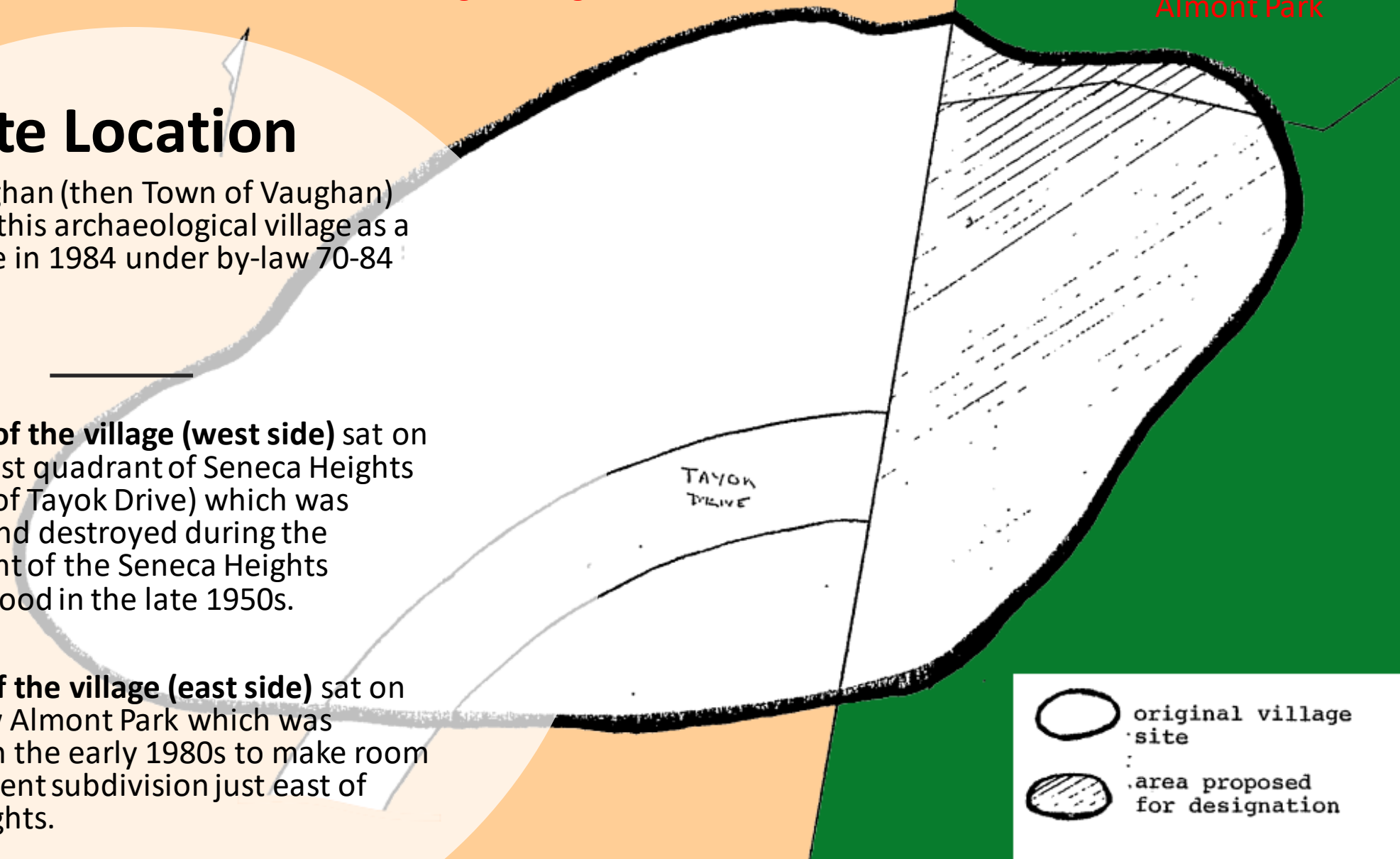
Almont Park

Site Location

- City of Vaughan (then Town of Vaughan) designated this archaeological village as a heritage site in 1984 under by-law 70-84

- **Two thirds of the village (west side)** sat on the northeast quadrant of Seneca Heights (north end of Tayok Drive) which was bulldozed and destroyed during the development of the Seneca Heights neighbourhood in the late 1950s.

- **One third of the village (east side)** sat on what is now Almont Park which was excavated in the early 1980s to make room for an adjacent subdivision just east of Seneca Heights.



○ original village site
▨ area proposed for designation

Location of 160 Monsheen Drive in relations to Indigenous Archaeological Site

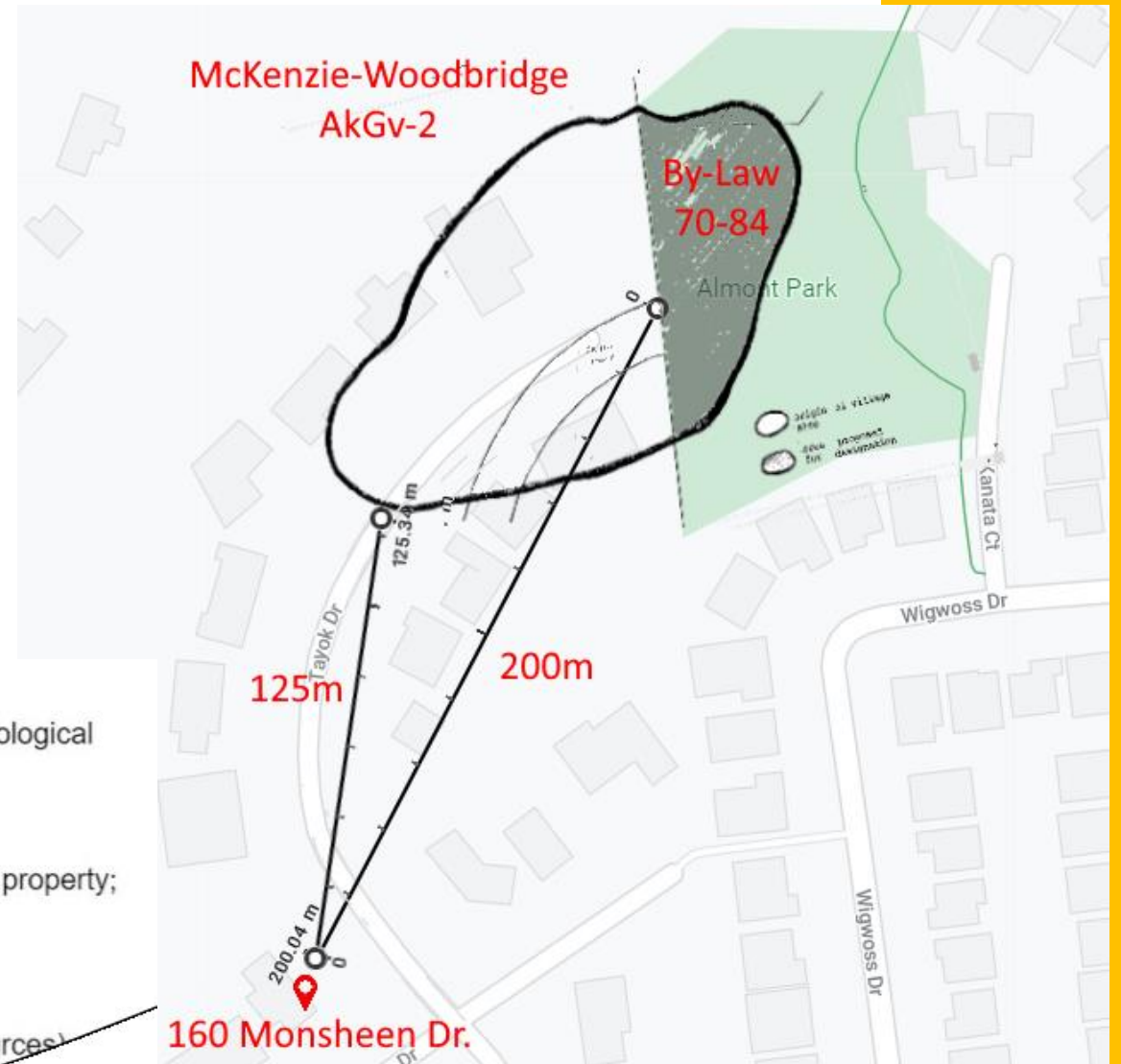


Property is Located on Archaeological Potential Lands

- Property is within 200 meters of the registered heritage site (By-Law 70-84)
- Property is within 125 meters of the actual archaeological site
- Property is within 250m of By-Law 70-84 which deems it to be an area of archaeological potential in accordance to the City's own Archaeological Assessment criteria below:

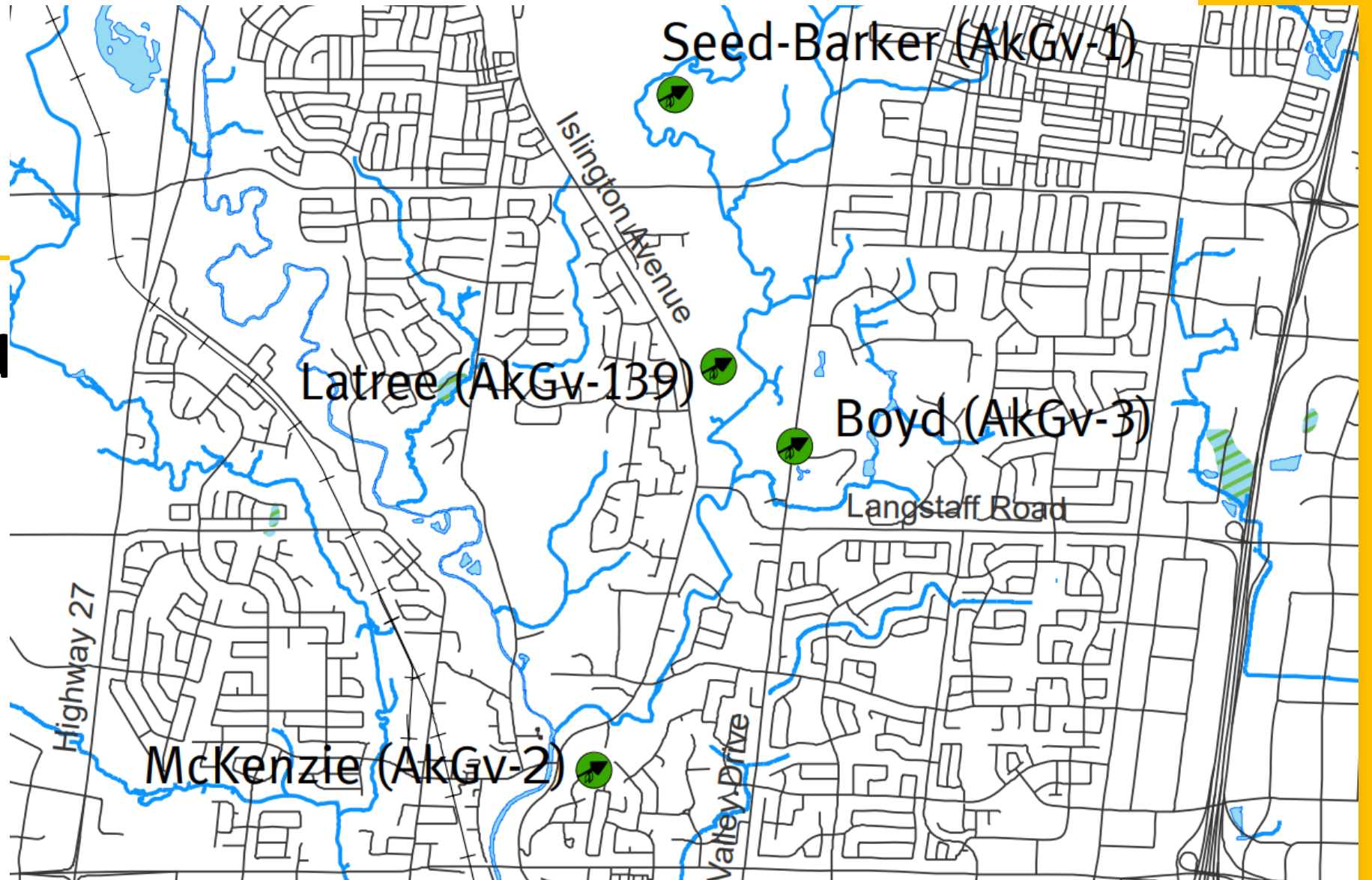
Areas of archaeological potential are areas of a property that could contain archaeological resources. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport criteria for determining areas of archaeological potential are:

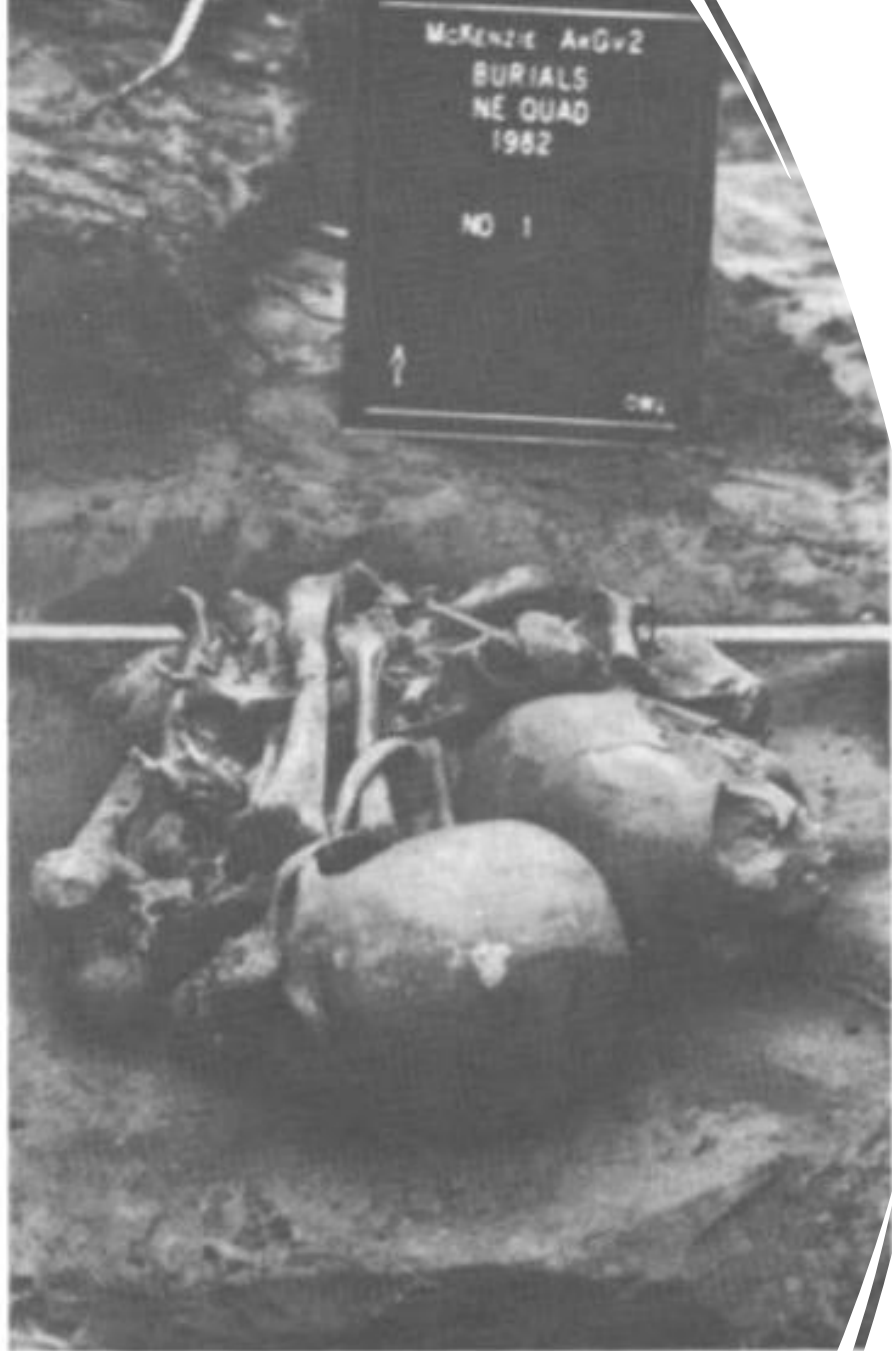
- The presence of known archaeological sites within 250 metres of the property
- The presence of a water source (primary, secondary, ancient) within 300 metres of the property;
- Elevated topography (e.g., knolls, drumlins, eskers, plateau);
- Pockets of sandy soil in a clay or rocky area;
- Unusual land formations (e.g., mounds, caverns, waterfalls);
- Concentrations of animal, vegetable or mineral resources;
- Evidence of human settlement (e.g., monuments, etc.)



**Mckenzie-
Woodbridge
AkGv-2 is a**

**Late Woodland
Village**





Human Remains

- The late Prof Shelley R. Saunders of McMaster University conducted an archaeological survey of the human remains at this site in 1982
- <https://ontarioarchaeology.org/Resources/Publications/oa45-2-saunders.pdf>

Her Findings:

- 18 human remains were found at the site (page 1)
- 16 were located in the NE quadrant, which is present-day Kanata Court (page 1)
- 2 (infants) were found within the village, inside a house floor (page 1)
- The estimated total number of remains is estimated to be 185-696 given the size of the village. (page 23~24).
- One study shows that remains are typically found within 300m of the village.

Hence why Archaeological Assessment should be Required!

First Nation Must Be Consulted

Vaughan Official Plan – Archaeological and First Nations Policies Study (page 57)

The draft Standards state that “engagement” (meaning consultation) *must* take place:

- anytime field work uncovers human remains;
- whenever a consulting archaeologist intends to propose fieldwork following an alternate strategy for an archaeological assessment that departs from those laid out in the Standards and Guidelines (this must occur prior to reviewing the proposed strategy with the Ministry itself);
- when assessing the cultural value or interest of an archaeological site that is known or appears to have sacred or spiritual import, or is associated with traditional land uses, geographic features of cultural heritage interest, or Aboriginal oral histories;
- when deciding whether to protect Aboriginal archaeological sites of cultural heritage value or interest (e.g., sites with sacred or spiritual manifestations reflected in the archaeological record, Late Woodland villages, large lithic scatters or quarries, nineteenth century Aboriginal domestic sites, undisturbed sites, any site identified as being of interest on the part of an Aboriginal community).

While these guidelines have not yet been finalized, such consultation is now expected by many First Nations and it will be important that the City of Vaughan ensure that such consultation has occurred in their jurisdiction. Access to archaeological information was one of the catalysts responsible for escalating the Caledonia dispute.

Late Woodland Village Sites Cannot be Developed

City of Vaughan Official Plan Archaeological and First Nations Policy Study March 2010 (page 63)

8.0 PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the preceding considerations, the following recommendations are made:

- 1) That the policies attached as Appendix A be incorporated into the Official Plan.
- 2) It is recommended that the archaeological potential mapping be used in making requirements for archaeological assessments in advance of development.
- 3) It is recommended that the Policy Planning and Urban Design and Recreation and Culture Departments work with City departments to establish protocols that ensure that in all appropriate circumstances, construction projects undertaken by developers, ratepayers and the City of Vaughan that may impact archaeological resources on public lands (e.g., trail, playground, playing field, public washroom, parking lot construction, road widening/extension, trunk sewer and watermain construction, stormwater management facility construction, municipal building and structure construction, etc.) and which are located in areas of archaeological potential, are subject to archaeological assessment prior to any land disturbing activity.
- 4) All Late Woodland village sites should be removed from developable lands. The boundaries of such villages must be established through comprehensive Stage 3 mitigations in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (final draft 2009).
- 5) No Stage 4 archaeological investigations on Aboriginal sites should be undertaken within the City of Vaughan without first filing a First Nations consultation report with the Policy Planning and Urban Design and Recreation and Culture Departments.