

**STAGE 1 & 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF
THE SOUTHWEST PART OF THE
RICHARDSON RIDGE PROPERTY, PART LOT 6, CONCESSION 1,
GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF MARCH,
CITY OF KANATA**

For

**Uniform Urban Developments,
300-117 CentrepoinTE Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario
K2G 5X3**

From

**Northeastern Archaeological Associates,
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**Licensed to: Dr. Lawrence Jackson
Licence #: P-025
PIF#: P-025-158-2009**

May 12, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

A contract to carry out a Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment of the Richardson Ridge property, Part Lot 6, Concession 1, Township of March, City of Ottawa was awarded to Northeastern Archaeological Associates by The Regional Group of Companies on April 17, 2007 (see Figures 1 and 2). The property is a 20 hectare parcel of land consisting of light woods and active pasture lands on the east side of the Carp River (see Figure 3). Permission to enter the subject property was granted by the proponent. This report provides a complete record of activities carried out at the site. There were no artifacts to be curated.



Figure 1: Location of Subject Property in March Township, Carleton County.

REGIONAL PHYSIOGRAPHY

The subject property is located in the Ottawa Valley Clay Plains physiographic region of southern Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1973). The creation of these clay plains was as sedimentation associated with the retreating northern ice sheet and the cold waters of the Champlain Sea. The property is along the Carp Ridge, a shallow Precambrian till and rock ridge along the east bank of the Carp River. The property borders and extends into areas of clay plain associated with the former Champlain Sea. There is a large sand plain to the south, and further south (from 5 to 45 km distant)

there is an area of abundant relict Champlain Sea strandlines. There are also ice recessional drumlins well to the southeast and large isolated blocks of limestone plain to the east (Chapman and Putnam 1972).

The property is located near the east edge of the Hazeldean Fault, where a large pocket of intrusive quartzite interlaid paragneiss borders on diorite, gabbro, and metagabbro deposits (see Figure 3). The entire area west of the Hazeldean Fault, including part of the subject property, is Oxford Formation dolomite and limestone. The Carp Ridge is dominated by felsic intrusive rocks including granite, granophyre, granodiorite, calcareous sandstone and siltstone and derived metamorphic rock. The ridge itself is surrounded by clastic metasediments including conglomerate, greywacke, arkose, calcareous sandstone and siltstone, shale, and derived metamorphic rocks. Given the massive effects of glacial scouring and of lacustrine activity (Champlain Sea), one could expect to find a great variety of bedrock materials in various forms on the subject property (Freeman 1979).



Figure 2: Aerial Photo Showing Location of Subject Property Beside Carp River in March Township, Carleton County.



Figure 3: Development Plan of Subject Property, City of Kanata.

FIELD CREW, SCHEDULE AND CONDITIONS

All field work on the subject property was carried out under the Project and Field Direction of Dr. Lawrence Jackson. Field and technical assistants included Marika Atfield (supervisor), Katelyn Loukes and Kris Martin. Stage 2 field work was carried out under overcast to clear conditions on April 22, 23 and 24, 2009.

METHODOLOGY

All testable areas of the property were examined at a high potential 5.0 meter interval due to proximity to the Carp River, as well as to known archaeological sites (see Figure 4). The remainder of the property was either disturbed fill, farm buildings, bare rock ridges, or too waterlogged to be tested (see Plates 1 to 6). Two small pasture fields were untestable due to high groundwater. The large pasture field to their immediate north was testable because there were multiple drainage pipes running east-west through nearly the entire field (see Figure 4). This strongly suggests that the entire riverfront pasture area on the farm was swamp before 20th century drainage was installed. The northeast and east of the property is forested granite ridge, part of the Carp Ridge, while the rest is long term pasture that could not be ploughed (see letter from Mrs. Richardson in Appendix A). All shovel tests on the property were excavated to sterile subsoil and backfilled. All fill was processed through ¼ inch mesh rocker screens.

KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

A search of the archaeological sites data base of the Ontario Ministry of Culture by data coordinator Robert von Bitter on November 06, 2006 produced records of four registered sites within a 2 km radius of the Richardson Farm. Site BhFx-21 (Feldspar Mine) consists of an open trench and shaft for a Feldspar mine, and dates between approximately 1919-1921. It is located just over one kilometre north of the subject property. Site BhFx-23 (Rockerries Tip) is an early 20th century Euro-Canadian midden located close to site BhFx-21. About 1 km south of the subject property are two sites, BhFx-26 and 27, also close to one another. BhFx-26 (Allen) is a surface scatter of mid-19th century Euro-Canadian homestead materials. BhFx-27 (Corelview) consists of a small lithic scatter of chert and quartz flakes, and a chert biface of unknown age or cultural affiliation.



Figure 4: Methodology Map Showing Areas of High Potential Five Meter Interval Testing and Disturbed Areas.

Two additional historic homestead sites, BhFx-28 (Armstrong) and BhFx-29 (Gourley) were identified during Stage 2 and 3 assessment of the main Richardson Ridge farm property by Northeastern Archaeological Associates in 2007. Additional sites undoubtedly occur in the region since there has been very little systematic archaeological survey. Whether there were early Palaeo-Indian sites located along the shores of the cold Champlain Sea, which occupied much of the Ottawa Valley, appears unlikely (Jackson and Hinshelwood 2004; Jackson et al. 2004) but there may certainly be unrecorded sites of later prehistoric time periods in the general area.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

In 1800, Carleton County was created from parts of Dundas and Grenville counties and included much of what are today Lanark County and the Ottawa area west of the Rideau River. March Township was opened in 1823 and named after the Earl of March. In 1850, it was (along with several others) incorporated into Carleton County. Euro-Canadian settlement of March township began about 1819 when Colonel Lloyd and a number of half-pay officers (among them Captains Laudel, Monk, Street, and Weatherley, and Lieutenant Thomas) were influenced to settle the Ottawa River front between Torbolton Township and Point running into Nepean Bay. March Township had not been surveyed when these settlements were made. A number of other settlers came to the Township in 1820. Among these was Frederick Richardson who settled on Lot 3, Concession 2. Industry was scarce in early March Township. Water-courses were, for the most part, inconsequential and Mr. Pinhey's mill is noted as having often suffered from lack of water for grinding grain into flour (Belden and Co. 1879).

A land registry search indicates that the crown patent for the property was in 1828 to a Forest Caldwell. The property was exchanged only twice before being bought by the Richardson family in 1852. By 1861, the south half of lot 6 was owned by Fred Richardson, and the north half by Christopher Armstrong. The 1861 census for March township, Carleton County, lists a total of 29 log homes and one stone house. There were no houses listed on the subject property at this time (Ontario Gen Web 2001). Walling's 1863 map of Carleton County and the 1879 Historic Atlas Map (below) both show a house in the south-east corner of the property where the Richardson's stone farm house still stands. Information from the Regional Group of Companies (Steve Cunliffe, personal communication 2009)

suggests the house was built about 1870. We would suggest a date between 1861 and 1863 based on census and historic map data.



Figure 5: Portion of Walling's 1863 Map of Carleton County Showing Subject Property in red (note Richardson House in south-east corner).



Figure 6: 1879 Belden and Company Historic Atlas Map Showing Subject Property in Red. (note Richardson House in south-east corner).

RESULTS OF STAGE 2 SHOVEL TESTING

A total of 4,200 high-potential 5.0 metre interval shovel tests was excavated during the Stage 2 assessment of the southwest area of the Richardson Ridge Property (see Figure 4). The two pasture fields in the southwestern-most portion of the property had groundwater at the surface and could not be shovel tested (see Plate 6). A rock ridge in the north-east portion of the property was also untestable, as well as smaller areas of the main house and barn complex that consisted of gravel fill and built structures or manure. No historic or prehistoric material was found.

Two small pieces of brick and window glass were found along the driveway to the stone house but these are regarded as 20th century fill and were discarded in the field. Extensive berm work has been done around the stone house with a four meter artificial gradient on the west side and about one meter on the east side. The history of these infilling events is unknown but undoubtedly plays a large role in the lack of 19th century debris in the shovel tested area immediately surrounding the Richardson stone house.



**Plate 1: View Northeast of Shovel Testing in North Pasture Field.
(note drainage ditches coming down the left and right sides).**



Plate 2: View East of High Potential Shovel Testing in Northeastern Forest Along Carp Ridge.



Plate 3: View South of Shovel Testing Just North of Richardson Side Road at South End of Property (note gravel filled turnaround).



Plate 4: View Northwest of Shovel Testing Beside the Richardson Stone House (entire house on a berm 1 to 4 meters above natural levels).



Plate 5: View Northeast of Shovel Testing Below Infilled Area Where Richardson Stone House Sits.



Plate 6: View North of Untestable Waterlogged South Pasture with Carp Ridge and Richardson Farm Buildings in Background.



Plate 7: View Southeast of Shovel Testing North of Barns along West Side of Carp Ridge (tire dump in background).

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Excavation of some 4,200 Stage 2 shovel tests at a high potential 5.0 meter interval did not produce any archaeological material, either historic or prehistoric, and no known historic houses exist on the property except for the Richardson stone house. This house was most likely built between 1861 and 1863 and is to be renovated and kept as part of the subject property development (see attached letter from proponent in Appendix B). **Consequently, complete clearance of the subject property is recommended.**

Development Caution

There is always the possibility that deeply buried heritage resources or human burials exist on site. If deeply buried artifacts, either prehistoric or historic, are encountered during construction, the proponent must stop work immediately and contact Jim Sherratt of the Archaeology Unit of the *Ontario Ministry of Culture* at (416) 314-7132. If human remains are encountered, the proponent must stop work immediately and contact the Registrar (Michael D'Mello) or Deputy Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Section of the *Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Business Services* at (416) 326-8404, as well as the Archaeology Unit, as above. Please also contact the archaeological consultant at 905 342-3250.

REFERENCES CITED

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Chapman, L.J. and D.F. Putnam

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- 1979 **Geological Highway Map. Southern Ontario.** Ontario
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- 2004 **The Late Palaeo-Indian Great Lakes: Geological and
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- 2004 Glacial Lake Levels and Eastern Great Lakes Palaeo-Indians.
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- 1993 **1861 March Township, Carleton County.**

Appendix A:

LETTER FROM MRS. RICHARDSON REGARDING USE
OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY AS PASTURE LANDS.

Subject:
Richardson Lands
Date:
Thu, 13 Nov 2008 13:48:18 -0500
From:
"Steve Cunliffe" <scunliffe@regionalgroup.com>
To:
"Jackson Lawrence" <ljnortheast@sympatico.ca>

----- Original Message -----

From: Wendy Richardson
To: Steve Cunliffe
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2008 12:27 PM
Subject: RE: Archeology -Richardson Farm

Steve Cunliffe;

This is to certify that true to my understanding and knowledge of the Richardson Farm's history which is located on Part Lots 5,6,and 7 former Township of March the land has been owned and farmed for over a 150 years. The past 70 years the lands have exclusively been used for pasture.

Wendy Richardson
68 Jarlan Terrace
Kanata, ontario
K2L 3L3

Appendix B:

LETTER FROM UNIFORM URBAN DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING
RETENTION OF STONE HOUSE ON SUBJECT PROPERTY.



April 30, 2009

Mr. Lawrence Jackson, Ph.D
Northeastern Archaeological Associates
P.O. Box 493
Port Hope, ON L1A 3Z4

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Re: Archaeological Survey – Richardson Farm, Ottawa, Ontario

I am writing to confirm that Uniform Urban Developments are the new owners of the Richardson Farm property and that we have retained your firm to conduct the required archaeological investigations.

In addition, I would like to confirm that the property has been an integral component of a larger Richardson Ridge subdivision application to the municipality since 2005.

The existing stone farmhouse on the property has not been declared a heritage property, however, it is on the City's Heritage Reserve List. It is our intention to retain the stone exterior and upgrade the interior of the house so that it can be developed as a home that will be integrated into the new neighbourhood.

Should you require any additional information in this project, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



George Georgaras
General Manager

CC: Ms. Kathleen Willis,
Willis-Richards & Associates

Mr. Steve Cunliffe,
The Regional Group

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