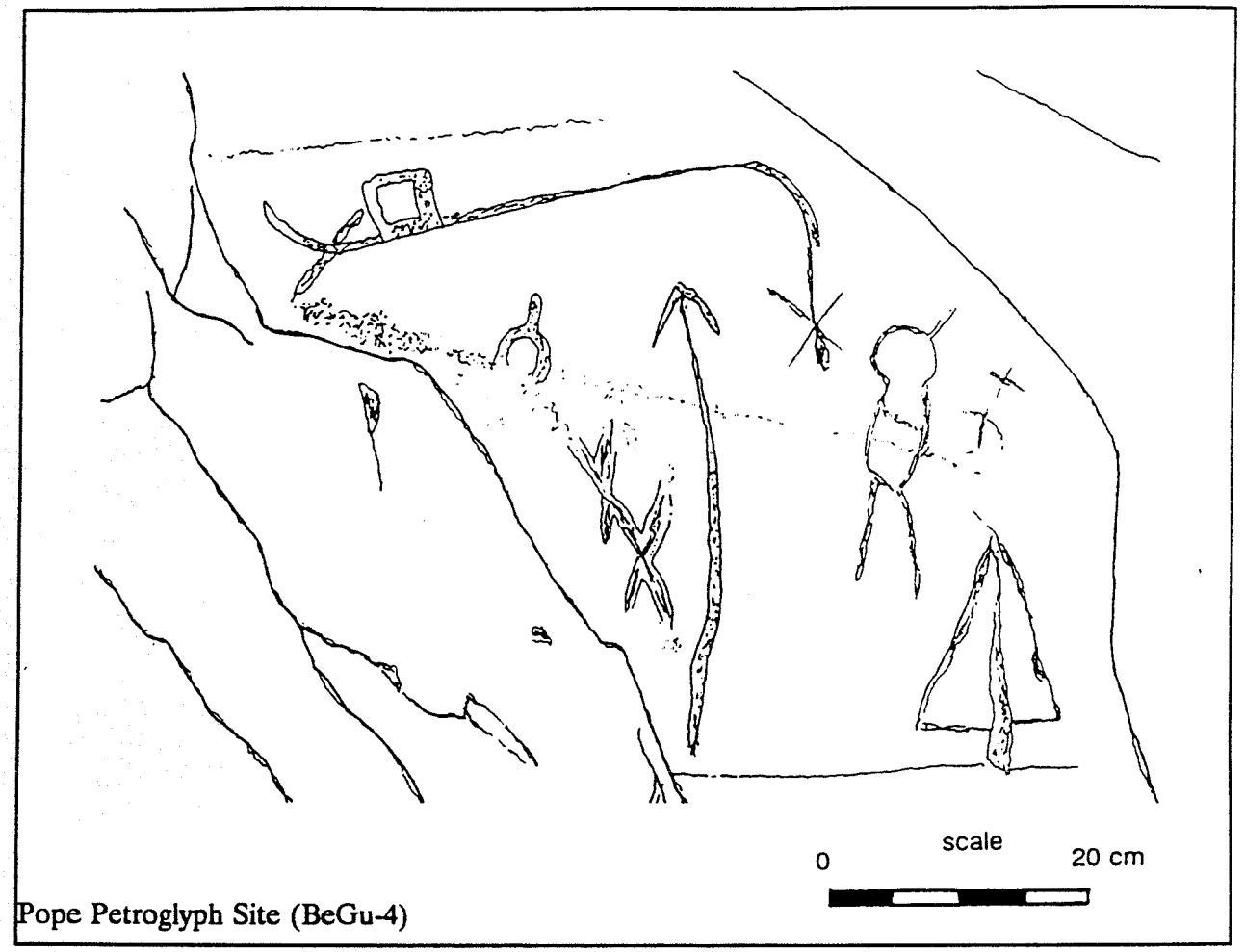
REPORT OF THE MASTER PLAN OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS

VOLUME 2
TRADITIONAL USE STUDY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Pope Petroglyph Site (BeGu-4)

Submitted to
THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA
and
THE WAHTA MOHAWKS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES INC.

February 1994

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1 ANISHINABEK TRADITIONAL-USE SITES AND ORAL HISTORY

by M. S. Cooper

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The major objective of this study is to produce, through documentary research and the collection of oral histories from tribal elders, an inventory of traditional-use sites which can be located on the available mapping and which recognizes the continuation of Anishinabek heritage and land use in the study area. In this fashion, a set of cultural data, specific to sites used by the local Anishinabek, will be available for consideration during the final planning phase of the Master Plan. Furthermore, the collection of such ethnohistoric data will allow for a generalized reconstruction of seasonal activities which, in turn, may be used to help refine the predictive model of archaeological site potential presented in Volume 1.

Two major cultural groups must be distinguished when investigating the traditional use of the Muskoka District: the Anishinabek (Ojibwa) and the Wahta Mohawks (formerly Mohawks of Gibson River). This distinction is necessary since the two occupations differ greatly due to temporal and cultural factors. Anishinabek use of Muskoka took place, for the most part, prior to 1880, while the Wahta Mohawk use of the area commenced after that date and has continued to the present. Linguistic and cultural difference are also considerable, the Anishinabek being Algonquian speakers, whereas the Wahta Mohawks are Iroquoian speakers. Moreover, while the Anishinabek occupation was extensive, taking place over most of the district, Mohawk use has been intensive, concentrating on Wahta and the surrounding townships. Accordingly, the traditional-use information will be presented in two separate sections. The first section, which deals with nineteenth-century traditional uses and is therefore most pertinent to considerations of archaeological potential, is presented below. The second section, which deals with the traditional use of Muskoka by the Wahta Mohawks, is currently being compiled and will be submitted as a separate addendum.

By the turn of the nineteenth century, Anishinabek families were hunting, fishing, farming, and trapping throughout Muskoka. Historical documents combined with oral tradition provide the data for identifying areas of traditional use. In order to compile the relevant data, a number of individuals who are currently conducting research related to the traditional native use of Muskoka were contacted. Mr. Craig Macdonald, who has been conducting research into traditional travel routes throughout the Canadian Shield, provided information for the eastern portion of Muskoka. Most of these data were derived from interviews he has conducted with long-time Muskoka residents who recalled events and stories regarding the area's original inhabitants. Mr. Peter Goering of the Lake of Bays Residence Association provided background information on the Lake of Bays area, in particular, Bigwin Island. Mr. Franz Koennecke, treaty researcher for the Georgian Bay/Lake Nipissing Treaty Unit, provided information about the use of that portion of the District formerly occupied

by members of the Muskoka band, particularly in the area of the former Obagawanung settlement (present day Port Carling). The descendants of the people who lived at Obagawanung are members of the Parry Island First Nation. Dr. Ian Johnson, treaty researcher for the United Indian Councils, provided information on member First Nations that used the Muskoka District during the nineteenth century. These groups include the Mississaugas of Alderville, the Chippewas of Beausoleil, the Chippewas of Rama, and the Pottawatomies of Moose Deer Point. Researchers with the United Indian Councils have mapped, using geographic information system (GIS) technology, nineteenth-century family hunting territories in Muskoka. This geographical information was derived from deputations made for the 1923 Williams Treaty, and interviews with elders conducted between 1988 and 1992. Sue and Harvey Anderson, historical researchers at M'ngikaning (formerly Chippewas of Rama First Nation) provided information regarding nineteenth-century traditional use.

In addition to the above contacts, documentary sources were consulted. Source material that contained relevant information includes: Florence Murray's (1963) compilation of documents related to the early history of Muskoka and Haliburton Districts; Franz Koennecke's M.A. thesis (1984), which provided important information based on primary archival sources and oral histories; and deputations made by John Bigwin for the 1923 Williams Treaty.

Unlike other areas of aboriginal settlement such as Temagami and Manitoulin Island, the majority of families who lived in Muskoka no longer do so. Indeed, the extensive use of Muskoka by Anishinabek families had diminished by the close of the nineteenth century. While oral traditions persist, despite the rapid passing away of elders, specific information about locations within Muskoka is limited.

1.2 ABORIGINAL HISTORY OF MUSKOKA

A chronology of historical events related to aboriginal traditional use has been presented in Table 1. By the late eighteenth century several Anishinabek bands lived year round or hunted on a seasonal basis in Muskoka. Western Muskoka was occupied by families affiliated with the Muskoka band, whose members had been part of the Sandy Island and Beausoleil bands. Led by Chief John Aisance, who had arrived on Beausoleil Island in 1842 from the Coldwater settlement, these people later moved to Christian Island in 1856 (Figure 1). The southern and eastern portions of Muskoka were being used, primarily on a seasonal basis, by M'ngikaning (Rama) families, such as the Yellowheads and Bigwins, who lived in the vicinity of the Lake Couchiching Narrows. In the 1830s these families settled at Rama but continued to travel on a seasonal basis to Muskoka.

Table 1: Muskoka: Traditional Use Chronology	
DATE	HISTORICAL EVENT
1778	George Cowan (Jean Baptiste Constant) establishes trading house at Matchedash Bay
1793	John Simcoe meets Indians at the mouth of the Severn River Lake Simcoe Band living at Couchiching Narrows
1794	Alexander Henry meets Matchedash Indians on the Severn River Mesquakie (William Yellowhead) and 140 of his band visit posts at York and Niagara to voice their complaints
1795	surrender of lands around Penetanguishene
1798	formal treaty signed
1800	Quetton St. George establishes fur post at Couchiching Narrows
1812	Mesquakie, Bigwind, Mesquido participate in War of 1812
1815	Treaty surrendering parts of Simcoe County
1816	Jean Baptiste Sylvestre establishes post at Sylvestre's Lake, Parry Sound, to trade with the Indians of the Muskokas
181?	William Robinson works out of Newmarket and operates trading house southwest of Bracebridge, near the mouth of the Muskoka River and on Yoho Island in Lake Joseph Alexander Bailey of Penetanguishene establishes trading post at Kekapekong (Bracebridge); abandoned by 1835
1818	treaty
1830	Coldwater model settlement established and reserves set aside for bands Matchedash band settles at Coldwater
1831	part of Muskoka band settles on island in Lake Rosseau
1835	surveyors Carthew and Baddely meet Muskoka band, under Pamosagai, who had cleared 40 acres on Tobin Island in Lake Rosseau
1836	Matchedash band living on Georgian Bay Islands from 1838 to 1842 William Yellowhead and Lake Simcoe band purchase 1600 acres on east shore of Lake Couchiching

Table 1: Muskoka: Traditional Use Chronology	
DATE	HISTORICAL EVENT
1837	David Thompson observes Indian lodges on an island in Lake Muskoka (Eilean Gowan Island)
1838	temporary camp established for Indians at Holland Landing
1839	Yellowhead and Lake Simcoe band settles at Rama
1842	John Aisance and Matchedash band move to Beausoleil Island and use surrounding islands for growing crops
1845	John Bigwin born at Rama
1849	Anderson and Vidal Commission confers with 16 chiefs, who were willing to make land surrenders, and maps territories of some Lake Huron Bands
1850	Robinson Treaty (61) signed; Meshoquetto (William King), son of Mesquedo, of Muskoka band signs treaty
1853	Alexander Murray mentions that the Indians of Lake Rosseau were trapping beaver in the area north of Fairy and Peninsula Lakes
1857	Aisance and Beausoleil band move to Christian Island
1858	death of Megis, succeeded by Pegahmegabow as chief of Muskoka band
1860s	trading took place at Auby's (Aunty's) Point on Lake of Bays, the families returning to their camps at the north bay of Paint Lake, Hollow Lake, or the Ox Tongue Narrows (Dorset) Other families hunting around Lake of Bays included: George; Joe; Yellowhead, Elijah, Peter and Samson; Norsnake, George and Noah; Quinbush
1860	Menominee, his wife, and two daughters mentioned by Wadsworth who had seen them on the portage from South Bay into the main Muskoka Lake. He also stated that Menominee's permanent camp was on Mary Lake

Table 1: Muskoka: Traditional Use Chronology	
DATE	HISTORICAL EVENT
1862	Tourists James Bain and John Campbell indicate that James Pegahmegabow Sr. (Chief of Parry Island) was living on Peggy Island in Lake Joseph (just north of Muskoka boundary) George Rykert, while surveying Ridout Township mentions that area was favourite hunting ground of Lake Simcoe Indians, who also made large quantities of sugar there Robert T. Burns reports that in McLean Township a few acres had been cleared for corn and potatoes J.P. Varisttant reports that Brunel Township was highly valued as a hunting ground and that 2 or 3 families camp there every fall and winter
1863	death of James Bigwin
1864	1864 death of William Yellowhead
1870	Obagawanung abandoned, renamed Port Carling
1871	Menominee's farm located at Menominee Lake
1881	Wahta (Gibson River Reserve) established by Mohawks
1911	John Bigwin deputation: -maintained regular camping grounds at Cedar Narrows; -raised corn, potatoes, and pumpkins in a clearing where the town of Dorset now stands -regular burial ground on Bigwin Island -made 5 day trip from Rama to Trading Lake for 45 successive years taking route from Severn River to Sparrow Lake, portage to Leg Lake, portage to Muskoka Lake, to the Muskoka River, to Bracebridge portage, to South Branch Muskoka River, to Trading Lake (Lake of Bays)
1917	Moose Deer Point Reserve established
1923	Williams Treaty John Bigwin deputation: -he continued to travel to hunting grounds to gather birchbark for canoes and hunt -they maintained a clearing at Dorset where they grew potatoes and corn -elaborates on route from Rama to Trading Lake: First portage is Washago-down the Severn to Sparrow Lake, to Morrison Lake, to Leg Lake, portage to Muskoka Lake, to South Branch Muskoka River, portage at South Falls, then Tratheway's falls, then Mathew's falls
1940	death of John Bigwin

Chief William Yellowhead's Anishinabek name "Mesquakie" was the basis for the word Muskoka, which was used by early fur traders to refer to the Muskoka River and was first mentioned by Alexander Shirref in 1829. Later, in the nineteenth century, Ojibwa families living on the Indian (Biasong) River, were referred to as the Muskoka band, not because of any connection with Mesquakie, but because of their geographical location. A translation of additional aboriginal place names is presented in Table 2.

By 1835, it is believed that Chief Pamosagai and several families of the Muskoka band had settled on Tobin Island in Lake Rosseau (Figure 2), where they had cleared 40 acres for growing corn and potatoes (see discussion in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2). The band appears to have moved to Obagawanung on the Biasong River around 1860, the site of present day Port Carling (Murray 1963: 124). They remained there until 1868 when, due to the encroachment of Euro-Canadian settlement, they were compelled to move to Parry Island.

Muskoka band families also settled, hunted, and farmed in contiguous areas of Muskoka. James Pegahmagabow, who was chief of the Muskoka band after 1858, established his settlement on Peggy Island in Lake Joseph (Obwadgwajung), an area that comprised at least a portion of his hunting territory (Koennecke 1984:336).

Table 2: Aboriginal Place Names Related to Muskoka

Place Name	Translation/Reference	Location
Biasong River	"at the place of the thunder and lightning"	Indian River (Port Carling) (Fig 2)
Bigwind Lake Bigwin Island	named for Bigwin family (from *Kitchay-* [big] *nodin* [wind])	Oakley Township Lake of Bays (Fig 3)
Kehkapekon	from *Kek-kabikong*, "at the place of the waterfall"	Bracebridge Portage (Fig 5)
Kitshisagan	from *Kitchay-sawgeen*, "at the mouth of the large river"	Lake Muskoka (Fig 5)
Menominee Lake Menominee Point	named for member of Muskoka band - means "wild rice"	McLean Twp (Fig 3) Lake Vernon
M'ngikaning	from *Michigan-ning*, "at the place of the fish fence" (weir)	Chippewas of Rama
Moonz-o-zeebi	"Moose River"	Moon River (Fig 8)

Table 2: Aboriginal Place Names Related to Muskoka		
Place Name	Translation/Reference	Location
Musquash Zeebi	"Muskrat River"	Musquash River (Fig 8)
Nongetahwegahmog		Lake-of-Bays, Trading Lake (Fig 4)
Obagawanung	"at the place of the pot-like [deep-sided] narrows"	Muskoka band settlement at Port Carling (Fig 2)
Obwadgwajung		Lake Joseph (Fig 2)
Paukuh Sawgihayguning	"at the lake of the flying skeleton"	Skeleton Lake (Figs 9 and 10)
Wahta	"maple"	Mohawks of Gibson River
Wasoksing	"at the place of the shining wood"	Parry Island
Waswanay Island	Beausoleil band member - means "torch-light fishing"	Island in Lake Rosseau

The Menominee family was well known to early settlers and surveyors during the middle- to late-nineteenth century. Menominee and his family lived and hunted in the area bordered by Lake of Bays (Nongetahwegahmog) in the east, Mary Lake in the west, and Lake Vernon to Peninsula Lake in the north. Menominee's settlement was located, during the 1860s, on Mary Lake. Some years later he established a farm on Menominee Lake, just southwest of Lake of Bays (Figure 3). Menominee grew corn and potatoes and also kept livestock. By the early 1870s the Menominee family left their territory and settled with the rest of the Muskoka band on Parry Island. The area north of Fairy and Peninsula Lakes was used by Lake Rosseau families to hunt Beaver (Murray 1963) (Figure 4).

After leaving the Coldwater settlement, the Beausoleil Band settled on Beausoleil Island in 1842 (Figure 1). By 1846 the settlement at Cedar Springs contained 20 log houses, a barn, and a schoolhouse. Up to 100 acres were under cultivation, with the primary crops being corn and potatoes. In addition, the surrounding islands were used to grow crops. They also produced 5,000 pounds of maple sugar annually. Fishing was an important economic activity for the Beausoleil Band as well (Murray 1963:121). A second settlement was established 3.5 kilometres north of Cedar Springs, containing 10 log houses. Cemeteries were associated

with both settlements (Ross 1991). Due primarily to poor soil fertility the band moved to Christian Island in 1857.

M'ngikaning (Rama) families lived and hunted in the southern and eastern portions of Muskoka. Yellowhead and several other families hunted in the area from Lake of Bays to Lake Muskoka. Yellowhead had a settlement at the Bracebridge portage (Kehkapekon) (Koennecke 1984) (Figure 5). In 1837 David Thompson observed a lodge on Eilean Gowan Island in Lake Muskoka that probably belonged to the Yellowhead family (Murray 1963).

James Bigwin (Bigwind), who like Yellowhead, distinguished himself during the War of 1812, had his settlement and hunting territory in the area of Lake of Bays (Figure 3). He maintained a settlement on Bigwin Island, and also had a settlement and garden at the narrows leading from Lake of Bays into Trading Bay, in the area of present day Dorset. His son John Bigwin hunted in this area until the turn of the century and continued visiting the Lake of Bays area until just before his death in 1940 (PAC RG 10, 2331, File 67.071-4a, pg. 91).

The southern portion of Muskoka, which is in close proximity to Rama, is still familiar territory to M'ngikaning families. The Severn River was an important travel route to hunting territories in the interior of Muskoka and along Georgian Bay. As late as the 1930s the Simcoe, Williams, and Ingersoll families were living, at least for part of the year, on Sparrow Lake (Harvey Anderson, pers. comm., 1994) (Figure 6).

1.3 ANISHINABEK TRADITIONAL USE SITES AND ORAL HISTORY

Anishinabek occupants of the area, while forced to respond to the new circumstances brought about by Euro-Canadian colonization, maintained, in several respects, many of the basic characteristics of their prehistoric lifeways. Thus, the recording of traditional-use sites which can be identified on topographic base maps, through documentary sources and the collection of oral histories, will lead not only to the preservation of these sites themselves and their associated traditional knowledge, but also to an enhanced understanding of the prehistory of the region.

The data encoded in the oral histories were used to refine the predictive model presented in Volume 1 of this study, as they may be expected to detail numerous aspects of human cultural and ecological adaptation which cannot yet be perceived in the archaeological record. The range of information and site types which have been identified during the collection of oral histories and documentary evidence are reviewed in the following sections.

1.3.1 Settlements

Settlements, also referred to as homesteads, represent the primary residential unit. It was from these base settlements that most activities would have been conducted. In Muskoka, by the mid-nineteenth century, it appears that some settlements were seasonally occupied while others were occupied year round. This contrasts with other areas of Anishinabek settlement where seasonal occupation of a number of sites over a large area took place. In the Temagami District, for example, such a pattern of high mobility was practised well into the twentieth century. Since fishing was likely to have been an important activity, supplemented by limited agriculture, settlements would have been situated within close proximity to the fisheries, usually on a medium to large lake or river. The settlement would be established on a relatively level and well-drained location and in close proximity to soils suitable for horticulture. Settlement locations on large islands also occurred, although transportation difficulties would occur during fall freeze up and spring thaw. On smaller islands an adequate supply of firewood could have been a problem. Within a short distance of settlements would be a number of related sites chosen for their access to key resources or for their ideological significance. These various site types are discussed below.

Settlements were identified in a number of localities throughout Muskoka. These include the following locations.

- Originally from Snake Island in Lake Simcoe, James Bigwin established his settlement on Bigwin Island in Lake of Bays. The Bigwin family joined the Rama band some time after the turn of the century, although John Bigwin continued to travel to Lake of Bays until the 1930s. Bigwin's settlement was located at Cedar Narrows where Dorset is presently situated. It would appear that the Bigwin settlement was occupied on a seasonal basis. During the winter the family resided at Rama on Lake Couchiching. In the spring the family would travel from Rama to Lake of Bays, a journey of five days. Crops were planted in cleared areas adjacent to the settlement. While hunting and trapping were carried out from the settlement, its location at Cedar Narrows indicates that fishing may have been an important consideration in its selection as a base camp. Bigwin island was used as a burial ground (Figure 3).

- William Yellowhead (Mesquakie), chief of the Rama band, had a settlement (Kehkapekon) at the Bracebridge portage. In 1837 David Thompson reported a

single structure on Eilean Gowan Island (Figure 5).

- Menominee, who was affiliated with the Muskoka band, maintained a settlement on Mary Lake in the 1860s, and by 1871 had relocated to Menominee Lake. According to nineteenth-century observers, Menominee's settlement on Menominee Lake consisted of a log house and barn (Figure 3).

- By 1835 Pamosagai of the Muskoka band had established a settlement on Tobin Island in Lake Rosseau. Considered part of the Muskoka band, the settlement included six families who were living in wigwams (Koennecke 1984:17) (Figure 2).

- By 1860 the Muskoka Band, now lead by Mishoquetto (William King) had relocated their settlement on the Biasong River (Indian River), which connects Lake Rosseau to Lake Muskoka, in the area of present-day Port Carling. This settlement was called Obagawanung (narrows with fast moving water) and by 1865 about twenty families were living there (Figure 2).

- In the 1860s Peggy Island in Lake Joseph was occupied By James Pegahmegabow, chief of the Parry Island band, and his family.

- Between 1842 and 1857 two settlements were occupied on Beausoleil Island. The first, at Cedar Springs, was established by John Aisance and former members of the Coldwater settlement. The Cedar Springs settlement consisted of 20 log houses, two barns, and a cemetery. The second was established 3.5 kilometres north in the Treasure Bay/Beausoleil Bay area. It consisted of ten log houses with an associated cemetery (Ross 1991). These settlements were later moved to Christian Island (Figure 1). The Cedar Springs settlement (BfGx-16) was registered with the Canadian Heritage Information Network in 1985 (Volume 1, Section 1.2). The site consists of 25 artifact concentrations, occurring in association with house mounds or as discrete scatters (Foster 1985). The second settlement (BfGx-13) has also been registered, and contains in addition to the nineteenth century occupation, prehistoric components dating back to 1,000 B.C (Figure 1)(Volume 1, Section 1.2).

- In 1860, Abraham Asey, son of Asa Waswanay (or Nahwahquagezhig) and a member of the Beausoleil band, lived during the winter with his family at Rosseau Bay in a birch bark covered wigwam. He later lived on Waswanay Island in the south channel of Lake Rosseau (Murray 1963:125, Koennecke 1984:24)

- A M'ngikaning family camp or settlement was located in the north bay of Paint Lake

(Koennecke 1984:55). Paint Lake was also known as a source for red ochre, which when mixed with animal fat was used as a paint (C. Macdonald, personal communication, 1993) (Figure 7).

- The Ingersolls, a M'ngikaning family had a seasonal settlement or camp on Indian Island at the north end of Sparrow Lake. This settlement was used at least until the 1930s (Harvey Anderson, personal communication, 1994) (Figure 6).

1.3.2 Sugar Bush

The collection of maple sap during the spring for sugar production was an important activity. Some families would move to the maple bush during the early spring. Within each sugar bush would be kept sap collection and processing equipment, including iron cauldrons and birch bark containers. Structures related to processing and shelter could also be found in these locations. The determinant of this site type is, of course, a large mature hardwood forest with maple as the dominant tree species.

- George Rykert, while surveying Ridout Township in 1862, mentioned that the Lake Simcoe Indians, who hunted in the area, also made large quantities of maple sugar. He was probably referring to Bigwin and other M'ngikaning families who occupied this area.

- According to a government report issued in 1858, 5,000 pounds of maple sugar were being produced on an annual basis on Beausoleil Island (Murray 1963:121).

1.3.3 Berry Collecting

Berry collecting was undoubtedly another important traditional subsistence activity. Blueberries would be sought and eaten fresh, or dried for consumption over the winter months. Blueberries are found on rocky outcrops within the study area and, therefore, could be collected within a short distance of any settlement. Areas of secondary growth, in particular areas that had been subjected to recent forest fires, provided particularly good collection areas. It is not known if the Indians conducted controlled burning to encourage the growth of blueberries. Strawberries, occurring in open meadows and cleared fields, would have been available for collection in the late spring.

Since berry collecting and processing was probably conducted from settlements, there is little

potential for the identification of archaeological remains associated with this activity within the study area. Additionally, since berries are ubiquitous throughout the district, it is difficult to map potential collection areas.

1.3.4 Bark Collecting

Bark was an important raw material sought for craft manufacture. Although birch trees would have been present in close proximity to the settlements, particular stands may have been preferred due to the superior quality of bark and large size of the trees. After removal from the tree, the bark would be rolled and transported back to the settlement where canoe building would have taken place. It is not likely that bark collection areas would have substantial archaeological remains associated with them.

- David Thompson reported seeing rolls of birch bark for canoe manufacture on Eilean Gowan Island in Lake Muskoka. This was either the collection area or a location suitable for canoe building (Figure 5).

- Craig Macdonald reported that in the bush behind the old Kent farm was a large birch tree that had a section of bark removed in a way that was consistent with the traditional technique. The size of the section was suggestive of canoe manufacture. Macdonald also noted that John Bigwin spent considerable time at this farm during the early twentieth century (Craig Macdonald, personal communication) (Figure 3). As late as 1923, John Bigwin travelled to the region to collect birch bark for making canoes (PAC RG 10, 2331, File 67.071-4a, pg. 91).

1.3.5 Farming

Agricultural activities, usually conducted within close proximity to the settlement, primarily involved the cultivation of potatoes and corn in small gardens. In areas of Anishinabek settlement, such as on the north shore of Lake Huron and in the Temagami area, gardens were often situated on islands or points of land. Similarly, garden areas were maintained throughout the Muskoka District.

- John Bigwin grew potatoes and corn in a clearing at the narrows between Trading Bay and Little Trading Bay on Lake of Bays, in the area of present-day Dorset (PAC RG 10, 2331, File 67.071-4a, pg. 91) (Figure 7).

- Crops were also being grown on Norway Point during the early nineteenth century (Macdonald, personal communication, 1993) (Figure 3).
- On Tobin Island in Lake Rosseau corn and potatoes were being grown, probably adjacent to the settlement (Figure 2).
- Thirty to forty acres of corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and beans were grown adjacent to the Obagawanung settlement (Figure 2).
- The islands around the Beausoleil Island settlement were used for agricultural purposes (Figure 1).
- Potato Island, approximately 10 km south of Beausoleil Island, may have been a garden site (Figure 1).

Areas in close proximity to settlements that have relatively well-drained soils would have potential for this site type.

1.3.6 Fishing

Sites identified as being directly related to fishing appear to be under represented in Muskoka from the data at hand. Nevertheless, fish were an important economic resource that were of prime importance during the spring and fall. Fishing was also conducted throughout the year.

The importance of fishing is evident from the placement of settlements near prime fish habitat. A number of fishing-related sites and features may be expected to be present in the study area. These may include ice fishing locations, fish netting and weir locations, and spawning grounds.

- In addition to the Severn River, Deep Bay at the north end of Sparrow Lake was an area used for fishing by M'ngikaning families (Harvey Anderson, personal communication, 1994) (Figure 6).
- It can be argued that all of the settlement locations listed above are situated to take advantage of prime fishing locations.

In terms of site potential, fishing would have been conducted at lake narrows, river mouths, rapids, and, for fall-spawning lake trout and whitefish, on shoals. Identification of many of these locations may now be difficult as a result of historic and recent alterations in water levels. Relatively well-drained and level locations within close proximity to prime fishing locations would have the highest potential for campsites related to fishing and fish processing. Some localities may also have potential for the identification of underwater features such as fish weirs and traps.

1.3.7 Hunting

Hunting of large game was probably conducted throughout the study area, and temporary or seasonal camps would be necessary in areas remote from the base settlement. In contrast, small game animals might not be worth pursuing over great distances but would be hunted or trapped within close proximity to the settlement. Areas within specific hunting territories would be recognized as being particularly good for certain types of animals. Deer, bear, muskrat, and beaver were likely the most economically significant species. It would appear that moose were not present in Muskoka during the nineteenth century. Deer could be hunted at all times of the year, although they were best hunted during the fall, winter, and early spring. Tracking was probably the most common hunting method. If a single animal was, killed it could be brought back to the base camp for processing, but if more than one animal was killed they would be butchered at the kill site. Snares may have been established along well-used game trails and at water crossings.

Beaver and other economically important fur bearers would have been trapped during the winter months when their pelts were at their prime. According to Rogers (1973), the Mistassini Cree were aware of the location of beaver lodges within each hunting territory, and only a few adult animals were taken from each lodge during a year in order to ensure a sufficient number to maintain the population.

- Muskoka band members living at Obagawanung trapped beaver in the area north of Peninsula and Fairy Lakes (Figure 4)

Hunting- and trapping-related sites would include hunting camps, trap cabins, and kill sites. Hunting was probably carried out from the base settlement, although temporary overnight camps may have been used. Trap cabins would be established along winter trap lines and on lakes and rivers in well-drained, level locations. The potential for kill sites exists throughout a hunting territory, however, they may be situated in almost any type of environment and are therefore difficult to predict.

1.3.8 Travel

Traditional travel routes would have involved overland trails and canoe routes. Related to the routes themselves are sites and features associated with travel, including portages, trails, winter travel routes, blazes and natural orientation features, and transitory camps. Major canoe routes probably followed the Georgian Bay coast and traversed the interior lakes and rivers. Portages would have been cleared of underbrush and walkways constructed through low, wet areas. In Muskoka many of the major canoe routes and portages continue to be used today by recreational canoeists.

- The canoe route from Lake Couchiching to Lake of Bays was documented by the early surveyors and detailed in the John Bigwin deputation for the 1923 Williams Treaty. It traversed the following course: Lake Couchiching-(Washago portage)-Severn River-Sparrow Lake-Morrison Lake-Muldrew [Leg] Lake-(2.5 mile portage)-Lake Muskoka-South Branch Muskoka River-(Portages: South Falls, Trathewy Falls, Matthias Falls)-Lake of Bays. This trip took Bigwin five days to complete (Figures 5 and 6).

- The canoe route from Georgian Bay to the Huntsville and Lake of Bays area was an important route for Muskoka Band members. It traversed the following course: Georgian Bay-Moon [Moose] River/Musquash River-Lake Muskoka-North Branch Muskoka River-(Portages: Bracebridge, Wilson Falls, High Falls, Port Sydney Falls)-Mary Lake-North Branch Muskoka River-Fairy Lake-Peninsula Lake-North/South Portage-Lake of Bays (Figures 4-5, and 8-9).

- The Severn River represented an important east-west canoe route providing access to Georgian Bay and points east via the Black River.

- From information provided by the nineteenth-century surveyor, Vernon B. Wadsworth (Murray 1963:124ff.), it appears that an overland winter trail existed between Mary Lake and the Obagawanung settlement. This trail crossed Lake Rosseau and followed the portage from Portage Bay, Lake Rosseau to Three Mile Lake, crossed Three Mile Lake and followed a natural ridge east to Utterson Lake, continuing east to Mary Lake (Figures 2 and 9).

Sites and features that can be associated with portages and trails include transitory camps, blazes and natural orientation features, and walkways. Transitory camps are likely to be found at the ends of portages. In addition to portages along the major transportation routes,

others may have been used to cross peninsulas and to access smaller isolated lakes and lake chains.

Cultural material may be deposited along the entire length of a portage and in the adjacent waters, as items are either intentionally jettisoned or accidentally lost. However, site potential decreases with distance from water. Old blazes on trees may be present along a portage especially in areas where the trail changes direction or diverges. Of course, large mature trees are most likely to have markings of heritage significance. After some time a blaze will close and be visible as a vertical scar. Usually blazes were placed on both sides of a tree. Opposing vertical scars, therefore, are certainly former blazes.

Overland trails were probably also used, especially where they could take advantage of natural ridges. Some of these may be detected as well-worn paths. Associated with trails would be transitory camps, blazes, and natural orientation features.

1.3.9 Cemeteries

Cemeteries are usually associated with settlements and can thus be considered to be part of the settlement complex. Additional locational requirements for cemeteries would include adequate soil depth and an aesthetically pleasing location. The latter may suggest that cemeteries are more likely to be located close to the shoreline rather than inland, behind a settlement. There is also potential for small cemeteries or individual burials to be associated with smaller camps or with certain spiritually significant features such as ridges and caves (see Section 3.3.2.1).

- There were at least three cemeteries located on Bigwin Island, two of which are probably destroyed. The Bigwin family cemetery situated at the west end of the island appears to be intact. It was visited by John Bigwin during the 1930s (Figure 3).

- There was an Otter dodem (clan) cemetery or burial area situated on the east side of Mary Lake (Figures 9 and 10). While this was in the area of Menominee's settlement and hunting territory, he was a member of the Caribou dodem.

- Two cemeteries are located on Beausoleil Island. One is associated with Chief John Aisance's settlement at Cedar Springs and the other is situated 3.5 kilometres north and is associated with the second settlement (Figure 1). Both cemeteries have been registered with the Canadian Heritage Information Network.

1.3.10 Natural Landscape Features

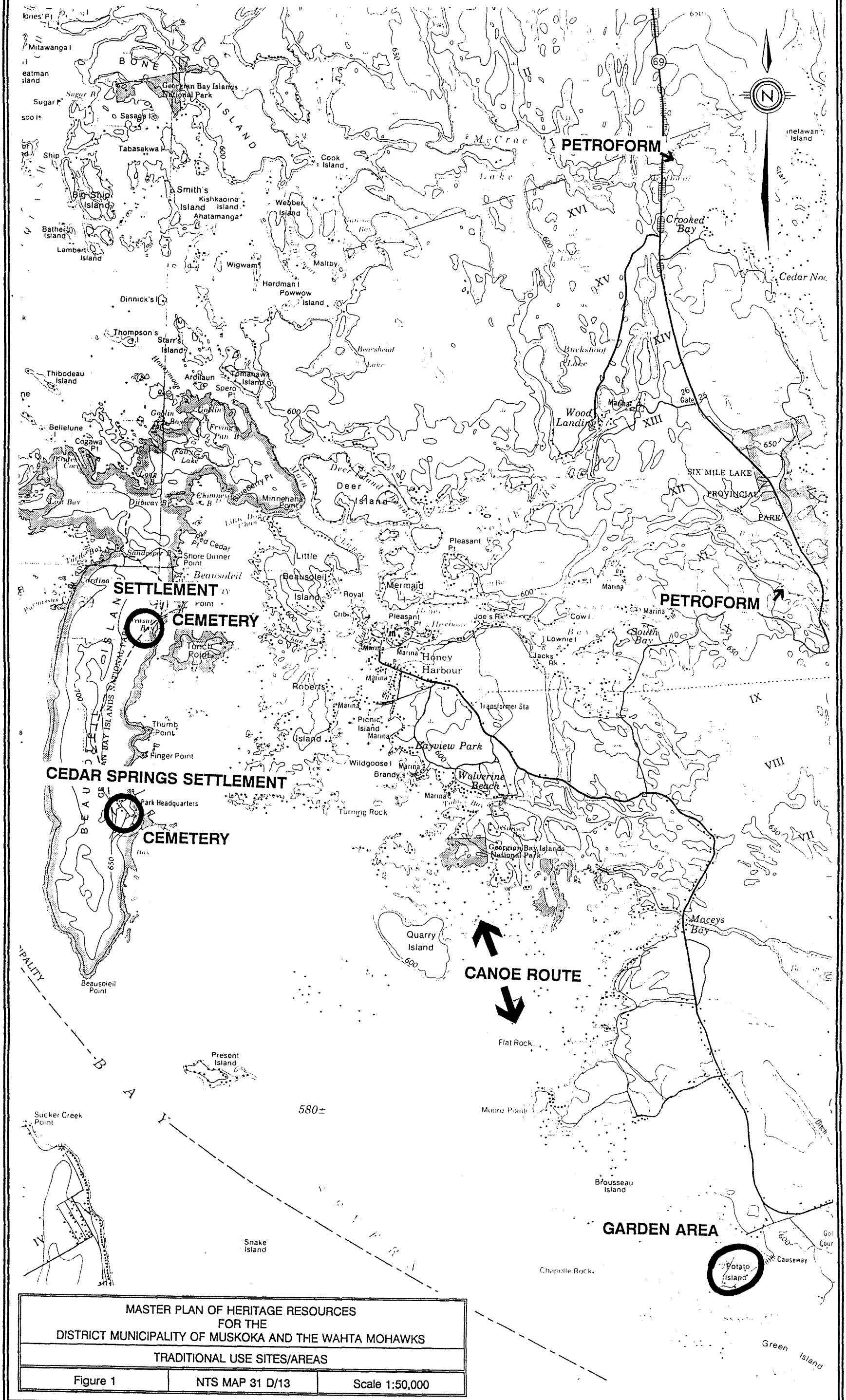
Natural formations of spiritual significance may potentially include rock effigies, nest rocks, and prominent ridges. Rock effigies can be in the form of humans, animals, or objects. These sites often consist of rock columns located along the shoreline or in the water within close proximity to the shore. Nest rocks are prominent rocks that are recognized as being associated with the dwelling place of the thunderbird. These locations were either former or current nesting sites for owls, eagles, osprey, gulls, and ravens. For example, in Muskoka, Ravenscliff, located north of Lake Vernon, probably derived its name from earlier Anishinabek occupants (Figure 10). Gull Rock, at the north end of Lake Rosseau, may also have been an important nest rock site (Figure 2). Certain other locations were avoided due to their association with bad manidos (spirits).

- The Baxter Lake Stone site (BfGw-3) is a stone cairn (petroform) located on the south shore of Baxter Lake, roughly 500 metres west of the outlet from Little Go Home Bay (see Volume 1, Section 1.2). Pollock reports that the structure is situated 10 metres from the water's edge, measuring 80 centimetres in height and one metre in diameter with a 10 centimetre diameter opening in the top. Investigation of the surrounding area failed to produce any diagnostic artifacts, but the site is presumed to be historic Native in affiliation (Figure 1).

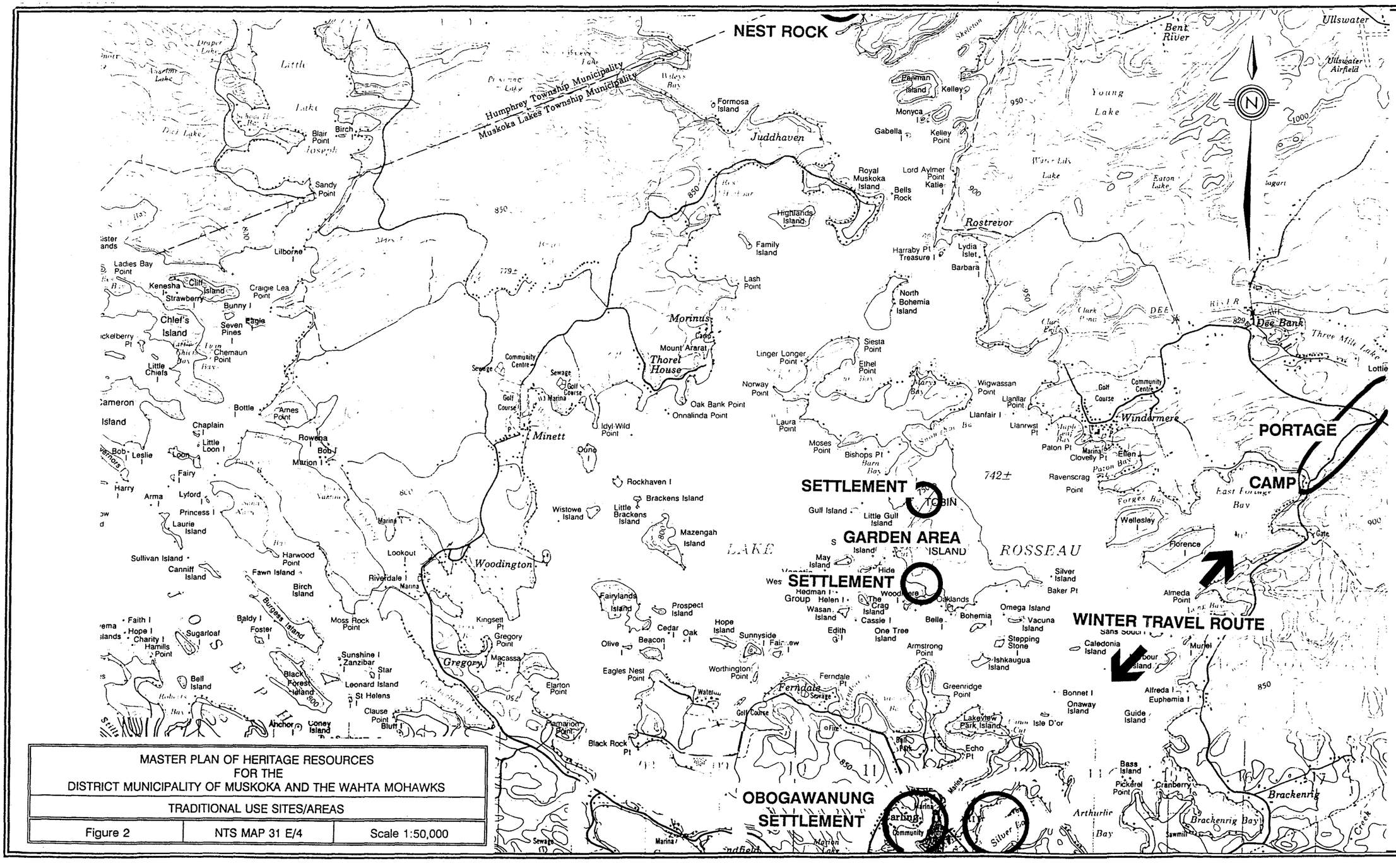
- McDonald River Stone Circle (BfGw-4) was documented by John Pollock (see Volume 1, Section 1.2). It is a petroform located on the northeastern shore of McDonald Lake, 50 metres from the shoreline and roughly 100 metres below the inlet from Crooked Bay at the northern end of Six Mile Lake. The site consists of a 3.2 metre ovoid stone circle surrounding a small cairn. No artifacts were recovered from the vicinity. Pollock suggests that the circle may represent a structure associated with Algonkian vision ceremonies (Figure 1).

- Parry Island band members avoided camping at Moon River due to the presence of bad manidos (Jenness 1935:45). This tradition may have originated with the Muskoka band (Figure 8).

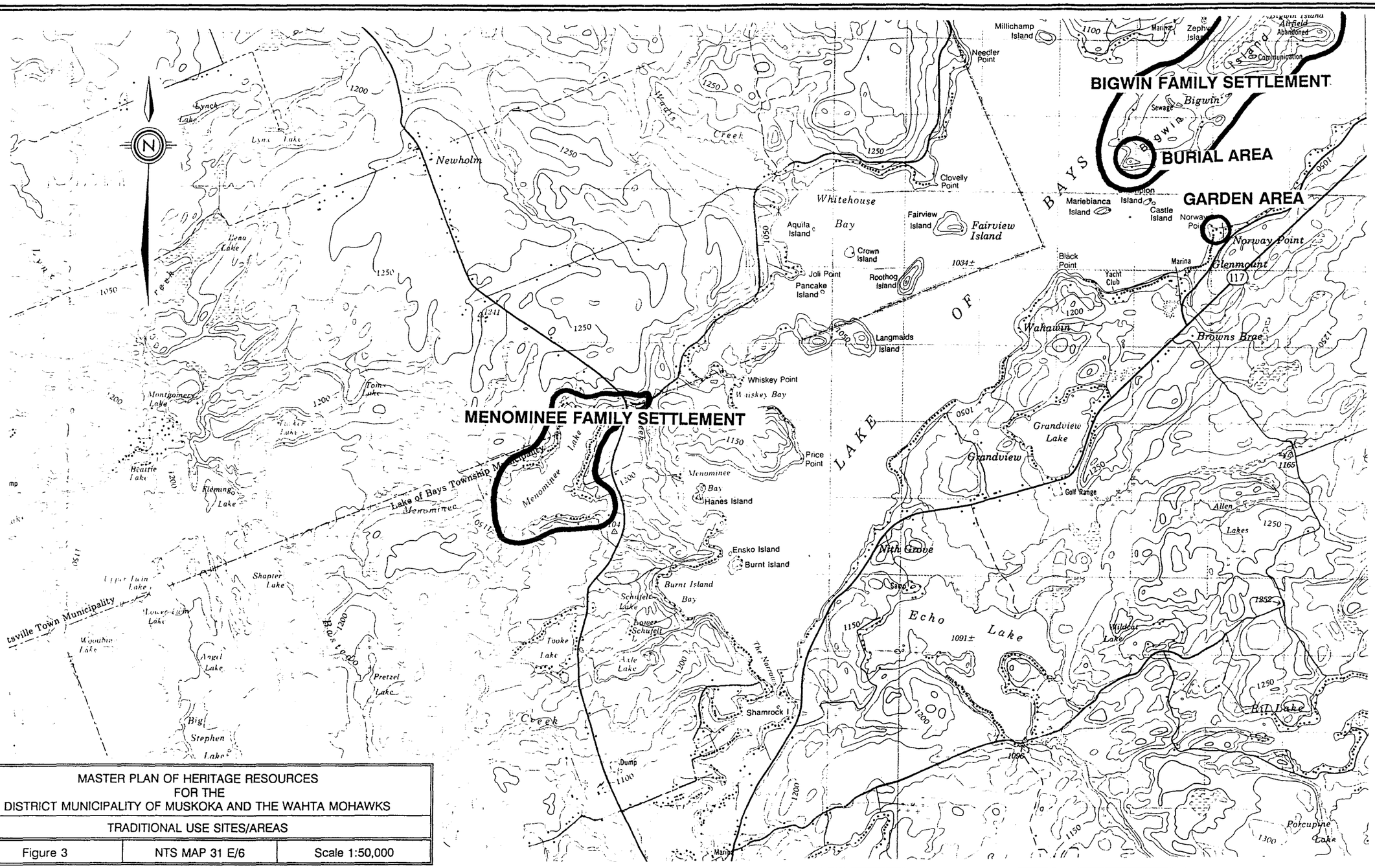
- Skeleton Lake, which was originally called Paukuh (Spirit) Lake, was also avoided by Muskoka band members (Koennecke 1984:338) (Figures 9 and 10).



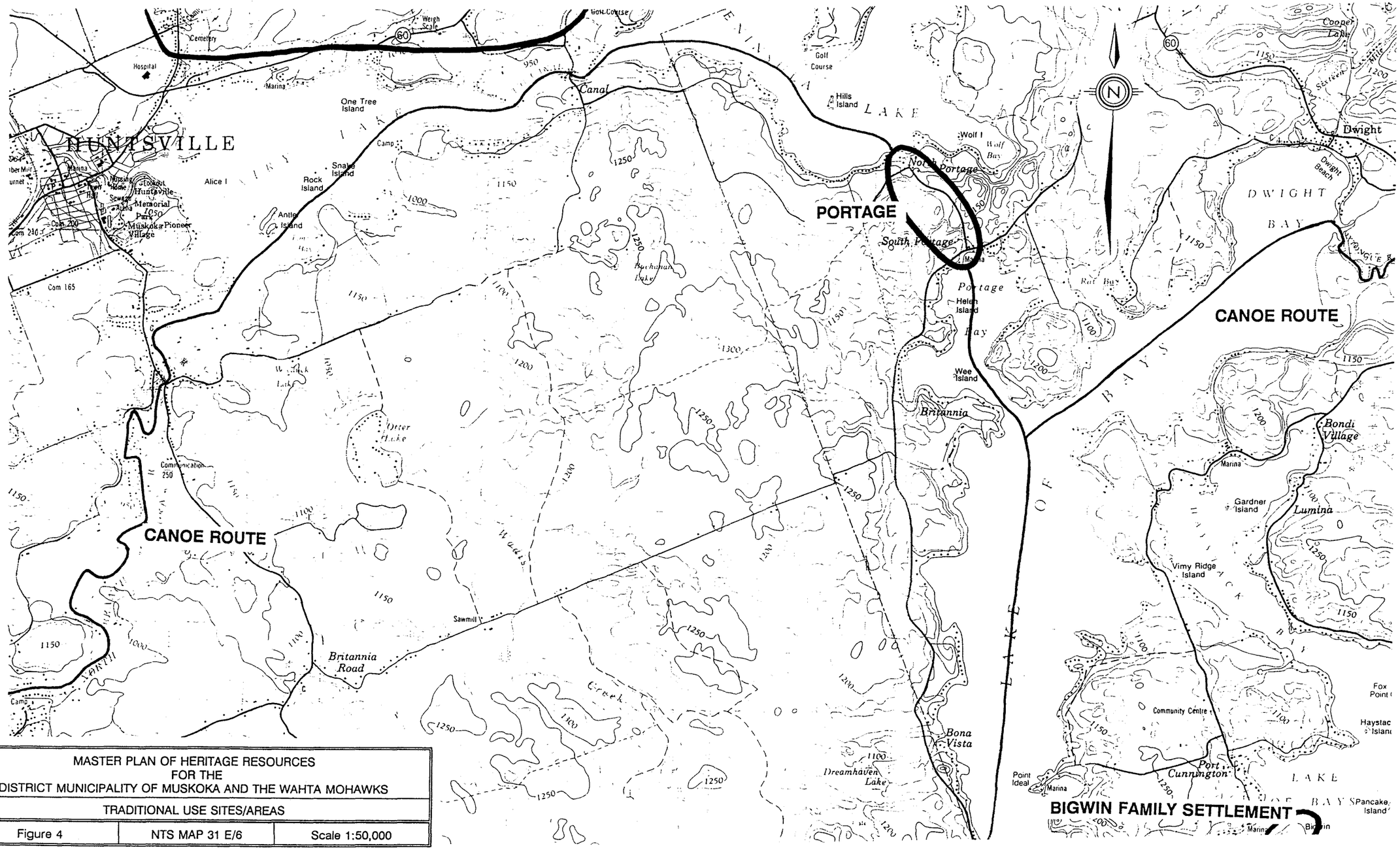
MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES FOR THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS		
TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS		
Figure 1	NTS MAP 31 D/13	Scale 1:50,000



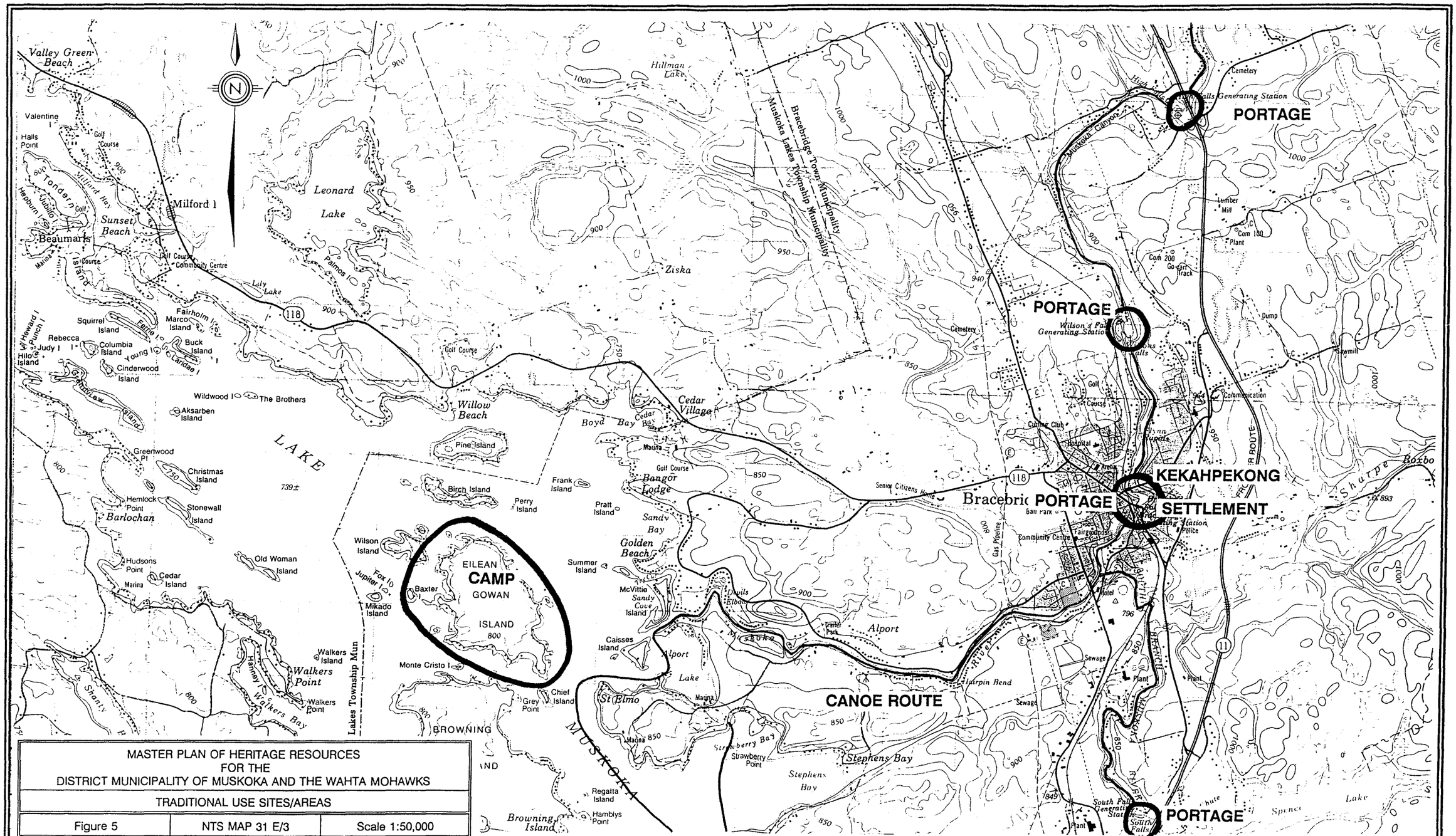
MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES FOR THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS		
TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS		
Figure 2	NTS MAP 31 E/4	Scale 1:50,000



MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES FOR THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS		
TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS		
Figure 3	NTS MAP 31 E/6	Scale 1:50,000



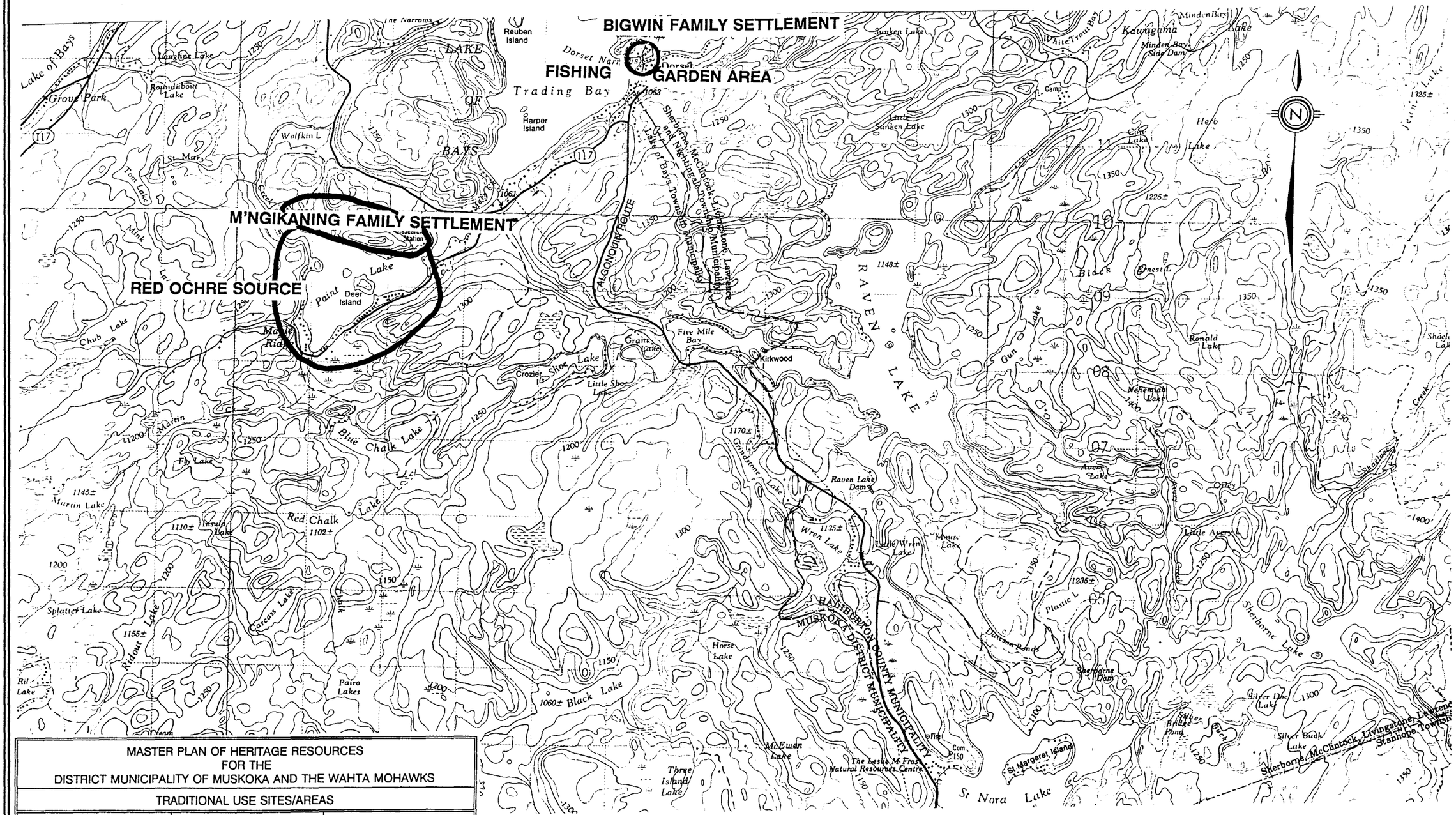
MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES FOR THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS		
TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS		
Figure 4	NTS MAP 31 E/6	Scale 1:50,000



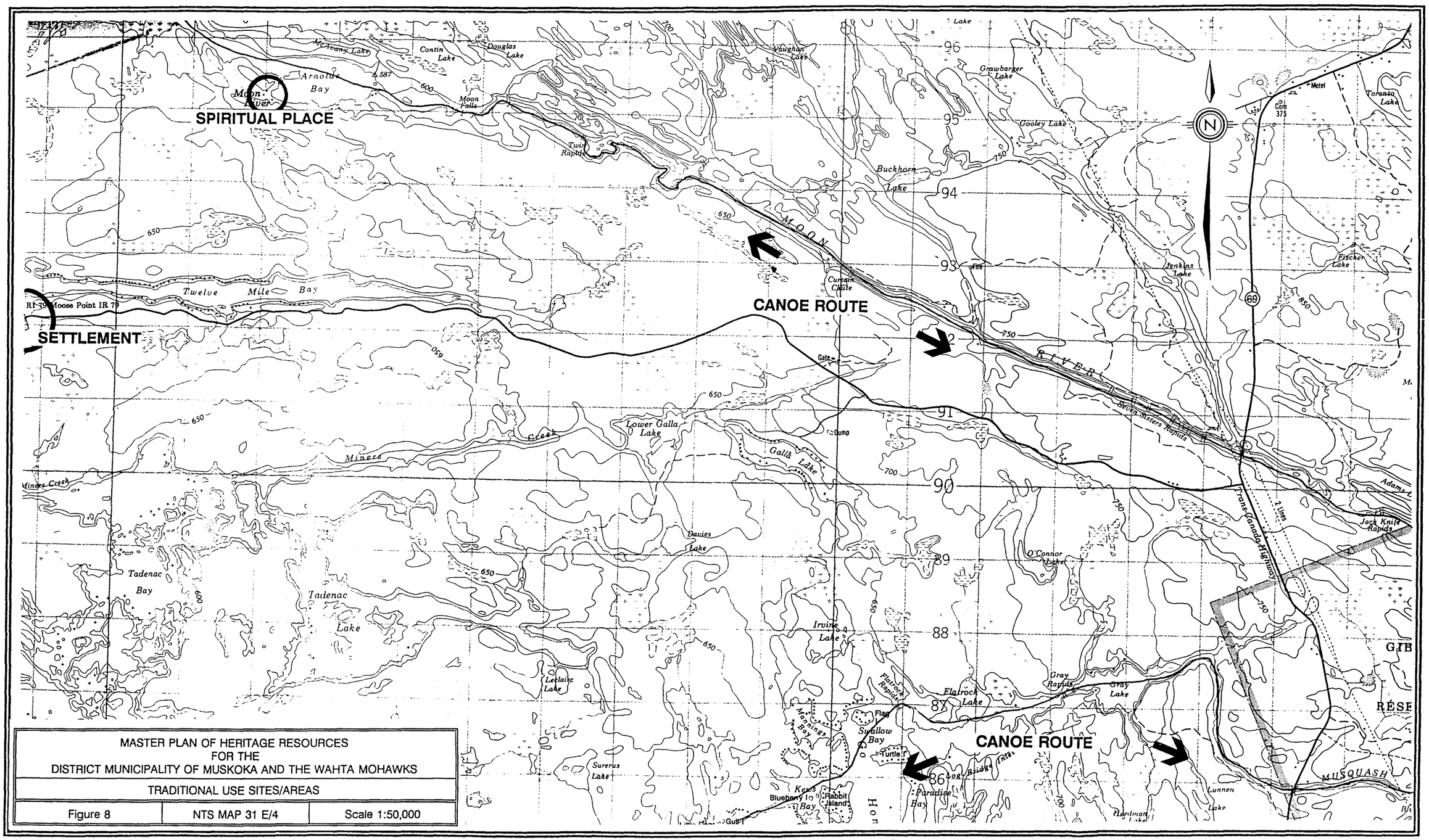
MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES
FOR THE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS

TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS

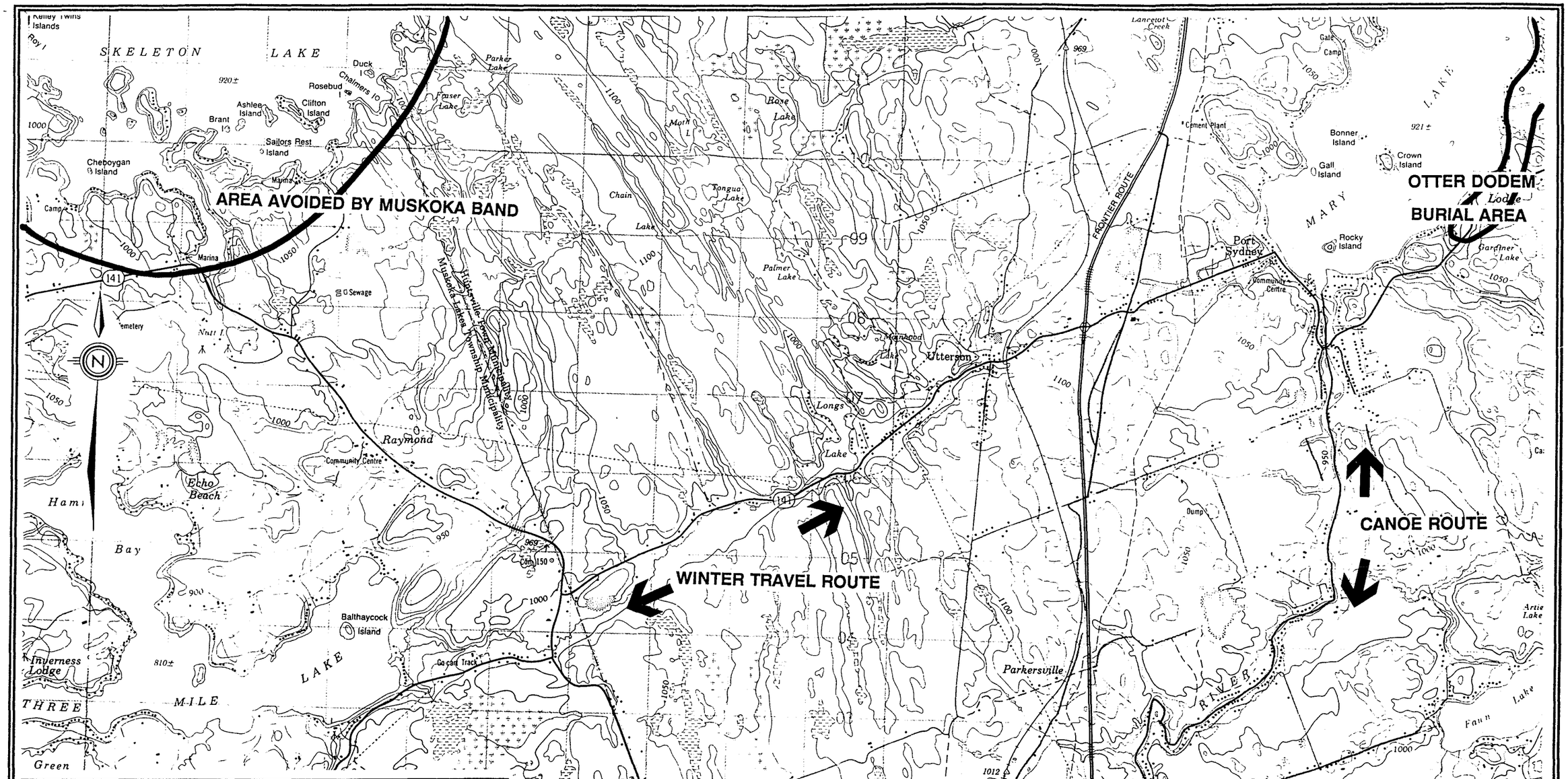
Figure 5	NTS MAP 31 E/3	Scale 1:50,000



MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES FOR THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS		
TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS		
Figure 7	NTS MAP 31 E/9	Scale 1:50,000



MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES FOR THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS		
TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS		
Figure 8	NTS MAP 31 E/4	Scale 1:50,000



MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES FOR THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS		
TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS		
Figure 9	NTS MAP 31 E/6	Scale 1:50,000

NEST ROCK

SETTLEMENT

FUR TRADE POST

AREA AVOIDED BY MUSKOKA BAND

OTTER DODEM BURIAL AREA

MASTER PLAN OF HERITAGE RESOURCES
FOR THE
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AND THE WAHTA MOHAWKS

TRADITIONAL USE SITES/AREAS

Figure 10	NTS MAP 31 E/6	Scale 1:50,000

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: REFINEMENT OF PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE POTENTIAL MODEL

by R.I. MacDonald

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In Volume 1 of this master plan study, a predictive model was developed in order to classify the District Municipality of Muskoka into zones of potential for the discovery of prehistoric archaeological sites. Since very few such sites had previously been documented to guide this work, the model was primarily based on an assessment of the paleoenvironmental constraints which may have affected prehistoric land use in the district (Volume 1, Section 1.6) in combination with an assessment of inferred prehistoric land use as derived from suitable archaeological and ethnographic analogues (Volume 1, Section 1.7). Using criteria established in this fashion, zones of archaeological potential were plotted on National Topographic Series (N.T.S.) 1:50,000 base maps. Recognizing the hypothetical nature of the model, however, the recommendations for model implementation (Volume 1, Section 1.8.4) included the undertaking of a systematic programme of field survey to initiate model verification and refinement. Such a survey programme was subsequently executed during the months of June and July 1993. The following sections present the results of this survey. Any necessary refinements to the site potential model arising from this work have been incorporated into the final version of Volume 1, Section 1.

2.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The fundamental assumptions underlying the prehistoric archaeological site potential model for Muskoka have been presented in Volume 1 (Section 1), and the limitations that they impose have been explicitly stated (Volume 1, Section 1.8). Given that the model is based primarily on information about the prehistoric landscape and the inferred use of that landscape by prehistoric peoples, it was suggested that a significant degree of refinement and testing of the model could be accomplished by: (1) increasing the known site database and comparing this observed data against the distribution of sites anticipated by the model, and (2) comparing the land-use patterns anticipated by the model against the traditional-use patterns documented above. This is not to say that the model could be proven true or false by such a procedure (see Volume 1, Section 1.8.1), since validation and refinement will be an on-going, cumulative process that will occur over time as new sites are documented. Rather, it recognizes the fact that no systematic survey of the District Municipality of Muskoka has ever been undertaken and that such a study could significantly strengthen the model by providing important empirical data that would serve as another important line of evidence.

It was suggested that a survey programme could be implemented that would "strategically

sample the district in order to increase the site database as much as possible for each potential zone" (Volume 1, Section 1.8.2). Areas of maximum potential for each zone (Volume 1, Table 4) were selected from the 1:50,000 maps to guide a field survey involving approximately 120 person days. This list was refined in consultation with District officials in order to eliminate areas where recent development had taken place and to add other areas of potential interest. While every effort was made to ensure a fairly balanced coverage of the Muskoka District, more attention was focussed on the interior lake and river systems, since it was felt that the Highway 69, Georgian Bay, and Severn River corridors had previously received attention during studies conducted by archaeologists from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Parks Canada, and the Canada-Ontario Rideau-Trent-Severn (CORTS) Study Committee, respectively.

On initiating the fieldwork it quickly became apparent that, while the 1:50,000 maps were useful for selecting general survey areas, the selection of survey units on the ground would have to be done with the aid of 1:10,000 Ontario Base Maps combined with observations in the field. It also became apparent that, with the rare exception of ploughed fields, the land presented many severe obstacles to access and survey that would seriously compromise the pace of the study. Given these problems, and our early successes in documenting existing artifact collections and known sites, we promptly modified our strategy in order to exploit what we suspected was a substantial body of untapped knowledge concerning prehistoric sites across the District. Beginning with local museums, we canvassed local people, particularly older, long-time residents, in an attempt to draw out this information. Not only was this approach successful, but the number of site leads tended to grow geometrically with each new contact. By the end of the allocated fieldwork time we had more leads than we could possibly track down, and had barely begun to tap the information network in each community. At least as gratifying as the receipt of valuable information was the keen interest in our study expressed by the majority of informants.

The fieldwork employed four survey techniques. Windshield survey was conducted along all roads and in areas where access permission had not been secured. This involved visually evaluating the landscape in terms of archaeological site potential, apparent land disturbance, depositional and erosional history, and likelihood for development impact. Boat survey involved a similar process of evaluation. Pedestrian survey was conducted using a five metre transect interval where access permission to ploughed fields could be secured. Test pit survey was conducted at intervals of five metres or less, often with strategically placed test pits, where access permission to non-agricultural areas could be secured. The particular techniques employed are described for each survey unit in the following section.

2.3 FIELDWORK RESULTS

2.3.1 Survey Area 1 - Sparrow and Morrison Lakes

2.3.1.1 Survey Unit 1a

This survey unit comprised the lands fronting on the Severn River from Monahan Point on Sparrow Lake southward to Lot 34, Concession 3, Morrison Geographic Township (Figure 13). The unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Severn River, however, windshield survey revealed considerable development disturbance associated with cottage and road construction. In addition, the landscape was generally low and wet and archaeological potential was considered low within the unit.

2.3.1.2 Survey Unit 1b

This survey unit comprised the portions of Lots 30 and 31, Concessions 3 and 4, Morrison Geographic Township, which front on the concession road (Figure 13). The unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential flanking a drainage system that flows into Sparrow Lake. It was selected on the basis of its accessibility where the drainage system crosses the road. Windshield inspection revealed that this unit was actually part of an extensive wetland with little or no archaeological potential.

2.3.1.3 Survey Unit 1c

This survey unit comprised the portions of Lots 27, 28, and 29, Concession 4, Morrison Geographic Township, which front on the concession road (Figure 13). The unit falls within both the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential flanking a small stream that flows into Sparrow Lake, as well as the general zone of low to moderate potential beyond. It was selected on the basis of the proximity of a stream to adjacent arable farmland. Windshield survey revealed that the majority of Lots 27 and 28 within the survey unit were wetlands with little or no archaeological potential. A field adjacent to the road, while mapped as low to moderate potential on the 1:50,000 maps, in fact exhibited moderate to high potential, owing to the presence of a spring and creek that do not appear on the N.T.S. maps. Permission to conduct a pedestrian survey of fields on Lot 29 was obtained from the owner, Mr. Clark. Survey of the ploughed and well-weathered fields was conducted

at 5 metre intervals. The soils were loam to clay loam and visibility was excellent. A single retouched flake of Onondaga chert was recovered and registered as the Clark site (BeGu-1).

2.3.1.4 Survey Unit 1d

This survey unit comprises portions of Lots 27 and 28, Concession 5, Morrison Geographic Township, which front on the Kahshe River and the adjacent shores of Sparrow Lake (Figure 14). The unit falls within both the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Kahshe River, as well as the specific zone of high to very high potential that occurs at the river mouth. The unit was selected on the basis of accessibility, site potential, and landowner cooperation.

On the portion of Lot 28 south of the Kahshe River, long-time residents Stan and Jean Clipsham reported the discovery of a groundstone gouge on the beach at a small point of land now part of the Winston Camp. This tool (Plate 1) was highly polished, manufactured from an unidentified dark-brown stone, and measured approximately 13.5 cm by 3.7 cm. The bit had been chipped in one corner through a recent mishap. Probably dating to the Laurentian Archaic period (*c.* 5500 to 4500 B.P.), this findspot was registered as the Stan Clipsham site (BeGu-2). With permission of the camp director, a series of test pits were excavated and screened on this point, however, no cultural remains or deposits were encountered. The sediments on the point of land exhibited much evidence of recent deposition, and it may well be that any cultural deposits have been inundated. Stan Clipsham recalled that before the construction of water level control dams, the waters of Sparrow Lake would retreat significantly in summer such that horse-drawn wagons could be driven around the lakeshore on the beach. He estimated that current levels were at least one metre higher than the former high water mark. Although much of the Camp Winston waterfront, which was formerly low and wet, has be filled and landscaped, a series of testpits were also excavated at 5 metre intervals in suitable locations along the waterfront of Sparrow Lake and approximately 100 metres up river. No significant archaeological remains were discovered.

Clipsham Lodge, the current summer cottage of Stan and Jean Clipsham, is also worthy of comment given its potential heritage value. The log cottage, which was the main building of a cottage resort they operated for years, was originally built around 1840 and was moved to the present site from Simcoe County. The log garage, which originally stood along Highway 11 at the Kahshe River, was a cabin built over the winter of 1864-65 at the behest of Stan's grandfather when he came from England to homestead in Muskoka.

On the portion of Lots 27 and 28 north of the Kahshe River, Sara Clipsham contributed to the survey greatly by allowing us to photograph the family collection of prehistoric artifacts and to undertake a testpit survey of a portion of their Kahshe River waterfront. She also guided us to a petroglyph site at one neighbour's cottage and showed us a photograph of another possible petroglyph on another neighbour's property.

The Sara Clipsham collection (Plates 2 & 3) consisted of: a Brewerton Corner-notched projectile point (*c.* 5.4 cm x 2.7 cm) and a large biface (*c.* 8.7 cm x 4.9 cm), both of Onondaga chert; two groundstone gouges of unidentified material (*c.* 21.0 cm x 5.6 cm and 13.7 cm x 5.4 cm, respectively); three groundstone celts of various unidentified material (*c.* 10.9 cm x 4.7 cm, 10.9 cm x 4.5 cm, and 11.5 cm x 6.1 cm, respectively); and three iron axe blades. One of the latter has the name "Galt" stamped into it, as well as an undeciphered word of which a fragment appears to be "...arndoke...", possibly in reference to the maker. This axe has been reworked as a wedge. A second is a thin bladed hatchet (*c.* 14.0 cm x 5.7 cm) of the "tomahawk" style and may date to the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. The third is somewhat similar to the second, but with a wider blade (*c.* 14.0 cm x 8.4 cm). The final item in the Sara Clipsham collection is a large, roughly discoidal granitic stone with a symmetrical depression of some 5 centimetres depth and about 10 centimetres diameter centrally ground in the top face (Plate 3). Although roughly finished, this depression does appear to be artificial, however its purpose and age are unknown. Sara Clipsham noted that it had been sitting in the yard as long as she could remember but that she had no idea from where it had originated. On the basis of the information provided by Sara Clipsham, her collection was registered as site BeGu-3.

To the best of Ms. Clipsham's knowledge, all the prehistoric artifacts had been collected on the property by either her grandfather (Henry Lawrence "Harry" Clipsham) or her great-grandfather (Michael Clipsham) while ploughing. Apparently, much of the farmland had gone out of production by the time her father (H. Bruce Clipsham) started working as a carpenter, and her grandfather had actually reforested some of the former fields. Two areas had formerly been worked: a small field behind (east) of the house and a larger field a little farther east (now a pine/hemlock plantation). Inspection along the north shore revealed the Kahshe River flowing through a steep, narrow gorge in the precambrian bedrock. At its narrowest point, it may have only been seasonally navigable by canoe, and a portage may have been required at this point. Farther upstream, at a bend in the river where a small stream joined, the bedrock disappeared under a relatively low, flat accumulation of sandy soil. Roughly 3.7 hectares in extent, this was the field reforested by Harry Clipsham. Given the apparently high archaeological potential of the locality, a test pit survey was conducted at five metre intervals from the waterfront inland to a distance of about 100 metres. While no archaeological remains were recovered, it seems likely that some of the items in the Sara

Plate 1: Groundstone Gouge - Stan Clipsham (BeGu-2)

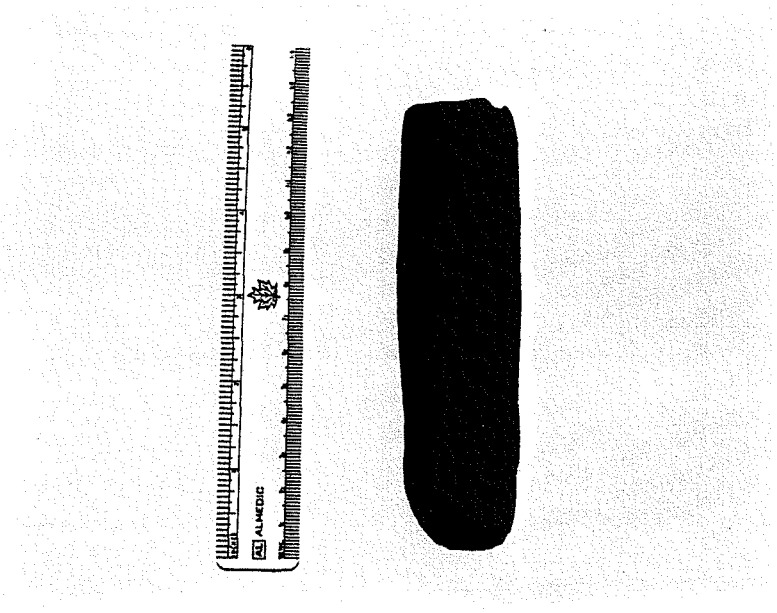


Plate 2: Sara Clipsham Collection (BeGu-3)

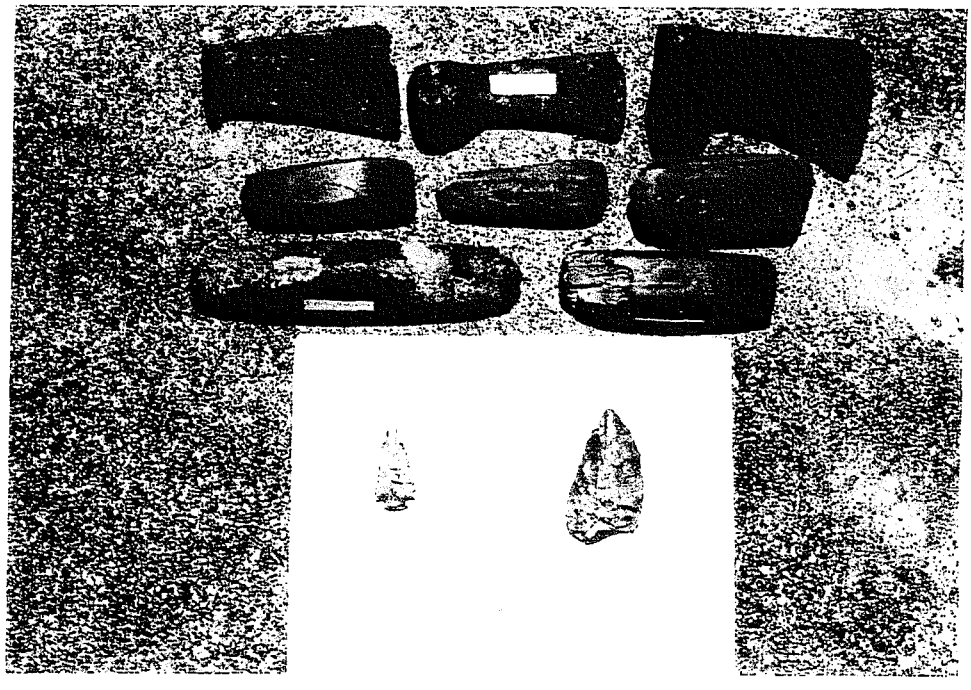


Plate 3: Sara Clipsham Collection (BeGu-3), continued

Plate 4: Pope Petroglyph Site (BeGu-4)

Clipsham collection came from this area.

In Volume 1 of this study it was noted (Section 1.2) that a petroglyph on Sparrow Lake had been reported to Selwyn Dewdney, although it had not been examined by him (Dewdney and Kidd 1967:158). It had been suggested that this reference may relate to the Donnelly 2 site where, on a granite outcrop at the tip of Ellis Point, there is an inscription of two names and a late-nineteenth century date. It now seems more likely that this report refers to a series of petroglyphs that was reported to us by cottager Cynthia Pope-Bruce and located at the Pope cottage (Lot 28, Concession 5, Morrison Geographic Township) with the help of Sara Clipsham. Registered as the Pope Petroglyph site (BeGu-4), this group of deeply incised figures covers approximately 2500 square centimetres of a small vertical rock face overlooking Sparrow Lake (Plate 4). Unlike many aboriginal rock art sites on the Canadian Shield, this group is not executed on an imposing rock face or some other visually outstanding feature. Indeed, the petroglyph is almost impossible to see, even when standing close by. It is situated on the edge of a rounded, almost flat outcrop of greyish granitic rock; the face itself is oriented perpendicular to the lake, with a northern aspect. Overall the face stands just over a metre high. Immediately below the face is small pocket of peat of unknown depth. This deposit is part of a network of springs and perched wetlands that surrounds the petroglyph. It may be this unusual characteristic that distinguishes this stretch of shoreline from that around it.

The petroglyph consists of seven images that cover the majority of the rock face (Figure 11). The execution is primitive and ranges from deep, wide channels to narrow, shallow incisions. Given the hardness of the rock and the depth of the cuts, a significant investment of time and effort is indicated. The uppermost image features a horizontal line, slightly inclined toward the west, that curves downward at the western end to terminate or connect to an asterisk-like object. Toward the eastern end of the line, a small square protrudes upward. The line is then crossed by an oblique sinistral incision before terminating in an upward curve. The second image is a circle, approximately 4 cm in outside diameter, with a 2 cm protrusion from the upper side. The lower edge of the circle intersects a natural groove in the rock face. The third image is a deep oblique dextral groove, about 16 cm long, crossed by two equally large grooves of about 9 cm each, the upper nearly vertical and the lower sinistral. The fourth image consists of a curved, vertical line of about 37 cm with an apparent arrow, spear, or harpoon head at the top, the two tines of which are about 5 cm long. The fifth image is an anthropomorphic figure, 23 cm high, with a projection emanating obliquely (sinistrally) from the top of the head. A single line crossing the body gives the impression of an arm. This, together with the inclination of the body, suggests an association between this image and the sixth image, which is an oblique, sinistrally incised line about 5 cm long, crossed by a perpendicular line of 3 cm at the top end and a downward curving line

of similar size at the bottom. The seventh image is a triangle with a height of about 14 cm and a base of about 10 cm. The western edge of the triangle extends in a short curve of about 3 cm beyond the apex. The triangle is divided vertically into slightly unequal sections by a line that widens towards the bottom and terminates before intersecting the apex. The bottom of this vertical line intersects a natural crack in the rock face that runs horizontally below the tableau.

As with most petroglyphs, the age of this group is difficult to estimate. The growth of lichens and weathering of the rock suggest an age of at least several decades, although this is a qualitative assessment at best. In general the iconography is most reminiscent of Algonquian rock art documented throughout the Canadian Shield. In particular, the anthropomorphic figure, with the projection from the head, is similar to examples documented elsewhere in Ontario (see Dewdney and Kidd 1967:20-21; Vastokas and Vastokas 1973:59ff.). The spear-like object, if indeed representing a weapon, may also suggest an aboriginal origin. The remaining images are too abstract to interpret confidently. If they are of recent origin, whether Algonquian or Euro-Canadian, the triangular figure may represent a sailboat while the uppermost figure may represent one of the stern-wheeler tugs that served on the Sparrow Lake/Severn River run from the 1870s to the turn of the century. Whatever its cultural or temporal origins, however, the significance of this petroglyph site is assured since it is the only one documented to date in the District of Muskoka.

Sara Clipsham also reported the discovery of another petroglyph by her father on an adjacent property (Lot 26, Concession 5, Morrison Geographic Township). Ms. Clipsham secured permission from the current landowner to search for this site, and with some directions from her mother, led us in a search for it. When this was unsuccessful, due perhaps in large part to the increase in vegetation since her girlhood visit to the spot, we returned the next day with further directions from Ms. Clipsham's brother who remembered the site being only about 100 metres west of Muskoka Road 13. Again, the search was unsuccessful, however, Sara was able to locate a photograph of the tableau taken years before (Figure 12). This revealed the upper portion of a large boulder, part of which had broken away along a cleavage plane in the rock producing a face estimated to be 30 to 40 cm in diameter. The boulder appears to be lying against or slightly beneath an overhanging outcrop of rock. Numerous such outcrops occur around the northern perimeter of a massif that fills the central portion of Lot 26. In the background of the photograph can be seen the lower legs of two individuals, and this suggests that the boulder stood about one metre high. On the flat, grey face of the boulder there appears a series of small, whitish images that look more like scratchings, as one might produce on slate with a hard object, rather than carved images. At the top is a series of seven asterisk-like stars lying more or less horizontally across the face. In the centre is an oblique line of dashes. At the bottom is a

jumble of scratchings that may include one or more asterisk stars as well as several other possible abstract figures. While this may be a petroglyph of aboriginal origin, neither the iconography nor the technique seem to favour such a conclusion. Also, it was pointed out by Professor Joan Vastokas that native peoples of the eastern woodlands rarely executed petroglyphs on boulders (personal communication, January 1994). It seems more likely that this represents more relatively recent graffiti by some unknown passerby, perhaps early in this century.

2.3.1.5 Survey Unit 1e

This unit comprised a picnic area on the south side of the Kahshe River where it is crossed by Highway 11 (Lot 16, Range West, Morrison Geographic Township)(Figure 15). The unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential flanking the Kahshe River and was chosen because of its accessibility and location below a chute on a bend with a wide pool.

A test pit survey at five metre intervals was conducted throughout the picnic area except on roads or areas of obvious disturbance. Test pit fill was screened through 6 mm mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. Although the sandbar deposit that comprised the majority of the area was obviously natural, there had been considerable deposition of fill, no doubt to improve the drainage of the generally low-lying area. No archaeologically significant remains were recovered.

2.3.1.6 Survey Unit 1f

This unit comprised the vicinity of the Kahshe River where it is crossed by Muskoka Road 13 (Lots 25 and 26, Concession 5, Morrison Geographic Township)(Figure 16). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Kahshe River and was chosen on the basis of accessibility and landowner cooperation.

In addition to the petroglyph search of Lot 26 detailed under Survey Unit 1d above, visual inspection of the lands between the river and the south face of the rock massif revealed a relatively flat to moderately rolling area of pasture and wet meadow. Since no specific locality of archaeological interest could be identified, and since testpit survey of the entire area would have been impractical, no further investigation was undertaken.

Figure 11: Pope Petroglyph Site (BeGu-4)

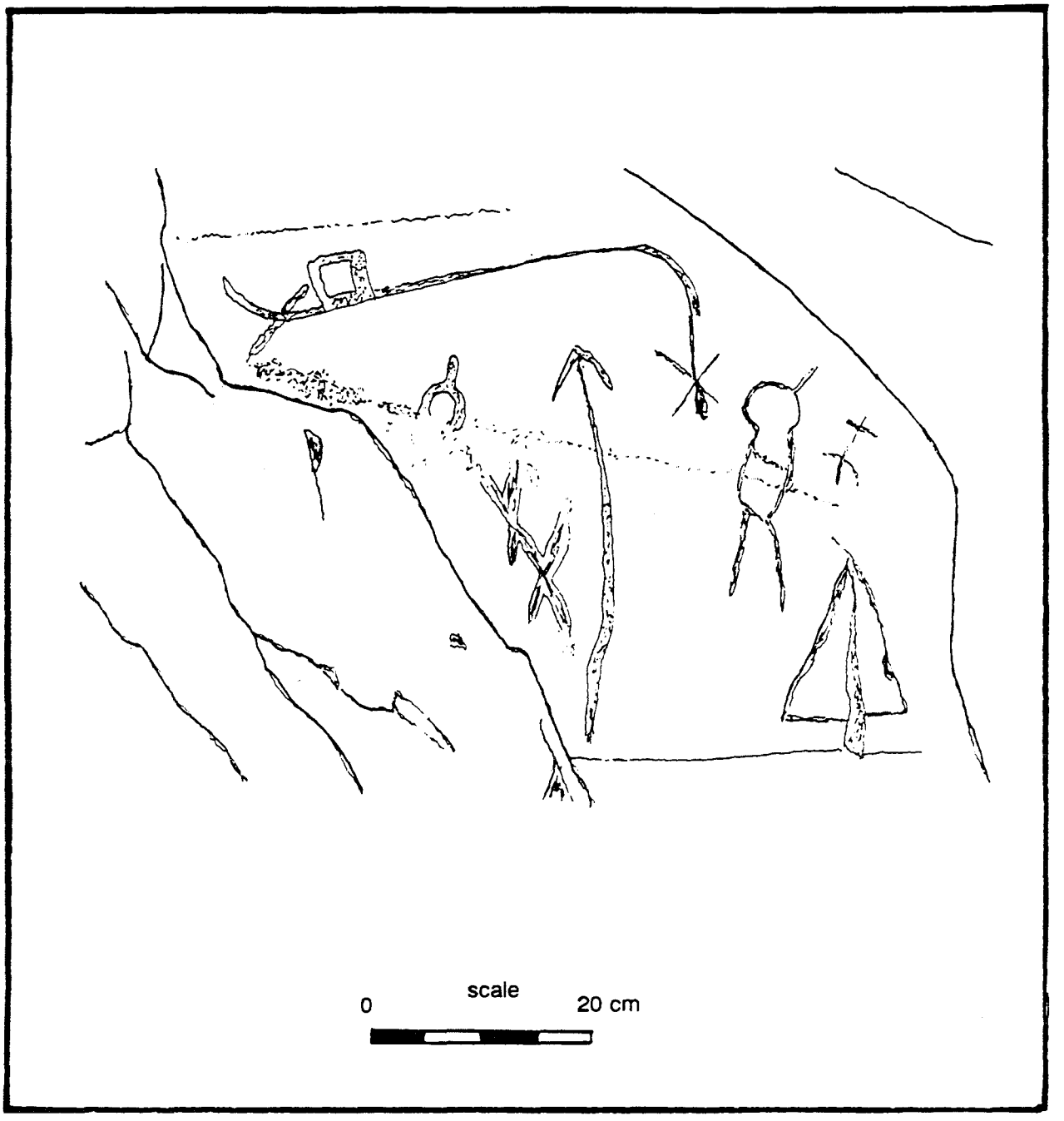
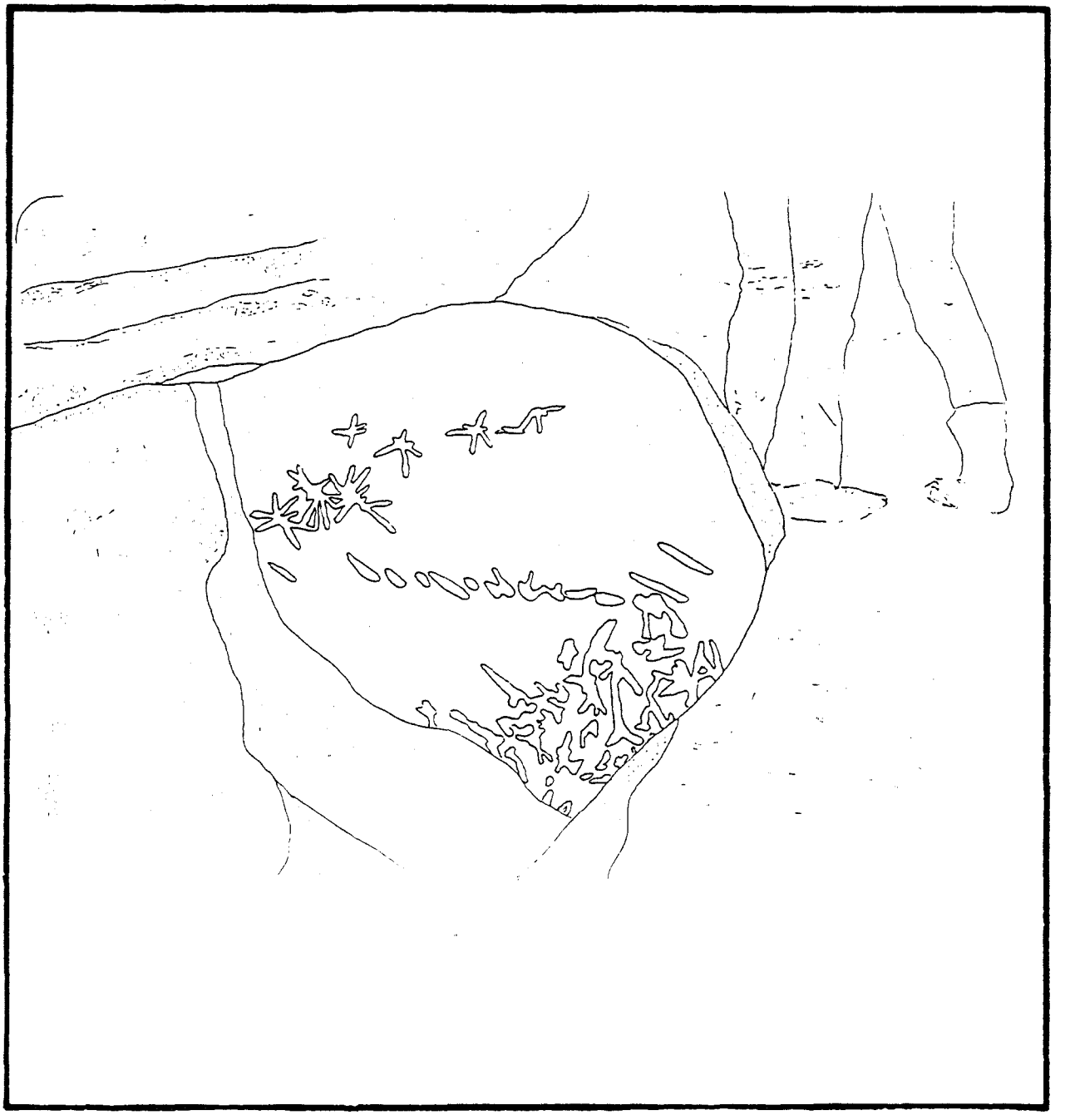


Figure 12: Line Drawing of Clipsham Photograph - Possible Petroglyph Site



2.3.1.7 Survey Unit 1g

This unit comprised the vicinity of the Kahshe River where it is crossed by the Concession 5/6 road (Figure 17). This unit falls within the general zones of moderate to high and high to very high archaeological potential that flank the Kahshe River and was chosen on the basis of accessibility and landowner cooperation.

A pedestrian survey was conducted at five metre intervals in a ploughed field on the north side of the road immediately west of the bridge (Lot 22, Concession 6, Morrison Geographic Township). The soils were silty to clayey and quite moist and the land comprised a relatively flat plateau overlooking the river. Visibility was excellent, however, no cultural remains were recovered. On crossing to the south side of the road to inspect a small triangle of land between the road and the river (Lot 22, Concession 5, Morrison Geographic Township), a groundstone celt was recovered from an artificial drainage ditch (*c.* 20 cm deep) that led from a small culvert under the road. Manufactured from an unidentified greenish-grey metamorphic rock, this tool measures 127 x 55 x 25 cm. It is roughly ground on both sides and the edges are well ground and bevelled towards one of the sides. The bit has been badly damaged and exhibits numerous step fractures; one spall extends nearly to the centre of one of the sides. The poll end has been ground to produce a secondary bit, and this too shows considerable use damage. Test pit survey of the vicinity at five metre intervals failed to produce any additional material. Nevertheless, the findspot was registered as the Kahshe Station site (BeGu-5).

2.3.1.8 Survey Unit 1h

This unit comprised the vicinity of Ellis (or Ellison) Point on Sparrow Lake (Lot 31, Concession 8, Morrison Geographic Township), specifically the property owned by Mr. Donnelly (Figure 18). This unit falls within the zone of high to very high archaeological potential associated with the Severn waterway, and it was selected in order to investigate the current status of the Donnelly 1 site (see Volume 1, Section 1.2).

As reported earlier (Volume 1, Section 1.2), the site was recorded on the basis of a large artifact assemblage collected by Hugo Stein. There was some concern that this diverse collection may have been derived entirely from Simcoe County, specifically from the multicomponent Darker site on Grandview Point, since Mr. Stein had married Ella Roehl, the daughter of Grandview Point farmer Otto Roehl. However, Mr. Donnelly informed us that Frederick Stein, father of Hugo, had been the original settler of Ellis Point and that while some of the material likely did come from other locations, some was definitely from

Ellis Point. Mr. Donnelly inherited the collection from his father-in-law, Hugo Stein, and he continues to find artifacts in his large vegetable garden to this day. Some of the material he had at hand included Onondaga chert debitage and a chert end scraper. There can thus be little doubt that there is at least one prehistoric archaeological component on Ellis Point. Accordingly, the Donnelly 1 site was registered as BfGu-1.

2.3.1.9 Survey Unit 1i

This unit comprised the vicinity of Morrison Lake from the Muldrew Creek inlet to Morrison Landing on the Severn River (Figure 19). This unit falls within the zone of moderate to high archaeological potential surrounding the lake and Morrison Creek, and includes three specific zones of high to very high archaeological potential at the inlet, outlet, and junction of Morrison Creek and the Severn River. It was selected in order to investigate the well-known portage route--from the Severn River to Lake Muskoka--documented as early as 1826 by Lt. Briscoe of the Royal Engineers (Murray 1963).

Windshield survey from the Muldrew Creek inlet, along the eastern side of the lake and south to Morrison Landing revealed a generally low, marshy landscape punctuated by rock knobs. Inquiries at the Morrison Landing marina, concerning local finds of prehistoric artifacts, were fruitless. Nevertheless, visual evaluation of the local terrain confirmed the modelled prediction of very high archaeological potential.

At limited number of test pits were strategically excavated immediately adjacent to District Road 13 where it crosses Muldrew Creek at the north end of Morrison Lake. The soils were thin gravelly sands and test pit fill was sifted through 6 mm mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. Although site potential appeared to be high, no archaeological remains were recovered. Testing beyond the road allowance might prove more productive.

2.3.1.10 Survey Area 1 - Summary

This survey area is characterized by gently to moderately rolling quaternary deposits punctuated by bedrock knobs which rise above the surrounding land. Wherever drainage and soil conditions allow the land has been tilled for cash crops, however, wetlands and rocky hills abound. As one of the largest areas of arable farmland in the Muskoka District, it had been anticipated that there was some potential for Late Woodland period settlement by Native agriculturalists. While this remains a possibility, no evidence of this was reported by local informants. Given the proximity of the vastly superior farmland in Simcoe County

to the south, it now seems unlikely that this sort of site would be found here, although use of the area as a hunting territory remains a strong possibility.

The fieldwork in this area highlighted the significant degree of generalization in the mapped zones of archaeological potential arising from the resolution limits inherent in the 1:50,000 N.T.S. basemaps. Working with 1:10,000 Ontario Base Maps, rather than the 1:50,000 scale topographic maps improved the resolution of landscape features by a factor of 5. Even so, the O.B.M. maps were still ten thousand times more generalized than what was encountered on the ground, and this was always noticeable.

While the limited survey work undertaken suggests a fairly sparse distribution of prehistoric sites, there is evidence that the Kahshe River was an important travel corridor from the Archaic through to the Historic period. It is anticipated that several large base camps and numerous smaller campsites may be situated along this corridor and throughout its hinterland. The profusion of prehistoric evidence around the river mouth nicely supports the predictions, even though we were unsuccessful in pinpointing any specific habitation sites.

2.3.2 Survey Area 2 - Lake Muskoka

2.3.2.1 Survey Unit 2a

This survey unit comprised the vicinity of District Road 30 from Highway 169 to Barlochan as well as Woodwinds Island (Figure 20). It includes the complete range of archaeological potential zones, and was chosen in order to investigate references in Joyce Schell's book, *The Years Gone By* (1970). In her book, Mrs. Schell reports that Indians canoeing from Gravenhurst to Bala would portage the neck of land between Shanty Bay and East Bay, and that, at the time of writing, the trail could still be traced. She also noted that the many sand beaches in the vicinity provided landings--Walker's Point being a favourite campsite--and that artifacts could still be found along the shore.

On making inquiries with local residents we happened to encounter Mr. Victor Smith, Mrs. Schell's brother. He informed us that his sister had formerly operated a small museum at Barlochan and had gathered local lore in that capacity. While he was not aware of any specific portage between Shanty Bay and East Bay, he was quite familiar with the area and suggested the most likely route via two small ponds known locally as Mary Lake and Beaver Lake. He noted that before control dams were installed, the summer level of Lake Muskoka

was approximately 1.5 metres lower than at present, hence shoreline sites may have been inundated.

With respect to locally known artifact discoveries, Mr. Smith reported that his grandfather, Alfred Smith, had homesteaded on Woodwinds Island, where he had found arrowheads on the sandy beaches. Some of these had apparently been displayed in Mrs. Schell's museum, however their current location is unknown. A windshield survey of Woodwinds Island confirmed that the location exhibits extremely high site potential. The absence of cottagers during our visit precluded a more thorough survey of the locality.

Mr. Smith was also able to point out the location of a shipwreck lying in about 3 metres of water in front of his property. This fifty-eight foot tugboat, the *Bertha May*, had been built by Capt. Harper Walker and re-built by Capt. Charles Joseph Smith, Victor's father. One of Capt. Smith's previous ships, the forty-five foot tug, the *Sharon*, had been salvaged to outfit the *Bertha May*, and the re-fit had been undertaken at a boat-building facility still standing on Victor Smith's property. On the basis of this information, the Bertha May site was registered as BgGu-2.

Finally, Mr. Smith reported that while quarrying on the north shore of Browning Island, his father had discovered a birch-bark bundle burial in a rock crevasse. A similar story was told by Mr. Peter Campbell of Campbell's Landing. This elderly gentleman, in his nineties, reported the discovery of a birch bark bundle burial on the shore of Rankin Island. While it is possible that these stories relate to the same event, since the islands are not too far from each other, they may also be separate incidents; both are reminiscent of a similar discovery on Bigwin Island in Lake of Bays reported by Sid Avery as told by his uncle:

> In travelling along the end of the Island he noticed a roll of birch bark tucked in under a ledge of rock. As birch bark does not rot it was in very good condition. He got it out from under the rock thinking it was a canoe bark. On unrolling the bark (which had been sealed with spruce pitch), he found it contained the skeleton of the biggest Indian he had ever seen. Beside the Indian was a real good-looking muzzle-loading gun, which he laid out on the rock and then proceeded to roll the Indian back up in the bark and put the roll back under the rock. When he had this job completed, he turned around to pick up the gun, it had almost disappeared; the iron parts had turned to rust and the wood had fallen apart. It had been so well preserved in the air tight birch bark roll, but when it came in contact with the air, it fell apart (Avery 1974:3).

2.3.2.2 Survey Unit 2b

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Bala (Figure 21). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Moon River and the nearby shores of Lake Muskoka. It was chosen because of its high site potential, accessibility, and probability of site discovery by local residents.

Inquiries with local museum curator Jack Hutton directed us to cottager and local historian Lorne Jewitt. In 1980, when the Moon River had been drained for construction work, Mr. Jewitt and a fellow cottager, Bert Tooke, recovered an iron trade axe from the riverbed near the Renshaw Boarding House across from Tooke's Island. Also recovered were four chert flakes, including one possible spokeshave and one scraper or utilized flake (Plate 5). Mr. Jewitt noted that the area was near a known portage with a spring on the south (Moon River) side. On the basis of this information, the Renshaw site was registered as BgGw-3.

Tooke's Island, at the confluence of the Moon and Musquash Rivers, was also the source of four other prehistoric artifacts of probable Late Archaic or Early Woodland age. These had been found by Bert Tooke somewhere on the island, and Lorne Jewitt had a slide of them. They included a possible Snook Kill point of speckled grey-white chert, a possible stemmed knife of white quartz, a discoidal chert biface, and pendant of banded slate in the shape of a projectile point. On the basis of this information, the Tooke's Island site was registered as BgGw-2.

On the beach at the southern tip of Hurling Point Lorne Jewitt also recovered a probable Brewerton Side-notched projectile point of Middle Archaic age. Test pits were excavated at intervals of five metres or less on this beach and the land immediately above it to a distance inland of about 15 metres. Test pit fill was sifted through 6 mm mesh in order to facilitate artifact retrieval, however, no archaeological remains were recovered. Mr. Jewitt's extensive gardens were also examined without result. On the basis of this isolated find, the Jewitt site was registered as BgGv-5.

After our visit, Mr. Jewitt relayed a message to us that a neighbouring cottager had recently recovered a quartz projectile point that had been exposed after a heavy rain. Unfortunately these people had left before we could follow up this report.

2.3.2.3 Survey Unit 2c

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Muldrew Lake which is encompassed by a general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential (Figure 19). It was selected in order to investigate the well-known portage route--from the Severn River to Lake Muskoka--documented as early as 1826 by Lt. Briscoe of the Royal Engineers (Murray 1963).

Boat survey of the pertinent areas of the lake was undertaken with the assistance of cottagers Stephen and Diana Silverthorn. The outlet of South Muldrew Lake, now controlled by a dam where it enters Muldrew Creek, was situated in a large, shallow bay surrounded by wetlands. Nevertheless, the immediate vicinity of the outlet appeared to offer a suitable landing or campsite, and was therefore judged to have very high archaeological potential. Muldrew Lake, formerly named Leg Lake, is separated into North Muldrew Lake and South Muldrew Lake by a long peninsula. While the main portage is situated at the neck of the peninsula, Mr. Silverthorn pointed out several other portage locations along the lake.

On the northeast corner of North Muldrew Lake is Indian Landing, the well-known start of the long historic portage to Lake Muskoka. Although a weathered sign reading "portage" unobtrusively hangs on a tree, there is little to suggest the existence of a portage at this location. With the permission of the current landowner, a few test pits were excavated and screened through 6 mm mesh on the small beach. No artifacts were recovered from what appeared to be primarily recent deposits. Although permission was received to undertake more extensive testing, time did not permit it. Visual survey of the portage route between the lake and a cottage road revealed low, swampy terrain drained by a small creek with higher ground on either side. Archaeological potential was judged to be very high.

Windshield survey of the road between Indian Landing and Highway 169 revealed a severe landscape of bald rock ridges interspersed with ponds and swamps. Assuming that the road was laid out along the path of least resistance, it is hypothesized that the modern road may follow the route of the historic portage.

2.3.2.4 Survey Area 2 - Summary

Lake Muskoka might be considered the prehistoric transportation hub of the Muskoka District. With a canoe it was possible to travel from here: west to Georgian Bay, via the Moon or Musquash Rivers; south, via Muldrew and Morrison Lakes, to the Severn River and hence to Lake Simcoe or Georgian Bay; north into Lakes Joseph and Rosseau and the

Plate 5: Renshaw Site (BgGw-3) Assemblage

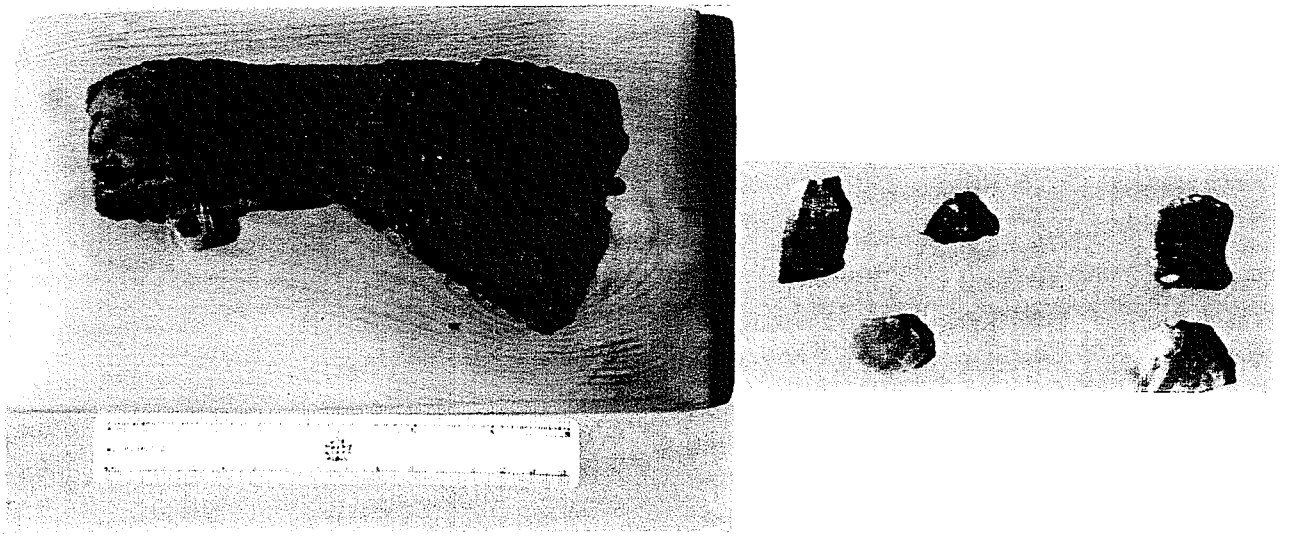
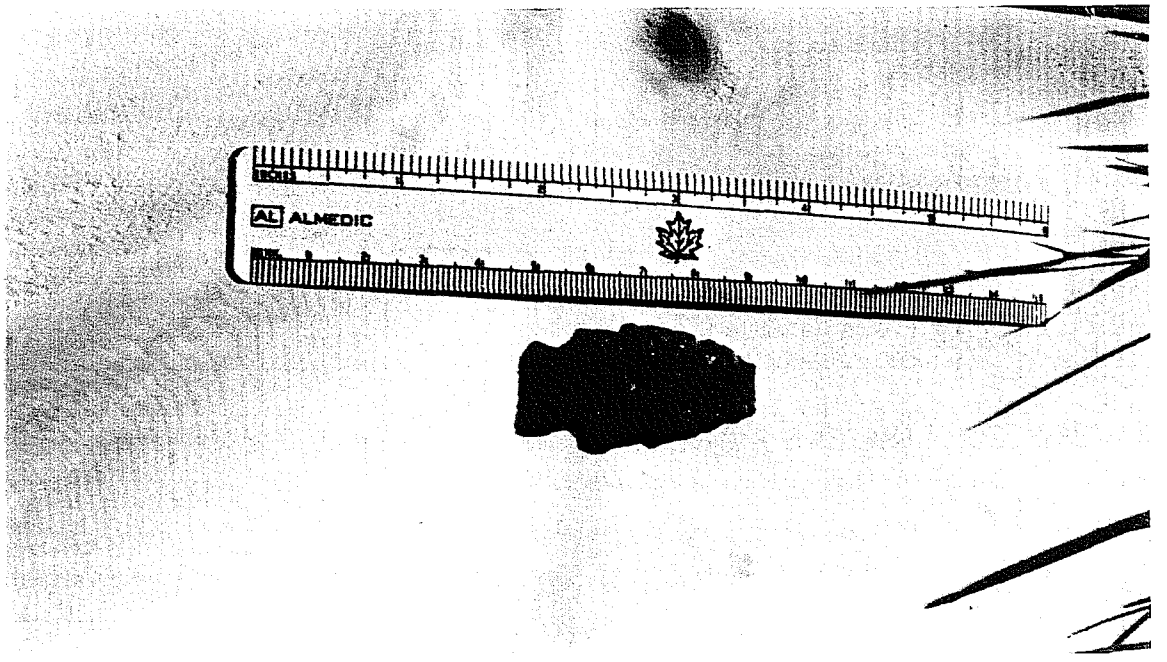


Plate 6: Projectile Point from Jewitt Site (BgGw-5)



Parry Sound District; or east, via the South Branch Muskoka and Oxtongue Rivers, to Lake of Bays and Haliburton, or, via the North Branch Muskoka and Big East Rivers, to the Huntsville lakes and Algonquin Park. Moreover, Lake Muskoka would have been an attractive settlement area in its own right, given the easily accessible resources it offered. The prehistoric importance of Lake Muskoka is confirmed by archaeological evidence compiled during this survey project. While very cursory, it clearly indicates prehistoric use of Lake Muskoka and environs extending back at least to the Middle Archaic period, about 5,000 years ago.

2.3.3 Survey Area 3 - Lakes Joseph and Rosseau

2.3.3.1 Survey Unit 3a

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of an island in the Indian River occupied by the Muskoka Lakes Museum in the village of Port Carling (Lots 31 and 32, Concession 4, Medora Geographic Township)(Figure 22). The island was created when a small point at a bend in the river was severed from the mainland by the construction of a lock between 1869 and 1871. This lock was enlarged in 1902, rebuilt in 1922, and reconstructed in 1953. A smaller lock, situated on the natural course of the river, was built in 1921, replaced in 1940, and rebuilt in 1963 (Coombe 1976:95-97).

In the early 1860s this piece of land was part of the site of the Indian village of Obogawanung. In reminiscing about his early (*c.* 1860-4) land survey work in Muskoka, Vernon B. Wadsworth had the following to say about the settlement:

> The Indian Village of Obogawanung, now Port Carling, consisted of some 20 log huts, beautifully situated on the Indian River and Silver Lake with a good deal of cleared land about it used as garden plots, and the Indians grew potatoes, Indian corn, and other vegetable products. They had no domestic animals but dogs and no boats but numerous birch bark canoes.
>
> The fall on the River there, being the outlet of Lake Rosseau, was about eight feet, and fish and game were very plentiful (manuscript quoted in Murray 1963:125-126).

Prior to its renaming, Port Carling became simply known as "Indian Village." When

European settlers arrived the Indian community was relocated to Parry Island, although many returned in summer to houses along the river where they sold handicrafts to tourists (Coombe 1976:98-99). This area, on the east riverbank, is now the Indian River Indian Reserve.

In discussing the history of the island with Roma Hopkins of the Muskoka Lakes Museum, it was learned that considerable quantities of fill had been dumped there, to a depth of several metres, when the locks were constructed. Visual inspection of the island, with particular attention to the perimeter, could not detect any evidence of aboriginal occupation, although the artificial topography of the site was readily apparent. It is concluded, therefore, that the island likely represents an important archaeological site capped by fill. Accordingly, the site has been registered as the Obogawanung site (BgGv-4).

While it is evident that the historic Indian occupation extended beyond the island, further investigation will be required to see if the precise limits can be reconstructed. Furthermore, given the extremely high archaeological potential of the Port Carling area, it can be anticipated that evidence of occupations extending far back into prehistory will be found. Indeed, several prehistoric artifacts were donated to the Muskoka Lakes Museum by Mr. Neil Wettlaufer along with the information that they were "found in the ground in Port Carling where the Indians used to live."

It is also important to note that our inquiries revealed that the Muskoka Lakes Museum has the largest and most comprehensive collection of prehistoric Indian artifacts that we encountered in the District. While it is unfortunate that the provenience information for the majority of the specimens has been lost, it is possible that most were collected in Muskoka; based on our documentary analysis of the collection there is no reason to believe otherwise. In any case, the significance of this collection as a potential resource for interpreting Muskoka's prehistoric past cannot be overstated.

2.3.3.2 Survey Unit 3b

This survey unit comprises Tobin's Island, Lake Rosseau (Figure 22). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential associated with all islands, and was selected as a result of documentary evidence of a historic Indian occupation. Although the island was not actually surveyed, inspection of various documents and historical accounts support the registration of at least one probable site.

In September of 1835, John Carthew recorded the following encounter with a group of

Indians on Lake Rosseau:

> These Indians were very civil, and after making some enquiries as to their mode of life, they took me to their village. I was surprised to find about 40 acres of good clearing, planted with corn and potatoes. I learned from them that they had made this in 4 years. The plantation is on an island in the Lake, but only a small part of the island is good land. The chief's name is Pamosagay. I made the Indians a few presents of tobacco and provisions, as they promised us any assistance we might require. They appear to reside here all the year round, taking plenty of white fish and trout. They trade with Penetanguishene through one of Mr. Mitchell's traders--These Indians were very cleanly, with good wigwams and new canoes....(quoted in Murray 1963:108).

Tobin's island is by far the only island on Lake Rosseau where a forty acre plantation would comprise "only a small part of the island." Moreover, when Provincial Lands Surveyor, Albert Fowlie, surveyed the island in 1868 he mapped and noted that a parcel of roughly 40 acres on "Lot 2 Con B has been an old Indian clearing but is now grown up with small white Birch and Pine." An Indian clearing was also noted on Lot 4, Concession A, although it is not outlined on the map.

Evidence suggests that the development of Obogawanung at present-day Port Carling was the result of the relocation of the Tobin's Island community around 1860. Fowlie's observations of pioneering forest growth on Tobin's Island would be consistent with settlement abandonment some eight years before his arrival. If so, it may be possible to conclude that the main historic Indian occupation of Tobin's Island occurred between about 1831 (four years before Carthew's arrival) and 1860.

On the basis of the historic documentary evidence, the probable settlement on Lot 2, Concession B was registered as the Pamosagai site (BgGv-8)(spelling after Koennecke 1984).

2.3.3.3 Survey Unit 3c

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Brandy Creek north of where it is crossed by the township road that connects Brackenrig with Bardsville (Lot 27, Concession 1, Watt Geographic Township)(Figure 22). This unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential that flanks Brandy Creek, and was selected for examination as a result of a report from the landowner, Mr. Thomas Knight, that artifacts had been collected on the property. Some of these artifacts were also encountered during our review

of collections at the Muskoka Lakes Museum.

At the time of our visit, Mr. Knight's private collection was away at the school where he is on staff and was therefore unavailable for examination. Three items, apparently collected from the site by Mr. Victor W. Knight, uncle of the current landowner, were examined at the Muskoka Lakes Museum. One was a crude, corner-notched projectile point (48 x 27 x 12 mm) manufactured from a grey-brown chert with white veins. Based on morphology, this point was classified as a variant of the Late Archaic period (*c.* 1500 to 2000 B.C.) Broad Point Tradition. The second was a groundstone slate gouge, measuring 150 x 50 x 28 mm, that exhibited slight wear damage on the bit. The third was a groundstone celt of banded slate, measuring 165 x 70 x 32 mm, that showed heavy battering on the poll and heavy use damage on the bit. While it is not completely certain that these items all came from the site on Mr. Thomas Knight's property, circumstantial evidence suggests that they probably did.

At the time of our visit, Mr. Knight was rather circumspect about the precise location and nature of the site, however, local informants who had known his father and uncle were able to tell us that artifacts had been recovered from the creekbed and vicinity where it formed a small rapid or waterfall not far from the Knight residence. On the basis of these various sources of evidence, the Knight site was registered as BgGv-7

2.3.3.4 Survey Unit 3d

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of District of Muskoka Road 7 between Highway 118 and Woodington (Figure 22). This unit traverses the general zone of low to moderate potential from Highway 118 to Port Sandfield, the zone of moderate to high potential along the ridge that separates Lakes Joseph and Rosseau, the zone of low to moderate potential between Cox Bay and Cumberland Bay, and the zone of moderate to high potential that flanks the Joseph River. This unit was selected in order to investigate a claim in the accession notes of the Muskoka Lakes Museum that some of the artifacts in the Ames collection came from the Joseph River. Unfortunately, these notes do not specify which artifacts were collected there, nor do they provide a more specific provenience.

Windshield survey of the corridor visually confirmed the characterization of site potential as being highest along the Port Sandfield ridge and along the Joseph River. Inquiries were made at a marina on the east bank of the river, since these facilities tend to function as local information centres. Coincidentally, this marina was situated within a specific zone of high to very high archaeological potential. Although the family that owned the marina had been resident for several generations, they had no knowledge of local archaeological finds.

2.3.3.5 Other Reports and Prospects

In the collections of the Muskoka Lakes Museum are two groundstone celts donated by William Orgill. Although no provenience information is provided, the surname of the collector is uncommon and may be associated with Orgill's Point and Orgill's Bay on the south shore of Lake Joseph, an area that falls within a specific zone of high to very high archaeological potential.

It has also been reported to Roma Hopkins of the Muskoka Lakes Museum that projectile points have been found by cottagers along the shore of Brandy Lake.

Finally, a number of local informants, including Peter Campbell of Campbell's Landing, reported that 4 or 5 Indian graves were encountered many years ago in a gravel pit on the north side of Highway 118 between Port Carling and Highway 169. While this site may have been destroyed by aggregate extraction, it may still be possible to interview local informants with more detailed information concerning the find.

2.3.3.6 Survey Area 3 - Summary

This survey area, comprising the vicinity of Lakes Joseph and Rosseau, encompasses the northern portion of the Muskoka Lakes, the largest interior lake system in the District of Muskoka. Preliminary evidence confirms the hypothesis that this area served as a major focus of aboriginal occupation from earliest times up until the second half of the nineteenth century. Given the vast size of the lake system, the surrounding lands, bays, shoals, wetlands, and connecting drainages, would have provided the widest possible range of natural resources with relatively easy access by water. The waterways would also have served as a major transportation corridor into the surrounding hinterland.

As the connecting link between these lakes and Lake Muskoka, the Indian River would not only have tended to channel water traffic through the centre of the system, but would have been an attractive settlement location in its own right. The discovery of prehistoric artifacts in the immediate area supports the notion that this location probably acted as an important settlement node long before the establishment of Obogawanung in the 1800s.

2.3.4 Survey Area 4 - Three Mile Lake

2.3.4.1 Survey Unit 4a

This survey unit comprised the vicinity of Muskoka District Road 4 south of Three Mile Lake, as well as a side road which provided access to farms and cottages east of Green Bay (Figure 23). This unit falls within the general zone moderate to high potential that surrounds Three Mile Lake and one of its tributary streams, as well as the general zone of low to moderate potential that exists beyond. It was chosen because of the potential for surveying ploughed fields.

Windshield survey revealed a moderately to steeply rolling landscape of grain fields and pasture. While the potential was good for the discovery of archaeological sites, we were unable to find anyone home at the locations we were interested in surveying, and in most cases, field conditions were unsuitable for pedestrian survey at the time of our visit. Unfortunately, time did not permit us to canvass the area to investigate the possibility of prehistoric finds by local residents, although it would undoubtedly prove worthwhile. One long-time cottager on Three Mile Lake reported changes in local water levels, but was unaware of any local artifact finds.

2.3.4.2 Survey Unit 4b

This survey unit comprised the vicinity of Dee Bank, on the Dee River at the outlet of Three Mile Lake (Figure 22). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential which flanks the Dee River, as well as the specific zone of very high archaeological potential that surrounds the rapids there. It was chosen as a result of its accessibility and high archaeological potential.

Pedestrian survey was conducted in the vicinity of the rapids on the north shore of the Dee River and at a roadside picnic area to the east. At the rapids, the steep, rocky slopes immediately adjacent had relatively low potential, and no archaeological remains were recovered. Site potential on the south side of the river, where the land was flatter and offered a better portage route, appeared much higher. At the grassed picnic area there was considerable evidence of landscaping therefore no testing was undertaken.

2.3.4.3 Survey Area 4 - Summary

While time did not permit a thorough investigation of this survey area, its site potential seemed relatively high. This is supported by historical indications that Indian travellers used the Dee River and Three Mile Lake to get from Obogawanung to Mary Lake (see Section 3.2.8).

2.3.5 Survey Area 5 - Muskoka River

2.3.5.1 Survey Unit 5a

This unit comprised two ploughed fields on the Muskoka River floodplain immediately north of District Road 15 (Lot 6, Concession 1, Town of Bracebridge), west of Nichols Lane (Figure 24). This unit falls within a specific zone of high to very high archaeological potential where a small creek joins the river. It was chosen because of its high potential, the availability of ploughed and weathered land, and the cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Nichols.

Pedestrian survey was conducted at five metre intervals. The eastern field was approximately 1.5 hectares in area while the western field was about 2.1 hectares, and both fronted on Road 15. The soil consisted of heavy loam and visibility was excellent. No archaeologically significant remains were recovered. While it is possible that floodplain sedimentation may have covered any evidence of prehistoric occupation, the floodplain itself may have originally been too low and damp to attract settlement. Indeed, many of the historic farmsteads are situated on the brow of the upper terrace overlooking the floodplain, and this trend may have occurred in prehistory as well. Accordingly, the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential which flanks the river was widened to incorporate the upper terrace margins.

2.3.5.2 Survey Unit 5b

This unit comprises a single ploughed field approximately 300 metres west of unit 5a (Lot 7, Concession 1, Town of Bracebridge)(Figure 24). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Muskoka River. It was chosen because of its high potential, the availability of ploughed and weathered land, and the cooperation of the landowner.

Pedestrian survey was conducted at five metre intervals. The field was approximately 1.8 hectares. The soil was heavy loam and visibility was excellent. No archaeologically significant remains were recovered (see remarks for Unit 5a).

2.3.5.3 Survey Unit 5c

This unit comprises the vicinity of Muskoka District Road 15 between District Road 4 and the mouth of the Muskoka River (Figure 25). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high potential that flanks the Muskoka River.

In addition to the pedestrian survey of ploughed fields defined as Survey Units 5a and 5b, windshield survey was conducted along this stretch of road, including the roads within the small subdivision of Alport. Development along the waterfront, including road construction, bank stabilization, and construction of recreational facilities such as docks and boathouses, has given the river a rather artificial appearance along much of its course. On the north side of the road, the floodplain has also been altered by channelization and drainage for agriculture and residential development. While the archaeological potential of this unit remains high, it is anticipated that development impact may already have been significant. As one approaches the river delta, on Lots 10 to 13, the land becomes quite low and swampy. While archaeological potential is high throughout this active delta, on-going sedimentation and erosion may have deeply buried or redeposited cultural remains. Cottage and waterfront development may also have affected sites in the vicinity.

Finally, in the course of documentary research, it was learned that there had once been a trading post somewhere on the Muskoka River below Bracebridge. This was apparently one of several throughout the Muskoka District operated by Alexander Bailey of Penetang (Mason 1957). Unfortunately no specific location of this post was provided, and the reference was not pursued with local history informants.

2.3.5.4 Survey Unit 5d

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Muskoka District Road 16 between District Road 4 and the mouth of the Muskoka River (Figure 25). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Muskoka River.

Windshield survey was conducted along this stretch of road which very much resembles Survey Unit 5c except that the floodplain is much narrower along much of this side of the

river. Accordingly, the same assessment of site potential vis-a-vis delta formation and development impacts apply to this side of the river.

In the course of surveying units 5c and 5d, local residents were queried about their knowledge of previous prehistoric artifact discoveries in the vicinity. In particular, we were attempting to track down a reference in the 1878 *Guide Book and Atlas of Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts* that "...in clearing the Alport farm near Bracebridge, arrow head, tomahawks, and the remains of a stone fire-place were discovered, the former being of evident Indian origin, and the fire-place being, on the contrary, a relic of by-gone white adventurers. From the size of the trees the relics thus unearthed beneath their roots must have been at least a century old" (Cumming 1972:15). At the time of our visit, no one we contacted had any knowledge of such a find, however, it was later discovered that the local name "Alport", which appears on the N.T.S. maps on the north side of the river, formerly applied to a post office on the south side of the river (Cumming 1972), and that the farm on the south side of the "Devil's Elbow" was the likely source of this reference. Unfortunately, time did not allow us to follow up this lead.

2.3.5.5 Survey Unit 5e

This survey unit comprises the west side of Ewing Street, Town of Bracebridge, as well as a development lot to the northwest (Figure 24). Both are on a terrace overlooking Beaver Creek, a tributary of the Muskoka River. This unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential that flanks the creek. This unit was chosen as the result of a tip from local resident Wib White who reported that his brother, Albert, had discovered human remains many years ago while digging his garden. At the time of our visit Albert White was convalescing in hospital and was unavailable for comment, however, we paid a visit to the current owner of this property who knew nothing of the find. With his permission we surveyed the large vegetable garden in his back yard. Although we noted the presence of faunal bone, mostly recent deer phalanges, no remains of archaeological significance were identified. Further investigation of this report may be warranted in order to confirm or disprove the presence of an aboriginal burial(s) on the property.

While touring Ewing Street, we noticed that a large (*c.* 3.75 hectares) development lot near a municipal pumping station had been stripped of topsoil in preparation for construction. We took the opportunity to examine the area since it too overlooked Beaver Creek and was within the moderate to high zone. The sandy loam subsoil was well weathered, and visibility was excellent. No archaeological deposits or cultural remains were identified.

2.3.5.6 Survey Unit 5f

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of the North Branch Muskoka River below High Falls (Lots 4 and 5, Concessions 5 and 6, and Lots 6, 7, 8, and 9, Concession 6, Macaulay Geographic Township)(Figure 26). This unit falls within the zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the North Branch Muskoka River, and it includes four specific zones of high to very high potential. Three of these are where tributary creeks join the river and the fourth is at high falls. The unit was selected because of its accessibility and high archaeological potential.

Windshield survey was conducted along the roads adjacent to the river. In this area, the river has entrenched itself in a deep valley with a generally narrow floodplain. On the north and west sides the topography ranges from sheer bedrock cliffs, in the stretch known as the Muskoka Canyon, to low, swampy floodplain. On the south and east sides, above the narrow swampy floodplain, there are steep wooded or grassed banks heavily furrowed with erosional scars. In one location roadwork had laid bare an exposure of varved clay estimated to be over 20 metres thick above the bedrock. This illustrates the lacustrine origin of the local quaternary deposits.

During the windshield survey of the east bank, inquiries were made with long-time resident Mr. Wib White regarding the discovery of prehistoric artifacts in the area. He reported that, although he had personally ploughed much of the upland in the vicinity over the years, he was not aware of any artifact discoveries. On the north bank, similar inquiries were made with Mr. Cowan. He was also unaware of any local discoveries, although he had not been resident nearly as long as Mr. White. His property was situated within one of the specific zones of high to very high potential where a small tributary entered the river. We were fortunate in being granted the opportunity to visually survey his vast gardens which extended to both sides of the road. Soils were sandy loam and visibility was excellent, however, no archaeological remains were recovered.

Visual inspection of the waterfront was accomplished by canoe. Along this stretch of river there were very few localities that seemed to present much archaeological site potential. The banks were either too steep or too low and swampy. In addition, there was considerable evidence of erosion and deposition which suggested the possibility that site preservation or detection may be a problem in this area. The major exception was to be found on the south bank of the river around the pool below high falls. Here a broad sandy beach below a well-elevated yet accessible sandy terrace presented a locality of extremely high potential.

Much of the terrace and riverfront was occupied by a resort cottage and motel complex. Coincidentally, it was here at the High Falls Chalet Inn that we had established our base for the majority of the survey project. On discussing our work with our hosts, the Brodie family, we learned from Mrs. Sybil Brodie that local tradition claimed that the motel site, which had once been part of a farm, had been used as a meeting site by Indians. During our stay we had many opportunities to examine soil exposures around the property, but no physical evidence of such an occupation was observed. The Brodie's maintain that only minimal landscaping has been done on the site, hence, a systematic examination of the property may well be in order. With the Brodie's permission, we did undertake a testpit survey of the wooded portion of their property to the east of the motel grounds. The survey also extended to the road which services a public picnic ground overlooking High Falls. Shovel test pits were excavated at five metre intervals, or less, as soils and topography permitted. Test pit fill was screened through 6 mm mesh in order to facilitate the recovery of small artifacts. Prehistoric artifacts were encountered in two widely separated test pits, and a variety of prehistoric artifacts and calcined faunal remains were recovered on several visits to a site eroding from the riverbank immediately above the falls. As the three artifact sources were topographically separate from each other, each was registered as a separate site.

The High Falls 1 site (BgGt-1) consisted of seven flakes of high-quality mottled grey chert. Two are distal flake fragments and five are complete flakes. Of the latter, three have facetted platforms, one a linear platform, and one a flat platform. All exhibit smooth and flat bulbs of percussion suggesting that they were produced by soft-hammer percussion or possibly pressure flaking. They range in size from 26.3 x 12.5 x 1.5 mm to 12.3 x 9.6 x 1.5 mm. Judging from their size, thickness, platform attributes, and absence of cortex, this assemblage likely represents the by-product of tool manufacture.

The High Falls 2 site (BgGt-2) consisted of four pieces of chert debitage. One is a complete flake of grey chert with heavy cortex on the dorsal surface. The striking platform is flat, and the large edge angle between the platform and the ventral surface suggests that it might be a bifacially prepared flake detached by soft hammer percussion. The flake measures 18.4 x 15.4 x 2.8 mm. The remaining specimens are all pieces of Balsam Lake chert shatter. One exhibits cobble cortex and is thermally altered. Based on the small size and platform attributes, this assemblage likely represents tool production debitage.

The High Falls 3 site (BgGt-3) consisted of fifty chipped stone artifacts and thirty-eight fragments of calcined faunal bone recovered from an area of about 100 square metres. The lithic raw materials included Onondaga chert, Balsam Lake chert, one probable specimen of Hudson's Bay Lowland chert, several possible specimens of Upper Gull River Formation

chert, quartz, and quartzite. Chipped stone artifacts included six wedges, two utilized flakes, and forty-two pieces of debitage. The wedges were made from chert flakes or small chunks with one or two ridges severely battered by bipolar percussion. Three were thermally altered. These tools were likely used to work bone. The debitage consisted of twelve retouch flakes, seventeen pieces of shatter, and thirteen pieces of chipped quartz and quartzite. The overall characteristics of the debitage suggest the remains of tool manufacture.

The High Falls 1 and 2 sites were situated on either side of a large stream which joins the North Branch Muskoka River at a small waterfall immediately below the main falls. Although additional test pits were excavated around the positive units, no additional artifacts were recovered. It is therefore concluded that these sites likely represent very localized, short-term camps along the falls portage. The High Falls 3 site, situated at the put-in immediately above the falls, would appear to have been a more substantial occupation site that was used more frequently or by larger groups, or both. Unfortunately, the integrity of the latter site has been compromised to an unknown degree by construction of the picnic area and subsequent erosion.

2.3.5.7 Survey Unit 5g

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of the South Branch Muskoka River at Fraserburg as well as the vicinity of the junction of the Geographic Townships of Macaulay, McLean, Draper, and Oakley (Figure 27). Along the river, this unit falls within the zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the South Branch Muskoka River and incorporates three specific zones of high to very high archaeological potential. At the township junction the unit falls within the zone of low to moderate archaeological potential. The unit was chosen because of the ease of access to the riverfront and to investigate a reference in the historic atlas regarding the township junction.

Windshield survey was conducted along a cottage road on the east side of the river south of District Road 14. Along this stretch the river was generally confined to a narrow floodplain with elevated terraces on either side. Although the river was generally within view from the road, it became apparent that survey by boat would have allowed a better view of potential sites. Windshield survey was also conducted along a cottage road on the west side of the river north of District Road 14. A boat survey was even more necessary here since the river was seldom visible from the road. If testing were involved, this would be best done on a weekend when many cottagers would have been present to provide access permission. Unfortunately, time did not permit us to follow up on this.

Approximately three-quarters of a kilometre west of the river is the junction of the Geographic Townships of Macaulay, McLean, Draper, and Oakley. In the *Guide Book and Atlas of Muskoka and Parry Sound Districts* (Cumming 1972 [1879]:14) is the following statement:

> Proofs of former Indian occupation of this district are abundant on the south branch of the Muskoka River near the corner post which marks the junction of the Townships of Muskoka (sic), Draper, Oakley and McLean, a thick second-growth covered the clearing formerly made by the Mohawk Indians. According to the statements of an old Indian Chief, deceased some six years ago, these Mohawk pioneers of Muskoka settlement were driven away and dispersed after a succession of sanguinary engagements by another tribe of Indians who hunted and fished near Trading Lake.

With the assistance of local residents Bastian and Robert Groenevelt we were able to locate the aforementioned corner post and examine the surrounding area. The post itself is situated a few metres north of District Road 14 in the middle of a wide, swampy watercourse. This watercourse drains a very localized deposit of glacio-fluvial outwash sand surrounded by till uplands. Robert Groenevelt was able to point out several log and frame structures in the vicinity, dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, that indicated that this area of sandy soils had once been cleared for farming. In addition, there was a historic sand pit to the northeast that revealed bedrock at a relatively shallow depth. While no physical evidence of historic Indian settlement was noted, there was considerable evidence of historic land use in the area, hence the possibility of an early aboriginal settlement cannot be dismissed.

2.3.5.8 Survey Unit 5h

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Baysville (Figure 27). This unit falls within the zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the South Branch Muskoka River and includes two specific zones of high to very high archaeological potential. It was chosen because of its high site potential, accessibility, and probability of site discovery by local residents.

Windshield survey of the waterfront and environs confirmed that the combination of complex shoreline, wetlands, tributaries, and suitable occupation sites makes prehistoric occupation of the area very likely. Inquiries were made with long-time resident Ken McPhee and postmistress Betty Campbell, however, neither had any knowledge of prehistoric artifact finds in the vicinity.

2.3.5.9 Survey Unit 5i

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of the outlet of Fairy Lake (Figure 28). This unit falls within the zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the North Branch Muskoka River, as well as the specific zone of high to very high potential around the Fairy Lake outlet. It was chosen because of its high archaeological potential and accessibility.

Boat survey of the outlet and the river as far south as the Muskoka District Road 2 bridge confirmed the extremely high archaeological potential of the area. The south shore of the lake was characterized by a broad, elevated plateau gently sloping down to the water. Upon entering the river proper, one passed through a narrows into a wide bay joined by a tributary stream flowing out of a marshy bay. Just above the bridge, on the west bank, was the property of Mr. and Mrs. Cottrill. Long-time residents of the area, they tended extensive gardens on their riverfront property, and Mrs. Cottrill reported that she had found as least one projectile point while gardening. With their permission we quickly surveyed the gardens, however no archaeological remains were identified. Mrs. Cottrill also reported the discovery of arrowheads in a gravel blowout about a kilometre upstream from Breezy Point on Mary Lake, as well as the location of a historic Indian cemetery near Lake of Bays (see Survey Unit 9a). While this information helped to confirm the high site potential of the area, in the absence of any physical evidence no sites were registered at this location.

2.3.5.10 Survey Unit 5j

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Huntsville (Figure 28). This unit falls within the zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the North Branch Muskoka River and includes the specific zones of high to very high archaeological potential where the river enters Hunters Bay and Fairy Lake. It was chosen because of its high site potential and accessibility.

Boat survey of the riverfront indicated that while site potential was extremely high overall, it is very likely that the integrity of archaeological sites has been seriously compromised by waterfront development.

In order to encourage local residents to report artifact finds, an artifact identification session was offered at the Muskoka Pioneer Village. Unfortunately the response to this event was disappointing and no sites were documented. However, one of the volunteer staff, who had grown up on the property prior to the establishment of the pioneer village, reported that she

had found an arrowhead in a small rock cave. The cave was subsequently destroyed when the church was moved to its present location, and we were not able to examine the arrowhead to confirm its identification. If this artifact can be analyzed the findspot should be registered.

2.3.5.11 Survey Area 5 - Summary

The portion of this survey area below the Town of Bracebridge (Survey Units 5a-e) is dominated by a broad floodplain. As a consequence, the landscape has been in a state of constant change over the last 10,000 years as the river slowly transformed the terrain and the ecosystems it supported. Recent agricultural and residential development has further contributed to this transformation, although these later changes have tended to homogenize what was originally an area of tremendous biodiversity and natural productivity. Combined with its access from one of the largest riverine thoroughfares in Muskoka, this area must have been very attractive to prehistoric hunter-gatherers. Although, in spite of two promising leads, no tangible evidence of prehistoric land use was documented during this brief reconnaissance, the area is still considered to possess very high archaeological potential. It should be noted, however, that many sites may be deeply buried by alluvial deposits. Others may be situated on the terrace overlooking the floodplain, since the floodplain itself would have been seasonally wet and insect infested.

Three stretches of the North Branch Muskoka River were examined, one below High Falls, one below Fairy Lake, and one through Huntsville. The archaeological site potential along these stretches proved to be highly variable, given the diverse landforms traversed by the river and the associated topography of the waterfront. Bearing in mind that the river has been evolving since deglaciation and the withdrawal of Lake Algonquin, the topographic diversity facilitates the interpretation of site potential; certain localities provide canoe landings, campsites, or portage routes that are obviously superior. Archaeological sites and hearsay evidence of sites were documented at two of the three survey units confirming both the general prehistoric use of the waterway and the specific use of high potential localities.

Two stretches of the South Branch Muskoka River were examined, one at Fraserburg and one at Baysville. While neither of these were examined from the water, the waterscape seemed less diverse than the North Branch, and was more like the stretch below Huntsville: a meandering river with a low floodplain. Nevertheless, there was clearly enough topographic diversity to produce variability in site potential along the river. Had time allowed, we would undoubtedly have found evidence of prehistoric occupation.

In summary, the Muskoka River is judged to represent one of the most important prehistoric travel corridors through the District. Accordingly, archaeological site potential is rated high to very high, with particularly high potential at portages and canoe landings with associated campsites. Throughout the system there is potential for early sites to have been buried by alluvial deposits, and prehistoric occupation of terraces above the floodplain should be considered. Waterfront development may prove to be both detrimental and beneficial to heritage resource management; while landscaping and construction will tend to damage or destroy sites, site discovery and the opportunity for their preservation or mitigation will also be increased.

2.3.6 Survey Area 6 - Big East River and Huntsville Lakes

2.3.6.1 Survey Unit 6a

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of the Big East River from Arrowhead Provincial Park to Lake Vernon (Figure 28). The unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Big East River. It was chosen because of its accessibility and high archaeological potential.

Windshield survey of the Big East River where it is crossed by Highway 11, the landscape within Arrowhead Provincial Park, and the vicinity of the Little East River, revealed deeply entrenched, meandering rivers with a wide floodplain. Archaeological site potential is expected to be very high because of the availability of well-drained campsites on the river terraces and the high biodiversity of this bottomland area.

In spite of the assistance of Park Superintendent Mike Lynch, delays in securing access permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources prevented us from investigating areas of interest within Arrowhead Provincial Park beyond a windshield survey. During our discussions with Mr. Lynch, he indicated that some archaeological work had previously occurred at some historic sites within the park, although he could not locate a copy of the report. Inquiries with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation and the Royal Ontario Museum failed to turn up any evidence of this work.

Pedestrian survey was undertaken along the riverbank at a picnic area west of Highway 11. No archaeological remains were recovered.

Boat survey was conducted from the rivermouth upstream to a distance of about 3.5

kilometres as the crow flies. The lower reaches comprise an extensive swamp which is very rich in wildlife--several deer were encountered along the river as well as many birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. The erosional and depositional environment is also very active, hence the possibility of archaeological sites being buried or destroyed is high. Farther upstream the surrounding landscape varies from high rock hills to low damp levees. Site potential here will also be determined by the sedimentary history. Pedestrian survey was undertaken on several sandbars and terrace exposures, however no archaeological remains were recovered. It was concluded that, while the environment indicated high archaeological potential, successful archaeological survey design would have to depend on detailed study of the local quaternary geology.

2.3.6.2 Survey Unit 6b

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Lake Vernon (Figure 29). This unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential that surrounds the lake as well as the zone of high to very high potential that encompasses the islands. It was surveyed as part of the overall investigation of the chain of large lakes around Huntsville.

Boat survey was conducted from the Muskoka River narrows, along the north shore with particular attention to the Big East River delta, through the channel on the northeast side of Big Island, to the inlet at Hood Rapids. A brief pedestrian survey was conducted along the portage at the latter location, where evidence of modern canoe landing and camping suggests very high archaeological potential. The return trip took a more southerly tack around the western and southern sides of Big Island. In general, the lake is surrounded by high, wooded bedrock hills that result in very steep shores. As a result, there are a limited number of suitable landings and camping spots where archaeological sites are likely to be clustered. The western end of the lake, from Hood Rapids to Wallington Creek, including Vernon Shores, appeared to have particularly high potential, as was the area at the east end of the lake from the Big East River delta to the Muskoka River.

2.3.6.3 Survey Unit 6c

This survey unit comprises the vicinity of Fairy Lake and Peninsula Lake (Figure 30). This unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential that surrounds these lakes as well as the zone of high to very high potential that encompasses the islands. It was surveyed as part of the overall investigation of the chain of large lakes around Huntsville.

Boat survey was conducted from the Muskoka River, along the north shore of Fairy Lake to The Canal, and along the south shore of Peninsula Lake to Wolf Bay. The return trip followed the same course through Peninsula Lake, and the south shore of Fairy Lake to the outlet of the North Branch Muskoka River (see Survey Unit 5i). Like Lake Vernon, these lakes are generally surrounded by high, wooded bedrock hills, the major exceptions being the north shore of Fairy Lake and the vicinity of The Canal. The clustering of archaeological sites hypothesized for Lake Vernon is also likely to occur here. Not surprisingly, the highest archaeological potential exists in those areas where land development is heaviest, since these have been the prime settlement locations for millennia.

In her book *The Muskoka Story* (1983), Beatrice Scovell reported that at the north end of Fairy Lake, where a creek joined it to Peninsula Lake, was a campsite on the shores of the creek that had been used by Indians since before Champlain. At the west end of The Canal, on the north side, there is an extensive high, flat area that would offer an excellent settlement site. There are also a number of high potential localities along The Canal worthy of investigation. However, a prerequisite of such an investigation would be an examination of the consequences of the 1886-88 dredging of The Canal (Coombe 1976:215) with particular attention to the ultimate deposition of the fill that was removed from it.

At the east end of Peninsula Lake is the cottage community of North Portage, the former northern terminus of the Portage Railway. In operation from 1900 to 1958, this 1.8 kilometre long railway linked steamship runs on Lake of Bays with those operating through Huntsville (Coombe 1976:216-218). This locality also likely served as a link between Peninsula Lake and Lake of Bays in prehistoric times, although a more direct route of about 1 kilometre length from Wolf Bay may have been used. Unfortunately, at the time of our visit, none of the cottagers in Wolf Bay were home, hence we were unable to pursue this hypothesis.

2.3.6.4 Survey Area 6 - Summary

Much like Port Carling, the location of Huntsville suggests that it likely served as an important prehistoric transportation hub, connecting the following major waterways: the North Branch Muskoka River leading to Mary Lake and Lake Muskoka; the Big East River leading to the Algonquin Dome; Lake Vernon and the Buck River leading into the Parry Sound District; and the Fairy Lake-Peninsula Lake connection to Lake of Bays. In addition to serving as major transportation corridors, the major lake chains would have provided all of the resources necessary to sustain year-round occupation.

2.3.7 Survey Area 7 - Lake Algonquin Strand

2.3.7.1 Survey Unit 7a

This unit comprised the vicinity of Roxbourgh (Figure 31) where it was anticipated that the headward erosion of quaternary deposits by Sharpe Creek may have created a gap in the glacial Lake Algonquin strand that would have attracted Paleo-Indian hunters. Similar Paleo-Indian settlement patterns have been identified in southern Ontario (e.g. Storck 1982). During our windshield survey of the vicinity obvious textural differences were noted in the road cuts through the quaternary deposits. Bajc (1990) indicates that the Algonquin strand occurs at about 305 metres a.s.l. in the Bracebridge area, and we observed till deposits above this level while sandy deposits occurred below it. Unfortunately, however, we could not detect any actual beach ridges in the vicinity. Examination of the 1:10,000 scale O.B.M. maps reveals that, whereas the 1:50,000 N.T.S. maps indicate a fairly discrete vail at this locality, in fact the Algonquin shore would have been dotted with small islands. As anticipated (Volume 1, Sections 1.6.1 & 1.7.1), nearshore erosional dampening by offshore islands, together with the various elevations of the Algonquin water plain during retreat, has resulted in weak expression of any shoreline features. While Paleo-Indian site potential can still be considered high for this vicinity, testpit survey of this mostly wooded landscape was not practical.

2.3.7.2 Survey Unit 7b

This unit comprised the vicinity of Sage Creek where it is crossed by the Bonnie Lake road (Figure 31). Here again we anticipated the possibility of a gap in the Lake Algonquin strand. Through inspection of sedimentary profiles in the ditches along the road it was possible to identify the transition from till to lacustrine clay deposits, however, no strand could be delineated. Pure lacustrine clay sediments were observed below the Algonquin strand at about 280 metres a.s.l. where a creek crosses the road at a golf course close to Highway 117. Assuming that the strand occurs at about 310 metres a.s.l. in this area, the topography observed on the 1:10,000 O.B.M. suggests less complexity to the shoreline in this area than at Roxbourgh, although no easily accessible, high-potential localities were noted. Once again, while the Paleo-Indian site potential can be considered high, testpit survey was not deemed worthwhile.

2.3.7.3 Survey Unit 7 - Summary

As anticipated in Volume 1 (Section 1.7.1), it proved virtually impossible to pinpoint localities of high potential for Paleo-Indian sites due to the poor expression of the glacial Lake Algonquin strand. By examining the large-scale Ontario Base Maps, it was concluded that the Algonquin littoral zone was not too different from the modern shore of Georgian Bay: an archipelago of great topographic complexity. Nonetheless, the site potential zones defined should be considered valid since they encompass areas where significant drainages entered the lake or the wet lowlands that existed immediately following its retreat.

2.3.8 Survey Area 8 - Lake of Bays

2.3.8.1 Survey Unit 8a

This survey unit comprised part of Lot 25, Concession 2, Brunel Geographic Township immediately east of District Road 9 at its intersection with the concession road (Figure 32). This unit falls within the general zone of low to moderate archaeological potential. It was selected in order to investigate a lead from a local resident.

During our discussions with Mrs. Cottrill of Huntsville (see Survey Unit 5i) she indicated that there had been a historic Indian cemetery at this location and that grave posts were still visible as late as about 1955. The site is characterized by a large bedrock knob, 30 to 50 metres from District Road 9, surrounded by deposits of glacio-fluvial sand. Between the knob and the road, the sand deposits had been quarried away. Judging from the fledgling state of the plant growth, this had occurred within the last ten years. Pedestrian survey of the vicinity, including undisturbed deposits on the crest of the hill, revealed no evidence of a cemetery. It must therefore be concluded that--assuming this to be the location so specifically described by Mrs. Cottrill--the cemetery was either removed to a different location prior to commencement of quarrying, or it was destroyed in the quarrying process. Interestingly, a local archaeological amateur, Mr. Ted Hungerford, reported the rumoured existence of an former Iroquoian longhouse in the same vicinity.

2.3.8.2 Survey Unit 8b

This survey unit comprised part of Lot 14, Concession 12, McLean Geographic Township. The unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential that

surrounds Menominee Lake (Figure 33). It was selected in order to investigate a lead from a local resident.

On making inquiries with local cottagers--now permanent residents--Kim Lambert and Nadya Tarasoff, we were informed that there may be a historic site on their property. They kindly lead us to the location where they had noted ruins and historic artifacts. A cursory inspection of their artifact collection revealed an assortment of late-nineteenth or early twentieth century ceramic wares, glassware, tin cans, and iron hardware. While the artifact assemblage suggested domestic use, the extent of the log foundations suggested a fairly extensive occupation, perhaps a logging camp. This interpretation is consistent with their knowledge that the main outlet of Menominee Lake, at the north end, had once been dammed in order to permit logs to be floated down the secondary outlet--which is adjacent to the site--into Lake of Bays. There is also, however, a possibility that this is the homestead site of the Indian chief who gave the lake its name (see Section 2.3.1). Based on these findings, the Menominee Lake site was registered as BhGs-5.

2.3.8.3 Survey Unit 8c

This survey unit comprises the south side of the Oxtongue River at Marshs Falls, immediately west of Highway 35 (Lot 9, Concession 8, Franklin Geographic Township) (Figure 34). This unit falls within the general zone of high to very high archaeological potential that flanks the Oxtongue River. It was chosen to examine potential portage routes around the falls.

Pedestrian survey was conducted along the riverbank around the falls. In spite of good potential visibility due to erosional exposure of the soils, no archaeological remains were recovered. While it appeared that the north side might offer a better portage route, there was noticeable disturbance from road construction. Although time did not permit a more thorough investigation of this locality, archaeological potential was judged to be very high.

Although only a short stretch of the river was visible from our vantage point at Marshs Falls, this combined with an examination of the 1:10,000 topographic and 1:50,000 quaternary geology maps suggests that the Oxtongue and Big East Rivers have many features in common. While archaeological potential can be expected to be high, site visibility and integrity will most certainly be affected by the developmental history of the river.

2.3.8.4 Survey Unit 8d

This survey unit comprises Point Ideal, Lake of Bays (Lot 26, Concession 4, Franklin Geographic Township) (Figure 35). The unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential that surrounds the lake. It was chosen as a result of landowner cooperation and high archaeological potential.

Formerly operated as a resort lodge and cottage complex, Point Ideal is now a small cottage community. Former resort owner, Ross Boothby, who still lives in the area, allowed us to photograph a groundstone celt he had found on the beach in front of the main lodge. Projectile points, currently in the possession of his brother and sister, had also been found there but were unavailable for inspection. The current owners of the main lodge complex, Mark and Judy McLean, were most supportive of our survey efforts; they were instrumental in securing access permission from their neighbouring cottagers, allowed us to conduct test pit survey of their entire property, and gave us access to their canoes and motor boat in order that we might survey other locations on the lake.

Test pit survey was undertaken at five metre intervals along the waterfront as conditions allowed; bedrock is exposed in several locations, and development disturbance was widespread. Test pit fill was screened through 6 mm mesh in order to facilitate artifact recovery. A number of positive test pits, yielding chert and quartz debitage, were documented. These positive test pits were situated in two primary localities: one along the southern shore of the point and the other south of the main lodge. Chipped stone artifacts were also recovered from the beach and littoral zone south of the main lodge. On the basis of these findings, two archaeological sites were registered: Point Ideal 1 (BhGs-6), on the south shore, and Point Ideal 2 (BhGs-7) near the main lodge.

Point Ideal 1 (BhGs-6) was initially identified by two positive test pits (Locus A) along a path which traversed the southern shore of the peninsula. While the path is currently less than a metre above the high water mark, a large-scale (1:1,000) survey of Point Ideal shows that the original high water mark was up to 10 metres farther out than the current level. It is therefore quite possible that some of the site has been washed away. Farther inland, the landscape rises above the path between 2 and 3 metres to a rocky plateau. Additional artifacts were recovered from a disturbed area (Locus B) approximately 70 metres east of the positive test pits. While the relationship between these loci is unclear, they have been included under the same registration number. The materials recovered from Locus A include three flakes of unidentified chert, one which has been thermally altered, and two quartz flakes. Locus B produced one thermally altered chert flake and two quartz flakes. Further testing would be required in order to clarify the nature, extent, and temporal

affiliation of the site.

Point Ideal 2 (BhGs-7) produced lithic material from three loci. The beach and littoral zone, designated Locus A, produced one waterworn flake of Onondaga chert, one chunk of unidentified grey chert with heavy cortex, one thermally altered flake of unidentified chert exhibiting retouch and/or use wear, and two worked chunks of quartz. To this assemblage can be added the groundstone celt found by Ross Boothby, and potentially several projectile points found by the Boothby family. Locus B was situated by a cluster of trees west of a path that ran behind the boathouse complex on the eastern waterfront. There was considerable evidence of firing in the sandy soils, although it may have been of modern origin. Nevertheless, the three positive test pits, in this small area of about 10 metres diameter, produced two thermally altered chert flakes as well as five pieces of quartz. Locus C was situated about 2 metres south of the shuffleboard court. A single positive test pit yielded a small flake and a thumbnail end scraper, both of unidentified dark grey chert. Overall these three loci spanned an area of about fifty metres diameter. While it is possible that they have been affected by construction and landscaping, Ross Boothby maintained that such activities had been minimal in the area concerned. Given the historic changes in the water level, together with the physical evidence from Locus A, it would appear that a portion of the site has been washed into the lake. Further testing would be required in order to clarify the nature, extent, and temporal affiliation of the site.

2.3.8.5 Survey Unit 8e

This survey unit comprised a small point south of Point Ideal and immediately north of Millichamp Island (Lot 26, Concession 3, Franklin Geographic Township)(Figure 35). This unit falls within the general zone of moderate to high archaeological potential that surrounds Lake of Bays. It was selected at the suggestion of local residents.

A favourite picnic spot of local cottagers, this small point features a sheltered bay with a good landing as well as a flat and well-drained campsite. The area was test pit surveyed at five metre intervals, and test pit fill was screened through 6 mm mesh. The only cultural artifact of note was a broken tea cup in the blue willow pattern. While this suggested that the popularity of the site as a picnic spot had some antiquity, it did not warrant further archaeological concern.

2.3.8.6 Other Reports and Prospects

Local cottager and historian, Mr. Peter Goering, toured us by boat to the west end of Bigwin Island where his research suggests is situated the historic burial ground of the Bigwin family (see also Y.N.A.S. 1991). Visual inspection revealed a sheltered bay with a wide, sandy beach. At the south end of the bay was a high, steep, rocky headland while the northern end featured a small, elevated point. Archaeological potential appeared to be very high.

Local resort owner and archaeological amateur, Mr. Ted Hungerford, confirmed the archaeological potential of this locality as he had recovered chert debitage from the beach. He had also recovered debitage around a point on the northwest side of the island as well as the beach in front of the former resort complex. Since no specific artifacts in Mr. Hungerford's collection could be related to these sites, they were not registered at this time. Conversely, Mr. Hungerford had three sherds of Middle Iroquoian pottery in his collection which he believed likely came from Bigwin Island, although he could not be certain of the exact provenience. During their study of Bigwin Island, York North Archaeological Services (1991) documented the Elder-Cunnington Collection of prehistoric artifacts from Bigwin Island. In light of all this circumstantial evidence, and the survey work undertaken by York North Archaeological Services, it is ironic that no prehistoric sites have been registered on Bigwin Island to date.

Mr. Hungerford kindly allowed us to photo-document the collection that he and his family has assembled over the years from the Lake of Bays and Kawagama Lake areas. The artifacts in this collection represent almost the complete range of Muskoka's culture history, from an early Middle Archaic grooved axe, to Late Archaic period projectile points, to Late Woodland pottery, to an early historic trade axe, as well as an assortment of interesting historical memorabilia. In a number of cases, Mr. Hungerford was able to indicate the specific locality where certain artifacts were recovered. Accordingly, the following sites were registered.

Seven artifacts had been recovered from the beaches of Turner's Island, Lake of Bays, between 1964 and 1984. These included: a rim sherd fragment--probably Huron Incised type--of Middle Iroquoian period pottery; an end scraper of unidentified pebble chert; a side scraper of unidentified speckled grey chert; an end scraper of Kettle Point chert; a biface or scraper of white quartz; a groundstone adze (Plate 7j); and a thermally altered end scraper of Balsam Lake chert. On the basis of this information, the Turner's Island site was registered as BhGr-5.

Immediately across from Turner's Island three artifacts had been recovered from the beach

on Fox Point. Mr. Hungerford reported that at one time a sand bar connected this area to Turner's Island. These artifacts included: a groundstone gouge of banded slate (Plate 7b), a groundstone celt of banded slate (Plate 7c), and a Brewerton Side-notched projectile point manufactured from greywacke (Plate 7e). On the basis of this information, the Hungerford site was registered as BhGr-6.

On Norway Point, across from Bigwin Island, a single Archaic broadpoint (Plate 7h), likely a Genesee variant, had been collected along with a variety of chert debitage. On the basis of this information, the Norway Point site was registered as BhGs-8

Finally, on the west end of Raynor Island, Mr. Hungerford had recovered an iron trade axe (Plate 8). In comparing the dimensions of this specimen with those studied by Kenyon and Kenyon (1987), the greatest affinity was with Group D axes. These tend to occur on sites dating to Glass Bead Period 3b which spans the third and forth decades of the seventeenth century. On the basis of this information, the Raynor Island site was registered as BhGr-7.

2.3.8.7 Survey Area 8 - Summary

Like the Muskoka Lakes, Lake of Bays is a major inland lake with very good transportation linkages. From there it is possible to travel by canoe: to Lake Muskoka via the South Branch Muskoka River; to the Huntsville lake chain via the portage to Peninsula Lake and hence to either the Big East River or the North Branch Muskoka River; to Kawagama Lake and the interior lake chains of Haliburton County via the Hollow River and hence south to Lake Couchiching via the Black River. In addition, Lake of Bays possesses a very complex shoreline with many potential resources, campsites, and alternate travel routes (portages). As a result, it would have been a primary focus of prehistoric settlement in its own right. Traditional use of Lake of Bays by the Bigwin family provides valuable indications of land-use patterns in the area that may provide important analogues to prehistoric trends.

The work of local historians and amateur archaeologists has contributed greatly to our understanding of the area's prehistory and has provided an important foundation on which to base further research. Perhaps more than any other area in Muskoka, the discoveries in and around Lake of Bays indicate the richness of the archaeological heritage resource throughout the District.

Plate 7: Hungerford Collection: Turner's Island site (BhGr-5) [j]; Hungerford site (BhGr-6) [b,c,e]; Norway Point site (BhGs-8) [h].

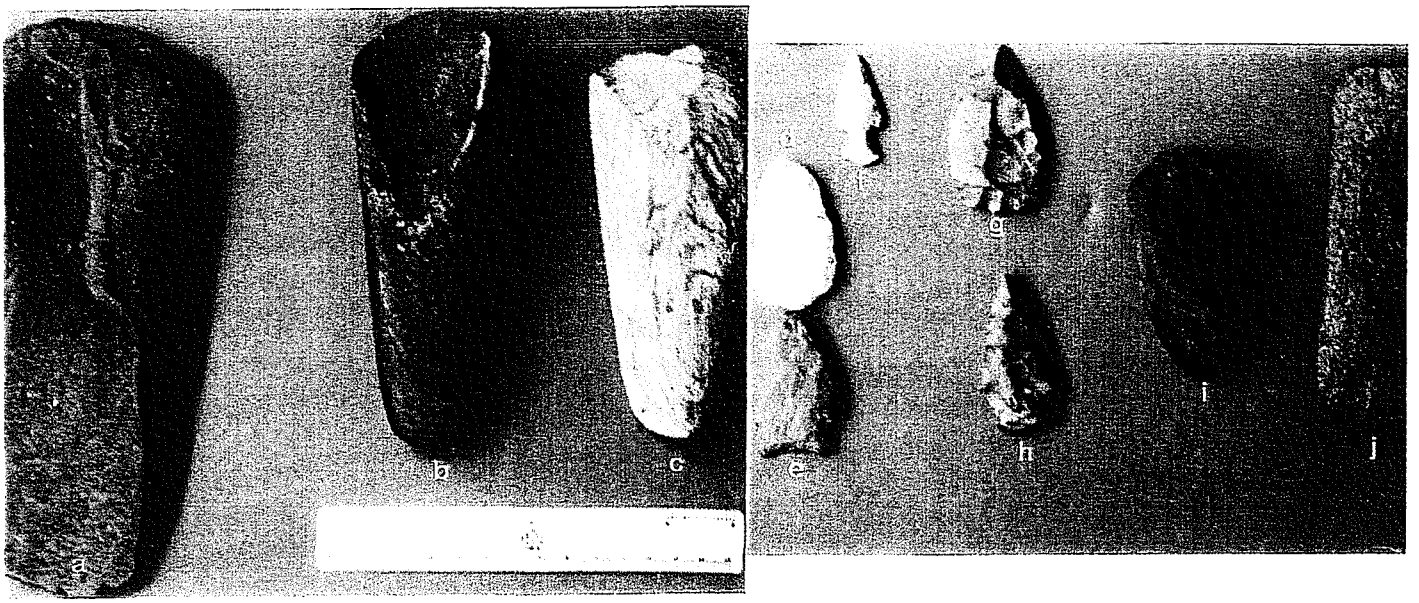


Plate 8: Seventeenth Century Iron Trade Axe--Raynor Island site (BhGr-7)

Figure 13: Survey Units 1a, 1b, 1c (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

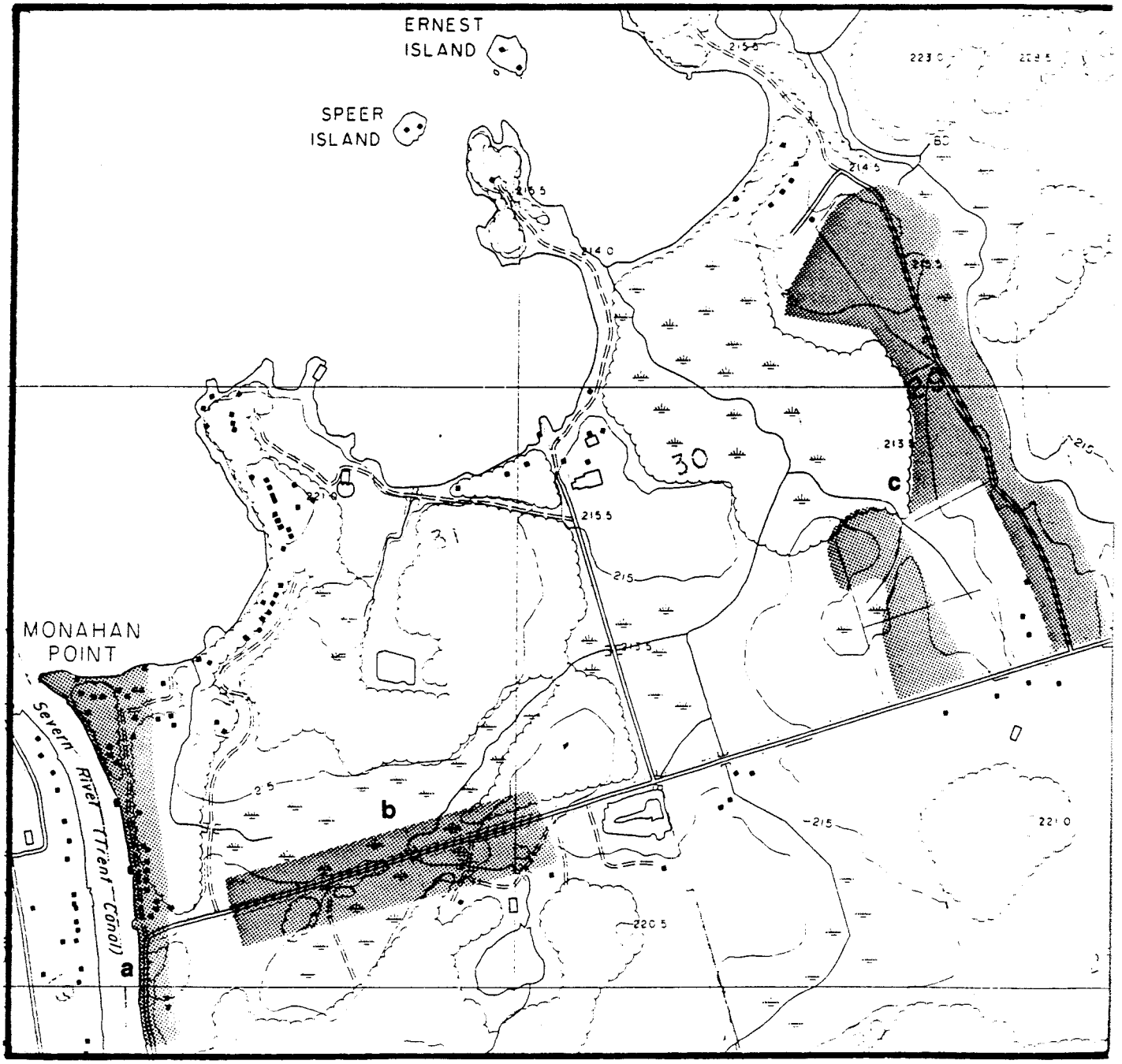


Figure 14: Survey Units 1d (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

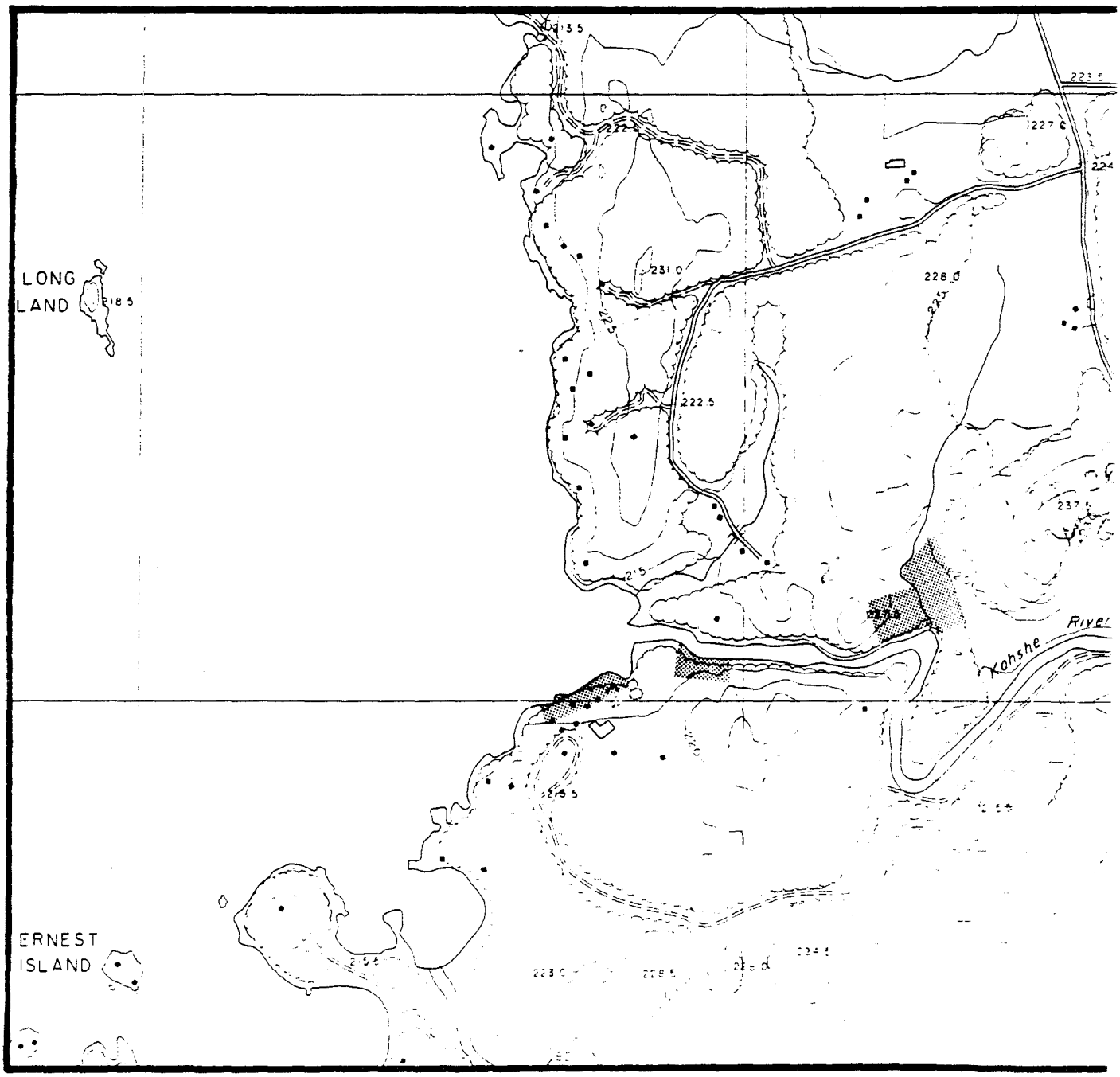


Figure 15: Survey Unit 1e (shaded at arrow). 1:50,000 scale.

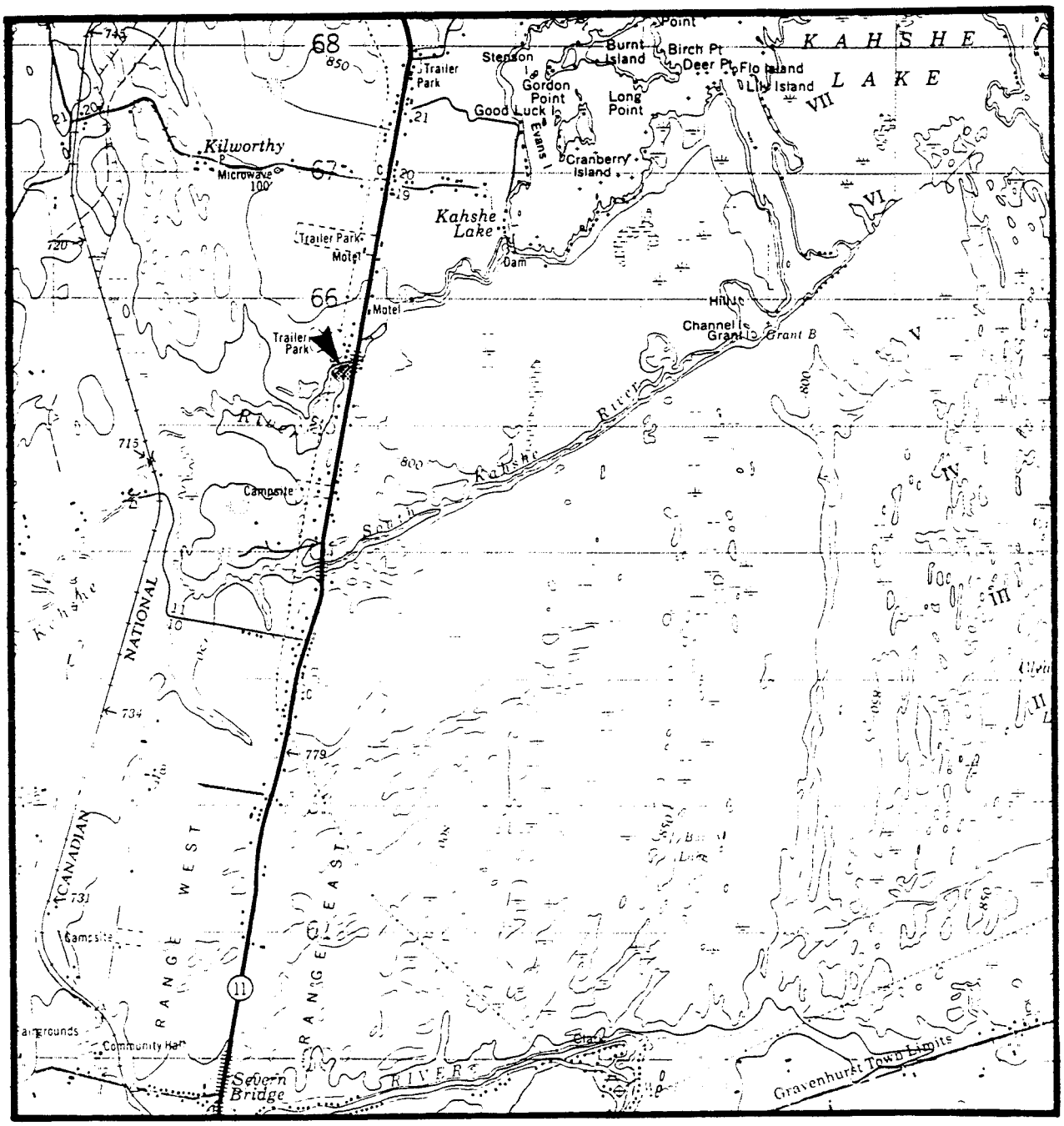


Figure 16: Survey Unit 1f (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

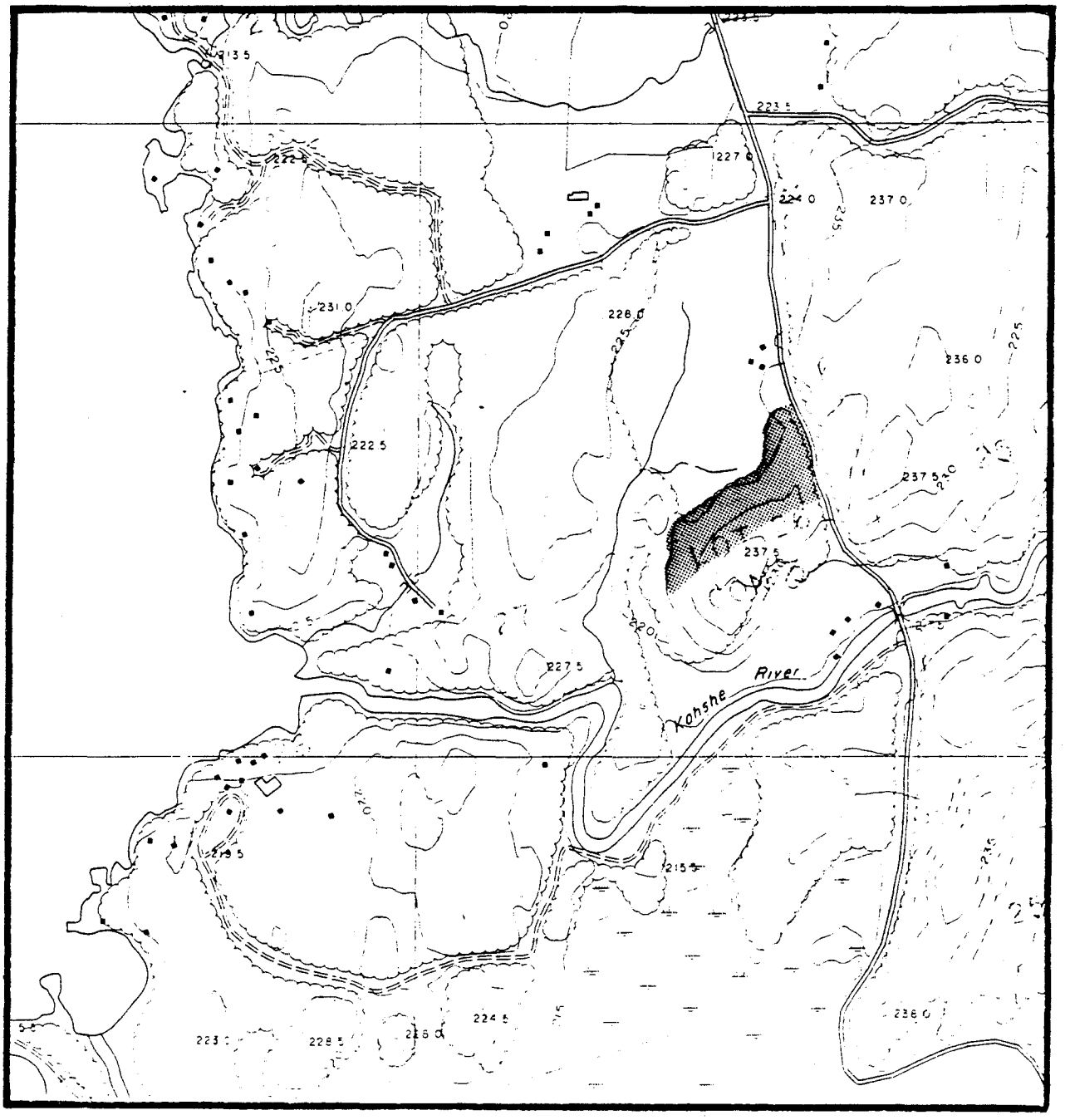


Figure 17: Survey Unit 1g (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

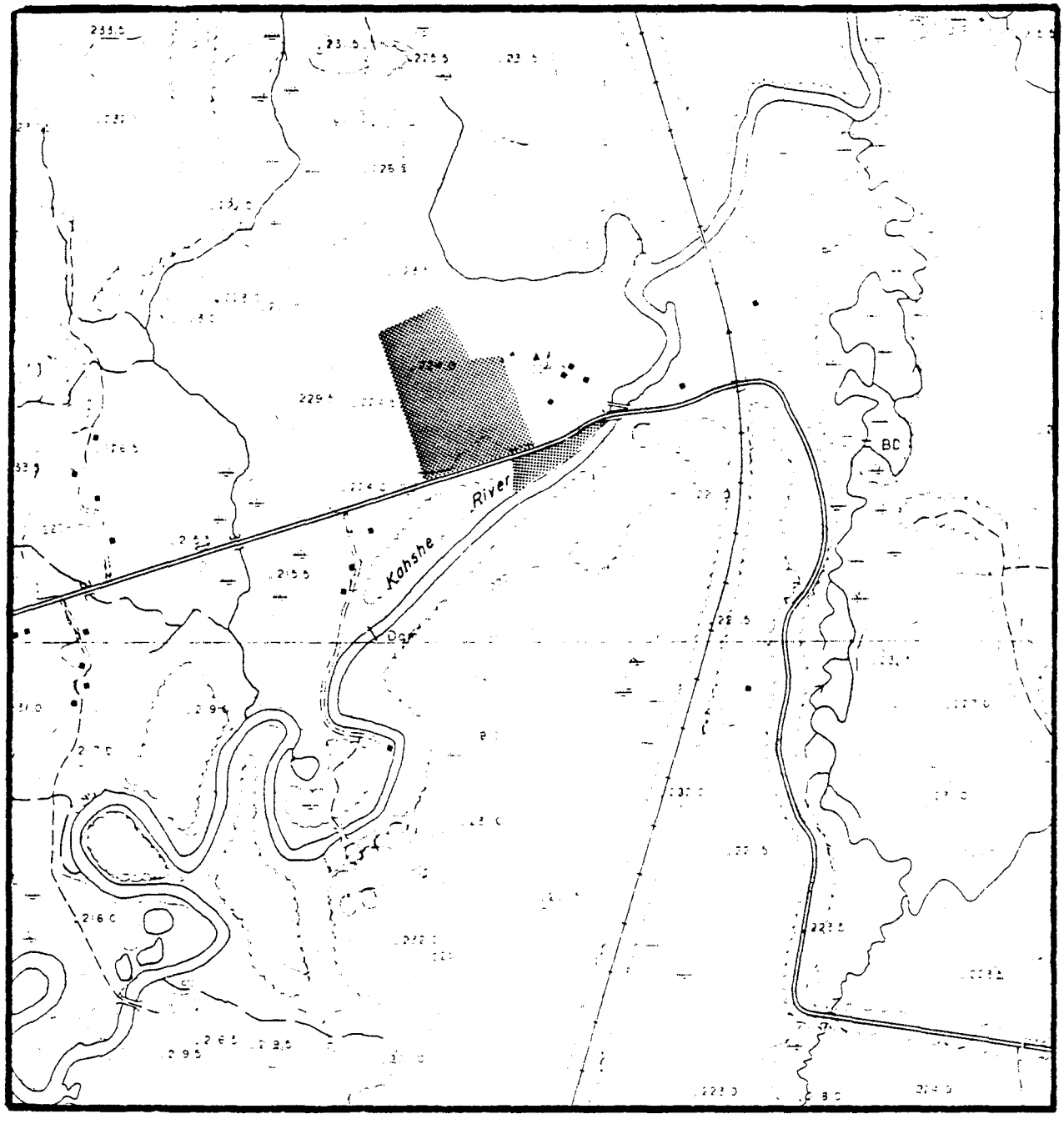


Figure 18: Survey Unit 1h (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

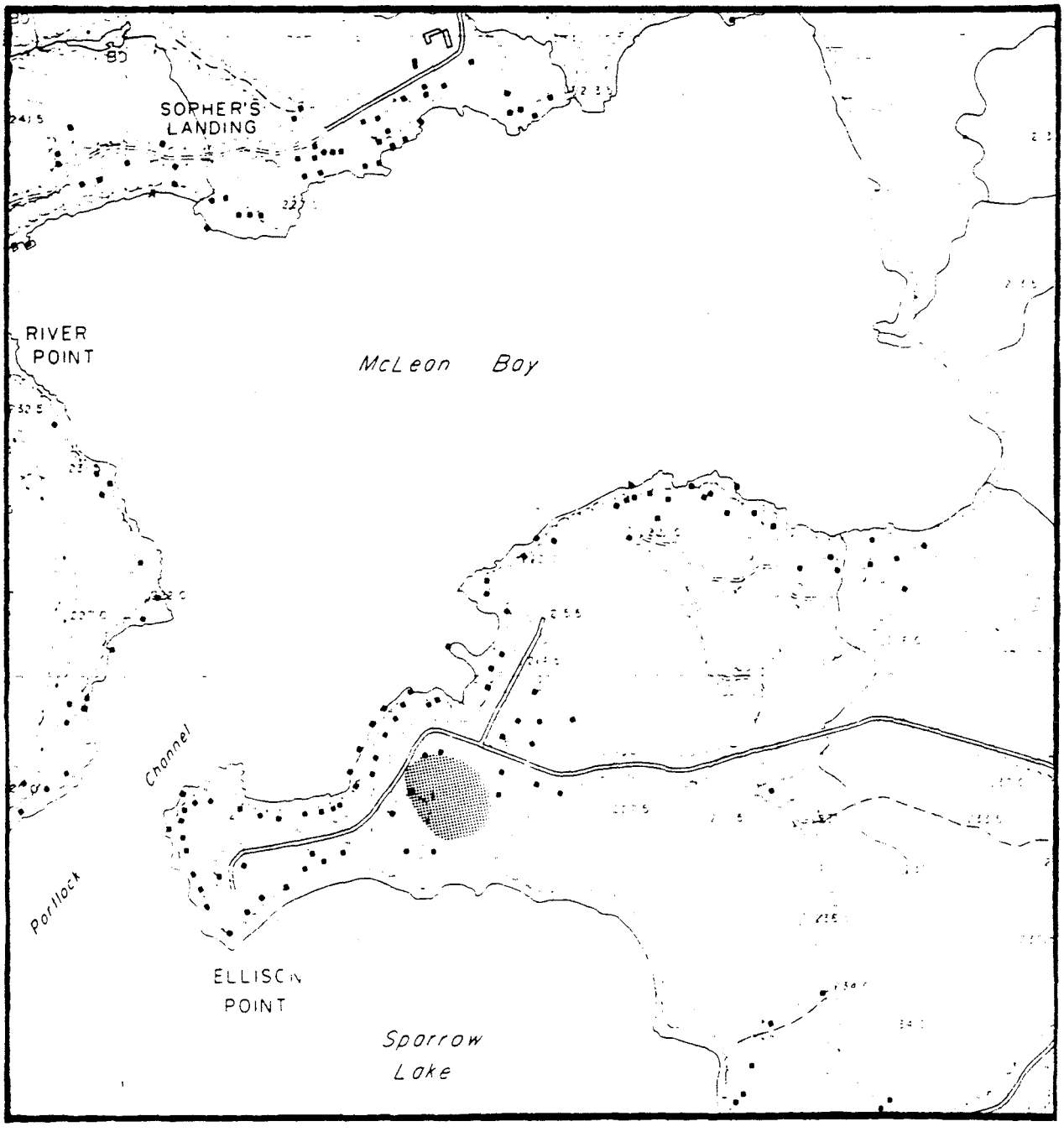


Figure 19: Survey Units 1i (broken line) and 2c (shaded at arrows). 1:50,000 scale.

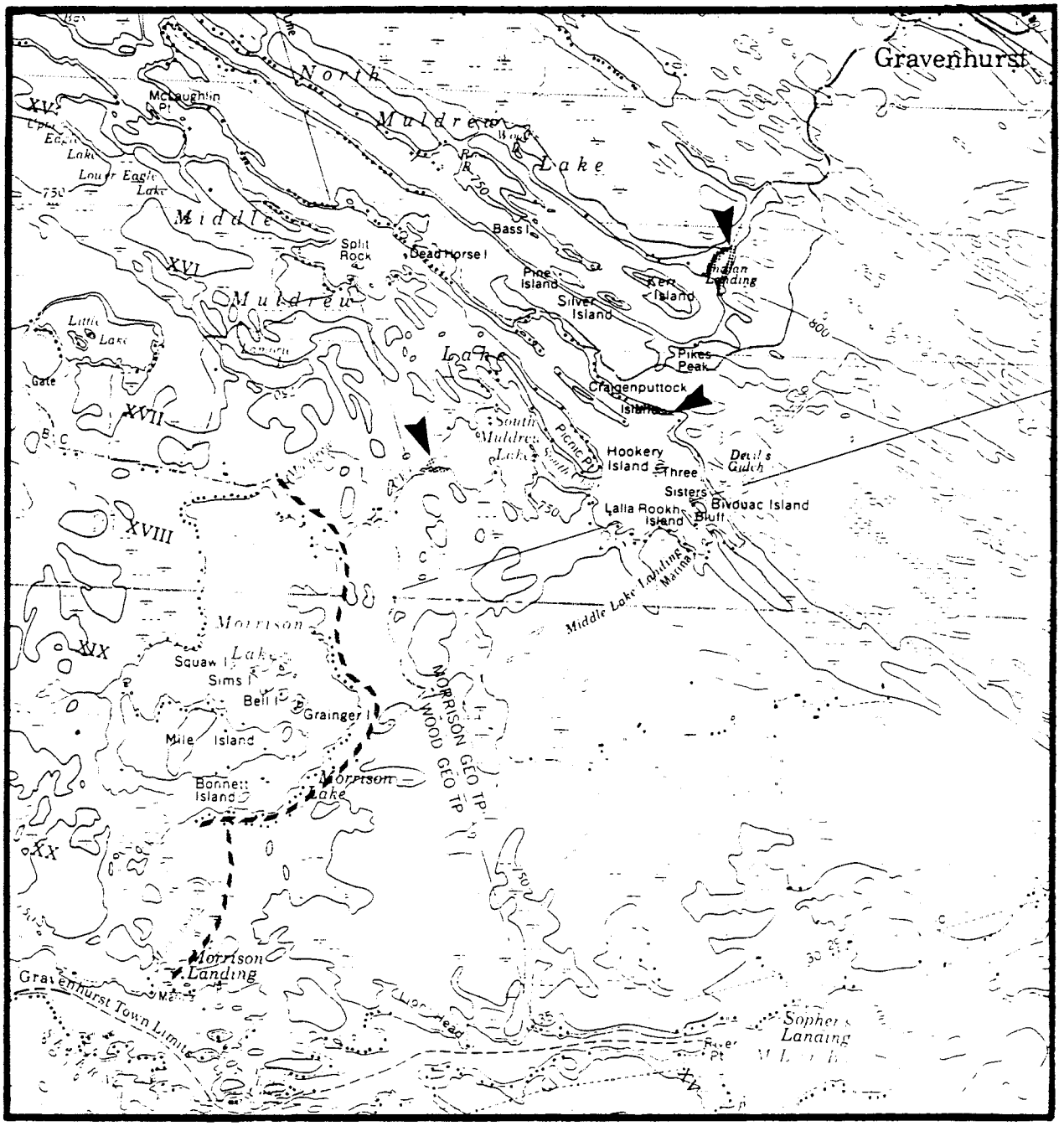


Figure 20: Survey Unit 2a (shaded and dashed line). 1:50,000 scale.

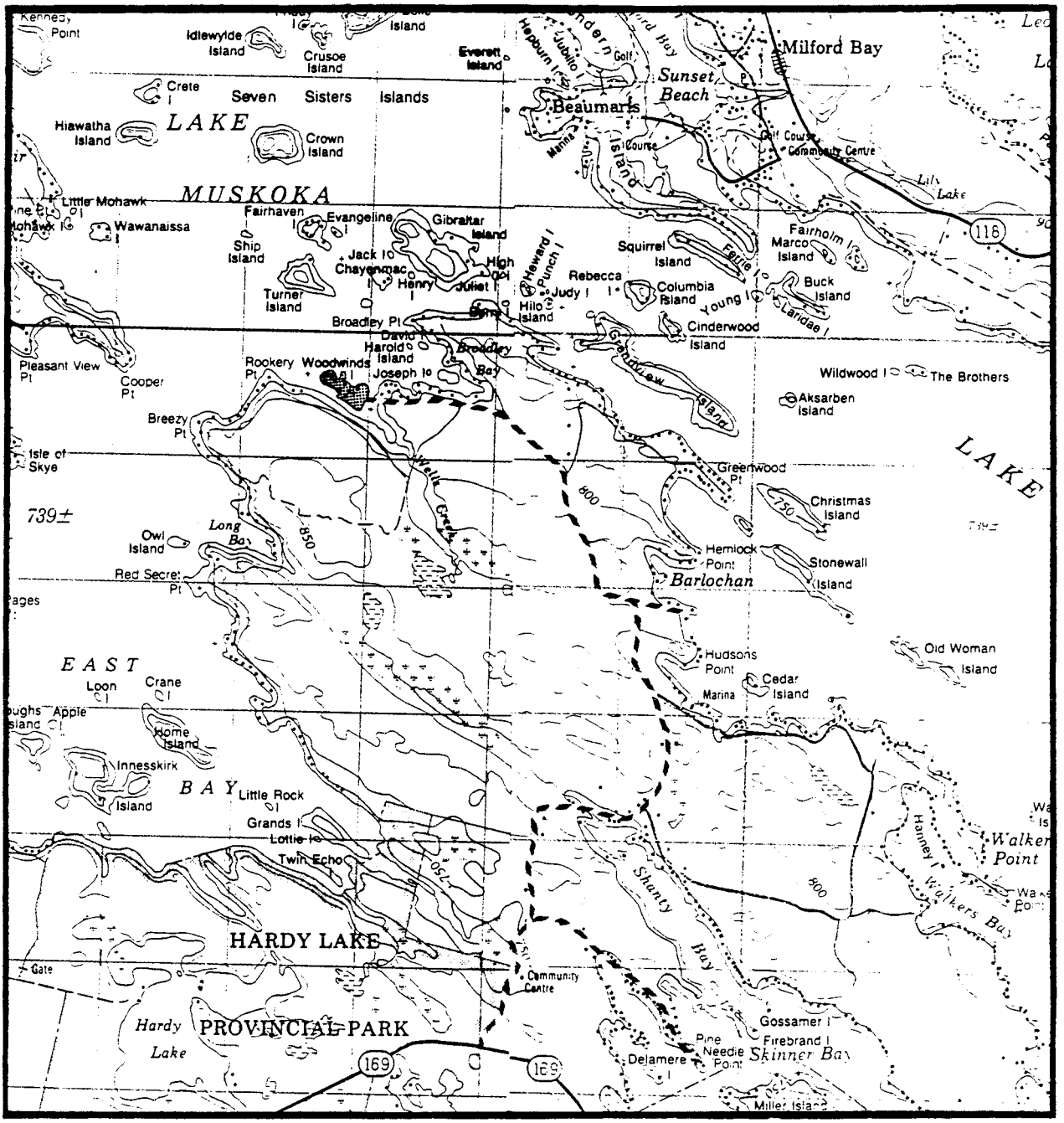


Figure 21: Survey Unit 2b (shaded at arrows). 1:50,000 scale.

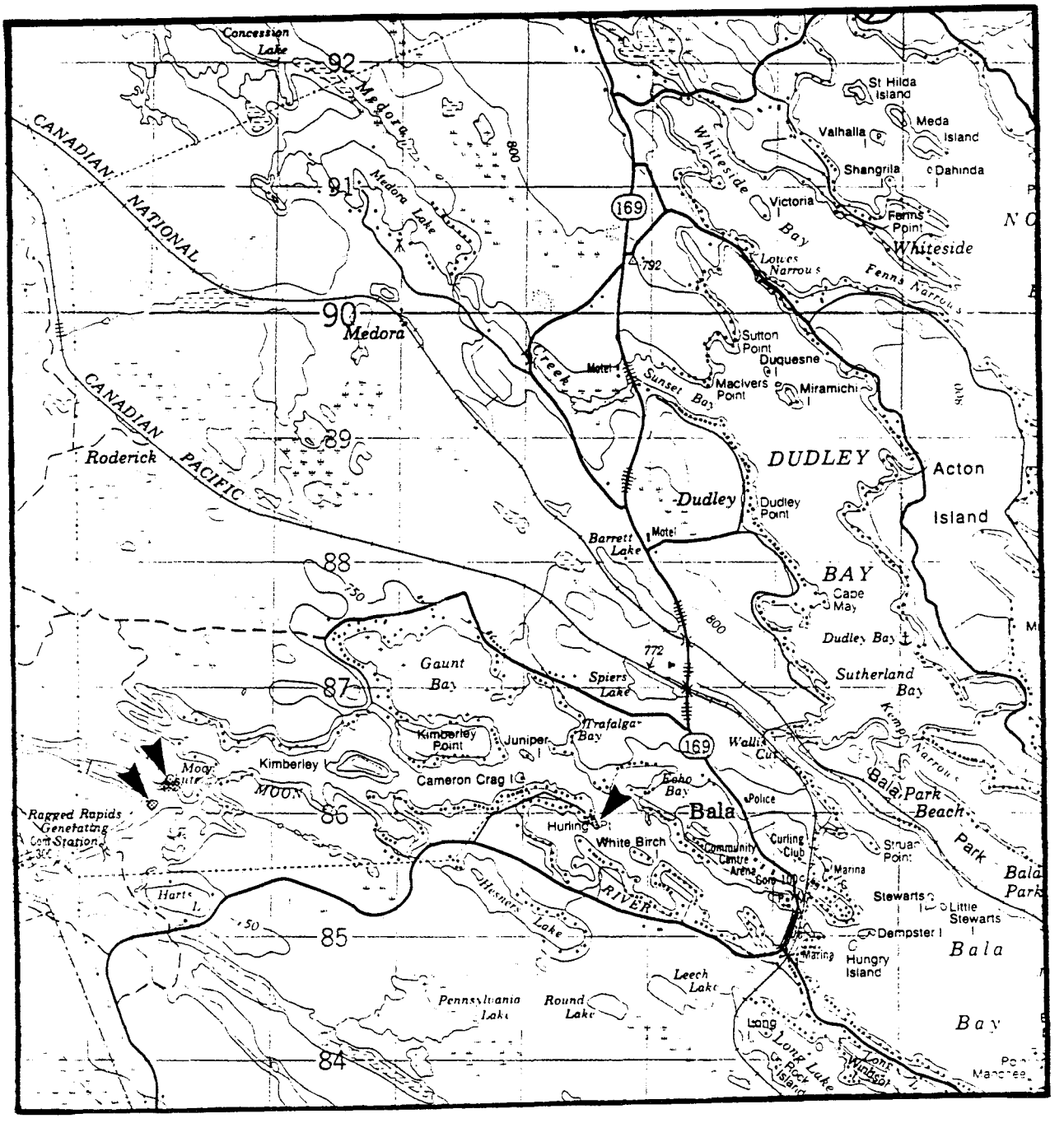


Figure 22: Survey Units 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4b (dashed line and shaded). 1:50,000 scale.

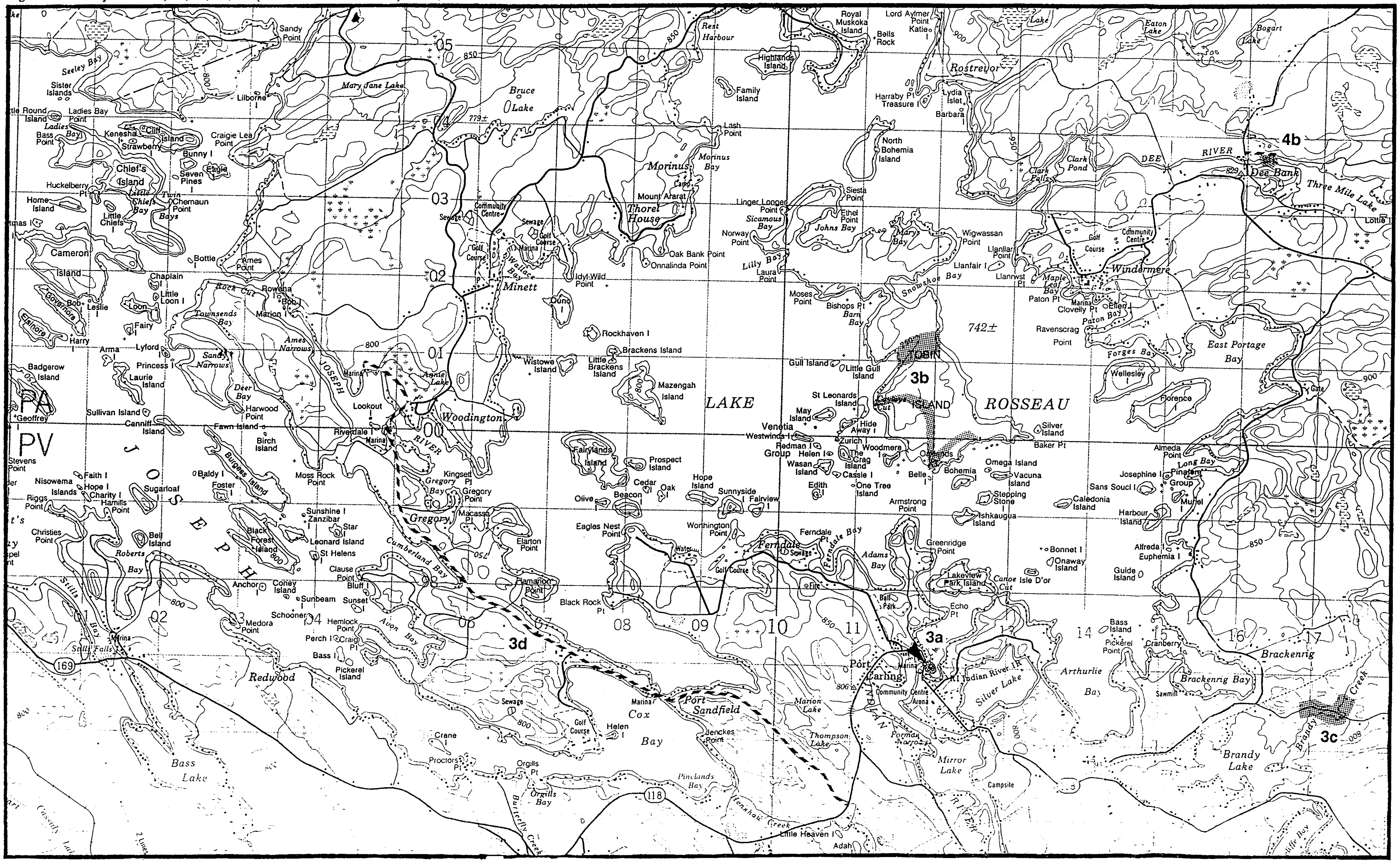


Figure 23: Survey Unit 4a (dashed line). 1:10,000 scale.

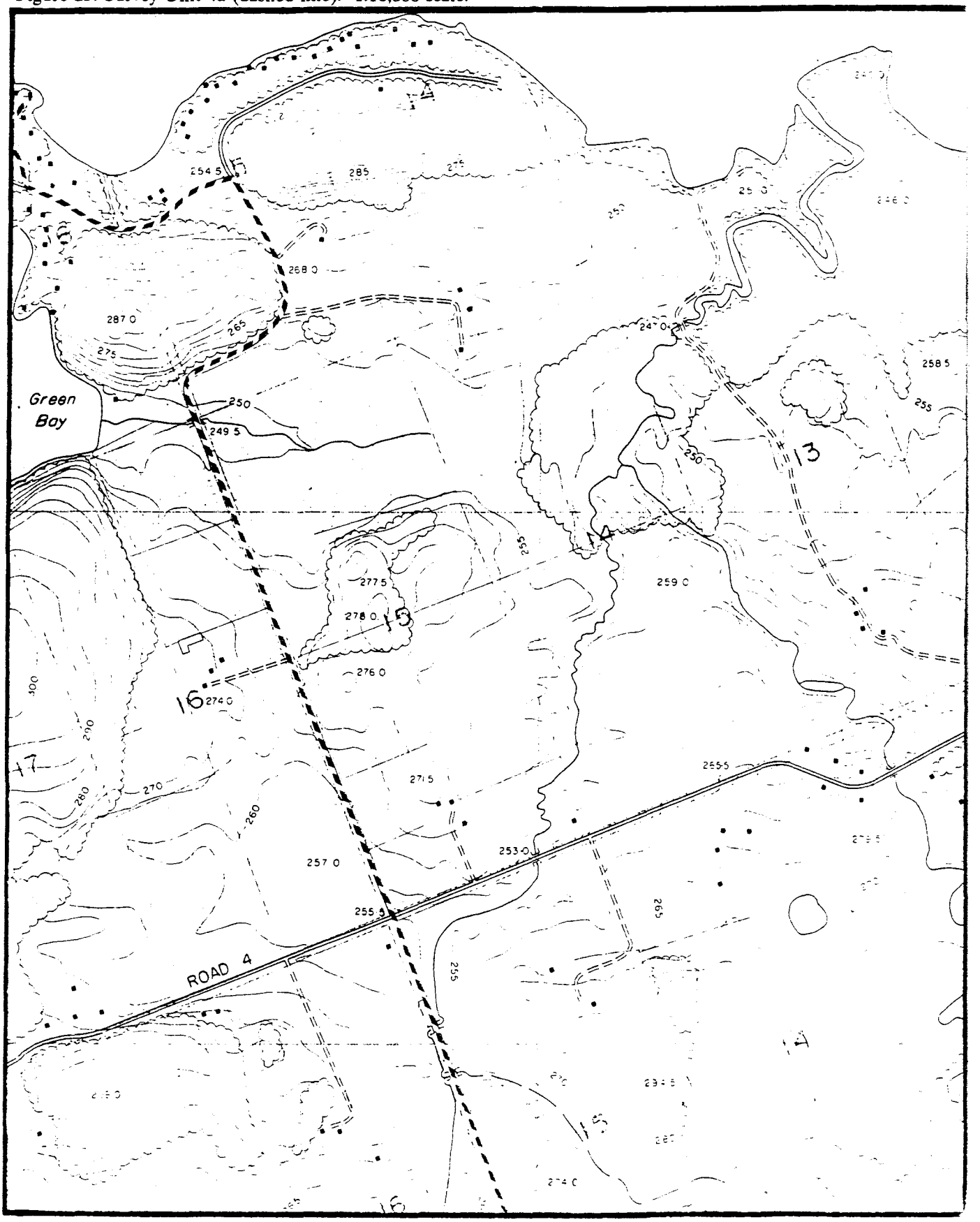


Figure 24: Survey Units 5a, 5b, & 5e (shaded). 1:11,000 scale (approx.).

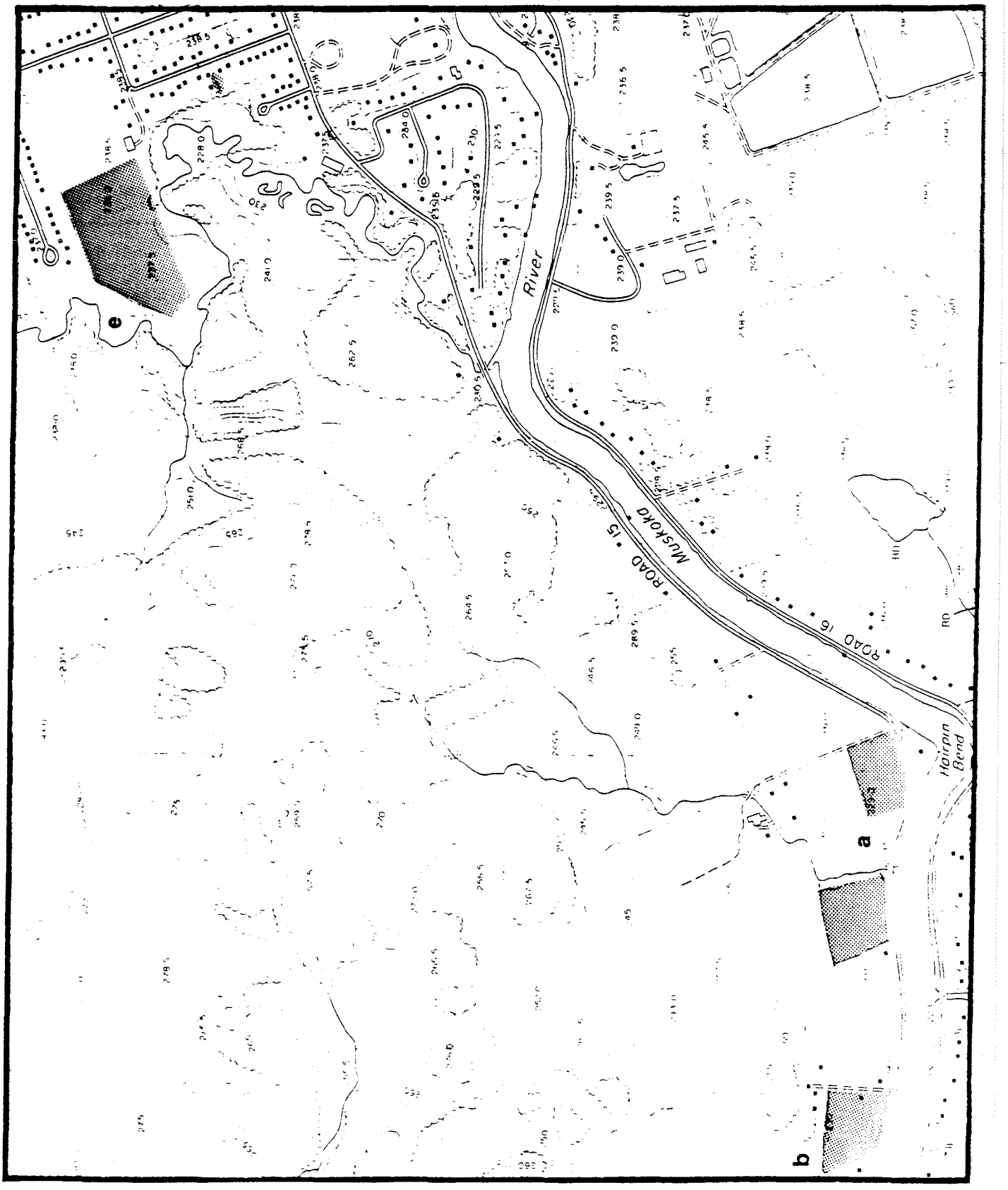


Figure 25: Survey Units 5c & 5d (dashed line). 1:50,000 scale.

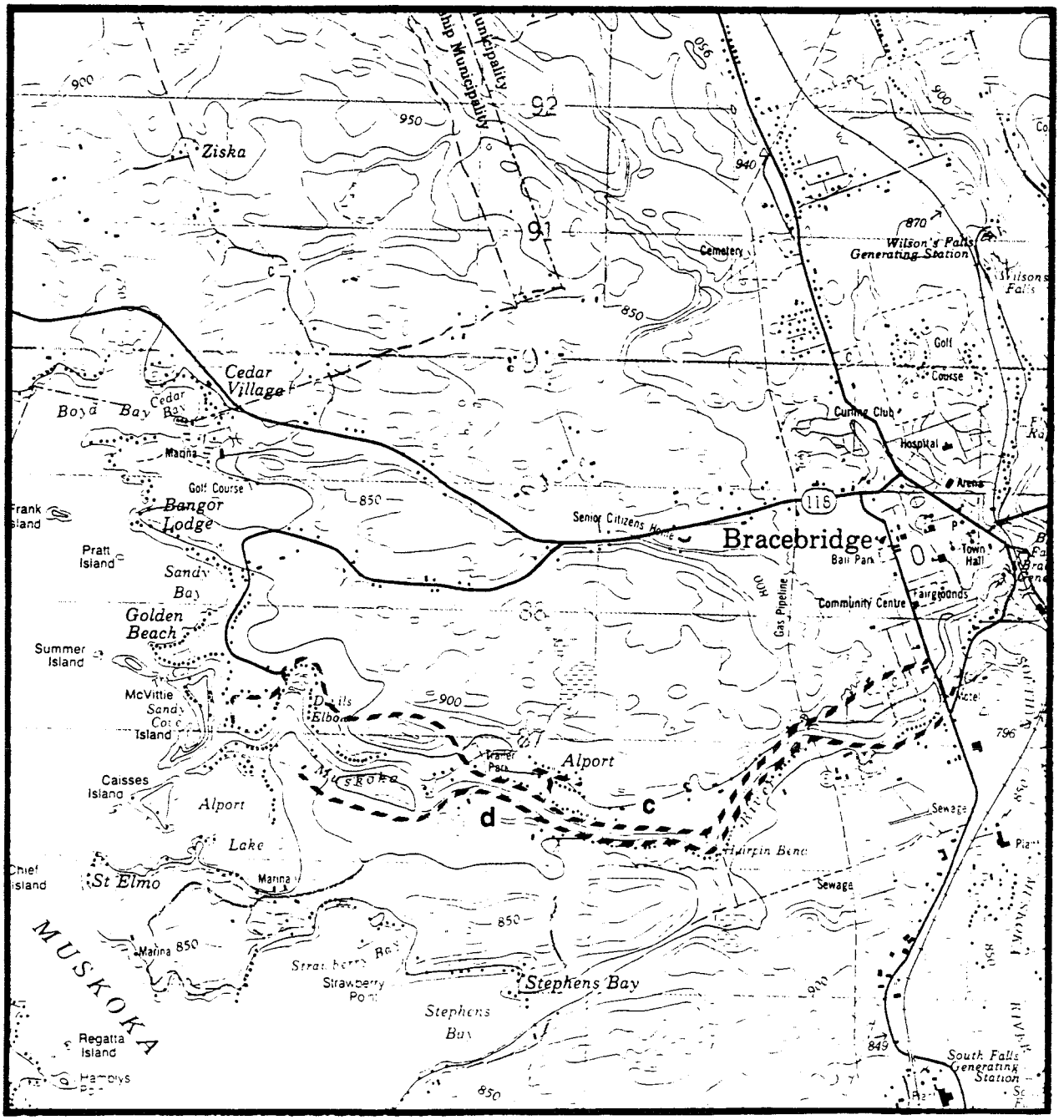


Figure 26: Survey Unit 5f (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

Figure 27: Survey Units 5g & 5h (dashed lines and shaded). 1:50,000 scale.

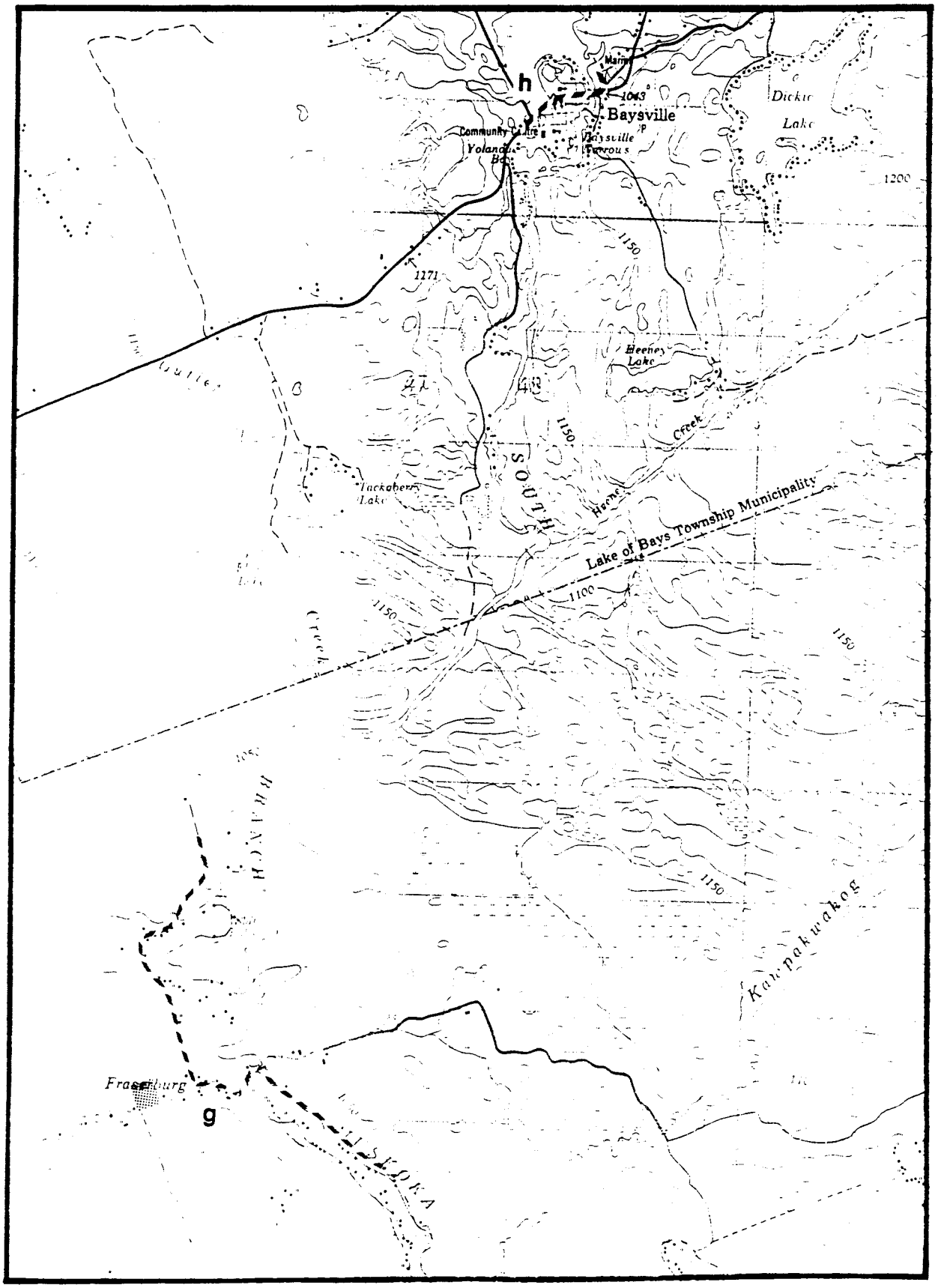


Figure 28: Survey Units 5i, 5j & 6a (dashed lines). 1:50,000 scale.

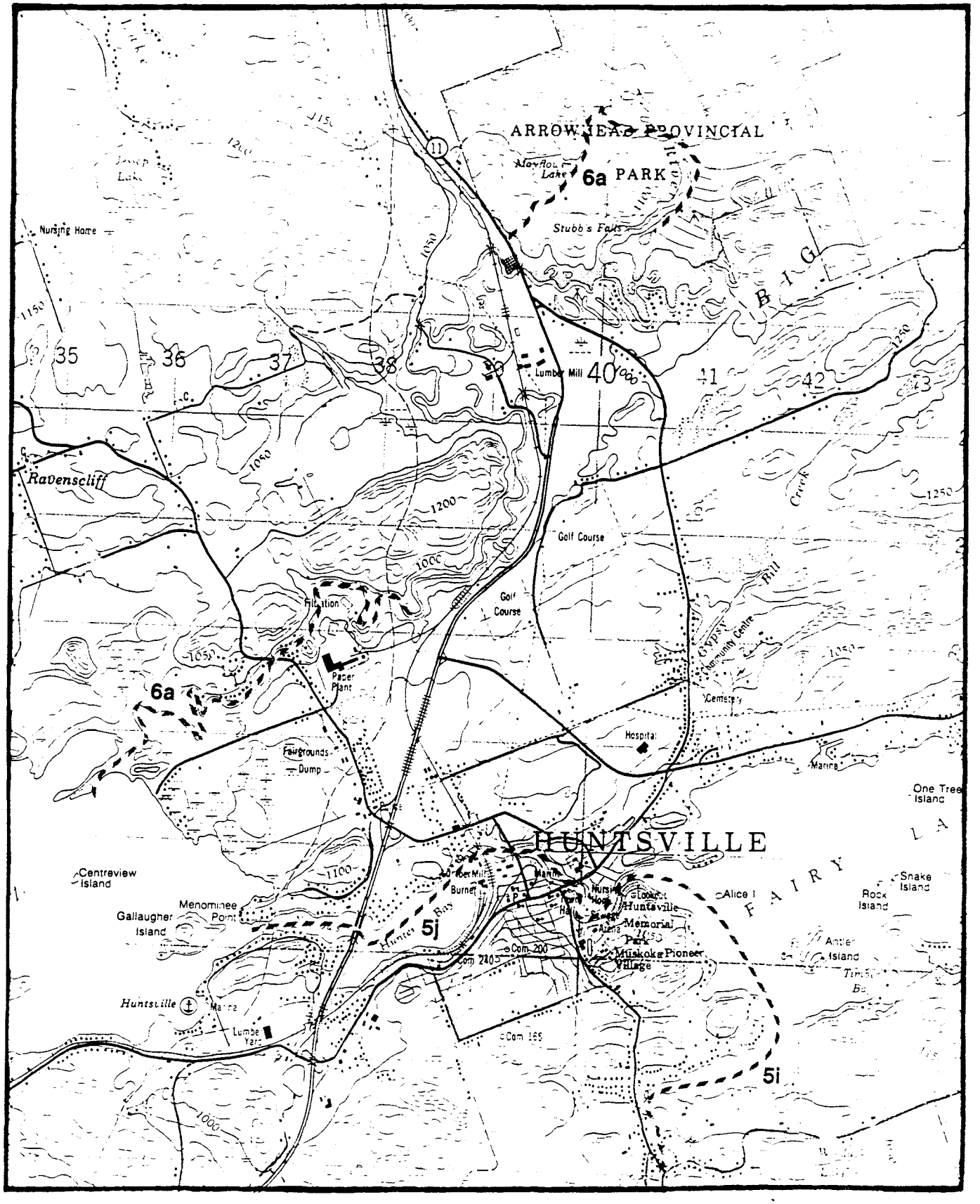


Figure 29: Survey Unit 6b (dashed line). 1:50,000 scale.

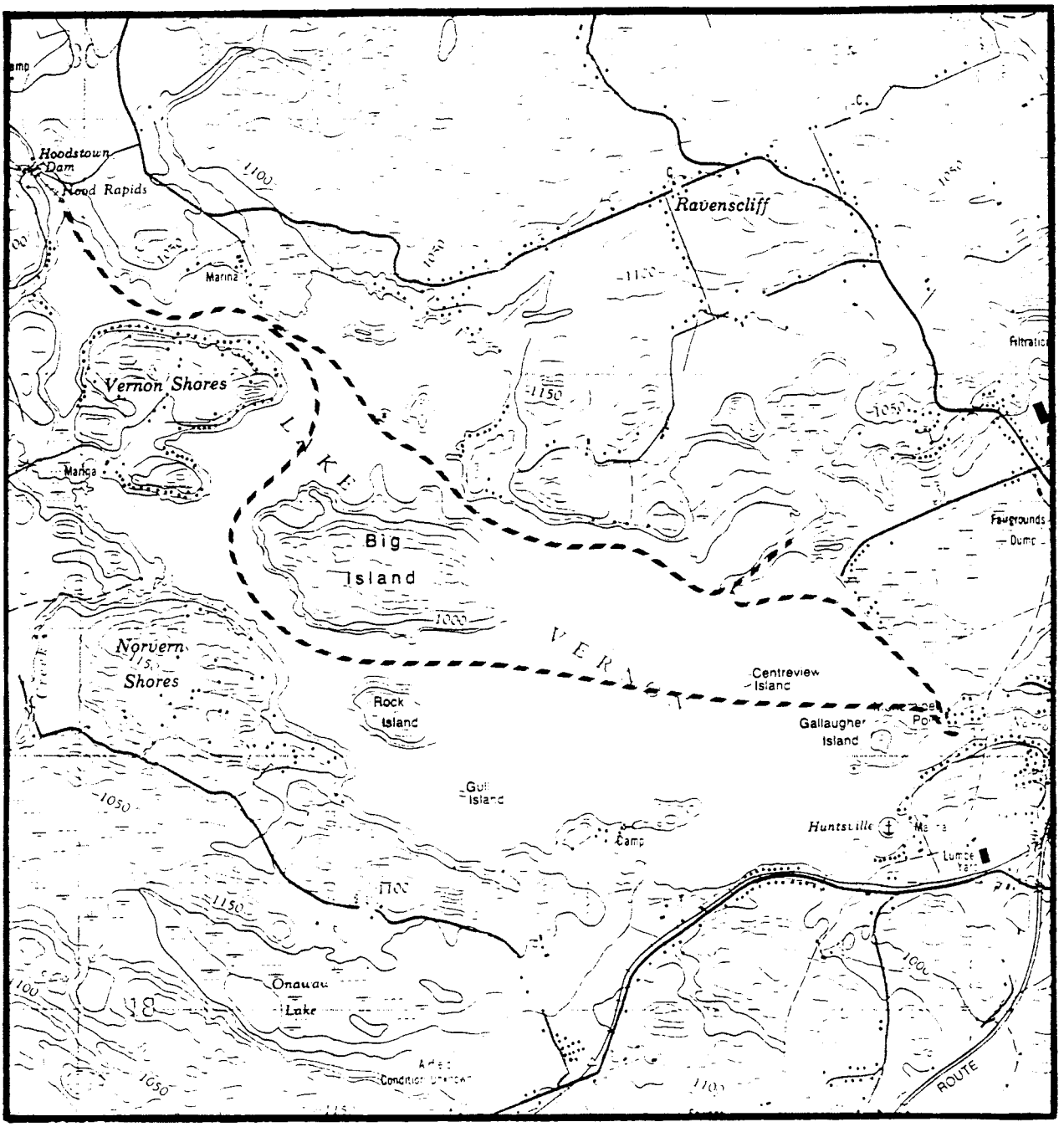


Figure 30: Survey Unit 6c (dashed line). 1:50,000 scale.

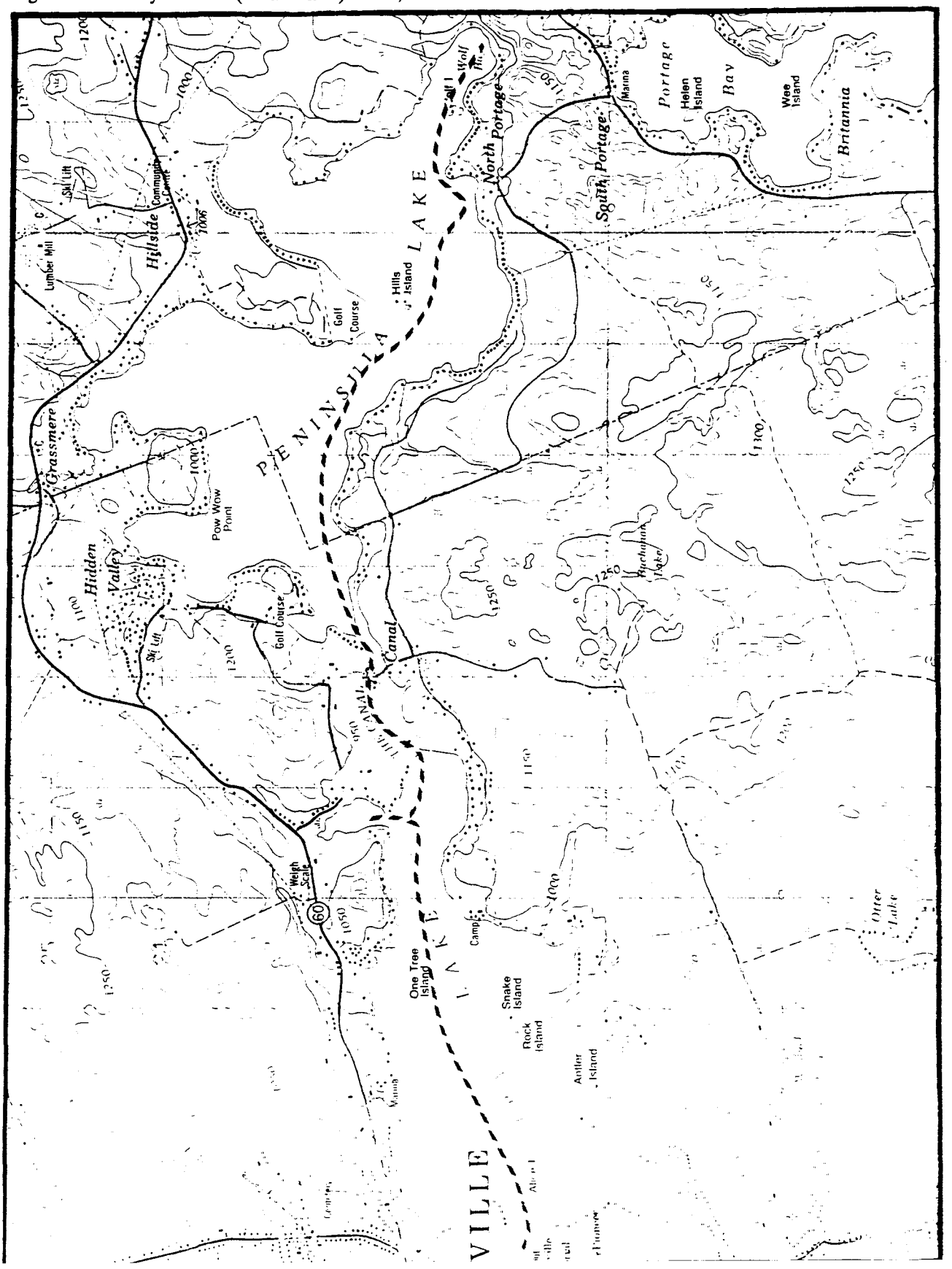


Figure 31: Survey Units 7a & 7b (shaded). 1:50,000 scale.

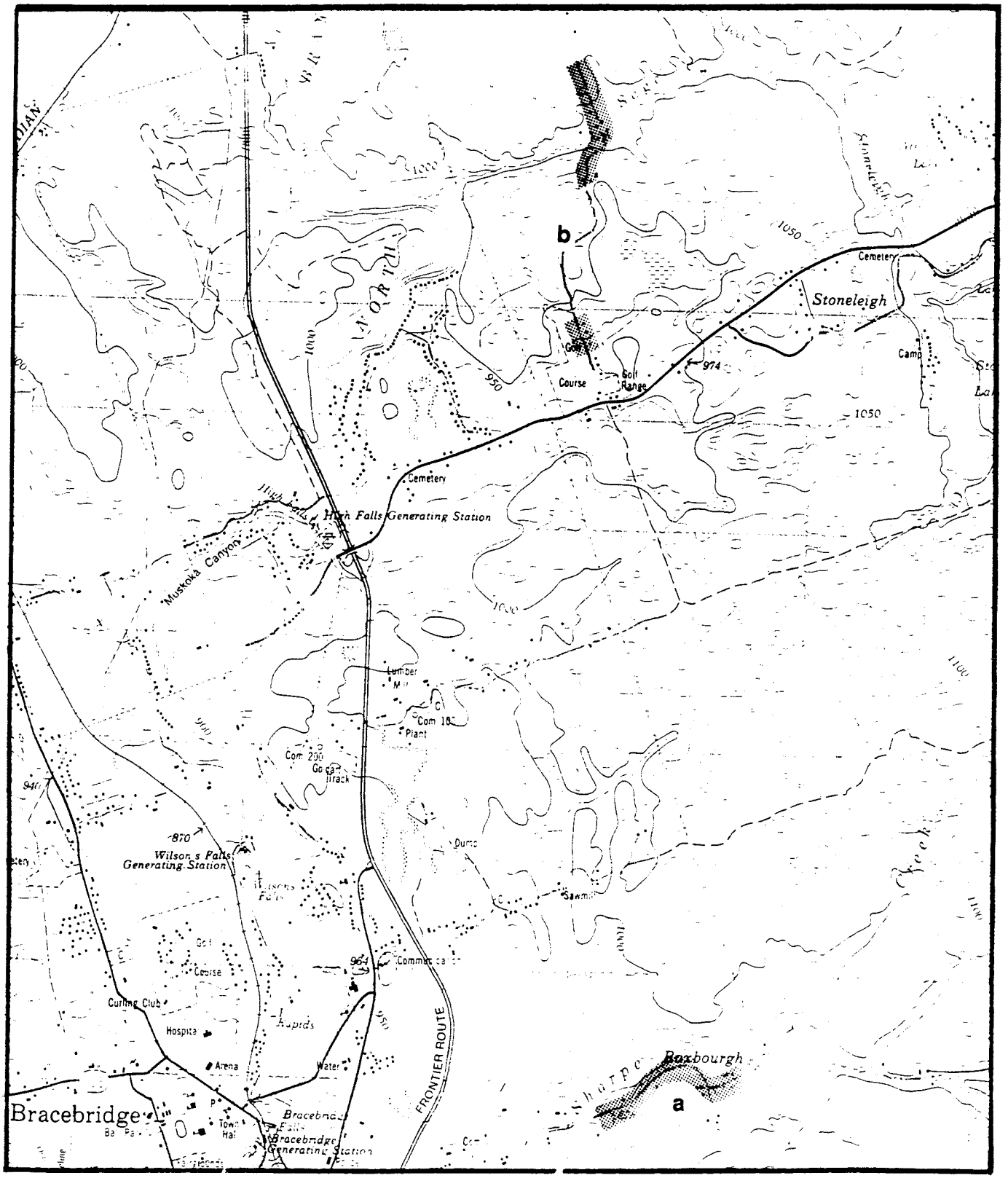


Figure 32: Survey Unit 8a (shaded at arrow). 1:50,000 scale.

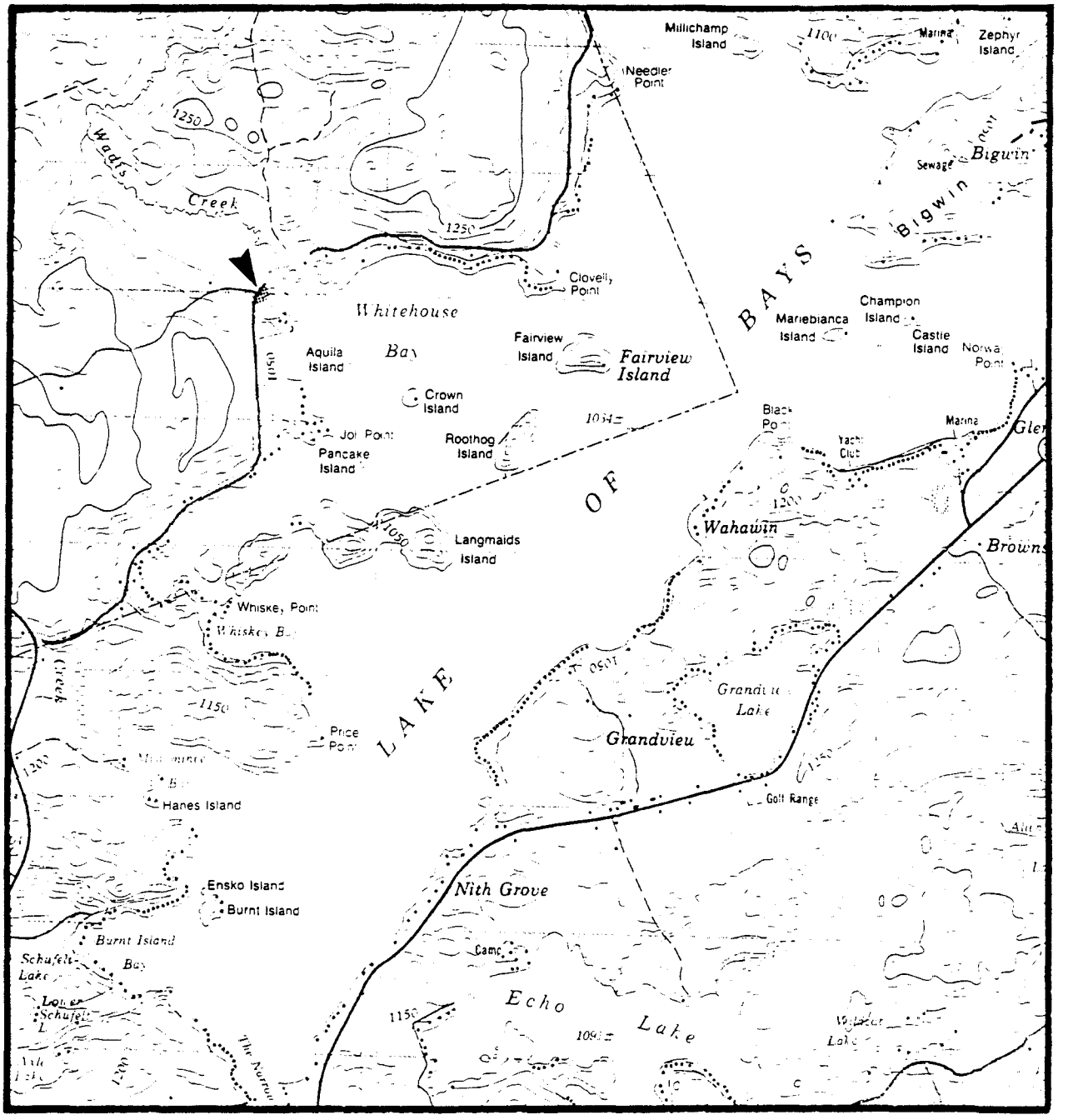


Figure 33: Survey Unit 8b (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

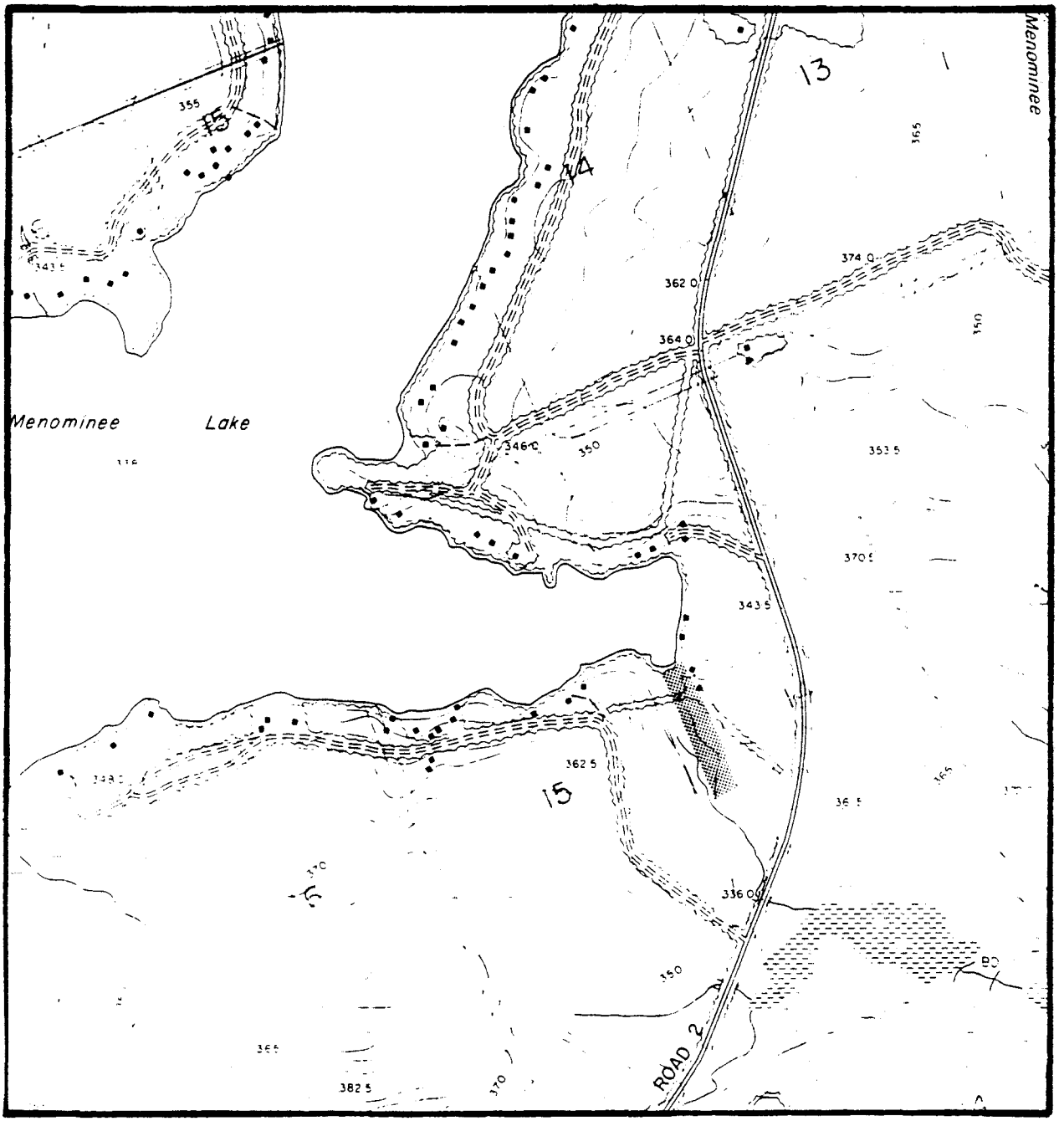


Figure 34: Survey Unit 8c (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.

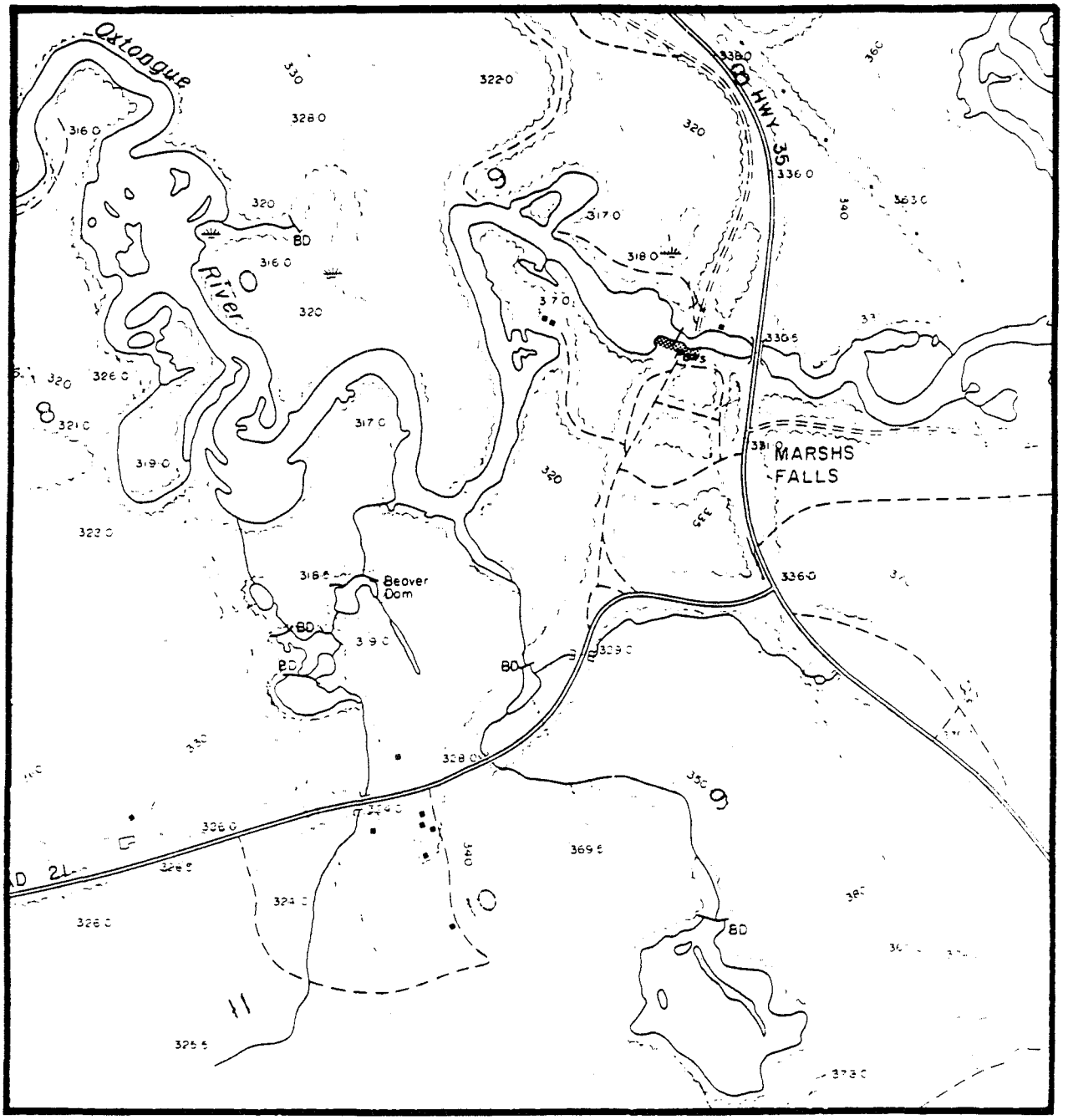
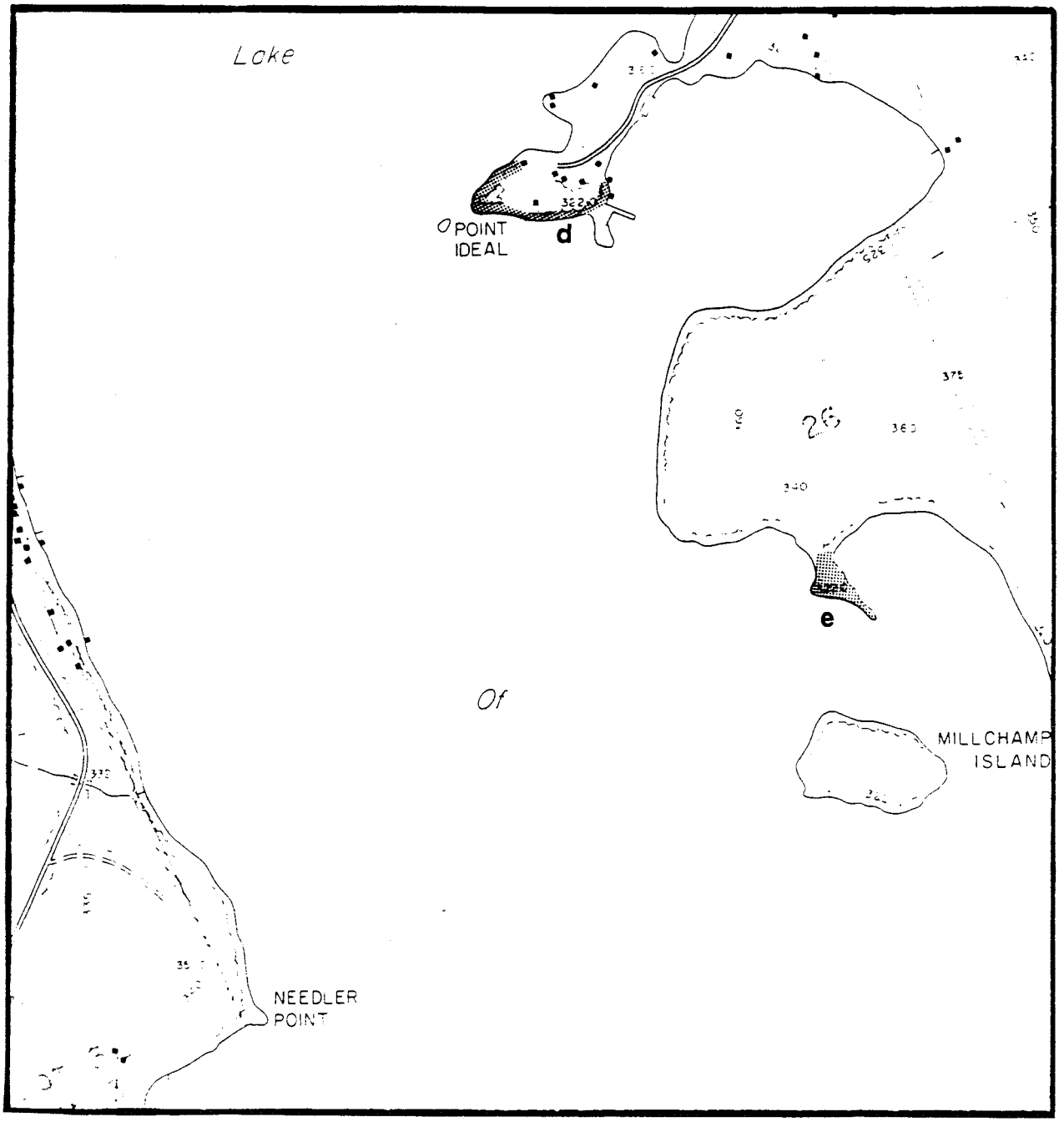


Figure 35: Survey Unit 8d & 8e (shaded). 1:10,000 scale.



3 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

by R.I. MacDonald

It is increasingly apparent that the District Municipality of Muskoka has supported human occupation since the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier some 11,000 years ago. Although there is as yet no concrete evidence of Paleo-Indian occupation, either during or immediately after the retreat of glacial Lake Algonquin, there is no reason to believe that such evidence will not be forthcoming; indeed, Paleo-Indian sites are relatively rare throughout North America. There is, however, considerable evidence of aboriginal occupation from Archaic times up to the present.

For the vast majority of this human prehistory, the population consisted of hunter-gatherer bands which possessed an intimate knowledge of their band territory and the resources it offered. To the casual modern observer, travelling through Muskoka on a four-lane highway, the region may appear to be a relatively homogeneous blend of mixed forest punctuated by rocky uplands and swamps. However, as the detailed regional studies undertaken by the Heritage Areas Program have demonstrated, Muskoka is an incredibly diverse landscape with a definite texture and structure. The term "texture" is used here to refer to the frequency with which environmental features change across the landscape, whereas "structure" refers to the overall pattern of environmental feature distribution. The intimacy with which the aboriginal hunter-gatherer understood this texture and structure, as well as their implications for survival, cannot be achieved in studies such as this. Nevertheless, it is possible to begin to appreciate the fundamental structure of the landscape and how this structure may have constrained prehistoric land use. Understanding this relationship is the very foundation of prehistoric archaeological site potential modelling.

Information concerning traditional patterns of land use can contribute a great deal towards an understanding of landscape structure. While certain customs, such as gardening, may have been practiced for a relatively short time, many others are deeply rooted in prehistory. So, for example, an examination of activities such as hunting, fishing, bark collecting, berry collecting, and travel, can serve as an important historic framework against which to evaluate hypotheses about the same activities in prehistory. In this study, many examples of historically documented land use tended to follow patterns anticipated by the prehistoric archaeological site potential model.

To a large extent the structure of the landscape and its effect on prehistoric land use can be interpreted from maps, and this was done as a component of the Volume 1 research. In fact, the synoptic perspective afforded by relatively small mapping scales, such as 1:50,000, facilitates the identification of broad trends and patterns. Yet desktop modelling at such a small scale does have significant limitations. While adoption of 1:50,000 as the analytical scale was logistically necessary (see Volume 1, Section 1), the degree of generalization--or lack of resolution--at this scale proved to be enormous when viewed from the ground. Using

the draft 1:50,000 site potential maps in the field was impossible for all but the most general orientation purposes; the difference in scale between the map and the real world was equivalent to viewing an object with the naked eye and then under an electron microscope. Our only viable alternative was to use the 1:10,000 Ontario Base Maps in the field. This provided a five times improvement in resolution, although there was still a ten thousand times difference between the map and the ground. These observations provided a practical reminder of both the limitations inherent in the predictive model due to issues of scale and resolution (Volume 1, Section 1.3.2) as well as the attendant limitations with respect to application of the model on the ground (Volume 1, Section 1.8.4).

While the survey project was successful in documenting a number of previously unregistered archaeological sites, thereby fulfilling one of its primary objectives, these data alone may actually contribute less to refinement of the predictive model than the knowledge of the region that was a by-product of simply travelling to the various survey units, observing the landscape, and talking with local residents. This amounted to a massive windshield survey across the entire District that turned the two-dimensional, mapped predictive model into a three-dimensional, high-resolution model--at least in the minds of the survey team. In turn, this greater familiarity with the District facilitated confirmation of many assumptions on which the desktop model was based as well as the identification of structural trends in the landscape not apparent in the original exercise.

One assumption that was generally supported by the survey and the traditional-use information was the degree to which water transportation determined prehistoric settlement in Muskoka. Indeed, the research into traditional use was able to confirm various canoe routes predicted by the draft model. Since survival depended upon access to widely spread resources, transportation would have been a major concern. What was not fully appreciated prior to the fieldwork, however, was the extent to which settlement in Muskoka would have focussed on a few major catchment areas: Georgian Bay, the Muskoka Lakes, Lake of Bays, and the Huntsville lake system. It is interesting to note how the fundamental structure of the landscape has influenced land use right up to the present, as evidenced by the current organization of townships.

Another consideration that arose repeatedly during the fieldwork was the effect of historic modifications to the environment. It was a constant struggle to visualize the landscape as it would have appeared prior to historic logging. Aside from the current appearance of the forest, it is difficult to assess the impact of this activity in terms of erosion and modification of regional hydrology. It was during this period of major logging activity that water levels began to be artificially controlled in Muskoka, a practice that has been continued in large part to accommodate the needs of hydro-electric generating stations. On all of the major

lakes, older residents recalled the days when, during summer low-water levels, it was possible to drive a wagon team around the lakeshore. The general opinion was that current water levels were about four feet (1.3 m) above normal. While, as suggested in Volume 1 (Section 1.7.1), this may fall within prehistoric seasonal and long-term extremes, there is a significant difference between occasional or seasonal flooding and permanent inundation. Many of the sites documented during this survey had been affected by recent erosion, and it is expected that many more sites have been damaged or destroyed through inundation or erosion.

With respect to landscape texture, the severity of the topography surrounding many of the lakes became apparent during the survey. Many stretches of shoreline are simply too steep to permit settlement. As a result, suitable canoe-landing areas, such as sandy beaches, combined with flat, well-drained campsites, were identified as areas of high archaeological potential. Unfortunately, beaches are generally not resolved on either 1:10,000 or 1:50,000 maps. Points of land were considered to have particularly high potential, since they often possessed a sheltered bay with a sandy beach as well as a good campsite with a wide vantage of the lake.

A total of twenty-five archaeological sites was registered as a result of this investigation (Table 3). At the same time, archaeologists from the Ministry of Transportation were in the process of registering four important new Woodland components (Baxter [BeGw-26], Bentley [BeGw-23], Bressette East [BeGw-25], and Bressette West [BeGw-24]) in the vicinity of Port Severn (Paul Lennox, personal communication, 1994). Although this virtually doubles the number of registered sites in Muskoka, it undoubtedly represents a small fraction of the total number of extant sites, far too few to be able to construct a meaningful culture history for the District. Nevertheless, the growing site database does provide a few notable insights.

The majority of sites consist of small assemblages of chert and quartz debitage, the by-product of chipped-stone tool manufacture. While some yield formal tools, such as hide scrapers, or expedient tools, such as utilized flakes, the discovery of temporally diagnostic projectile points is relatively rare. In areas such as southern Ontario, where extensive survey work has revealed recognizable trends in artifact loss and discard, it is not uncommon for habitation sites to yield few complete projectile points, since these would have been curated and re-used until lost or broken. As a result, projectile points are most frequently found as isolated findspots--presumably where they were lost--or as fragments discarded during weapon refurbishment events. While site ages can be assessed through other methods, such as radiocarbon dating of carbonized organic material, this process is costly and not usually undertaken in the course of archaeological survey. It is therefore impossible to assess the age of many sites except to conclude that, since chipped-stone tool manufacture disappeared

quickly with the historic introduction of metal tools and weapons, they are likely prehistoric.

Of those sites that have yielded temporally diagnostic artifacts, many date to the Archaic period. This may be explained in part by the fact that the Archaic is by far the longest of the periods in the current paradigm of Ontario's prehistory. All things being equal, there is therefore a greater likelihood that a given site will derive from this time. Also, Archaic period projectile points and groundstone tools tend to be relatively large and more easily noticed by the untrained eye. A similar fact may explain the frequency with which iron trade axes from the early historic period have been recovered.

It was quite gratifying to observe that all of the sites documented were situated in areas where the predictive model would expect them to be, and many were actually within specific zones of high to very high potential. While it might be argued that this reflects bias inherent in the survey strategy--that is, we only found sites where we looked for them--this is not really true since in the majority of cases we merely documented sites previously found by local residents. Thus, the only inherent bias stems from the fact that modern settlement has tended to occur in the same locations as prehistoric settlement.

Often it is at least as important to understand why sites are not found in certain areas as it is to explain why they are where they are. However, given the scope and approach of this survey, there are few areas where this question can be considered. The most extensive survey work was undertaken in ploughed fields near Sparrow Lake and along the Muskoka River below Bracebridge. Only two sites were found as a result, and both were isolated findspots immediately adjacent to watercourses. While one might anticipate a significant drop in site density as one moved away from the major lakes and rivers, such a conclusion would be premature pending more detailed survey of these areas. In the case of rivers like the Muskoka, site visibility may simply be masked by alluvial deposition on the floodplain. The only other obvious factor which is known to have affected site visibility and integrity throughout the District is water level. The effect of artificially high water levels was very evident at the sites on Point Ideal, and the Severn Bridge site investigated by Ministry of Transportation archaeologists provided good evidence of inundation during prehistoric fluctuations in the level of Lake Huron (Timmins 1993).

Aside from the scientific knowledge that was acquired in the course of this study, one of the most meaningful and rewarding insights gained was the profound sense of importance placed on archaeological heritage by the residents of Muskoka. Almost invariably, people were astonished by the time depth of regional prehistory and were intrigued to know that prehistoric archaeological sites were relatively common. At the same time, a remarkable number of residents were aware of artifact finds, yet had not given serious thought to their

age or significance. This tendency, for the general public to think of aboriginal culture history as being rather static and of short time depth, is common in Canadian society. The fact that there is currently no institution in Muskoka interpreting First Nations' prehistory to the public undoubtedly contributes to this perception. In discussing this problem with local museum curators, it was noted that--aside from the usual financial and logistical constraints--the proximity of Huronia, with its various institutions focussing on aboriginal lifeways, has tended to create a vacuum in Muskoka. In fact, it could be argued that more archaeological finds from Muskoka are displayed in institutions outside of the District than within. One of the many ironies of this situation is that the differences in culture history between Muskoka District and Simcoe County are as radical as the ecological differences between the two--indeed, the former arise from the latter. It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that many Muskoka residents were of the opinion that a systematic treatment of the District's prehistoric past was long overdue. Moreover, many were clearly looking for a sustained programme of heritage conservation and public interpretation. Not only do they see this as a very positive direction from the perspective of tourism and commerce, but as a crucial initiative in order to keep Muskoka in step with other provincial and national jurisdictions.

In conclusion, this second phase of the Muskoka archaeological resource master plan has employed oral history and documentary data concerning traditional aboriginal land use, as well as information concerning archaeological sites and the landscape of the District, in order to refine the prehistoric archaeological site potential model developed during phase one. As successful as this refinement has been, it is very much only the beginning of a process of model improvement that will continue to develop as new sites are documented and a better understanding of the prehistoric landscape is resolved. As a powerful planning tool, the site potential model provides an outline of prehistoric land use that is required in order to make informed heritage-resource management decisions. In no way is it considered to be a comprehensive or definitive work on the prehistory of the Muskoka District. Rather, it has been designed as a framework to guide heritage planners and as a foundation on which to build a better understanding of the past. It is hoped that it will make a significant contribution to a meaningful process whereby the District's archaeological heritage is: inventoried through an on-going operation that facilitates heritage resource management; made accessible and interesting to the public through the display and interpretation of important collections such as those held by the Muskoka Lakes Museum; and managed through progressive land-use and heritage resource planning.

Table 3: Summary of Muskoka Survey Results--New Sites Registered

Borden Number	Name	Description	Affiliation
BeGu-1	Clark	isolated Onondaga chert flake	unidentified prehistoric
BeGu-2	Stan Clipsham	isolated groundstone gouge	Archaic
BeGu-3	Sara Clipsham	Brewerton point, biface, 2 groundstone gouges, 3 groundstone celts, 3 iron axes	stone tools - Middle Archaic iron axes - historic
BeGu-4	Pope Petroglyph	petroglyph site on Sparrow Lake	unknown - probable late prehistoric or early historic Native
BeGu-5	Kahshe Station	isolated groundstone celt	unidentified prehistoric
BfGu-1	Donnelly 1	stone tools recovered from vegetable garden - large collection photographed by P. Carruthers of MCTR	unidentified prehistoric
BgGt-1	High Falls 1	debitage in test pit on portage	unidentified prehistoric
BgGt-2	High Falls 2	debitage in test pit on portage	unidentified prehistoric
BgGt-3	High Falls 3	debitage and calcined bone eroding from riverbank on portage	unidentified prehistoric
BgGu-2	Bertha May	58 foot tug boat resting in 10' of water off Barlochan	historic shipwreck
BgGv-4	Obogawanung	island where Muskoka Lakes Museum now stands was traditional Indian village - site may have been capped by fill when locks were built	historic Ojibwa

Table 3: Summary of Muskoka Survey Results--New Sites Registered			
Borden Number	Name	Description	Affiliation
BgGv-5	Jewitt	isolated Brewerton corner-notched projectile point found on Hurling Point, Muskoka River	Middle Archaic
BgGv-6	Woodwinds Island	projectile points found by Alfred Smith on sandy beaches around island	unidentified prehistoric
BgGv-7	Knight	artifacts in Muskoka Lakes Museum recovered from vicinity of creek on Knight property--owner reportedly has large collection	Middle Archaic
BgGv-8	Pamosagai	probable historic Ojibwa village on Tobin Island	historic Ojibwa
BgGw-2	Tooke's Island	2 corner-notched projectile points, 1 discoidal biface, and 1 banded slate pendant in the shape of a projectile point	Middle or Late Archaic
BgGw-3	Renshaw	iron trade axe, 4 flakes, including a possible spokeshave and a scraper/utilized flake found at waterfront across from Tooke's Island--former portage route with spring	early historic
BhGr-5	Turner's Island	Iroquoian pottery, 4 chert scrapers, quartz biface and celt found by Ted Hungerford	Middle Iroquoian

Table 3: Summary of Muskoka Survey Results--New Sites Registered			
Borden Number	Name	Description	Affiliation
BhGr-6	Hungerford	Brewerton side-notched point, banded slate gouge, and banded slate celt found by Ted Hungerford on beach	Middle Archaic
BhGr-7	Raynor Island	iron trade axe found by Ted Hungerford	early historic (seventeenth century)
BhGs-5	Menominee Lake	historic site, probable logging camp, dating to turn of century	historic
BhGs-6	Point Ideal 1	debitage in test pits on south shore	unidentified prehistoric
BhGs-7	Point Ideal 2	debitage found in test pits at various locations on south lawn of lodge--groundstone celt and projectile points found by Ross Boothby on beach	unidentified prehistoric
BhGs-8	Norway Point	broadpoint and debitage recovered by Ted Hungerford	Late Archaic

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Appendix 1 - Artifact Catalogue

02/15/94

Master Plan of Archaeological Resources
District Municipality of Muskoka
Clark Site (BeGu-1)
Surface Survey--June 1993

Cat No	Artifact	Freq	Comment
1	UTILIZED FLAKE	1	
*** Total ***		1	

Master Plan of Archaeological Resources
District Municipality of Muskoka
Stan Clipsham Site (BeGu-2)
Photograph Only of Private Collection

Cat No	Artifact	Freq	Comment
1	GOUGE	1	private collection
*** Total ***		1	

02/15/94

Master Plan of Archaeological Resources
District Municipality of Muskoka
Sara Clipsham Site (BeGu-3)
Photographs of Private Collection

Cat No	Artifact	Freq	Comment
1	PROJECTILE POINT	1	private collection
2	BIFACE	1	
3	GOUGE	1	
4	GOUGE	1	
5	CELT	1	
6	CELT	1	
7	CELT	1	
8	AXE	1	
9	AXE	1	
10	AXE	1	
*** Total ***		10	

Master Plan of Archaeological Resources
District Municipality of Muskoka
Kahshe Station Site (BeGu-5)
Surface Collection

Cat No	Artifact	Freq	Comment
1	CELT	1	June 1993
*** Total ***		1	

Master Plan of Archaeological Resources
District Municipality of Muskoka
Donnelly Site (BfGu-1)
Private Collection

Cat No	Artifact	Freq	Comment
1	MISC CHIPPED LITHICS	+	private collection

02/15/94

Master Plan of Archaeological Resources
District Municipality of Muskoka
High Falls 1 Site (BgGt-1)
Test Pit Survey--July 1993

Cat No	Artifact	Freq	Comment
1	CHIPPING DEBITAGE	7	
*** Total ***		7	