

**Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and
Culture Industries**

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**Ministère des Industries du patrimoine, du sport, du
tourisme et de la culture**

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Jun 23, 2021

Paul Racher (P007)

Archaeological Research Associates Ltd.
219 - 900 Guelph Kitchener ON N2H 5Z6

RE: Review and Entry into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports: Archaeological Assessment Report Entitled, "Stage 1, 2 and 3 Archaeological Assessments, Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, 55 Baker Street and 152 & 160 Wyndham Street North, City of Guelph, Historic Town of Guelph, Geographic Township of Guelph Wellington County, Ontario", Dated Feb 4, 2020, Filed with MHSTCI Toronto Office on Feb 7, 2020, MHSTCI Project Information Form Number P007-1026-2019, P007-1033-2019, MHSTCI File Number 0011134

Dear Mr. Racher:

This office has reviewed the above-mentioned report, which has been submitted to this ministry as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18.¹ This review has been carried out in order to determine whether the licensed professional consultant archaeologist has met the terms and conditions of their licence, that the licensee assessed the property and documented archaeological resources using a process that accords with the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* set by the ministry, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations are consistent with the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario.

The report documents the Stage 1-3 assessment of the study area as depicted in Map 14 of the above titled report and recommends the following:

The Stage 1 assessment determined that the study area contained a mixture of areas of archaeological potential and previously assessed areas of no further CHVI. Although there was no potential for archaeological resources to be present near the surface due to the paved parking lot, the lower layers all had potential for deeply buried archaeological resources and/or human remains.

The Stage 2 assessment of the required worksites resulted in the identification of one cultural layer (Site 1) and one area with archaeological materials in a fill layer. Site 1 was identified within MW102 and the fill related artifacts were identified within BH200. No human remains or burial features were identified. The Stage 2 assessment indicated that only Site 1 was of further CHVI, necessitating further assessment. The Stage 3 assessment of Site 1 determined that it also had no further CHVI. Accordingly, the boreholes and monitoring well locations do not require any additional assessment.

Previous assessments within the former burying ground as well the Baker Street ROW indicate that the remainder of the study area retains potential for the recovery of archaeological resources and human remains. If any future impacts are proposed in these areas, it is recommended that an additional Stage 2 archaeological assessment be conducted in advance of soil disturbing activities. A Stage 3 assessment may also be warranted to facilitate the documentation and removal of deeply buried remains of no further CHVI so that deeper layers can be investigated.

Prior to any impacts, all areas of deeply buried archaeological potential must be subject to mechanical excavation. It is recommended that the full extent of the required area be mechanically investigated to expose any deeply buried resources in accordance with Section 2.1.7 Standard 3 of the 2011 S&Gs. Mechanical trenching at intervals is not appropriate given the potential for human remains across the property. An excavator or backhoe with an articulated wrist and a straight-bladed bucket must be utilized so that potential resources are not damaged. An archaeologist must be able to guide the excavation so that sections and clear profiles are visible. If any archaeological deposits possessing sufficient CHVI to support a recommendation to proceed to Stage 3 are encountered, the Stage 2 investigation must cease in that location. In some cases, the methods used in Stage 2 will be sufficient to accomplish the objectives of Stage 3, but it is often most practical to proceed immediately to Stage 3 and continue the assessment in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 3.3.3 of the 2011 S&Gs.

Given that there are outstanding archaeological concerns within the former limits of the Public Burying Ground and adjacent roadway, no ground alterations or development of any kind may occur until the investigations are complete, a recommendation that the lands require no further archaeological assessment is made, and the associated report is entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. If human remains are encountered, the City of Guelph has confirmed that Woodlawn Cemetery will be prepared to accommodate further interments of remains associated with Guelph's early pioneers as they are discovered and that the remains will be placed in their final resting place in a special area set up in Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Based on the information contained in the report, the ministry is satisfied that the fieldwork and reporting for the archaeological assessment are consistent with the ministry's 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and the terms and conditions for archaeological licences. This report has been entered into the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports. Please note that the ministry makes no representation or warranty as to the completeness, accuracy or quality of reports in the register.

Should you require any further information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shari Prowse
Archaeology Review Officer

cc. Archaeology Licensing Officer
Ed Taves, CH2M Hill/Jacobs
Prasoon Adhikari, City of Guelph

¹ *In no way will the ministry be liable for any harm, damages, costs, expenses, losses, claims or actions that may result: (a) if the Report(s) or its recommendations are discovered to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent; or (b) from the issuance of this letter. Further measures may need to be taken in the event that additional artifacts or archaeological sites are identified or the Report(s) is otherwise found to be inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or fraudulent.*