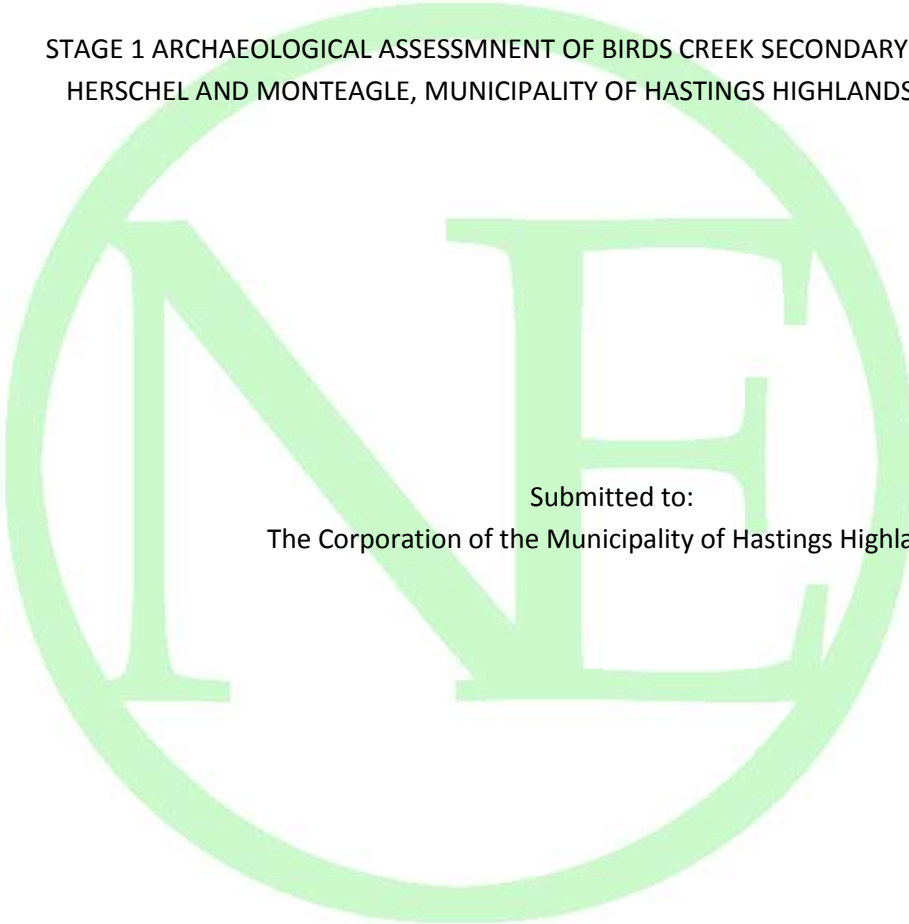


DRAFT

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF BIRDS CREEK SECONDARY PLAN, TOWNSHIPS OF
HERSCHEL AND MONTEAGLE, MUNICIPALITY OF HASTINGS HIGHLANDS, HASTINGS COUNTY



Submitted to:
The Corporation of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the spring of 2011 Northeastern Archaeological Associates Limited was contacted by the Corporation of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands requesting that, in compliance with the requirements outlined by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, a Stage 1 archaeological assessment be conducted the Community of Birds Creek. This Stage 1 assessment will become part of the Municipality's Secondary Plan to be added to the Hastings County Official Plan as an Amendment. According to the Request for Proposals the Birds Creek community covers an area of approximately 461 hectares and is home to approximately 400 people. Stage 1 research conducted in relation to this area indicates that portions of the community can be designated as high potential under the "Alternative strategies for special survey conditions: Test pit survey in northern Ontario and on Canadian Shield terrain" (MTC SG 2010, Sec. 2.1.5) due to the proximity of historic transportation routes, water sources, well-drained sandy soil, and areas of elevated topography. Stage 2 testing of this area according to these conditions would therefore be required for future development.

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1.0 PROJECT PERSONEL

Name	License Number	Position
Lawrence Jackson Ph. D.	P-025	Senior Archaeologist Project Manager
Justin Tighe	R-333	Property Inspection

2.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

2.1 Developmental Context

A Request for proposals, including a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment, for a Secondary Plan for the Hamlet of Birds Creek was issued by the Corporation of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands in February of 2011. This Secondary Plan will be one of four such that will take the form of an amendment to the Hastings County Official Plan, and is meant to guide development in the area of Birds Creek to the year 2030. The Development area as outlined in Map 6.1 (provided by the proponent) is located north of the Town of Bancroft on Highway 62. This area comprises approximately 461 hectares in the Townships of Herschel and Monteagle as shown on Map 6.2 (provided by the proponent). The area covered by the subject property comprises parts of concessions one, two, and three of Herschel Township and parts of concessions three and four of Monteagle Township.

2.2 Historical Context

The study area of Birds Creek lies within the Townships of Herschel and Monteagle, in the County of Hastings. The original County of Hastings was formed as part of the 1792 proclamation by Governor Simcoe which divided Upper Canada into nineteen Counties.

In June of 1858, 15 townships, including Herschel and Monteagle, were attached to Hastings County by the Act 22 Victoria Cap. 14. These townships, referred to as Northern Hastings, were located along the newly constructed Hastings Road (now referred to as York Road on the municipal plan), which stretched nearly 100 miles north from Madoc Township as shown in Map 6.3. Lots not in excess of 100 acres were surveyed along this colonization road, and were opened to settlers grant-free providing they meet the requirements put forth by the Government. These requirements were put forth in the form of "Conditions of Settlement", and required that: the grantee be 18 years of age, take possession within one month, put into cultivation twelve acres of land within four years, construct a log dwelling of at least 20 by 23 feet, and participate in maintenance of the road. Failure to meet any of these requirements would result in the loss of the assigned land (H. Belden & Co, 1878). Many of these free-grant lots were abandoned when it was determined that their suitability for farming was grossly over-estimated. The Hastings road has since been replaced as the main north-south transportation artery by Highway 62. The state of the original Hastings Road varies in this area and is displayed in Image 5.10. Unused sections of the "Old" Hastings Road are the location of several abandoned settlements and homesteads, none of which are located within the subject property.

Three of these free-grant Colonization Roads are located within the County of Hastings, and each is commemorated with an Ontario Heritage Trust historic plaque.

1) *The Hastings Road*

“This road was begun in 1854 as part of a network of "Colonization Roads" planned by the government to open the southern fringe of the Precambrian Shield to settlement. Under the supervision of Robert Bird, construction began at the northern boundary of Madoc Township and within a year 65 km of summer road had been built northward to a point near present-day Bancroft. The road, when completed, was about 160 km in length. The free-grant lots along its course were quickly taken up but poor soil prevented the development of a prosperous agriculture settlement. When the decline of lumbering in the region removed a market for produce and a source of employment, the settlers abandoned their farms and the road fell into disuse.”

2) *The Peterson Road*

“The Peterson Road was named after Joseph S. Peterson, the surveyor who determined its route in this region. Constructed between 1858-1863 at a cost of some \$39,000 it stretched about 183 km between the Muskoka and Opeongo Roads and formed part of a system of government colonization routes built to open up the southern region of the Precambrian Shield. Poor soil disappointed hopes of a large-scale agricultural settlement along this road both on government "free-grant" lots and on the lands of the Canadian Land and Emigration Company. Though portions of the route were overgrown by the 1870's, the Maynooth-Combermere section aided lumbering and now contributes to the development of an important Ontario vacation area.”

3) *The Monck Road*

“This road was constructed for the dual purpose of opening up a wilderness area to settlement and providing an alternative, less vulnerable military route between the upper Great Lakes and the Ottawa Valley. Its line from the vicinity of Lake Couchiching to the junction of the Hastings and Mississippi Colonization Roads at the hamlet of York River (now Bancroft), was surveyed in 1864-65 at the time of the American Civil War. Named in honour of the Governor General (1861-68), Lord Monck, construction was begun in 1866 and completed in 1873. Free grants of land along its route were made to persons fulfilling the required settlement duties.”

In 1861 a post office in the community of York Mills was opened and the town was renamed York River with J.C. Cleak as the Postmaster. By 1968 there were 89 families living in the area. York River was renamed Bancroft by Billa Flint, a Hastings County Senator, in 1879 after the maiden name of his mother-in-law, Phoebe Sawyer Bancroft. Three streets in Bancroft, Billa, Flint, and Phoebe, are named after this family. Bancroft remains the largest town centre in The Hastings Highlands.

The Central Ontario Railway reached Bancroft in 1899, extending from the Grand Trunk Railway between Toronto and Montreal north to Maynooth by 1907. Railway service to the area ceased in 1975 and the rail bed is now the location of the Hastings Heritage Trail (Image 5.9). The Old Station in Bancroft is still standing and is the location the present-day art gallery, mineral museum and visitors centre for Bancroft. The Irondale Bancroft & Ottawa Railway was a train route between Howland Junction and the Central Railway in Birds Creek begun in 1880 by W.S. Myles, then purchased and rebuilt by Charles Pusey and Henry Howland after the original line went bankrupt.

Due to the regions lack of potential for large-scale farming; mining and lumber comprised the after the bulk of local industry during the late 19th to early 20th century. The complex geological history of the Bancroft area resulted in the discovery and exploitation of a wealth of minerals used for industrial and ornamental purposes. This has earned Bancroft the title of the “Mineral Capital of Canada”. The discovery of Uranium in the Faraday Township area in 1949 resulted in a resurgence of mining activity in the area lasting until the 1980s. Mineral collecting or “rockhounding” continues to fund a portion of the area’s tourism.

The community of Birds Creek, located 6 kilometers north of Bancroft was started in the late 1800s when Mr. Thomas French opened a sawmill and cheese factory on nearby Birds Lake. The population of the Birds Creek area during this time is said to have numbered approximately 50 people, including the town blacksmith Mr. James Best. Birds Creek is situated east of the York River, which was a major logging transportation waterway. High Falls (Image 5.11), located northeast of Birds Creek, was the location of a dam constructed in 1866 by the Bronsun & Weston Company to facilitate log driving from Baptiste Lake. The dam at High Falls was reported to cause major spring flooding in the downstream community of Bancroft (Anderson et al, 2003). The High Falls Dam is now a concrete structure maintained by the MNR for the purpose of water level control. Most commercial development in Birds Creek is located along Highway 62, while industrial development is primarily restricted to the southwest near the York River (Image 5.8).

The lands occupied by the Townships of Herschel and Monteagle were involved in two separate land transfers with Ontario’s First Nations. Hershel Township was included in a surrender of lands by the Chippewa and Ojibwa Nations on November 5, 1818. Monteagle Township was included in the lands sold by the Mississauga Nations as part of the Williams Treaty in the fall of 1923.

2.3 Archaeological Context

The development area is situated on the Canadian Shield within a glacial spillway which today contains the waterways known as Birds Creek, Faraday Creek, and the York River. This spillway is characterized by large flat sand plains. The area surrounding this spillway is characterized by shallow glacial till pierced by ridges of bedrock of the Grenville Province, a geological formation characterized by

metamorphosed sediments in the form of marbles and gneisses, as well as metamorphosed volcanic deposits, plutonic intrusions, and skarn deposits. This geologic province dates from between 900 million and 1.5 billion years B.P. Glacial till which thinly cover the bedrock in this region were deposited during the most recent glacial retreat. A 2008 study by the County of Hastings refers to the amounts of available aggregate in the region by township. The Townships of Herschel and Monteaule were reported to contain 66.45 and 95.04 million cubic metres of available aggregate respectively as of 1987. This report specifically refers to the till outwash which extends from Hickey Corners south along Birds Creek as well as a glaciofluvial deposit south of Maynooth.

As the subject property lies within the Canadian Shield geologic area, the “Alternative strategies for special survey conditions: Test pit survey in northern Ontario and on Canadian Shield terrain” apply (MTC SG 2010, Sec. 2.1.5). The aforementioned conditions state that stage 2 testing must be conducted at high potential (5 meters) intervals within 50 meters of an identified feature of archaeological potential such as:

- i) previously identified archaeological sites
- ii) a historic watercourse or body of water, or features identifying the past presence of such
- iii) an early historic transportation route
- iv) areas of early Euro-Canadian Settlement
- v) locations identified through local knowledge or informants
- vi) elevated topography
- vii) pockets of well-drained sandy soil
- viii) distinctive land formations
- ix) resource areas
- x) locations listed or designated by a municipality, or that is a historic landmark

Beyond 50 meters stage 2 testing intervals of 10 meters must be maintained until a distance of 150 meters from the feature of archaeological potential. No further testing beyond 150 meters is required. Features of archaeological significance including several historic waterways and water bodies are located within or abutting the Birds Creek community limits, as well as the original location of the Hastings road. All features and their recommended testing strategies have been identified in Map 6.5. The physiography of the region is such that the majority of the community is located in the low-lying level terrain of a glacial spillway and is characterized by sandy soil. This soil type is identified as having the potential for cultural remains in shield regions. Accordingly the areas not within the 50 meter zone surrounding other areas of high potential have been identified as zones of complex testing where a 5 meter interval will be necessary unless the stage 2 test grid is interrupted by zones of low potential such as bedrock outcroppings, aggregate deposits, or areas of poor soil quality. The elevated bedrock ridge bisecting the eastern portion of the community is considered an example of elevated topography, and testing of this area is therefore recommended. Due to the aforementioned overlapping areas of archaeological potential it is probable that a 5m testing interval could be maintained over the majority of testable ground. Testable areas include forests of White Pine and mixed deciduous vegetation which

would require shovel testing (Image 5.2, 5.3), as well as open cleared areas and fields suitable for ploughing and surface survey testing (Image 5.1, 5.2).

Areas exempt from Stage 2 testing include all existing road/railway beds, existing building footprints, slopes in excess of 20 degrees, permanently wet areas, and any areas disturbed below the sterile subsoil horizon such as areas of industrial development (Image 5.8).

On May 30 2011, a property inspection was conducted by Northeastern Archaeological Associates Field Technician Justin Tighe. The purpose of the property inspection was to gain first-hand knowledge of the subject property to verify information gained from maps and satellite imagery, and to photograph the areas of archaeological potential and disturbance. The property inspection did not result in the observance of any visible features of cultural significance such as historic buildings or cemeteries in the subject property although the potential for such exists in less accessible areas of the subject property. The site visit confirmed the presence of large areas of high potential physiography in the form sand spillway plains and property adjacent to waterways and historic transportation routes. The site inspection also confirmed that the occurrence of low potential areas is minimal and limited to areas of steep/rocky slope and modern soil disturbance. The locations of photographs taken during the property inspection are illustrated in Map 6.6.

3.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

1. a. This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Culture as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.
- b. It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
- c. Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

d. The *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.

2. Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological licence.

4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES

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5.0 IMAGES



Image 5.1: Oriented NW, Open Level Fields of Sandy Soil



Image 5.2: Oriented NE, Cleared Lot and Edge of White Pine Forest



Image 5.3: Oriented E, White Pine Forest on Subject Property



Image 5.4: Oriented SE, Elevated Area of Buck Hill Abutting Highway 62



Image 5.5: Oriented NW, Elevated Area Behind Residential Lots on Peever Rd.



Image 5.6: Oriented SE, the York River Contacting the Subject Property



Image 5.7: Oriented NE, Sand Pit and Shoreline of Bird Lake



Image 5.8: Oriented W, Large Wood Product Processing Facility



Image 5.9: Oriented N, the Hastings Heritage Trail

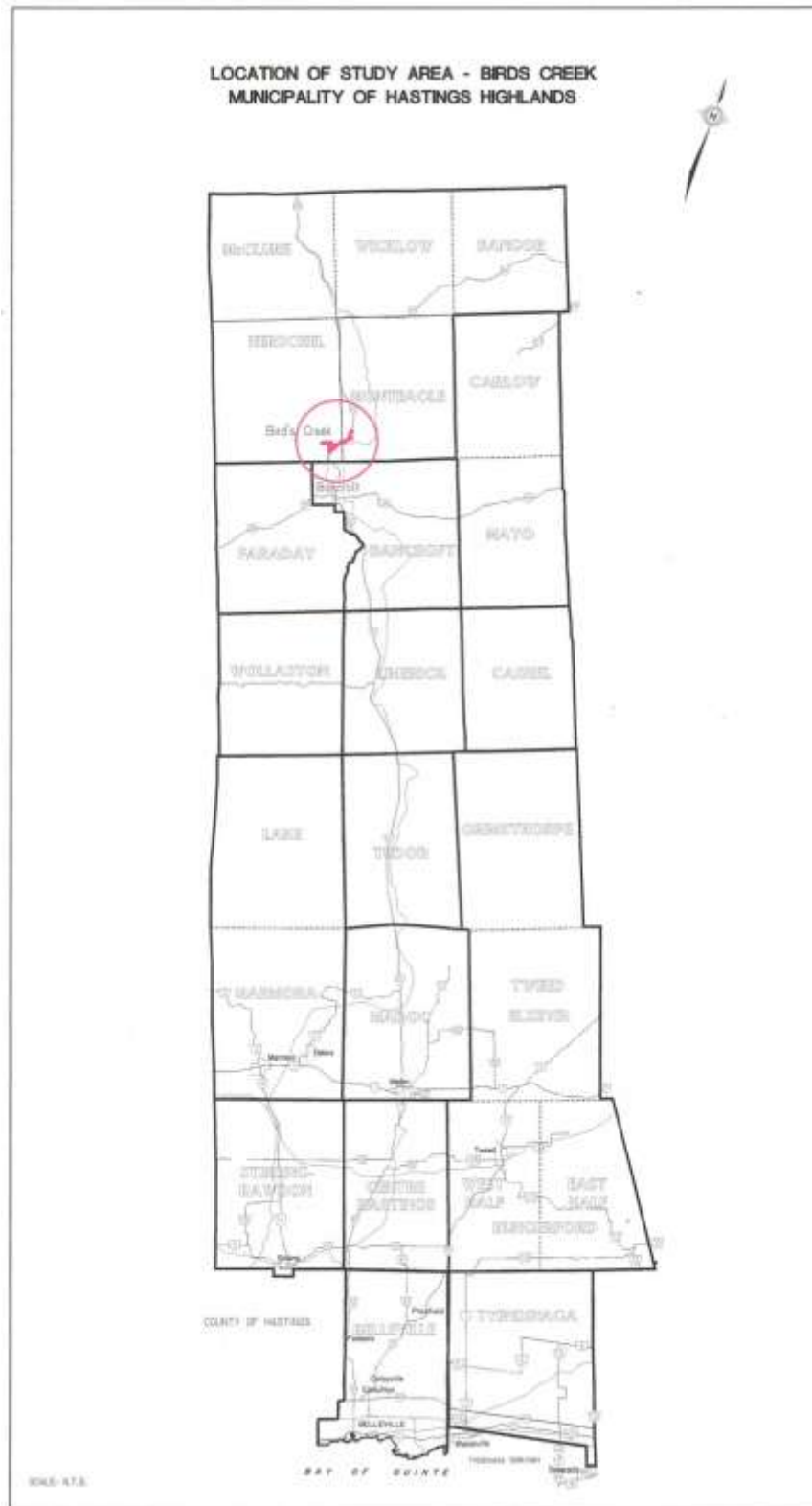


Image 5.10: Oriented N, Section Hastings (York) Road still in use to the Southeast of Subject Property

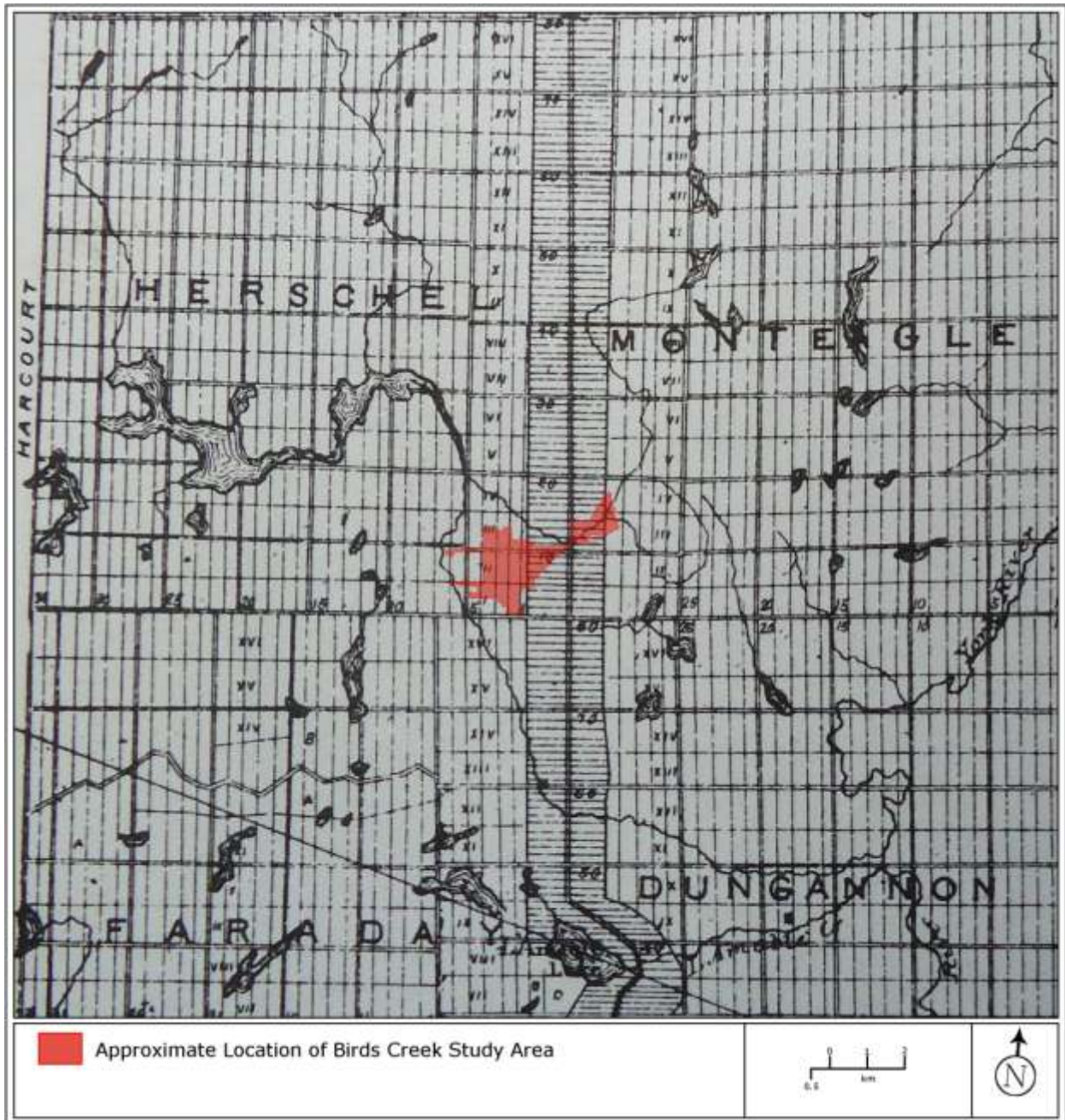


Image 5.11: Historic Image of High Falls Before the Construction of the First Dam in 1866 (Anderson et al, 2003)

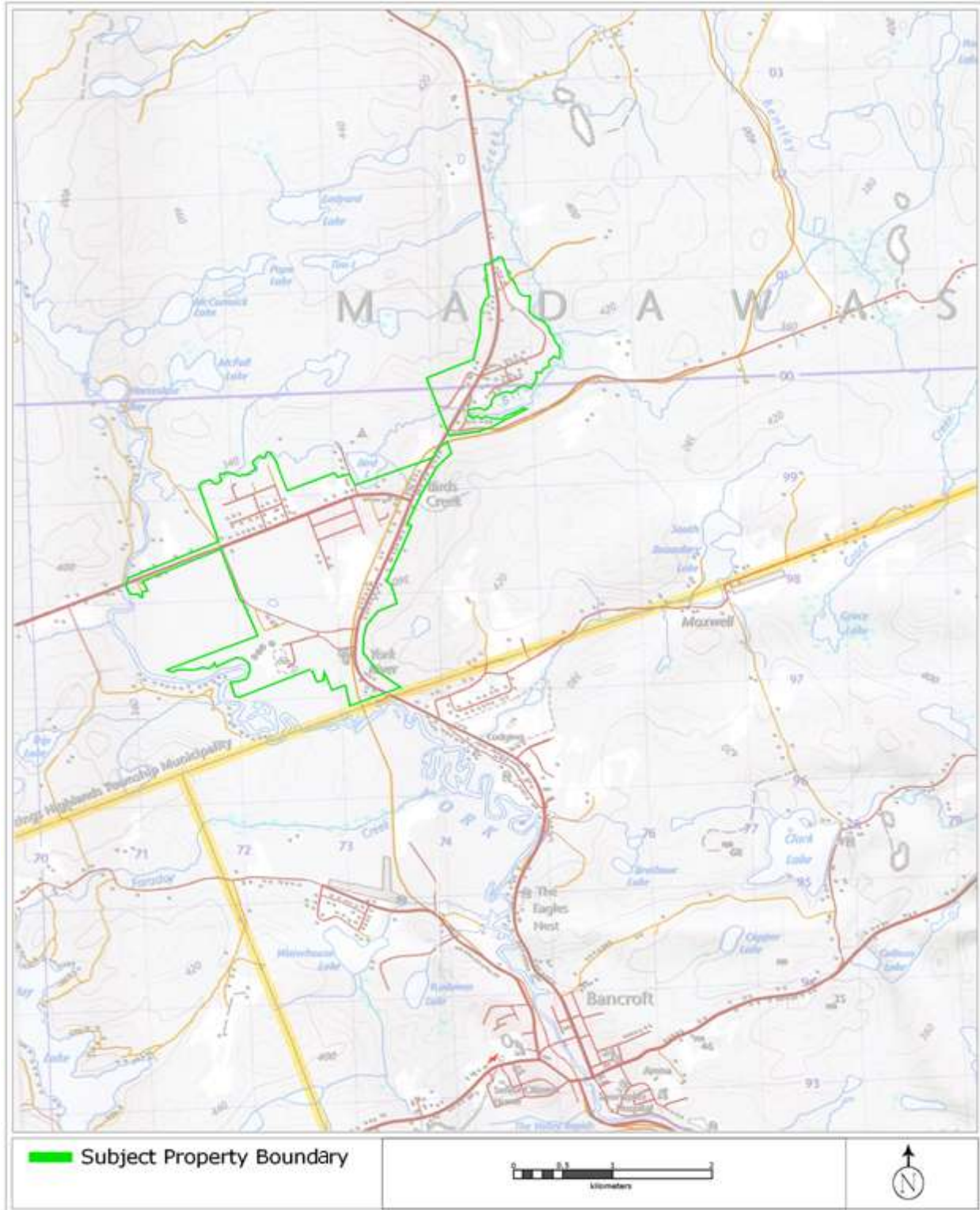
6.0 MAPS



Map 6.1: Location of Development Area (provided by proponent)



Map 6.3: Illustrated Historic Atlas Map Showing Study Area in Red (H. Belden & Co)



Map 6.4: 1:50 000 Topographic Map Showing the Subject Property



Map 6.6: Satellite Image of Subject Property with Location of Photographs