

City of Mississauga

Memorandum



Date: January 31, 2022

To: Chair and Members of Heritage Advisory Committee .

From: Paul Damaso, Director, Culture

Meeting date: February 8, 2022

Subject: **The Antrex Site (Ward 5)**

This memorandum and its attachment are presented for the Heritage Advisory Committee's information.

The Antrex archaeological Site is the remnants of a village that was occupied in the thirteenth or fourteenth century (700-800 years ago). The village was occupied by several hundred individuals who lived in a series of longhouses that were surrounded by a palisade and in turn by expansive agricultural fields. Archaeological investigations at the site identified nine longhouses, two middens and portions of the palisade. Over 40,000 artifacts were recovered during the archaeological excavations. The people who lived at the village were the ancestors of the present-day Huron-Wendat, Wyandot and Haudenosaunee communities, and it is understood that Anishinaabe peoples often visited and resided in these villages, although evidence of this occupation was not documented during the archaeological excavations (Appendix 1).

The proper name for the village is unknown. The site was given its name by the archaeologists who first recorded the finds and is not attributable to any people or community associated with the descendants of the village's occupants.

The village would have been occupied for at least one generation, before the soils surrounding the village began to lose their capacity to bear crops. The community would have then moved to another established location, typically within the same watershed, after closing the village through ceremony.

The village was a complex, organized settlement, with a central open space, dedicated waste management areas, and structures built in a specific and sequenced pattern. The palisade around the village provided entry in the village itself and provided protection from the surrounding environs.

The village was located within a part of Southern Ontario that was occupied by groups who later became the Attawandaron and Wendat confederacies. It is not known if the village was

occupied by either group, although archaeologists suggest that it may have been an ancestral Huron-Wendat village.

The village has been completely removed, based on the archaeological reports on file (Appendix 2) although there may be some remnants of the village extant within the adjacent woodlot. The village was excavated from 1992-1994 and was thoroughly documented at that time.

The village was located on lands which are adjacent to the former Grand Highland Golf Course. The former golf course has recently been acquired by the City of Mississauga and is to be used as a publicly accessible park.

Given the proximity of the former golf course/ future park to the village, there is an opportunity for the City to continue its efforts towards reconciliation by incorporating themes, knowledge and perspectives from the descendant communities to tell their story where it has been previously erased.

Heritage Planning and Indigenous Relations will continue to work with the Parks, Forestry & Environment team to ensure that appropriate engagement occurs with our partnering Indigenous communities. Possible interpretation can include, but is in no way limited to, naming, interpretive walks and trails, facilities inspired by community supported design and themes. By including Indigeneity into the park, the City of Mississauga can ensure that the current and future residents of the City can gain awareness and understanding about the people who came before them and who share their land with us.

Conclusion

Heritage Planning and Indigenous Relations will work closely with Parks, Forestry & Environment to include interpretation of the Antrex site village as part of the renovation and redevelopment of the former Grand Highland Golf Course. Final details regarding the interpretation will be reported back to the committee as the park redevelopment and engagement process proceeds.

Paul Damaso, Director, Culture Division

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Appendix 1: Deputation presentation- Antrex Site

Appendix 2: Report on the Salvage Excavation of the Antrex Site (AjGv-38)