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The shallow point of land at a narrows at one lake in the Nesswabic River Watershed has been used by big game animals as a preferred crossing point for centuries. Such locations have extremely high potential as archaeological sites since traditional hunters preferred to kill large animals in the water where they could not move as rapidly as on land. A site overlooking the crossing yielded a range of slate, quartz and chert lithics, an extensive amount of snapped animal bone and a range of diagnostic ceramics .

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Vito Vaccarelli

The Ontario Archaeological Society gratefully acknowledges funding from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture through the Provincial Heritage Organization Operating Grant Program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another spring – and another field season! The OAS has been kept busy the past few months on a number of fronts. This included applying for and obtaining a small grant from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. With these funds we were able to update the office computer, create the capacity to hold board meetings by tele-conference, undertake to scan in our archive of Arch Notes, and convert our membership database to an online service members can directly access from the internet. This latter initiative will greatly enhance how members interact with the OAS, and help automate many of the membership tasks that the Executive Director looks after manually at present. So stay tuned for these various initiatives to bear fruit in the coming months, and thanks to the Ministry for their support.

In my guise as an academic archaeologist I get to attend conferences from time to time, including the annual Society for American Archaeology meetings, held most recently in Sacramento. And beyond the treat of experiencing sunny and warm weather during the last throes of winter back home, my greatest pleasant surprise of the meeting was when I visited the CRM expo. In a very big room set off to one side of the conference center, many American CRM firms, university applied archaeology programs, and other culture heritage management folks manned booths and spoke to passersby about their companies, projects and work.

My surprise was in talking to a number of people who, as it turned out, were quite familiar with what's happening in Ontario, and expressed rather positive views about what has been happening here. One person mentioned how impressed they were that, in their opinion, professional

accreditation is tougher here than it is for the Registry for Professional Archaeologists in the States (both require experience and a thesis MA for professional level accreditation, but Ontario also asks for additional details). While the person acknowledged it was a pain pulling their application together, nonetheless they also wished there was something like that where they come from.

At another booth a person commented that they were quite familiar with the Standards & Guidelines and felt they were really useful. He said his company refers to and uses them frequently in their own work, and has used sections of the (then draft) S&G in an applied archaeology course. When I pointed out that the S&G are controversial among some in the community here, he acknowledged the potential for problems, but then pointed that the absence of standards of practice where he is from, especially for non federally-funded projects, is the single biggest headache the company contends with in its day to day.

Mind you, I also spoke to many people who had no clue about Ontario archaeology, let alone things like licensing and standards of practice for commercial work. But to run into people who were aware of the Ontario scene and voicing some longing for something similar in their part of the world was a bit of a shock.

But then it is often the case that we get so internally focussed we don't really see, or at least appreciate, that on the wider landscape we are just one way of doing things. While I'm sure there was some 'grass is greener' going on, nonetheless I confess it was a treat to hear Ontario archaeology and what we are achieving as something positive to talk about, way down deep in the sunny heart of Sacramento!

FRIENDS OF MURPHYS POINT PARK RECEIVES PEGGI ARMSTRONG AWARD

Friends of Murphys Point Park and local archaeologists Brenda Kennett and Jeff Earl were awarded The Peggi Armstrong Public Archaeology Award. The award recognizes individuals and groups that show commitment to a greater public awareness of archaeology.

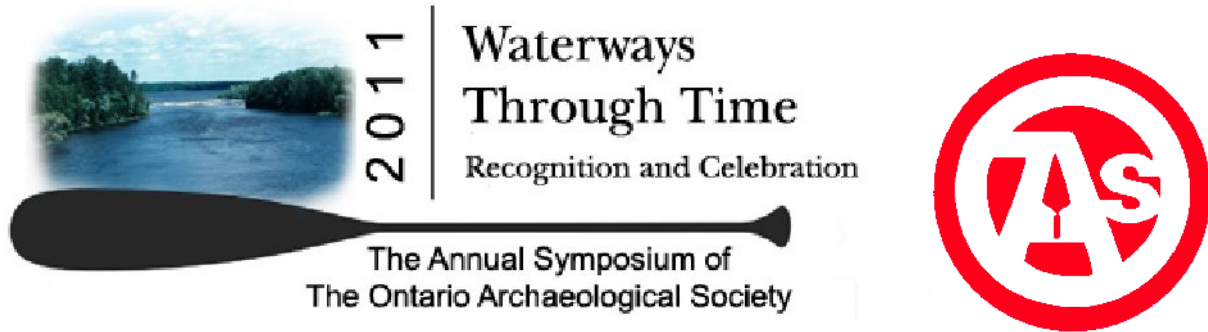
"The Friends celebrated their 15th anniversary in 2010, and it seemed appropriate that they also receive the recognition they deserve for a successful public archaeology program," said Glenna Roberts, Ottawa chapter president. "In addition, Brenda and Jeff are well known for their professionalism and steadfast support for local archaeology. Recognition of their significant contribution to furthering archaeological research is long overdue."

March/April 2011



Jeff Earl, Brenda Kennett, Stephanie Gray (Friends of Murphys Point Park), and Judy Bufton (l to r) celebrate the Peggi Armstrong Award.

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Call for Papers

The 38th annual symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held Oct. 13-16, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario.

The organizing committee invites abstracts for the following sessions:

New Insights into the Prehistory of the Ottawa Valley - Papers in Memory of Phill Wright

Into the Heart of a Continent - Waterways as Vectors of Change; an examination of the communication and trade carried along our rivers

From Sites to Cities - Archaeology within Urban Landscapes; potential mapping, development planning and cultural resources

There Once was a Sea Here - Accounting for Dynamic Landscapes; the challenges of locating and documenting sites from remote times

There will also be an open conference session and an open poster session.

For more information or to submit a 150 word abstract, please contact

symposium@ontarioarchaeology.on.ca

The conference will be held at

Ottawa City Hall
110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, ON



THE NESSWABIC (PETAWAWA) RIVER WATERSHED: ZONE OF POLITICAL TENSION OVER THE CENTURIES

Since 2004 William Allen, with First Nations co-learners at his side, has undertaken site visits and research on the archaeology, traditional use patterns, pictographs and other sacred sites in Algonquin Park, including those in the Petawawa River Watershed. First Nations involvement in the design and implementation of this work has provided Allen with an understanding of the voice, spirituality, land use, historical context and holistic perspectives of those co-learners.

Special thanks are extended to Elder Skip Ross, Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, for valuable advice and peer reviewing the paper. Elder Ross has intimate knowledge of the watershed and is related to the family lines of both the Pennaisez and du Fond families, both of whom are mentioned in the paper. Thanks also to Dave Oliver of Skylark Information Systems Ltd. for the custom cartography.)

by William A. Allen

INTRODUCTION

The Petawawa River is in the news. Formerly named Nesswabic upstream from Cedar Lake, in 1829 Alexander Shirreff declared the entire river to be the Nesswabic (Sherriff 1831:275; Fig. 1). As a result Nesswabic and Petawawa are used interchangeably in this paper. The river, a tertiary watershed and tributary of the Ottawa River, rises in the high country just west of Algonquin Park along the height of land dividing the watersheds flowing to the Ottawa River on the north and east and to Georgian Bay on the west. The height of land (Fig. 2) is the spine of the Algonquin Dome, the region bounded on the west by Georgian Bay, on the north by the French River, Lake Nipissing, Mattawa and upper Ottawa River, on the east by the middle reaches of the Ottawa River and on the south by the Kawartha Lakes, Lake Simcoe and the Severn River (Allen 2004a:38-68; Allen 2007: 56-75). The Petawawa River flows across the northern part of Algonquin Park and on to its mouth at the community of Petawawa opposite Allumette Island in the Ottawa River. In its upper reaches it accepts waters from five major tributaries or quaternary watersheds – Nipissing, Cauchon, North, Little Madawaska and Crow. In its lower reaches it accepts one more tributary, the Barron River which drains Grand Lake and originally was called the ‘Pittoiwais’ (Knowles 1834; Fig. 1).

The Petawawa drops over 250 metres along its course, 80 of those metres between two adjacent lakes, Catfish Lake on the ‘Table Land’ of the Algonquin Plateau and Cedar Lake in the ancient glacial meltwater channel. Because there are no turbines along the entire length of the river, the Petawawa recently has become a target for consideration for small hydroelectric proposals.

In 2004 the Pembina Institute and Canadian Environmental

Law Association, curiously describing small-scale hydro plants as a ‘low-impact’ energy source, made aggressive recommendations about future contributions by 2020 of small-scale hydro to Ontario’s electricity supply mix (Winfield et al. 2004). In 2005 Hatch Acres published a report, commissioned by the Ontario Waterpower Association, identifying potential waterpower sites throughout the province. The report identified 491 potential sites in Ontario in the range of 1 to 10 Megawatts, 24 of the sites on the Petawawa River, including 17 within the Algonquin Park portion of the river (Hatch Acres 2005: Table A1.1). In 2011 the first two proposals are under active consideration (Chase 2011) and, despite being listed by Hatch Acres as ‘Not Practical’, are proceeding under provisions of the Green Energy and Green Economy Act 2009 (Ontario 2009).

Interest in the Petawawa River as a potential waterpower source will lead to the need for the archaeological community to document the complex cultural heritage context of the watershed. In the 1960s Barry Mitchell documented the material culture at specific sites in the lower and middle portions of the watershed as far upstream as Cedar Lake (Mitchell et al 1966; Mitchell et al 1970). Further archaeological data was documented by William Hurley during the 1971 field season when 170 sites were identified within the Algonquin Park portion of the Petawawa Watershed, by far the most archaeologically productive watershed in the park (Hurley 1972:202; Fig. 3). Contemporary archaeological surveys now will have to be conducted in an atmosphere of public scrutiny since there is no consensus that the public interest is best served by releasing rapids and waterfall sites for hydroelectric development. In the last century such sites have been valued because of their natural characteristics and have been considered protected, especially those within Algonquin Park, whose management plan ensures protection of “provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape” (Ontario Parks 1998:7).



Fig. 1: Detail from Maria Knowles 1834 Map 10131, Public Archives Canada

The map detail chosen covers the area between 79° and 77° west longitude and the entire Petawawa River Watershed. Along the Ottawa River the position of Mattawa shows as Mattawowen Bay at the upper left and Les Allumettes (Allumette Island) shows near the right edge.

A cluster of traders' huts is shown just upstream from the mouth of the

Petawawa River which Shirreff calls the Nesswabic. A bit further upstream is a hill with a 'Grand View' which we know now as Oiseau Rock (CaGh-2), a well known pictograph site. Grand Lake and Barron River are labeled Pittoiwais.

Shirreff's 1829 outbound route (detailed in Fig. 4) includes the passage from Deux Rivières via Leach (now Greenbough Lake) to Trout Lake (now Radiant Lake), then on to Cedar Lake and the series of mostly unnamed lakes on the upper

Petawawa River south of Cedar Lake, including Mississauga (now Misty Lake). The height of land is labelled south of Otter (now McIntosh Lake).

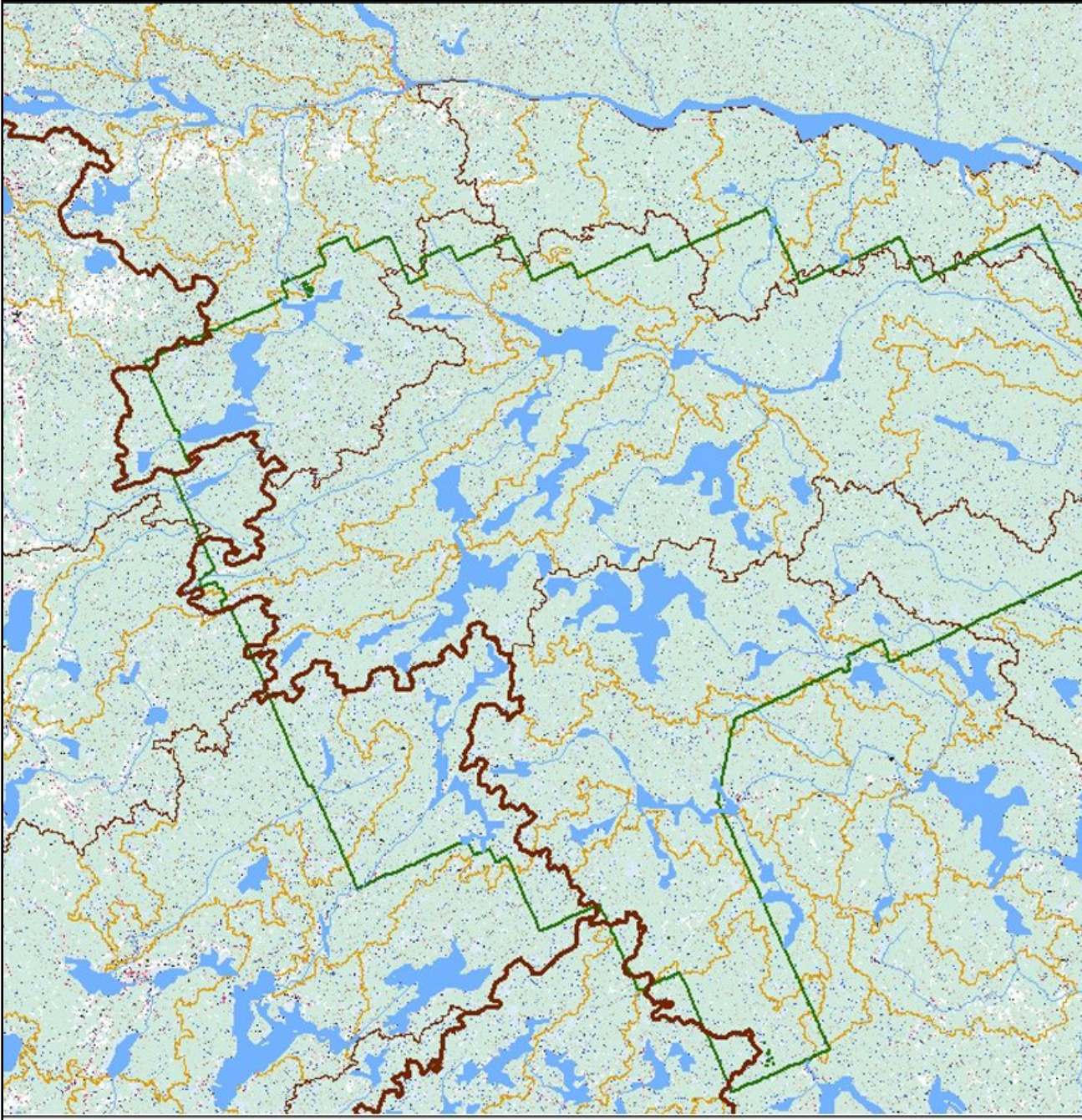
The map shows Shirreff's homebound route (detailed in Fig. 5) including the Cranberry Marsh where Briscoe received directions from a Native man in 1826, the Peonga Lakes (Opeongo, Lac Clair now Dickson, and La Vieille) and the Nesswabic River with the entry "has a swift descent from Cedar L."

Fig. 2: Heights of Land and River Flow Regime

The purpose of this map is to show the broad context of the river systems adjacent to the Petawawa River. The height of land from which rivers flow to the Ottawa River is along an irregular line from the City of North Bay on Lake Nipissing at the upper left to the panhandle of Algonquin Park. The same height of land is the headwaters for rivers

flowing to Georgian Bay. The heavy line at the centre, bottom of the map shows headwaters of streams flowing southward through the Kawartha Lakes and Trent River to Lake Ontario. Clockwise from the top of the map the tertiary watersheds are as follows: Ottawa River tertiary watersheds are Amable du Fond, the stem of the Ottawa River, Petawawa, Bonnechere and

Opeongo/Madawaska. Continuing clockwise in the Lake Ontario Watershed are the Redstone/Kennisis watersheds. Finishing with the Georgian Bay tertiary watersheds are, from south to north, the Muskoka, Magnetawan and South (tributary of Lake Nipissing/French River). All tertiary watersheds are further divided into local quaternary watersheds.



Therefore it is important to have a general description of the watershed, the water flow features of its tertiary and quaternary watersheds, and its occupation by a mixture of different cultural groups over time.

The common access routes to the upper Petawawa have changed over the centuries as values, technology and the economic priorities of the day have shifted. Using arrows pointing in opposite directions across the Algonquin Dome, Bruce Trigger described a “zone of political tension” in his mapping of 1634 Intertribal relations at the beginning of the Jesuit period of influence (Trigger 1976:487). Each period in the last 400 years has had similar tensions in the region and evidence of decades with rapid shifts in values, as in the 1820s, the decade prior to the arrival of the timber industry. This paper provides the historical context for archaeological finds to date and sheds light on the political tensions of different periods in the watershed.

Early 17th Century:

In the early 17th century the French were interested in long distance routes so the documentation by Champlain, Sagard and the Jesuits had a focus largely on the eastern, northern and western perimeter of the Algonquin Dome, not the interior. From early in the French regime personalities such as Iroquet, Ochasteguain, Brulé, and Nicollet, one of Champlain’s Nipissing interpreters, had traversed a web of canoe and snowshoe routes across the interior of the region, but they left no detailed documentation (Fischer 2008; Trigger 1976:460).

D.F. Fischer depicts the 1618-1620 movements of Nicollet across the Algonquin Dome along a stylized route reminiscent of routes documented at a later date (Fischer 2008:497). By 1636 the Nipissings had incurred the wrath of Tessouat, the Algonquin Chief at Allumette Island a short distance downstream from the mouth of the Petawawa River, because they refused to support Tessouat in a war against the Iroquois. As a result they did not venture down the Ottawa River for a few years (Trigger 1976:608).

However, we should not assume that the Nipissings discontinued movements in the northern parts of the Algonquin Dome adjacent to Lake Nipissing, including the interior canoe route between Lake Nipissing and Cedar Lake via the South River and Nipissing River, the latter a tributary of the Petawawa (Fig. 4). Also, the presence within the Algonquin Dome of Ottawa Valley Algonquian groups (Mataouachkariniens, Onontchateronons, Kinouchepiriririk, Weweskariniens, those of Allumette Island and others) should not be ruled out because these Algonquian groups gathered and wintered near the Wendat at the south end of Georgian Bay and the area immediately west of Lake Couchiching, but did not necessarily restrict their travels to the perimeter route favoured by the French, especially during times when relations with the Nipissings were strained (Allen 2004b; Thwaites 1896-1901:24:269).

In February and March of 1636, when François Marguerie and four Algonquins undertook a 40 day snowshoe trek from

Allumette Island to Wendake, their route relative to the Algonquin Dome “over ice and snow, and through forests ... and over roads so strange” was not recorded (Thwaites 1896-1901:10:75, 321n). Likewise, when the Jesuits established the mobile St. Esprit mission among the Nipissings in 1641, Claude Pijart and Charles Raymbault followed the people on their seasonal rounds ... “They seem to have as many abodes as the year has Seasons...” without recording the geography traversed (Thwaites 1896-1901:21:269). Of course, in addition to Ottawa Valley groups, the Nipissings and other Lake Huron Anishinaabeg wintered near the Wendats too, so there is no clear delineation of specific territories within the Algonquin Dome in this period or during most of the next two centuries. Suffice it to say, as Algonquin Elder William Commanda commented during his float plane visit with the author to the upper Petawawa River Watershed on Oct. 7, 2005, “There is no part of this land that my people did not know.”

Early 19th Century:

After the War of 1812 the British colonial authorities were unnerved by the possibility of further American intervention in the affairs of Upper Canada, now Ontario. Interest grew in finding favourable water routes across the Algonquin Dome. In the period from 1793 to 1840 “all Indians north of Lake Ontario (Chippewas, Amikous and Mississaugas) were referred to as the Mississaugas” (Orr 1915:15) as multiple maps of this period prove. Since the Petawawa River was the longest easterly-flowing tributary draining the Algonquin Dome (187 kilometers long, area 4,200 square kilometers, mean discharge 45 m³/s – NRCAN) it was just a matter of time before exploration along its tumultuous length would be documented. In 1793 Robert Pilkington, Lieutenant of the Royal Engineers and accompanist of Gov. John Simcoe, had made an entry on his map of the Black River tributary of the Severn River stating, “The source of this river is reported to be near the head of the Rideau. Canoes go up it a great distance.” (Murray 1963:19).

It was more than 25 years after Pilkington created his map before an 1819 survey was undertaken in the region by James Catty, Lieutenant of the Royal Engineers. Catty’s map has not survived except as an insert in other maps of the period (Murray 1963: opp 37, 45). His route skirted the southern part of the Algonquin Dome in the Madawaska Watershed so he did not venture as far north as the Petawawa Watershed. It was not until 1826 that Henry Briscoe, another Lieutenant of the Royal Engineers and veteran of the War of 1812, crossed the region via the Severn, Muskoka and upper Madawaska Watersheds to reach Lake Lavielle in the Petawawa River Watershed and then downstream via the Crow and Nesswabic (Petawawa) Rivers to the Ottawa River “8 leagues above Fort Coulogne” (Murray 1963:45, 46; Saunders 1963:14; Fig. 5).

The Ottawa River itself has long been regarded as a route westward from Montreal using large canoes to distant locations in the fur trade – north of Mattawa to Lake Timiskaming and James Bay, and west of Mattawa to Lake

Nipissing, the French River, upper Great Lakes and the Great Northwest. Long distance travelers in large voyageur canoes did not venture into the interior of the Algonquin Dome.

In 1821 The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) united with the Northwest Company, disrupting old trading relationships and throwing many traders out of work because consolidation resulted in lower wages and staff cutbacks. Initially the country came under the management of two councils, Northern and Southern, each headed by its Governor, but the posts at Lake of Two Mountains near Montreal and Fort Coulonge on the Ottawa River were left in the hands of North West agents, known after 1821 as McGillivrays, Thain & Co. (Mitchell 1977:114). At the time Fort Coulonge, at the mouth of Lower Canada's (Québec's) Coulonge River just

downstream from Allumette Island, was the major supply point for Mattawa and surrounding region. Adjustment to the new organizational reality was not smooth. In 1823 the full order of leather usually supplied by Fort Coulonge to Timiskaming was not delivered (Mitchell 1977:134) and hardship ensued. In 1823 when Aboriginal trappers from Lake Huron (some of whose trapping grounds were on the Algonquin Dome) visited Fort Timiskaming to sell their furs they were told never to return but to undertake their transactions at one of the Company's posts on Lake Huron (Mitchell 1977:138). It was not until 1826, the year after a serious international business recession, that McGillivrays, Thain & Co. failed and Northern Governor George Simpson became Governor of the Southern and Montreal

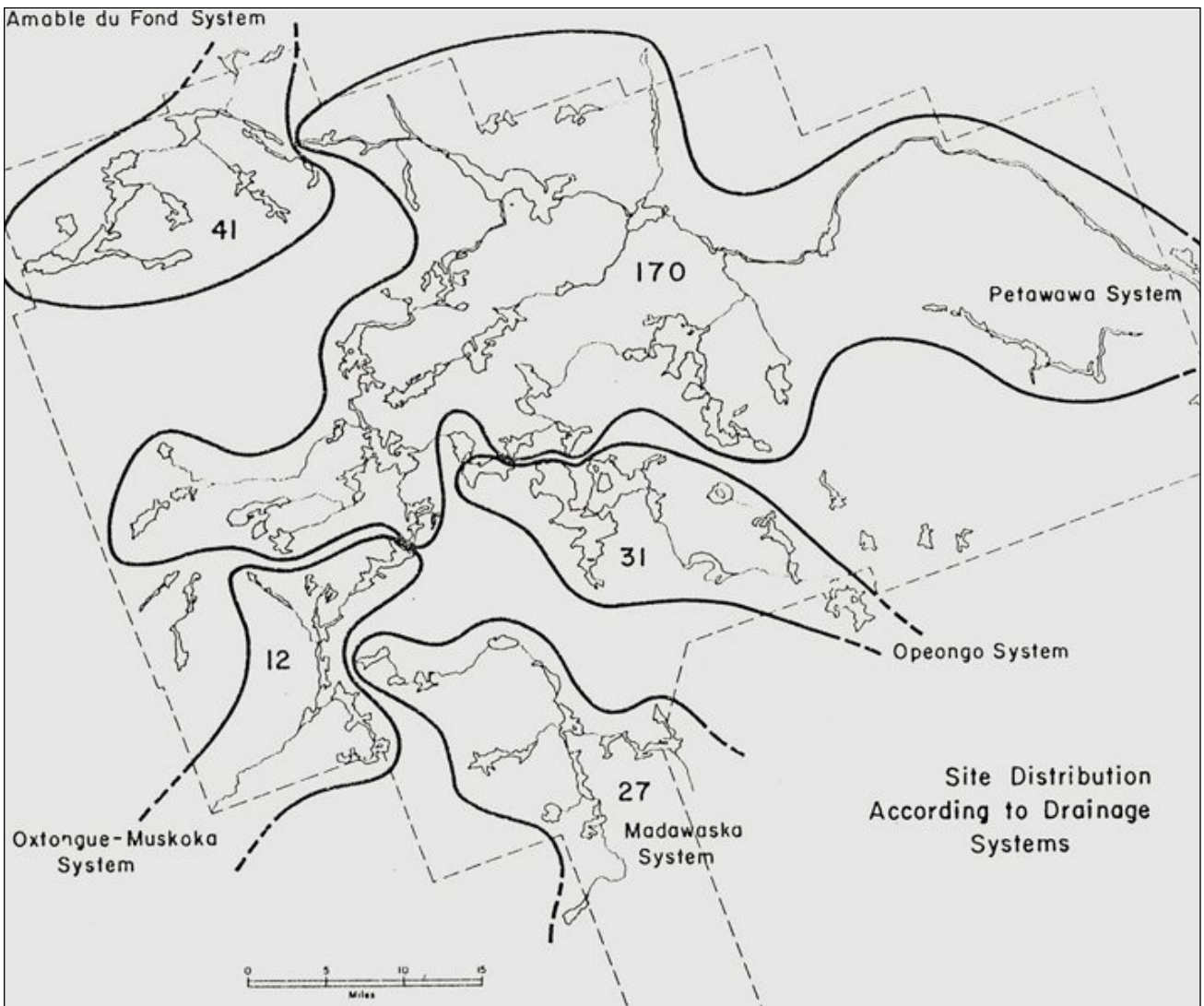


Fig. 3: Archaeological Site Distribution According to Drainage Systems

This map is a reprint of William Hurley's summary of the distribution of archaeological sites within the most prominent tertiary watersheds of

Algonquin Park as identified in a two year study by a team from the University of Toronto (Hurley 1971:202). Of the total of 281 sites, 170 were identified in the Petawawa Watershed and 41 in the Amable du Fond Watershed.

Hurley's map does not document sites in tertiary watersheds whose headwaters are in Algonquin Park but whose area within Algonquin Park is limited (South/French, Magnetawan, Kennisis/Redstone/ Trent, Bonnechere).

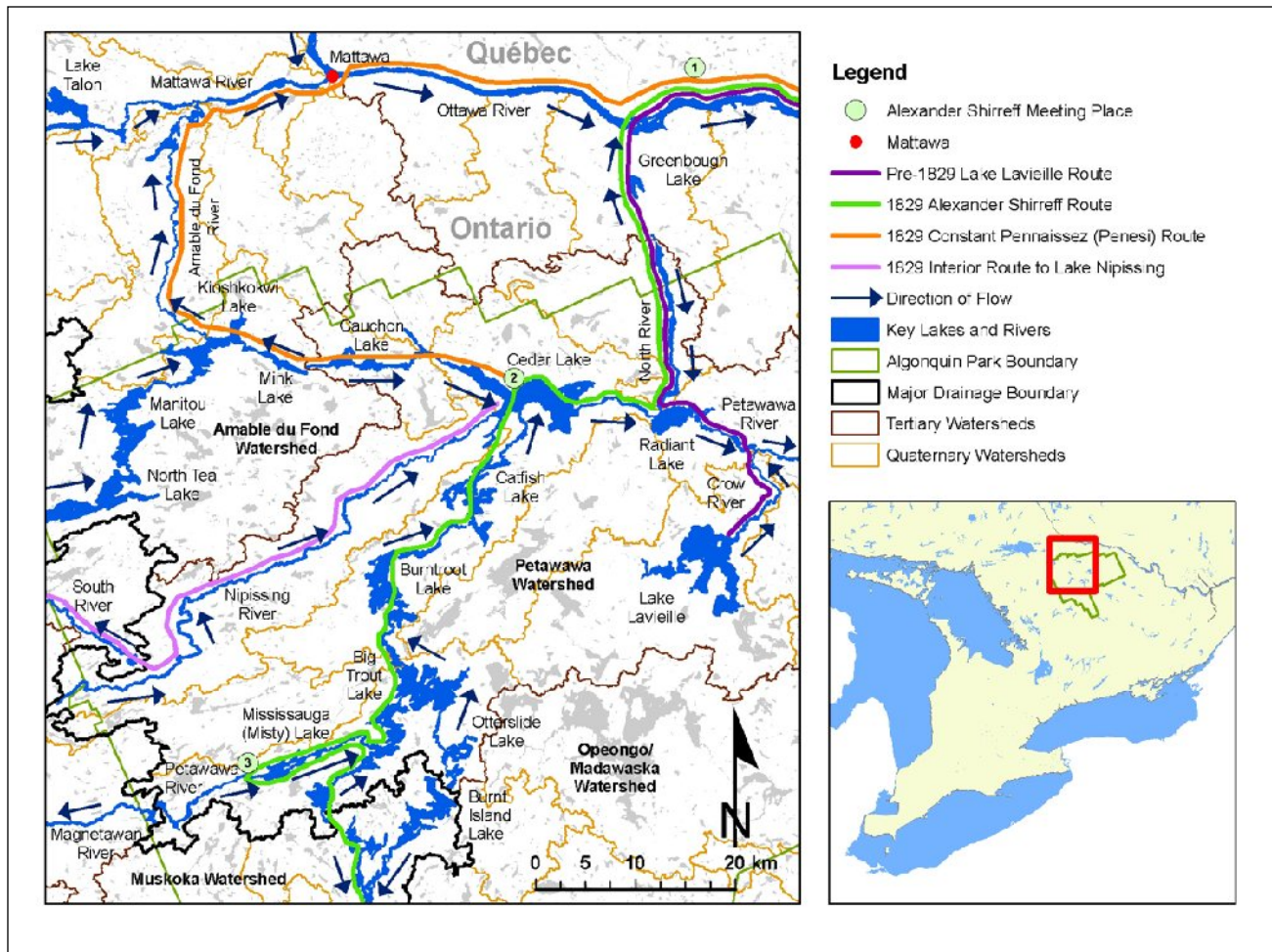
Fig. 4: Shirreff's 1829 Outbound Route Across the Petawawa Watershed

Multiple headwaters of the Petawawa River Watershed spread across the land at locations adjacent to several watersheds flowing in the opposite direction (Amable du Fond, Opeongo/Madawaska, Muskoka, Magnetawan, South). Local flow direction is marked along the various river systems, including selected quaternary watersheds. Lakes on major routes are highlighted in blue while other lakes show in grey.

In 1829 Alexander Shirreff crossed the upper Petawawa Watershed by the most efficient route recommended to him by three Native people whom he met en route at three locations indicated on the map. Shirreff went upstream on the Ottawa River to Deux Rivières, upstream to Greenbough Lake and crossed the minor height of land and proceeded downstream on the North River to Radiant Lake. From there he went upstream on the Petawawa River through Cedar, Catfish, Burntfoot, Big Trout and Mississauga (Misty)

Lakes, retraced the Mississauga section downstream, then turned upstream by a second stream to Otter (MacIntosh) Lake. After leaving the Petawawa Watershed by crossing the major height of land he entered the Muskoka Watershed which he followed all the way to Georgian Bay.

The map also shows the alternate route from the Ottawa River to Cedar Lake used in 1829 by Constant Pennaisez. Finally the interior canoe routes to Lake Nipissing and to Lake Lavielle are shown.



Departments, in addition to the Northern.

That change signalled that assimilation to the Company pattern would begin in earnest for the Timiskaming, Ottawa Valley and Lake Huron region including the Algonquin Dome (Mitchell 1977:131). Simpson moved to isolate the threat of competition from old Montreal influences and the growing threat of independent traders sponsored by Upper Canada merchants based at Newmarket at the south end of Lake Simcoe, including the Robinson Brothers and Borland and Roe whose influence extended to the French River and Lake

Nipissing by 1827 (Mitchell 1977:139, 140). Simpson saw the Ottawa Valley as the most vulnerable to this competition so, although never completely successful, he moved to have all posts supplied from Hudson's Bay, supplying Lake Huron via the Pic River at Lake Superior, improving cost effectiveness by using slow, cumbersome keel boats that could carry up to 60 'pieces' (Mitchell 1977:146).

In the resulting jockeying for business, independent traders (called petty traders by HBC) established trading houses in the Algonquin Dome region, often as temporary or

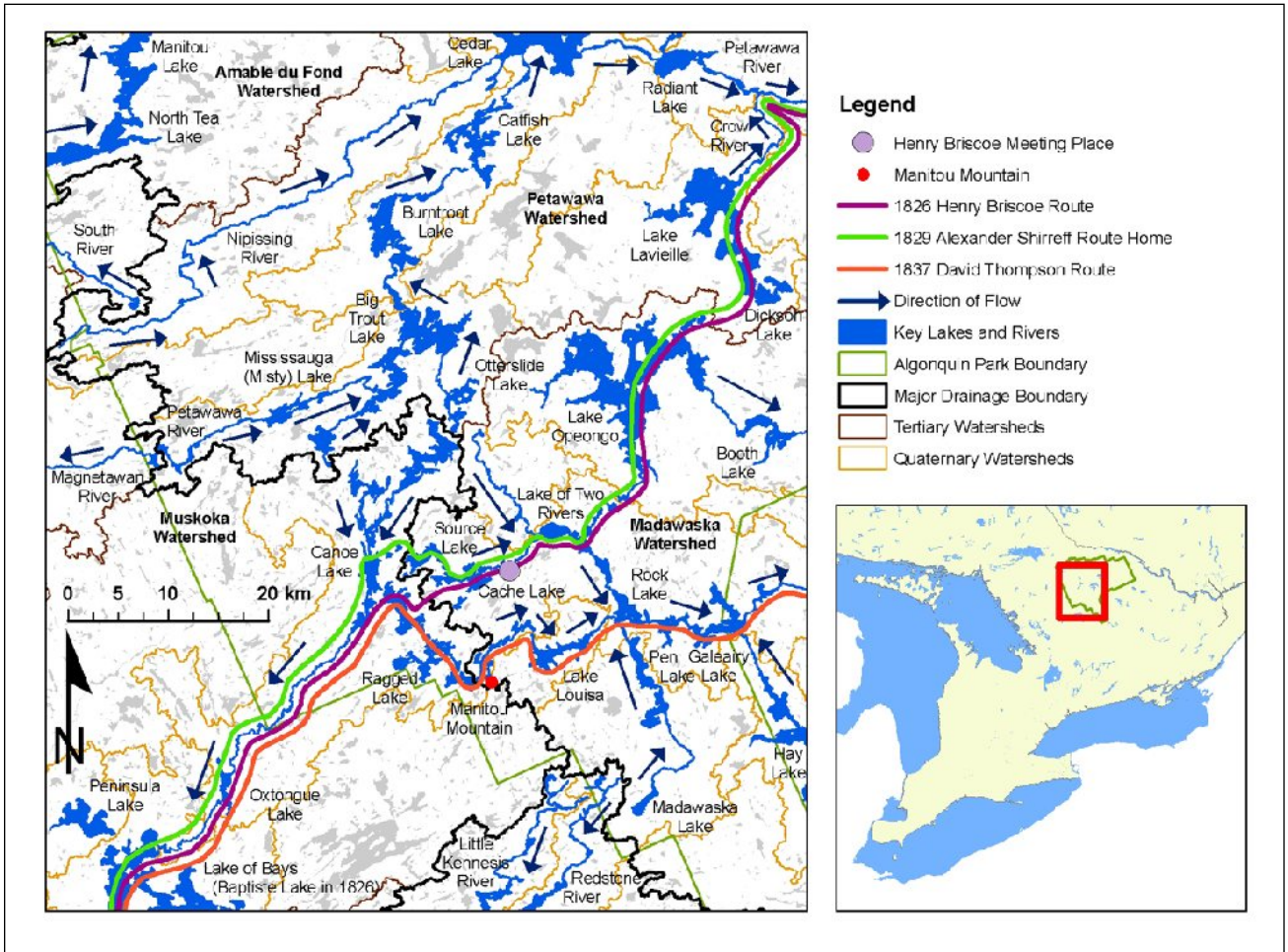
Fig. 5: Shirreff's 1829 Homebound Route
 The map in Figure 5 overlaps portions of the map in Figure 4 but highlights Shirreff's 1829 return trip in the upper Petawawa River region. Local flow direction is marked along the various river systems, including selected quaternary watersheds.

Except for a minor alteration in the Source Lake area, Shirreff followed the 1826 route of Henry Briscoe, entering

the Petawawa Watershed at Lac Clair (now Dickson) and following the route downstream through Lake Lavielle and the Crow River to the main stem of the Petawawa River, then downstream to its mouth. Briscoe's route was influenced significantly by directions given by a Native man whom Briscoe met on the nine mile portage between Cache Lake and Lake of Two Rivers, a location shown on the map and marked as

'Cranberry Marsh' on Shirreff's own mapping (Fig. 1).

Shirreff recommended against future use of this difficult route, advice followed by David Thompson who undertook a major survey in 1837 via a route passing Manitou Mountain, a location significant to Native people at the height of land between the Muskoka and Madawaska Watersheds.



flying posts at locations close to the trapping grounds of the Aboriginal people with whom they often had family connections. As a result HBC operated at Lake Opeongo in the Madawaska Watershed and unidentified traders had a winter flying post at Lake Lavielle in the Petawawa Watershed (Shirreff 1831:298, 299). It was in this fur trade policy environment in 1826 that Lt. Henry Briscoe, at the Nine Mile Portage near Lake of Two Rivers, met a Native person who was able to direct him to the most efficient route to get to Fort Coulonge (Murray 1963: 44; Fig. 5).

The 1820s: Dawn of the Timber Era

As the economics of fur trading declined in the Ottawa River Watershed the timber industry was poised to bring an entirely new value to the Petawawa Watershed. An early

player in the timber business was Charles Shirreff, a man from a Scottish family of merchants and shipbuilders which had been involved in the Baltic timber trade. He obtained a grant of 5,000 acres in the upper Ottawa Valley and moved there in 1818, founding the settlement of Fitzroy Harbour (Gillis 1988:796). In January, 1829, just four years after the “procuring of lumber from crown lands along the Ottawa has been rendered a legal occupation” (Shirreff 1831:251), Charles Shirreff wrote a report proposing a direct route from the Ottawa to Georgian Bay via Lake Lavielle and the Muskoka River based on information “from the Indian traders who are accustomed to traverse that part of the country in all directions” (Murray 1963:60).

It fell to Charles’ son Alexander, who had acted as an

overseer of works on the Rideau Canal for Colonel By (Murray 1963:xlix), to undertake an actual exploration of the route in the late summer of 1829, following the advice of specific Native personalities as he proceeded. The younger Shirreff knew about two earlier explorations of the region without naming Catty (1819) nor Henry Briscoe (1826), describing their work collectively as “traversing a barren rocky range of high lands nearly across the entire country” and further that, “respecting the lands north of this, it has hitherto been very difficult to obtain any distinct intelligence, as they have been frequented only by a few illiterate servants of the traders” (Shirreff 1831: 244). Shirreff knew that the tumultuous middle reaches of the Petawawa River presented a major obstacle to upstream travel for the first “40 to 50 miles,” being an “almost constant succession of rapids which cannot be ascended in less than seven days by a light canoe in the dry season and is hardly ever attempted at any other time” (Shirreff 1831:275). The same route going downstream took only two days (Shirreff 1831:287). Because of this obstacle he set out to find a way to cross from the Ottawa River to the upper Petawawa by a different route and to explore the interior country north of the northernmost area explored by Briscoe. This was a region which he believed “from various corroborating reports” to be “less elevated and more fertile.” Finding agricultural land well upstream on the Petawawa was important for Shirreff since the alternative, moving grain and provisions from the lower Ottawa River for upstream winter timber operations, made timbering from that region unprofitable (Shirreff 1831:252). He was soon to find that such fertile land was limited along the route that he chose across areas of significant elevation and through stocks of pines that he described as “inexhaustible” (Shirreff 1831:251).

Shirreff crossed the more northerly upper Petawawa Watershed on the outgoing portion of his 1829 exploration (Fig. 4) but on his return he followed the more southerly 1826 route of Henry Briscoe, re-entering the Petawawa Watershed in the quaternary Crow River Watershed via Lac Clair (now Dickson Lake) and Lake Lavieille as mentioned in Charles Shirreff’s 1829 report (Fig. 5). Briscoe, of course, not only had laid important groundwork for the Shirreff exploration, he documented two important Aboriginal personalities. The first of these, Baptiste, was at Lake of Bays, in the Muskoka Watershed, a lake which Briscoe called Baptiste Lake (Murray 1963:xlvi), not to be confused with Kaijick Manitou Lake in the York River portion of the Madawaska Watershed near Bancroft. Kaijick Manitou Lake was still known by that name in 1854 but later in the century was renamed Baptiste Lake (Murray 1963:160). In 1890, three years before the establishment of Algonquin Park, A.F. Chamberlain, in the company of David Boyle, Ontario’s first provincial archaeologist, visited the more recently named Baptiste Lake near Bancroft and declared that the 20 people of ‘Algonkian stock’ at that lake formerly roamed over the region to a very great extent and that at the same lake there was an isolated settlement of Mohawks (Chamberlain 1891: 83). The 1826

relationship between Lake of Bays and Kaijick Manitou Lake remains a topic of research, as is the significance of Baptiste Point (BiGo-2) at Lake Louisa part way along the route between Lake of Bays and Baptiste Lake. Further research also is needed to identify the canoe man called ‘Baptiste’ by David Thompson in 1837 in the upper Muskoka Watershed (Murray 1963:95; Fig. 5).

The second personality met by Briscoe in 1826 was the unnamed Native person on the portage between Cache Lake and Lake of Two Rivers (Fig. 5). As we have seen, this person had information about the most efficient route to Fort Coulonge which still was a significant destination for trappers in 1826.

Alexander Shirreff’s 1829 Exploration:

Alexander Shirreff’s trip from Bytown to Penetanguishene on Georgian Bay is particularly helpful to understand the complexity of political tensions on the Algonquin Dome in that period. In late summer, 1829 he headed upstream on the Ottawa River with two 18 foot bark canoes and five men, passing the mouths of the Mississippi, Madawaska and Bonnechere Rivers. At the mouth of the Coulonge he made no mention of old Fort Coulonge, but further upstream, at the head of Allumette Rapids he came to two trading houses, one belonging to the HBC, called Fort William, and the other operated by unidentified private traders. He was disappointed in the state of knowledge of the Algonquins who reported that their lands did not extend on the Nesswabic as far as the height of land and that they had no communication with the Mississaugas who hunt there. No guides were available but Shirreff engaged a Native man who was in the employ of the traders even though the man had travelled no part of the intended route. The plan was to use this man as a tracer of hunting tracks and portages and to serve as an interpreter for any other Native people the party might meet. The latter need was apparent three times during the trip. In each case the Native people whom Shirreff met in the wilderness openly shared the personal information they held about the land (Fig. 4, Shirreff Meeting Place #1, 2 and 3).

Shirreff declared that the Nesswabic River offered the only canoe route from Allumette Island toward the Lake Huron waters (Shirreff 1831:275) and set out to find the best way to access it. For much of its course the Nesswabic runs parallel to the Ottawa River, separated by a high ridge. Local routes were available to access different portion of the tumultuous lower portions of the Nesswabic, but none of these was suitable for use as a long distance route and presented risks of damaging Shirreff’s bark canoes. Some 50 miles upstream from Allumette Rapids, not far upstream from the mouth of Lower Canada’s Dumoine River, Shirreff came upon some Native people who provided him with a chart for a more promising route inland starting from Deux Rivières (Fig. 4, Shirreff Meeting Place #1). Shirreff subsequently called this route a most harassing three day portage of thickets, leeches and beaver meadow (Shirreff 1831:275, 286b). Modern names on the route just north of 46°N (with Shirreff’s labels in

brackets) include Greenbough (Leach) Lake in a quaternary watershed of the Ottawa River, and a series of narrow lakes in Algonquin Park's North River quaternary watershed, a tributary of the upper Petawawa River, including Wendigo, Allan, North Depot and Radiant (Trout) Lakes. William Hurley recorded seven archaeological sites along this route, (CaGn- 2, -3, -4, -5, -6, -7, -9), and four more sites at Radiant Lake (CaGn-1, -8; BiGn-2, -3) (Hurley 1971:14, 15, 69). Non-diagnostic quartz and bone fragments were common and one site produced chert. Another had white earthenware sherds, redware, glass fragments, an iron trap and a kaolin pipe stem, artifacts typical of the time of Sherriff's transit. At CaGn-2 the author found an undecorated ceramic sherd characteristic of an earlier period and at CaGn-3 a well formed quartz scraper possibly dating from pre contact times. The North River access route to the upper Petawawa appears to have been used for a considerable period of time predating European contact but may have been more useful for winter travel.

Shirreff proceeded upstream on the Nesswabic to Cedar Lake where he spent three days visiting Constant Pennaissez, an Algonquin from Lake of Two Mountains near Montreal. Pennaissez had established his winter hunting quarters at Cedar Lake, the largest and most central lake in the watershed (Shirreff 1831:289; Fig. 4, Shirreff Meeting Place #2). Shirreff received an excellent chart from Pennaissez whose hunting territory extended upstream on the Nesswabic to the south in the high Table Land, but not to the height of land where the Mississaugas hunted. Pennaissez informed Sherriff that a longer but more favourable and more commonly used route to Cedar Lake from the Ottawa River was via Mattawa, the Mattawa River, Amable du Fond River and the Cauchon tributary, crossing through the hunting territory of the Du Fond family. He also provided details about an interior canoe route from Cedar Lake to Lake Nipissing via the Nipissing River (Fig. 4). The apparent northern influence in some of the chert artifacts and unique Middle Woodland ceramics at archaeological sites found recently on the upper Petawawa River may indicate that Pennaissez's preferred route via the Amable du Fond River had been in use long before the nineteenth century. (For a detailed account of the Pennaissez family history see Noreen Kruzich's *The Ancestors Are Arranging Things: a Journey on the Algonkin Trail.*)

After leaving an injured canoe man and one canoe with Pennaissez, Shirreff headed up the 80 metre climb from Cedar Lake to Catfish Lake, not along the rugged river itself via Stack Rapids (Friends of Algonquin 2009), but by a route through three small lakes that we know today as Raveneau, Lantern and Narrowbag. Over the next three days he continued for some 25 miles upstream through lakes now known as Catfish, Burntroot, Longer, Big Trout and White Trout until he reached an open marsh, in modern times called Grassy Bay Mog, the 11th of 91 nature reserve zones in Algonquin Park (Ontario Parks 1998). Through these lakes he commented on eels, catfish and white trout of a size seldom

seen on the Ottawa River, the trout frequently 40 pounds (Shirreff 1831:292). Shirreff found the marsh to be fed by two branches of the river so he followed the larger, more northerly branch, beyond Pennaissez's chart.

A short distance upstream from Mississauga Lake (now Misty Lake) he met an Iroquois man whose name he did not record, only the second Native person he had met since leaving the Ottawa River nine days earlier (Fig. 4, Shirreff Meeting Place #3). The Iroquois man had a wealth of information since he and his father had been ranging through the region for the last 12 months. He provided Shirreff with information about the country to the north as far as Lake Nipissing and also about the route to Penetanguishene via the Muskoka Watershed, Morrison Lake and the Severn River, a route which he personally had travelled recently. He explained that he had no hunting territory of his own, avoided hunting on the Pennaissez grounds and other Algonquin limits, but helped himself to the beavers and otters on the hunting grounds of the Mississaugas (Shirreff 1831:294).

His information provides an indication that the area of Muskoka which became Wahta First Nation later in the century may have been known well in advance by the Mohawks of Lake of Two Mountains. Iroquoian presence in Muskoka (which included the area around Mississauga Lake at the time) was known to William Yellowhead, Chief of the Chippewas of Lakes Simcoe and Huron (later Rama). Yellowhead also was said to be known as Muskoka (Shirreff 1831: 296) or Musquakie (Murray 1963:liv) although the Muskoka name appears on maps as early as the 17th century and literally means 'the red land', apparently in reference to the feldspar in the rocks in contrast to the grey limestone further south. During the 1840 General Council Meeting, Chief Yellowhead provided a reading of a wampum belt given by the Six Nations to his people during the French Regime. During that reading the Chief stated that the right of hunting north of Lake Ontario was secured by the Ojebways but that agreement had been broken by "the Caucanawaugas (Caughnawaga, now Kahnawake Mohawk Territory) residing near Montreal" (NAC 1840:85-86). Shirreff's account sheds light on the political tensions of the period and reveals differences in perspectives about the belief in holistic sharing of the land by some people and the opposing belief in defined geographic territories by others.

The Iroquois man led Shirreff back down the Nesswabic to the marsh and up the southern branch to a lake he called Otter Lake (now McIntosh). He directed the Shirreff party southward through tiny Ink Lake and a marsh which Shirreff described as a "miserable sinking portage" broken only by a "sandy bank" which we now know is an esker near the major height of land. In modern times this route is considered a winter route but a boardwalk has been installed for summer use at the sinking portage. Once over the height of land Shirreff departed from the Petawawa watershed and proceeded down the Muskoka watershed, traversing lakes we now know as Tom Thompson, Litledoe, Joe and Canoe lakes

and points southward toward Penetanguishene (Fig. 4). To understand Shirreff's outgoing route to Penetanguishene in relation to his return route following Briscoe's 1826 route the reader is encouraged to examine the maps of Figures 4 and 5 in tandem.

Conclusion:

In all periods of history the upper Petawawa River, formerly the Nesswabic, has been a landscape of contention by people with different interests, but, when asked, every Native personality documented in the record openly shared his information about the land and its routes. In periods up to the 1820s the Petawawa was frequented, often coterminously and sometimes year round, by Algonquins, Nipissings, Mississaugas, Iroquois and unknown others who fished in the deep lakes and trapped, hunted and collected medicines from the vast array of varied local environments. People's movements were not always directly up the main stem of a tertiary or quaternary watershed, especially the Petawawa's turbulent middle reaches. The land, especially in winter, provided multiple opportunities for setting traplines in circuitous routes which could be visited within a few days from a chosen base camp, crossing from one quaternary watershed to another as required. In the process the people gathered an intimate knowledge of the land. In the latter parts of the fur trade era, after the union of the Northwest Company and Hudson Bay Company, conflicts were between competing traders but company policies and efficiencies in the larger trade caused the trapping enterprise in the Petawawa Watershed to decline. The story of the watershed in this period reflects what Andrew Stewart describes as "the change from the complex relations and relationship-building among Natives and newcomers, all striving for inclusivity, to the Victorian era of exclusive and simplified social relations" (Stewart 2010:1).

By the 1830s, when timbering entered the area, the number of people on the Algonquin Dome increased and the Petawawa River became a major route for log drives. Government policies expanded the support for timber operations, cart trails were built to service the lumber camps and farm depots, and dams were built at the outlets of lakes to flood bays for easy winter access by teams of horses, themselves an unnatural addition to the region. The incidence of forest fires increased. Areas of clear cut pine forests were replaced by sun tolerant varieties such as poplar and birch, changing the natural habitat of species and shifting the natural mix of animals in the new environment. Each of these factors altered the access routes to the watershed. The cumulative effect of all of the factors pushed Native inhabitants out of lands previously occupied even prior to the first land claim attempts. The speed of changes to the land was influenced by competition for timber limits. When steam technology arrived the Petawawa Watershed provided a route for a railway. Steam warping tugs called alligators improved efficiency in moving large quantities of logs to log chutes, but later were abandoned at places like Burntroot and

Catfish Lakes where they now decompose as archaeological sites.

As tourism flourished conflicting values required a careful management plan to balance the interests of sustainable timbering and of wilderness experiences for the public while ensuring that key archaeological sites were not impacted by either timber operations or modern camping. The latest challenges include planning for recovery of species at risk and addressing modern society's appetite for hydroelectric energy, sometimes with demands for new generating facilities at environmentally sensitive locations and without proper consideration for fish passage or the cumulative effects of multiple facilities on the same river. All of the activities and occupations of the Petawawa River have left archaeological evidence, much of it yet undisturbed. Gradually sites will be documented, hopefully with full First Nations involvement. Through the finds at these sites and the related dialogue and honouring of the sites, the political tensions, values and material culture of each period of the watershed's history will become better known.

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CORRECTION

In the January/February, 2011 issue of ArchNotes on
page 9, the first line of paragraph three, 'MacMurray'
should read 'MacMurchy'.



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