

Heritage Division

Memorandum

TO: Scott Sangster
AMEC

FROM: Robert Ogilvie

DATE: November 19, 2004

**RE: Environmental Screening 04-11-02
Starrs Road, Yarmouth**

Further to your request of November 2, 2004, staff of the Heritage Division have reviewed their files for reference to the presence of known heritage resources in the study area. Please be aware that our information is not comprehensive, in that it is incomplete and of varying degrees of accuracy with respect to the precise location and condition of heritage resources.

Cultural Heritage

The property in question has little potential for the presence of First Nations Archaeological resources. There are a number of First Nations archaeological sites in the area, but land form attributes make it unlikely that such sites would be at this location.

It is difficult to definitively establish the potential for post-contact archaeological resources at this location.

A background study of Yarmouth settlement history will indicate if this location was subject to use in the 18th and 19th centuries. If such use did not occur then a further archaeological assessment is not recommended.

Natural Heritage

The staff of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History have reviewed their records and make the following observations:

Botany

The Botanist states the following plant species-of-concern are known from this 10 km square or from adjacent areas. It is a long list, but many are limited to specific habitats, such as lake shores, bogs, etc. Roland's Flora of Nova Scotia holds such information.

Scott Sangster
November 19, 2004
Page 2

This part of Nova Scotia hosts many plants belonging to southern affinities and associated with the Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora. Their presence in Nova Scotia represents the only Canadian populations, they are marked with an asterisk.(*).

Field work ascertaining the presence/absence of each species listed below should be conducted during the growing season.

The colour status refers to DNR's status ranking.

Adiantum pedatum Red This is an historic record that cannot be verified and may be erroneous.

**Agalinis (Gerardia) maritima* Yellow

**Coreopsis rosea* Red

**Eupatorium dubium* Red

**Euthamia tenuifolia* Yellow

**Hydrocotyle umbellata* Red

**Juncus marginatus* Red

**Lilaeopsis chinensis* Red

Ophioglossum pusillum Yellow

**Panicum dichotomiflorum*, var. *puritanorum* Red

**Panicum rigidulum*, var. *pubescens* Yellow

**Platanthera flava*, var. *flava* Yellow

**Proserpinaca pectinata* Yellow

**Rhexia virginica* Yellow

Rubus pensilvanicus Yellow

**Sabatia kennedyana* Red

Samolus valerandi, ssp. *parviflorus* (*Samolus parviflorus*) Yellow

**Scirpus longii* Yellow

Senecio pseudo-arnica Yellow

Spiranthes ochroleuca Yellow

Teucrium canadense Yellow

Zoology

The Curator of Zoology states there are no records of species of note or concern for the specific site. The lack of information concerning the nature of the development makes it impossible to note possible species downwind or down-watershed that may be impacted.

I have attached an invoice for the staff time spent reviewing our records and compiling this response.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 424-6475.



10 December 2004

Mr. Robert Ogilvie
Curator, Special Places
Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3A6

Re: Heritage Research Permit A2004NS92

Dear Mr. Ogilvie,

Please find attached a copy of our final report on the historical background study of the proposed Walmart site on Starr's Road, Yarmouth. If the museum staff concurs with our conclusions and recommendations, I would appreciate that a letter be sent to our client as follows:

Mr. Scott Sangster
AMEC Earth & Environmental
32 Troop Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1Z1

In the event that you or other members of the museum require clarification or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at our convenience.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Davis
President

Cc: S. Sangster, AMEC Earth & Environmental

Mr. Scott Sangster
AMEC Earth & Environmental
32 Troop Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1Z1

RE: Archaeological Background Study – Proposed Walmart, Yarmouth

Dear Mr. Sangster,

Davis Archaeological Consultants (DAC) Limited was contracted by AMEC Earth & Environmental to conduct an archaeological background study for the proposed site of the Walmart in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in order to identify the level of potential for heritage resources within the study area. This letter is a detailed summary of the research conducted by DAC on 8 – 9 December 2004. This work was conducted under Category C Heritage Research Permit A2004NS92.

Study Area:

The proposed site is located on Starr's Road in the town of Yarmouth approximately 500 metres east of the Yarmouth Shopping Centre adjacent to Highway 101. However, the full extent of the development area was not known at the time this study was conducted. Historic maps and manuscripts as well as published documents from the Provincial Archives and city libraries were consulted. In addition, the Nova Scotia Museum's database of recorded sites within the immediate area was accessed and Yarmouth County Museum's curator, Mr. Eric Ruff, was consulted.

Historical Background:

Before the coming of European settlers to Yarmouth County, the area was settled by First Nations people who, by the eighteenth century, had made a permanent settlement at Milton. A number of precontact artifacts have been found throughout the county, the nearest finds to the study area being at Milton, Pleasant Lake (AlDm-1), Tusket River (AlDm-6), and Bunker Island (AkDm-2).¹

As early as 1521, Portuguese explorers attempted to map the southwest shore of Nova Scotia including the area that is now Yarmouth County and named the bay to the north *Baie Fondo* (likely the origin of the name *Bay of Fundy*). Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the shores of Yarmouth were frequented by American fishermen. Sometime between 1651 and 1656, Charles de LaTour of France received a grant of land in Yarmouth County to which he brought several Acadian families who settled mainly on the Chebogue and Chegoggin Rivers. They remained at those settlements until the expulsion of their people in 1755, when they moved to other settlements in Lake Vaughan, Tusket and Pubnico.²

In 1759, Governor Lawrence issued a proclamation to New Englanders to settle a grant of 100,000 acres in the Township of Yarmouth. There were 133 names on this grant although only 10 of those names recur in subsequent land records for the county. In 1761, three families of New Englanders settled the shore of Yarmouth County and in the following year, there were 85 individuals (17 families) reported to be living in Yarmouth although the principle settlement was at Cape Forchu and along the Chebogue River.³

The first roads in the county were laid out in 1768 and included a roadway running along the shore to Bunker's Island in the present town of Yarmouth.⁴ By 1787, a map of the town lot had been produced showing the land grants within it. Several grants were made in the vicinity of the development area including a 581-acre grant to Joseph Pitman which is likely the land the development area is situated on.⁵ However, there is no indication as to which, if any, of these grants were settled. Starr's Road had been laid out by 1821, indicating that settlement had been taken up in the present town, and the road was then known as Pitman's Road. The only house along Pitman's Road at that time was Jacob Killam's located on the south side of the road about one kilometre west of the development area.⁶ The 1834 Great Map of Nova Scotia shows no residences or buildings within the development area. The nearest settlements to the study area were at the head of the Chebogue River and at Squirreltown (now Brooklyn).⁷

There are no land grants made by the crown indicated on the Crown Land Grants Map for the development area (Figure 1).⁸ Ambrose F. Church's map of the county of Yarmouth published in 1871 shows several residences in the vicinity of the development area, notably those of A. Pitman, T. Allen, C. Dugan, D. McMullin, P. Cuff, J. Kenney, and G. Thompson. By this time, the road was known as Starr's Road (Figure 2).⁹ A bird's eye view of Yarmouth town in 1889 shows that, although Starr's Road extended to the development area, it was located outside the built limits of the town and the land is forested.¹⁰ The development area does not appear on Fire Insurance Maps prior to 1955.¹¹

Historic documentation suggests that it is unlikely that heritage resources exist within the development area. Therefore, no further archaeological investigation of the area in question is recommended. However, in the event that such resources are encountered during ground disturbance, it is recommended that the Nova Scotia Museum be notified so that appropriate mitigation can be instituted.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Davis
President

Endnotes and References Cited

- ¹ NSM database of recorded sites. Sources: Pleasant Lake, Erskine 1958; Tusket River, Davis A1987NS7; Bunker Island, Christianson and Davis A1987NS7.
- ² Campbell, Rev. J. R. 1972. *A History of the County of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia*. Belleville, Ontario: Mika Studio. Pp. 21-25. Originally published in 1876; Haliburton, Thomas Chandler. 1829. *A Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia*. Volume II. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Joseph Howe. P. 178; Sweeney, E. M. 1993. *From Little Boats: A Short History of the Township of Yarmouth*. Tantallon, Nova Scotia: Four East Publications Ltd. Pp. 5-6.
- ³ Campbell, *op. cit.*, pp. 26-32; Sweeney, *op. cit.*, pp. 7-11.
- ⁴ Campbell, *op. cit.*, pp. 60-61.
- ⁵ *A Plan of the Township of Yarmouth Surveyed by Samuel Goldsbury, Deputy Surveyor*. 1787. PANS 230-1787.
- ⁶ Farish, James C. 1971. *Yarmouth 1821*. Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: Yarmouth County Historical Society. Pp. 38-39. Originally published in 1892 in *Yarmouth Herald*.
- ⁷ MacKay, William. 1834. Map of the Province of Nova Scotia including the Island of Cape Breton. PANS A2(7) and B12(7).; Ruff, Eric. Curator, Yarmouth County Museum. Personal communication, 10 December 2004.
- ⁸ Department of Natural Resources. 1952. Crown Land Index Sheet #3.
- ⁹ Church, Ambrose F. 1871. *Topographical Township Map of Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia*.
- ¹⁰ *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia 1889*. PANS V7/239-1889.
- ¹¹ *Goad's Fire Insurance Plans for Yarmouth County 1891-1955*. PANS Micro.

RECEIVED
DEC 17 200447 Summer Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3A6

In Reply Please Quote Our File Number:

December 15, 2004

COPY

Dr. Stephen Davis
Davis Archaeological Consultants
6519 Oak Street
Halifax, NS B3L 1H6

Dear Dr. Davis

**RE: Heritage Research Permit
A2004NS92 – Starrs Road Walmart Site**

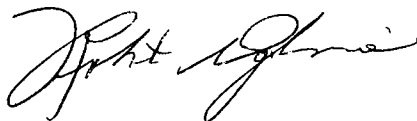
We have received and reviewed your report your report on work conducted under the terms of Heritage Research Permit (A2004NS92) for an Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment of the Starrs Road Walmart Site.

Your letter report details the results of a background study to determine the potential for archaeological resources within the study area. Based on First Nations settlement patterns known for the area and a detailed historic period settlement history of Yarmouth, you conclude that the location has low potential for the presence of significant archaeological resources.

We concur with the recommendation that no further archaeological assessment effort is warranted.. In the unlikely event that archaeological resources are discovered during development, work must stop in the immediate area and the Heritage Division contacted. As per your request, I will notify Scott Sangster of AMEC Earth & Environmental Limited, by copy of this letter.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Robert Ogilvie
Curator, Special Places

- c. D. Christianson, Nova Scotia Museum
- Scott Sangster, AMEC Earth & Environmental Limited
- S. Powell, Nova Scotia Museum