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**NS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS**

**BEN JACKSON ROAD INTERCHANGE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
HIGHWAY 101: ROW  
ST. CROIX TO AVONPORT  
HANTS AND KINGS COUNTIES**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Submitted to:

**Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works  
and the  
Heritage Division - Nova Scotia Museum**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1
2.0 STUDY AREA .....	3
3.0 METHODOLOGY .....	7
4.0 RESULTS .....	8
5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	10
6.0 REFERENCES CITED.....	12

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1:	Location of Study Area.....	4
Figure 2:	Archaeological Testing and Features at Ben Jackson Road .....	5

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1:	Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road Intersection (Exit 8A) .....	6
Plate 2:	Ben Jackson Road with Study Area .....	6
Plate 3:	Screening at Probable Church Site .....	9
Plate 4:	Well on TPW Property at Site of John Provo Residence .....	9

**BEN JACKSON ROAD INTERCHANGE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
HIGHWAY 101 ROW (ST. CROIX TO AVONPORT)**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In the summer of 2003, Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Group undertook the archaeological component of Dillon Consulting Limited's overall environmental impact assessment for Highway 101 Twinning between St. Croix and Avonport. This work addressed proposed impact areas within the existing right-of-way (ROW) for the highway, itself, and for several associated interchanges (Sanders and Stewart 2004). In the spring of 2004, CRM Group also evaluated archaeological potential within ROW additions proposed for Highway 101's Harolds Creek Brook crossing and Ben Jackson Road interchange in Kings County (Sanders and Stewart 2004, Addendum). This investigation revealed that the southern quadrant of the proposed impact area for the Ben Jackson Road interchange was likely to contain archaeological resources associated with a Baptist church and cemetery established by African Canadian residents of Lockhartville prior to 1872, and a residence formerly owned by John Provo.

In July of 2004, CRM Group conducted historical research, archaeological reconnaissance and subsurface testing to specifically address the area of high archaeological potential in the southern quadrant of the Ben Jackson interchange - an area between Ben Jackson Road and Highway 101 south of the present intersection. The goal was to determine the age, location and significance of the Baptist church and cemetery site and the residence formerly owned by John Provo. This evaluation was performed as part of CRM Group's archaeological impact assessment of the overall Highway 101 ROW between St. Croix and Avonport.

The archaeological assessment at Ben Jackson Road (Exit 8A) was conducted according to the terms of Heritage Research Permit A2004NS55 (Category "C"), issued by the Heritage Division - Nova Scotia Museum (HD-NSM) to W. Bruce Stewart, CRM Group President and Senior Consultant.

This report was prepared as a follow-up to the overall report on the archaeological assessment of the Highway 101 ROW between St. Croix and Avonport (Sanders and Stewart 2004). It presents the archaeological assessment results for the south quadrant of the Ben Jackson Road interchange (as defined in July of 2004) and offers resource management recommendations.

Since the completion of the Ben Jackson Road archaeological assessment, the design of the Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road interchange has been modified to avoid impacting the archaeological resources described in this report.



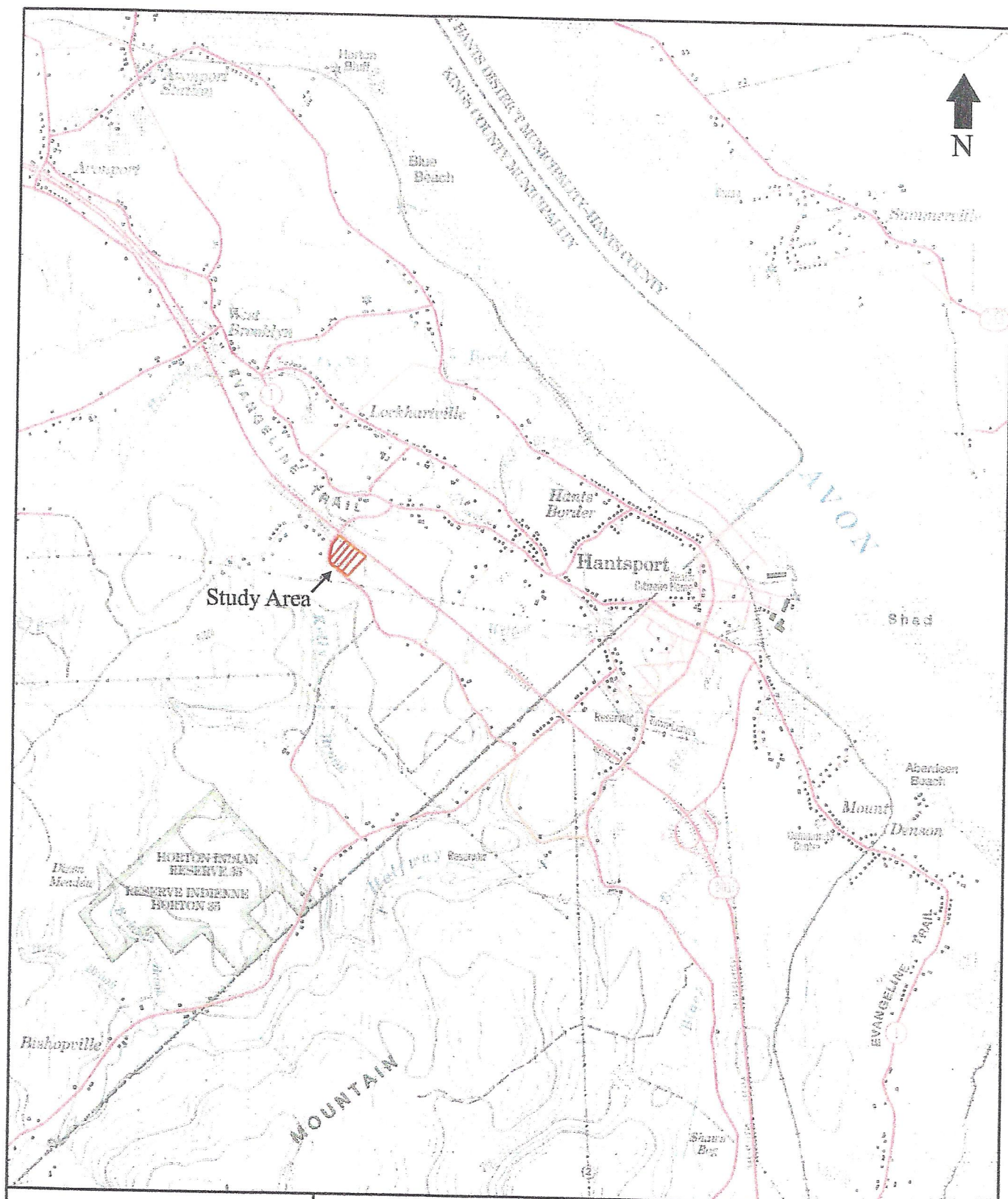
## **2.0 STUDY AREA**


At the time of the archaeological assessment in July of 2004, a proposed addition to the Highway 101 ROW in the southern quadrant of the existing Ben Jackson Road intersection encompassed a relatively large area on the southwest side of Highway 101. Consisting of land between the highway and Ben Jackson Road, the resulting study area extended 180 metres southwest and 270 metres southeast of the existing intersection (Exit 8A) (*Figure 1*). It was composed of segments of properties owned by the Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW) and Greg McGuire (*Figure 2; Plates 1 & 2*).

Examination of an 1872 map of Kings County (Church 1872) indicated that a church building had once been located in the area of the proposed interchange. According to the map and information provided by Fielding Road resident Aileen Johnston, the church site was more likely to be located on the property owned by Greg and Delores Maguire (PIN 55234439) than on the TPW property, which had been cleared ca. 1967.

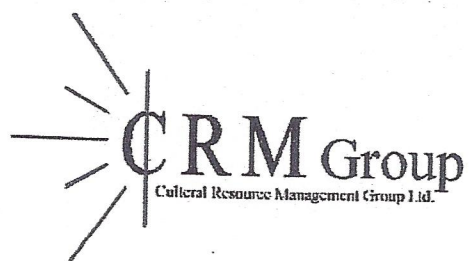
Mrs. Johnston believes that the church building had been demolished or moved by the time her grandmother arrived in the area in 1902. She also believes that any of the grave markers in the church cemetery would have vanished long ago, having consisted of wooden crosses rather than inscribed stones.

A house once owned by John Provo was reported by Aileen Johnston to have existed slightly northwest of the church, presumably on the TPW property northwest of the Maguire residence (PIN 55234439). A map of the area produced in 1911 depicts a building standing in that location (Senécal 1911). Deeds in the Kings County Registry of Deeds indicate that the TPW property was jointly owned by Benjamin Shaw and John Provo prior to 1902 (ex. Deed Book 78, page 653). Examination of a 1967 aerial photograph revealed that the ground surface across all but the southeast corner of this property had been impacted during the construction of the existing Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road intersection.



	Location of Study Area		Figure 1
	BEN JACKSON ROAD INTERCHANGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT		April 2005
	HIGHWAY 101 ROW (ST. CROIX TO AVONPORT) LOCKHARTVILLE, KINGS COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA		1:50 000





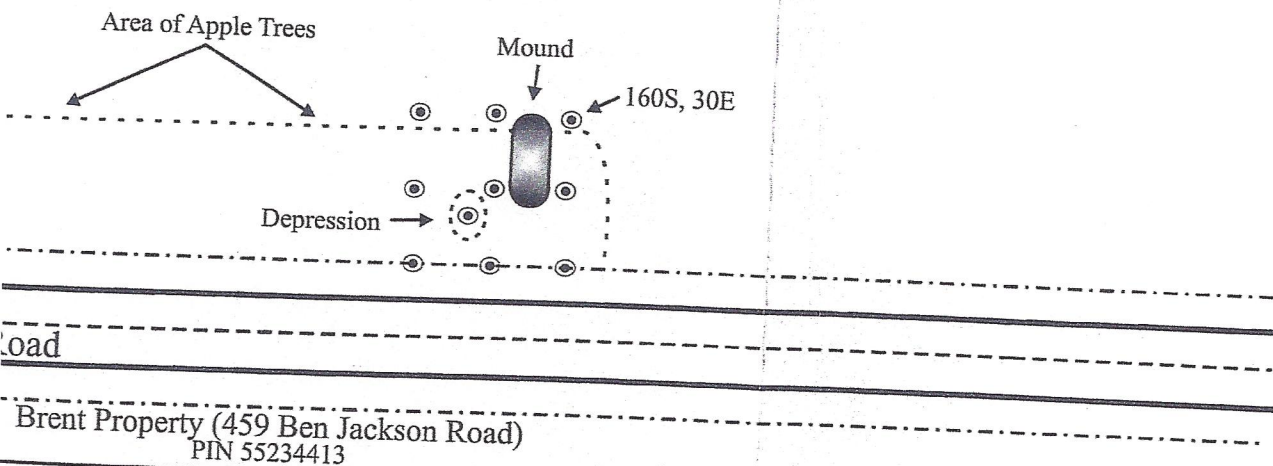
Archaeologica

BEN.  
ARC  
HIGHWAY  
LOCKHART

(B)



Northern McGuire Property  
PIN 55234439



ing and Features at Ben Jackson Road	Figure 2
SON ROAD INTERCHANGE OLOGICAL ASSESSMENT ROW (ST. CROIX TO AVONPORT) E, KINGS COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA	April 2005
	1:1000





**PLATE 1:** Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road intersection (Exit 8A). Facing northeast.



**LATE 2:** Ben Jackson Road with study area at left. TPW property in foreground. Maguire property in background (wooded). Facing southeast.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

On July 22 and 23 of 2004, CRM Group conducted systematic reconnaissance and strategic sub-surface testing in the wooded portion of the Maguire property northwest of the Maguire house. A three-member team walked the entire area, following transects spaced at five-metre intervals. During the survey, sub-surface testing was implemented at five-metre intervals where topographic or vegetative anomalies suggested high archaeological potential. The pits, which measured 40 centimetres in diameter, were dug manually to subsoil using shovels. The backdirt from each test was passed through a fine mesh (6 millimetre) wire screen to ensure the recovery of any artifacts.

CRM Group also conducted archaeological reconnaissance and strategic sub-surface testing in the southeast corner of the TPW property - the only portion of the property that was not potentially altered during the 1967 construction of the existing Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road intersection.



## **4.0 RESULTS**

On the Maguire property, reconnaissance revealed areas of modern ground disturbance, but no visible historic cultural features - no trace of the church, its foundation or grave markers. The sub-surface testing, however, identified a concentration of mid-to-late nineteenth century artifacts in an area of mature apple trees approximately 30 metres southeast of the TPW property and within 30 metres of Ben Jackson Road (*Plate 3*). The artifacts consist primarily of domestic refuse (ceramics and bottle glass). Architectural items, consisting of window glass and probable nail fragments were also included in the assemblage.

The earliest aerial photograph available for the study area, shot in 1945, shows this area as a bare patch in an otherwise bushy fallow field with a few isolated trees. It also appears to be the centre-point for a network of overgrown trails radiating outwards to the north and east. A 1967 aerial photograph shows the entire property densely forested.

On the TPW property, systematic reconnaissance confirmed that the ground surface across all but the southeast corner of the property had been impacted during the construction of the existing Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road intersection. In the unaffected area, the survey revealed a stone-lined well, intact and open, approximately 65 metres northwest of the property's southeast corner (*Plate 4*). Upon hearing of its location, Eileen Johnston confirmed that this would have been John Provo's well.

No evidence of the Provo house or outbuildings were found during reconnaissance of the surrounding area, or even during a review of aerial photographs dating to 1945 and 1967. Artifacts were recovered from the area immediately surrounding the well, both from the ground surface and from test pits dug at five-metre intervals. The assemblage consists of ceramic and glass fragments dating from the very late 1800s to the very early 1900s.





**PLATE 3:** Screening at probable Baptist Church Site. Facing southeast.



**LATE 4:** Well on TPW property at site of John Provo residence. Facing northeast.



## **5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on examination of early maps and photographs, consultation with area residents and the discovery of a concentration of mid-to-late nineteenth century artifacts during shovel testing, it is concluded that the Baptist Church on Ben Jackson Road probably stood on the Maguire property, approximately 30 metres east of the property's northwest corner. Unmarked graves of some of the area's early African Canadian settlers likely lie in close proximity. As a result of the information generated during the course of this assessment, it is anticipated that the HD-NSM will register the northwest corner of the Maguire property as the Lockhartville Baptist Church site.

Research at the Kings County Registry of Deeds, consultation with area residents and the discovery of a stone-lined well and a concentration of artifacts suggest that remains associated with the John Provo residence are located within the southeast corner of the TPW property. Based on the turn-of-the-century dating of the artifacts, however, it is concluded that the John Provo residence site does not represent a significant archaeological resource.

Based on these conclusions, CRM Group offers the following management recommendations for the study area:

1. For the TPW property immediately south of the existing Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road intersection, it is recommended that the field portion (already disturbed by clearing and ca. 1967 soil stripping) be cleared of further archaeological investigation prior to development. However, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring occur in conjunction with any topsoil excavation in the relatively undisturbed wooded area that lies at the southeast corner of the property. This monitoring is recommended not due to the presence of archaeological remains associated with the John Provo residence, but due to the area's close proximity to the suspected church site and the potential for encountering graves.

If the Provo well, itself, is to be impacted, it is recommended that archaeological mitigation be conducted in advance of the impact. This mitigation would consist of combined mechanical and manual excavation. The mechanical excavation, directed by an archaeologist, would be designed to expose the structure of the well, allowing for documentation and subsequent removal. With the upper portion of the structure removed, the area safely sloped and the water level controlled by pumping, manual excavation would then expose, document and remove any cultural deposits identified at the base of the well.

2. It is recommended that no ground disturbance occur on the Maguire property (PIN 55234439). If ground disturbance is unavoidable, it is recommended that representatives of CRM Group, TPW and the HD-NSM meet well in advance to discuss the cultural significance of the church/cemetery site; potential management problems stemming from the lack of site boundary delineation; and, how archaeology might best be applied to delineate the site.
3. In the event that archaeological deposits or human remains are encountered during construction, all work in the associated area(s) should be halted and immediate contact should be made with the HD-NSM (David Christianson: 424-6461).

Since the completion of the Ben Jackson Road archaeological assessment, the design of the Highway 101 / Ben Jackson Road interchange has been modified to avoid impacting the Maguire property and the southeast portion of the TPW property. Strict avoidance of those areas will eliminate the need for the archaeological work identified in Recommendations 1 and 2, above.

## 6.0 REFERENCES

- Church, Ambrose F.  
1872      *Topographical Township Map of Kings County, Nova Scotia.* A.F. Church and Company: Halifax.
- Johnston, Aileen  
2004      Personal communication with Mike Sanders during a meeting on the property belonging to Dorothy Brown (Aileen's sister). Aileen is a life-long resident of the Ben Jackson Road / Fielding Road area of Lockhartville.
- Sanders, Mike and W. Bruce Stewart  
2004      *Archaeological Assessment, Highway 101: ROW, St. Croix to Avonport, Hants and Kings Counties.* Heritage Research Permit Report (A2003NS54) on file with Heritage Division - Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax.
- Senécal, C.O., J.A. Robert and Hugh Fletcher  
1911      *Province of Nova Scotia, Hants and Kings Counties, Kingsport Sheet, No. 84.* Canada Department of Mines, Geological Survey: Ottawa.