

Looking for a home? Check out the real estate section for the most complete listings of Milton and area.

Rich history is just below the surface

By HOWARD MOZEL
Special to The Champion

With 11,000 years of human habitation in Halton, the region's Archaeological Master Plan has a lot of ground - not to mention time — to cover.

Undaunted by the formidable task — now a regional responsibility thanks to provincial downloading — Halton's planning department has set to work gathering as much information as possible.

Some of this was unearthed recently at a public information meeting during which residents were encouraged to bring any local artifacts in their possession for appraisal. Some projectile points — usually spear tips often erroneously referred to

as arrowheads — were as much as 6,000 years old.

More important, exact locations of the finds were passed along to representatives from Archaeological Services Inc. for addition to its database. This will aid the Toronto consulting firm's bid to create a detailed map of the region showing all known prehistoric (prior to 1650 A.D.) and historic (after 1650 A.D.) sites.

"These sites are endangered species," said Ronald Williamson, chief archaeologist with Archaeological Services.

This purpose of this diagram is more than just academic. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, the comprehensive chart will identify sites of

value as well as land with "archaeological potential."

This can be done by factoring in the likely proximity of settlements to water, suitable agricultural soil and using other data to help archaeologists predict where important sites have the greatest likelihood of being.

When regional planners receive an application for development, they can refer to the map and see whether an archaeological site exists or if an assessment is necessary to determine so.

"We want to mitigate the impact on sites from development," said Mr. Williamson. "All of this is about interpreting the past for people."

The assessment includes a surface examination of the site by trained experts who flag every spear point, scraper or pottery shard they find. Mr. Williamson's favourite collaborators are those who work the land.

"Farmers are usually the guys with six quart baskets in the barn filled with arrowheads and skinning stones," he said.

Nearly 600 Halton sites have been identified to date. Areas of the closest scrutiny include Bronte Creek Provincial Park and the route of Hwy. 403.

"We're looking for information to fill that out," said Mr. Williamson who, with his staff, photographed and catalogued some of the meeting's more interesting artifacts.

Traces of human habitation are not always stumbled upon by finding bones and tools, however. The aboriginal settlement at Campbellville's Crawford Lake, for example, was discovered after corn pollen was found in a lake bed core sample. This material, which travels only about 1.5 kms from its source, led scientists to the conclusion that an old agricultural use was nearby.

As evidenced by the projectile points brought to the meeting, Halton's human history extends much further back in time. Mr. Williamson explained that, 11,000 years ago, a continental glacier covered most of Canada and Halton was an Arctic tundra containing "mega-fauna" like giant beavers and large cats. Humans' main prey was caribou.

Around 800 B.C., complex trade routes had developed and goods from as far away as the southern portion of North America flowed in. Aboriginal life here was anything but insular, said Mr. Williamson. During the Middle Woodland period, which lasted to about 700 A.D., more pottery and evidence of agricultural settlements are found. After 1600 A.D. European trade goods begin to surface.

"There is a rich Euro-Canadian history here," said Mr. Williamson.

Halton Region is required under the Planning Act to protect significant cultural, historical and archaeological features from development. In 1981 the region conducted a Halton Heritage Study but lack of time and resources left this incomplete. The recent devolution of responsibilities to the region was the impetus for the master plan.

According to regional planner Suzanne McInnes, the draft master plan should be ready in June, when more public meetings to solicit input will be held.

Birds are flocking to Mountsberg

May is for the birds at Mountsberg.

It's Birding Blitz Month at the popular rural Milton conservation area. Every Sunday in May Mountsberg offers birding hikes, beginning at 2 p.m., at the raptor centre. Special bird banding workshops are also being held Saturday mornings from 8 through 10 a.m.

The Mountsberg area is perceived as particularly good for bird watching thanks to the varied habitat.

Almost all of the approximately 300 species of birds in Ontario can be seen at Mountsberg over the course of a year. In an average May, more than 100 are seen.

Mountsberg is on Millborough Line, five kilometres west of Campbellville, between Highway 6 and Guelph Line.



"Loaded with everything you want and more"

Alan Jackson



Now is the time to get a great finance rate on Canada's best-selling trucks.*

1.9%* 48 Month Financing On **ALL** New In-Stock '98 F-Series.

Featuring "The Complete Truck" '98 F-Series XLT with the all new STX Package

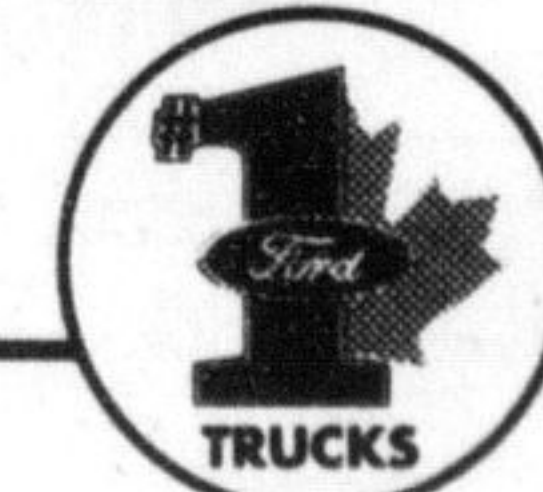
Includes Automatic and Air Conditioning

- Power Locks, Windows and Mirrors
- 17" Cast Aluminum Wheels
- 8' Cargo Bed • 205 hp Engine
- Colour-keyed Front and Rear Bumpers
- Speed Control and Tilt Steering
- Plus much, much more

On a 1998 F-Series STX SuperCab you could save

\$3,980**

in interest compared to 8% financing



Canada's Truck Leader*

LIMITED TIME OFFER

Ontario **FORD** **Mercury** Dealers

WISE BUYERS READ THE LEGAL COPY. *1.9% financing on all new in-stock 1998 F-Series for a maximum of 48-months on approved credit. E.g. \$15,000 financed at 1.9% annual percentage rate for 48-months, monthly payment is \$324.78, cost of borrowing is \$589.44 and total to be repaid is \$15,589.44 with \$0 down payment. Down payment may be required. Financing not available with any other offer. This is a sample calculation only. **F-Series XLT SuperCab with P.E.P. 810A and STX package with \$30,000 financed at 1.9% annual percentage rate for 48-months, cost of borrowing is \$1,179.00, compared to average financing rate of 8% for 48-months, cost of borrowing is \$5,159.00. This is a sample calculation only. Offers may change without notice. Offer available for a limited time only. See dealer for details. *Based on 1997 calendar year manufacturer reported deliveries. Ontario FMDA, P.O. Box 2000, Oakville, Ontario L6J 5E4