

*'Rescue technique' not needed*

# Slower pace at Draper site

CLAREMONT — A change in technique should now be possible at the Draper archeological site located on Pickering airport property.

Instead of the "rescue archeology" being practiced to salvage artifacts before the arrival of airport bulldozers, a more methodical approach should now be possible, according to a statement from the National Museum of Man.

The museum, which sponsored the dig, will approach the Ministry of Transport to discuss the options. The MOT funded the project.

Using the "rescue archeology" method, bulldozers and heavy equipment stripped away the top four to eight inches of soil, meaning that any artifacts close to the surface are lost.

Project manager Bill Finlayson, 29, of the University of Western Ontario, is an expert in salvage archeology.

Ten students are now continuing to dig at the site until the ground freezes in November, according to a University of Western Ontario release.

While one quarter to one-half acre in a summer is considered average digging according to Mr. Finlayson, four acres were excavated at the Draper site this summer.

"A site this size would traditionally take 10 summers to dig," he said.

Over one million specimens of bones, pottery, stone tools, beads and pipes will be removed from the site.

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Also, up to 50,000 specimens of food seeds should give an accurate picture of the tribes diet.

An estimated 3,000 Huron Indians lived in the village at one time. They worked the land until, without fertilizer, it could no longer produce, then moved on.

The inhabitants warred with other Iroquois-speaking tribes such as the Seneca of Northern New York, and had stockades around the village for protection.

According to the news release, the site was unusually well-preserved. The original landowner, Draper, discovered pottery shards when ploughing the land and decided to leave it in pasture because of its value.

In the last 20 years, a limited amount of investigation was carried out on the site, but was speeded up due to the proposed airport.

Filming of the excavation was recorded by a Toronto company and is to be shown on TV early next year.



Sieving soil through a mechanical screen are former UWO student Kaja Havelka, foreground, and McMaster student Eric Damkjar, hidden by the apparatus. Ten students are still working in the field and will continue to dig until the ground freezes sometime in November.

### Village possibly older

## Second 'find' on airport land

PICKERING — A second, possibly older, Huron Indian site has been found on Pickering airport property it was learned last week.

As a result, the National Museum of Man may apply to have both sites declared an archeological preserve, according to Dr. G. F. MacDonald, chief of the Archeological Survey of Canada. Or, they may wish to have them designated an archeologically significant zone, he said.

The White site may be equally as significant as the Draper find because of its age, Dr. MacDonald said.

Work on the White site began in 1974 when it was believed it was only a seasonal camp for In-

dians. However, it was soon learned it was an actual village.

Dr. MacDonald said "we would hate to see the White site turned over to anything like agriculture." He added that he favored having both sites made an archeological preserve.

He said that the Draper zone could be extended to cover the White Site.

The White site lies about one mile from the Draper area.

The cancellation of the airport may afford the extra year needed to thoroughly explore the site and assess the importance of the artifacts.

A spokesman for project manager Grant Tripp said the village may date back as far as

the 15th century, and precedes the coming of the white man to the area.

A \$23,000 contract was awarded by the National Museum of Man to Mr. Tripp last year to salvage the site.

According to the spokesman, there may have been two distinct settlements, on the site, since the 11 longhouses found there are of two different kinds.

An unusual aspect of the site is that some longhouses were naturally fortified by a ridge on three sides and stream on the other.

The 12-member Tripp team have uncovered more than 50,000 artifacts to date, including bone awls, needles, toggles and beads; and stone drills, scrapers, pendants and other instruments.

Also, two distinct styles of craftsmanship is exhibited in pottery that has been found there.

One thing hampering the digging was "weekend amateur archeologists," the spokesman said. Mr. Tripp and his crew had received good co-operation from the Ministry of Transport officials, he added.

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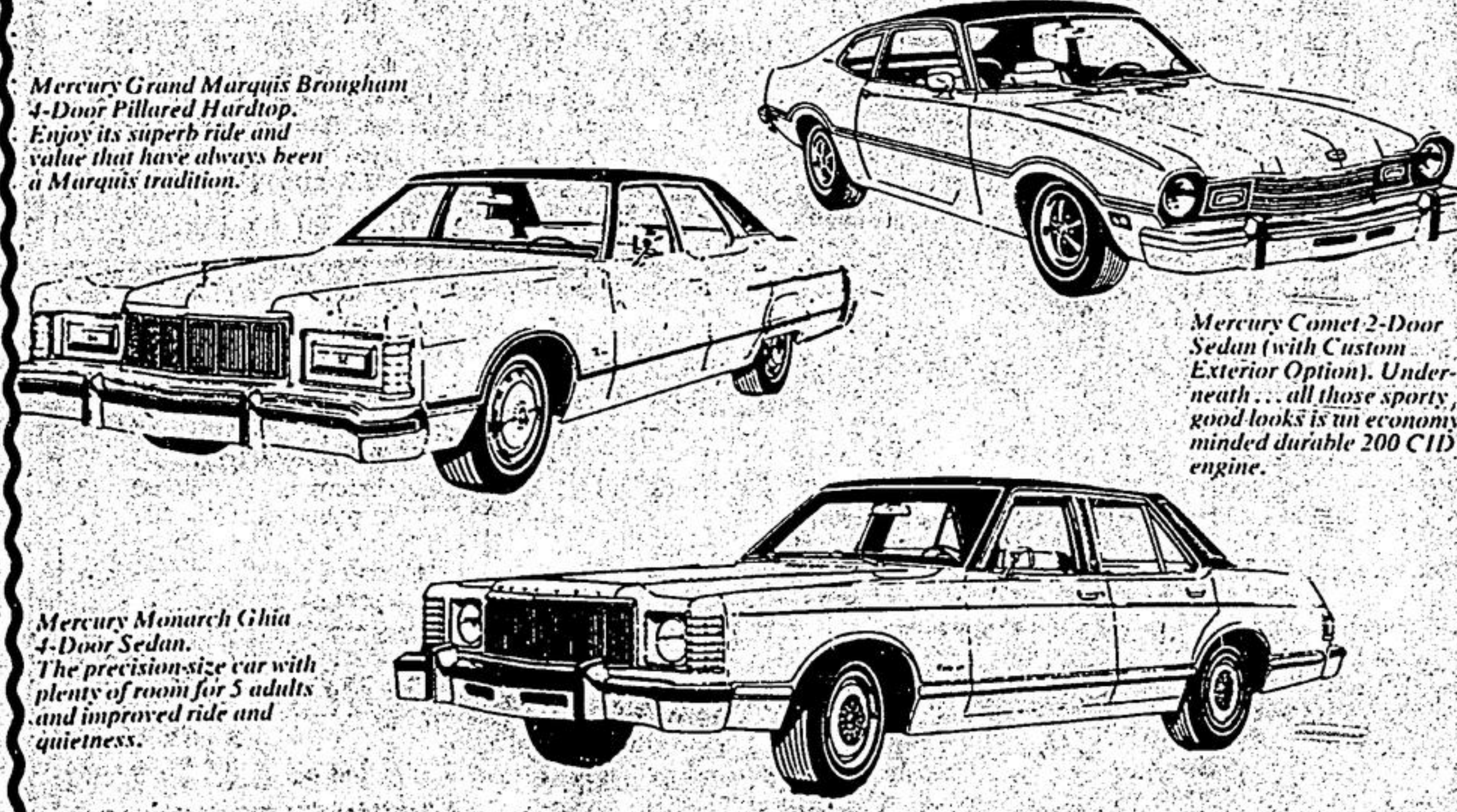
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