

TOTAL HOME

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New technology reduces cooling costs

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of the roof. "Less heat absorption means there is less expansion and contraction," Chiovare explained. "The result is even longer roof life, which produces even more cost savings."

Metal roofing offers fire resistance

The benefits of Custom-Bilt's new coatings are in addition to the other recognized benefits of standing-seam metal roofing, he added. "Metal roofing offers fire resistance, is light-weight and provides durability," he said.

"These benefits are now enhanced by the energy- and cost-saving advantages offered by ULTRA-Cool coatings."

Chiovare noted that Custom-Bilt Metals is now a partner in the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program. The joint campaign by the EPA and the Department of Energy recognizes companies that offer energy-efficient and environmentally friendly products.

"We are proud to be part of a program that recognizes products that help consumers save money, reduce their energy use and help the environment at the same time," said Chiovare.

Native village discovered at housing development

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

The remains of a 500-year-old native village have been uncovered on the site of a housing development in south Stouffville.

Archeologists are in the early stages of excavating the eight-acre settlement, estimated to have housed about 2,000 people between 1500 and 1550.

The dig is being carried out by Archaeological Services Inc. of Toronto under the direction of Dr. Ron Williamson.

To protect artifacts from theft, the site's exact location is not being made public.

Under the Ontario Heritage Act, it is illegal to enter an archeological site or to remove artifacts, Dr. Williamson said.

"We equate it to a medieval village. It existed before any formal tribe was named," he said.

"We do know, though, they are ancestors of the Hurons."

The Huron, also known as Wyandot, are a tribe that originally inhabited central Ontario. Prior to the arrival of Europeans, the Huron may have numbered as many as 40,000. Today, there are about 4,000 in the Canada and the United States.

Archaeological Services is working closely with First Nations Traditionalist, a group interested in heritage.

"The First Nations have visited the site and performed ceremonies," Dr. Williamson said.

Under provincial law, the land cannot be developed until

the excavation is complete, which should be by Christmas, he said.

Once the archeological work is done, the Ministry of Culture will give the developer the go-ahead to build.

Since the development hinges on the arrival of the Big Pipe early in 2005, the impact should be negligible, said Tom Parry, Whitchurch-Stouffville's manager of planning.

The discovery includes a wooden fort-like structure encircling the settlement.

"We do know the people developed difficulty with sight and experienced lung problems because of exposure to the smoke."

Inside, there is evidence of house structures measuring seven metres wide, seven metres high and between 30 and 40 metres long.

"They were wooden structures covered in elm and cedar bark," Dr. Williamson said.

Fire pits have also been found. "The families slept in the houses and these fires would burn all winter. It would get very smoky," Dr. Williamson said.

The smoke took its toll on the people.

"We do know the people

developed difficulty with sight and experienced lung problems because of exposure to the smoke. They (residents) were crowded and life was hard," Dr. Williamson said.

Artifacts uncovered include ceramic cooking pots, animal bones, charred plant remains of corn and squash as well as stone tools, including axes.

The Huron were an agricultural people, planting corn, squash and beans to supplement diets of fish, game, fruit and nuts.

"Corn made up half their diet," Dr. Williamson said.

During the summers, the men would be out hunting and fishing.

"The women would be very busy. They'd be looking after the corn fields. The villages moved every 10 to 20 years. They'd exploit their environment, using up all the fire wood and then they'd move 10 kilometres away."

Since the excavation is in the very early stages, it has yet to be determined where the artifacts will end up. Each is recorded and a permanent record of what is on the site will be made. Plans will be made to place the artifacts in a museum.

Archaeological Services, a Canadian-owned company based in Toronto, was founded more than 20 years ago in response to increasing public awareness of the importance of Ontario's heritage. The company has carried out more than 1,000 projects throughout Ontario.



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