

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Why do I have to have an archaeological assessment done for my property?**

A: The City has identified all areas in Toronto where there is potential to find archaeological resources. Your property is in one of these potential areas.

City Council decided that in these areas development applications will now be reviewed for archaeological resources prior to approval. In doing so, Council is implementing provincial policies and its own Official Plan policies regarding the conservation of archaeological resources.

The City of Toronto wants to protect archaeological resources because of their importance;

- they are the only record we have of Ontario's past prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century,
- they are important sources for research and communication about heritage sites,
- they are non-renewable and fragile resources, and
- it is our obligation to protect our heritage resources for future generations.

**Q: How do you know my property has archaeological potential?**

A: We looked at factors that tell us where archaeological resources are found, such as nearness to water sources, slope and elevation of land, soil type, past land use, historic mapping, and locations of known and reported sites. Just because there is potential does not mean anything will be found, but it is important an investigation be conducted.

**Q: My property has already had some development and demolition; does my property still have archaeological potential?**

A: Former construction activity can sometimes disturb archaeological resources, and lessen the likelihood of their survival. If you have documented evidence of earlier disturbance activities, you can contact Heritage Preservation Services for their review.

**Q: My neighbor did a similar project last year and he did not have to do an assessment. Why do I have to do one?**

A: It may be that your neighbor's work did not require site plan approval, or that it was approved before interim screening was implemented, or it may be that the property was thought to be too disturbed to merit an assessment.

**Q: Who does the assessment?**

A: Archaeological assessments must be undertaken by a licensed archaeologist. Archaeologists are licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Culture. You can contact Heritage Preservation Services for assistance in finding an archaeologist.

**Q: How much does an assessment cost?**

A: Assessments in “green field” situations typically cost \$2,500 to \$3,000 for a 100 acre parcel and \$1,500 to \$2,500 for a smaller sub-division development. Individual property owners might have to spend \$1000 for an assessment. Prices can rise if test pitting is required. However, identifying sensitive archaeological resources, such as human burials, early in the process can save a home owner costly delays to construction projects.

**Q: What happens if the archaeologist finds something?**

A: Often nothing of significance is found and the application is quickly cleared for development, however, if significant resources are found and are thought to contain important information, or if they contain human remains, they must be conserved, either through avoidance or documentation, recording and removal.

**Q: How long will this take?**

A: Archaeological assessments can only take place while the ground is unfrozen. Once you have an archaeologist on board, the assessment itself only takes a few days. However the assessment report must be cleared by the Ministry of Culture and City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services. Ministry of Culture approvals can take up to 90 days. If you are experiencing delays, contact Heritage Preservation Services.

**Q: Do I have to do this?**

A: If an assessment was required as a condition of approval, you must have it done and the assessment report must be cleared before your application is approved.

**Q: I have some more questions, who can I contact?**

A: Contact: Heritage Preservation Services  
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