

Baby Point Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan

Indigenous Engagement Session & Site Tour

April 18, 2024

10:00am – 1:00pm



Introductions

- Elder Donna Powless – Cayuga Nation;
Director, Taiaiaiko'n Historical Preservation
Society

City of Toronto

- Cecilia Nin Hernandez, Heritage Planner
– Project Lead
- Eric Beales, Senior Heritage Planner,
Archaeology
- Samantha Giguere, Heritage Planner

Innovation Seven

- Wendy Jocko, Indigenous Liaison
- Jonathan Kipling, Consultant
- Nathan Smit, Videographer & Video Editor

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. What is a Heritage Conservation District?
3. District History and Significance: Teiaiagon & The Garden Suburb
4. Discussion
5. Next Steps



Welcome

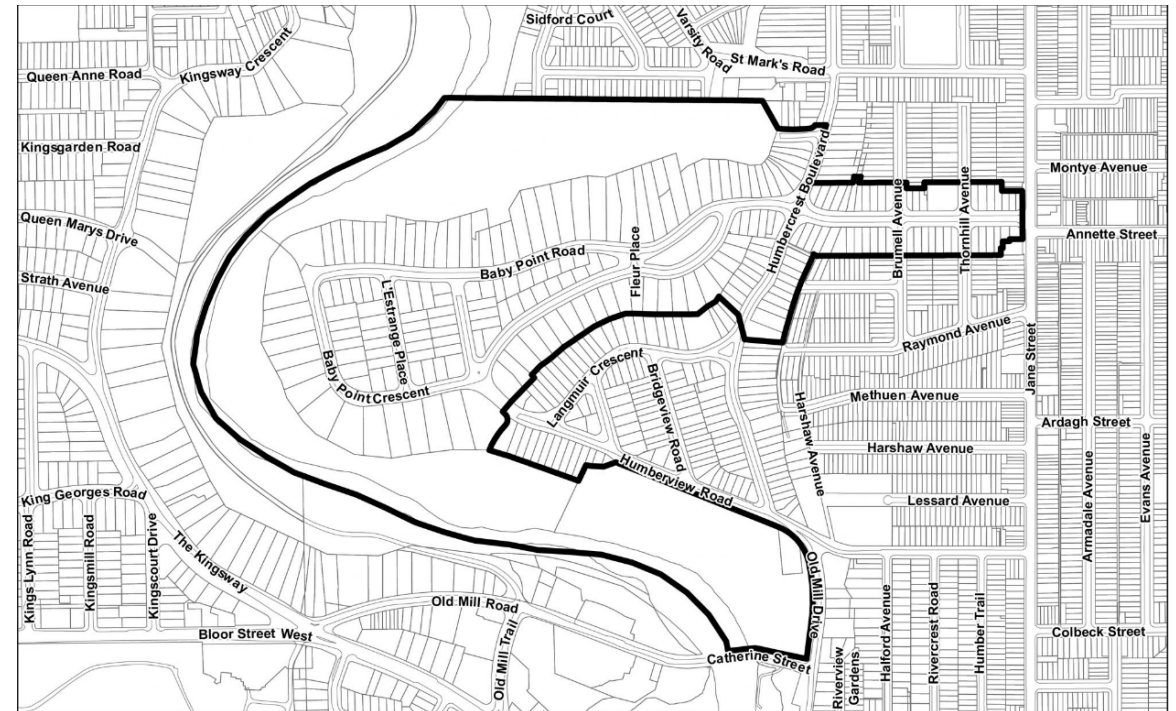
The **purpose** of this engagement session is to introduce the Baby Point HCD Plan and learn about how urban Indigenous communities value this area.



6 L'Estrange Pl

Location

Baby Point is **located atop a promontory overlooking** and defined by the oxbow shape of the **Humber River**.



What is a Heritage Conservation District?



Heritage Conservation Districts



An area, defined by a boundary, with a **concentration of cultural heritage resources** that **distinguishes** it from its surroundings; it can include structures, spaces, archaeological sites, natural elements, views/vistas, land use patterns



HCD Plan is a planning tool that ensures **ongoing change** conserves and enhances **heritage value** through **policies and guidelines**



Protected under Part V of the **Ontario Heritage Act (OHA)** and meet prescribed criteria of the OHA, enabled by Official Plan Heritage Policies and Municipal Code



Content of an HCD Plan

The content of an HCD Plan is directed by the Ontario Heritage Act.

- A **statement of the objectives** to be achieved in designating the area as an HCD.
- A statement explaining the **cultural heritage value** or interest of the district;
- A description of the **heritage attributes** of the heritage conservation district and of properties in the district;
- **Policy statements, guidelines** and **procedures** for achieving the stated objectives and managing change in the heritage conservation district; and
- a description of the alterations or **classes of alterations** that are minor in nature and that the owner of property in the heritage conservation district may carry out or permit to be carried out on any part of the property, other than the interior of any structure or building on the property, without obtaining a permit under section 42

Baby Point HCD Plan Process

We Are Here

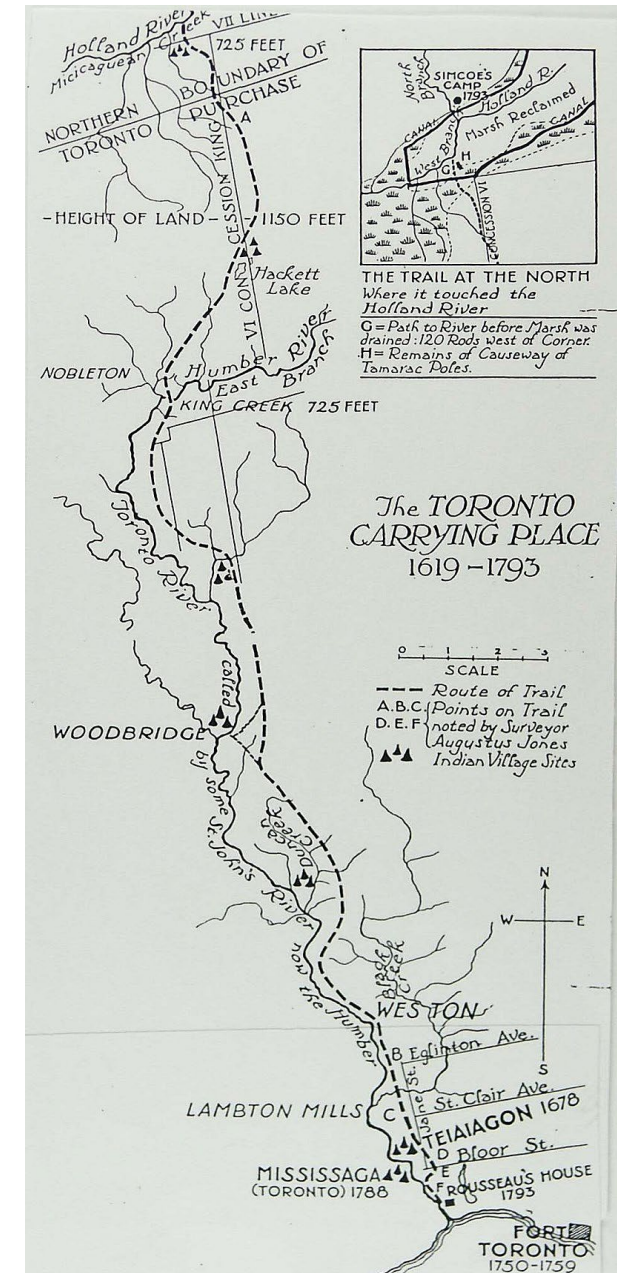


District Significance: Teiaiagon & The Garden Suburb



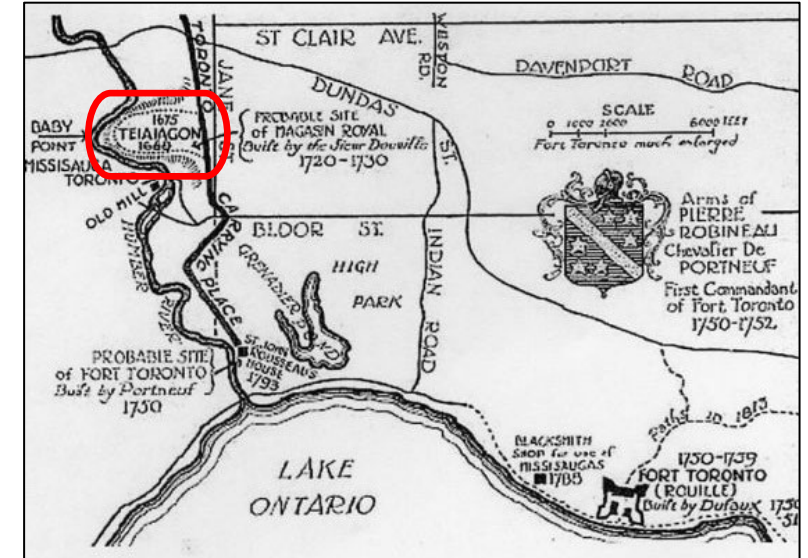
Indigenous Land Use – Carrying Place Trail

- The land upon which the study area sits has been traversed, used, and occupied by Indigenous peoples for millennia.
- Archaeological evidence reveals that the Baby Point area has seen occupation for at least the last 8000 years.
- Located on the Toronto Carrying Place Trail, an ancient travel route that provided access to hunting grounds, connected Indigenous communities, and served as part of long-distance trade networks.
- The Carrying Place Trail was also influential on the development of the region by settlers. Its presence was one of the reasons Governor Simcoe chose what he called York as the location for the capital of Upper Canada.



Indigenous Land Use - Teiaiagon

- The promontory is perhaps best known as the location of the seventeenth century Haudenosaunee village of Teiaiagon - one of a series of strategic settlements established along the north shore of Lake Ontario.
- Teiaiagon likely contained 20-30 longhouses that provided shelter for 500-800 people and may have included a defensive palisade.
- Important resources included salmon from Humber, plants and medicines along the river valley and crops from surrounding fields.
- Although Teiaiagon initially held a predominantly Seneca presence until its abandonment in 1688, this site or area was likely re-occupied by Mississauga people on a seasonal, if not year-round basis.

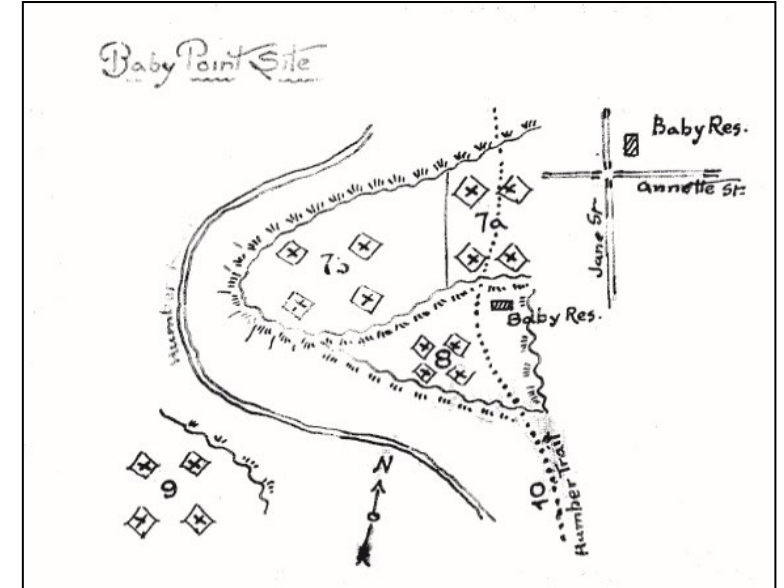


Top: Percy Robinson's 1933 map showing the location of Teiaiagon

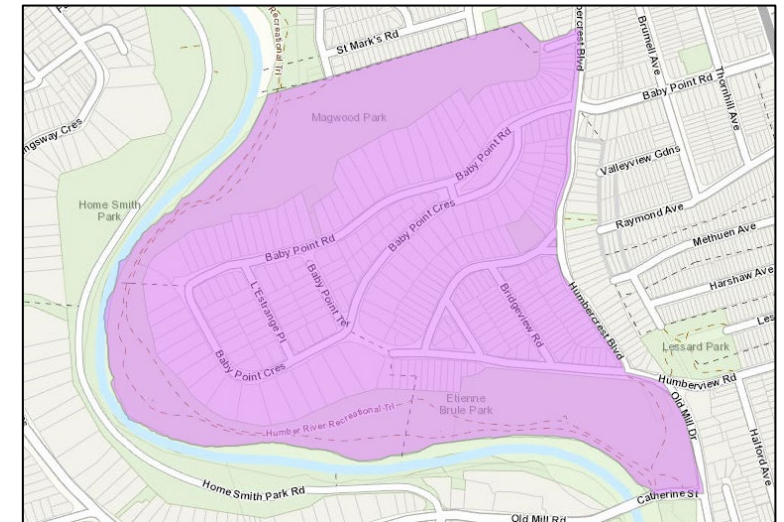
Bottom: Representation of a permanent settlement such as Teiaiagon (Rotunda Magazine, Spring 1987)

Teiaiagon Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA)

- Teiaiagon has been investigated by archaeologists since the late 19th Century.
- In recognition of the incredible sensitivity and significance of the site, the City of Toronto designated the area as an Archaeologically Sensitive Area.
- ASA designation requires that any activities that will result in soil disturbances are reviewed by Heritage Planning to determine archaeological impacts.
- A goal of the HCD project is to integrate these protections into applicable law (By-law)

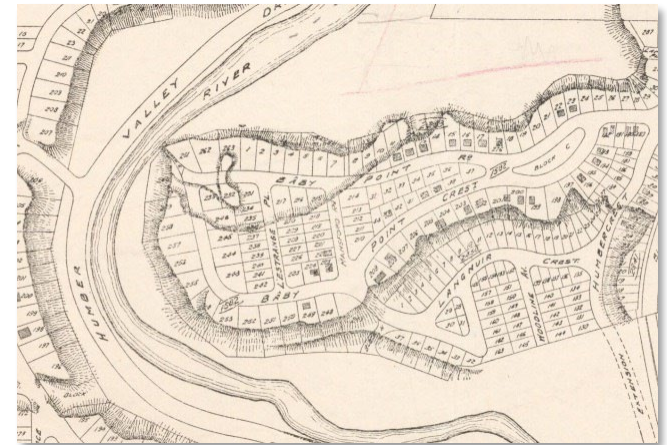


A.F. Hunter's 1889 map of Baby Point



The Garden Suburb

- Study Area purchased by Robert Home Smith in 1910 as part of a series of “Garden Suburb” residential neighbourhoods along the Humber River.
- Characteristic of the Garden Suburb, the neighbourhood is defined by natural topography, curvilinear streets, and detached homes nestled within the existing natural environment.
- The Baby Point neighbourhood developed slowly between 1911 and 1941 and included building restrictions to preserve the character of the designed suburb.
- Included in the development of the suburb was the setting aside of parkland surrounding the residential neighbourhood (Magwood Park, Étienne Brûlé Park).

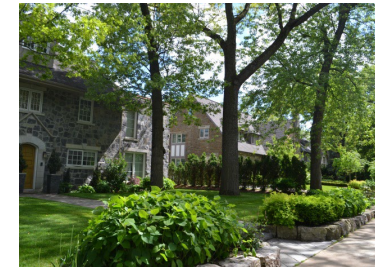
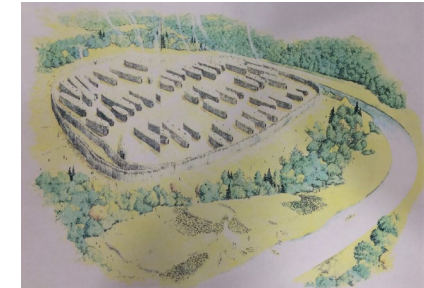
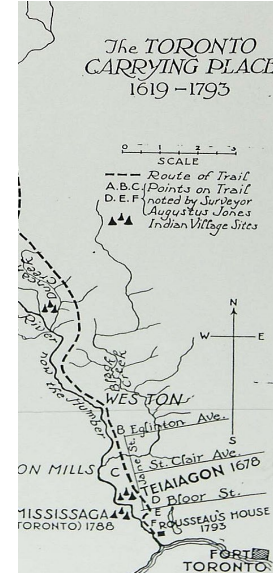


Top: Entrance to Baby Point Neighbourhood, 1911

Bottom: Baby Point Subdivision, 1929

Why Baby Point Merits HCD Designation

- Historic importance as the location of Teiaiagon, a Haudenosaunee Confederacy settlement sited atop the promontory
- Its enduring significance to Indigenous populations
- Its physical character relating to its development as one of Toronto's earliest designed garden suburbs
- The mature trees and the tree canopy contribute to the cultural heritage value of its streets and properties, but also reflects a design intention



Statement of District Significance

- The District has *cultural heritage value* based on thousands of years of *Indigenous settlement* and use, archaeological resources and burials, natural features, and association with Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
- The District is also a *designed cultural heritage landscape*, based on its landscape features, street pattern, and built form which reflect the *Garden Suburb design*.

Note: the full draft Statement of District Significance is available on the project web page here: [Overview: Baby Point HCD – City of Toronto](#)

Discussion



Discussion

What are your experiences with this neighbourhood?

- a) What are the places and features in the area that are important to you?
- b) How do you use and interact with this neighbourhood?



Discussion

What is cultural heritage value for you?

- a) What is valued about this place?
- b) What is special to you about this area and why?
- c) What should we understand about the history of Indigenous communities in this area?



Discussion

What are the aspects of this place that need to be conserved and communicated?

- a) Are there places in this District currently being used for ceremony or other activities for the Indigenous community?
- b) Are there any Indigenous people, places, or events that are connected to this area that we should recommend honoring in some way? If yes, how should they be honoured?



Discussion

How can we improve this neighbourhood for future generations while conserving what is important?

- a) *This Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan will include a list of goals and objectives for the future of the area. Do you have any suggestions on if and how a future Baby Point can better acknowledge and serve current and future Indigenous community members?*



Baby Point HCD Plan – Next Steps

- **On-going:** Nation-to-Nation Engagement
- **Upcoming:**
 - Community Consultation Meeting
 - Integrate feedback and complete the HCD Plan
 - Present HCD Plan to the Toronto Preservation Board and City Council

Questions & Feedback

Any questions or feedback following today's meeting can be provided to:

Samantha Giguere

Heritage Planner, City of Toronto

E-mail: Samantha.Giguere@toronto.ca

Phone: 416-338-8638

Additional information is available on the City's HCD website.

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/planning-studies-initiatives/baby-point-heritage-conservation-district-study/>

Thank you!

