



Communities, Culture and Heritage
Culture and Heritage Development

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July 24, 2023

Travis Crowell
Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited
109 John Stewart Avenue
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
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Dear Travis Crowell:

**RE: Heritage Research Permit Report
A2022NS202 – Halifax Shopping Centre Annex**

We have received and reviewed the report on work conducted under the terms of Heritage Research Permit A2022NS202 for archaeological resource impact assessment of the Halifax Shopping Centre Annex Project in Halifax County, Nova Scotia in 2023.

Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited was retained by Englobe to conduct an archaeological resource impact assessment (ARIA) for the Phase I & II components of the Land Suitability Assessment. The study area includes the Halifax Shopping Centre Annex, and is bounded by Mumford Road, Chebucto Road and the Canada National Railway (CNR). The Annex contains several existing buildings, as well as above and underground parking. The first phase includes approximately 3 hectares, including structures within. The second study area includes approximately 9 hectares, including structures. The ARIA involved Mi'kmaq engagement, historic background study, and field reconnaissance.

The historic background study indicated the Mi'kmaq and their ancestors have had a longstanding and intensive tradition of land use and occupancy throughout the Halifax/Dartmouth region going back many thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans. Early Euro-Canadian activity near the study area began soon after the founding of Halifax in 1749. Field reconnaissance showed the study area has been subjected to substantial landscape alterations from past commercial and urban development. Significant subsurface excavation was required for the Annex itself, and other areas show evidence of extensive infilling. A retaining wall at the northern edge of Walmart's parking lot shows that some excavation occurred in the past, and the presence of infrastructure, such as manholes, lampposts and catch-basins, may have been placed deep enough to extend into natural levels that predate infilling. No surficial archaeological features or resources were identified during the reconnaissance. However, the potential for buried archaeological resources beneath the surface, with the highest potential being the northern portion of the study area the, as 1920's tram line and remnants of structures associated with the John Murphy property may exist below the asphalt. Historic activity in the form of stone walls, middens or garbage deposits, and early infrastructure such as sewers, may be present. DM&A has ascribed the area to be of low-moderate archaeological potential.

Based on the above, DM&A concluded that one area has been identified as moderate potential for encountering archaeological resources. This includes areas where georeferenced historic mapping has indicated the presence of 19th century historic homes associated with the former Murphy property and the

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1920's tramline in what is today the parking lot west of the bus terminal. While development of these areas may have removed any trace of these homes, historic activity in the form of foundation walls, boundary walls, midden or garbage deposits, or sewers may be present in these locations. Therefore, it is recommended that archaeological monitoring be conducted for ground disturbance associated with any proposed development of the Halifax Shopping Center Annex. Areas of low-moderate potential may require only periodic check-ins or for the archaeologist to be "on-call" for construction crews to notify if they encounter archaeological resources. However, in areas of moderate potential archaeological monitoring will be required until the archaeologist can make a determination that the area has been disturbed to the extent that intact archaeological resources will not be expected to be encountered. In the event that archaeological resources are encountered at any point during ground disturbance and an archaeologist is not present, it is required that any ground disturbing activity be halted immediately, and the Coordinator of Special Places (902- 424-6475) be contacted regarding a suitable method of mitigation. Should the impact area be modified to expand beyond the currently understood range, a qualified archaeologist should be consulted to evaluate whether further archaeological assessment may be required.

CCH Staff have reviewed the report and find it acceptable as submitted. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.



John Connor

Coordinator, Special Places