

HIGH POTENTIAL FOR ABORIGINAL ARTIFACTS IN KNL LANDS

The AOO engaged the services of Groupe de recherche archéologique de l'Outaouais (GRAO) to conduct an independent review of existing documentation and to provide recommendations for next steps, for the protection of any aboriginal artifacts that may exist on KNL lands.

These lands are located within Algonquin Traditional Territory which is the subject of Land Claim Negotiations between the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the Algonquins of Ontario.

Today, the AOO received the report from Groupe de recherche archéologique de l'Outaouais (GRAO). Based on their review, GRAO advises that:

“the rocky upland areas of the proposed development can no longer be ignored as of low archaeological potential. They should be considered to be of high potential for occupation by early postglacial populations without excluding possibility of periodic or temporary occupation in more recent prehistoric time to exploit some specific resources available in the area of study, like quartz or other lithic material, for stone tool production or any basic need of the distant predecessors or ancestors of the Algonquian people.”

Robert Potts, Principal Negotiator for the AOO stated that the report “confirms that there is indeed potential for significant aboriginal artifacts within the KNL lands.” Mr. Potts highlighted that the AOO respect private property rights, but underscored that “if aboriginal artifacts exist it is crucial that these resources be preserved and respected in a manner consistent with Algonquin traditions.”

GRAO recommends that a second Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Study be undertaken, **with special attention to the pre-contact aspect of the occupation of the territory**. GRAO also noted that it is imperative that the Stage 1 and 2 studies must be completed ahead of tree cutting operations which are likely to compromise the integrity of archaeological sites.

The AOO have appealed to City and KNL Developments to take whatever steps available to delay any onsite activities until a second Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Study is completed. The AOO are prepared to work closely with the City and KNL Developments Limited in the undertaking of such a study.

-30-

More information: Janet Stavinga
Executive Director
Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office
Tel: 613-735-3759 ext 202
lstavinga@nrtco.net

