

**STAGE 1 AND 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF PART LOTS 35 AND 36, CONCESSION 1,
HILLIER TOWNSHIP, PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY
(PLEASANT BAY LODGE, ALEXANDER ISLAND)**

For

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From

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INTRODUCTION

A contract to carry out a Stage 1 and 2 archaeological assessment of Parts of Lots 35 and 36, Concession 2, Hillier Township, Prince Edward County was awarded to Northeastern Archaeological Associates by Quinte Eco-Consultants on March 26, 2001. The subject property consists of a small three-acre parcel of land located on Alexander Island south of Pleasant Bay on Lake Ontario (see Figure 1). Referred to as "*Pleasant Bay Lodge*", this development includes a planned parking lot/tennis court adjacent to two resort buildings, and a planned storage shed east of the two-acre parcel (see Figure 2). In addition to the main building envelopes, testing was carried out along the north entrance road (see Figures 2 and 5).

REGIONAL PHYSIOGRAPHY

The subject property is located in the Prince Edward Peninsula physiographic region of southern Ontario which includes the entirety of Prince Edward County - a plain or low plateau of limestone projecting into Lake Ontario. In Hillier Township, the surface strata of Trenton limestone is thinly bedded with broken down shale partings to some depth. Soils are therefore richer than in much of the county's limestone formation. The dominant soil is Hillier clay loam, locally referred to as clay gravel or limestone gravel. The shoreline is irregular due to deep valleys dissecting the limestone and forming long bays or inlets in Lake Ontario. Since the surface of the Prince Edward limestone plain has a small gradient to the southwest, the western and southern shores have low elevation and are often crossed by transverse sand bars, forming lagoons such as Pleasant Bay east and north of the subject property. North Bay Provincial Park, just north of the subject property, is noted for its sand dunes (Chapman and Putnam 1973).

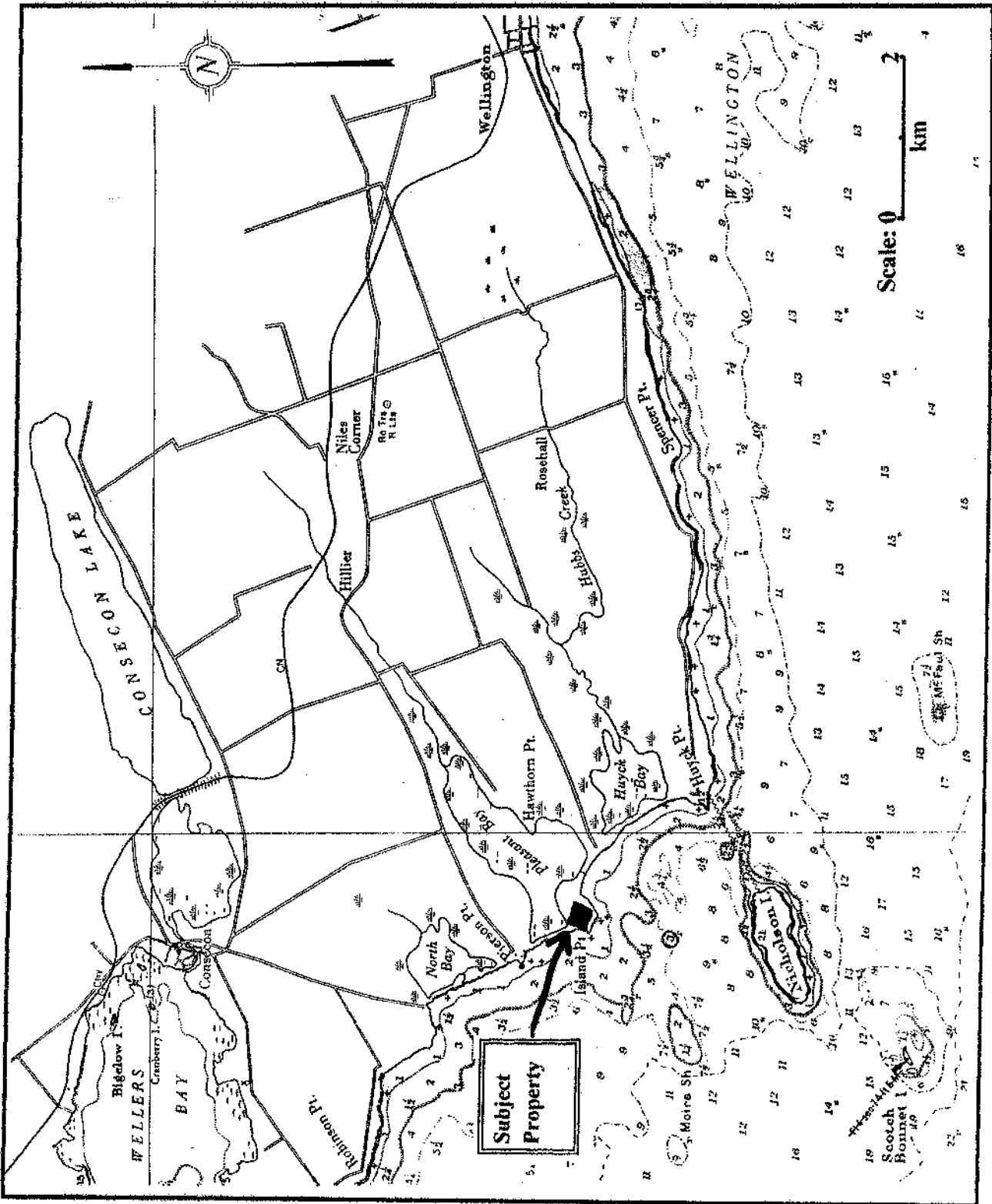


FIGURE 1 LOCATION OF SUBJECT PROPERTY IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.

FIELD CREW, SCHEDULE, AND CONDITIONS

All work on the subject property was carried out under the Field Direction of Donna Morrison and Project Direction of Lawrence Jackson. Field Assistant was David Pearo. All field work was completed on May 23, 2001 in clear and warm conditions. The cultivated portion of the subject property was heavily weathered after significant rains in mid-May.

METHODOLOGY

About 50% of the main subject property was cultivated and was pedestrian surveyed at a 3-metre interval. Remaining areas which could not be ploughed due to the presence of scrub brush vegetation were shovel tested at a high potential 5-metre interval (see Figure 5). A 5-metre shovel test interval was also used along the sides of the north entrance road while the recently-cleared central portion of the road was surface surveyed at a 3-metre interval (in total this tested area was 20m wide by 110m). The planned storage shed area to the east was a small area 25m by 30m and was shovel tested at a 5-metre interval. All shovel tests were excavated to sterile subsoil and all fill was screened through 1/4-inch mesh rocker screens; all pits were backfilled after screening. Figure 2 shows a development plan of the subject property as submitted to the municipal government for approval. Figure 3 shows an official sketch of Alexander Island (Huyck's Island) including the subject property.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Hillier Township was a part of Ameliasburgh Township of Prince Edward County until 1823 when an Act of Parliament set it aside as a separate municipality. Early settlers in the Pleasant Bay locality, where the subject property is located, included Ira de Long, Thomas C. Beadle, Richard van Horn, John Tripp, and E. Hawley. De Long is shown as owner of Alexander Island on the 1878 historical atlas map of Hillier Township (Belden and Co.) (see Figure 3). The villages of Consecon and Wellington were both partially within the boundaries of Hillier Township.

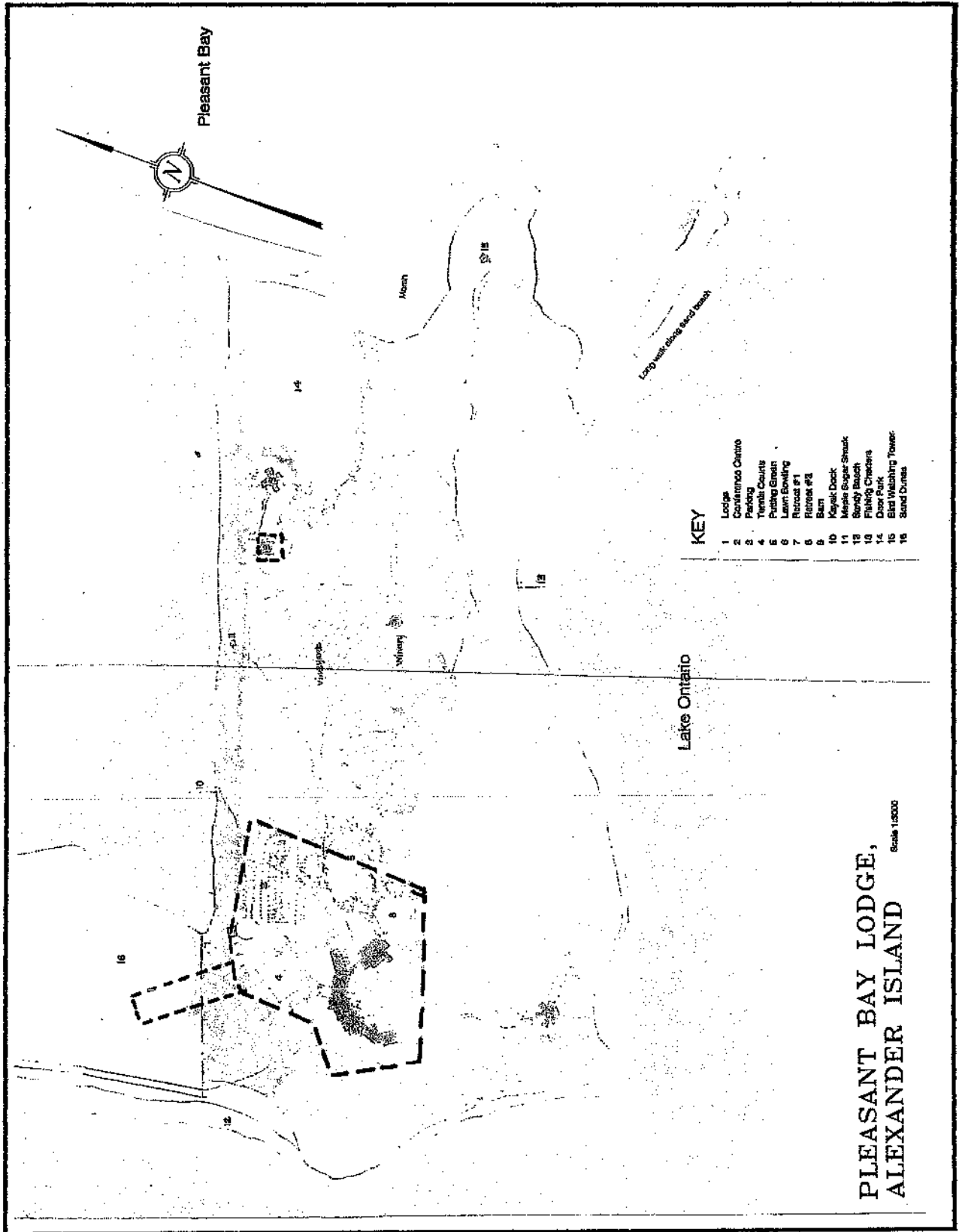


FIGURE 2 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF PLEASANT BAY LODGE, ALEXANDER ISLAND.

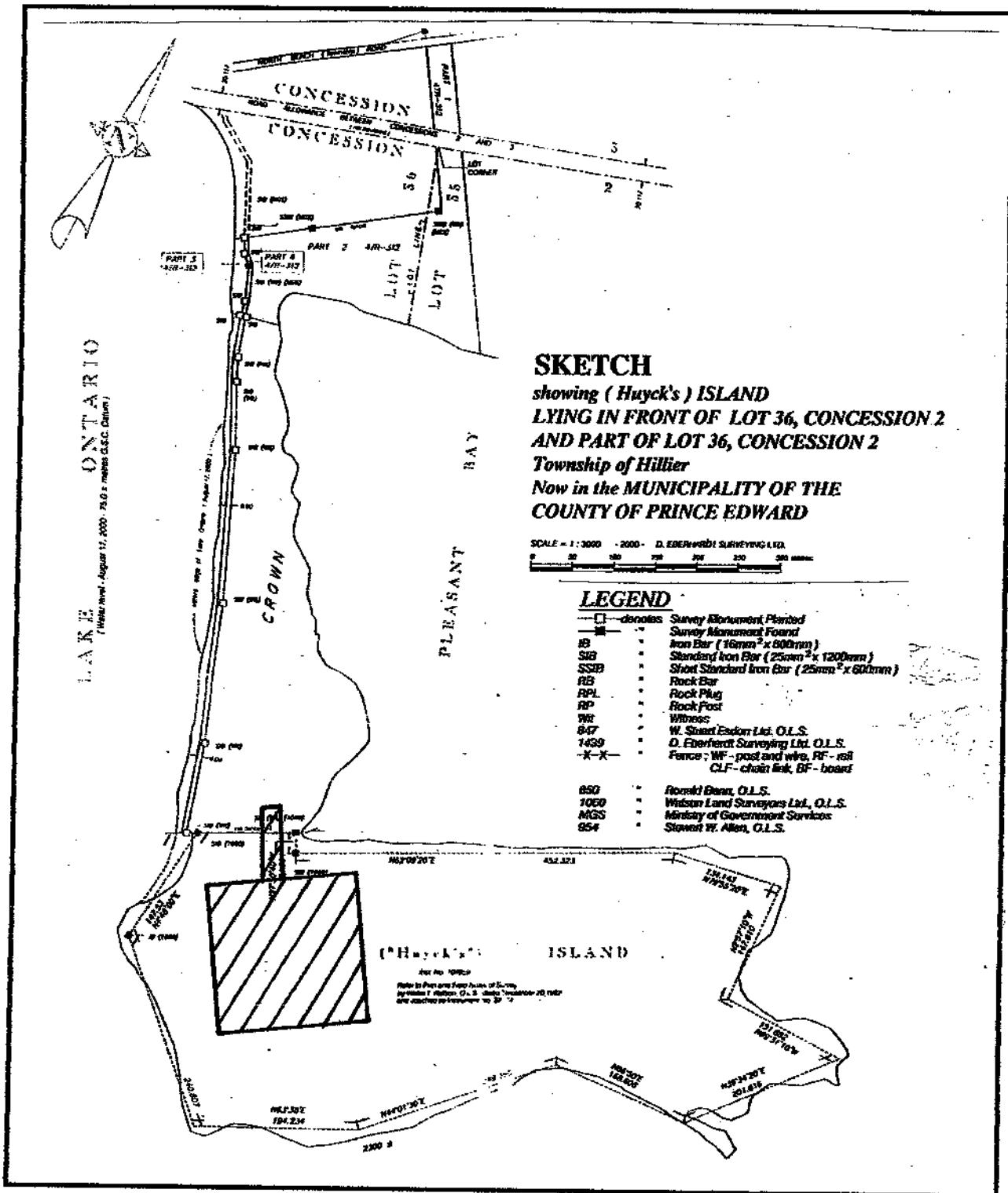


FIGURE 3 SKETCH OF ALEXANDER ISLAND (HUYCK'S ISLAND) INCLUDING SUBJECT PROPERTY.

Consecon Lake, inland and to the northeast of the subject property, provided mill power for the village of Consecon before entering Weller Bay on Lake Ontario. Upstream tributaries feeding Consecon Lake also provided mill power for the smaller communities of Mellville and Allisonville in Hillier Township. The Town Hall and Division Court of Hillier were located in the village of Pleasant Valley, a short distance inland from the subject property.

Land registry records show the original Crown Patents for the subject property area being granted in 1861 to Abner Covey. The lands are described as 108 acres in Lots 34, 35 and 36 in the North Parts. Much of the hand-writing in the lot records is illegible. However, Lot 35 was sold in 1864 to name unreadable, then in 1877 to Reuben Young. In 1879, there is a Chancery Order involving the lot and in the same year, Reuben Young and wife sell to David P. Cory and wife. In the same year, 140 acres in both lots 35 and 36 is sold back to Reuben Young and wife. In 1880, part of the lot is sold to T.B. Wragg. In 1883, there is a transaction from Thomas B. Wragg, trustee, back to Reuben Young. In 1888, what appears to be 140 acres in four lots is sold by David P. Cory and wife to Reuben Young. Transactions in 1891 and 1896 from Reuben Young are to parties whose names are struck out and illegible in the registry records. One of the names, which appears to be W.S. Jaques occurs again in a 1906 transaction. In 1910, there is a transaction from Horace Thompson to Jesse Young. In 1911, R. G. Young and wife transfer this land back to Horace Thompson. In 1912, Thompson sells to Joseph Stapleton and in 1919 Stapleton sells back to Thompson. There are no further transactions until 1951 when George Thompson, acting as executor for the estate of Horace Thompson, sells to Geraldine Skratt. In 1964, Skratt sells to the Pleasant Bay Bible Conference which maintains interests in the property up until about 1973.

Lots 34 and 36 have a near identical history of land registry transactions to Lot 35 since the three lots were sold as a unit throughout most of their use.

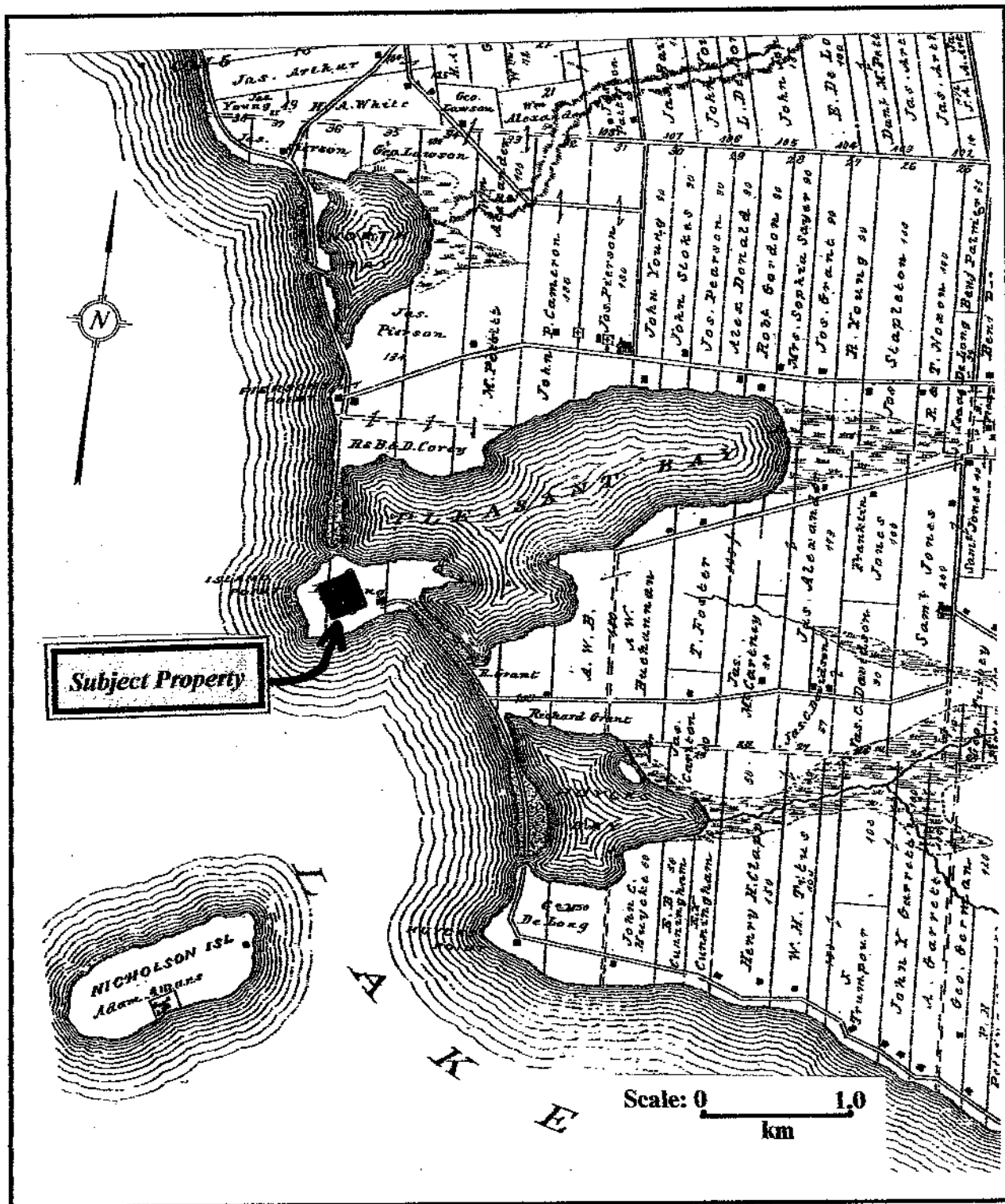


FIGURE 4 HISTORIC ATLAS MAP SHOWING SUBJECT PROPERTY (after Belden and Co. 1878).

KNOWN SITES IN THE AREA

A search of the archaeological sites data base of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation by Robert von Bitter on May 16, 2001 did not produce any records of registered archaeological sites within a 2 km radius of the subject property. Since numerous sites are, however, recorded within Prince Edward County, and since the subject property adjoins Pleasant Bay on Lake Ontario, the area should be regarded as one of significant potential for site discovery.

STAGE 2 PEDESTRIAN SURVEY AND SHOVEL TEST RESULTS

As shown in Figure 5, there were three separate envelopes of land assessed for the Alexander Island property. These consisted of: (1) the north entrance road, (2) the main resort building envelope and adjacent parking lot, and (3) the storage shed to the east of the main resort area.

The north entrance road had previously been cleared of brush so it was surface surveyed at 3m intervals across the central 12 metres; shovel testing took place along either side of this cleared area at a 5m interval. This road area (20m by 110m in total) was somewhat boggy in the south and turned to very sandy scrub in the north portion. *Nothing of archaeological significance, either historic or prehistoric, was recovered from the entrance road area during either the pedestrian survey or the shovel testing.*

The resort building and the parking lot consisted of both cultivated field and unploughed areas (these had to be shovel tested due to the presence of scrub trees and rocks). *Pedestrian survey of the cultivated field (at 3m intervals) did not produce any artifacts, either prehistoric or historic. Similarly, shovel testing at a 5 metre interval did not produce any artifacts.* Soils were very stoney or very sandy.

The proposed storage shed is some 150 metres east of the main resort building envelope and is quite small. An area 25m by 30m was more than sufficient to cover the size of the actual proposed building as well as a 7m-wide buffer zone on all four sides. The shed area was entirely assessed by shovel testing at 5m intervals. The topsoil was limestone gravel/Hillier clay loam. *Nothing of archaeological significance, either historic or prehistoric, was recovered in the shed area.*

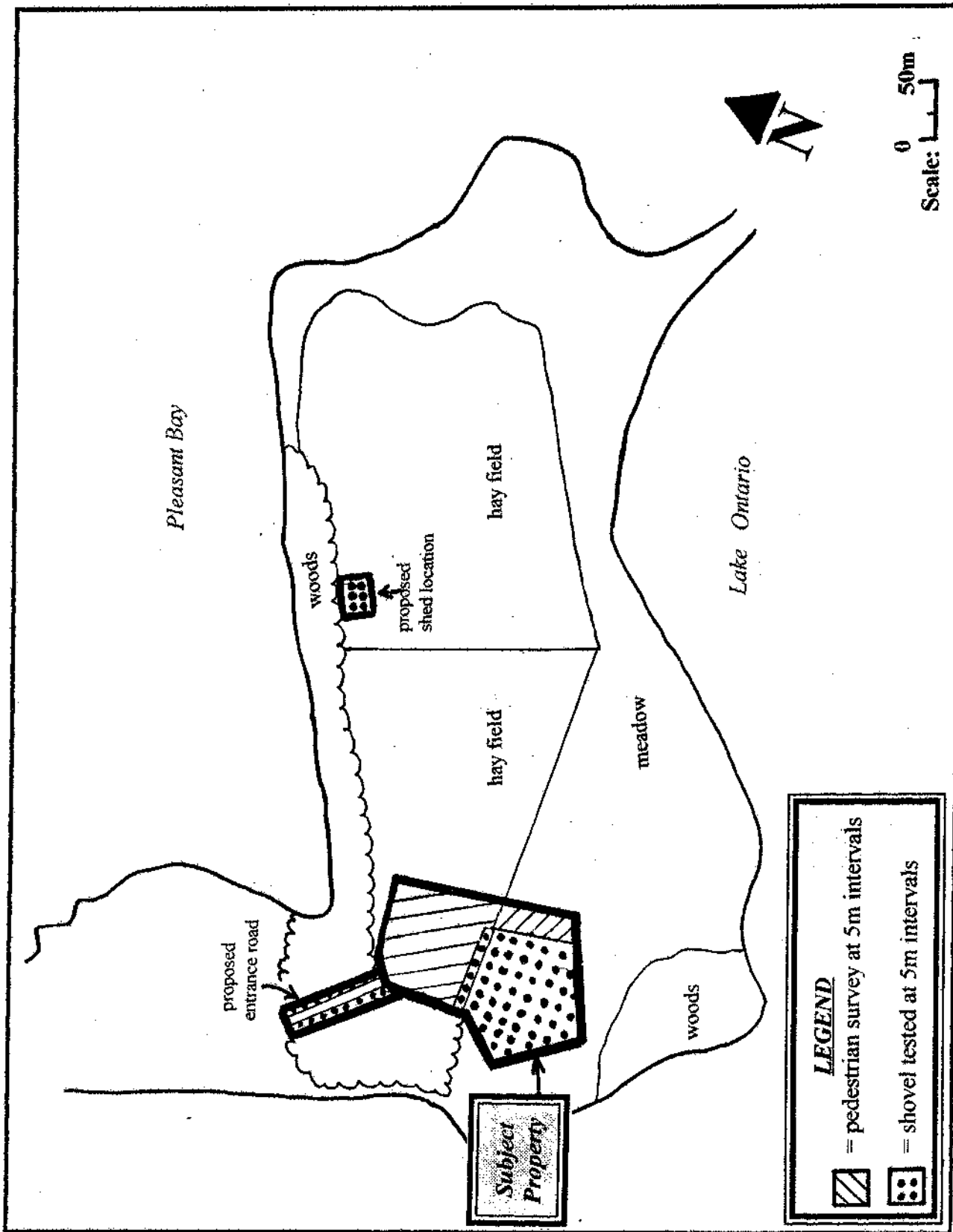


FIGURE 5 SURFACE SURVEY AND SHOVEL TEST LOCATIONS ON SUBJECT PROPERTY.



**PLATE 1 VIEW TO WEST OF SHOVEL TESTING IN AREA A.
(NOTE LAKE ONTARIO IN BACKGROUND).**



PLATE 2 VIEW TO NORTHEAST OF PEDESTRIAN SURVEY IN AREA C.



**PLATE 3 VIEW TO NORTHEAST OF SHOVEL TESTING IN AREA E
(NOTE PLEASANT BAY IN BACKGROUND).**

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the absence of archaeological materials in shovel tests and from surface survey of the subject property as shown in Figures 2 and 5 (including the main resort buildings, the parking lot, the north entrance road, and the shed to the east), ***complete clearance of these areas is recommended.*** This clearance does not apply to any other buildings planned or added to the hotel complex.

Development Caution

If deeply buried archaeological remains are encountered during any construction activity on the subject property, the *Archaeology Unit* of the *Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation* must be contacted immediately. If human remains are uncovered during any construction activity on the property, the *Registrar* or *Deputy Registrar* of the *Cemeteries Regulations Unit* of the *Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations*, as well as the *Archaeology Unit* of the *Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation*, must be contacted immediately.

REFERENCES CITED

Belden, H. and Co.

1878 **Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Hastings and Prince Edward.** Toronto.

Chapman, L.J. and D.F. Putnam

1973 **The Physiography of Southern Ontario.** Toronto.

Picton Land Registry Office

2001 **Land Registry Records for Lots 34, 35 and 36, Concession 2, Hillier Township.**