



## **Appendix N.1**

Beaver Dam Development Archaeological Screening & Reconnaissance  
Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia - March 2009  
Completed for the Updated 2021 Beaver Dam Mine EIS

ACADIAN MINING CORPORATION

**BEAVER DAM DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING & RECONNAISSANCE  
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
NOVA SCOTIA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING &  
RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

Submitted to:  
**Acadian Mining Corporation**  
and the  
**Special Places Program - Heritage Division**

Prepared by:  
**Cultural Resource Management Group Limited**  
6040 Almon Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3K 1T8

Consulting Archaeologist: W. Bruce Stewart  
Report Preparation: Sara Beanlands

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MARCH 2009



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**BEAVER DAM DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING & RECONNAISSANCE  
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
NOVA SCOTIA**

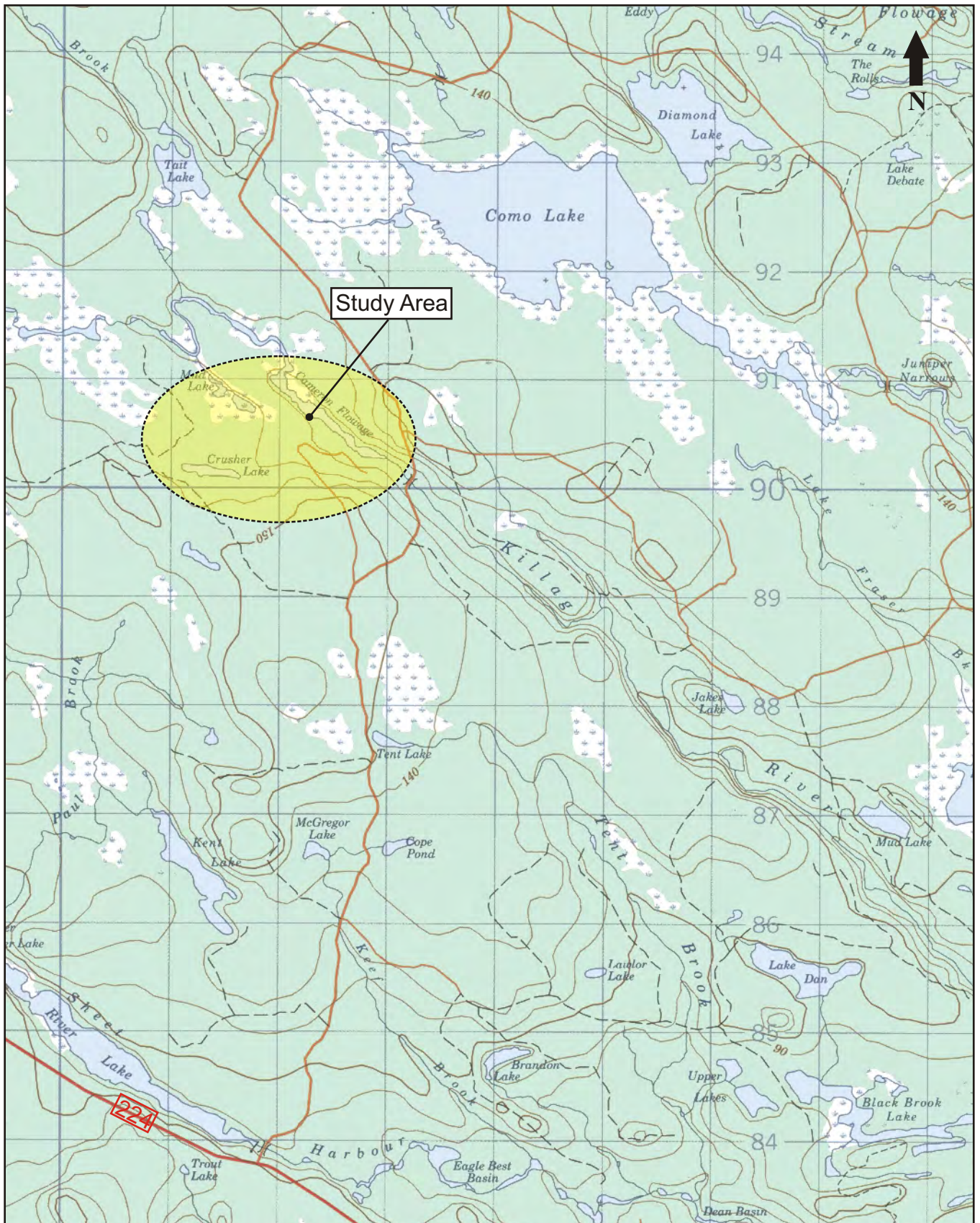
## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**


Acadian Mining Corporation is proposing to develop an open-pit mine to access known gold deposits at the Beaver Dam Development property, located in the north-eastern corner of Halifax Regional Municipality, approximately 21 kilometres northwest of Sheet Harbour (*Figures 1 & 2*). On-site features would include the open-pit mine, a crusher, settling pond, stock piles of overburden and product, as well as service roads. The exact location and configuration of the mine complex has not yet been determined.

In order to address the potential for encountering archaeological resources during development of the Beaver Dam property, Acadian Mining retained Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Group to undertake archaeological screening and reconnaissance within the proposed development footprint.

The fieldwork was directed by W. Bruce Stewart, President and Senior Consultant of CRM Group, with the assistance of Staff Archaeologist and Historical Researcher Sara Beanlands and crew members Cameron Milner and Kathryn Stewart. Reconnaissance was carried out on May 22, 2008.

The archaeological investigation was conducted according to the terms of Heritage Research Permit A2008NS21 (Category 'C'), issued to Stewart by the Special Places Programs – Heritage Division (SPP-HD). This report describes the archaeological screening and reconnaissance of the proposed development area, presents the results of these efforts and offers cultural resource management recommendations.



	<b>Approximate Study Area</b>	<b>Figure 1</b>
	<b>BEAVER DAM DEVELOPMENT          ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCREENING &amp; RECONNAISSANCE          HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY, NOVA SCOTIA</b>	
		March 2009 Scale 1:50 000



**BEAVER DAM DEVELOPMENT  
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HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
NOVA SCOTIA**

**Legend**

**Explorartion Licences**

ACADIAN MINING CORPORATION

■ Building

— Contours

**Road Features**

— Loose Surface

— Resource Road

--- Track

**Water**

— Stream

--- Stream (approximate)

Water

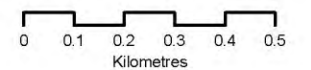
Wetlands

Islands

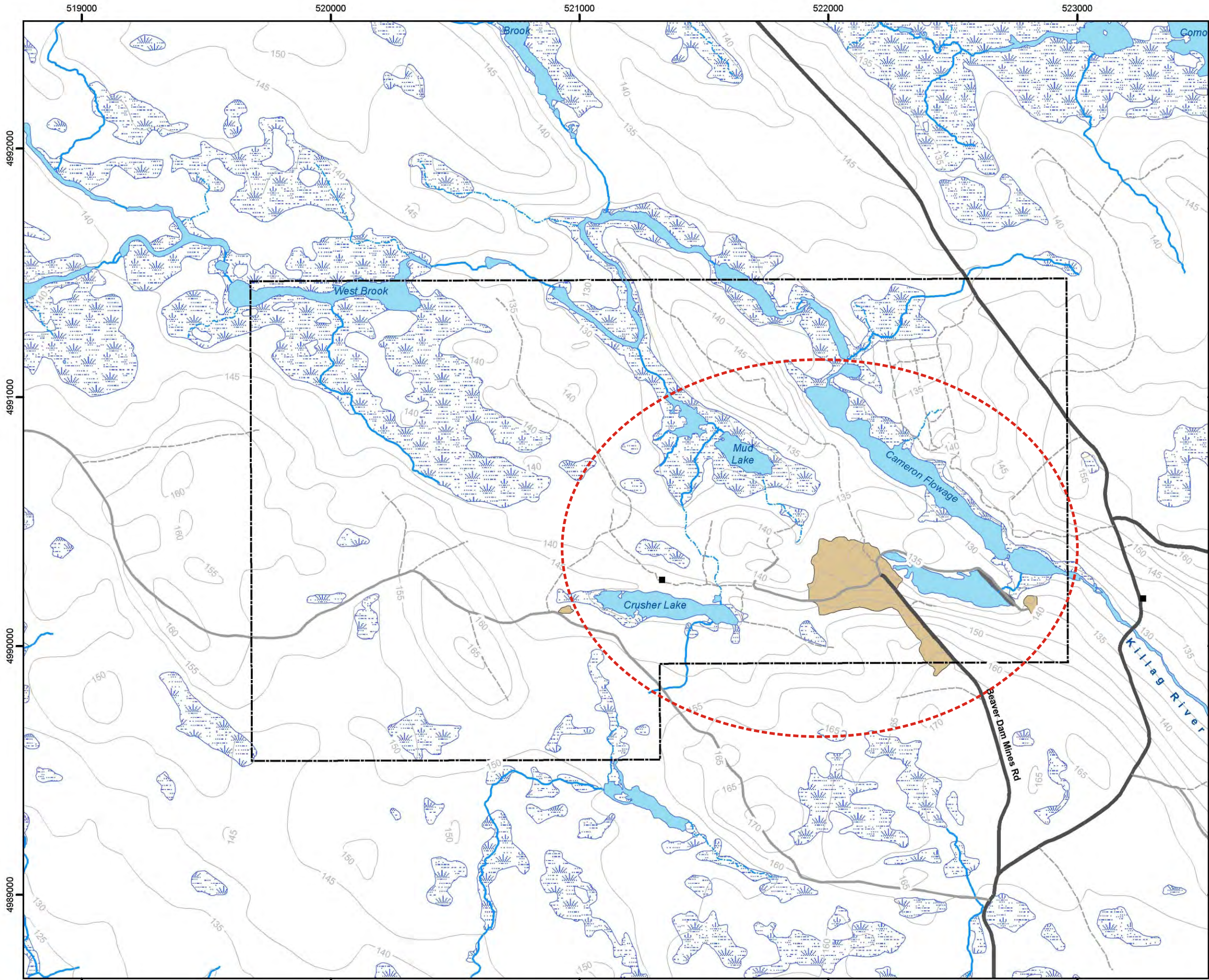
Dam

Pit

Approximate CRM Group Study Area



UTM Zone 20, NAD83





## 2.0 STUDY AREA

The Beaver Dam Development property is located in the north-eastern corner of Halifax Regional Municipality, approximately 21 kilometres northwest of Sheet Harbour (*Figure 1*). The property comprises the historic Beaver Dam Gold District situated between Crusher Lake and Cameron Flowage (*Figure 2; Plate 1*). The development site will have a footprint of approximately 50 hectares within a 250 hectare study area. Access to the property can be gained by following Highway 224 approximately 17 kilometres northwest from Highway 7 to Beaver Dam Mines Road, then following Beaver Dam Mines Road north for a distance of approximately 7.1 kilometres.



**PLATE 1: Abandoned mining pit within the Beaver Dam study area; facing northeast.**



### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

In accordance with the recommendations contained within the environmental screening prepared by the SPP-HD (Ogilvie 2008), Acadian Mining Corporation retained CRM Group to undertake archaeological screening and reconnaissance surveys of the area that will potentially be disturbed by development activities. To address the issues, CRM Group developed a work plan consisting of the following components: review relevant site documentation to develop archaeological potential model (screening); assist Acadian Mining with First Nation communities discussion (as required); archaeological reconnaissance of the area(s) to be impacted by development activities; and, prepare a report summarizing the results of the background research and field survey, as well as recommend strategies for assessment and management of areas exhibiting high archaeological potential.

#### **3.1 Background Study**

The archival research component of the archaeological screening and reconnaissance was designed to explore the land use history of the study area, and provide information necessary to evaluate the area's archaeological potential. To achieve this goal, CRM Group utilized the resources of various institutions including documentation available through Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management, the Nova Scotia Land Information Centre and the SPP-HD.

The background study included a review of relevant historic documentation incorporating land grant records, legal survey and historic maps, as well as local and regional histories. Topographic maps and aerial photographs, both current and historic, were also used to evaluate the study area. This data facilitated the identification of environmental and topographic features which would have influenced human settlement and resource exploitation patterns. The historical and cultural information was integrated with the environmental and topographic data to identify potential areas of archaeological sensitivity. In preparation for the archaeological reconnaissance, the information obtained from this suite of research materials was reviewed to facilitate the interpretation of any archaeological features encountered within the study area.

Due to unforeseen economic downturn, the background study could not be developed to the degree originally intended. Further background research would add value and depth to the interpretation of occupation history.

#### **3.2 Field Reconnaissance**

The goals of the archaeological field reconnaissance were to conduct a reconnaissance of the potential development impact zone, document any archaeological sites identified during the course of visual inspection, and design a strategy for testing areas of archaeological potential, as well as any archaeological resources identified within the study area. Although the ground search did not involve sub-surface testing, the researchers were watchful for topographic or vegetative anomalies that might indicate the presence of buried archaeological resources. The process and results of the field reconnaissance were documented in field notes and with photographs.

## **4.0 RESULTS OF SCREENING AND RECONNAISSANCE**

### **4.1 Background Study**

The following discussion details the environmental and cultural setting of the study area. This background study provides a framework for the evaluation of archaeological potential and the initial interpretation of any resources encountered during the field component of the assessment.

#### **4.1.1 Environmental Setting**

A number of environmental factors such as water sources, physiographic features, soil types and vegetation have influenced settlement patterns and contribute to the archaeological potential of the area.

##### **Water Sources**

The Beaver Dam Development property is drained by way of the Killag River, a tributary of West River Sheet Harbour that flows south across the eastern portion of the study area (**Figures 1 & 2**). The Killag River has been dammed creating a reservoir within the study area, known as Cameron Flowage (**Figure 2; Plate 2**). The dam is located at the southeastern end of Cameron Flowage. Several lakes also fall within the study area, including Crusher Lake (**Plate 3**) and Mud Lake (**Figure 2**). Proximity to water, for both drinking and transportation, is a key factor in identifying Precontact and historic Native, as well as early Euro-Canadian, archaeological potential.

##### **Topography**

The study area is located within the greater terrestrial region known as the Atlantic Interior – Quartzsite Barrens (Guysborough) Unit (Davis & Browne 1996: 134). The bedrock-dominated topography can be generally described as undulating to rolling. Elevation within the study area ranges from approximately 130 metres to 170 metres above sea level. Low-lying areas are typically swampy. Elevated areas within the study area may have provided important vantage points for viewing the surrounding region and for sighting large game. The Beaver Dam Development property is located within the Goldenville Formation of the Meguma Group of southern Nova Scotia, a sequence of Cambro-Ordovician-aged metasedimentary rocks and granitoid intrusives. Gold deposits are present throughout much of the exposed stratigraphy of the Goldenville Formation (Sangster & Smith 2007).

##### **Soils**

The Beaver Dam area is covered primarily by *Halifax* series soils, although concentrations of *Bridgewater* series soils and peat are also found within the study area. *Halifax* soils are well drained but typically shallow, stony and porous. The parent material is olive to yellowish-brown sandy loam to gravelly sandy loam glacial till derived primarily from quartzite. In general, *Halifax* soils are too stony for agriculture (MacDougall et. al. 1963: 32-33). The well-drained *Bridgewater* soils are developed from a medium-textured, olive coloured glacial till that is derived principally from Precambrian slates. The *Bridgewater* soils in the Beaver Dam area are moderately stony and unsuitable for cultivation (MacDougall et. al. 1963: 28).



**PLATE 2: Cameron Flowage; facing northwest.**



**PLATE 3: Crusher Lake; facing west.**



## Vegetation

The forest growth within this ecological region includes Balsam Fir, Red Spruce, White Spruce, Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch. Slow-moving streams are bordered by broad swampy areas populated with Balsam Fir, Red Maple and Black Spruce. The nature of the soils found within the study area does not encourage heavy forest growth (Davis & Browne 1996: 56-57).

### 4.1.2 Native Land Use

The land within the study area was once part of the greater Mi'kmaq territory known as *Eskikewa'kik*, meaning 'skin dressers territory'. The rivers in the surrounding area would have been important transportation corridors and a resource base for the Mi'kmaq and their ancestors for millennia prior to the arrival of European settlers. The West River Sheet Harbour in particular, located approximately 6 kilometres southwest of the study area, would have been part of a transportation route facilitating travel inland from Sheet Harbour and the Atlantic Ocean.

A review of the Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory, a provincial archaeological site database maintained by the SPP-HD, determined that there are no registered archaeological sites within the study area. The lack of archaeological data for the area may reflect a lack of archaeological investigation, rather than an absence of archaeological sites. According to the environmental screening prepared by the SPP-HD (Ogilvie 2008), the greater project area, which is dense with lakes and watercourses, is considered to exhibit moderate to high potential for encountering Precontact archaeological sites. It should be noted, however, that the project area as reviewed by the SPP-HD encompassed a larger area than that subjected to archaeological screening and reconnaissance by CRM Group.

Based on available historic documentation, there is evidence to suggest a historic Mi'kmaq presence in the Beaver Dam area. The following account was related to Harry Piers by Jeremiah Bartlett Alexis (Jerry Lonecloud) in 1918 (Whitehead 1991: 310):

*The death occurred at Stewarts, Upper Musquodoboit, on 31<sup>st</sup>, August, of an old and well-known Indian, John Cope, at the age of 71 years, he having been born at Beaver Dam, Halifax County, in April 1847, son of old Molly Cope who is said to have been 113 years of age when she passed away about 13 years ago . . . . John Cope had considerable fame as a hunter, at least judging by the number of moose he shot, and acted as a guide for various Halifax sportsmen some thirty years ago. He used to hunt back of Beaver Dam and Moose Head [?] with Captain C. Lestrangle, who was formerly well-known here. One winter, probably about forty years ago, Cope by himself killed eighteen moose . . . . The meat of these he sold to Fifteen-Mile Stream gold camp, which was then in operation.*

Based on the environmental setting and Native land use, the Beaver Dam Development property is ascribed elevated potential for encountering Precontact and/or early historic Native archaeological resources.

### 4.1.3 Property History

The Beaver Dam Development property has a long history of industrial use. Gold was discovered in the Beaver Dam district in 1868. By 1871, two belts of veins had been opened and a 15-stamp mill erected (Malcolm 1929: 57). However, the property remained largely inactive until 1886, when extensive prospecting and development work began. A 4-stamp mill run by water power was constructed at this time. In 1891, the Beaver Dam Mining Company acquired the site. This new company expanded operations on the property with the construction of a 10-stamp mill. Four years later, the property was leased to G.M. Christie and William Tupper, who employed fifteen men at the Beaver Dam Mine. In 1896, the mine was acquired by J. H. Austin, who erected a 10-stamp mill. Work at the Beaver Dam Mine site continued until 1927 (Malcolm 1929: 57). More recently, a number of other companies, including Seabright Resources Inc., have conducted extensive exploration on the property.

Euro-Canadian settlement of the Beaver Dam area began in the second half of the nineteenth century and centered on mining activities. A cursory examination of historic mapping revealed that the study area occupies portions of at least eight historic lots. These properties were granted to, or otherwise obtained by, George H. Starr, David Allison, James F. Avery, J. Moll, R. Moseley, D. W. Archibald and the Pittsburgh Mining Co. (Crown Land Grant Sheet 89). An examination of the A. F. Church map of Halifax County failed to identify any structures depicted within the study area as of 1865. The 1899 Faribault map indicates the presence of approximately seven features within the study area (*Figures 3 & 4*). Four of those features, however, are depicted as overlying a quartz vein located near the centre of the study area (*Figure 4*). This area was subsequently mined and the abandoned pit is now partially flooded (*Figure 2; Plate 1*). The other three features are depicted in the vicinity of another quartz vein running along the northern shore of Crusher Lake (*Figure 4*). According to artist Joseph Purcell, the cabin portrayed in the painting below was built during the late 1920s by a miner named Johnnie Crouse who apparently lived and worked just north of Crusher Lake (*Plate 4*).

As previously stated, the background study was not developed to the degree originally intended. Further background research would add value and depth to the interpretation of occupation history.

Based on the historical setting within the study area, the Beaver Dam Development property is ascribed elevated potential for encountering historic Euro-Canadian archaeological resources.

### 4.1.4 Archaeological Potential

Based on the various components of the background study, including environmental setting, Native land use and property history, the Beaver Dam Development property is considered to exhibit high potential for encountering Precontact and historic Native archaeological resources and high potential for encountering historic Euro-Canadian archaeological resources.

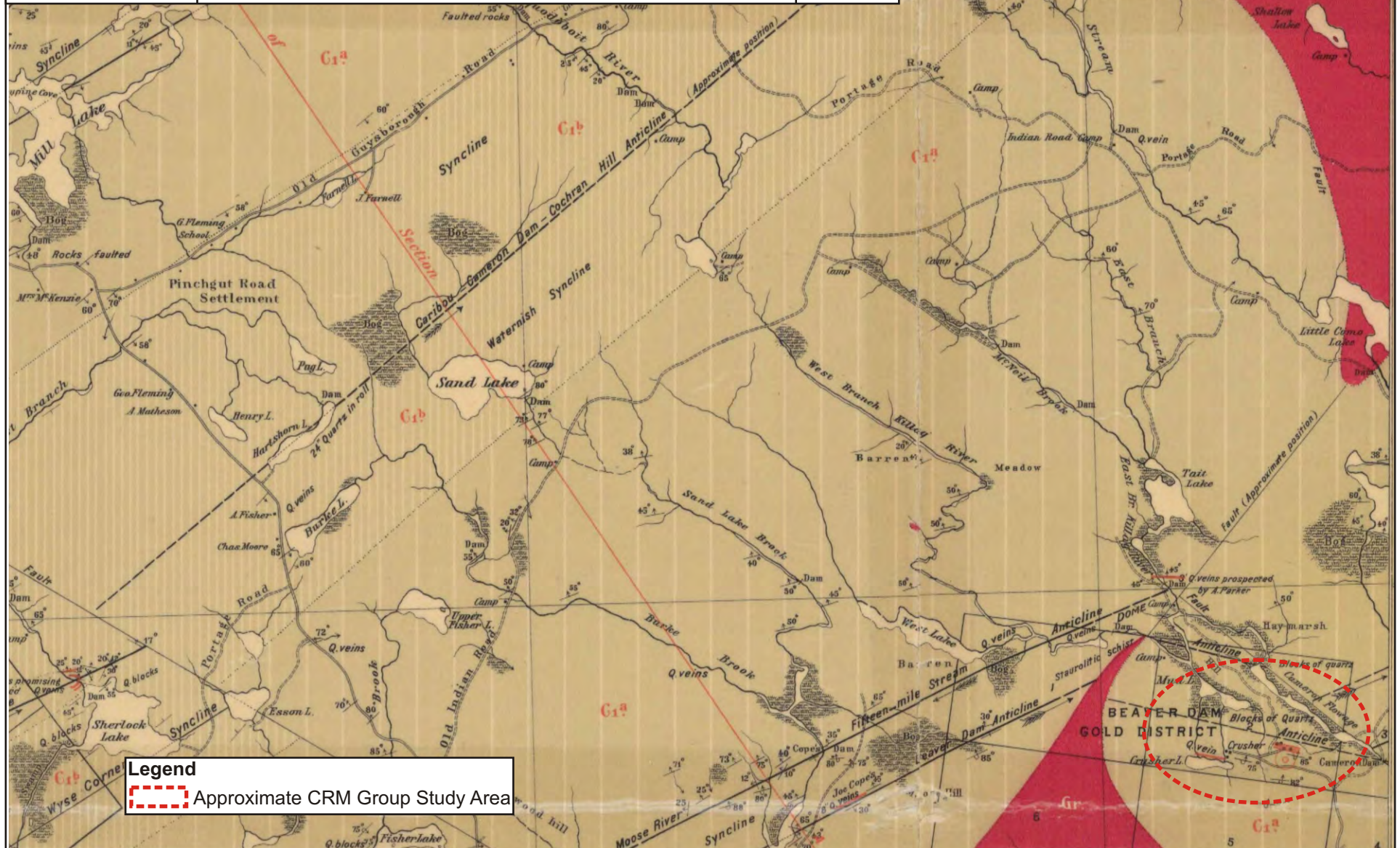


E.R. Faribault - 1899

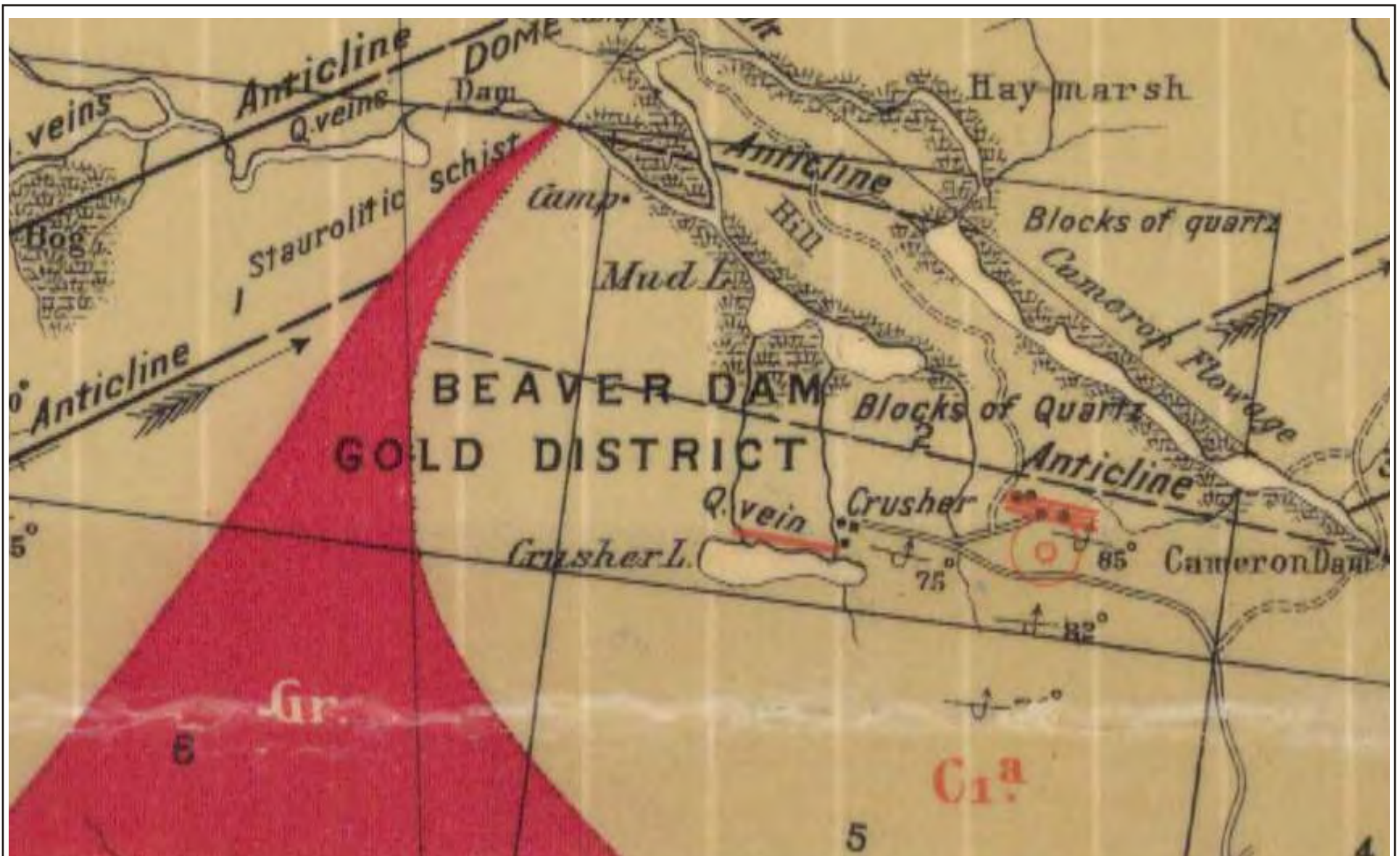
Figure 3

BEAVER DAM DEVELOPMENT  
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HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY, NOVA SCOTIA

March  
2009







*Detail of Faribault Map*

*Figure 4*

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 HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY, NOVA SCOTIA

March 2009





PLATE 4: "Crouse's Cabin, Beaver Dam Mine" by Joseph Purcell.

## 4.2 Field Reconnaissance

Fieldwork, consisting of a visual inspection of the study area, was conducted by CRM Group archaeologists on May 22, 2008. The primary purpose of the visit was to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area and to investigate various topographical and cultural features which had been identified as areas of elevated potential during the background research. Access to the study area was gained by following the Beaver Dam Mines Road north from Highway 224 for a distance of approximately 7.1 kilometres. A wide circuit was made through the property, resulting in extensive coverage of the study area (*Figures 1 & 2*).

### 4.2.1 High Potential Areas

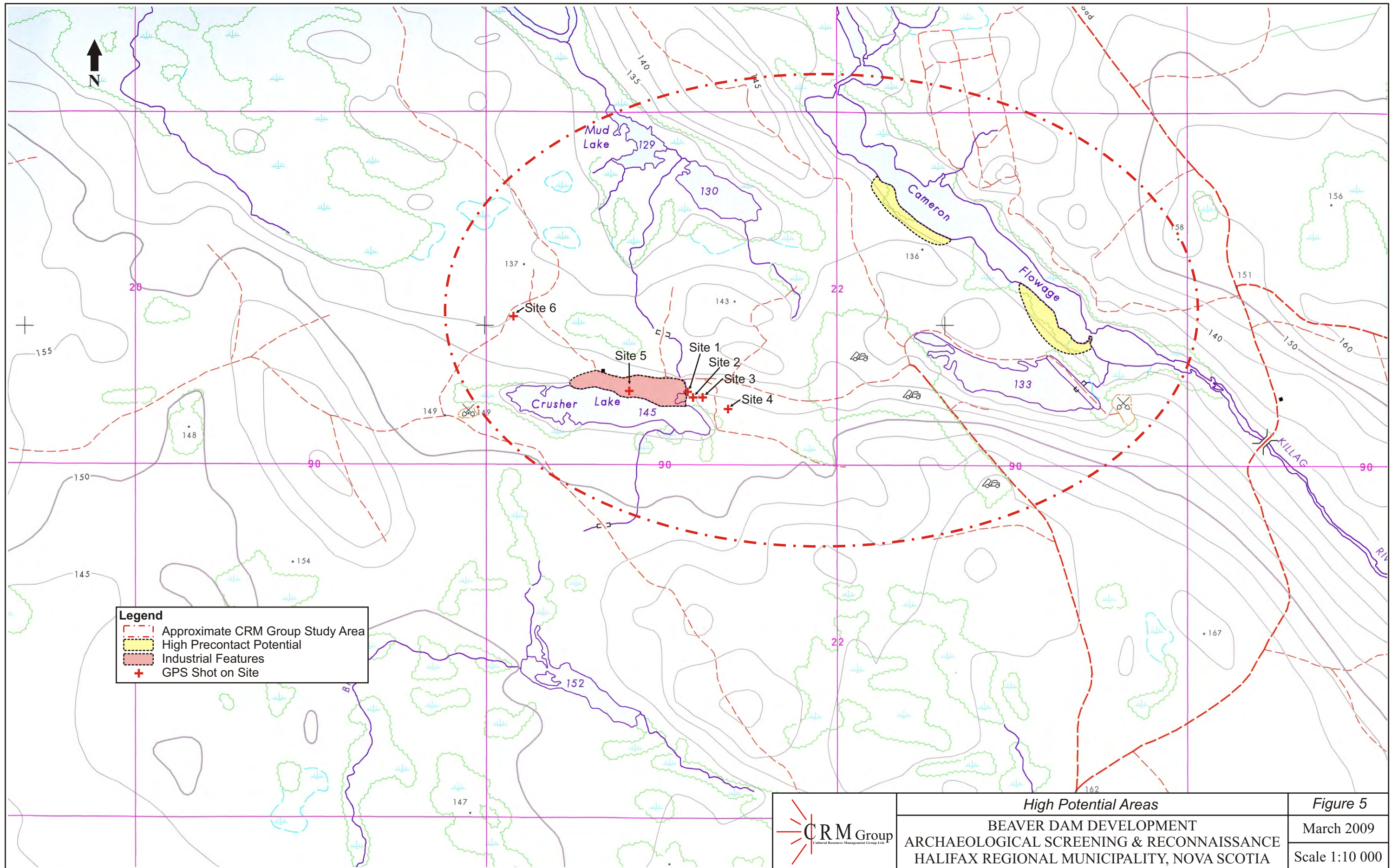
As a result of preliminary background research and field reconnaissance, several areas exhibiting high potential for encountering Precontact and historic Native, and/or early Euro-Canadian, archaeological resources were identified (*Figure 5*). These areas are described below.

#### Precontact/Historic Native

Survey along the main watercourse revealed areas on the western bank of Cameron Flowage which exhibit high archaeological potential for encountering Precontact and historic Native archaeological resources (*Figure 5; Plates 5 & 6*). Although the original shoreline was slightly altered by the creation of Cameron Flowage, these areas are high, dry and level enough to warrant further investigation if they are to be impacted by development. Extensive marshy areas were noted on the eastern side of Cameron Flowage and around Mud Lake (*Figure 2*). These areas exhibit diminished archaeological potential for encountering Precontact and/or historic Native archaeological resources.

If areas identified as exhibiting high archaeological potential for encountering Precontact and/or historic Native archaeological resources are to be impacted by future development, these areas should be subjected to a program of shovel testing to determine whether or not buried archaeological resources are present.









**PLATE 5: High potential area on western bank of Cameron Flowage; facing north.**



**PLATE 6: High potential area on western bank of Cameron Flowage; facing northwest.**



## Historic

As a result of preliminary background research and field reconnaissance, six areas of high potential early Euro-Canadian archaeological resources potential were identified. An area containing a number of apparently associated with the industrial history of Beaver Dam was also encountered (*Figure 5*). These areas are described below.

### Site 1

Site 1, located approximately 40 metres north of Crusher Lake, includes the remains of a wooden structure measuring approximately 6.5 metres east-west by 6 metres north-south (UTM: 20T 521 571E; 4 990 205N) (*Plates 7 & 8*). Visual examination of the collapsed feature revealed the remains of a log cabin with interlocking saddle-notch corners (*Plate 9*). The cabin had a cellar, however, visibility was obscured due to the structural collapse. Careful inspection of the remains revealed the presence of wire nails and linoleum flooring. The presence of these materials suggests the feature was occupied during the twentieth century.

A cursory review of historic property documentation revealed that the parcel of land encompassing Site 1 was originally obtained by the Pittsburgh Mining Co. (Crown Land Grant Sheet 89). The Faribault map indicates the presence of three unidentified features situated in the vicinity of Site 1 at the turn of the century (*Figure 4*). Based on the observed artifacts, however, it is possible that Site 1 represents the remains of a twentieth-century structure, much like the Crouse cabin (*Plate 4*).



PLATE 7: Site 1: Remains of collapsed wooden structure; facing southwest.





**PLATE 8: Site 1: Remains of collapsed wooden structure; facing southwest.**



**PLATE 9: Site 1: Detail of interlocking saddle notch corner construction technique.**



If Site 1 is to be impacted by future development, additional historical and archaeological investigation must be undertaken in order to assess the archaeological significance (age, function and integrity) of the site.

### **Site 2**

Site 2, located approximately 20 metres southeast of Site 1, includes the potential remains of a partially in-filled cellar hole (UTM: 20T 521 584E; 4 990 190N) (**Figure 5; Plate 10**). The feature measures approximately 5 metres east-west by 4 metres north-south and is littered with twentieth-century refuse (**Plate 11**). Careful examination of the feature revealed no visible structural remains.

A cursory review of historic property documentation revealed that the parcel of land encompassing Site 2 was originally obtained by the Pittsburgh Mining Co. (Crown Land Grant Sheet 89). The Faribault map indicates the presence of three unidentified features situated in the vicinity of Site 2 at the turn of the century (**Figure 4**). Based on the Faribault map, it is assumed that Site 2 represents the remains of one of these nineteenth-century features.

If Site 2 is to be impacted by future development, additional historical and archaeological investigation must be undertaken in order to assess the archaeological significance (age, function and integrity) of the site.

### **Site 3**

Site 3, located approximately 30 metres east of Site 2, includes a depression feature which may represent the remains of an in-filled cellar hole (UTM: 20T 521 617E; 4 990 189N) (**Figure 5; Plate 12**). Visibility of the feature was greatly obscured by overgrowth.

A cursory review of historic property documentation revealed that the parcel of land encompassing Site 3 was originally obtained by the Pittsburgh Mining Co. (Crown Land Grant Sheet 89). The Faribault map indicates the presence of three unidentified features situated in the vicinity of Site 3 at the turn of the century (**Figure 4**). Site 3 may represent the remains of one of these nineteenth-century features.

If Site 3 is to be impacted by future development, additional historical and archaeological investigation must be undertaken in order to assess the archaeological significance (age, function and integrity) of the site.



**PLATE 10: Site 2: Potential remains of partially in-filled cellar hole; facing south.**



**PLATE 11: Site 2: Potential remains of partially in-filled cellar hole littered with refuse.**





**PLATE 12: Site 3: Location of depression feature; facing north.**

#### **Site 4**

Site 4, located approximately 70 metres southeast of Site 3, includes a small wooden structure measuring approximately 2.5 metres east-west by 2 metres north-south (UTM: 20T 521 685E; 4 990 158N) (**Figure 5; Plate 13**). Visual inspection revealed that the partially collapsed structure, which opens to the north, has a peaked roof covered with tarpaper. Careful examination also revealed the presence of wire nails. The presence of these materials suggests the feature was utilized during the twentieth century and may represent the remains of an outhouse. Visibility of the feature was obscured by overgrowth.

A cursory review of historic property documentation revealed that the parcel of land encompassing Site 4 was originally obtained by the Pittsburgh Mining Co. (Crown Land Grant Sheet 89). A review of the Faribault map failed to identify any structures depicted in the vicinity of Site 4 (**Figure 4**). Based on the observed artifacts, however, it is possible that Site 4 represents the remains of a twentieth-century structure.

If Site 4 is to be impacted by future development, additional historical and archaeological investigation must be undertaken in order to assess the archaeological significance (age, function and integrity) of the site.





**PLATE 13: Site 4: Remains of wooden structure; facing southeast.**

### **Site 5**

Site 5 is situated approximately 10 metres north of Crusher Lake and 150 metres west of Site 1 (**Figure 5**). The site includes the potential remains of a moss-covered foundation measuring approximately 10 metres east-west by 4 metres north-south (UTM: 20T 521 408E; 4 990 203N) (**Plate 14**). The surrounding terrain is densely forested, rough and undulating. The lack of obvious field clearing or artificial levelling suggests that the feature may be industrial rather than domestic.

A cursory review of historic property documentation revealed that the parcel of land encompassing Site 5 was originally obtained by the Pittsburgh Mining Co. (Crown Land Grant Sheet 89). A review of the 1899 Faribault map failed to identify any structures depicted in the vicinity of Site 5. The site, however, overlies a quartz vein and may be related to mineral exploration and/or extraction activities (**Figure 4**).

If Site 5 is to be impacted by future development, additional historical and archaeological investigation must be undertaken in order to assess the archaeological significance (age, function and integrity) of the site.





PLATE 14: Site 5: Remains of potential moss-covered foundation.

### Site 6

Site 6 is located on the eastern side of a logging road that runs through the western portion of the study area (*Figure 5*). The site, situated on a small elevated plateau, is bounded to the south, east and west by a transition to a more densely forested and naturally hummocky terrain (*Plate 15*). Visual examination revealed the presence of two depressions. The first measured approximately 3 metres east-west by 3 metres north-south (UTM: 20T 521 077E; 4 990 410N). The second, smaller depression measured approximately 2 metres east-west by 2 metres north-south (UTM: 20T 521 077E; 4 990 422N).

A cursory review of historic property documentation revealed that the parcel of land encompassing Site 6 was originally obtained by R. Moseley (Crown Land Grant Sheet 89). A review of the 1899 Faribault map failed to identify any structures depicted in the vicinity of Site 6 (*Figure 4*).

If Site 6 is to be impacted by future development, additional historical and archaeological investigation must be undertaken in order to assess the archaeological significance (age, function and integrity) of the site.





**PLATE 15: Site 6: Location of depression feature; facing southeast.**

### **Industrial Features**

Numerous features that appeared to be associated with the industrial history of Beaver Dam were encountered, particularly in the area north of Crusher Lake (*Figure 5; Plate 16*). These features, which may be related to mineral exploration and/or extraction activities, were recorded and photographed. However, if these areas are to be impacted by future development, detailed documentation of the features must be undertaken.

Other industrial features were identified on the western side of Cameron Flowage. However, these appeared to be more recent. As these features have been noted and photographed, no further archaeological investigation is warranted.

The survey revealed that, in general, the remainder of the study area constituted rough and undulating terrain with limited cultural modification and low archaeological potential.





**PLATE 16: Remains of potential industrial feature, located north of Crusher Lake; facing west.**

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2008 archaeological screening and reconnaissance of the Beaver Dam Development site consisted of a visual inspection of the ground surface and did not involve sub-surface testing. The preliminary archaeological background research and field reconnaissance conducted by CRM Group archaeologists identified numerous sites which exhibited high potential for both Precontact and historic archaeological resources.

Based on these results, CRM Group offers the following management recommendations for the study area:

1. It is recommended that the potential for archaeological impact be reviewed once the development site plan has been finalized.
2. It is recommended that areas of potential archaeological significance as identified in this report: Areas of High Precontact Potential; Sites 1-6; and, Industrial Features (*Figure 5*) be avoided if possible in the design and development of the Beaver Dam Development.
3. It is recommended that areas of potential archaeological significance as identified in this report: Areas of High Precontact Potential; Sites 1-6; and, Industrial Features (*Figure 5*) that cannot be avoided in the design and development of the Beaver Dam Development be subjected to intensified historical research to provide a more comprehensive context for interpreting features and a program of shovel testing to determine whether or not buried archaeological resources are present and/or to determine the age, function and significance of identified features.
4. It is recommended that all historic industrial features, which cannot be avoided in the design and development of the Beaver Dam Development, be subjected to detailed documentation. Documentation should include video, photography and surveyed plans.
5. It is recommended that any additional construction related impacts not defined above (including access roads, staging areas etc.) be subjected to archaeological screening and reconnaissance prior to development.
6. It is recommended that the remainder of the study area be cleared of any requirement for future archaeological investigation.
7. In the event that archaeological deposits or human remains are encountered during construction activities associated with the Beaver Dam Development, all work in the associated area(s) should be halted and immediate contact made with the Special Places Program - Heritage Division (Bob Ogilvie: 424-6475).



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