



## **APPENDIX S**

### **ARCHAEOLOGY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENTS**

- S-1 Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (Mine Site)
- S-2 Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment (Mine Site)
- S-3 Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (Transmission)
- S-4 Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment (Pipeline/Road)
- S-5 Archaeology Chance Find Procedure
- S-6 Cultural Heritage Research Report: Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes**
- S-7 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report Baseline
- S-8 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report CHR1 Travel Route
- S-9 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report CHR3 Cabin
- S-10 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report CHR4 Cabin
- S-11 Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report CHR5 Cabin

# Northwest Archaeological Assessments

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## **Cultural Heritage Research Report: Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes. Springpole Gold Project, District of Kenora, Ontario.**

Draft Report (revised)  
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Cultural Heritage Research Report  
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## Executive Summary

First Mining Gold (FMG) proposes the development of a mine at Springpole Lake, District of Kenora, Ontario. As part of the Pre-Feasibility Study for the proposed mine, archaeological studies leading to the preparation of a comprehensive report have been commissioned. The report of the archaeological assessment as a component of the Pre-Feasibility Study will be submitted as a National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101) compliant Pre-Feasibility Study and will be used to generate information for Provincial & Federal Environmental Assessment. The proposed Springpole Gold Project is located 110 km northeast of Red Lake, Ontario and 120 km north of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, in unorganized territory within the District of Kenora (Maps 1 and 2).

Planning for the Springpole Gold Project includes completing a comprehensive assessment of the cultural heritage resources present in the project area, and an evaluation of the potential impacts to these resources from the development, construction, operation and decommissioning of the mine. The first step in this process is compiling baseline information on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, and development of a research plan for the inventory and evaluation of these resources. In Ontario, evaluation of cultural heritage resources is directed by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) ***Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (S&Gs)***, developed under the ***Ontario Heritage Act*** (RSO 1990, c O.18). The S&Gs provide direction in the identification and evaluation, protection, maintenance, use, disposal of cultural heritage resources in development.

The report presents baseline research supporting the identification and evaluation of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within and around the Springpole Gold Project area. This work included a background study and fieldwork. Fieldwork was carried out between July 26 to August 1, 2020 in combination with a Stage 1 archaeological property inspection completed under archaeological licence P236. Additional work will be ongoing as the project progresses.

Background research and property review identified potential built heritage resources. Several of the outpost camps present in or near the project area appear to be over 40 years of age; however, none are expected to hold cultural heritage value or interest. Background research and property review did identify a number of cultural and landscape features that may contribute to the definition of significant cultural heritage landscapes. These features include pictographs, portages and travel routes, historic trade and settlement patterns, historic mining activities, areas of intangible cultural heritage, and archaeological sites beyond the boundaries of the project area. Taken together, these heritage resources support a preliminary identification of a cultural heritage landscape based on traditional use of Springpole Lake for habitation, resource procurement, travel, trade and cultural / spiritual practice.

The information presented in this report, and ongoing data collection and consultation, constitutes baseline information that will support planning for cultural heritage resource protection.

Work will be ongoing as the project progresses, and that a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) and a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (SCHVI) will be completed conforming to the direction set out in the S&Gs for the cultural heritage resources described in this research report.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### Project Context

First Mining Gold (FMG) proposes the development of a mine at Springpole Lake, District of Kenora, Ontario (*Springpole Gold Project, or the Project*). The Springpole Gold Project is located in the north Branch of Springpole Lake, 110 km northeast of Red Lake, Ontario and 120 km north of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, in unorganized territory within the District of Kenora (Maps 1 and 2).

As part of the Pre-Feasibility Study for the proposed mine, cultural heritage resource studies leading to the preparation of a comprehensive report have been commissioned. The report of the cultural heritage resource evaluation as a component of the Pre-Feasibility Study will be submitted as a National Instrument 43-101 (NI 43-101) compliant Pre-Feasibility Study and will be used to generate information for Provincial & Federal Environmental Assessment (EA).

Planning for the Springpole Gold Project includes completing a comprehensive assessment of the cultural heritage resources present in the project area, and an evaluation of the potential impacts to these resources from the development, construction, operation and decommissioning of the mine. The first step in this process is compiling baseline information on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, and development of a research plan for the inventory and evaluation of these resources. In Ontario, evaluation of cultural heritage resources is directed by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) *Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties* (S&Gs, 2010), developed under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (RSO 1990, c O.18). The S&Gs provide direction in the identification and evaluation, protection, maintenance, use, disposal of cultural heritage resources in development.

With specific regard to the Federal EA requirements for protection of cultural heritage resources, we note that this direction includes consideration of elements of cultural and historical importance to Indigenous groups in the area, without being limited by any provincial heritage requirements. Cultural heritage resources to be considered in preparing the baseline data include burial sites, cultural heritage landscapes, sacred, ceremonial or culturally important places, objects or things, and archaeological sites and areas of potential. FMG will continue to work with Indigenous communities to obtain Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use information as the project progresses.

### Property Description

For the purpose of this research and report, the focus of research for this report is the Preliminary Local Study Area (LSA) for the Springpole Gold Project (Map 2). The LSA includes the Preliminary Primary Development Area (PDA), and cultural heritage resources that are or may be located within the PDA (Map 3) will be highlighted in this report and subsequent reporting.

The Springpole Gold Project property considered in this report comprises approximately 1,000 hectares of an overall holding of 41,943 hectares by First Mining Gold Inc. The Springpole Gold Project property is currently undeveloped, although mineral exploration and geotechnical work in the Project area continues a nearly 90-year history of mineral exploration and staking in the area. The Project is located within the Birch-Uchi Greenstone Belt, and presents a large deposit suited to open pit mining.

The subject property is located approximately 120 km north of Sioux Lookout, and 110 km east northeast of Red Lake, Ontario, in unorganized territory within the District of Kenora. The property is centered on a large bay in the northwestern part of Springpole Lake. The bay considerably expands this otherwise long narrow lake north towards Birch Lake (Map 2). Cultural heritage resources research focussed on an area that comprises the entirety of Springpole Lake, and adjacent sections of Birch River, and the south shore of Birch Lake. The boundaries of the local study area were determined on the requirement to capture enough of the existing cultural heritage resource data available to address cultural themes in a meaningful manner. Springpole Lake forms the base for a cultural landscape that was the focus of travel, trade, possibly commercial fishing, and a currently inferred sacred or spiritual practices, as revealed through material traces on the land, and research.

Currently, the subject property is forested with mature conifer-dominated stands that vary in size and composition by local soil and moisture conditions. The terrain is variable, ranging between moderately to steeply sloped bedrock to low, moist sites. A number of areas show strong soil development in areas where glacially deposited soils are relatively deep over bedrock. Apart from areas disturbed by activities related to mineral exploration and mine development, the subject property area has experienced only natural disturbance.

The Project area lies within Ecoregion 3S (Lake St. Joseph) of the Ontario Shield Ecozone. The climate is relatively dry and cold, with the mean annual temperatures ranging between -1.7 and 1.0°C. The ecoregion is situated largely within Rowe's (1972) Northern Coniferous Forest Section, within the Boreal Forest Region. Upland vegetation is comprised primarily of jack pine and black spruce. Depending on the time since the last forest fire event, white spruce and balsam fir percentages may be high. Dry sites support jack pine / lichen woodlands of value to woodland caribou. Mixed woods, which can become quite dense, may be dominated by trembling aspen and white birch, or be present in jack pine or black spruce-dominated mixed woods. Lowlands areas are dominated by large, open peatlands or treed woodlands dominated by black spruce and larch. Rich, moist mineral (riparian) sites support stands of balsam poplar and black ash (Maycock, 1979; Noble, 1998).

Upland coniferous forest fire cycles range between 50 and 187 years, and the fires tend to be stand replacing. In landscapes dominated by shallow substrates and a periodically dry climate leading to fires often being intense and frequent, with removal of the organic horizons of local soils. Mixed wood forest fire cycles range between 63 and 210 years, and the intensity of fires in these ecosystems tend to be much more variable (van Sleenwen, 2006).

From the late spring and early fall, the subject property is accessible by float plane direct to Springpole Lake or to Birch Lake. During the winter, an ice road approximately 85 km long is typically constructed from the South Bay landing point on Confederation Lake to a point about 1 km from the Springpole camp. During the break-up of ice in the spring and the freeze-up in the fall, access to Springpole is typically by helicopter.

Historically, Springpole and Birch Lakes were at the headwaters of the Albany River, and waters from these lakes flowed to James Bay. In the late 1950s a tri-party agreement between Canada, Manitoba and Ontario led to provincial legislation in Manitoba and Ontario authorised the diversion of water from Lake St. Joseph to Lac Seul (via the Root River) to provided additional waterpower to hydro-electric facilities

on the Winnipeg River.<sup>1</sup> The construction of a dam at the eastern outlet of Lake St. Joseph in 1958 followed the construction of a dam at Lac Seul in the 1930.<sup>2</sup> It is not clear what effect, if any, the dam had on the water levels in Springpole Lake (cf. RCNE 1985, Plate 24).

### Development context

The Project will be completed in three phases: Construction and development, operations, and decommissioning and closure. Cultural heritage resources may be affected by activities in any of these phases, depending on the nature, permanence and extent of the resource. For the purpose of the research and reporting on cultural heritage resources, the spatial extent of the Project is considered as comprising three spatial extents. The Preliminary Primary Development Area (PDA) is the footprint of the Project as currently understood, as well as the immediate environs (Map 3). The Preliminary Local Study Area (LSA) for cultural heritage resources evaluation purposes, extends beyond the PDA by the extent of a buffer set to capture a variety of local heritage features that contribute to cultural heritage landscape definitions. This area reflects the primary area of expected effects, both direct and indirect. For the purposes of this report and research, the LSA is defined as including all of Springpole Lake, and adjacent parts of Birch River and shoreline areas of Birch Lake. The Regional Study Area, Human Environment (RSA-HE) includes and extends beyond the PDA and LSA to provide context for the assessment of potential effects. It is the largest of the three study areas in order to include local communities (cf. Maps 1 and 2).

Constructed elements in the PDA are proposed to include an open pit, process plant, stockpiles, mine rock/tailing management facility and transmission line. The details of these elements (design, configuration and extent) have not yet been finalised, but will be represented within the PDA footprint. Transportation infrastructure, in the form of an access road, will also be included in the work.

### Historic context

Mineral exploration in the Birch Lake – Springpole Lake area began in the 1920s. This initial exploration led to claims staked at the subject property and other areas on Birch and Springpole Lakes (Figure 1). Additional prospecting, documentation and mapping was completed prior to 1936.<sup>3</sup> In the 1930s and 1940s additional prospecting and trenching was completed at Springpole before falling relatively silent.

Activity at the property was quiet until the 1980s when a series of ventures carried out field testing of the deposit. In the 1980s a variety of relatively non-intrusive activities were completed, such as geophysics, mapping and geochemistry. In the early 1990s diamond drilling commenced at the property. Gold Canyon Resources with a number of partners carried out an extensive diamond drilling project on the property from the early 1990s to 2013. First Mining Finance Corp acquired the property in 2015 and has continued development the Springpole Gold Project as First Mining Gold (Appendix I).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.lwcb.ca/BoardDesc/LSJDiversionActManitoba1958.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lwcb.ca/BoardDesc/#legislation>

<sup>3</sup> Map and report available at: [http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndmaccess/mndm\\_dir.asp?type=pub&id=ARV45](http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndmaccess/mndm_dir.asp?type=pub&id=ARV45)

## Policy Context

Built heritage resources include a wide range of constructed features, including buildings, structures, monuments, installations or remains associated with architectural, cultural, social, political, economic or military history and identified as being important to a community. These resources include engineered structures, such as dams or bridges. While cairns or significant location markers (including survey monuments) may be included under the definition, certain features do not. The Ontario Heritage Act clarifies that built heritage “does not include ... ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs and earthworks” which are, by definition, archaeological resources.

Cultural heritage landscapes and cultural landscapes are a defined property that includes one or several heritage attributes distributed across an area. Together, these attributes form a discernable unit of meaning. Meaning, in this sense, is derived from historical contemporaneity, cultural practice, or visual continuity. Attributes of a cultural heritage landscape may include buildings or structures, travel routes, cemeteries, burials or memorials, places of cultural or spiritual value, archaeological sites, and places of former or ongoing cultural practice. More than one attribute may be present, and can be used to define, a cultural heritage landscape. Thus, a geographical area defined by the grouping of the natural landscape and cultural attributes collectively define the cultural heritage landscape.

Cultural heritage landscapes can be broadly described as follows:

**Designed landscapes** are landscapes that have been intentionally planned or created, such as a town square or large private garden.

**Evolved landscapes** have developed over time because the activities of people have changed the land. These activities may be part of a ‘continuing’ landscape, where activity is ongoing, or a ‘relict’ landscape, where development or growth has ended, but the changes remain evident on the landscape.

**Associative landscapes** incorporate intangible cultural heritage features, or features which, while limited in spatial extent, are viewed as symbolic of wide-ranging use of an area in cultural practice. They are landscapes that hold religious or cultural meaning, locations of remembrance, or landscapes valued for artistic inspiration. In these landscapes, natural elements ‘meld’ with material evidence of landscape use and change. These landscapes include areas of special significance to Indigenous communities, such as sacred or ceremonial places, places for gathering medicinal plants, or burial sites.

A cultural heritage landscape will likely have components of some or all of the above types; however, cultural landscapes in the Project area rely heavily on associative elements. All landscapes continue to change and evolve.

Built heritage resources can be broadly described as comprising any structure holding significance to a community. Built heritage resources may be significant in and of themselves or, when taken together with other elements of a landscape, support the evaluated cultural heritage value or interest of a cultural heritage landscape.

The requirement to identify and evaluate built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes is derived from legislation. The regulatory and policy framework for identification, evaluation and protection of cultural heritage landscapes is briefly described below.

## Environmental Assessment Act

Part 1(1) of the Environmental Assessment Act (RSO 1990, c. E.18) defines the environment broadly to include:

- (c) the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of humans or a community,
- (d) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humans.

The Springpole Gold Project has been volunteered under the Environmental Assessment Act as an individual EA. Specific direction for the evaluation of cultural heritage resources under the EA process has not been published. We have chosen to follow the general outline of the process set out in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act. This direction describes the heritage management process, which provides for the identification of

1. known or potential cultural heritage resources that may be impaired, damaged or destroyed by a proposed project,
2. the type and scope of proposed projects which may have an effect on *cultural heritage resources*,
3. interested communities and stakeholders that should be consulted,
4. protection and mitigation measures that should be applied.<sup>4</sup>

Within this process generally, cultural heritage resources include archaeological resources, built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, and includes both known and potential resources. Planning includes consideration of areas of potential that are, or may be, associated with intangible cultural features, such as sacred or spiritual sites.

The process begins, initially, with the project screened for its potential to impact cultural heritage resources. Checklist questions include questions generally not relevant to mining undertakings, including questions concerning municipal designations and provincial heritage plaques, but also includes concerns for known burial sites or cemeteries, heritage river systems, buildings or structures over 40 years of age, and being identified by MHSTCI as holding heritage potential. Local considerations are also identified, asking if the project area contains structures or sites of local importance, holds a special association with an individual, group or practice, or includes landscape features that may have cultural heritage value to a community. Where potential impacts are indicated, a qualified person will be engaged to prepare a cultural heritage evaluation report (CHER). Where impacts to known resources are anticipated, a cultural heritage impact assessment report (CHIA) will also be prepared.

A completed CHER will include specific information based on background research and fieldwork, and evaluate the cultural heritage value or interest of heritage resources on the property. Research and information collection should be sufficient to support any evaluation of cultural heritage value or interest. This includes property inspection and primary and secondary research that may connect the values to significant themes, if any, at the provincial and local levels. The report will include a description of the property under consideration and the research conducted, and will include a statement of cultural heritage value, including a description of the heritage attributes.

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/mndm\\_class\\_environmental\\_assessment\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/mndm_class_environmental_assessment_pdf.pdf)

The CHER concludes with a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value. Where a property is found to hold cultural heritage value or interest, the qualified person who has prepared the CHER will prepare a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property. This statement will include a description of the physical features or heritage attributes defining the value. If built resources or landscapes of cultural heritage value or interest are present, a Heritage Impact Assessment report (HIA) detailing the potential adverse impacts and preferred mitigation approaches will be required. If, on the other hand, the property is found to not hold cultural heritage value or interest, the cultural heritage evaluation work is complete. A clear rationale and recommendation must be made in the report specifying that no further assessment or evaluation is required.

Cultural heritage value or interest is determined through application of the criteria set out in O. Reg. 9/06, and provincial cultural heritage value or interest is found in the criteria for O. Reg. 10/06. In cultural heritage resource evaluation, a qualified person will define the boundaries of the project area. Research, including fieldwork, will be conducted to document any buildings on the property and their setting, determine the project area's association with significant historical themes, identify the dates of construction and association with any builder or architect involved in the construction of buildings or structures, and identify any additional information that identifies properties that may hold cultural heritage value or interest. Cultural heritage value or interest is determined using set criteria and covers both the cultural heritage value or interest of a property, and whether this CHVI is of provincial significance. For properties holding CHVI, and properties of provincial significance, a statement of cultural heritage value or interest will be prepared.

All information pertaining to the research, documentation and evaluation of cultural heritage resources will be summarised in the CHER. At this point, if the qualified person concludes that no cultural heritage resources (built heritage resources or cultural heritage landscapes) are present, the process is complete. If cultural heritage resources holding CHVI are present, a Heritage Impact Assessment report (HIA) must be prepared. The HIA will address the potential impacts to the cultural heritage resources. Impacts may include destruction or removal, alteration that reduces the cultural heritage value of interest of the resource, or increased or ongoing use that may, cumulatively, degrade or damage the resource. These impacts may be, broadly, direct or indirect adverse effects, or direct, positive impacts. The HIA will review these impacts, and additional information from research and community sources.

Up to four report documents may be produced as part of a cultural heritage resource evaluation. These will document background research, the cultural heritage evaluation, the statement of cultural heritage value, and the heritage impact assessment. The Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report requirements are listed in Section 7.0 and Schedule D of Appendix 3. Heritage Impact Assessment report requirements are listed in Section 7.0 and Schedule E of Appendix 3.

## **Ontario Heritage Act**

Detailed definitions of cultural heritage resources are not defined in the Ontario Heritage Act (RSO 1990, c. O.18). Part III.1 (Section 25.2(3)(a)) provides for the preparation of heritage standards and guidelines which set out the criteria and the process for the identification of properties that have cultural heritage value or interest. The most current version of the Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (S&Gs) was released in 2010. S&Gs for the heritage identification and evaluation process followed in 2014. We note that the Act deals entirely with material aspects of heritage,

acknowledging intangible heritage attributes of material *properties* in support of, but not replacing, the cultural heritage value or interest of material places.

### **Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties**

The Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties (2010) divide cultural heritage resources into three main categories: built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological sites. The S&Gs clarify that cultural heritage landscapes are defined geographical areas modified by human activity and has cultural heritage value. These landscapes may contain diverse elements which, together, constitute a heritage form distinct from that of its constituent parts. The S&Gs provide direction for their identification and evaluation, protection, maintenance, use and disposal.

Additional direction on the identification and evaluation of heritage properties is presented in a second document, the Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties: Heritage identification and evaluation process (2014). Identification and evaluation are a multi-step process involving both ministry staff and external consultants. Within the ministry, projects are first screened for CHVI potential through comparison of the project to a set of criteria.<sup>5</sup> For properties holding potential, a cultural heritage evaluation report and draft statement of cultural heritage value or interest will be prepared by a qualified individual. Finally, the report is reviewed by the ministry and a decision regarding the report findings and recommendations issued.

The MHSTCI Cultural Heritage Evaluation Methodology (Evaluation Methodology) describes the process for evaluating a MHSTCI property for its cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI). The document provides guidance to both ministry personnel and consultants involved in heritage evaluations (Appendix III).

Section B.2 of the *Standards & Guidelines* sets out a general process to identify provincial heritage properties. The *Standards & Guidelines* state that the “Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest” set out in the Ontario Regulation 9/06 will be applied to determine the cultural heritage value or interest of a property, and that the “Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of Provincial Significance” in Ontario Regulation 10/06 will determine provincial significance. If the property meets the criteria in Ontario Regulation 9/06, it is considered a **provincial heritage property**. If the property meets the criteria in Ontario Regulation 10/06, it is then determined to be a **provincial heritage property of provincial significance**.

A comprehensive report of the research must be prepared that sets out the research approach, sources used in the research, and provide an initial evaluation of cultural heritage value or interest. The cultural heritage resources identified may be found to be a provincial heritage property if it meets the criteria set out in O. Reg. 9/06. The resources may be found to be a provincial heritage property of provincial significance if it meets the criteria set out in O. Reg. 10/06. The text of the regulations, including criteria, are reproduced in Appendix C of the report.

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<sup>5</sup> This is the basis for the checklist referenced in the Class EA, Appendix 3.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

The research undertaken for this report was directed to the completion of the cultural heritage resource assessment as described in Section B.2 of the S&Gs. This cultural heritage research report includes five sections: an introduction, discussion of methodology and sources, and information on known heritage resources within the LSA. Discussions of the historical or associative value, the contextual value and a summary of resources and potential interactions with Project components are found in Sections 5, 6, and 7, respectively.

Research for this background report considered a range of primary and secondary historical sources. Sources were primarily online and digital and included queries of the Canadian Register of Historic Places online searchable database, among others. As might be expected for an area such as Springpole Lake, there are few historic sources dealing directly with the lake and environs. A variety of primary and secondary sources were reviewed to generate an image of other cultural heritage resources that are or might reasonably be expected to be present in the LSA.

Section B/2 of the S&Gs describes the evaluation methodology for cultural heritage resources as consisting of the following steps:

1. Prepare a description of the property.
2. Gather information about the property sufficient to understand its heritage value.
3. Determine CHVI, including potential provincial significance, based on the advice of qualified persons and with appropriate community input. If the property meets the criteria in Ontario Regulation 9/06, it is a provincial heritage property. If the property meets the criteria in Ontario Regulation 10/06, it is a provincial heritage property of provincial significance.
4. Document the identification process with a written account of the research and the evaluation.
5. For each provincial heritage property, prepare a SCHV and a description of its heritage attributes.

This report provides information for Steps 1 and 2. Steps 3 to 5 extend into the information that will be included in the cultural heritage evaluation report (CHER), which will be completed once community input is available.

### Project Personnel

Personnel involved in this project included the Andrew Hinshelwood, PhD, CAHP, who also acted as field director for this project. Heather Hopkins, PhD, acted as project manager and assisted in research and the preparation of this report. Scot Kyle, MA, assisted in the field. First Mining Gold staff were instrumental in the completion of fieldwork.

### 3.0 HERITAGE RECOGNITION

The Project area is not within a municipality and no heritage designations have been made under the Ontario Heritage Act at the provincial level. The subject property has not been evaluated previously for provincial heritage value under the MTCS *Standards & Guidelines*. There has been previous archaeological assessment for parts of the Project area, and this is discussed in a separate archaeological assessment report.<sup>6</sup>

The Project area has not been evaluated for federal heritage value and is not recognized as a federal government heritage resource. Furthermore, the structure is not commemorated through a local, provincial or federal plaque program (Perkins 1989). There are no formally recognized heritage properties in the vicinity of the Project.

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<sup>6</sup> Report for PIF P236-0141-2020, prepared by Andrew Hinshelwood, Northwest Archaeological Assessments.

#### 4.0 COMMUNITY INPUT

Community input was not possible in 2020 due to community restrictions arising from the global Covid-19 pandemic. As small, fly-in communities, the Indigenous communities within the RSA-HE were considered vulnerable and access was curtailed.

FMG will continue to work with Indigenous communities to obtain Traditional Knowledge/Traditional Land and Resource Use information as the project progresses.

## 5.0 HISTORICAL OR ASSOCIATIVE VALUE <sup>7</sup>

This section discusses the built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscape values present in the LSA, specifying which resources are present within the PDA. The checklist indicates that the LSA holds potential for cultural heritage resources to be present. Potential is based on several elements being, or potentially being present within the LSA. These include the potential for burial sites to be present, the presence of buildings greater than 40 years in age, the understanding that pictographs may be landmarks or elements of sacred, spiritual or culturally important places, and that the LSA may comprise a cultural heritage landscape or traditional use denoted by portages and potentially the remains of a late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century trading post.

### Cultural Heritage Resources research

Background research suggests that there are at least six overlapping, and therefore interrelated cultural heritage landscape elements present in the LSA. These elements are defined on the basis of known or potential material cultural remains (archaeological sites, ruins, pictographs, etc.), and implicit or intangible cultural heritage resources, such as portage trails and the logical travel routes connecting them. The cultural heritage landscape elements include travel routes, fur trading posts, archaeological sites and settlements, sacred, spiritual and intangible heritage sites, pictographs sites, and sites related to early mining and other commercial development.

Cultural heritage resources within the LSA include:

- Burial sites and potential burial sites,
- Sacred, spiritual or ceremonial sites,
- Archaeological sites and archaeological potential areas,
- Built heritage resources, potential built heritage resources, and ruins,
- Historic and traditional travel routes.
- Features of historic commercial development,

For the purposes of planning, these values are considered elements of the cultural heritage landscape of Springpole Lake. Location specific values are identified given different impact mitigation requirements.

### Occupation History

The subject property lies within the Traditional territories of Cat Lake First Nation, Slate Falls First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation, and is within the Treaty No. 9 area. Other Indigenous communities are proximate to the subject property and may hold historic connection to the area include Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Pikangikum, Wabauskang and members of the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

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<sup>7</sup> With specific regard to the Federal EA requirements for protection of cultural heritage resources, we note that this direction includes consideration of elements of cultural and historical importance to Indigenous groups in the area, without being limited by any provincial heritage requirements. Cultural heritage resources to be considered in preparing the baseline data include burial sites, cultural heritage landscapes, sacred, ceremonial or culturally important places, objects or things, and archaeological sites and areas of potential.

Treaty No. 9 was signed in 1905 by a number of First Nations. Both Cat Lake and Slate Falls became signatories through Osnaburgh (Mishkeegogamang) First Nation.<sup>8</sup> Cat Lake were recognized by the Treaty commission in 1906, although annuities may have also been paid in 1905 (Long 2010). It is commonly understood that the Treaty was precipitated by an interest by the Canadian government to expand resource extraction north of the Robinson-Superior 1850 Treaty area. The value of the Treaty to the Crown appears to have been realised when gold was discovered north of Osnaburgh, east of the subject property, in the 1920's. It is interesting to note that the discovery is generally attributed to an unnamed member of Cat Lake First Nation (Long, 2010:159). Lac Seul First Nation is signatory to Treaty No. 3, signed in 1873. The traditional use of Springpole Lake and Birch Lake by Lac Seul First Nation members crosses the mapped boundary between Treaty No. 9 and Treaty No. 3. This suggests that the mapped boundary is administrative and does not represent a strong cultural boundary.

Mineral exploration in the Birch Lake – Springpole Lake area began in the 1920s. This initial exploration led to claims staked in the PDA and other areas on Birch and Springpole Lakes.<sup>9</sup> Additional prospecting, documentation and mapping was completed prior to 1936.<sup>10</sup> In the 1930s and 1940s additional prospecting and trenching work was completed at Springpole. Activity at the property was quiet until the 1980s when a series of ventures carried out field testing of the deposit.

#### Burial sites and potential burial sites,

There are presently no reported or registered burial sites or cemeteries within the LSA. Burial sites are commonly associated with areas of traditional use, including settlements and portages. Therefore, there remains the potential for burial sites to be present in the LSA and PDA.

Information on burial sites and cemeteries may be forthcoming from Indigenous communities.

The treatment of burial sites and cemeteries is determined by the terms of the **Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act** (S.O. 2002, c. 33). Additional direction upon the discovery of human remains is provided under the **Coroners Act** (R.S.O. 1990, c. C.37) and Ontario Regulation 30/11, Division C.<sup>11</sup> Burial sites may be designated as irregular burial sites, burial grounds or aboriginal peoples burial ground by the Registrar of Cemeteries following investigation. Designation creates conditions for maintenance and provision of access.

Burial sites may be solitary features of the cultural landscape or be found in association with other elements thereby contributing to a definition of a broader cultural landscape.

#### Sacred, spiritual or traditional cultural use sites

Sacred, spiritual and traditional cultural use sites include a wide range of material and intangible attributes. Often these sites are defined by practice, and few traces remain once the practice has ended;

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<sup>8</sup> Cat Lake and Slate Falls First Nation have historic ties to Osnaburgh First Nation (Mishkeegogamang). Cat Lake acquired (Indian Act) band status about 1970, while Slate Falls acquired band status in 1985 (Long 2010).

<sup>9</sup> This map set shows progressive staking and is undated. We presume it to be from the initial staking period, and can be accessed at: [http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/historic\\_claims/pdf/B/Birch%20Lake%20&%20Springpole%20Lake.pdf](http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/historic_claims/pdf/B/Birch%20Lake%20&%20Springpole%20Lake.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Map and report available at: [http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndmaccess/mndm\\_dir.asp?type=pub&id=ARV45](http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndmaccess/mndm_dir.asp?type=pub&id=ARV45)

<sup>11</sup> Additional direction found in the Bereavement Authority of Ontario Registrar's Directive (01-006) concerning Archaeological Assessments & Investigations on Cemetery Lands (April 11, 2018)

however, the location of practice may be constant and marked in some way, either directly at the site or through reference to specific landmarks. We note that these landmarks may not be at the actual site of practice, but remain important in defining the sacred, spiritual or traditional use *place*.

At present, only three pictograph sites in the LSA are known for this category of cultural heritage resource. Information on additional sacred, spiritual and traditional cultural use sites may be forthcoming from affected groups moving forward.

### *Pictographs*

The term pictograph means ‘picture writing’ and includes a range of applications including painted and etched images applied to a variety of surfaces. In this discussion, pictograph sites are locations where pigment, usually ochre- or hematite-based paints, is applied to a rock surface. Unlike images marked on wood, bone or copper, these images are permanent features of the landscape. The images appear to include naturalistic characters – pictures of animals and humans, and symbols, including simple geometric shapes (lines, circles) and lines. Other images may be classed as ‘supernatural’ where they include forms not seen in nature (cf. Dewdney and Kidd 1967; Rajnovich 1994). Unifying these images is the understanding that they represent some form of medicine, requiring specialist knowledge to interpret.

Pictographs are generally treated as archaeological sites in assessment. Pictographs sites may be treated as discrete locales or may be viewed as elements in a wider cultural heritage landscape. Given that pictographs are understood to represent spiritual practice, interpreting management options requires participation of Indigenous community members. Also, as non-portable resources, management options are limited to mitigation of impacts at the site.

The Stage 2 archaeological assessment prepared under PIF P335-016-2012 reports three pictograph sites within the LSA. None of the sites are within the PDA. The site reported as Eikb-4, on the north side of the lake, is well-known to field staff at the Project site and local Indigenous community members. This site is located on a near-vertical rock face on the east side of a small bay on the north side of Springpole Lake. The bay is located about 6.5 kilometres east of the point where the lake opens up to the north where the PDA is located. The bay in which the pictographs are situated leads inland from Springpole Lake into an area of small ponds and streams. An inspection of the site in 2020 identified an additional face at the site, approximately 50 metres to the south of the known site (Map 4; Figures 3 to 7).

The 2012 report describes the pictograph sites as follows:

Two red ochre figures were discovered during on a low cliff on the south bank of the east arm close to the end of the lake. It was registered as Keesickquayash I (Eikb-6). A second pictograph was located almost directly across on a cliff on the north bank. It was comprised of a single faded figure, and registered as Keesickquayash II (Eikb-7).

Another pictograph was discovered on the north shore of the east arm of Springpole Lake. This one depicted a fish, beaver, a stick-figure, and a moose. An object similar to an upside and backwards “L” is between the fish and beaver. This site has been registered as the Springpole Pictographs Site (Eikb-4).

It is important to note that the location given for Keesickquayash I (EiKb-6) does not correspond to the location described in the text. Instead, the site location given (as UTM coordinates) maps to a point equidistant from the other two sites. The reported location is the east end of a small pond, 500 metres inland (or 1,200 metres if accessed through a small creek), and about 15 metres upslope from Springpole Lake (Map 4). While it is likely a transcription error, it is not possible to determine the correct location of the site without additional fieldwork. We note that no reports have been filed with MHSTCI for these sites to this date. The two Keesickquayash sites were not examined as part of the 2020 fieldwork.

The terrain within the LSA supports an evaluation of potential for additional pictographs sites to be present. Further input from Indigenous community discussions, may lead to the identification of these locations.

### Archaeological sites and archaeological potential areas

Ontario Regulation 170/04 defines “archaeological site” as any property that contains an artifact or any other physical evidence of past human use or activity that is of cultural heritage value or interest. In turn, “artifact” is defined to mean any object, material or substance that is made, modified, used, deposited or affected by human action and is of cultural heritage value or interest. Archaeological resources are specifically material remains, and do not include intangible heritage resources. Management of potential impacts to archaeological resources rely on the portability of artifacts, which allows material to be excavated, documented and removed from a *place* as they are transformed into data, maps and collections. It is important to note that some Indigenous communities do not support a wholly material definition of archaeological resource, as archaeological sites may be elements in cultural heritage landscapes that are at once archaeological sites and places of spiritual or cultural heritage significance.

Archaeological assessment within the LSA has been completed previously.<sup>12</sup> Earlier assessments are summarised in a recent Stage 1 archaeological assessment, carried out in 2020. In addition, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNR) have prepared archaeological potential mapping for the Trout Lake Forest management plan that includes the LSA (Map 5).

Further fieldwork within the PDA and LSA have been proposed for 2021 FMG will provide the opportunity for Indigenous communities to participate in ongoing fieldwork activities

### Built heritage resources, potential built heritage resources, and ruins

Built heritage resources include buildings and structures. The screening checklist included in the MNM Class EA identifies any built heritage resource that is or may be older than 40 years as a potential built heritage resource. Ruins, while typically included as archaeological resources, are included in this element as a way to group similar features.

There are very few buildings or structures within the LSA, and these are comprised almost entirely of ‘outpost camp’ buildings and facilities (Figure 8). The camps themselves are relatively small, vernacular frame structures. Often built on posts to raise them above the forest floor, the buildings are accessible

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<sup>12</sup> Five archaeological assessment reports have been produced for parts of the Preliminary PDA (Norris, 2011 (P307-0019-2011), Slattery 2011 (P041-0158-2011), Elder 2012a (P335-0015-2012), Elder 2012b (P335-0016-2012) and Hinshelwood 2020 (P236-0141-2020). The reports and recommendations made are summarised in Hinshelwood (2020).

by way of informal trails or elevated wooden walkways. Outbuildings for storing seasonal gear, fish cleaning shacks and outhouse privies are also associated. The buildings are oriented to the lakes, and the shoreline areas are marked by basic wooden docks, often supported by stone filled cribs. In areas where the shoreline presents a low slope and sand beach, there may not be a dock.

Harding (1936), in his report to the Ontario Department of Mines, includes a map which shows 12 cabins present on Springpole and Birch Lakes in the 1930s. Four cabins are on Springpole Lake, including one cabin in the PDA where the current operations centre is located. Two other cabins are noted on either side of Springpole Lake about 2 kilometres from the entry to the north bay. The fourth cabin is located at the western end of Springpole Lake adjacent to the inlet. Two of the cabins (in the PDA at the north shore of Springpole Lake) are mapped within historic claim areas (Maps 6 and 7).

We note that five cabins and six portages are located in or near the LSA. The cabins and portages mapped in the 1930s may represent a mix of new (geology focussed) and traditional (Anishinaabe) land use and occupancy. Therefore, it is likely that in addition to the existing outpost camp buildings, a number of sites with cabin or other building ruins are present within the LSA.

P. Koezur, an archaeologist and prospector who lived on Birch Lake in the 1960s and 1970s makes reference to a cabin, complete with garden, on Potato Island, Birch Lake (about 6 kilometres north of the PDA), that was occupied by a Mr. Quedent, of Lac Seul First Nation, during the 1940's (Koezur and Wright 1976).<sup>13</sup> This raises the possibility that the cabins that are not mapped in association with mining claims may have been occupied by Indigenous people. Alternately, these cabins were mapped by Harding to inventory mining-related facilities, and Indigenous occupations were excluded from mapping. Koezur also registered an archaeological site near the location mapped by Harding along the south shore of Springpole Lake. It is not verified that this site is at the same location as the cabin, as no information on the site is available through the ministry database.

Research and fieldwork did not identify records of any works related to water management (dams, sluices, etc.), or other additional construction not related to geological exploration.

Additional built heritage resources may be identified during archaeological fieldwork, or through Indigenous community engagement.

### Historic and traditional travel routes

Travel routes are defining features of cultural heritage landscapes that serve to draw disparate elements together into a single definable entity. Travel routes represent past practice of traversing an area and may not leave discoverable traces. Unlike roadways, water routes do not require construction along most of the route; however, portage trails do indicate key junctures in canoe routes where overland travel is necessary. Harding (1936) has mapped a number of portages, including distances, linking Springpole and Birch Lakes to adjacent waterbodies. The portages represent elements of the cultural heritage landscape. They also mark locations of potential archaeological value and potential burial sites.

We note that Springpole Lake is not covered by a designated Heritage River, or any other known heritage canoe route.

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<sup>13</sup> The cabin was also the location of EIKc-1. See Map 4.

The LSA includes a portion of a travel route significant in the historic fur trade in this part of northwestern Ontario. It is likely that the routes followed during the fur trade were built on traditional travel routes long used by Indigenous people. This means that the travel routes contribute to the potential for archaeological resources to be present on adjacent land areas. The route through Springpole Lake served as portion of a route linking Lake St Joseph and the Albany River, Lac Seul and the English River, and the Severn River.

Based on the position of Springpole Lake as a noted location in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century fur trade in northwestern Ontario, the subject property holds a higher-than-normal potential for fur trade related archaeological resources to be present. It is important to note that the locations of the wintering posts and other minor facilities on the lake are not known.

Signing of the 1905 Treaty No. 9 led to economic mineral exploration in the region, with exploration conducted initially along known travel routes. This is specifically described in an early geological report by Thurston (1986).

Harding (1936) maps two portages within the Preliminary PDA, and two further portages are mapped within the Preliminary LSA (Map 6). In addition to the travel routes speculated from portages and historical records (Map 12), additional travel route information, including overland routes, may be identified through Indigenous community engagement.

### Features of historic commercial development

Commercial development, as used in this report, refers to the range of economic activities that rely on distinct infrastructure from traditional and fur trade period pursuits, such as geological exploration, tourism/recreation, trapping, and perhaps commercial fishing.

Cabin locations shown on Springpole Lake in Harding's 1936 map show three cabins associated with named mining claim areas (Map 6) within or near the LSA. One, located at the operations base, is labelled "Dunkin" and shows one exploration trench. This cabin is associated with two portages, east and west of the cabin, leading north into Birch Lake. Two cabins are mapped on Springpole Lake, seven kilometres southeast. They are on the main channel of Springpole Lake, and relatively close to the proposed tailings facility. The cabin on the north shore is associated with a named claim (Dole), with one exploration trench is mapped. A cabin and portage are also mapped at the inlet to Springpole Lake from Cromarty Lake, at the western end of the LSA. This location hold potential as a possible location of a Canadian trading post, although this is based on the location rather than any specific documentation (Figure 11). First Mining Gold field staff mentioned that this location had been occupied by a long-term resident at the lake. The fifth cabin is located at the southern end of Wagner Bay in Birch Lake, associated with a named claim (Wagner Melanson) and two mapped exploration trenches. This cabin is about five kilometres from the current operations base. It is of interest as it is mapped in association with two portages between Springpole and Birch Lakes, and an overland trail leading south.

Recreational use of the LSA is expressed primarily in the outpost camps located on the lake presently and described in the section on built heritage resources. We also note that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment atlas (RCNE 1985) shows commercial fisheries operating in Birch and Springpole Lakes in 1977. Some shoreline evidence of this activity may be anticipated, although it is not likely.

## 6.0 CONTEXTUAL VALUE

### Cultural heritage landscape

European entry into the LSA began in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century when trade to the western interior was reopened.<sup>14</sup> By the 1740s 'Canadian' traders originating in Montreal had penetrated into northwestern Ontario. This area became the trading hinterland of both the James Bay posts maintained by the HBC, and the Canadian trade. These competing interests relied on trading post location to gain advantage in trade, and knowledge of traditional travel routes was key to ensuring trading success. As inland trade by Canadians began to encroach on the profitability of Fort Albany returns, Henley House at the forks of the Albany and Kenogami Rivers was established in 1743, followed by Gloucester House (1777) and Osnaburgh House (1786) further up the Albany. The Canadian traders had a different pattern of trade than the HBCo, relying on mobility and a large number of "often temporary" posts, positioned to intercept Indigenous trading parties destined for the Bay (Rich 1958). The success of these posts often matched the volume of the HBC posts (Rich 1958; cf. Ray 1974; Ray and Freeman 1978). Osnaburgh House was, possibly, the first of the HBC inland posts established in direct competition with Canadian posts on Lake St. Joseph.

The frequency of Canadian posts along travel routes is noted in Umfreville's journal (1784: Douglas 1929) where he describes several abandoned trading posts, and trading parties travelling to Fort Albany. However, travel to Fort Albany was becoming less common during this period. James Sutherland, an HBC trader noted that by 1784 Canadians had established a number of interior posts, including at Crow's Nest Lake – identified by Lytwyn as Springpole Lake (Lytwyn 1986).

The Birch Lake – Springpole Lake area shows a history of traditional land use and economic activity related to the fur trade. This trade was successful in large part because it built on traditional resource management practices, such as fishing and trapping. Springpole Lake is part of a known and well-travelled route east to James Bay by way of Cat River and Lake St. Joseph (Maps 8 to 11), and for Canadian traders to gain access to the local inhabitants. This route would have provided local people access to trade goods in the early fur trade period at Fort Albany. The route also connects Springpole Lake to the English River to the west and south. A route north to the Severn River passes through Cat Lake. Traditional use of the area and the travel routes through the area were in use, likely for millennia prior to the fur trade. Also, the traditional travel routes were used in the initial period of geological exploration. Many other cultural land use practices are inherent in travel, including spiritual and traditional cultural practice, burial, habitation and resource use.

It is generally accepted that although there were no permanent trading posts in the region prior to circa 1727, itinerant *couriers des bois* and unlicensed traders would have been working in this area prior to the closing of the French trade in the interior in 1696 (Hinshelwood 1984). A number of trade posts were established along the Albany River from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century onward. Following the incorporation of the Hudson Bay Co (HBC), posts were established at the mouth of the Moose River (Moose Factory) in 1673 and at the mouth of the Albany River (Fort Albany) in 1679 (Rich 1958; Heidenreich 1987; Heidenreich and Noel 1987a; 1987b; Moodie, et al. 1987).

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<sup>14</sup> Trade to the interior from Quebec had been closed in 1696 due to a glut of furs on the European market.

Henley House was established in 1743 at the confluence of the Albany and Kenogami Rivers to encourage inland trading parties to continue on to Fort Albany to trade. As trade competition from Canadian traders increased, inland posts became a key strategic element for both the HBC and Montreal traders (Ray 1974, Ray and Freeman 1978). Thus, a number of major and minor posts<sup>15</sup> were established in the upper reaches of the Albany River up until 1821, when the HBC and Northwest Company merged (Moodie, et al. 1987; Rich 1958). Other posts in the region include posts at Red Lake (1786), Lac Seul (1789), Trout Lake (before 1869) (Voorhis 1930). Canadian traders are reported as 'reopening' their wintering posts at Springpole and Cat Lakes in 1792 (Lytwyn 1986). The Canadian post at Springpole Lake operated between 5 and 15 years. This was later followed by a short-lived (<5 years) HBC post sometime after 1806.

Research indicates that Springpole Lake had been identified as a significant part of the travel routes linking the upper reaches of the Albany River with Lac Seul, Sandy Lake and Lake Winnipeg. As Lytwyn (1986) notes, the fur trade in the area known as the *petite nord* was the focus of competition between the English traders on Hudson's Bay and the Canadian traders from Montreal and elsewhere.<sup>16</sup> The HBC is a well-documented organisation, with a large archive of record and account books preserved and maintained by the Public Archives of Manitoba in Winnipeg. The same cannot be said of the smaller independent traders. For this reason, posts established in the interior by the HBC imply the presence of competing Canadian posts. Starting in the 1740's, beginning with Henley House near the forks of the Albany and Kenogami Rivers in 1741, interior trade competition in the *petite nord* grew markedly. As traders begin moving into the interior, establishing posts that sought to divert Indigenous traders from the bayside posts, new posts were established further inland to entice these trading parties to continue on to the bay. In a 'leapfrog' pattern many new posts were established, some of which were in operation for only one or two seasons (cf. Ray, 1974; Ray and Freeman, 1978).

Lytwyn identifies Springpole Lake as a significant locale in the interior trade from an early date in two ways. First, he notes HBC records indicating that by 1784 independent traders were competing with their inland trade from a post established on 'Crow's Nest Lake' (Lytwyn 1986, 46). These traders were still operating on Crow's Nest Lake in 1786, although they were noted as also seeking to expand their presence to Cat Lake (Lytwyn 1986, 54). The Crow's Nest Lake and Cat Lake posts are still in operation in 1792, according to HBC records, which also note that HBC were competing with other independent traders set up on Cat Lake from their own post, established around this time. Second, he presents a series of cartographic references that demonstrate that Crow's Nest Lake is Springpole Lake. A 1786 map (Map 8) showing the route between Lac Seul and Lake St. Joseph includes the mouth of the Crow's Nest River running north from the west end of Lake St. Joseph (Lytwyn 1986, 52). A 1792 map showing the routes from Lake St. Joseph to Red Lake and Cat Lake also map the start of the Crow's Nest River at Gull Lake (Map 9). A map from 1816 shows a 'Canadian House' on Crow's Nest Lake (Maps 10 and 11) and a second post on Birch Rind Lake (Birch Lake). Reconstructing the route of an expedition from Cat Lake to Whitemoon Lake (north of North Spirit Lake), Lytwyn traces the route through Springpole and Birch Lakes (1986, 79). Despite the absence of records emanating from the trade at Springpole, references to traders operating on the lake in the continued reference to Crow's Nest Lake trade between 1784 and 1792. Its inclusion in several contemporary maps suggest that it was an important location, both for capturing trade and for travel within the region. The challenge that arises is that the location of the post on the lake is unknown.

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<sup>15</sup> Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) posts included Marten Falls, Gloucester House, and Osnaburgh House on Lake St. Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> Private traders included Ezekiel Solomon, of Montreal, and corporate traders included, primarily, the North West Company (NWC.).

Travel routes through Springpole Lake reflect long term, traditional use of the lake by Indigenous communities (Map 12). Harding (1936), hints at the extensive network of water-based travel routes in their mapping of a fairly large number of portages within the map sheet.<sup>17</sup> Six of the portages are located on or near the subject property, including two portages where the current operations centre is located.

The cabins and portages mapped in the 1930s may represent a mix of new (geology focussed) and traditional (Anishinaabe) land use and occupancy. The Birch Lake – Springpole Lake area shows a history of traditional land use and economic activity related to the fur trade. This trade was successful in large part because it built on traditional resource management practices, such as fishing and trapping. Springpole Lake is part of a known and well-travelled route, connected to the Albany River, The Severn River and English River, and were used during the fur trade period by Indigenous and European / Canadian traders. The portages mapped, and others that may have fallen into disuse are unlikely to have been first used in this recent period. It is more likely that they represent and were mapped onto earlier existing routes known to Indigenous peoples for millennia (Figures 9 to 11).

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<sup>17</sup> The complete map covers an area roughly 24 miles by 24 miles (38.5 x 38.5 kilometers) and includes upwards of 60 portages, include distance measurements, as well as 4 trails, 2 'pull-overs' and 1 winter road. One portage, "Birch Portage" is names. This portage, 40 chains (about 800 metres) in length, connects Keigat lake with the northeastern arm of Birch Lake.

## 7.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES AND THE PROJECT

### Built Heritage Resources Description

Built heritage resources in the LSA comprise a series of small 'outpost camp' structures. These camps generally consist of a compact floor plan that incorporates a kitchen, eating area, lounge and bunks. Normally the toilet facilities comprise an outhouse. Other structures associated with the camps include fish cleaning stations (usually situated away from the main building and close to the water), and various storage sheds. Construction is typically frame, although some peeled log elements may be incorporated as exposed interior elements such as ceiling joists, and as exterior elements such as railings.

Some of the camps within the PDA and LSA may exceed 40 years of age. The lifespan of these buildings is generally not greater than 50 years, given the climate and maintenance schedules.

No other built heritage resources were noted during fieldwork.

### Cultural Heritage Landscapes Description

Cultural heritage landscapes within the LSA are typically associative landscapes. The landscape includes three pictographs sites, reflecting the long-term use of the area for cultural practices by Indigenous communities. Unlike archaeological sites, which are defined on the basis of artifact densities and distribution, pictographs derive part of their meaning from their natural context in the landscape. The natural and cultural elements should be considered together in defining the landscape.

Cultural heritage landscapes may also be defined in the LSA on the basis of long-term use of the waterways for travel and transportation. Here, the landscape is defined on the basis of mapped portages and overland trails. The landscape includes the waters of Springpole Lake, but the water retains no material traces of this use. However, the portages 'anchor' these travel routes, and historical data indicate that this travel is historically significant. We anticipate that these travel routes are also associated with other stories that contribute to the Indigenous communities' sense of identity.

We note also that although no burials were identified during fieldwork, it is possible for burials to be associated with portages, cabin sites and places of spiritual importance within the LSA. Ceremonial, plant gathering and gathering places may also be present.

### Consideration of potential interactions

The following section offers preliminary consideration of the potential interactions between the built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes values that may be identified in the project area and the project components during the defined stages of the project. This discussion is organised according to project stages. Note that this discussion does not suggest that any or all of the values discussed are necessarily present within the project area.

In terms of potential interactions between cultural heritage resources and project components, the following components may be considered to be essentially the same for the purposes of this section:

process plant, open pit, stockpiles, and mine rock/tailings management facility. The transmission corridor is not within the scope of this evaluation as not known at the time the work was being prepared.

Cultural heritage resources (built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes) include material and intangible elements. Built heritage resources, including buildings, structures and other constructed features, exist primarily as material objects, and are also defined in reference to their local context. Cultural heritage landscapes are largely defined as associations of material and intangible elements across larger geographical spaces. Material, intangible and landscape elements may combine to denote the cultural heritage landscape. This makes it more difficult to manage and mitigate the effects of interactions with development inputs for landscapes than with built heritage. At the same time, carefully addressing the protection of critical landscape elements may allow for greater flexibility in managing potential interactions for positive outcomes.

Interactions with cultural heritage resources within the PDA are inevitable, complete and irreversible. Interactions with cultural heritage resources in the LSA are considerably less, and cumulative impacts can be managed through mitigation and training.

The construction and development of the process plant, open pit stockpiles and mine rock areas/tailings management facility will require significant disturbance to the ground surface. Potential interaction levels between this work and cultural heritage resources will be high for values located within the PDA. Interactions will occur in all areas within the Project footprint as well as adjacent areas where disturbance is necessary (temporary storage, stockpiles, etc.). Potential effects include complete removal of any values that are within the work area. Built heritage resources are generally not considered portable, therefore the mitigation required to reduce or eliminate potential effects will require evaluating the cultural heritage value or interest of each structure, then either documenting the resource and permitting removal, or project redesign to avoid impact to the resource. Costs associated with documentation or avoidance would be considered in relation to cultural heritage value or interest.

Cultural heritage landscape resources are defined on the basis of the location and distribution of specific elements across a wider landscape context. As such, they vary in extent and resilience according to the cultural value of individual elements. Potential interaction between construction and development and cultural landscapes may extend beyond the PDA. Cultural heritage landscape elements that are location specific will have high interaction with development, and impacts will be significant. Potential impacts for landscape elements that extend beyond the PDA, and moveable elements can be mitigated through planning, protocols and, if appropriate, identification of compensation areas. For example, burial sites can be considered 'portable' within certain cultural parameters. Mitigation of impacts can be managed under existing burial sites policies. Pictographs have an undetermined (but high) level of cultural sensitivity and are non-portable. Other landscape values are more widely defined. Historic trade and traditional travel routes are largely comprised of the waters through which travel was conducted. Specific places on the land, such as portages or significant landmarks require specific mitigation and identification of alternate alignments.

Beyond the PDA, potential interactions between construction and development and built heritage resources within the LSA are negligible to absent. The greatest potential interactions may arise from noise, dust, and possibly other outputs from construction and development activities that impinge on sacred, spiritual and traditional practices. Recreational use of the LSA may also create interaction through an increase in site visitation or use of cultural heritage landscape elements. This can create

either significant net effects from high impact visits, to cumulative adverse effects from longer-term, light visitation and use. Potential beneficial effects may also arise from cultural heritage resources reporting. For both, effects are dependent on awareness training developed for construction and Project staff. Such training can be developed collaboratively with affected communities.

There are no potential interactions with cultural heritage resources in the PDA during Operations and Decommissioning and Closure phases of the Project. Within the LSA, interactions continue some of those identified for Construction and Development. Specifically, noise, dust or other outputs, may cause adverse impacts to sacred, spiritual or traditional practices within the LSA. As well, increased visitation and use of places forming parts of other cultural landscapes (archaeological sites, portages, visits to the pictographs) may also cause adverse, cumulative impacts through increased traffic or inappropriate interaction with the resource. Mitigation of these potential impacts can be achieved through awareness training for staff. Training should cover the nature and importance of cultural heritage values, legal protections and reporting requirements for accidental finds.

From the research completed to date, some potential built heritage resources have been identified within the PDA on the basis of age (>40 years). Additional review of these structures will be completed as part of the CHER report to be completed after 2021 fieldwork. The statement of heritage value (SHV) will evaluate the cultural heritage value or interest of each structure, or group of structures. Based on the SHV appropriate mitigation will be determined. We note that the built heritage resources within the PDA are generally vernacular frame 'outpost camp' buildings that may be >40 years of age but are likely of limited cultural heritage value.

The PDA also includes two portage trails. Mitigation of impacts to the trails would be determined through discussion with portage users. This will not compromise the overall pattern of historic landscape use, as the overall pattern of travel between Springpole and Birch Lakes can be maintained using other historic portages. The site of a former cabin and exploration trench from the 1930s has been removed by the development of the operation area of the present camp. Currently, there are no other cultural heritage resources reported within the PDA. Additional fieldwork in 2021, including Indigenous community engagement may identify additional resources, and mitigation direction will be developed accordingly.

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This cultural heritage research report provides a summary of available information about built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the Preliminary PDA (project development area) and the Preliminary LSA (local study area) for the Springpole Gold Project. This information comprises a significant part of the baseline information on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. Additional work will be ongoing as the project progresses. The information presented in this report, supplemented by Indigenous community input obtained through consultation or through TK/TLRU studies, constitutes baseline information that will support planning for cultural heritage resource protection.

Some built heritage resources (outpost camps) present in the PDA appear to be over 40 years of age. More detailed recording is required to demonstrate their age and cultural heritage value or interest. Cultural heritage landscape features were also noted within the PDA. Two historic portages originally mapped in the 1930s may reflect early trade and traditional routes through the LSA. Documentary and cartographic data identify Springpole Lake as part of an important trade route between the Albany River and the Severn River, and at least one 18<sup>th</sup> century trading post may have been emplaced on Springpole Lake. The portages mapped in the 1930s may have seen earlier use as part of this route.

Pictographs in the LSA support the consideration of Springpole Lake as a significant cultural heritage landscape. Long occupation of the area suggests that burial sites, and sacred, spiritual or traditional use sites may also be present as material remains or in traditional knowledge.

Historic mining activity also forms part of the cultural heritage landscape within the LSA.

From the findings of the background research, it is recommended that:

1. Additional research is completed, and a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) and Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (SCHVI) conforming to the direction set out in the S&Gs are prepared, for the cultural heritage resources described in this research report.
2. Built heritage resources within the PDA are inventoried, and a CHER and SCHVI prepared, as required.
3. Detailed recording and management plan for the pictograph site Eikb-4 is completed.
4. The two portages at the western end of Springpole Lake should be examined to determine if they are suitable alternates on the historic travel route.
5. Indigenous communities should continue to be engaged to gather additional information on cultural heritage resources as the project progresses.
6. Work should conform to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI) *Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties* (S&Gs), developed under the *Ontario Heritage Act* (RSO 1990, c O.18).

## 9.0 SOURCES

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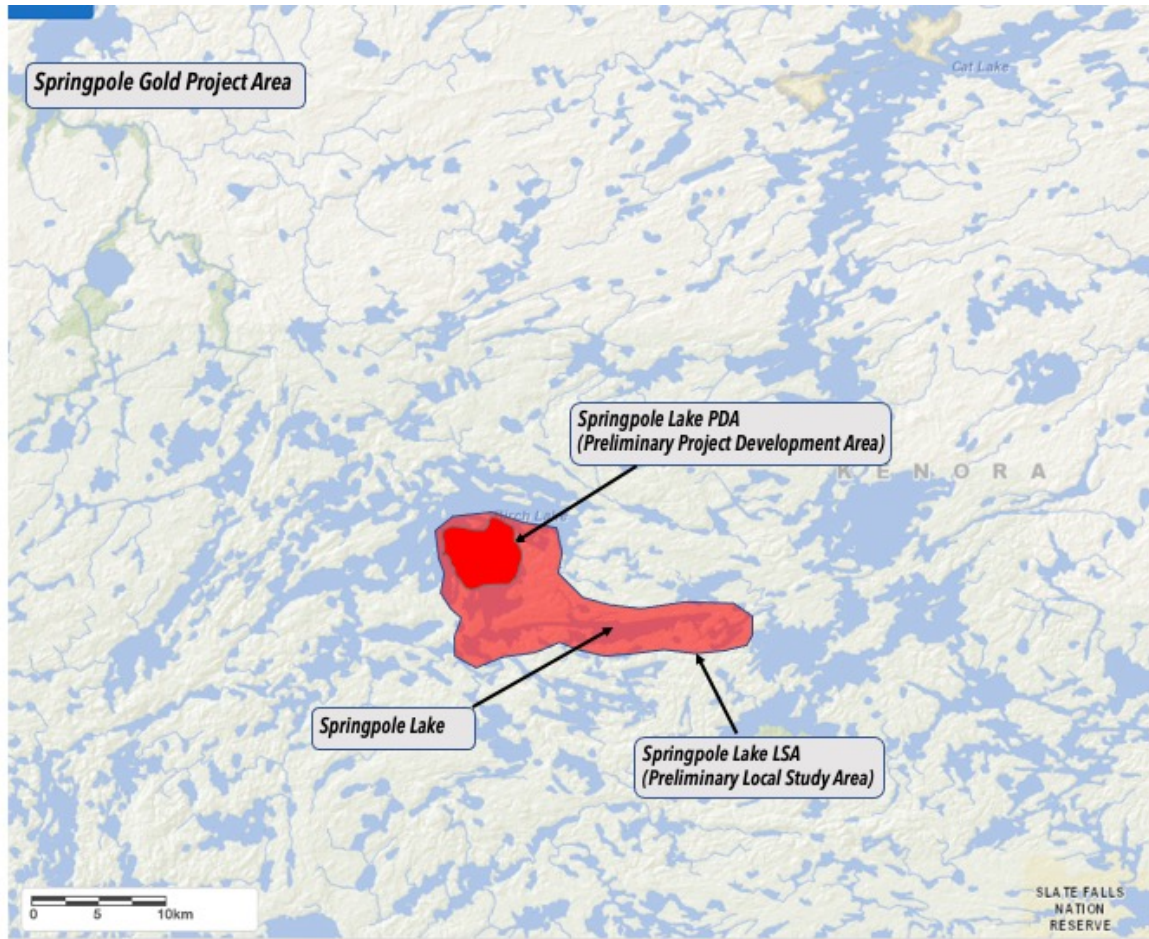
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## Maps



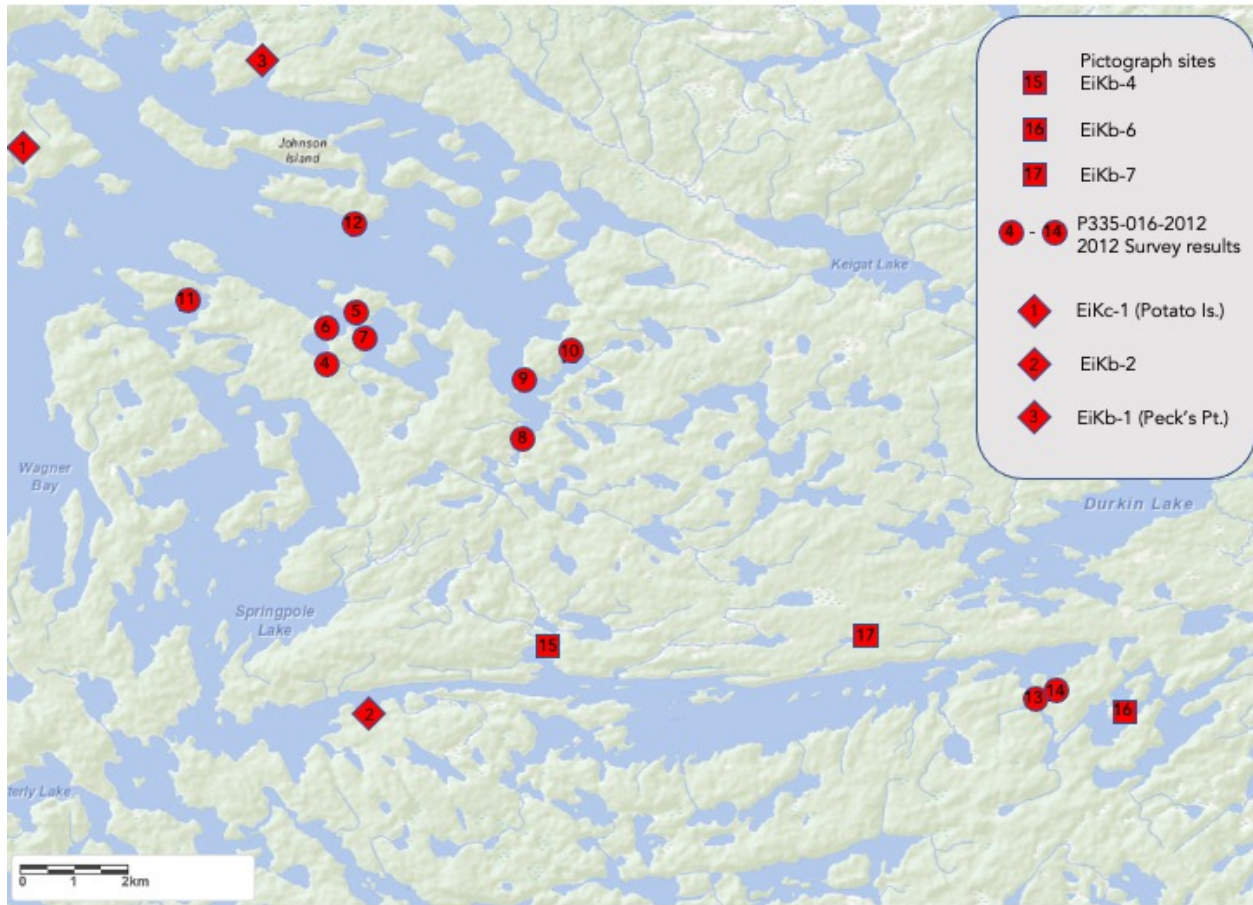
Map 1: Regional location of project area. Local First Nation communities are indicated.



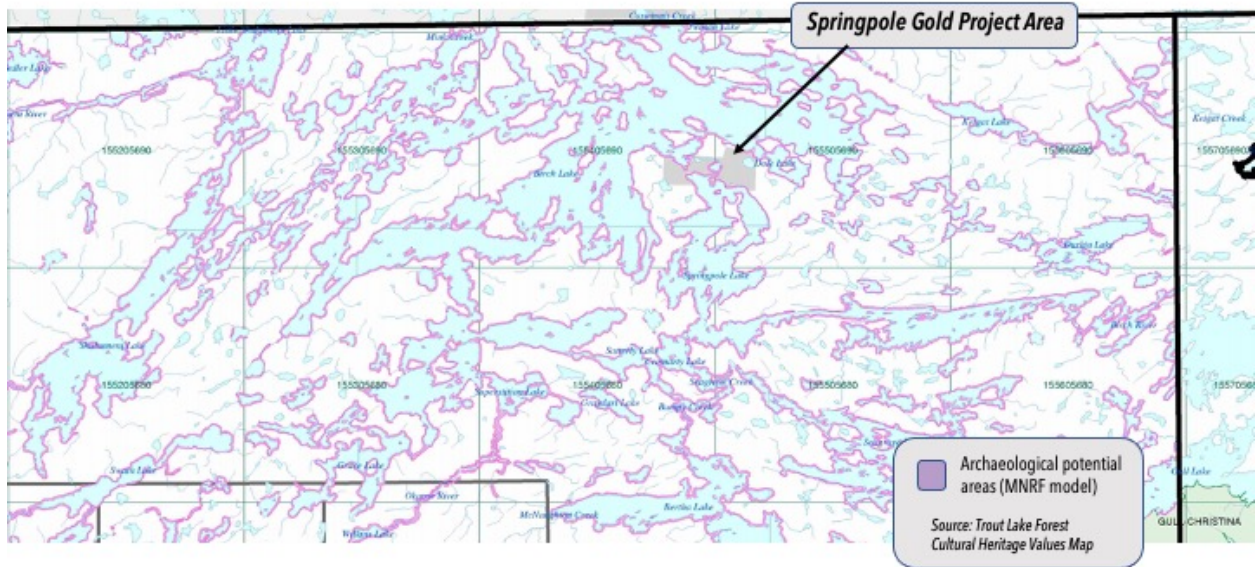
Map 2: General location of the subject property on Springpole Lake. The Project Development Area encompasses the area shown on Map 3. The Local Study Area encompasses all of Springpole Lake and some parts of adjacent waterways.



Map 3: Proposed layout of the Springpole Gold Project. The white polygons represent, from left to right, mine rock storage, open pit and stockpiles, process plant and waste rock storage. The map also shows the location of two coffer dams (brown and green), and mine road (source: First Mining Gold).



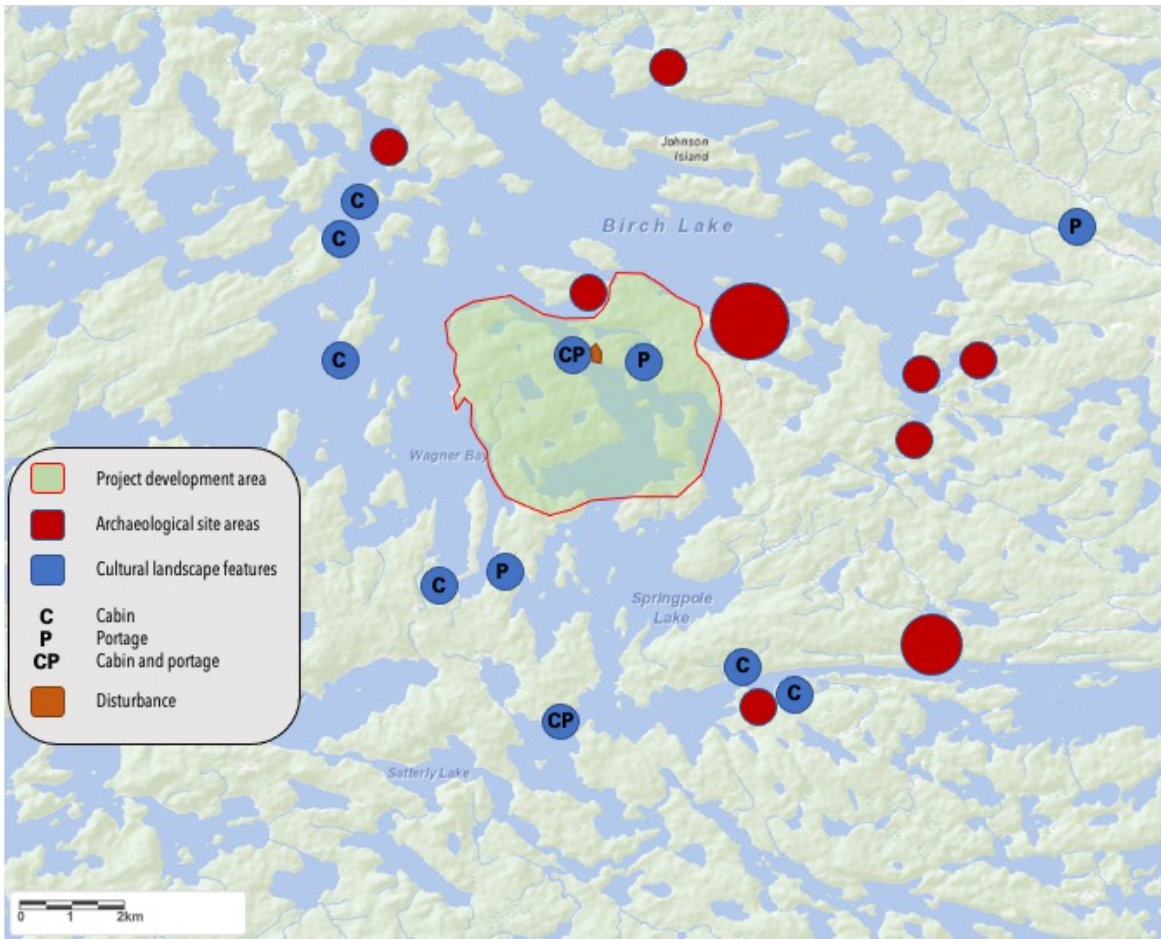
Map 4: Distribution of archaeological resources and pictographs near the Project area. Diamonds mark the sites identified in the early 1970s. Squares mark the location of pictograph sites. Note that the square "17" marks what may be an incorrect location for EiKb-7. Circles show sites identified in 2012.



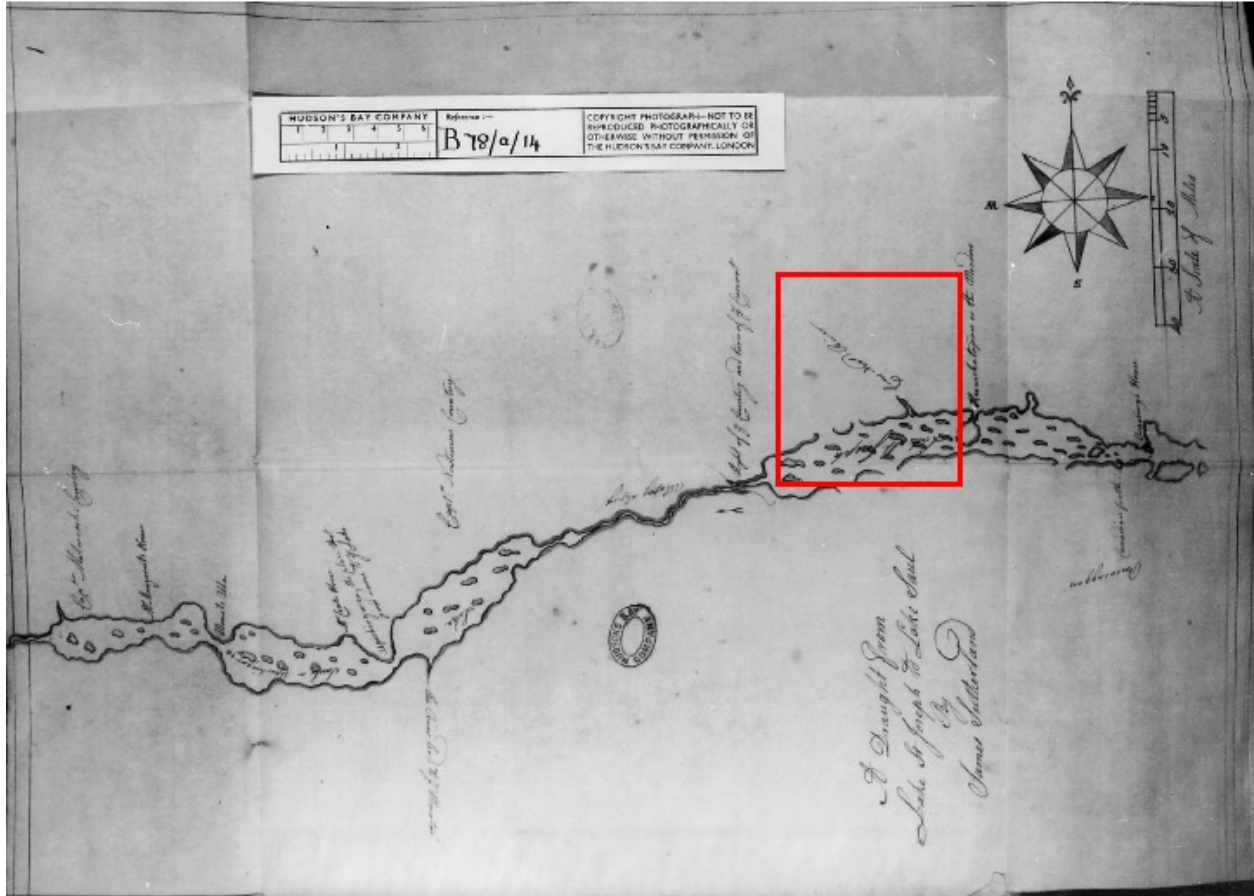
Map 5: Map showing archaeological potential for Trout Lake Forest Management Unit (MU120) 2009 - 2019 forest management plan.



Map 6: Section of Map No. 45C (Harding 1936). The Project area is marked as including one cabin and two portages, as well as a possible exploration trench. Two cabins may be seen on opposite shores of Springpole Lake, with the north cabin set in an area marked 'Dole'. A portage is marked on the west shore of Springpole, and another cabin and portage is marked at western end of the lake, leading into Cromarty Lake.

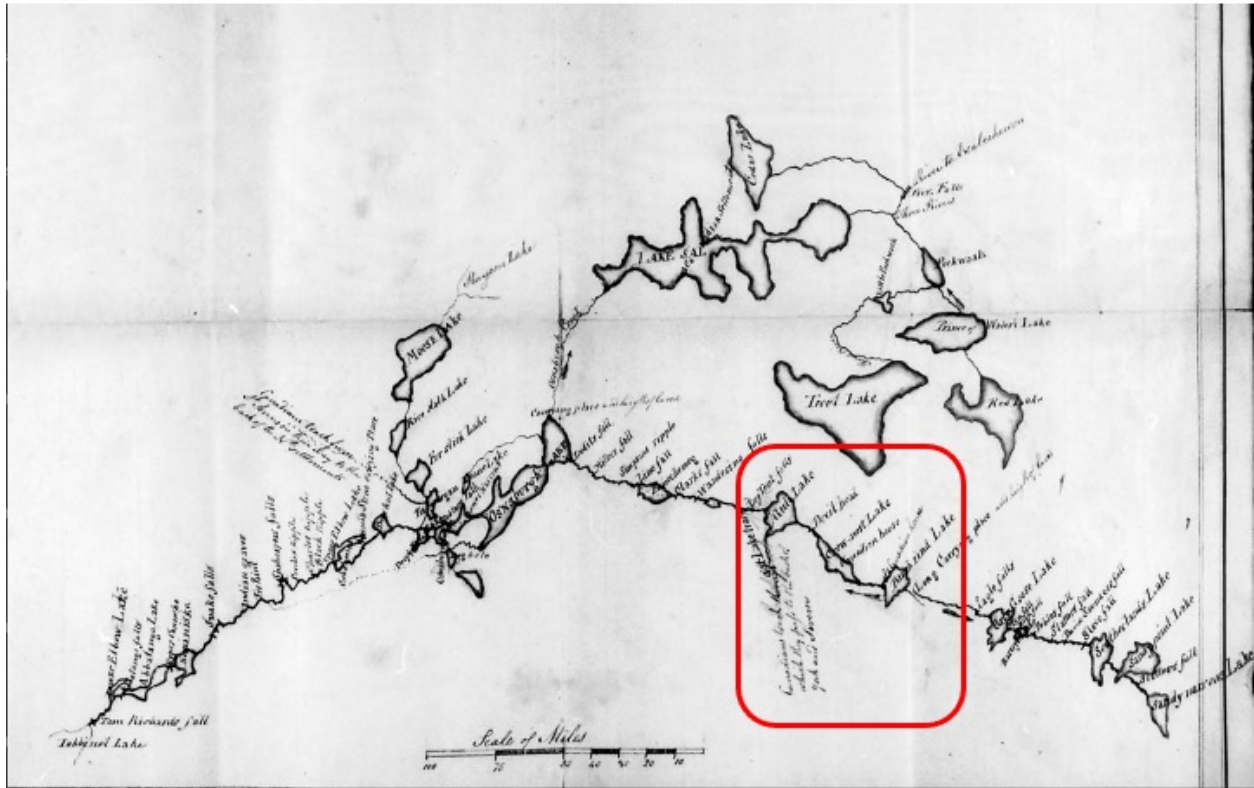


Map 7: Summary map showing cultural heritage resources in and around the LSA.

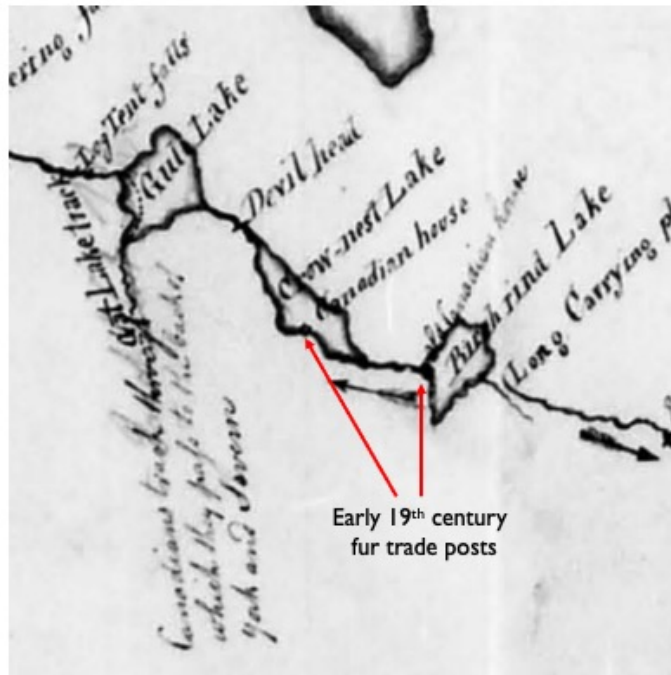


Map 8: James Sutherland map of 1786. Note mouth of "Crow's Nest River" (outlined in red) presumed to be the start of the route to Cat Lake and Springpole Lake. Source: Gloucester House Post Journal, 1786 (HBCA B.78/a/14).





Map 10: Osnaburgh House map of 1816. The map shows the route between Eabamet Lake on the Albany River to Sandy Lake (on one route) and Red Lake (on another route). The route from Gull Lake to Birch Lake is shown (outlined in red). Source: Osnaburgh House Post District Report (HBCA B.155/e/4).



Map 11: Close up of one section of Map 10. "Crow-nest lake" and the "Canadian House" are clearly indicated.



Map 12: Inferred travel routes through Springpole Lake and Birch Lake based on archival research.

## Figures

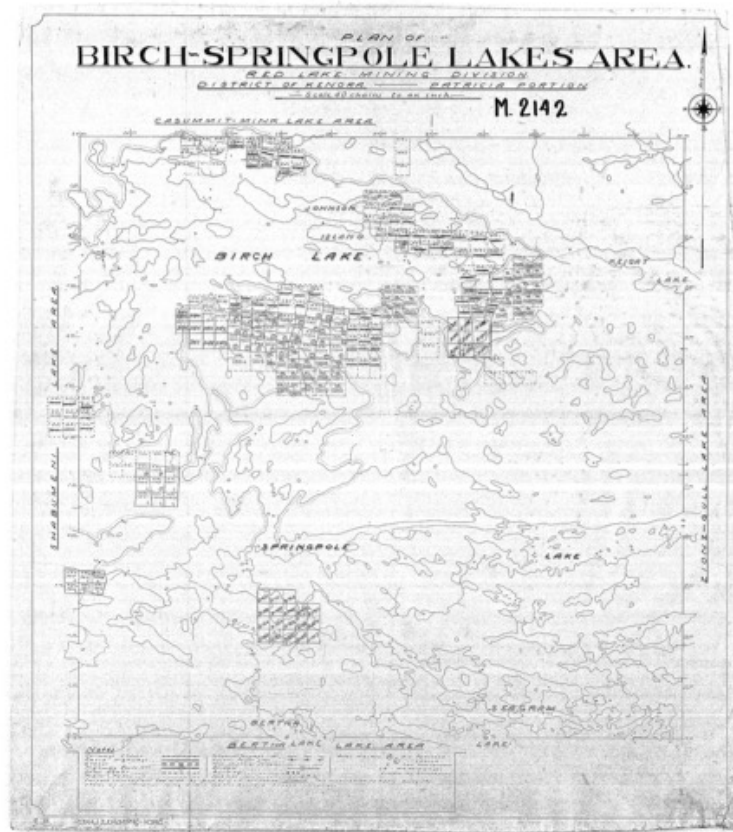


Figure 1: Early (circa 1928) claim map. This map is part of a series showing progressive staking and is undated. We presume it to be from the initial staking period. Accessed at: [http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/historic\\_claims/pdf/B/Birch%20Lake%20&%20Springpole%20Lake.pdf](http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/historic_claims/pdf/B/Birch%20Lake%20&%20Springpole%20Lake.pdf).

## Built Heritage / Cultural Heritage Landscapes

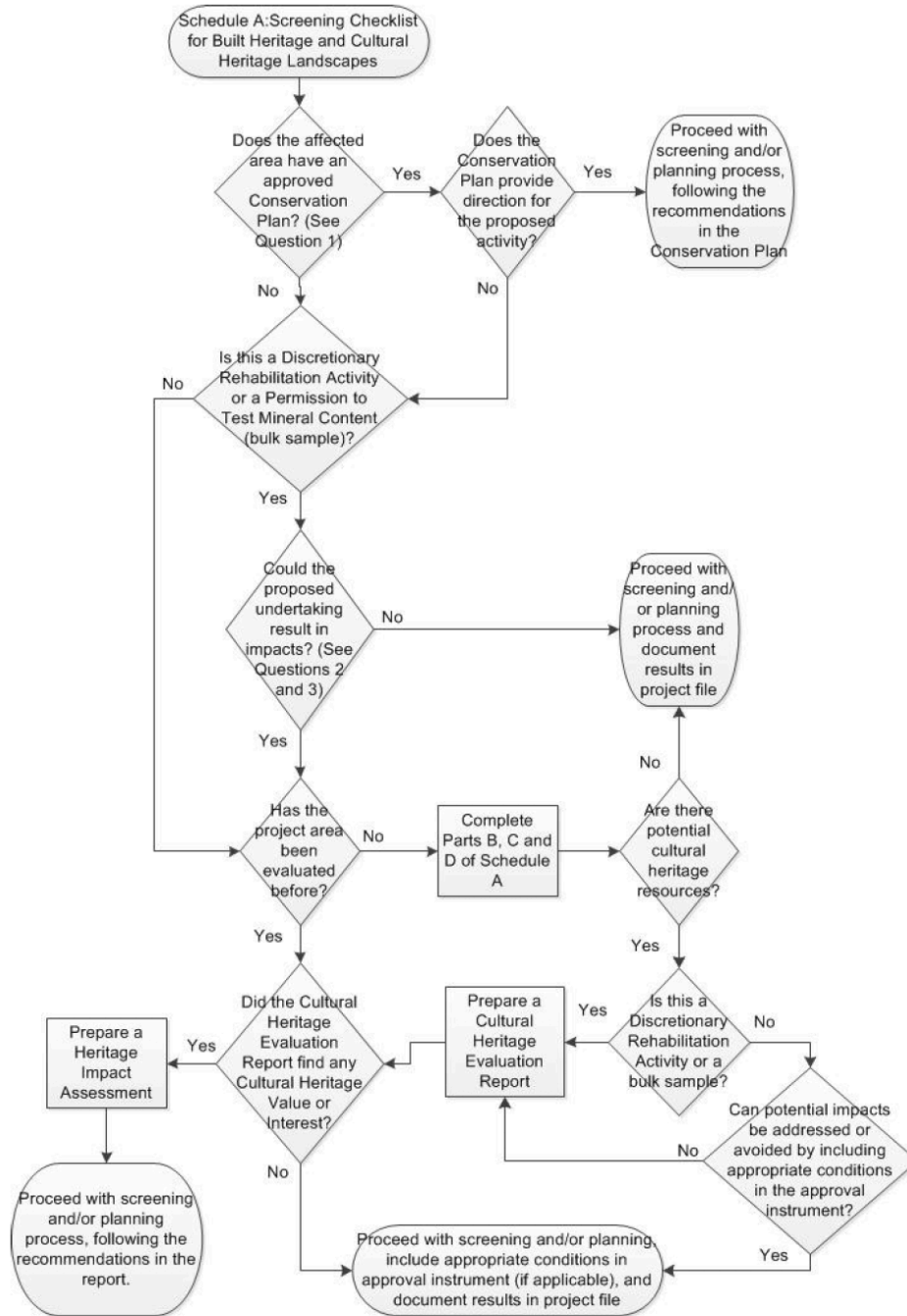


Figure 2: Decision flowchart presented as Schedule F, Appendix 3, Class EA for Activities of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act (2004).



Figure 3: View of Eikb-4, northerly face.



Figure 4: View of Eikb-4, northerly face (detail).



Figure 5: View of Eikb-4, southerly face.



Keeshickquayash I (EiKb-6)

Figure 6: View of Eikb-6, east end Springpole Lake.



Keesickquayash II (EiKb-7)

Figure 7: View of Eikb-7, location uncertain.



Figure 8: View of typical outpost camp with main lodge and ancillary construction (moose rack).



Figure 11: View of mapped portage at western outlet to Springpole Lake within LSA. The 1936 map shows a cabin and portage on the north side (right side of photo) of the river.



Figure 9: View of moderately overgrown portage trail, Springpole to Birch Lake.



Figure 10: View of 'flash' on tree marking overgrown portage trail, Springpole to Birch Lake

## Appendix I: Geological work at Springpole Lake, 1928 - 2017

The Mineral Deposit Inventory for Ontario summarises work at Springpole Lake as follows:

1928: Northern Aerial Mineral Exploration Ltd. discovered the showing.

1933-36: Windigokan Sturgeon Mining Syndicate carried out trenching, prospecting, DD-1504 ft.

1945: Springpole Mines Ltd. carried out trenching, prospecting.

1985-89: Gold Fields Canadian Mining Ltd.: property optioned, geophysics (air and ground), mapping, geochemistry, DD-118-125,816 ft

1989-1992: Noranda: ground geophysics, stripping, DD-18-20,323 ft.

1993-94: Akiko-Lori/Akiko Gold drilled 15 DDH totalling 15,913 ft.

1995: Akiko Gold reorganized into Gold Canyon Resources Inc. Santa Fe Mining and Gold Canyon agreed joint venture.

1995-96: Santa Fe drilled 69 DDH totalling 49,492 ft.

1996: Santa Fe was acquired by Newmont Gold Company and their interest in the property was sold to Gold Canyon.

1997-98: Gold Canyon drilled 51 DDH totalling 5642 m and conducted a lake bottom sediment sampling program.

1999: Paso Rico drilled 12 DDH totalling 2779 m.

2000: Paso Rico withdrew from the project, leaving Gold Canyon with 100% interest.

2004: Gold Canyon drilled 25 DDH totalling 2152 m.

2005: Gold Canyon drilled 19 DDH totalling 2983.

2006: Gold Canyon drilled 21 DDH totalling 2752 m.

2007: Gold Canyon conducted sampling and drilled 11 DDH totalling 2122 m.

2008: Gold Canyon drilled 7 DDH totalling 2452 m.

2009: Gold Canyon relogged and resampled core.

2010: Gold Canyon drilled 6 DDH totalling 1774.5 m.

2011: Gold Canyon drilled 80 DDH totalling 28,750 m, and conducted airborne EM and radiometric surveys.

2012: Gold Canyon drilled 87 DDH totalling 38,069 m and released a resource estimate.

2013: Gold Canyon drilled 24 DDH totalling 5394.5 m and 18 holes to sample the very upper portion between the lake bottom and bedrock, totalling 720.8 m, as well as geological mapping.

2015: First Mining Finance Corp. acquired the property from Gold Canyon.

2016: First Mining completed a 4-DDH program totalling 1712 m.

2017: First Mining filed a Preliminary Economic Assessment report.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.geologyontario.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndmfiles/mdi/data/records/MDI52N08NW00008.html>

### Ontario Heritage Act

#### ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06

##### CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

###### Criteria

**1. (1)** The criteria set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 29 (1) (a) of the Act. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (1).

(2) A property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it,
  - i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,
  - ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or
  - iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
2. The property has historical value or associative value because it,
  - i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community,
  - ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or
  - iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.
3. The property has contextual value because it,
  - i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,
  - ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or
  - iii. is a landmark. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (2).

###### Transition

**2.** This Regulation does not apply in respect of a property if notice of intention to designate it was given under subsection 29 (1.1) of the Act on or before January 24, 2006. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 2.

### Ontario Heritage Act

#### ONTARIO REGULATION 10/06

##### CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST OF PROVINCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

###### Criteria

**1. (1)** The criteria set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 34.5 (1) (a) of the Act. O. Reg. 10/06, s. 1 (1).

(2) A property may be designated under section 34.5 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance:

1. The property represents or demonstrates a theme or pattern in Ontario's history.
2. The property yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of Ontario's history.
3. The property demonstrates an uncommon, rare or unique aspect of Ontario's cultural heritage.
4. The property is of aesthetic, visual or contextual importance to the province.
5. The property demonstrates a high degree of excellence or creative, technical or scientific achievement at a provincial level in a given period.
6. The property has a strong or special association with the entire province or with a community that is found in more than one part of the province. The association exists for historic, social, or cultural reasons or because of traditional use.
7. The property has a strong or special association with the life or work of a person, group or organization of importance to the province or with an event of importance to the province.
8. The property is located in unorganized territory and the Minister determines that there is a provincial interest in the protection of the property. O. Reg. 10/06, s. 1 (2).

## Appendix III: Criteria for Evaluating Potential for Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?

No. The Project Development Area (PDA) is not located within an area or territory for which a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process is in place.

### Part A: Screening for known (or recognized) Cultural Heritage Value

2. Has the property (or project area) been evaluated before and found not to be of cultural heritage value?

Yes. The PDA is located in the Trout Lake Forest Management Unit, and MNR have completed cultural heritage / archaeological potential modelling for the MU. Most shoreline areas on Springpole Lake (the LSA) and the PDA have been evaluated as holding cultural heritage potential.

3. Is the property (or project area):

a. identified, designated or otherwise protected under the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value?

No identification, designation or other protection under the OHA exists for the PDA.

b. a National Historic Site (or part of)?

No.

c. designated under the Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act?

No.

d. designated under the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act?

No.

e. identified as a Federal Heritage Building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO)?

No.

f. located within a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site?

No.

### Part B: Screening for Potential Cultural Heritage Value

4. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that:

a. is the subject of a municipal, provincial or federal commemorative or interpretive plaque?

No.

b. has or is adjacent to a known burial site and/or cemetery?

No. This information may be subject to change with Indigenous community engagement.

c. is in a Canadian Heritage River watershed?

No. The Bloodvein River, in Pimachiowin Aki, is a designated Canadian Heritage River within a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The river was accessible from Red Lake, and with additional travel, Springpole Lake.

d. contains buildings or structures that are 40 or more years old?

Yes. There are a number of 'outpost camps' that are known, or appear to be, more than 40 years old.

### Part C: Other Considerations

5. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area):
- a. is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important in defining the character of the area?  
Yes. This information has yet to be confirmed by Indigenous community members, but the pictographs present on Springpole Lake are, at a minimum, potential landmarks in this sense.
  - b. has a special association with a community, person or historical event?  
As yet undetermined.
  - c. contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape?  
Initial consideration of the LSA is that it comprises or includes elements of a cultural heritage landscape.

The direction provided for the checklist states that where the answer to one or more question is “Yes”, then cultural heritage resource potential is identified for the property or project area. Following this is a requirement for:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER), and
- a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), if the CHER determines the property to be of cultural heritage value or interest.