

**KINROSS**

**Great Bear**

# **Great Bear Gold Project Impact Statement**

## **Appendix P-1:**

### **Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment**



GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

# GREAT BEAR PROJECT

## CULTURAL HERITAGE REPORT: EXISTING CONDITIONS AND PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NOVEMBER 2025





# GREAT BEAR PROJECT

## CULTURAL HERITAGE REPORT: EXISTING CONDITIONS AND PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

GREAT BEAR RESOURCES

PROJECT NO.: OMEMA2303  
NOVEMBER 2025

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Great Bear Resources Limited, a subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation proposes to develop, operate, and eventually decommission/close an underground and open pit mine and process plant (producing gold doré bars) with supporting infrastructure known as the Great Bear Project (the Project). The Project is located in a remote area of northwestern Ontario, approximately 25 kilometres (km) southeast of the Municipality of Red Lake, within the District of Kenora (Figure 1 to Figure 3).

A federal Impact Assessment pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act* is required for the project. This report contains the Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (Cultural Heritage Report) and is one of a series of environmental baseline studies and investigations prepared on behalf of Great Bear Resources to support the proposed work and aid in determining the predicted environmental effects of the Project.

Following the completion of background research and field review it was determined that there are five potential heritage properties within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. Based on the above, the following recommendations are made:

- 1 Direct impacts are anticipated to one of the potential heritage properties (CHR 3) as a result of the Project. The completion of a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) is required to determine whether the Wild Rice Fields (CHR 3) have CHVI per Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The CHER must be prepared in accordance with the *MCM Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties: Heritage Identification & Evaluation Process* (MCM 2014). Consultation with local Indigenous Nations is required during the preparation of the CHER to verify whether this potential CHL has cultural heritage value from an Indigenous perspective.
- 2 While no indirect or direct impacts are anticipated to the potential heritage properties of CHR 1, CHR 2, CHR 4, and CHR 5, these properties will be identified to Project personnel to ensure awareness of the presence of potential heritage properties.
- 3 Confidential Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use studies determined that the Study Area contains broad trapline areas that are not tied to any one discrete site. The trapline areas represent a historical Indigenous hunting practice that continues in present day. The mitigation measures presented in Section 7.13 – Analysis of Changes to Land and Resource Use and Sections 10 through 14 - Analysis of Changes to Indigenous Peoples in the Impact Statement in progress for the Project, will be followed to address potential impacts to traplines within the Study Area.
- 4 This report will be included as part of the Impact Statement submission to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and will be circulated to those Indigenous communities participating in the impact assessment process.
- 5 This report should be submitted to the MCM for information purposes.

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# ABBREVIATIONS

ANA	Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum
BHR	Built Heritage Resource
CHER	Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
CHL	Cultural Heritage Landscape
CHR	Cultural Heritage Resource
CHVI	Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
IAA	<i>Impact Assessment Act</i>
LSFN	Lac Seul First Nation
MCM	Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
MNO	Métis Nation of Ontario
NWOMC	Northwestern Ontario Métis Community
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
OHA	<i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>
OHT	Ontario Heritage Trust
O. Reg.	Ontario Regulation
WFN	Wabauskang First Nation

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# GLOSSARY

<b>Adjacent lands</b>	Those lands contiguous to a protected heritage property or as otherwise defined in the municipal official plan (Government of Ontario 2024).
<b>Built Heritage Resource</b>	<p>Means a building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured or constructed part or remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community, including an Indigenous community (Government of Ontario 2024).</p> <p>Built heritage resources are located on property that may be designated under Parts IV or V of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>, or that may be included on local, provincial, federal and/or international registers.</p>
<b>Conserved</b>	Means the identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value or interest is retained. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment that has been approved, accepted or adopted by the relevant planning authority and/or decision maker. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches can be included in these plans and assessments (Government of Ontario 2024).
<b>Cultural Heritage Landscape</b>	<p>Means a defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Indigenous community. The area may include features such as buildings, structures, spaces, views, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association (Government of Ontario 2024).</p> <p>Cultural heritage landscapes may be properties that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>, or have been included on federal and/or international registers, and/or protected through official plan, zoning by-law, or other land use planning mechanisms.</p>
<b>Heritage Attributes</b>	<p>Means, as defined under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i>, in relation to real property, and to the buildings and structures on the real property, the attributes of the property, buildings and structures that contribute to their cultural heritage value or interest (Government of Ontario 2024).</p> <p>Heritage attributes are the principal features or elements that contribute to a protected heritage property's cultural heritage value or interest, and may include the property's built, constructed, or manufactured elements, as well as natural landforms, vegetation, water features, and its visual setting (e.g. significant views or vistas to or from a protected heritage property).</p>
<b>Protected Heritage Property</b>	Means property designated under Part IV or VI of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> ; property included in an area designated as a heritage conservation district under Part V of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> ; property subject to a heritage conservation easement or covenant under Part II or IV of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> ; property identified by a provincial ministry or a prescribed public body as a property having cultural heritage value or interest under the <i>Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties</i> ; property

protected under federal heritage legislation; and UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Government of Ontario 2024).

**Significant:**

In regards to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest. Processes and criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest are established by the Province under the authority of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Government of Ontario 2024).



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	II
ABBREVIATIONS .....	III
GLOSSARY .....	IV
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Project Background .....	1
1.2 Objective.....	1
1.3 Project Overview .....	2
1.4 Investigation Area.....	2
<b>2 METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Regulatory Requirements.....	6
2.1.1 Federal.....	6
2.1.2 Provincial .....	6
2.1.2.1 Ontario Heritage Act.....	6
2.2 Guidance Documents .....	6
2.3 Background Research .....	6
2.4 Information Gathering.....	6
2.5 Inventory of Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes .....	7
2.6 Preliminary Impact Assessment .....	8
<b>3 HISTORICAL CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	9
3.2 Physiography.....	9
3.3 Indigenous Land Use .....	9
3.4 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Land Use .....	12
3.5 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Land Use .....	13
3.6 Historic Plaques.....	14



4	RESULTS.....	15
4.1	Information Gathering Results.....	20
4.2	Inventory of Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes .....	21
5	PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT .....	26
5.1	Description of Proposed Work.....	26
5.2	Assessment of Potential Impacts .....	26
6	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..	28
7	ASSESSOR QUALIFICATIONS.....	29
8	REFERENCES.....	30

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## TABLES

TABLE 1: REVIEW OF 20TH CENTURY HISTORICAL MAPPING .....	13
TABLE 2: INVENTORY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES .....	22
TABLE 3: IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES.....	27

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## FIGURES

FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	3
FIGURE 2: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	4
FIGURE 3: TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	5
FIGURE 4: 1902 NEW ONTARIO MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	15
FIGURE 5: 1906 CANADIAN ATLAS MINERALS MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	16
FIGURE 6: 1933 CANADIAN ATLAS GEOLOGY MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	17
FIGURE 7: 1975 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	18
FIGURE 8: 1990-1991 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE INVESTIGATION AREA .....	19
FIGURE 9: IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES .....	25
FIGURE 10: LOCATION OF PROPOSED MINE FEATURES .....	33

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## PLATES

PLATE 1: ALBANY AND NIPIGON TRADE ROUTES TO EAST WINNIPEG AS DEFINED BY LYTWYN (1981:10).....	12
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## APPENDICES

A PROPOSED WORK

B ASSESSOR QUALIFICATIONS

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Great Bear Resources Limited (Great Bear Resources), a subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation proposes to develop, operate, and eventually decommission / close an underground and open pit mine and processing plant (producing gold doré bars) with supporting infrastructure known as the Great Bear Project (the Project). The Project is located in a remote area of northwestern Ontario, approximately 25 kilometres (km) southeast of the Municipality of Red Lake, within the District of Kenora (Figure 1 to Figure 3).

A Federal Impact Assessment pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act* is required for the project. This report contains the Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment (Cultural Heritage Report) and is one of a series of environmental baseline studies and investigations prepared on behalf of Great Bear Resources to support the proposed work and aid in determining the predicted environmental effects of the Project.

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## 1.2 OBJECTIVE

This Cultural Heritage Report was prepared to assess the potential effects of the construction, operation, and decommissioning / closure phases of the Project on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes. To evaluate these effects of the Project, the following tasks have been completed:

- Background research, including consultation of primary and secondary sources and review historical maps/aerial imagery to gain an understanding of the historical evolution of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer;
- Online data collection and submission of agency information requests to the District of Kenora, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM), Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to determine the presence of protected and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer;
- Inventorying built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes, drafting statements of cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) and list of heritage attributes for protected properties (if applicable); and
- Completing a preliminary impact assessment to identify potential impacts to identified built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes that may result from the Project and prepare mitigation measures where impacts are anticipated.

This Cultural Heritage Report has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance documents:

- *Impact Assessment Act*, 2019, S.C. 2019, c.28, s.1 (Government of Canada, 2019);
- *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 (OHA; Government of Ontario 2023a);
- Technical Guidance for Assessing Physical and Cultural Heritage or any Structure, Site or Thing (Government of Canada 2015); and
- Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (Canada's Historic Places 2010).

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## 1.3 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed work involves the construction, operation, and eventual reclaiming of a new underground and open pit, gold mine and process plant at the Project site. An advanced exploration (AEX) program will be conducted ahead of the mine development to collect additional information to support a decision on whether to proceed to develop a mine and to support engineering design. Major components of the Project are described further in Section 5.1.

Decommissioning and final closure of the Project site will be governed by the Ontario *Mining Act*, and will follow a Closure Plan, as required by the Act. The active phase of decommissioning and reclamation is expected to be completed within approximately three years of the end of operations. Environmental monitoring will continue after reclamation is completed, until such time as the closure objectives as determined in the Closure Plan have been achieved.

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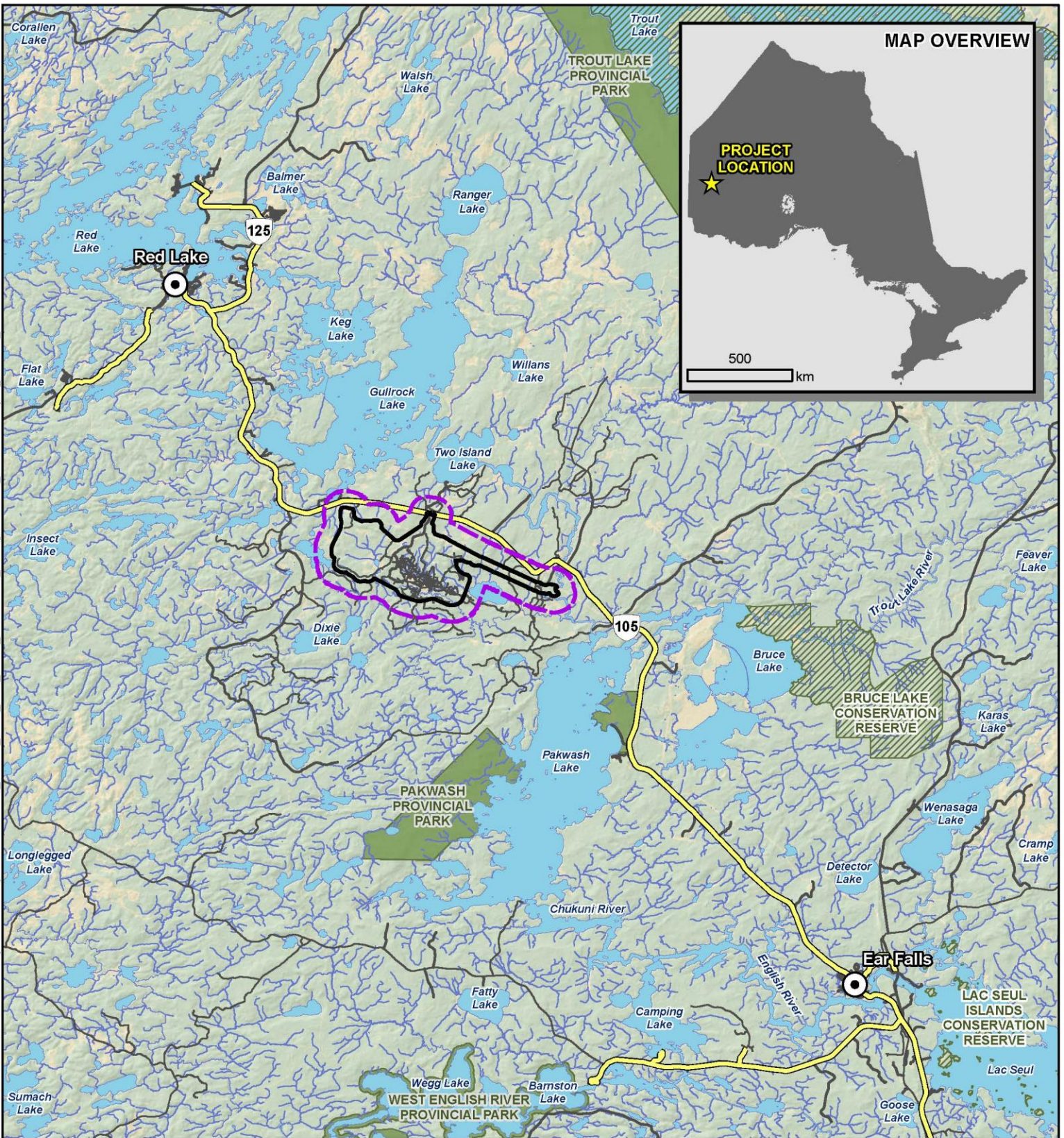
## 1.4 INVESTIGATION AREA

The investigation area for this Cultural Heritage assessment consists of the anticipated approximate Project footprint and an appropriate buffer, defined as follows:

- Cultural Heritage Investigation Area: Encompasses the anticipated footprint of the Project within the care and control of Great Bear Resources and includes the mine site area and mine components. Direct impacts to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes may occur within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area.
- Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer: The investigation area buffer extends beyond the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and was defined at a preliminary level by applying a 1 km buffer around the anticipated footprint. Indirect impacts to built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes may occur within this area.

The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area is shown on Figure 1 to Figure 3.

X:\CA\CA0031271-Project\12023\Projects\OMEMA2303\_Kinross\_Great\_Bear\_Env\7\_GIS\Cultural\_Heritage\Baseline\_2023\MXD\Project\_Location\_3.mxd



**LEGEND**

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Cultural Heritage Investigation Area               | Highway                    |
| Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km) | Local Road                 |
| Town   | Resource / Recreation Road |
| Conservation Reserve                               | Watercourse                |
| Provincial Park                                    | Waterbody                  |

**NOTES:**  
 - Base data acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR), 2022.  
 - Road information provided by Great Bear Resources, August 2022.  
 - Watercourses and waterbody acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR) and modified to match aerial imagery and LIDAR.

**KINROSS** Great Bear

**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**

Location of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area



Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N

PROJECT N°: CA0031271  
 SCALE: 1:320,000

FIGURE: 1  
 DATE: March 2025

450000

455000

460000

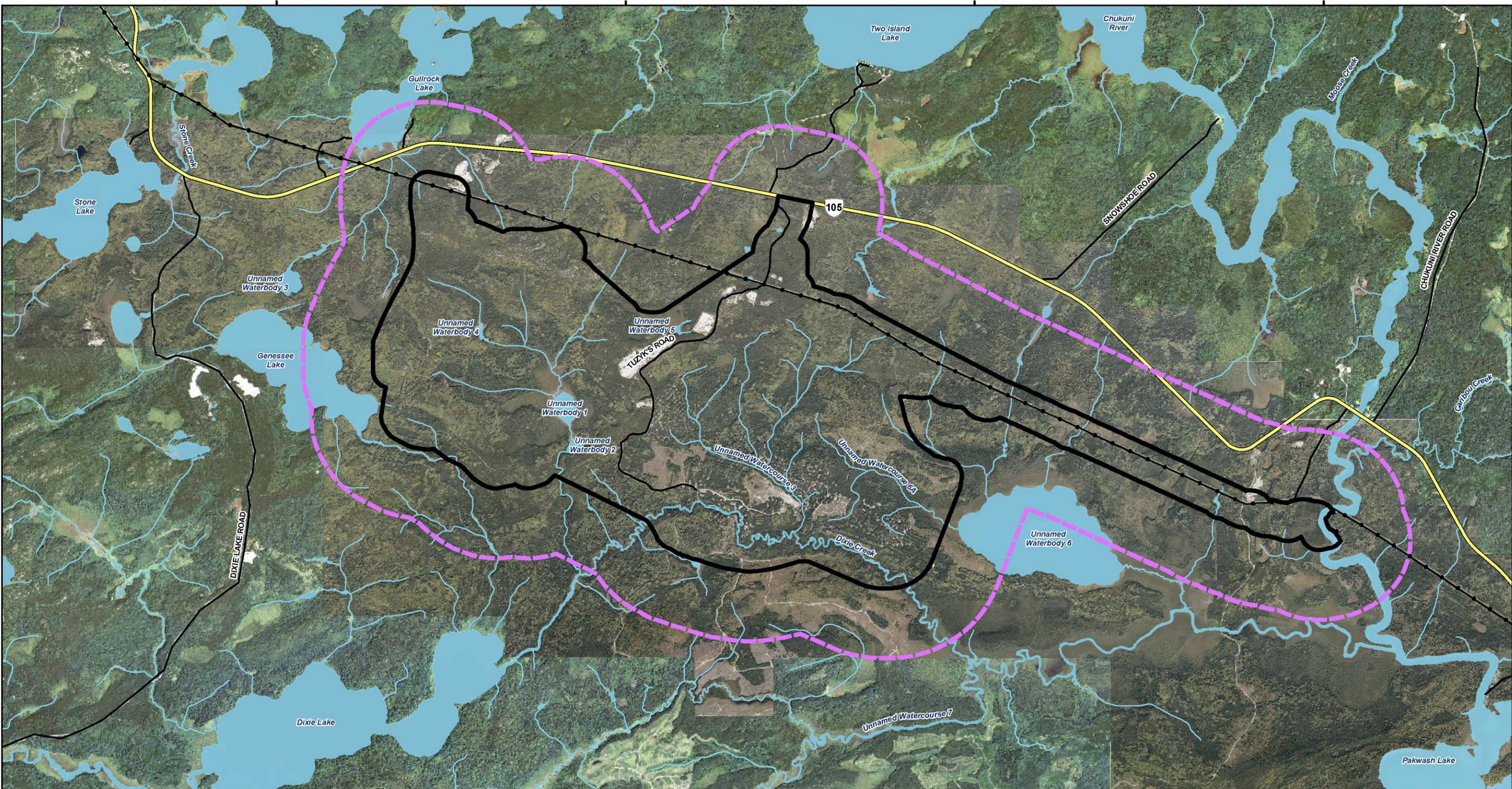
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- LEGEND**
- Cultural Heritage Investigation Area
  - Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)
  - Highway
  - Local Road
  - Existing Transmission Line
  - Watercourse
  - Waterbody

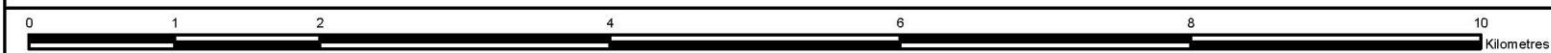
**NOTES:**

- Base data acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR), 2022.
- Aerial imagery provided by Great Bear Resources (scene date: September 2022)
- Roads information provided by Great Bear Resources, August 2022.
- Watercourses and waterbody acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR) and modified to match aerial imagery and LIDAR.



**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**

**Aerial Photograph Showing the Location of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area**



Datum: NAD83  
Projection: UTM Zone 15N

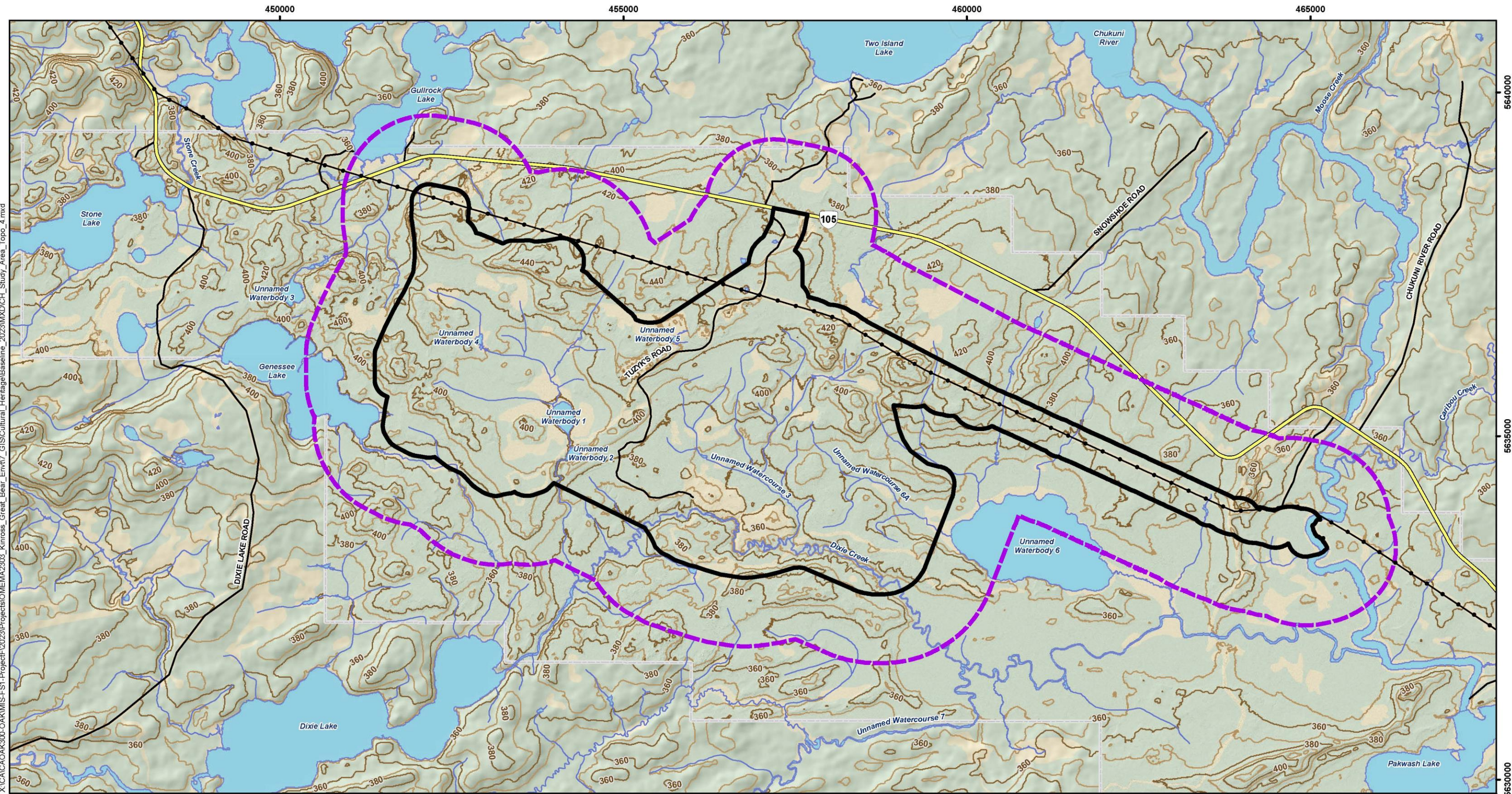


PROJECT N°: CA0031271

FIGURE: 2

SCALE: 1:52,000

DATE: March 2025



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- LEGEND**
- Cultural Heritage Investigation Area
  - Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)
  - Highway
  - Local Road
  - Existing Transmission Line
  - Watercourse
  - Waterbody
  - Major Contours (20 m interval)
  - Minor Contours (10 m interval)
  - Extent of Lidar Survey



**NOTES:**  
 - Base data acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR), 2022.  
 - Contours acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR), 2022 and 2022 LIDAR survey.  
 - Roads information provided by Great Bear Resources, August 2022.  
 - Watercourses and waterbody acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR) and modified to match aerial imagery and LIDAR.

Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N



**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**  
**Topographic Map Showing Location of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area**

PROJECT N°: CA0031271    **FIGURE: 3**  
 SCALE: 1:52,000    DATE: March 2025

# 2 METHODOLOGY

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## 2.1 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

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### 2.1.1 FEDERAL

Under Section 7(1)(c)(i and iii) of the *Impact Assessment Act*, S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1, the proponent of a project must not do any act or thing that will impact, with respect to the Indigenous peoples of Canada, physical and cultural heritage, and any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, palaeontological or architectural significance (Government of Canada 2019). Accordingly, consideration of archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes is required for the Project.

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### 2.1.2 PROVINCIAL

#### 2.1.2.1 ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT

The OHA provides a framework for the protection of cultural heritage resources in the Province. It gives municipalities and the provincial government powers to protect heritage properties and archaeological sites. The OHA includes two regulations for determining CHVI: Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 9/06 and O. Reg. 10/06. O. Reg. 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22) provides criteria to determine the CHVI of a property at a local level while O. Reg. 10/06 provides criteria to determine if a property has CHVI of provincial significance (Government of Ontario 2023a).

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## 2.2 GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The MCM is responsible for the administration of the OHA and has developed checklists, information bulletins, standards and guidelines, and policies to support the conservation of Ontario's cultural heritage resources, including built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes, and archaeological sites. The *MCM Criteria for Evaluating for Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes* (2022) and Parks Canada's *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (2010) were used to guide the assessment of potential impacts resulting from the Project.

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## 2.3 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Background research was carried out during the preparation of this Cultural Heritage Report to gain a thorough understanding of the historical context of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. Primary sources, secondary sources, historical maps, and aerial photographs were consulted, as appropriate, to identify historical themes relevant to the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. Specifically, research was completed regarding the physiography, survey and settlement, and 19th and 20th century land use of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. The results of the background research are presented in Section 3 of this report.

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## 2.4 INFORMATION GATHERING

Information gathering was carried out to identify known and potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes in the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. For this Cultural Heritage Report, the District of Kenora, MCM, OHT, and the MNR were contacted directly via email or telephone to

determine the presence of listed, designated, or protected heritage properties within, and adjacent to, the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer.

Great Bear Resources has engaged the Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (ANA) from October 2020 through 2025 as part of the Project impact assessment process. Opportunities for engagement were provided throughout Project development, and ANA's input has primarily been shared through formal impact assessment consultations via email, letters, and virtual meetings. No Indigenous knowledge studies or PA-specific cultural documentation have been received from ANA to date.

As part of the Project, a series of confidential reports were prepared for Lac Seul First Nation (LSFN), Wabauskang First Nation (WFN), and the Northwestern Ontario Métis Community (NWOMC).

Between 2021 and 2024, LSFN compiled a Project-specific Indigenous knowledge database for the Great Bear Project, based on community interviews documenting historical and contemporary land use, resource harvesting, and stewardship activities. These datasets covered topics such as furbearing and trapping, fishing, plant gathering, archaeology, sacred and ceremonial sites, social and cultural areas, human health, food harvesting, climate, water use, and travel routes. A confidential report prepared for LSFN in September 2024 and a subsequent memo in 2025 expanded this work by documenting cultural heritage, land use, Treaty rights, and project-specific values across the LSFN territory, confirming the significance of seasonal hunting, fishing, habitation, water use, and manoomin harvesting.

Great Bear Resources also engaged WFN during the impact assessment. The Study Area lies within the WFN traditional territory and is understood to have been subject to continuous and historical stewardship by WFN members. A subsequent confidential report prepared for WFN in July 2025 documented over 5,400 records of land use values, including harvesting areas, traplines, travel routes, water crossings, spiritual sites, and ecologically sensitive areas.

A confidential report prepared jointly for LSFN and WFN supported the development of an Anishinaabe-led Impact Assessment process. The report summarized key cultural values and traditional land use practices for both communities, documenting seasonal activities across northwestern Ontario.

The NWOMC was also engaged during the information gathering and consultation process. A confidential Indigenous knowledge report (October 2005) prepared for NWOMC documented land use activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, plant gathering, and camping across their traditional land use areas. The report indicates that the Métis have maintained a sustained and active presence in areas of northwestern Ontario.

The findings from these resources have been incorporated into this assessment and were integral to assessing both historical and contemporary Indigenous use of the lands, resources, and waters potentially affected by the Project.

The results of information gathering activities are presented in Section 4.1 of this report.

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## 2.5 INVENTORY OF BUILT HERITAGE RESOURCES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Following the completion of the background research, information gathering, and review of field review results, an inventory of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer was created.

To assist in the creation of the inventory, the 40-year threshold was used to identify properties and landscapes with the potential to have CHVI. The 40-year rule is generally accepted by federal and provincial agencies as a preliminary screening measure for CHVI. It should be noted, however, that the 40-year threshold is a guide only and does not imply that all properties of 40 years of age have CHVI. Nor does it exclude properties that are less than 40 years of age and exhibit CHVI.

The professional judgement of WSP's Cultural Heritage Specialists were used during the creation of the inventory to apply the 40-year rule and identify properties with potential CHVI. The inventory is presented in Section 4.2 of this report.

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## 2.6 PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An assessment was completed to identify direct or indirect impacts to identified built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes resulting from the Project. The impact assessment for this Cultural Heritage Report was prepared using MCM *InfoSheet #5: Heritage Impact Assessment and Conservation Plans* (InfoSheet #5) (2006). The following impact examples were considered:

- Destruction of any, or part of any, significant heritage attributes or features;
- Alteration that is not sympathetic, or is incompatible, with the historic fabric and appearance;
- Shadows created that alter the appearance of a heritage attribute or change the viability of a natural feature or plantings, such as a garden;
- Isolation of a heritage attribute from its surrounding environment, context or a significant relationship;
- Direct or indirect obstruction of significant views or vistas within, from, or of built and natural features;
- A change in land use such as rezoning a battlefield from open space to residential use, allowing new development or site alteration to fill in the formerly open spaces; and
- Land disturbances such as a change in grade that alters soils, and drainage patterns that adversely affect and archaeological resource.

In addition, mitigation measures outlined in MCM InfoSheet #5 were used to guide the preparation of considered alternatives, mitigation and conservation methods. These include methods of minimizing or avoiding a negative impact to cultural heritage resources, such as:

- Alternative development approaches;
- Isolating development and site alteration from significant built and natural features and vistas;
- Design guidelines that harmonize mass, setbacks, settings, and materials;
- Limiting height and density;
- Allowing only compatible infill and additions;
- Reversible alterations; and
- Buffer zones, site plan control, and other planning mechanisms.

The results of the impact assessment and recommended mitigation measures are contained in Section 5 of this report.

# 3 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

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## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

To gain a thorough understanding of the history of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, a review of its physiography, Indigenous history, and 19th century and 20th century land use was completed. A review of historical mapping and aerial photographs was also conducted to identify settlements, structures, and landscape features within, and adjacent to, the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. Historically, the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is located within an unorganized territory within the District of Kenora.

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## 3.2 PHYSIOGRAPHY

The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is situated within the Canadian Shield which consists of a large mass of crystalline Precambrian rock that covers 48% of Canada's land surface, extending south from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut into the northern portions of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. Most of the Canadian Shield is forested, with 16% covered by freshwater lakes and Arctic islands. Approximately half of the Canadian Shield is classified as upland, defined by its relative elevation to the Hudson Bay lowlands and interior plains (The Canadian Encyclopedia 2012).

The terrain within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer features low to moderate relief with several small elevation changes rising above the generally level area. The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is characterized by ground moraine, glaciofluvial, and glaciolacustrine deposits (Neilson 1989).

The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is surrounded by bodies of water, of which the most prominent are Gullrock Lake and Two Island Lake, to the north, and Pakwash Lake, to the east. Several watercourses and small bodies of water are located within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer including Genesse Lake, Dixie Lake, Dixie Creek, Unnamed Waterbodies 1 and 6, and the Chukuni River.

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## 3.3 INDIGENOUS LAND USE

The following section is a high-level summary of the rich history of Indigenous Nations who fished, hunted, trapped, and harvested the lands and waters presently known as the District of Kenora. WSP acknowledges that the District of Kenora is situated on the traditional territory of the Anishiniimowin (Ojibwe), Anishinabewaki, and Michif Piyii (Métis) peoples.

In early archaeological syntheses, the pre-contact Indigenous cultures of northern Ontario were often described as isolated and conservative, their ways of life a product of the harsh environment and limited resources. Today, however, archaeologists recognize northern Ontario's cultural history as dynamic, both influenced by and influencing developments to the south and west (Hamilton 2013:81; Fagan 2019:193). The following provides a brief overview of the Indigenous heritage in the boreal forests of the Canadian Shield from the earliest arrivals to the fur trade period at contact with Europeans. In this summary, culture – the term archaeologists use to describe a shared material culture that identifies a time period or group – is substituted with “way of life” to reflect the direct Indigenous lineage from those living in the earliest periods to the present day (Julien et al. 2010).

Around 9,500 years ago, hunter-gatherers following the Plano way of life began moving into northern Ontario, following the foraging herds of bison, muskox, moose, elk, caribou, and deer as well as smaller mammals such as muskrat and beaver attracted to the freshwater lakes and tundra grasses left in the wake of the receding Laurentide Ice Sheet. To hunt these animals the Plano used lance-shaped stone projectile points hafted to wood spears, then used large stone scrapers and knives to cut the meat and

bone and clean hides (Hamilton 2013:84). Plano-type tools are remarkably similar across large areas, although there are local variations identified in northern Ontario called the Lakehead and Interlakes Composite complexes (Hamilton 2013:85; Langford 2018:28-29). The few known Plano sites suggest these people were highly mobile and favoured lakeshores or the high ground near rivers (Hamilton 2013:85).

As people following the Plano way of life grew familiar with their surroundings around 8,000 years ago, they developed local adaptations known as the Archaic way of life. In northern Ontario, the Archaic toolkit was originally thought to represent a unique "Shield Archaic" culture descended from Plano people moving south from present-day Nunavut, but today the Archaic way of life on the Canadian Shield is understood to have been influenced from developments to the south and may not be that different from other Archaic lifeways (Wright 1972a; Hamilton 2013:87, Langford 2018; Fagan 2019:195). However, Shield Archaic remains a useful label because it typifies the larger developments in the Archaic. Like their Plano ancestors, Shield Archaic people lived in widely dispersed bands of hunter-gatherers, but their local knowledge meant they could restrict their annual round to a smaller area and both their economy and material culture were more diverse (Fagan 2019:182). Archaic projectile points became shorter through time and made with distinctive side-notches, and there were a range of single- and double-bladed stone knives, endscrapers, and sidescrapers (Clark 1991:99). Whetstones and adzes suggest Archaic people were shaping bone and wood, respectively, and the presence of archaeological sites on islands and along waterways suggests people were using snowshoes and watercraft (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:104).

Another key development during the Archaic in Ontario's north was copper mining and manufacture. As early as 6,000 years ago Archaic people had found copper sources in the upper Great Lakes and used it to create implements such as socketed lance heads and knives, adzes and fishhooks, as well as decorative items such as bracelets and disc pendants (Hamilton 2013:88; Langford 2018:25; Wright 1972b: 20, 34). Copper was also widely traded, with some making their way to the Indian Knoll Archaic site in Kentucky (Fagan 2019:187).

People living in northern Ontario adopted ceramics around 2,200 years ago, during what is known in southern Ontario as the Middle Woodland Period (Hamilton 2013:89). Despite this marked shift in material culture, known as the Laurel tradition, archaeologists have not found evidence that pottery made a major impact to those continuing an Archaic way of life across most of the region (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:104). The same is true of the bow and arrow, which first appear on Laurel tradition sites; it is unclear however whether archery was a distinctly Laurel hunting adaptation or practiced much earlier but the bone and wood used to make bows and arrows has fully decomposed in the boreal forest conditions (Clark 1991:102-102;133).

Yet for those living immediately west of Lake Superior, adopting pottery does appear to have caused a significant shift in their economic and spiritual existence. In addition to greater reliance on foraging plants such as wild rice, the Laurel way of life as it developed into the Late Woodland Period included farming maize, establishing extensive trade networks, and building large ceremonial burial mounds that may have been influenced by the Hopewell culture far to the south (Hamilton 2013:92).

The Late Woodland way of life in the Canadian Shield of northern Ontario is defined by changes in pottery types, which are assumed correspond to the linguistic and cultural diversity seen in the contact and post-contact periods (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:106; Hamilton 2013:94). Found across the Shield in the upper Great Lakes and into Manitoba are Blackduck ceramics, thought to have developed from the Laurel way of life and used by the ancestors of the Anishinaabeg. Further north is Selkirk type pottery, used by people who would become known as Cree (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:106-107). However, these direct lineages are complicated by Sandy Lake pottery found overlapping the Blackduck area, which are thought to have been made by Siouan speaking people, sites in northern Ontario found with both Blackduck and Selkirk wares, sites in the northeast with Huron and other Iroquoian pottery, or ancestral Cree sites that lack pottery altogether (Hamilton 2013:94; Conway 1981:28; McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:107).

In contrast to earlier ways of life, far more material evidence survives from the Late Woodland way of life and includes not only hunting tools such as barbed bone harpoons, but also stone pipes and amulets with

imagery linked to religion (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:106). In the Blackduck (known at contact as Anishinaabeg) way of life, religious beliefs are also reflected in the low burial mounds found west of Lake Superior and the pictographs created in red ochre on numerous rock outcrops across northern Ontario (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:106-107; Ministry of Culture and Recreation 1980; Conway 1981).

At contact with Europeans in the 17th century, the Anishinaabeg had a varied diet of moose, deer, and bear, numerous fish species, and plant foods such as maple sap, berries, and wild rice (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:110-111). To access these resources Anishinaabe were seasonally mobile, and this mobility influenced the form and materials of their lightweight “wigwam” housing and development of birchbark canoes (McMillan and Yellowhorn 2004:112). As European commercial interests in northern Ontario expanded into the 18th century, the Anishinaabeg way of life pivoted to trapping, visiting fur trade posts, and adopting European material culture. The fur trade marks a beginning of a significant shift in the economy of Indigenous communities. Further details regarding the fur trade and travel routes of the Springpole Birch area are discussed in Section 3.4.

Beginning in the 18th century, the British colonial government and later the Government of Canada negotiated a series of treaties with Ontario’s Indigenous Nations. For the Crown, these treaties were intended as formal binding agreements setting out the rights, responsibilities and relationships between the First Nations and the federal and provincial governments but were deeply rooted in the British legal systems (Government of Ontario 2023b, Historical Canada 2021). The Project lies within the Treaty No. 3 area, also known as the North-West Angle Treaty, was an agreement signed in 1873 between representatives of the Saulteaux (Ojibwe people) and the Crown (Filice 2020, Government of Ontario 2023b).

Treaty 3 was signed on October 3, 1873. The Saulteaux agreed to share a tract of land of 55,000 square miles (14,245,000 hectares) across present day eastern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario, between the lands covered by Treaty 60 to the east and Treaty 1 to the west (Grand Council Treaty #3 2023, Government of Ontario 2023b). Immediate cash payments were made to all members of the Saulteaux and additional money and trade goods (farm implements, animals and seeds) were distributed in the following years.

Today, the Grand Council Treaty 3 is the political and administrative entity representing the 28 signatories of the treaty. The 26 Ontario communities include Animakee Wa Zhing 37 First Nation, Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows), Buffalo Point First Nation, Couchiching First Nation, Gakijiwanong Anishinaabe Nation, Iskatewizaagegan 39 Independent First Nation, Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation (Obishikokaang), Migisi Sahgaigan First Nation (Eagle Lake), Mishkosiminiziibiing First Nation (Big Grassy River), Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, Naicatchewenin First Nation (Northwest Bay), Naongashiing First Nation (Big Island), Naotkamegwanning First Nation (Whitefish Bay), Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation (Red Gut), Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation (Dalles), Northwest Angle 33 First Nation, Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation (Sabaskong), Rainy River First Nations (Manitou Rapids), Sagkeeng First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Seine River First Nation, Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, Waabigonii Zaaga’igan Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations (Whitedog), Wabauskang First Nation, Washagamis Bay First Nation, and Wauzhushk Onigum Nation (Rat Portage).

A number of communities are currently negotiating claims with the Ontario government including the Lac La Croix claim (submitted in 2002), Mitaanjigamiing/Stanjikoming (2007); Rainy Lake First Nations (2009); Seine River (2011) and the Northwest Angle No. 37 (2013) (Filice 2020).

Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (ANA) and Wabauskang First Nations are negotiating with both the Government of Ontario and Government of Canada with a joint claim, asserting that they did not receive all the land to which the original English River First Nation was entitled under Treaty 3 (Government of Ontario 2024).

The Lac Seul First Nation concluded a historic settlement agreement with the Government of Canada in March 2024 regarding the breach of fiduciary duty by the federal government that resulted in nearly 20 per cent of Lac Seuls reserve lands being flooded, beginning in 1930 (Government of Canada 2024, Lac Seul First Nation 2024). The agreement was finalized on July 30, 2024 with a signing ceremony.

### 3.4 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY LAND USE

The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is situated in what was known to early French Traders as Le Petit Nord or the Little North and encompasses the fur trade routes to the north and west of Lake Superior. The Little North was bounded on the southwest by the fur trade trunk lines that linked the Lakehead with Lake Winnipeg and to the northwest by the main transport line to Lake Winnipeg from Hudson Bay (Lytwyn 1981: 18).

Traders from the Hudson Bay Company came to the Little North by expanding inland from the Albany Fort on James Bay and from Severn House/York Factory on Hudson Bay while the St. Lawrence traders entered via Lake Nipigon. Fur trade competition in the area increased during the 1790s and early 1800s resulting in settlements along the Albany and Severn that later facilitated trade route expansion into the westward flowing rivers of the East Winnipeg Country (Lytwyn 1981: 8-9; Plate 1). During the fur trade period, from at least 1790, posts had been established at Red Lake (Red Lake House), Lac Seul (Pine Ridge Post), and the juncture of the Chukuni and English Rivers (Mattawa Post).

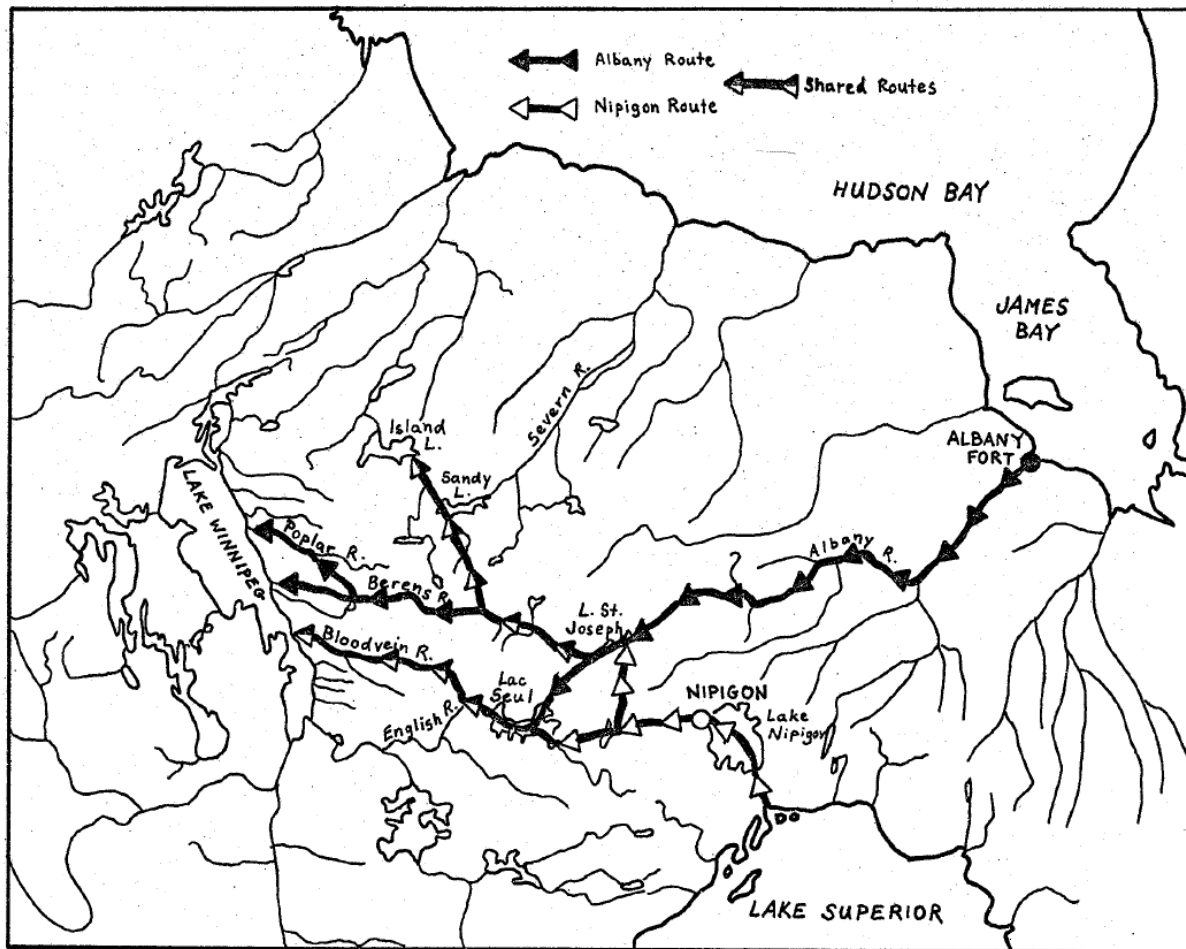


Plate 1: Albany and Nipigon trade routes to East Winnipeg as defined by Lytwyn (1981:10).

Early Euro-Canadian traders utilized historical travel and trade routes which they learned of from Indigenous communities in the region, who had travelled these paths for millennia. These routes eventually became used for early geological exploration of the area, exploration which led to the discovery of gold in the Red Lake mining district in the early 20th century.

## 3.5 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY LAND USE

Early reports of mineral exploration of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer and surrounding lands were published beginning as early as the 1870s, however exploration of the area began in earnest in the 1920s as a direct result of the discovery of a large quartz stringer with visible gold in 1925, in the Red Lake area (Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre 2023). Increasing gold prices in the decades that followed resulted in increased mining activity in the area surrounding Red Lake, and early transportation routes through Pakwash Lake, the Chukuni River, and Gullrock Lake were overtaken by bush planes. Aircrafts landed every 15 minutes at Red Lake, Gold Pines, and Hudson in the summer of 1936, reported to be the busiest airports in the world at the time (Red Lake Museum 2001).

Several significant mining operations were established and producing by the 1940s. According to early survey maps, the land within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer was not staked or developed during this period.

The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer was acquired by Great Bear Resources Ltd. in 2017 and diamond drillholes, geological mapping, airborne and ground-based geophysical and geochemical surveys have been completed.

Historical mapping was examined to gain a thorough understanding of 20th century land use in the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer and surrounding landscape. A summary of the 20th century historical mapping is presented below in Table 1.

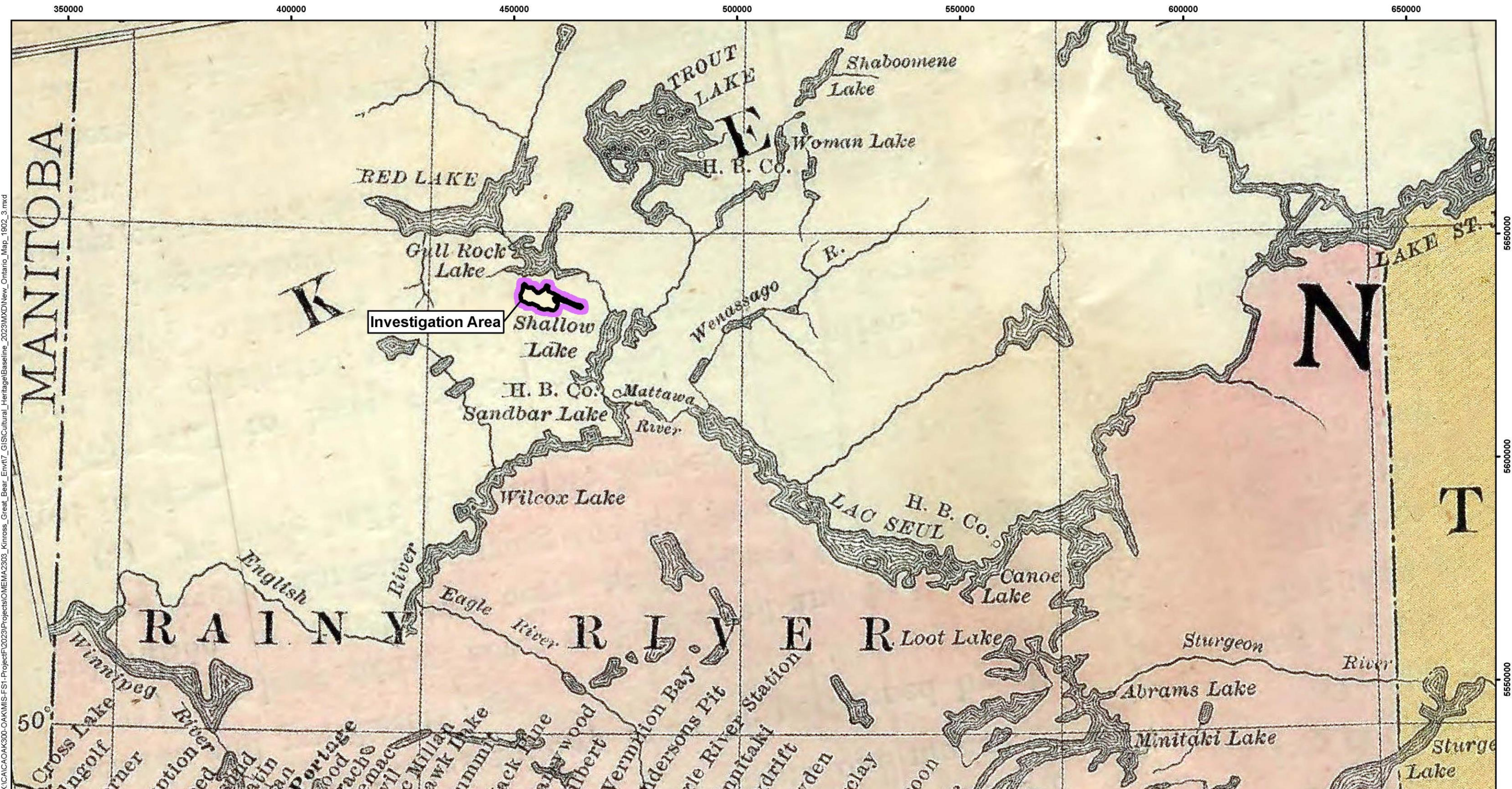
**Table 1: Review of 20th Century Historical Mapping**

Year	Map Title	Historical Feature
1902 Figure 4	New Ontario Map (Rand McNally and Company 1902)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No features are depicted within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer</li> <li>– The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is surrounded by large lake bodies</li> </ul>
1906 Figure 5	Atlas of Canada, Minerals sheet (Department of the Interior 1906)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No features are depicted within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer</li> <li>– The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is located within the area noted to have been prospected by this point</li> </ul>
1933 Figure 6	Mineral Map of the Dominion of Canada (Department of Mines 1933)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No features are depicted within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer</li> <li>– The Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is surrounded by large lake bodies</li> </ul>
1975 Figure 7	Madsen, Ontario (Department of Energy, Mines and Research 1975a); Pakwash Lake, Ontario (Department of Energy, Mines and Research 1975b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A series of structures are shown on the shoreline of Gullrock Lake, within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, labelled as “Campsite”.</li> <li>– Access road is present and labelled as a ‘trail, cut line, portage’ route.</li> <li>– Highway 105 is present in its current alignment, trails/portage routes lead north from the roadway to the Chukuni River and south, crossing the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, towards Unnamed Waterbody 6</li> <li>– Waterway extends along the south edge of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, identified on this map as Dixie Creek (Unnamed Watercourse 9)</li> <li>– Several areas of marsh land within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, including around Unnamed Waterbodies 1, 2, and 6.</li> </ul>

1990/1991 Figure 8	Madsen, Ontario (Department of Energy, Mines and Research 1991); Pakwash Lake, Ontario (Department of Energy, Mines and Research 1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No structures are depicted within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer</li> <li>– Access road is illustrated as a more formal roadway while several trails are illustrated extending from the south terminus through the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer.</li> </ul>
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### 3.6 HISTORIC PLAQUES

The OHT plaque database was reviewed to determine if there are any commemorative markers documenting federal, provincial, or municipal historic landmarks sites or and properties that local histories or informants have identified with possible CHVI. Presently there are no known historical plaques located within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer on the OHT provincial plaque database (OHT 2023).



**LEGEND**  
 [Black Outline] Cultural Heritage Investigation Area  
 [Pink Buffer] Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)

NOTES:  
 - Rand, McNally & Co., 1902; Canmap Streetfiles V2008.4.



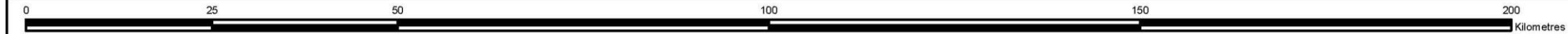
**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**  
 1902 New Ontario Map Showing the Location of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area

Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N



PROJECT N°: CA0031271

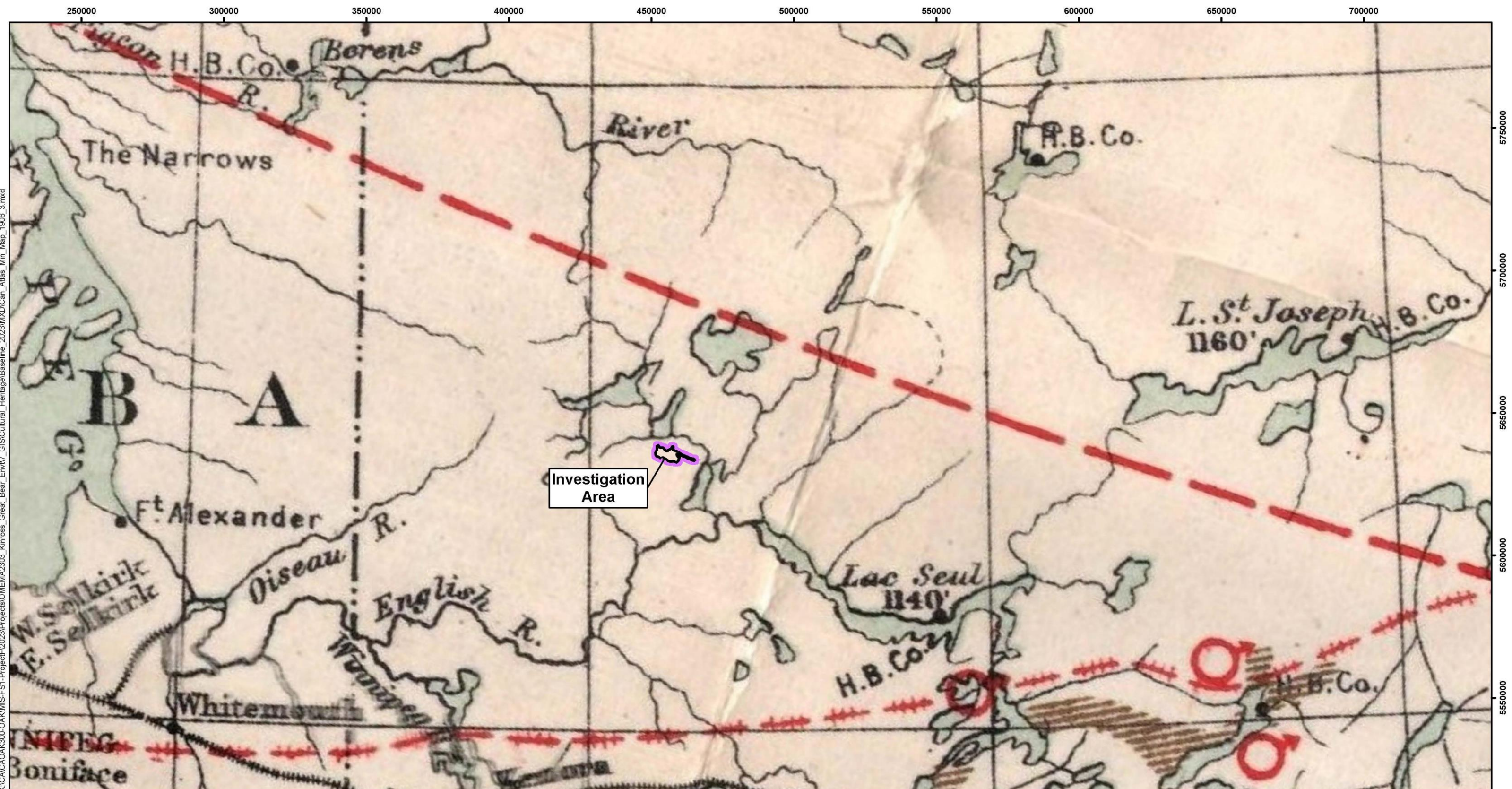
FIGURE: 4




SCALE: 1:800,000

DATE: March 2025

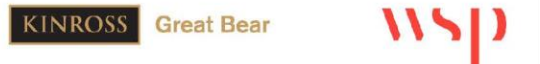
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X:\CA\CA0300-0\KINROSS-FST-Project\F02023\Projects\OEM\MA2303\_Kinross\_Great\_Bear\_Envit7\_GIS\Cultural\_Heritage\Baseline\_2023\MXD\Can\_Atlas\_Min\_Map\_1906\_3.mxd

**LEGEND**  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)

NOTES:  
 - Department of the Interior, Railway Lands Branch, "Atlas of Canada, No. 7, Minerals", 1906.



**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**

**1906 Canadian Atlas Minerals Map showing the Location of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area**

Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N

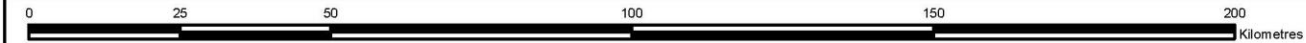


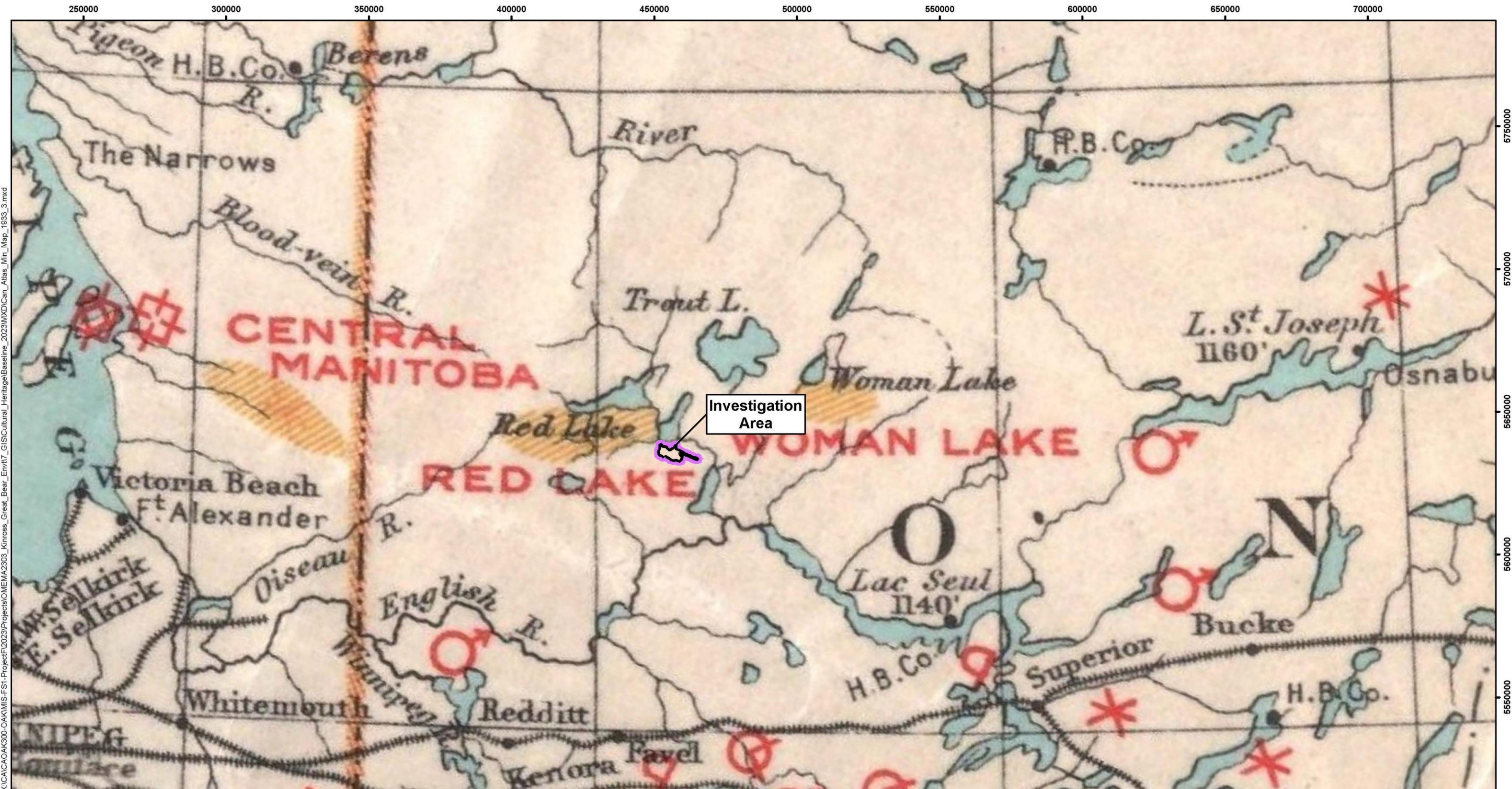
PROJECT N°: CA0031271

FIGURE: 5

SCALE: 1:1,250,000

DATE: March 2025





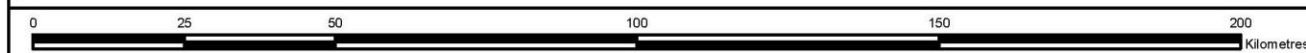
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**LEGEND**  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)

NOTES:  
 \* Department of Mines, Mines Branch,  
 "Mineral Map of the Dominion of  
 Canada", 1933.



**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**  
 1933 Canadian Atlas Minerals Map  
 showing the Location of the  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area



Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N

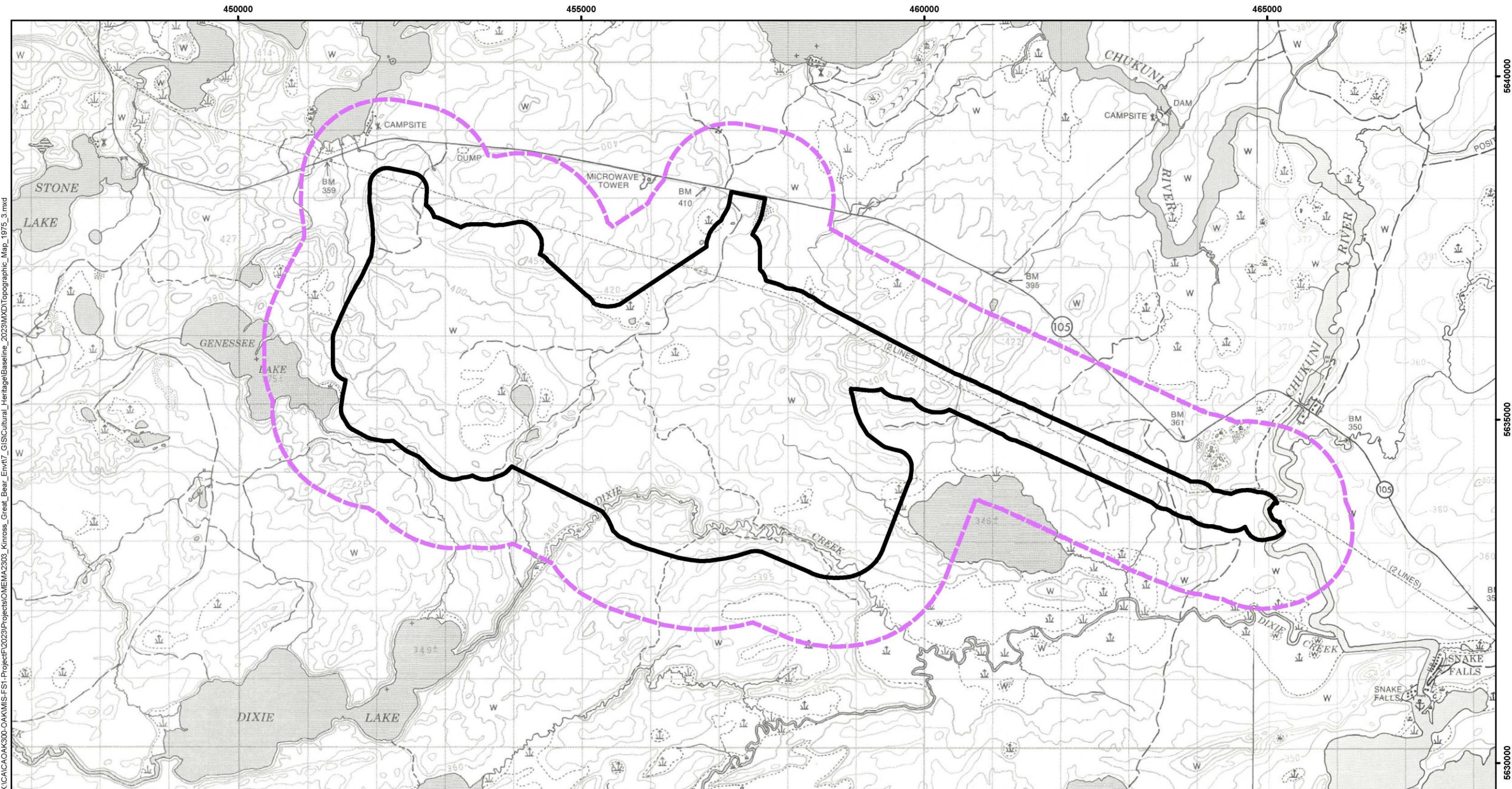


PROJECT N°: CA0031271

FIGURE: 6

SCALE: 1:1,250,000

DATE: March 2025



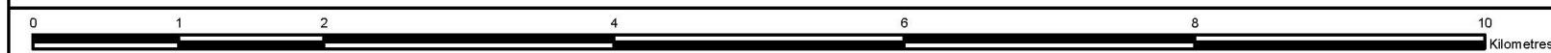
X:\CA\CA0300-OAKMIS-FS1-Project\2023\Projects\OEMEMA2303\_Kinross\_Great\_Bear\_Envr\7\_GIS\Cultural\_Heritage\Baseline\_2023\MXD\Topographic\_Map\_1975\_3.mxd

**LEGEND**  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)

**NOTES:**  
 - Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Surveys and Mapping Branch, "Pakwash Lake District of Kenora Ontario", "Madsen District of Kenora Ontario", 1975.



**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**  
**1975 Topographic Map Showing the Location of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area**



Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N



PROJECT N°: CA0031271

FIGURE: 7

SCALE: 1:52,000

DATE: March 2025

450000

455000

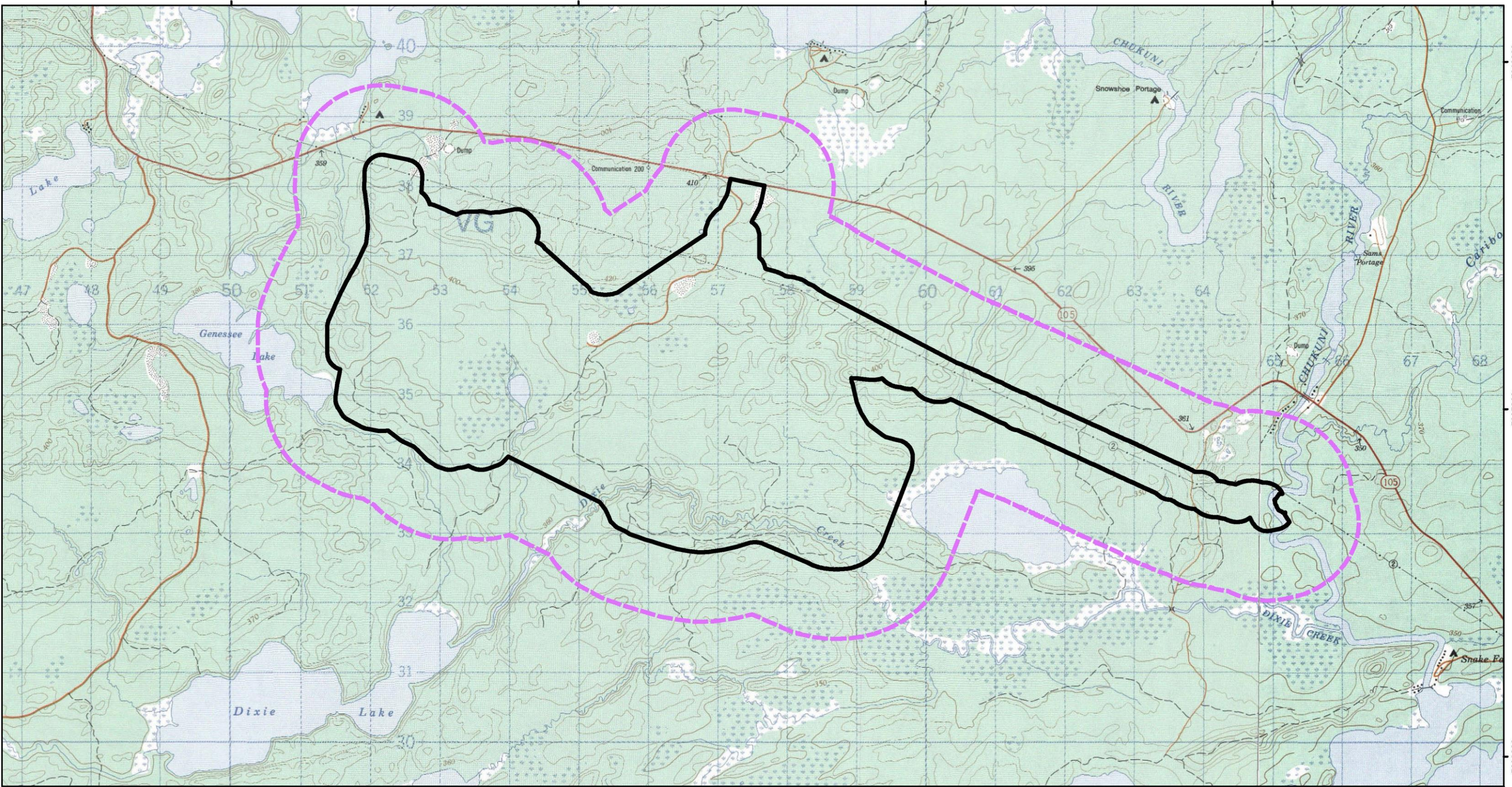
460000

465000

5640000

5635000

5630000



**LEGEND**  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)

**NOTES:**  
 \* Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, The Canadian Centre for Mapping, "Pakwash Lake Kenora District (Patricia Portion) Ontario", 1990;  
 \* Madsen Kenora District (Patricia Portion) Ontario", 1991.



**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**  
 1990-1991 Topographic Map Showing  
 the Location of the  
 Cultural Heritage Investigation Area

Datum: NAD83  
 Projection: UTM Zone 15N



PROJECT N°: CA0031271

FIGURE: 8

SCALE: 1:52,000

DATE: March 2025



X:\CACA\OAK300-OAKMIS-FS1-Project\F2023\Projects\OEME\MA2303\_Kinross\_Great\_Bear\_Env\7\_GIS\Cultural\_Heritage\Baseline\_2023\MXD\Topographic\_Map\_1990\_1991\_3.mxd

# 4 RESULTS

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## 4.1 INFORMATION GATHERING RESULTS

Information gathering letters were prepared for the MCM, OHT, MNR, Municipality of Red Lake, Municipality of Ear Falls, and the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre to verify the presence, or absence, of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer.

Karla Barboza, Team Lead for Heritage in the Heritage Planning Unit at the MCM, reported that there are no properties designated under the OHA by the Minister within, or adjacent to, the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, and the MCM is not aware of any provincial heritage properties within or adjacent to the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer (K. Barboza, email communication, February 5, 2024).

Courtney Kovacich, Provincial Heritage Registrar at the OHT, reported that the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer does not contain any Trust conservation easements or Trust-owned properties. The OHA Register was also reviewed and the OHT does not have any records to indicate that the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is designated under Part IV or V of the OHA (C. Kovacich, email communication, February 22, 2024).

Kristina Grondin, Executive Assistant Planning Coordinator for the Municipality of Red Lake, responded that the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer falls outside of the Red Lake municipal boundaries and so they do not have cultural information for this area (K. Grondin, email communication, February 9, 2024).

Renée Bellini, Cultural Heritage Specialist, MNR, responded that the MNR does have a Cultural Heritage Values data layer in their Land Information Ontario database (R. Bellini, email communication, March 8, 2024). This layer was reviewed by Rachel McLean, Data Management Specialist, MNR, and no cultural heritage resources were identified within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer (R. McLean, email communication, March 27, 2024). It was noted that the closest record was over one kilometre away from the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer.

At the time of writing, a response has not been received from the Municipality of Ear Falls or the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre.

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### 4.1.1 *INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND INDIGENOUS LAND AND RESOURCE USE STUDIES*

Confidential Indigenous knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use studies were prepared and reviewed to inform the understanding of Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge relevant to the Project. To support the community engagement process, Great Bear Resources has funded and facilitated comprehensive this data collection. In parallel, Great Bear Resources is also supporting the development of an independent, Anishinaabe-led Impact Assessment rooted in collaboration, information sharing, and trust-building. A series of confidential reports have been completed to inform project planning, guide mitigation strategies, document cultural values, and strengthen ongoing community relations and involvement.

In 2021, a confidential Indigenous knowledge and land use study was initiated on behalf of LSFN. This confidential research documented cultural heritage, land use, Treaty rights, and project-specific values across LSFN's territory. Community-led interviews, mapping, and archival work confirmed the importance of seasonal hunting, fishing, water use, habitation, and manoomin harvesting within their traditional lands. A subsequent confidential report in 2025 expanded on these findings, identifying culturally important practices, traditions and locations.

WFN was similarly engaged through Project-specific consultation regarding Great Bear Resources' proposed activities. In July 2025, the Wabauskang Resource Office completed a confidential study documenting over 5,400 records of land use values including harvesting areas, traplines, travel routes, water crossings, spiritual sites, and ecologically sensitive areas. Seasonal land use practices, including manoomin harvesting, were confirmed within their territory.

The What We Heard Report, prepared jointly for LSFN and WFN, informed the development of the ALIA process. This document summarized key cultural values and traditional land use practices of both communities, with emphasis on seasonal activities in northwestern Ontario. The report highlighted the importance of harvesting, travel, and stewardship practices across the broader region.

The NWOMC was also engaged, submitting a confidential report in October 2025. The report documented land use activities, including hunting, fishing, plant gathering, trapping, and camping within the broader investigation area. The confidential report notes that a campsite was recorded within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area, and additional areas were identified for trapping animals like fox, fisher, lynx, marten, and wolf. Participants also shared knowledge of boat launches, camping locations, and culturally important landscape features.

The importance of manoomin (wild rice) and manoomin-bearing waterbodies for spiritual, health, and subsistence use was routinely identified within the confidential reports. For Anishinaabe communities generally, manoomin is a sacred food gifted by the Creator, central to prophecy, spirituality, identity, and stewardship, and integral to ceremonial life, ecological health, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. Within LSFN's territory, harvesting is concentrated around Lac Seul, Trout Lake, and sites such as Farm Lake, Rice Lake, Pakwash Lake, Minnitaki Lake, and the Chukuni River, where cultivation and reseeding have long supported community subsistence and seasonal waterfowl hunting. WFN harvesting traditions are centered on Wabauskang Lake, with intensive activity at Gawley's Bay, Keynote Creek, and Ord Creek on Perrault Lake, and extended use across waterways linking Red Lake, Little Vermilion Lake, and Pakwash Lake. For the NWOMC, manoomin remains an important traditional food harvested using similar methods, though sites are more widely dispersed within a 100 km regional zone of traditional land use. Collectively, these practices emphasize the historical and continued cultural, spiritual, and ecological centrality of manoomin across communities.



Traplines, designated for fur-bearing animal harvest, support traditional livelihoods, cultural practices, and intergenerational land-based knowledge. The trapline areas that intersect with the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area are RL068 and RL059, owned by LSFN. A non-Indigenous trapper is active in RL068. In addition, the trapline areas RL061 and RL073 are located outside of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area but intersect with the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer. RL061 is owned by an ANA member, and RL073 is owned by a non-Indigenous individual. While RL068 and RL059 intersect with the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area, the overlap that will be subject to overprint is a relatively small portion of the broader trapline areas (approximately 0.03% for RL068 and 0.01% for RL059).


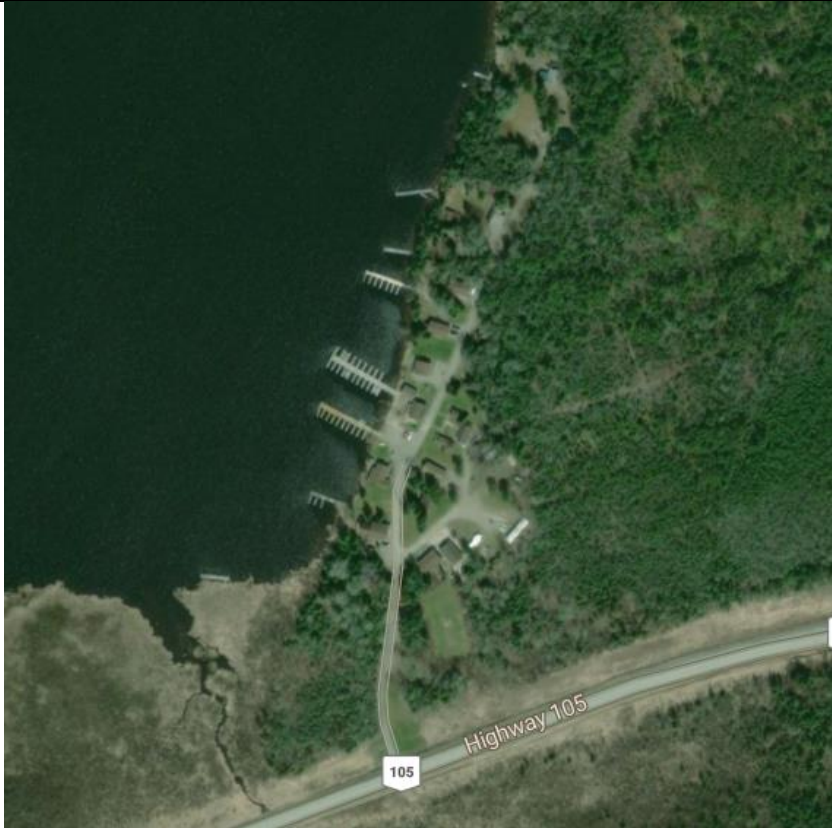
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## 4.2 INVENTORY OF BUILT HERITAGE RESOURCES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Following the completion of the background research and information gathering, an inventory of built heritage resources (BHR) and cultural heritage landscapes (CHL) within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer was compiled. The inventory is provided in Table 2. The locations of identified BHRs and CHLs in relation to the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer are depicted in Figure 9.

**Table 2: Inventory of Cultural Heritage Resources**

CHR No.	Type	Location	Heritage Recognition	Description	Photograph
CHR 1	Potential CHL	Chukuni River	Identified during the field review	<p>The Chukuni River is a large watercourse located in Kenora District, Ontario. The river rises in Red Lake and flows southeasterly through Keg Lake, Staratt Channel, Gullrock Lake, and Pakwash Lake before terminating in the English River (Ontario Geohub 2023). The Chukuni River meanders in an approximately north-south orientation through the eastern portion of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. In the vicinity of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, the Chukuni River has a naturalized shoreline and is bordered by dense forest. A number of cottages and hunting cabins are located along the banks of the river, particularly near where the river passes under Hwy 105.</p> <p>The Chukuni River holds cultural, ecological, and subsistence importance for both LSFN and WFN. Within LSFN's traditional territory, the Chukuni River is identified as a manoomin harvesting area and a prime waterfowl hunting habitat, due to its role as a critical food source and ecological corridor. Similarly, for WFN, the Chukuni River system is a key geographical feature within their traditional land use territory, supporting customary practices such as plant gathering and manoomin harvesting. The river lies within a medium-density harvesting corridor between Pakwash Lake and Red Lake. These interconnected waterways, including the Chukuni, are reported to be vital for cultural continuity and ecological stewardship.</p> <p>Potential CHVI: The river may have cultural heritage significance for local Indigenous Nations as it supports customary practices such as harvesting, hunting and was historically used as a canoe transportation route. This watercourse may have heritage significance for historical/associative and contextual reasons.</p>	
CHR 2	Potential CHL	Genessee Lake	Identified during the field review	<p>Genessee Lake is a small waterbody located in Kenora District, Ontario. Genessee Lake covers approximately 200 ha and the eastern portion of the lake intersects with the western extent of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. In the vicinity of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, Genessee Lake has a naturalized shoreline and is bordered by dense forest and shrubbery. A boat launch provides access to the lake and is reached via an unmaintained road that spurs off of Hwy 105. The lake is utilized as a local fishing site.</p> <p>Potential CHVI: The lake may have cultural heritage significance to local Indigenous Nations as a local fishing site. This watercourse may have heritage significance for historical / associative and contextual reasons.</p>	

CHR No.	Type	Location	Heritage Recognition	Description	Photograph
CHR 3	Potential CHL	Wild Rice Fields (located 60 m north of the access road between Unnamed Waterbody 1 and 2)	Identified during the field review	<p>Wild rice grows freely in areas of shallow, marshy water and historically has provided a food source for local indigenous Nations. In the vicinity of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, the wild rice fields were observed growing in swampy, shoreline areas, in the southern vicinity of Unnamed Waterbody 1, where it flows into Unnamed Waterbody 2. The area surrounding the wild rice fields is composed of open bodies of water, dirt access trails, dense forest, and unmaintained shrubbery. The wild rice fields are located completely within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. The southern extent of the wild rice fields is located approximately 60 m north of the gravel access road that runs between Unnamed Waterbody 1 and Unnamed Waterbody 2.</p> <p>Potential CHVI: The rice fields may have cultural heritage significance to local Indigenous Nations. Indigenous knowledge surveys conducted with Lac Seul First Nation identified wild rice as a traditional plant and food source in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. Wild rice has also been identified by Wabauskang First Nation as a species of interest. This resource area may have heritage significance for historical / associative and contextual reasons.</p>	
CHR 4	Potential CHL	Gullrock Lake Camp (Latitude: 50.902638° Longitude: -93.684311°)	Identified during background research	<p>A review of historical mapping and aerial imagery indicates that the collection of cabins were built prior to 1975. Operating today as Golden Hook Camp, this landscape features several cabins, docks and slips, circulation routes, and campsites.</p> <p>Potential CHVI: Based on its proximity to Gullrock Lake and historical fishing and hunting activities of the area, this collection of properties may have heritage significance for historical/associative and/or contextual reasons.</p>	 <p>Source: Bing Maps</p>

CHR No.	Type	Location	Heritage Recognition	Description	Photograph
CHR 5	Potential CHL	Wild Rice Fields (located within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Buffer along the west shore of Unnamed Waterbody 6)	Identified during the field review	<p>Wild rice grows freely in areas of shallow, marshy water and historically has provided a food source for local indigenous Nations. In the vicinity of the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer, the wild rice fields have been identified growing within the Cultural Heritage Buffer in swampy, shoreline areas, in the southwestern portion of Unnamed Waterbody 6. The area surrounding the wild rice fields is composed of open water, dense forest, and unmaintained shrubbery. The wild rice fields are located within the Cultural Heritage Buffer.</p> <p>Potential CHVI: The rice fields may have cultural heritage significance to local Indigenous Nations. Indigenous Knowledge surveys conducted with Lac Seul First Nation identified wild rice as a traditional plant and food source in the Red Lake and Ear Falls area. Wild rice has also been identified by Wabauskang First Nation as a species of interest. This resource area may have heritage significance for historical / associative and contextual reasons.</p>	 <p>Source: Bing Maps</p>

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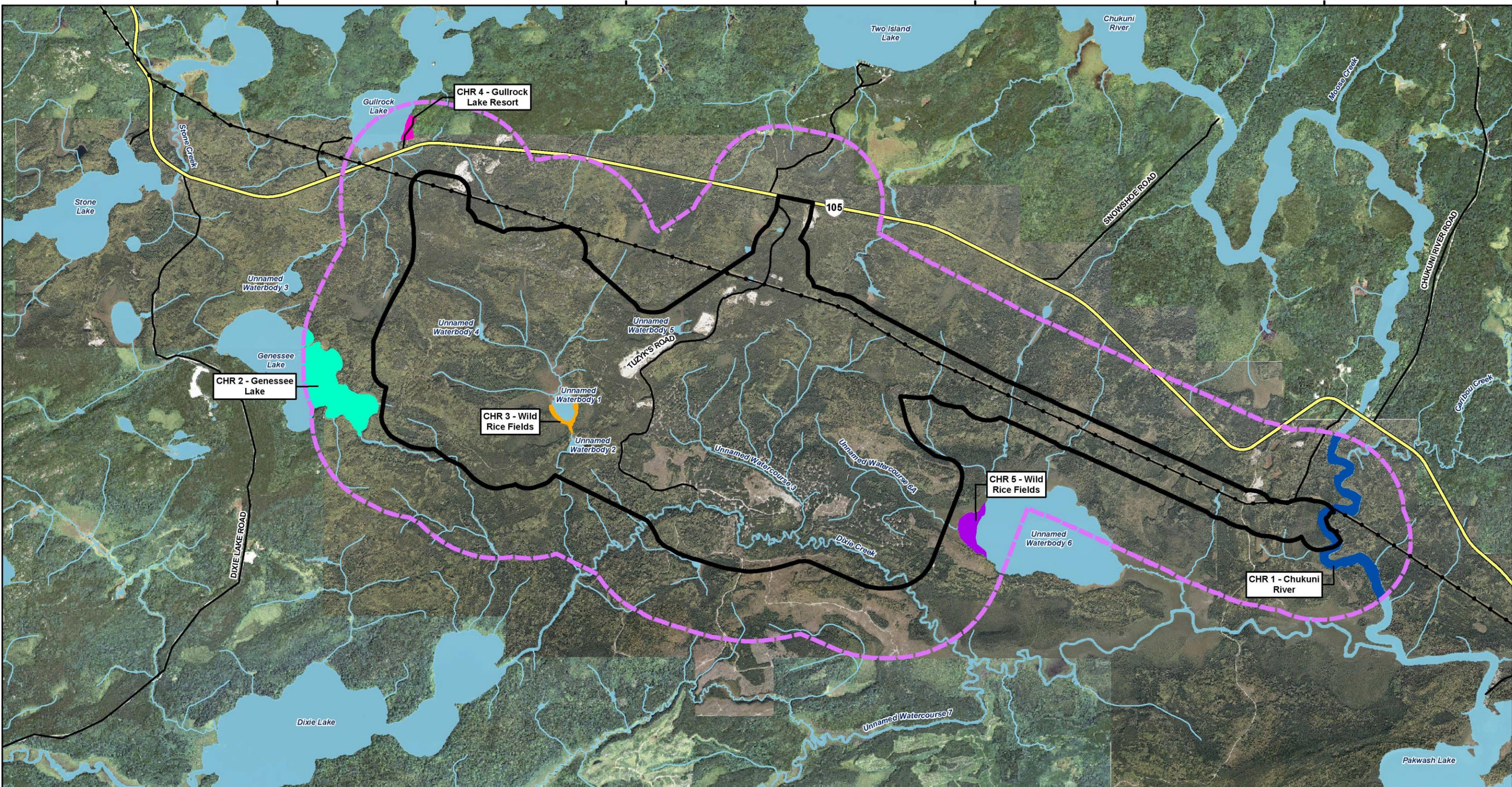
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- LEGEND**
- Cultural Heritage Investigation Area
  - Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)
  - Highway
  - Local Road
  - Existing Transmission Line
  - Watercourse
  - Waterbody

- Identified Potential Cultural Heritage Resources**
- CHR 1 - Chukuni River
  - CHR 2 - Genessee Lake
  - CHR 3 - Wild Rice Fields
  - CHR 4 - Gullrock Lake Resort
  - CHR 5 - Wild Rice Fields

**NOTES:**

- Base data acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR), 2022.
- Aerial imagery provided by Great Bear Resources (scene date: September 2022)
- Roads information provided by Great Bear Resources, August 2022.
- Watercourses and waterbody acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR) and modified to match aerial imagery and LIDAR.

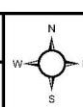


**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**

**Identified Potential Cultural Heritage Resources**



Datum: NAD83  
Projection: UTM Zone 15N



PROJECT N°: CA0031271  
SCALE: 1:52,000

FIGURE: 9  
DATE: March 2025

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# 5 PRELIMINARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The MCM InfoSheet #5 gives guidance on how to complete impact assessments for cultural heritage resources in the land use planning process (MCM 2006). As discussed, the purpose of an impact assessment is to determine if identified built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes will be impacted by the proposed work. This assessment considers two categories of impacts:

- Direct Impact: A permanent or irreversible negative affect on the CHVI of a property that results in the loss of a heritage attribute. Direct impacts include destruction or alteration.
- Indirect Impact: An impact that is the result of an activity on or near a cultural heritage resource that may adversely affect the CHVI and/or heritage attributes of a property. Indirect impacts include shadows, isolation, direct or indirect obstruction of significant views or vistas [heritage attributes], a change in land use, or land disturbances.

It should be noted that land disturbances, as defined in MCM InfoSheet #5, and described above, also apply to archaeological resources. An archaeological assessment is beyond the scope of this study since recommendations regarding archaeological resources must be made by a professional archaeologist licensed by the MCM.

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## 5.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK

The proposed work involves the construction, operation, and eventual reclaiming of a new underground and open pit, gold mine and processing facility at the Project site. The main components of the Project may include:

- Open pit;
- Stockpiles;
- Primary buildings/facilities;
- Tailings and water management;
- Waste management;
- Power supply;
- Fuel and reagents;
- Other onsite infrastructure (such as access roads, accommodations, and communications infrastructure); and
- Infrastructure off property.

The preliminary site plans for the Project are provided in Appendix A.

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## 5.2 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

For the purposes of this report, impacts to the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer were based on known potential interactions of the Project components described in Section 5.1 and site plan configuration current as of June 2024 (depicted in Appendix A: Figure 10).

An impact assessment to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed work on potential built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes in the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer is contained in Table 3. Based on the above, the preliminary impact assessment determined that direct impacts are anticipated to one potential heritage property (CHR 3). Project components within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer are mapped in relation to identified cultural heritage resources in Appendix A: Figure 10).

**Table 3: Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures**

CHR No.	Property Type	Name/Location	Heritage Recognition	Anticipated Impacts	Mitigation Measures
<b>CHR 1</b>	Potential CHL	Chukuni River	Identified during field review.	No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 1. An effluent discharge pipeline is planned to release excess liquid material into the Chukuni River as part of the integrated water management and treatment system. However, all discharge into the Chukuni River will be treated and meet regulatory requirements for water quality and quantity. The planned work will not adversely impact the use of the river as a portage route or in its role as a critical harvesting and ecological corridor for the local community. As such, no adverse direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 1.	<b>Discussion:</b> As no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 1, no mitigation measures are required from a cultural heritage perspective.
<b>CHR 2</b>	Potential CHL	Genessee Lake	Identified during field review.	No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 2 as it is outside of the project footprint.	<b>Discussion:</b> As no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 2, no mitigation measures are required from a cultural heritage perspective.
<b>CHR 3</b>	Potential CHL	Wild Rice Fields (located 60 m north of the access road between Unnamed Waterbody 1 and 2)	Identified during field review and background research.	<b>Anticipated Impact:</b> Impacts to this resource are anticipated during the construction, operations, and decommissioning phases of the Project.  <b>Type of Impact:</b> A direct, adverse impact is anticipated through land disturbance activities that will alter drainage patterns, which have the potential to affect CHR 3. CHR 3 is a crop of wild rice located within Unnamed Waterbody 1. The construction of a collections pond within Unnamed Waterbody 1, and adjacent to CHR 3, is anticipated to affect the drainage patterns and ecological conditions that are necessary for the wild rice to grow. These land disturbances are anticipated to have an adverse direct impact on CHR 3.	<b>Discussion:</b> <b>Preferred Option:</b> Avoidance is the preferred option from a cultural heritage perspective. However, WSP acknowledges that avoidance is not possible since this would greatly constrain the feasibility of the overall Project.  <b>Alternative Option:</b> To address the potential direct impact to CHR 3, the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) is required to determine if this potential CHL has cultural heritage value or interest (CHVI) per Ontario Regulation (O. Reg. 9/06) of the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> . The CHER must be prepared in accordance with the <i>MCM Standards &amp; Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties: Heritage Identification &amp; Evaluation Process</i> (MCM 2014). Consultation with local Indigenous Nations is required during the preparation of the CHER to verify whether this potential CHL has cultural heritage value from an Indigenous perspective. Should the CHER confirm CHVI, a CHR 3-specific Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) is required to identify and assess further mitigation measures.
<b>CHR 4</b>	Potential CHL	Gullrock Lake Camp (Latitude: 50.902638° Longitude: -93.684311°)	Identified during background research	No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 4 as it is outside of the project footprint.	<b>Discussion:</b> As no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 4, no mitigation measures are required from a cultural heritage perspective.
<b>CHR 5</b>	Potential CHL	Wild Rice Fields (located along southwestern shoreline of Unnamed Waterbody 6)	Identified during field review and background research.	No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 5 as it is outside of the project footprint.	<b>Discussion:</b> As no direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to CHR 5, no mitigation measures are required from a cultural heritage perspective.

# 6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the completion of background research and field review it was determined that there are five potential heritage properties within the Cultural Heritage Investigation Area and Buffer. Based on the above, the following recommendations are made:

- 1 Direct impacts are anticipated to one of the identified potential heritage properties (CHR 3) as a result of the Project. The completion of a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) is required to determine whether the Wild Rice Fields (CHR 3) have CHVI per Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 9/06 of the OHA. The CHER must be prepared in accordance with the MCM *Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties: Heritage Identification & Evaluation Process* (MCM 2014). Consultation with local Indigenous Nations is required during the preparation of the CHER to verify whether this potential CHL has cultural heritage value from an Indigenous perspective.
- 2 While no indirect or direct impacts are anticipated to the potential heritage properties of CHR 1, CHR 2, CHR 4 and CHR 5, these properties will be identified to Project personnel to ensure awareness of the presence of potential heritage properties.
- 3 Confidential Indigenous knowledge and Traditional Land and Resource Use studies determined that the Study Area contains broad trapline areas that are not tied to any one discrete site. The trapline areas represent a historical Indigenous hunting practice that continues in present day. The mitigation measures presented in Section 7.13 – Analysis of Changes to Land and Resource Use and Sections 10 through 14 – Analysis of Changes to Indigenous Peoples in the Impact Statement in progress for the Project, will be followed to address potential impacts to traplines within the Study Area.
- 4 This report will be included as part of the Impact Statement submission to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and will be circulated to those Indigenous communities participating in the impact assessment process.
- 5 This report should be submitted to the MCM for information purposes.

# 7 ASSESSOR QUALIFICATIONS

This report was prepared and reviewed by the undersigned, employees of WSP. The qualifications of the assessors involved in the preparation of this report are provided in Appendix B.

# 8 REFERENCES

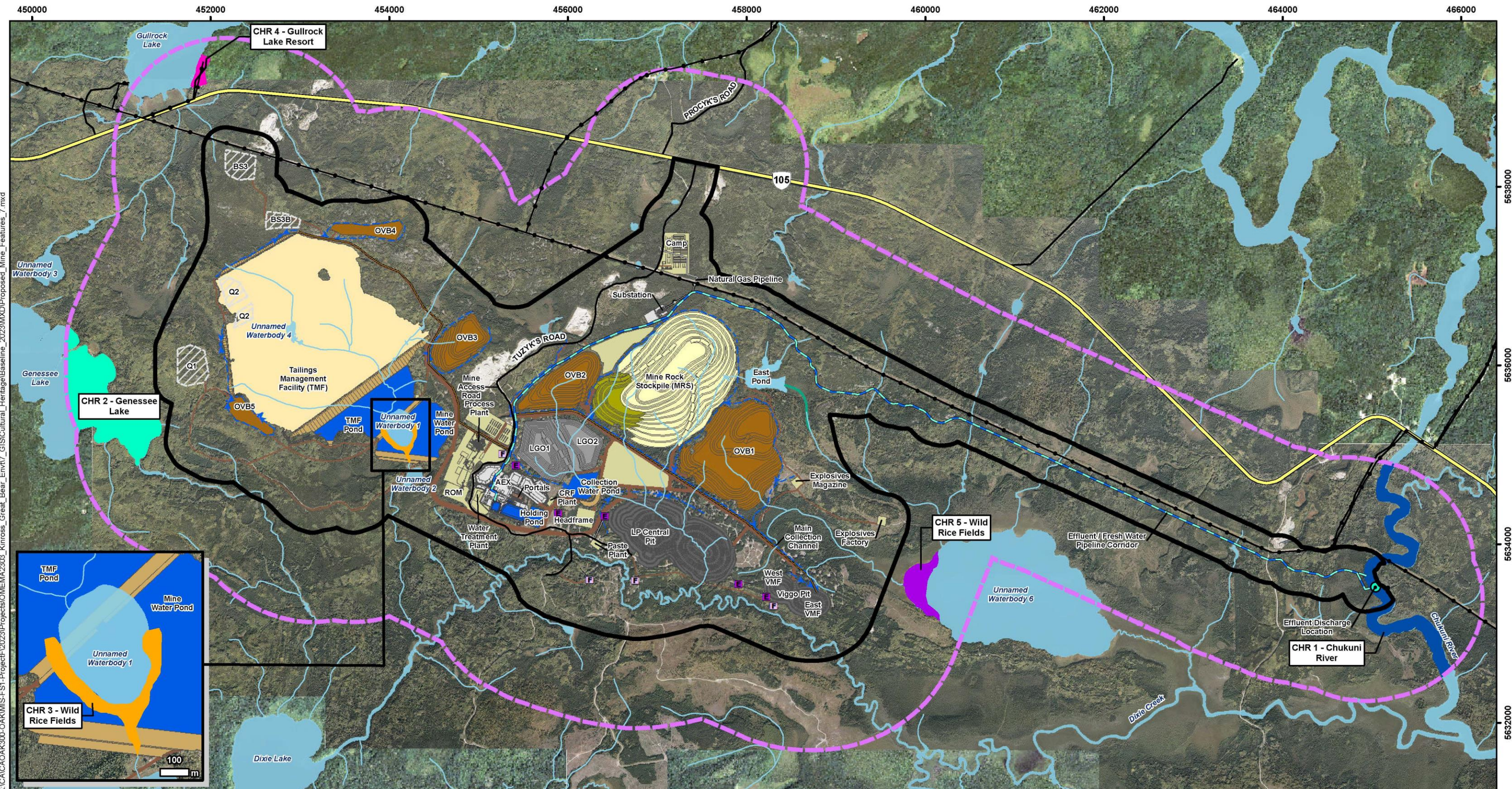
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# **Appendix A**

## **Proposed Work**





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**LEGEND**

Cultural Heritage Investigation Area	Watercourse	Identified Potential Cultural Heritage Resources	Open Pit	Dam	Advanced Exploration Site (AEX)
Cultural Heritage Investigation Area Buffer (1 km)	Waterbody	CHR 1 - Chukuni River	Mine Rock Stockpile (NPAG)	Pond	Rock Quarry (Q) / Sand and Gravel Pit (B)
Highway		CHR 2 - Genessee Lake	Mine Rock Stockpile (PAG)	Collection Ditch	Diversion Channel
Local Road		CHR 3 - Wild Rice Fields	Low Grade Ore Stockpile (LGO)	Effluent / Fresh Water Pipeline Corridor	Effluent Discharge Location
Existing Transmission Line		CHR 4 - Gullrock Lake Resort	Overburden Stockpile (OVB)	Fresh Air Vent Raise	Exhaust Vent Raise
		CHR 5 - Wild Rice Fields	Tailings Management Facility (TMF)	Portal	Transmission Line
				Tailings Pipeline	
				Paste Plant Pipeline	
				Mine Facilities / Infrastructure	

**NOTES:**

- Aerial imagery provided by Great Bear Resources (scene date: September 2022)
- Roads information provided by Great Bear Resources, August 2022.
- Watercourses and waterbody acquired from Land Information Ontario (MNR) and modified to match aerial imagery and LIDAR.
- Site plan based on information provided by Great Bear Resources, December 2024 / June 2025.
- VMF: Viggio Management Facility
- ROM: Run of Mine Ore

Datum: NAD83  
Projection: UTM Zone 15N

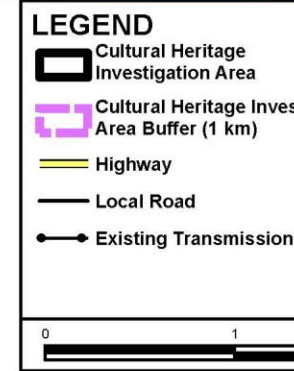
**KINROSS** Great Bear

**GREAT BEAR PROJECT**

**Location of Proposed Mine Features**

PROJECT N°: CA0031271 **FIGURE: 10**

SCALE: 1:40,000 **DATE: July 2025**



# **Appendix B**

## **Assessor Qualifications**



## Assessor Qualifications

**Heidy Schopf, MES, CAHP – Cultural Heritage Team–Lead** - Heidy Schopf the Built and Landscape Heritage Team Lead at WSP. She has over ten years' experience in Cultural Resource Management. She is a professional member of the **Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP)** and is **MTO RAQs certified** in archaeology/heritage. She has worked on a wide variety of projects throughout Ontario, including: cultural heritage resources assessments, heritage impact assessments, documentation reports, cultural heritage evaluations, strategic conservation plans, heritage conservation district studies and plans and archaeological assessments. Ms. Schopf has extensive experience applying local, Provincial, and Federal heritage guidelines and regulations to evaluate protected and potential cultural heritage properties. She is skilled at carrying out impact assessments and developing mitigation measures to conserve the heritage attributes of properties where changes are proposed.

**Johanna Kelly, MSc., CAHP – Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist**- Ms. Kelly has worked in the field of Cultural Resource Management since 2007. She is skilled in the identification and evaluation of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes and mitigation of proposed impacts on heritage resources. She has worked on a wide variety of projects throughout Ontario, including cultural heritage resources assessments, heritage impact assessments, cultural heritage evaluations, documentation reports, strategic conservation plans, heritage conservation district studies and plans, and archaeological assessments. Ms. Kelly has extensive experience applying local, Provincial, and Federal heritage guidelines and regulations to evaluate protected and potential cultural heritage properties. Ms. Kelly has completed cultural heritage projects under a variety of processes, including: the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act*, *Ontario Heritage Act*, and the *Transit Project Assessment Process*. Ms. Kelly She is a professional member of the **Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP)** and holds a **Professional Archaeological License (P1017)** issued by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

**Robert Pinchin, B.A. Hons, CAHP Intern - Cultural Heritage Specialist** - Mr. Pinchin holds an Honours, B.A. Degree in Canadian History from McMaster University and is currently working towards a Post-Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems from Toronto Metropolitan University. Mr. Pinchin has experience working in cultural heritage preservation and conducting heritage assessments in a wide range of projects. He has experience conducting Environmental Assessments and authoring Cultural Heritage Resource Assessments, Archaeological Assessments, Heritage Impact Assessments, and Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports. Mr. Pinchin has experience with conducting cultural heritage work for public and private clients in support of infrastructure development, oil and gas projects, utility upgrades, residential development, and more. Mr. Pinchin has experience interpreting and applying municipal, provincial, and federal legislation within the heritage context. He is an intern member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP). Mr. Pinchin has experience as an archaeologist during which he conducted stage 1-4 archaeological assessments, identified, and catalogued artifacts, and worked with GIS technologies to map units and site boundaries. In these endeavours Mr. Pinchin has worked closely with First Nation community members across the country in order to develop heritage framework in a comprehensive and compassionate manner.

### **Austin Foster, MA, CAHP-Intern Member - Cultural Heritage Specialist**

Austin Foster is a heritage professional with interdisciplinary experience in archaeology, archival stewardship, municipal heritage planning, and public history. He holds an Honours BA in Classical Studies and Public History from the University of Guelph and an MA in History from the Tri-University Graduate Program (Guelph, Laurier, and Waterloo). He also holds certifications in genealogical research, arts and heritage management, and archival management. Austin is a professional member of the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and an intern member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP), currently working toward full membership. Austin has authored and contributed to Municipal Heritage Designation Reports, Heritage Character Area Studies, Cultural Heritage Evaluation Reports, Heritage Conservation Plans, and large-scale cultural heritage documentation projects. He has experience working with municipal heritage committees, councils, and community stakeholders, and is well-versed in interpreting and applying municipal, provincial, and federal legislation in heritage contexts.