

Abstract

In 1975 and 1978 large-scale rescue excavations were undertaken at the Draper site, an Ontario Woodland Tradition, Iroquoian village located on lands to be developed as the New Toronto International Airport. These excavations were funded by Transport Canada and organized by the Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man, and National Museums of Canada. Work was carried out in 1975 through a contract to The University of Western Ontario and in 1978 to the Museum of Indian Archeology (London), an affiliate of the university. Funds for analysis were also provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

This project resulted in the excavation of 4.25 ha of the Draper site which involved the screening of about 8,700 sq m of deposits (19.7% of the total area excavated). This included screening of undisturbed and plough-disturbed midden deposits, undisturbed and plough-disturbed deposits within and directly adjacent to longhouses, as well as a large undisturbed open area in one segment of the village.

The excavations resulted in the discovery that the site was comprised of three separate components: the Main Village which began as a small community consisting of about eight house structures and a visitor's house surrounded by four rows of palisades. This village underwent five expansions to become a very large village encompassing 39 house structures and one visitor's house. The first four expansions were surrounded by three rows of palisades while the final one was surrounded by four rows of palisades. South of the Main Village was the South Field comprised of seven longhouses. To the west of the Main Village was the single small Structure 42, now interpreted as a visitor's structure.

The excavations produced more than 170,000 analyzable artifacts and more than 1,200,000 grams of other artifacts such as fragmentary sherds and floral and faunal remains. Following the excavations, the laboratory processing, description, and analysis resulted in more than 50 publications, graduate theses, conference presentations, and unpublished reports.

This study provides a summary of our knowledge of the Draper site, its settlement types, and their cultural affiliation. This includes a further revision of James V. Wright's Ontario Iroquois Tradition with the definition of the Ontario Woodland Tradition by

Lawrence Jackson (2018, 13). The adoption of the Ontario Woodland Tradition provides a revised construct which recognizes the basics of the Ontario Iroquois Tradition as presented by James V. Wright (2004) and recognizes the contemporary and earlier occupation of much of southern Ontario by Algonquian-speaking people. It also recognizes the Oral Traditions of these people which record their permission to the Iroquois to settle on their lands about A.D. 1000. This provides additional support for the migration of ancestral Iroquoians into southern Ontario at that time. This, of course, negates current speculation that there was an in situ development of the Ontario Iroquoians from earlier Middle Woodland populations.

This study summarizes selected aspects of the reporting of most of the research done on the Draper site collections. This includes basic data on the strategies and methods of the excavations, the settlement patterns of the three parts of the site, as well as the artifacts' analyses completed and special studies undertaken.

New interpretations about the Draper site, based on this review of all work including a reanalysis of some of the settlement pattern data, discovered three misinterpretations of data, the realization of which provided new insights into the occupation of the Main Village, the South Field, and Structure 42. A detailed consideration of the study of the Draper houses by Karen Williams-Shuker (1997) resulted in this study recognizing the presence of menstrual houses in all segments of the Main Village. Similarly, the realization that House 22, a small structure like the visitor's house in the Core Village, was actually associated with the last expansion of the village. This provided new insights into the use of visitors' houses in relationship to the numbers of rows of palisades surrounding different segments of the Main Village and implications for understanding varying extents of warfare during the occupation of the village. A reconsideration of the available information on the South Field has resulted in new possible interpretations about the relationship of this component of the site to the Main Village and other sites nearby.

A new interpretation for the sequence of the expansion of the Main Village is presented as well as new insights into the use of strategic defensive planning in the positioning of houses as the village expanded. There is also a review of the evidence for a Neutral occupation of one segment of one house in the Main Village and a few other artifacts indicative of this occupation.

This study also examines significant numbers of archaeological surveys and test excavations undertaken on the Pickering Airport Lands between 1976 and 1978 under the overall direction of myself and the project direction by Dan Poulton in 1977 and

1978; the Seaton Lands to the south by Infrastructure Ontario and its predecessors since 1978; and on nearby lands by other agencies and private-sector developers. This review provides more data in support of an in situ development of one or more communities of Ontario Iroquoians beginning with the occupation of the Miller site and proceeding through a number of Pickering, Uren, Middleport, Black Creek-Lalonde, and Realignment substage villages and at times associated special purpose sites. Current evidence indicates that this is the only known area where there was such an in situ development from the 9th century Miller site to the 17th century Mantle site. What is extremely important is the recent dating to the Mantle site which indicates that it was contemporary with the historic Huron-Wendat village of Cahiague occupied at the time of Samuel de Champlain's visit in A.D. 1615. This dating also reveals that the occupants of Mantle and its probable predecessor villages of Spang and Draper are not Huron-Wendat sites, but Iroquoian sites occupied by another community of Iroquoians whose ultimate history is not currently known. This situation is generally similar to the development of the Iroquoians who occupied the Burlington and Crawford Lake localities reported by the author in his 1998 study of 76 Iroquoian sites in the Crawford Lake area and where the Middleport occupants of the Van Eden village and the Crawford Lake satellite/hamlet (the last of 16 sites which were sequentially occupied starting about A.D. 1000) disappeared with no evidence about their ultimate fate. The net result of these two studies is that it appears that there is no sequence of sites which can trace the development of Ontario Iroquoians from the Early Pickering substage to the historically documented Realignment substage sites in Huronia or the Fur Trade substage sites in Neutralia. One of the more important aspects of this study is a further refinement of the concept of Coalescent Villages developed by Jennifer Birch and Ron Williamson based on the almost complete excavation of the 17th century Mantle site. This current study presents the concept of Frontier Coalescent Villages and constitutes an expansion of the concept and the examples presented by Birch and Williamson. In part, this stems from my perspective and in-depth knowledge of the Draper site—likely the first Coalescent Village on Duffin Creek—and the way in which it grew from a small to a very large village. This viewpoint derives insights from aspects of the settlement pattern data and from the unique characteristics of certain artifacts which were absent from Mantle or settlement features not recognized by Birch and Williamson. It is important to stress that Mantle was different than Draper in that it was occupied probably 15 to 30 years after the abandonment of Draper and in times when the mechanisms used to integrate Draper as a Coalescent Village were absent,

or much reduced, at Mantle. One of the results of this is the rather chaotic settlement pattern of the second phase of Mantle described by Birch and Williamson. This expanded concept of Frontier Coalescent Villages is also supported by similar Frontier Coalescent Villages during the Pickering, Middleport, and pre-Fur Trade substage sites in the Crawford Lake area, sites which were not considered by Birch and Williamson in their development of the Coalescent Village concept.

This study provides a preliminary comparison of Iroquoian development between Duffin Creek and the Burlington and Crawford Lake locality sites located some 80 km to the west.

One of the crucial aspects documented is that Draper site collections remain a vast resource for future research. Unfortunately, not all aspects of the collection could be studied given the limitations of funding and time in the 1980s. In addition, further advances in method and theory in the past 40 years provide new perspectives for the restudy of the collections. Most importantly, from my perspective, is the need to reanalyze the entire collection of rim sherds and to analyze for the first time the castellations, complete the analysis of all faunal remains, particularly the non-mammal remains, and the completion of the study of artifacts recovered from undisturbed house structures in the Main Village and plough-disturbed house structures in the South Field and Structure 42.

Midland, Ontario