

Flamborough's Early Indigenous History

Numerous Indigenous sites have been found all across Flamborough-Beverly (including Freulton, Carlisle, Greenville, Troy and Waterdown), most recently in the area south of Dundas Street in Waterdown (see "The Souharissen Natural Area" on page 77 in "The Extraordinary History of Flamborough").

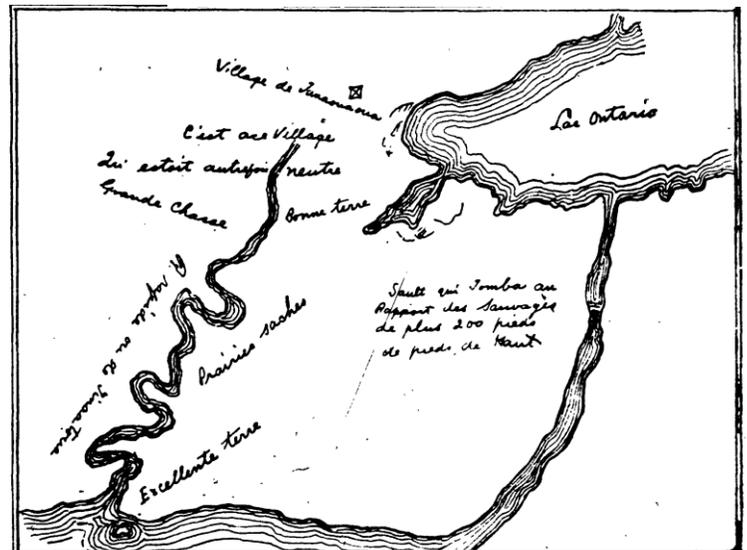
Flamborough is within the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-oh-sew-nee) Confederacy, Huron-Wendat Nation and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

- It wasn't until the final retreat of the glaciers around 11,000 years ago (9,000 BCE) that it is believed that humans first appeared in southern Ontario. These first inhabitants, sometimes called "Paleo-Indians" or "Paleoamericans," lived by hunting vast herds of caribou, since our region at this time closely resembled the present-day tundra of northern Canada. Mastodon and Woolly Mammoth may also have been hunted.
 - It is certain that Flamborough was at one point a hunting ground for these ancient people: a Paleo-Indian Indigenous site has been discovered in Beverly Township, not far from Kirkwall.
 - Lake Medad (northwest of Waterdown – where Hidden Lake G & CC is located) is an important Indigenous Site where numerous artifacts have been uncovered.



Clay pipe (ca. 1620-1650) found at Lake Medad around 1868-1893, sold to Dr. John Owen McGregor in 1893.

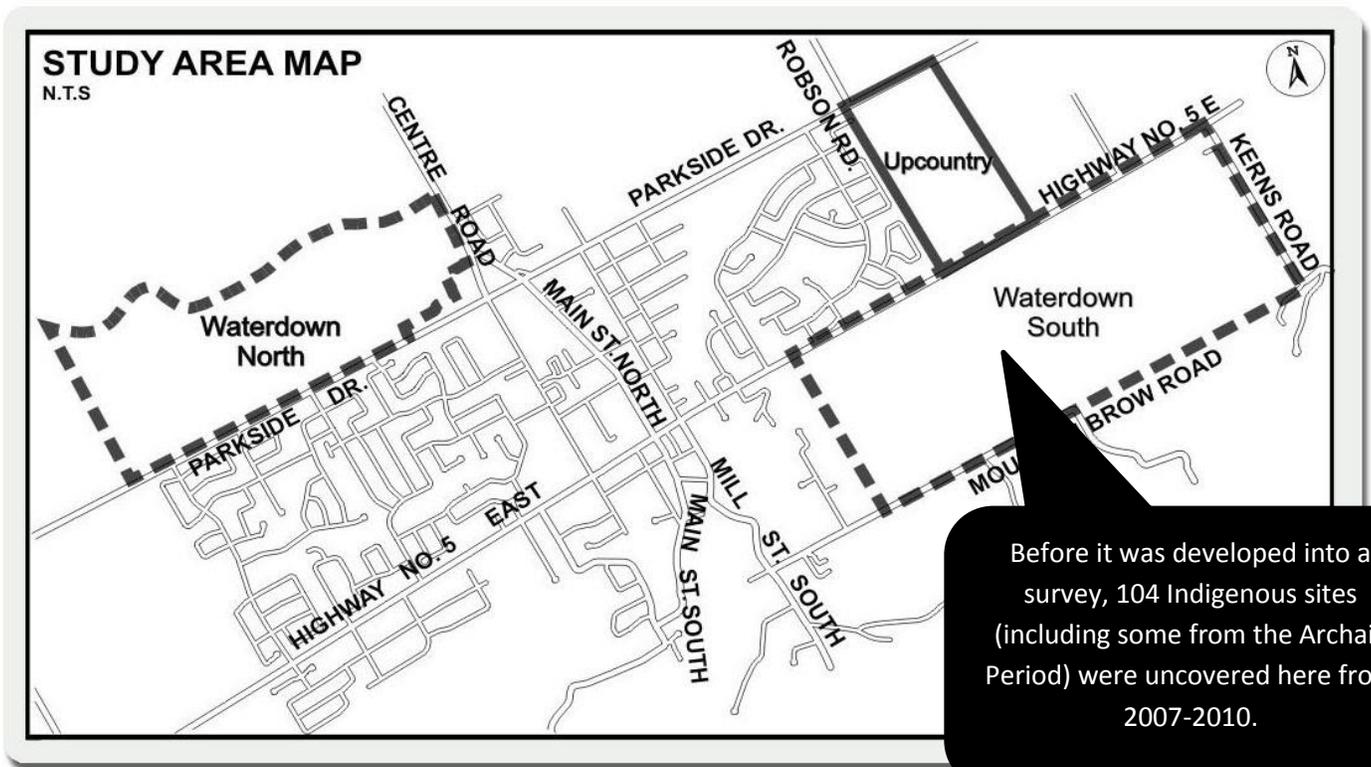
Around 7,500 BCE, the climate in southern Ontario began to resemble what it is today. As the tundra gave way to forest, Paleo-Indian societies were replaced with, what culture archaeologists today call, the Archaic Period. Instead of following herds of caribou, Archaic Indigenous societies mostly concentrated on fishing in the lakes and streams and gathering plants and nuts from the mixed-wood forests, though they also hunted deer and moose. The inhabitants of this area continued to live in small communities of 35-40 people, and remained nomadic. The population of our area began to increase, and many technological changes were developed- spear throwers, fishing weirs, fishing nets, and copper tools all began to be used



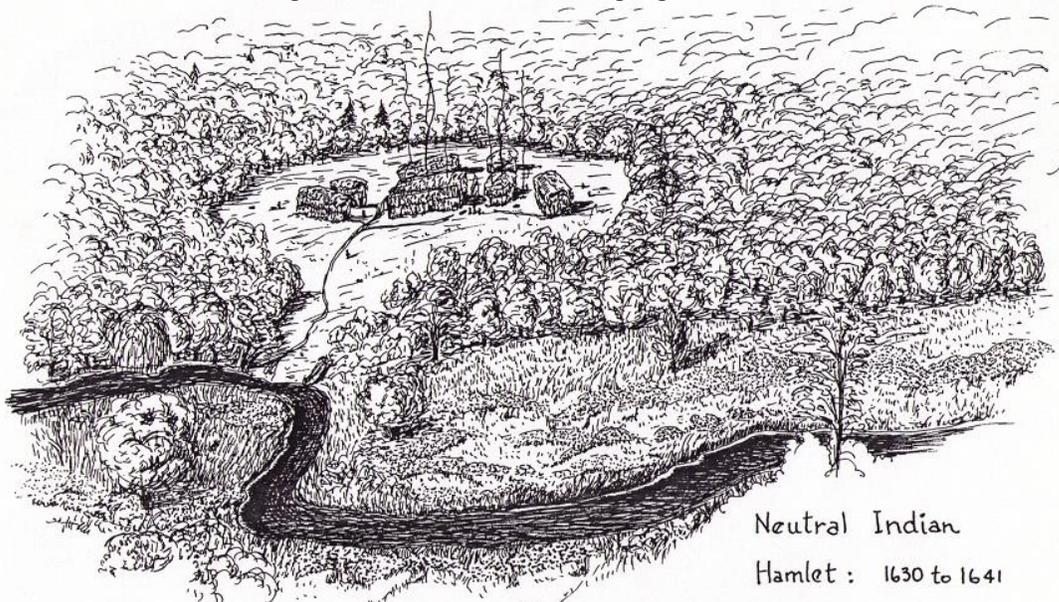
17th century Jesuit Map showing the Indigenous village of Tinawatawa (located just north of present-day Waterdown, near Westover & Freulton).

during this time period.

Around 900 BCE, archaeologists mark the end of the Archaic Period and the start of the Woodland Period, which lasted until the first European contacts in 1550 AD. Early developments include the introduction of pottery and the first use of the bow and arrow.



- Trade between Indigenous communities and Nations reaches a high point during this period and items such as precious stones, silver, and sea shells (including quohog) have been found on Woodland sites throughout Ontario.
- Elaborate burials become increasingly common throughout this period, and many of the most exotic trade goods were buried in large grave mounds.



Neutral Indian

Hamlet : 1630 to 1641

ed February 2019



This hand-drawn map appears in Paul Anthony Lennox's 1977 McMaster University thesis *The Hamilton Site: A Late Historic Neutral Town*. The map highlights the various "Neutral" (Chonnonton) sites located in West Flamborough and Beverly. Commenting specifically on the Hamilton Site, a 6-acre Indigenous community located on the south half of Lot 5, Concession VIII, in the Township of West Flamborough, Lennox writes:

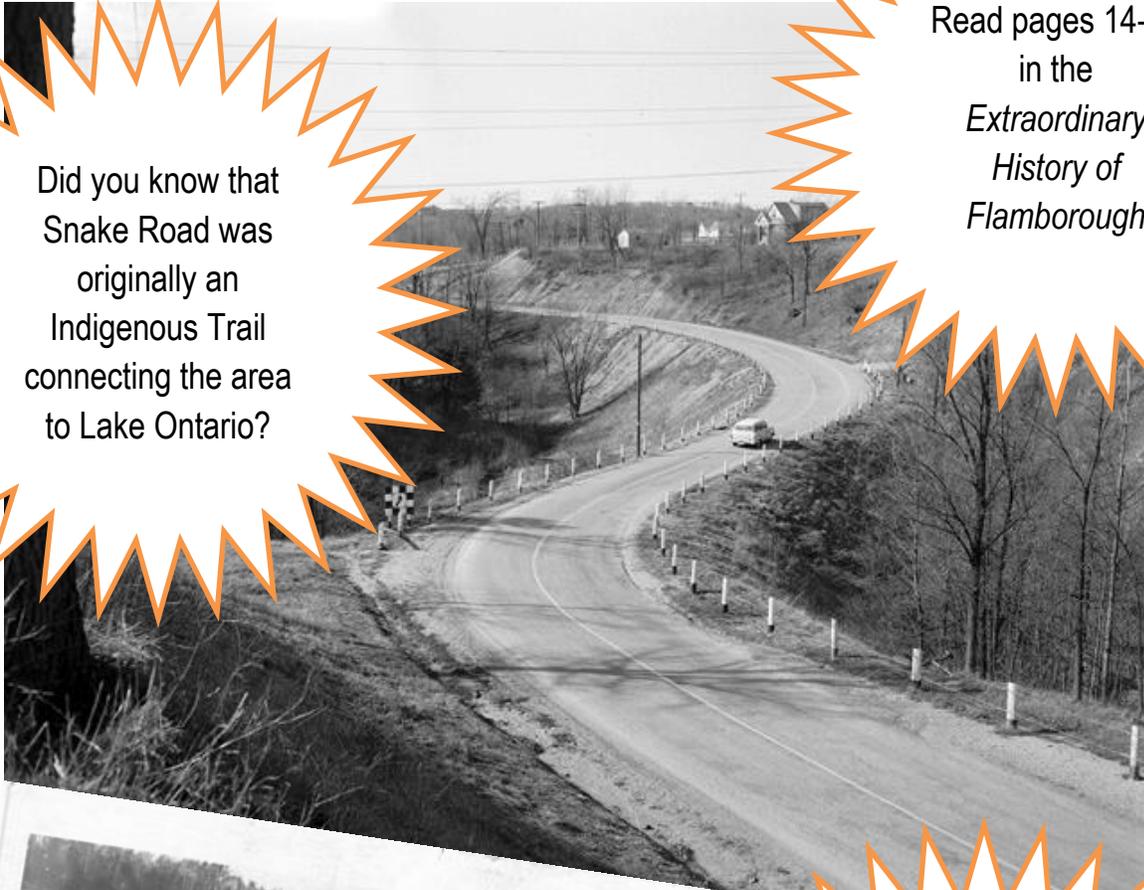
The foregoing analysis has indicated that the Hamilton site is a large double-palisaded late history Neutral town which probably formed the capital of a northern tribal tier of history Neutral settlements. The late date of its occupation is indicated by glass bead serration, and the possibility exists that it was one of the eighteen settlements visited by the Jesuit missionaries, Breb uf and Chaumonot, in the winter of 1640-41. Our best dating estimate for Hamilton [archeological site] falls between 1638 to 1651 when the Neutral were dispersed from their homeland by [the Huadenosaunee Confederacy].¹

¹ Source: Lennox, Paul Anthony. *The Hamilton Site: A Late Historic Neutral Town*. BA Thesis. McMaster University, 1977.

Did you know?

Did you know that Snake Road was originally an Indigenous Trail connecting the area to Lake Ontario?

Read pages 14-15 in the *Extraordinary History of Flamborough*



Lake Medad was considered a sacred space by the regions' Indigenous Peoples? It is now where Hidden Lake G&CC is located



Discovered in two pieces (on separate days) by resident Nicholas Schwetz in 2008 in the Waterdown South Development, this arrowhead reminded residents of the long history of First Nations' habitation in the region.

