

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF THE BONNYCASTLE  
AMPHITHEATRE LOCALITY**

Prepared For

**SCATLIFF & RECH**

**Quaternary  
Consultants  
Limited**

August, 1990

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bonnycastle Amphitheatre is a component of the upgrading of Bonnycastle Park, undertaken by the City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation. In the process of developing the Amphitheatre and attendant features, sub-surface modification will occur. Recognizing that there is the possibility of impacting buried archaeological resources, Scatliff & Rech (Prime Consultants) retained the services of Quaternary Consultants Ltd. to conduct an impact assessment of the area which is to be affected. This component will initially be a roadway cut from grade to river level on the north bank of the Assiniboine River, followed by excavation of the Amphitheatre (Figure 1).

The operation was directed by Sid Kroker (Senior Archaeologist) and conducted under Heritage Permit A21-90, issued by Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Recreation in accordance with The Heritage Resources Act, (Appendix A) and Services Inspection Permit #18655, issued by City of Winnipeg, District 1, (Appendix A). In addition, consultations were held with Don Kingerski, of the City of Winnipeg Rivers and Streams Authority, to develop guidelines concerning the excavation's closeness to the river bank, the length and width of the assessment trench and the required method of in-filling the trench after the assessment had been completed (Appendix A).

The initial attempt at conducting an impact assessment occurred on June 6, 1989. Due to the discovery of an impenetrable concrete layer over the entire impact zone, a second operation became necessary. This operation, consisting of archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a roadway cut, was undertaken on June 20.

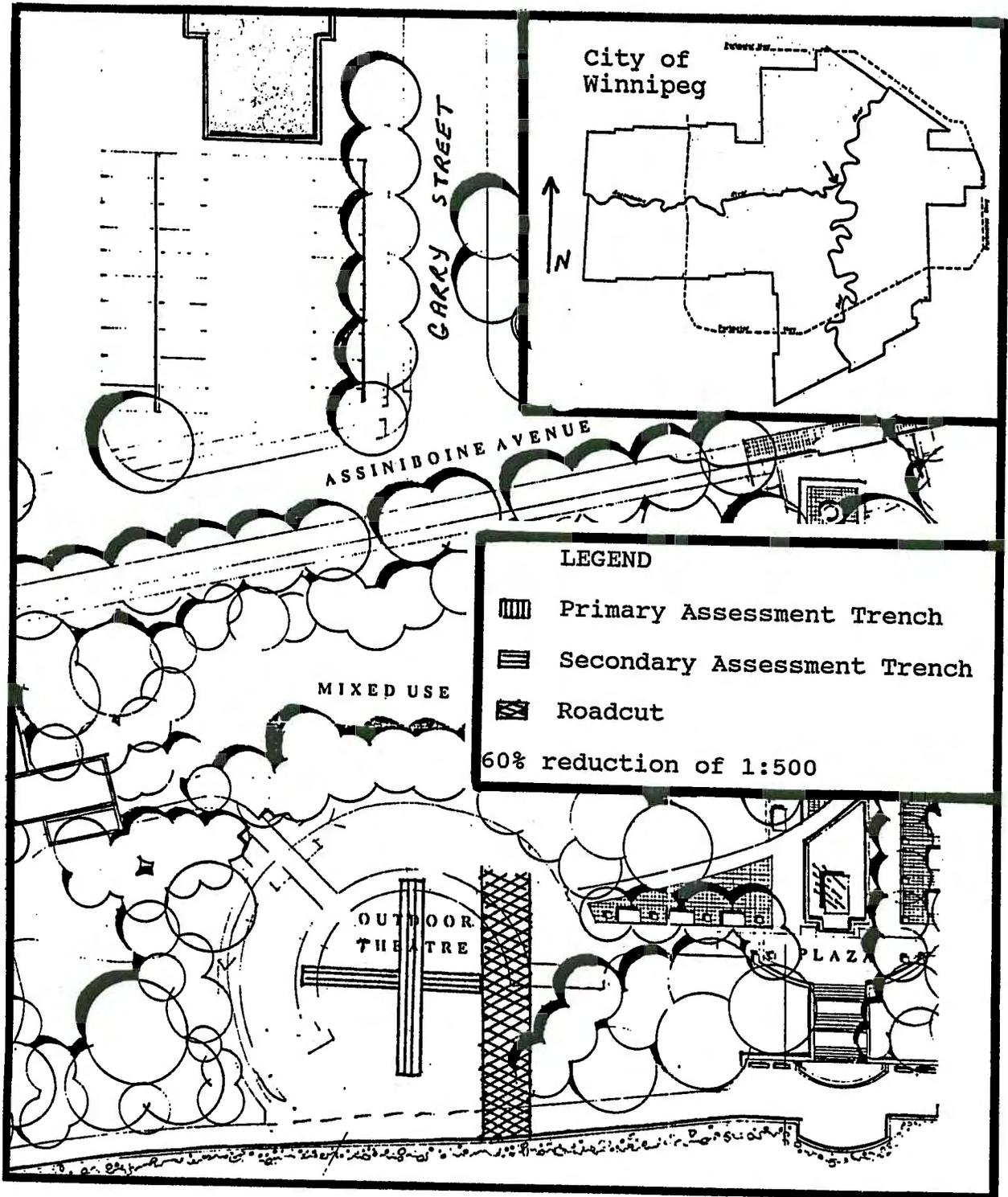


Figure 1: Map of Impact Zone

## 2.0 PROJECT TEAM

The field portion of the project was directed by Sid Kroker. The field archaeologists, for the first operation, were Paul Speidel, Sharon Thomson and Peter Filopoulos. The backhoe operator was Ray Demarcke of Cambrian Excavators. The second operation was undertaken by Sid Kroker and Peter Filopoulos.

## 3.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology entails the use of heavy equipment to excavate a narrow trench. This method has been proven elsewhere: most notably during the North Assiniboine Node Archaeological Impact Assessment (Kroker 1989), the Provencher Bridge Project Archaeological Impact Assessment (Quaternary 1989) and the St. Mary Avenue Extension Assessment (Quaternary 1990a). The procedure entails the employment of a skilled backhoe operator at the controls of a small rubber-mount machine with a 24" bucket.

The technique consists of the removal of a thin (5 cm) horizontal layer of the soil, which is spread at the side of the trench. The extractant soil is raked by a team of archaeologists to recover all artifactual material. The depth, from which this material is recovered, is recorded and all material from each cultural level is kept together. Upon completion of excavation of the trench, the stratigraphy of the soil profile of the trench wall is recorded.

Construction monitoring entails the presence of an archaeologist while excavations are proceeding. The archaeologist records the presence or absence of structural remnants, collects diagnostic historic artifacts (if present) and observes buried (relict) soil horizons in unmodified situations. If relict soil zones are observed, these layers are examined to determine if Pre-Contact Native occupation had occurred at the location.

All recovered artifacts are taken to the laboratory facilities of Quaternary Consultants, where they are cleaned and identified, preparatory to recording on a computer inventory database (modified DBASE 3+). This database is then used for the analysis and interpretation components of report preparation.

#### 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

The original proposed investigation consisted of a ten meter trench perpendicular to the riverbank, excavated at the centre of the Amphitheatre locality. If significant heritage resources were discovered during this operation, a second trench, parallel to the riverbank, was to be excavated ten meters north of the riverbank (Figure 1).

The first attempt at assessing the sub-surface archaeological resources was terminated due to the presence of a thick concrete layer across the entire impact zone. This widespread layer was probably the latest level of the parking lot associated with the Guertin Building, located immediately north of the impact zone. Six attempts were made to find a location which was not capped by the concrete. None of these attempts were successful and Scatliff & Rech were notified of the situation.

As part of the contractor's operational plans, the construction of an access road to the riverbank walkway at the eastern edge of the impact zone had been planned to occur after the archaeological assessment. After consultation with Historic Resources Branch, it was determined that monitoring of the excavation of the road cut would constitute an adequate impact assessment of the locality. Accordingly, an archaeologist was on-site when the excavation of the road cut began. The excavation employed a machine-mounted jack hammer in conjunction with a large backhoe. The process consisted of breaking the concrete, which was found to contain reinforcing rods, and removal by the backhoe. The

construction operation disclosed that three layers of concrete were present, as well as a vertical concrete retaining wall at the riverbank edge.

Between the layers of concrete, lenses of gravel occurred. Intermixed with the upper gravel lens, railroad cinder deposits were observed. Occasionally fragments of rusted iron were observed, including fragments of tin cans, railroad spikes and parts of machinery. As these specimens were not diagnostic and represented secondary deposition, they were not curated. No diagnostic historic material was encountered.

At the southeastern section of the road cut, approximately one meter above river walkway grade, a small pocket of unmodified silts and clays was observed. This section (2.5 meters long and 1.1 meters high) lay immediately north of the area disrupted by the retaining wall. Some faint organic bands were noted, indicating a certain degree of soil formation between flood deposition episodes. No evidence of Pre-Contact occupation was present. Given the disruption of upper levels, it is impossible to assign a probable age to these sediments or to correlate them with those which had been observed during the archaeological assessment at 300 Assiniboine (Quaternary 1990b).

#### 4.0 ARTIFACT RECOVERIES

All observed artifacts were from the recent (post 1920) period. In as much as none of the specimens were diagnostic and all had been deposited at the location as a result of land-fill activities, no specimens were curated.

#### 5.0 INTERPRETATION

The area has experienced significant modification as a result of building activities related to the Guertin Building. The layers

of concrete probably represent sequential modifications to the ramps and shipping docks at the rear of the building and evolution of a parking lot. The installation of a vertical concrete retaining wall at the edge of the riverbank appears to have occurred prior to the installation of the uppermost concrete layer. The effect of these construction activities has been to disrupt most of the natural soils in the area. Examination of the small pocket of unmodified material yielded no evidence of Pre-Contact occupation. This suggests that there is a low potential for encountering significant archaeological deposits at this locality.

#### 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that excavation of a portion of the amphitheatre locality be monitored by an archaeologist. The only area of concern would be those undisturbed sediments underlying the lowest layer of concrete, north of the retaining wall.

#### 7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kroker, Sid

1989 North Assiniboine Node Archaeological Impact Assessment. The Forks Renewal Corporation, Winnipeg.

Quaternary Consultants Ltd.

1989 Provencher Bridge Project Archaeological Impact Assessment. Quaternary Consultants Ltd., Winnipeg.

1990a Assessment of Archaeological Resources within the St. Mary Avenue Extension Right-of-Way. Quaternary Consultants Ltd., Winnipeg.

1990b Archaeological Assessment of Heritage Resources for the Assiniboine Riverwalk (300 Assiniboine Ave.). Quaternary Consultants Ltd., Winnipeg.

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APPENDIX A

PERMITS:

City of Winnipeg  
Historic Resources Branch



**Heritage Permit No.** A21-90

FORM 11

PURSUANT to Section/Subsection 53 of *The Heritage Resources Act*:

Name: Quaternary Consultants Ltd.  
Address: 130 Fort Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1C7

(hereinafter referred to as "the Permittee"),

is hereby granted permission to:

carry out a heritage resource impact assessment by means of a backhoe and subsequent monitoring of construction activities relating to the excavation of the Bonnycastle Park Amphitheatre on the north bank of the Assiniboine River at the west end of Bonnycastle Park in order to determine the presence or absence of heritage resources and to devise and undertake appropriate mitigative measures as required;

during the period:

May 14 to September 30, 1990

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That the information provided in the application for this permit dated the 9th day of May 19 90, is true in substance and in fact;
- (2) That the Permittee shall comply with all the provisions of *The Heritage Resources Act* and any regulations or orders thereunder;
- (3) That the Permittee shall provide to the Minister a written report or reports with respect to the Permittee's activities pursuant to this permit, the form and content of which shall be satisfactory to the Minister and which shall be provided on the following dates:  
March 31, 1991
- (4) That this permit is not transferable;
- (5) This permit may be revoked by the Minister where, in the opinion of the Minister, there has been a breach of any of the terms or conditions herein or of any provision of *The Heritage Resources Act* or any regulations thereunder;

(6) Special Conditions:

- a) The Permittee will apprise the Historic Resources Branch of all proposed activities and will notify the Historic Resources Branch as soon as possible about the occurrence of heritage resources in the area under study.
- b) In the event that human remains are encountered, all activity in the immediate area will cease and special procedures relative to the treatment of human remains will be implemented forthwith.
- c) The Permittee will consult with Historic Resources Branch staff concerning any proposed mitigative activities that may be required should heritage resources be encountered at the site.
- d) The Permittee must obtain permission from any land owners, lessee or regulatory authority, as applicable, concerning access to the subject property and permits/permissions required in order to carry out the proposed activities.
- e) That neither the Government of Manitoba nor the party issuing this permit will be liable for any damages resulting from any activities carried out pursuant to this permit, and the Permittee specifically agrees, in consideration for receiving this permit, to indemnify and hold harmless the Minister and the Government of Manitoba, the Minister and any employees and officials of the Government, against any and all liens, demands, loss, liability, cost, damage and expense, including without limitation, reasonable legal fees, which the Government, Minister or any employee or official of the Government may suffer or incur by reason of any of the activities to or related to this permit.

Dated at the City of Winnipeg, in Manitoba, this 15th day of May 1990.

  
Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation

CITY OF WINNIPEG  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
SERVICES PERMIT

18655

District 1

Local Description: Lot \_\_\_\_\_ Street/Avenue No. Denny Castle Park  
Block \_\_\_\_\_ Plan \_\_\_\_\_

- Single family residence
- Two family semi-detached
- Multiple family
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Demolition/removal
- Addition/alteration
- Other

Details Grading & Soil  
Testing for  
Archaeological  
Testing

Applicant Quaternary Construction Ltd  Contractor  
Address 130 Fort St  Other  
Phone Wpg R3C 1C7

**WATER SERVICE**

Type of Service	Size and Type	Account No.	Fee
Domestic—Single Meter	_____	_____	\$ _____
Domestic—Multiple Meter (standard Drawing) (application to be signed by owner)	_____	_____	\$ _____
Domestic—Single meter multiple users	_____	_____	\$ _____
Separate sprinkler service (fire)*	_____	_____	\$ _____
Combined domestic and fire service, industrial, etc. (drawings)*	_____	_____	\$ _____
Booster pump installation (drawings)*	_____	_____	\$ _____
Hydrant rental (per unit per month)*	_____	_____	\$ _____
	_____	_____	\$ _____

\* Set of drawings showing interconnections, cross-connections, back-flow devices, etc., must accompany application.

*Inspection Permit Only*

**SEWER SERVICE**

Type of Service	Size and Type	Account No.	Fee
Waste Water Sewer	_____	_____	\$ _____
Storm Drainage Sewer	_____	_____	\$ _____
Combined Sewer	_____	_____	\$ _____
Holiday & Weekend inspection	_____	_____	\$ _____
	_____	_____	\$ _____

Set of drawings must accompany application

TOTAL FEE \$ N/C

**Re: Indemnity Clause for Service Application and Services Permit**

I undertake to observe and perform the provisions of all Dominion or Provincial statutes or regulations, and the applicable by-law or by-laws, rules and regulations or orders and plans continued in force pursuant to Part IX of The City of Winnipeg Act affecting said land; and all specifications or instructions issued by the duly authorized officers of the City in respect of the work incidental to the subject matter of this application and to indemnify the City against all losses, costs, charges or damages caused by or arising out of anything done pursuant to any permit issued under this application.

I agree to comply with all By-laws, requirements and Special Conditions set out herein:

Installer [Signature] DATE May 24/90  
 Designated Officer [Signature] DATE [Signature]

CUSTOMER COPY



THE CITY OF WINNIPEG  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING  
395 MAIN STREET • WINNIPEG • MANITOBA • R3B 3E1

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

D. Kingerski  
Ph: 986-5159

FAX: (204) 942-2008

May 30, 1990

Mr. Sid Kroker  
Quaternary Consultants Ltd.  
130 Fort Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1C7

Dear Sir:

**RE: ARCHEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
BONNYCASTLE AMPHITHEATRE - WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

This follows our meeting of May 28, 1990 concerning the above noted.

Be advised that an application to Rivers and Streams is not deemed necessary on the basis of project details presented to this office.

Accordingly, you may proceed with the subject works once other approvals, as necessary, are secured and subject to conditions as follows:

- a) The excavation and backfilling operations are to proceed in an orderly and continuous manner.
- b) The excavation or any portion thereof is not to remain open overnight.
- c) Excavated material is to be temporarily stockpiled as far as possible from the riverbank.
- d) The trench is not to be located closer than two (2) metres o/s from the top of the bank. (NOTE: The riverbank area between the trench and river's edge is not to be disturbed in any way whatsoever.)

Once you have finalized the scheduling of this work, please contact the undersigned at 986-5159 to confirm same.

Yours truly,

  
D. Kingerski, P. Eng.  
Rivers and Streams  
Authority Engineer.

DK/pw

cc: Scatliff & Rech - Attention: M. Scatliff  
D. Clark



WINNIPEG  
..where the New West begins.