

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF
METHODIST POINT PARK RESERVE

A Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of Graduate Studies
The University of Manitoba

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts
Department of Anthropology

by
Roberta M. O'Brien
May 1976

"AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF
METHODIST POINT PARK RESERVE"

by

Roberta M. O'Brien

A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies of
the University of Manitoba in partial fulfillment of the requirements
of the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

© 1976

Permission has been granted to the LIBRARY OF THE UNIVER-
SITY OF MANITOBA to lend or sell copies of this dissertation, to
the NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA to microfilm this
dissertation and to lend or sell copies of the film, and UNIVERSITY
MICROFILMS to publish an abstract of this dissertation.

The author reserves other publication rights, and neither the
dissertation nor extensive extracts from it may be printed or other-
wise reproduced without the author's written permission.

ABSTRACT

An Archaeological Survey of Methodist Point Park Reserve

by

Roberta M. O'Brien

A survey was conducted in 1972, 1973 to locate and assess the archaeological resources of a twelve square mile provincial park reserve located on the Penetang Peninsula, Simcoe County, Ontario. The survey area consists of predominantly young deciduous forest on the Georgian Bay shore.

A systematic test-pit survey technique was developed to deal with the problem of locating sites in wooded areas and test excavations were carried out on each site to provide data for the cultural, temporal and functional identification of the sites. Analysis of the material includes a seriation of ceramic vessels, functional analysis of lithic and bone tools and the comparison of site locations with fossil beach lines.

A total of seventeen sites with twenty components were located in the survey area. The Late Woodland Huron (Iroquois) are represented by fourteen components, including seven village sites, field camps, beach camps and a cemetery. Other cultures represented include the Middle Woodland Point Peninsula and, as far as can be determined, two pre-ceramic cultures.

The cultural remains located during the course of this survey indicate that people have been making use of the resources of the area for possibly as long as 11,000 years. The remains that various cultures have left in the park are unusually well preserved and hold a wealth of information pertaining to cultural adaptations in the immediate area and developments in the general area of South Central Ontario.

Acknowledgments

An archaeological project depends on the hard work and support of many people. I would first like to thank the two field crews who carried out the survey and testing operations and to whom I am indebted for the success of the project. Members of the 1972 crew were: Elliott Burden; Peter Englebert; Leigh Hambly; Jamie Hunter; Josée Laurion; Dave Morrison; Barry Newton; and Peggie Nunn. Members of the 1973 crew were: Neil Campling; N. Adrienne Jex; Mike Penny; Len Ugarenko; Sheryl Smith; and Janice Taylor.

I also wish to thank the following people who contributed much time and energy: Donald MacLeod, for suggesting and supporting the project; Allen Tyyska and William A. Russell for their comments and suggestions; Dr. J. Norman Emerson, my mentor since I first became interested in archaeology, for advice on survey and testing techniques; the park staff, especially W. (Butch) Thatcher for many services; Jock McAndrews for helpful discussions on climate and fossil beaches; my thesis advisor C. (Chuck) Amsden for giving me a new perspective on Ontario archaeology; C. Thomas Shay and W. (Skip) Koolage for acting on my committee.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
List of Tables	iv
List of Figures	v
CHAPTER I - INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER II - NATURAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING	4
Location and Description of the Park	4
Vegetational and Geological History	11
History of the Area Since 1615 A.D.	15
CHAPTER III - SURVEY METHODS	20
Nature and Objectives of Survey	20
Special Problems of Survey Area	20
Research Design	21
CHAPTER IV - SITE DESCRIPTIONS	27
BfGx-1 The Second Lake Site	29
BfGx-2 The Gignac Lake Site	31
BfGx-3	33
BfGx-4	36
BfGx-5	36
BfGx-6	39
BfGx-7 and BfGx-8	41
BeGx-11	42
BeGx-12	44
BeGx-13	46
BeGx-14	46
BfHa-1	48
BfHa-2	48
BfHa-3	48
BfHa-4	50
BfHa-5	52
Miscellaneous Finds	52

CHAPTER V - ARTIFACT DESCRIPTIONS	54
Artifacts of the Huron Occupation	54
Artifacts of the Point Penninsula Occupation	85
Artifacts of the Pre-Ceramic Occupations	92
CHAPTER VI - ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	100
The Huron	100
The Point Penninsula People	115
The Pre-Ceramic Cultures	116
CHAPTER VII - SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	124
BIBLIOGRAPHY	127
APPENDIX	133

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
1.	Sites Located in Survey Area	27
2.	Pottery Types Percentages for Five Huron Village Sites	57
3.	Castellation Types from Huron Sites	58
4.	Shoulder Decorations and Shapes	60
5.	Ceramic Pipes Found on Huron Sites	61
6.	Lithic Raw Materials from Huron Sites	64
7.	Bifaces and Flake Knives from Huron Sites	66
8.	Bipolar Cores from Huron Sites	67
9.	Side Scrapers from Huron Sites	70
10.	End Scrapes, Spokeshaves and Undulating Edges	71
11.	Summary of Chert and Quartz Flakes from Huron Sites	73
12.	Hammers and Anvil Stones from Huron Sites	77
13.	Summary of Huron Lithics	79
14.	Worked Bone and Shell from Huron Sites	80
15.	Glass Trade Beads from BfGx-2	84
16.	Summary of Lithics from BfGx-5, BfGx-7 and BfGx-8	96
17.	Distribution of Rim Groups on Five Huron Village Sites	107
18.	Frequency and Percentage of Shoulder Shapes	110
19.	Frequency and Percentage of Shoulder Decorations	111
20.	Comparison of Site Attributes	122

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
1. Location of Park in Penetang Penninsula	5
2. Topographic Features in Methodist Point Park Reserve	6
3. Distribution of soil types in Methodist Park Reserve	8
4. Vegetational Communities in Methodist Park Reserve	10
5. Outline of Changing Vegetation since 10000 B.C.	12
6. Present Elevation of Post-Glacial Beaches and Lake Levels	14
Addendum - Extent and Intensity of Survey	21a
7. Site Locations	28
8. BfGx-1	30
9. BfGx-2	32
10. BfGx-3	35
11. BfGx-4 and BfGx-5	37
12. BfGx-5, Composite Floor Plan	38
13. BfGx-6	40
14. BeGx-11	43
15. BeGx-12	45
16. BeGx-13 - Profiles of Pits 1 and 2	47
17. BfHa-1	49
18. BfHa-4	51
19. Examples of Huron Ceramic Vessels	55
20. Ceramic Artifacts from Huron Sites	86
21. Lithic and Bone Artifacts from Huron Sites	87
22. Point Penninsula Vessel Number One	90
23. Point Penninsula Vessels Numbers Two to Four	91
24. Lithic Artifacts from BfGx-5	97
25. Lithic Artifacts from BfGx-5	98
26. General Chronology for South Central Ontario	101
27. Huron Developmental Stages	103

LIST OF FIGURES CON'T

FIGURE		PAGE
28.	Bar Graph of Rim Glass Percentages from Huron Villages	108
29.	Quartz Finds on Lake Nipissing Shoreline	117
30.	Pre-ceramic Site on Payette Phase Shoreline	120
31.	Cumulative Graph Comparing Huron X and BfGx-5 Lithics	123

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological survey of Methodist Point Park Reserve constitutes part of a resource evaluation programme conducted under the auspices of the Division of Parks, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Resource evaluation reports locate and assess the nature, importance and fragility of the various resources in a proposed park to provide planners with information which will guide park development and ensure that valuable features are not destroyed. This report represents the research portion of the archaeological resource evaluation.

Methodist Point Park Reserve is situated in Tiny Township, Simcoe County, Ontario. Although archaeologists have been fairly active in Simcoe County since the turn of the century, very little research had been carried out within the park until quite recently. Early investigators obtained their information on site locations from farmers who discovered artifacts while ploughing their fields. Most of the park area however, has never been cleared and thus was neglected. Although no sites had been recorded in the immediate area, the Reverend A.E. Jones, in 1908, calculated from the historic documents that the Huron village of Ihonatiria was situated in the area. The recently discovered seventeenth century map by Bressani also indicates that Ihonatiria was located in or near the present park (Heidenreich 1968).

The first archaeologist to report a visit to the area was Frank Ridley who, in 1949 accompanied by David Ouillette, inspected the site now known as the Gwynne site (BfHa-1). When Ridley returned in 1966 he found Mike Gwynne carrying out test

excavations on the site. Ridley and Gwynne concluded that BfHa-1 was a two component site with an early Huron or "Lalonde" village situated beside and partially overlapped by an historic Huron village. It was suggested that the historic component was a good candidate for the site of Ihonatiria.

Walter Kenyon of the Royal Ontario Museum tested the Gwynne site in 1968 and Kenyon and Gwynne carried out further independent surveys in the park. Two additional sites were discovered: the Second Lake site (BfGx-1) and the Methodist Point site (BfHa-2). The Second Lake site was reported as a large, prehistoric Huron village and the Methodist Point site as a large campsite with Iroquoian and possibly Middle Woodland components. Further details of these investigations can be found in Ridley (1966), Gwynne (1967, 1970, 1971) and Kenyon (1970).

The present report is the result of a survey and testing programme conducted by the author during the summers of 1972 and 1973. The purpose of the original 1972 project was to locate and assess the archaeological resources of the park. It was assumed that very few new sites would be discovered and that most of the season would be spent in further testing of the known sites. The survey methods developed for the project proved to be eminently successful and the discovery of twelve new sites revealed that the park contained an unexpected wealth of archaeological resources. In 1973, more intensive surveys were conducted in areas slated for park development and natural features where the results of the 1972 survey suggested that a higher site yield could be expected. Two more sites and several miscellaneous finds were located that season to bring the total number of known sites to seventeen (twenty components). Due to the large number of sites, only a limited amount of testing could be carried out on each one but these preliminary investigations suggest that human occupation of the area covers a possible time span of 11,000 years.

The seventeen sites and 17,000 artifacts recovered in test excavations are described, analysed and discussed in the following pages. Throughout the report, major emphasis has been

placed on the discussion of cultural change through time in the survey area and comparisons with data from other sources has been kept to a minimum. Due to the limited scope of the survey and the small samples collected, most of the conclusions drawn from the data should be regarded as hypotheses to be tested rather than proven fact.

Chapter II deals with background information including a description of the survey area and geological, biological and human history of the park. Survey methods are discussed in Chapter III, detailed site descriptions in Chapter IV and artifact descriptions in Chapter V. In Chapter VI, the functional and cultural identification of the sites is discussed including notes on temporal change and some comparisons of cultural adaptations. A general discussion of the cultural sequence in the Penetang Peninsula is reserved for the concluding chapter.

CHAPTER II

NATURAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING

Location and Description of the Park

Methodist Point Park Reserve is located on the northeastern corner of the Penetang Peninsula which projects into the south end of Georgian Bay (see map, Fig. 1.). The approximate centre of the park lies at $44^{\circ}50'$ North latitude and $80^{\circ}00'$ West longitude. The area of the park constitutes some 5,500 acres most of which is densely wooded with a young hardwood forest.

Topography

Glacial and post-glacial activities have played a significant role in the formation of the present landscape. The underlying Ordovician limestone bedrock was first covered with several hundred feet of glacial till which was subsequently molded by the waves of post-glacial lakes. Boulder fields, cobble beach lines, terraces and sand dunes were left throughout the park. The most spectacular feature, and the one which has had the most effect on the natural and human events to follow, is the Nipissing bluff.

Rising some 200 feet at the west boundary of the park, the bluff runs parallel to the Georgian Bay shoreline a few hundred feet inland and effectively divides the park into a well-drained, dry upland and a poorly-drained, wet lowland. Several springs issue from the bluff and beaver dams and natural depressions have produced swamps and ponds between the bluff and the shore. Most of the shore is rocky and/or swampy with a few narrow gravel beaches and only three substantial sand beaches: two on Methodist Point and one half-way eastwards towards Stoney Point (Fig. 2.).

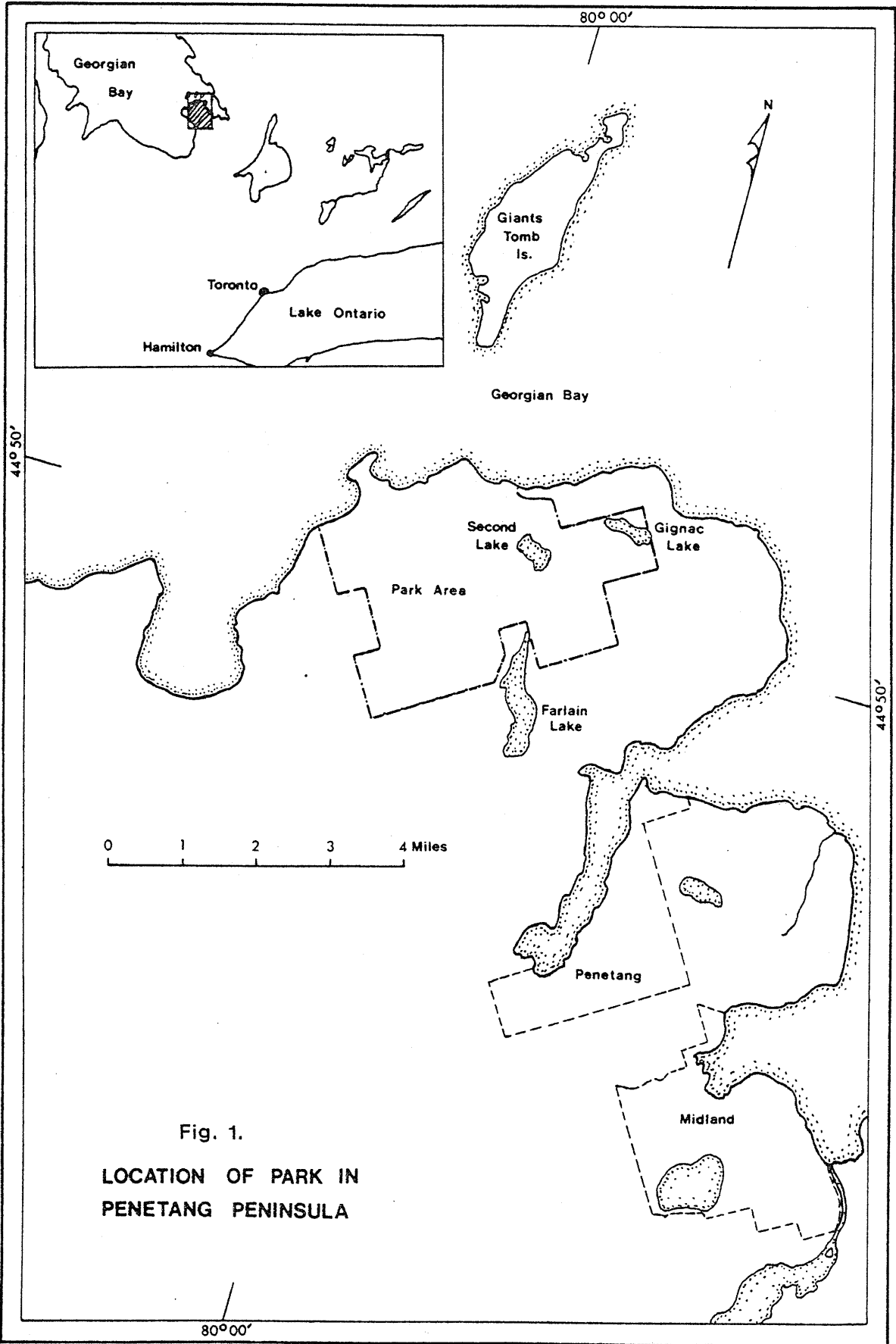
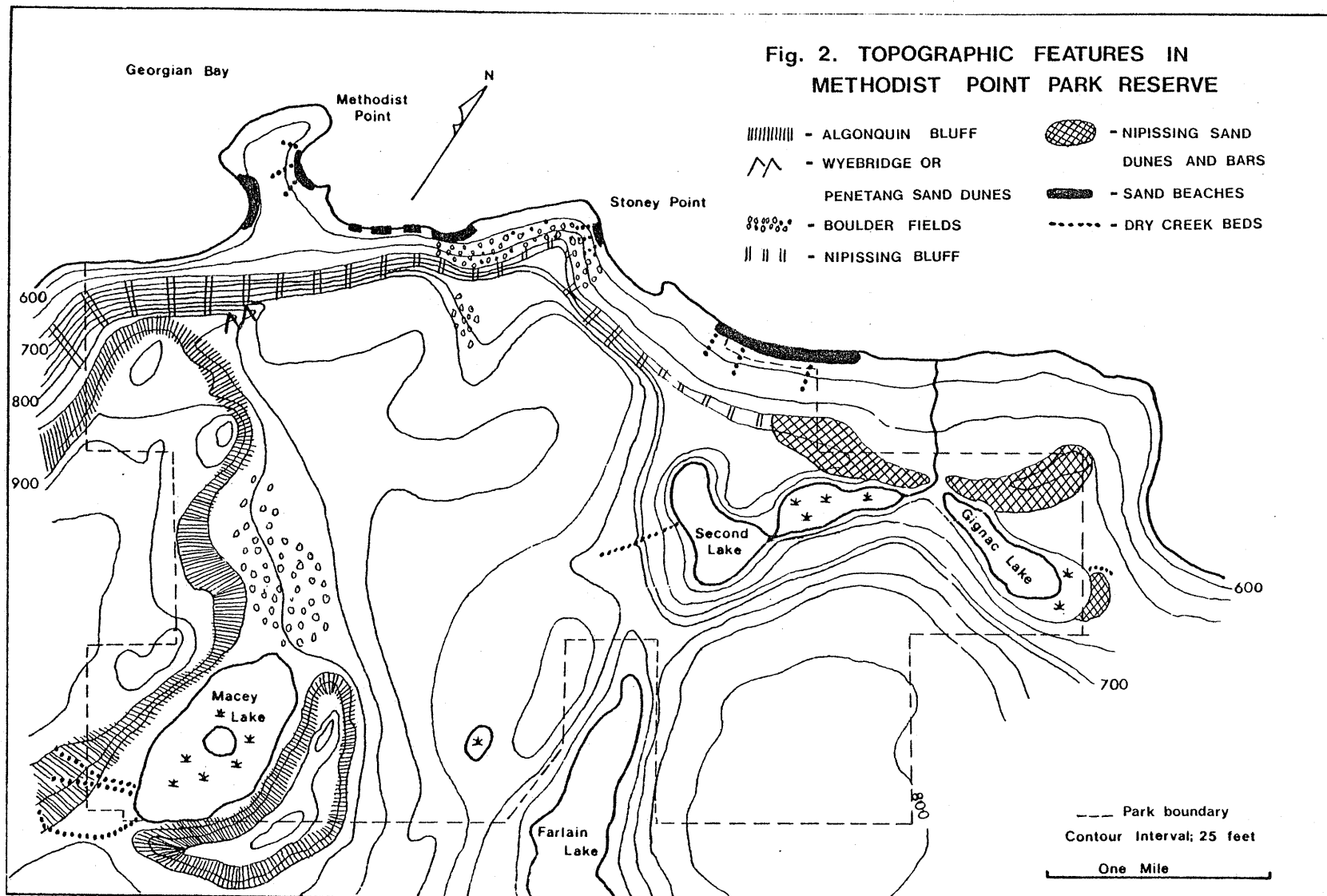


Fig. 1.
LOCATION OF PARK IN
PENETANG PENINSULA



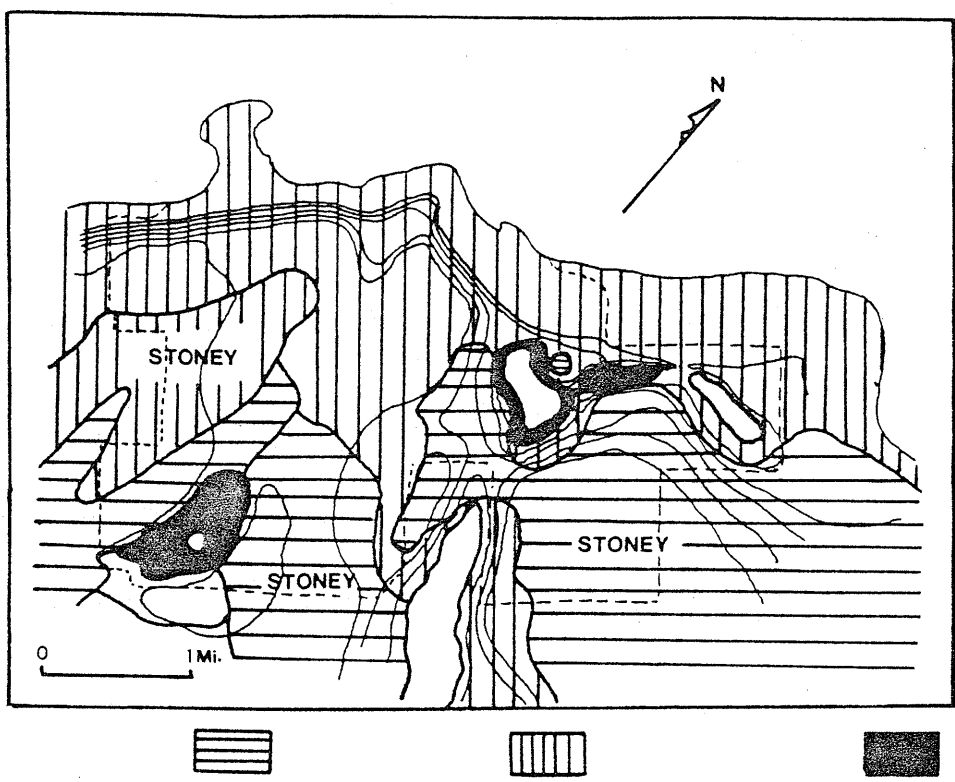
A major feature of the upland area is the lake system in the eastern half. Farlain and Second Lakes are situated in a preglacial valley which was subsequently filled with glacial debris. Second Lake and probably also Gignac Lake are thought to be kettle lakes, the result of slow melting ice blocks buried beneath the till (Burden and McAndrews 1973: 10-11). Beaver dams have flooded the shore lines of these two lakes creating swamps and marshes. Two additional kettle depressions are Macey Lake (bog) and a small bog just west of Farlain Lake.

Soils

Three soil series are present in the park, Vasey, Tioga, and Muck. The Vasey and Tioga soils are further subdivided into stoney and stone-free phases. Details of the soil types and their distribution are presented in Fig. 3. In general, the major soils are Grey-Brown Podzolic and Podzolic varying from slightly to moderately acidic. These soils are well-drained with a very low moisture holding capacity but they warm up early in the spring and are easily worked. The Vasey sandy loam is more fertile than the Tioga loamy sand but both are low in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (Hoffman, Wicklund and Richards 1962: 32-33, 43-45).

Climate

The climate of the area is described as a humid continental climate with cool summers and no dry season. The growing period (frost-free days) averages 126-154 days from mid-May to the third week in September (Culm 1973: 32). Details of temperature and precipitation are from Webber and Hoffman (n.d.).



	VASEY	TIOGA	MUCK
soil materials	light, grey calcareous and non-calcareous sandy loam till	grey, calcareous outwash sand	well decomposed organic material over 1 ft. deep underlain by rock, sand silt or clay
drainage	good	good	very poor
surface stoniness	moderate to very stoney	stonefree to moderately stoney	stonefree
surface reaction	slightly to medium acid	medium acid	neutral
great soil group	Grey-Brown Podzolic	Podzol	Organic

Fig. 3.
 Distribution of soil types in Methodist Point Park Reserve
 (modified after Hoffman, Wicklund and Richards 1962)