

Archaeology

Alive!



The Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site in Whitchurch-Stouffville

Explore and learn about this amazing Huron-Wendat archaeological site, uncovered in southeast Whitchurch-Stouffville between 2003 and 2005. Engage with artifacts on loan from the Canadian Museum of History and the Huron-Wendat Museum, a 3-D gaming experience, and oral histories from Huron-Wendat Nation members.

www.townofws.ca/waybackinws

July 2019 - June 2020
Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

14732 Woodbine Avenue | 905-727-8954

*Exhibit accessible during regular business hours.
General Admission applies. Additional donations gratefully accepted.*



An exhibition developed with artifacts on loan from the collection of the Canadian Museum of History.

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Jean-Baptiste Lainé site or Mantle site??

In 2002, at the time of excavation, it was common practice to name archaeological sites after the most recent landowner, in this case, the Mantle Family.



The Mantle siblings are pictured here with Grand Chief Konrad Sioui during the unveiling of a plaque honouring the Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site in 2017.

(L-R) Norma (Mantle) Keith, Stan Mantle, Grand Chief Konrad Sioui, Shirley (Mantle) Pogue

It is now best practice that ancestral sites be named by the appropriate Indigenous community that historically inhabited the site.

The “Mantle Site” name was officially changed in 2011 and reclaimed in honour of decorated Second World War Wendat Veteran, Jean-Baptiste Lainé (1918-2005).



Jean-Baptiste is pictured with his brothers. Joffre, Fernand, Robert, Jean-Baptiste (L-R).

Lainé returned to Canada from the United Kingdom in 1946 after having served four years with the Régiment de la Chaudière. He received the War Medal 1939-1945, the Voluntary Service Medal, and the Defense Medal.

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Stouffville 400 Years Ago!

Stouffville was once home to a remarkable late 16th-century Huron-Wendat community. It is considered one of the largest and most complex ever unearthed in Ontario!

- It was just south of what is now Byer's Pond Park.
- It may have had a population of 1,500 – 2,000 people.
- The village had wooden palisade walls surrounding 95 longhouses.
- War and lack of resources caused the abandonment of the area by the start of the 17th century.
- By 1651, a group of about 300 Huron-Wendat (and more the year after) decided to move to the St. Lawrence Valley. They occupied five different sites before settling in the village of Lorette (now called Wendake, Quebec) in 1697.

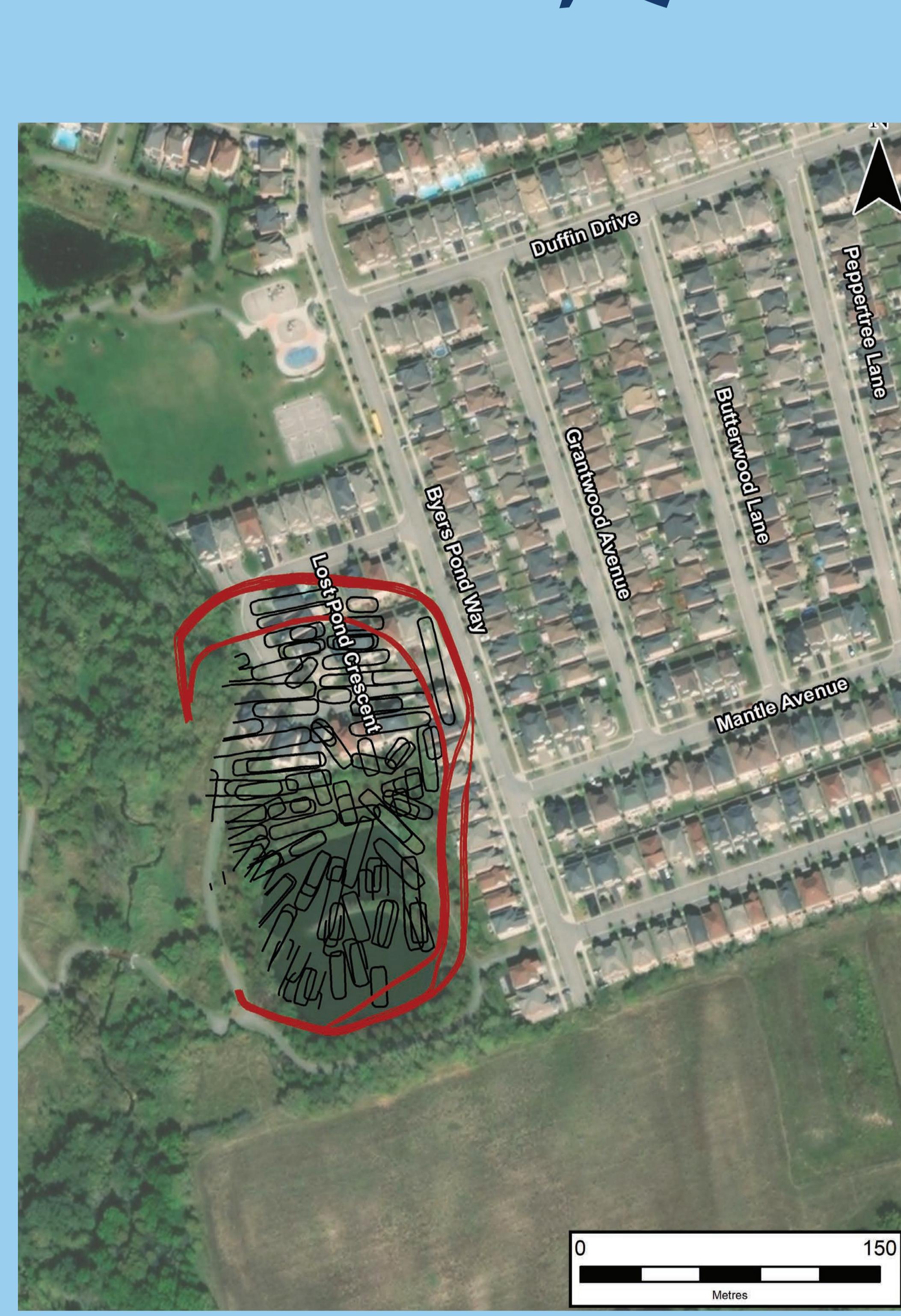


Plate 61: Effigy Zoomorphic (Cat. #12352)

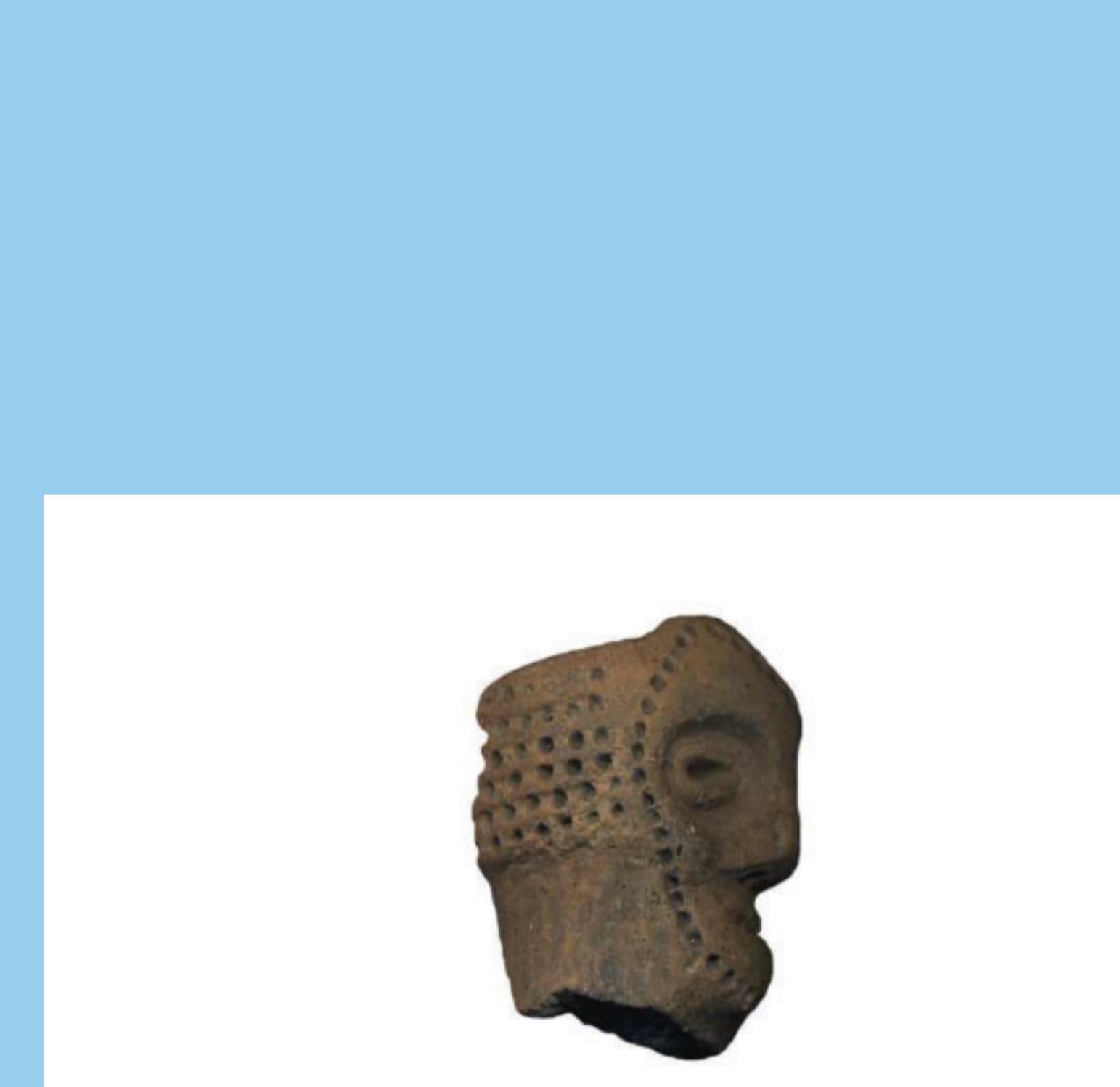


Plate 59: Effigy Anthropomorphic (Cat. #12350)

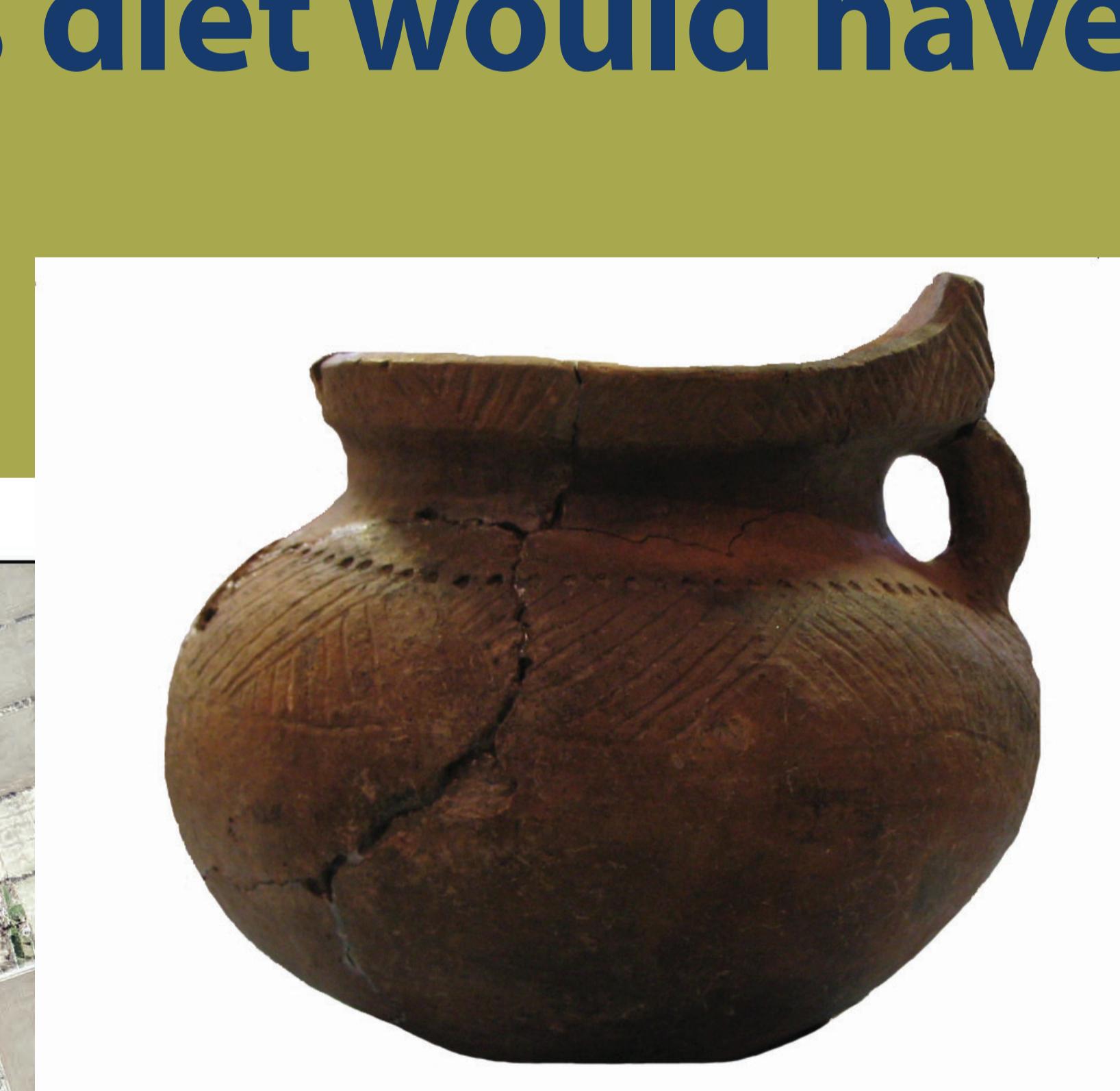
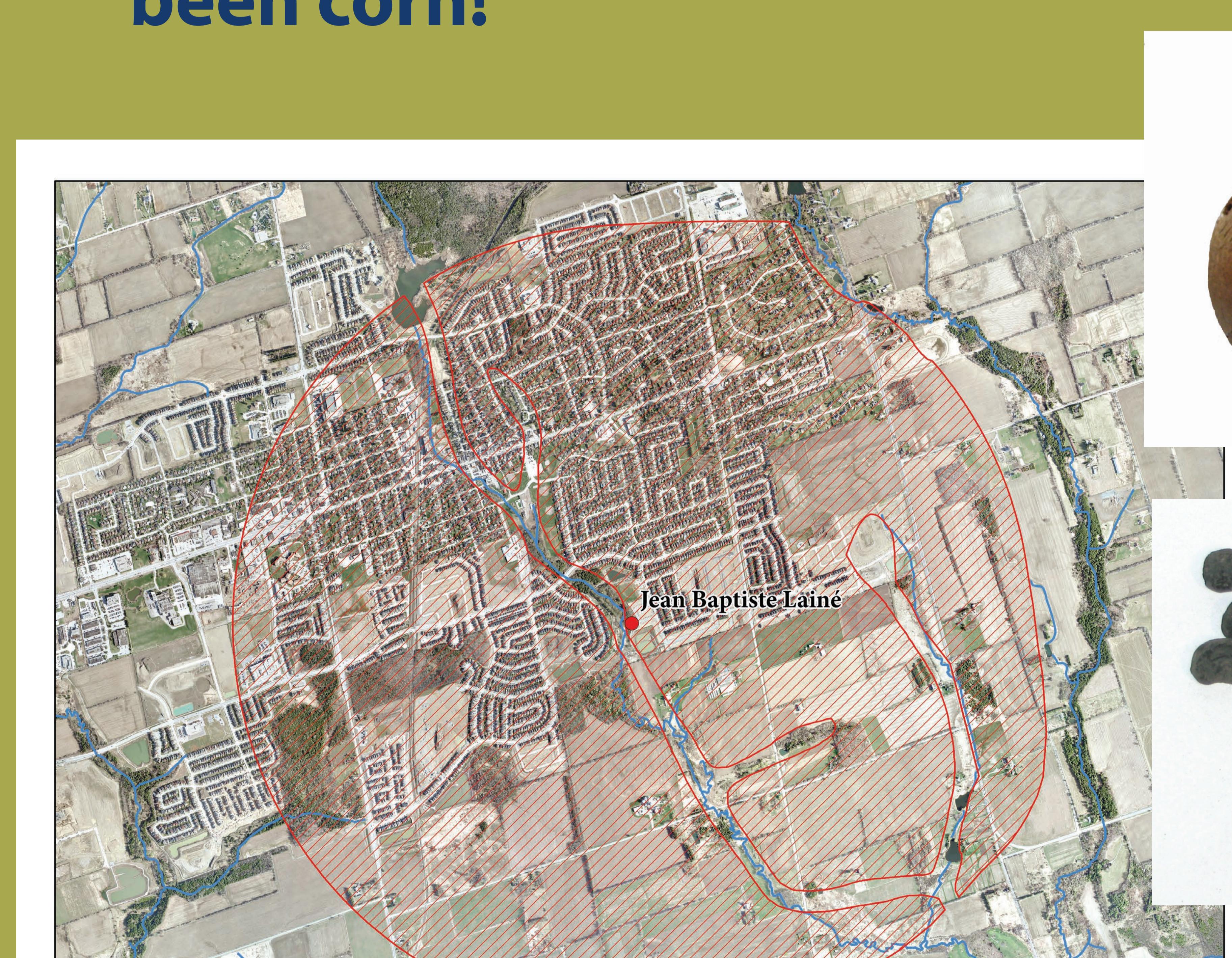
Effigies are sculptures created to represent living things, such as animals and humans. The two shown above, were among those uncovered at the site.

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Did you know Stouffville was once completely covered in corn fields?

- The staple food of the Huron-Wendat was corn, supplemented by beans and squash. These three plants were called “The Three Sisters.”
- The women of the community took care of this enormous farming task and would have done everything by hand.
- The corn cob fragments found on the Jean-Baptiste Lainé archaeological site were much smaller than our corn today. The corn cobs were between 5-6 inches long and had at most eight rows of kernels.
- When harvested, the corn was dried and stored in pits below the ground. It was usually prepared by grinding it with a stone and then cooking it with water to make a porridge, along with other preparations.
- Over 50% of the community’s diet would have been corn!



Carbonized corn kernels and a ceramic vessel uncovered at the site.

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