

THE WAY WE MOVE

# Historical Resources WALTERDALE BRIDGE FAQ

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## 1. What is the historical significance of the area near the Walterdale Bridge?

The area near the Walterdale Bridge (including the Rosedale Flats) has been considered a location of significant cultural resource and tradition for people from Edmonton's past history. In particular, the north bank area includes a Historic Period Cemetery compound within the legally designated Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground. The north bank area east of 105 Street also includes an interpretive belvedere which commemorates the historic cultural features of the area. Prehistoric period artifacts have been previously identified throughout the project area and, as part of this project, additional sites have been identified on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River that either have been or will be subject to mitigative measures as per the provincial Historical Resource Act requirements.

## 2. How has the Aboriginal community been consulted for this project?

The project team has been working closely with the City's Aboriginal Relations Office. Aboriginal consultation requirements toward Historic Resources Act clearance are set out by Alberta Culture and Community Services. Presently we are consulting with 21 Aboriginal communities throughout Alberta. Local Aboriginal communities consulted include Enoch First Nation, Papaschase and Michel Bands and the Métis Nation of Alberta. The project team has also gathered with Elders from local First Nations and Métis communities during the concept phase for their guidance on respectful approaches to the project. The stakeholder input panel assembled

for the project design and construction phase has representation from the First Nations. Additionally, there are open house events for the general public that members of the urban Aboriginal community in Edmonton may attend and provide input on the project.

### **3. Have any human remains or graves dating from before the Fur Trade Period (pre AD 1800) been recorded in the Project area?**

Human remains and grave features have been recorded on the north side of the river in the area of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground dating to the Fur Trade Period (19th century AD) only. Many of these have been documented while the location of many others is not entirely understood, particularly those subject to previous impact. The Walterdale Bridge replacement project will not impact any known burial locations. The Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground includes locations known to contain human remains amidst extensive industrial fill. Although discovery of human remains is unlikely, a protocol which respects input from Aboriginal communities is being developed to respectfully deal with the uncovering of human remains if this occurs.

### **4. Have any archaeological sites dating to before the Fur Trade Period (pre AD 1800) been recorded in the Project area?**

Yes, pre-Fur Trade Period artifacts have been found in the Project area in isolation and in small scatters. Although small, a well-preserved campsite was subject to study in 2009 (2009-030) near the project area dating to 2,010-2,030 years before present.

### **5. Has there been any prior archaeological assessment / study carried out in the Project area? When, Where, Results?**

Yes, 22 archaeological assessments have been carried out near and in the project area since

1967, most recently related to the new Queen Elizabeth Pool, the decommissioning of the EPCOR's Power Station and the present Walterdale Bridge replacement project. Each of these is identified by a unique permit number and these reports are on file with the Historic Resources Management Branch at Alberta Culture and Community Services. The permit number for the present Walterdale Bridge Replacement project is 2011-125. This location is subject to cultural resource management requirements under the Historic Resources Act by Alberta Culture and Community Services.

### **6. Has there been any prior attempt to locate human remains or graves in the Project area? When, Where, Results?**

Yes, numerous ground penetrating radar studies have been carried out in the project area in the vicinity of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Grounds. An archaeological study carried out in 2007 (2007-24) assessed several of these locations, and no human remains or grave features were found where testing was carried out. Also during this study numerous grave locations were identified by a participating stakeholders group of which 49 were subject to subsurface investigation. No human remains or grave features were identified where testing was carried out.

### **7. Who manages the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground?**

The facility is owned and maintained by the City of Edmonton and is subject to Provincial legislation.

### **8. Has traditional Aboriginal ceremony and knowledge played a part in the Project?**

Yes, the community has played a part in the project. There was an Elders Gathering and pipe ceremony in October 2010, which was conducted and managed by the Elders in cooperation with the City's Aboriginal Relations Office. First Nations and Metis communities are also being consulted and asked for their input and recommendations regarding the project.

## **9. Has there been any archaeological assessment / study carried out in the area related to the current Project? When, Where, Results?**

Archaeological investigations on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River related to the present Walterdale Bridge Replacement project have identified three sites where pre-Fur Trade Period artifacts are located. Management and/or mitigative plans for these sites (FjPj-108, 109 and 110) are currently under development. Further information can be obtained from the project team and the project archaeologist.

## **10. Where have human remains been found on the Rosssdale flats?**

Both intact grave features and previously disturbed human remains have been found in the area of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground. Previously disturbed human remains have been recovered from overburden deposits in the area of the Bellamy Substation operated by EPCOR. Anecdotal evidence suggests human remains have been recovered from other locations as well although details and locations are unclear.

## **11. Why is the amendment to the legal boundary of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground being proposed?**

The north egress roadway from the new Walterdale Bridge falls within the legal boundary of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground. The City recognizes and values the traditional and historic significance of the burial ground and historic period cemetery compound located adjacent to the Walterdale Bridge Replacement project area and is taking proactive steps to minimize impacts. The historic period cemetery compound and memory circle within the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground will not be impacted by the cemetery boundary amendment. However the interpretive belvedere, currently located at the edge of the north river bank, which commemorates the historical cultural features of the area will

require relocation. This area is one of cultural sensitivity and requires provincial Historical Resource Act (HRA) clearance, including a Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA). Any previously disturbed human remains identified through archaeological testing in the amendment area (although unlikely), will be subject to appropriate treatment and interment protocols related to the identification of previously disturbed or intact human remains. The relocation of the interpretive belvedere will also be conducted following a separate consultation process in order to determine the new location for the features. Consultation is underway and will continue with regard to both the belvedere relocation and cemetery boundary amendment proposal.

## **12. How will you ensure that construction work for the new bridge and realigned roadway will protect historical resources?**

There will be ongoing consultation throughout the project with key stakeholder groups specifically for these reasons. A comprehensive investigation plan including overburden stripping, sorting and construction monitoring in combination with pre-construction historical resources impact assessment has been developed and is required for Historic Resources Act clearance (File #4715-10-045).

## **13. What will you do if human remains are found during the course of this project?**

All construction activities in the immediate area will stop. Immediate investigation will be initiated by the monitoring archaeologist and will involve the Edmonton Police Service, Provincial Coroner's Office, the Historic Resource Management Branch of the Government of Alberta and the Aboriginal Relations Office, City of Edmonton. The City is currently developing a protocol that will ensure the appropriate treatment and spiritual protocols regarding human remains are adhered to. This protocol is currently being developed in association with the 21 Aboriginal communities included in the Aboriginal consultation process as well as local stakeholders.

## **14. Where is the existing boundary of the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground?**

The legal boundary for the Fort Edmonton Cemetery and Traditional Burial Ground was set in 2005 through the Alberta Cemeteries Act and is bounded by 105 Street, Rosssdale Road, the EPCOR site, and the North Saskatchewan River. This boundary includes the Historic Period Cemetery compound, the Memory Circle, the Reinterment Area, intact flood plain deposits and areas of extensive 20th century AD industrial infill. The exact boundary of the Historic Period Cemetery compound has not been fully determined and is currently based on the excavation of sections of a rectangular fenced enclosure. This enclosure is believed to represent the 19th century AD Fort Edmonton Cemetery fence line.

## **15. Where exactly will you be doing work on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River?**

The west edge of the new north end of the bridge will abut to the east edge of the existing Walterdale bridge. The new bridge will cross the River at an angle, more closely aligning with 105 Street to the north. The new roadwork at the north end of the new bridge will tie into existing 105 Street south of River Valley Road/Rosssdale Road, without disturbance to the Historic Period Cemetery compound, the Memory Circle, and the Reinterment Area.

## **16. Will our access to the Memory Circle area be restricted during construction?**

Access will be maintained from the north side to the Memory Circle area.