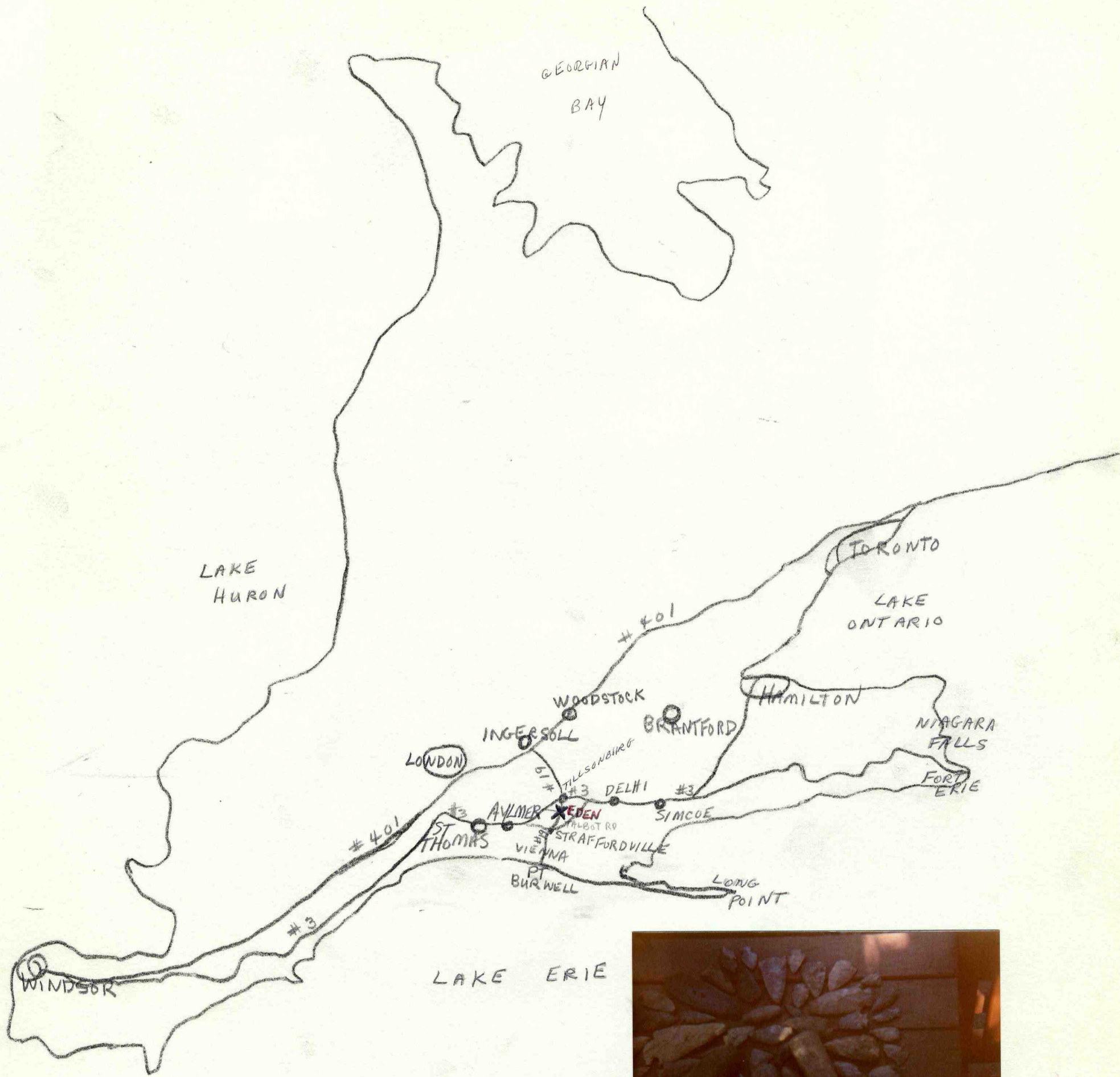


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INDIAN ARTIFACTS



### Ancient shoreline

Joe Jaeger's house sits on the top of a moraine that marks the edge of a glacial lake. The Ridge Road runs along the top of the ridge, the first road built through the area. The land was covered by tundra

10,000 or 12,000 years ago, and wandering hunters followed caribou along the northern shores of the lake. A Clovis type point was found by Mr. Jaeger on a high knoll to the northwest of the house, tangible evidence of the early hunters. The flat fields in the foreground were under the waters of the lake.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND IMPORTANT KEY TO PAST OF EARLY INHABITANTS

BY Ross Andrews (Tillsonburg News May 2, 1984)

Over a period of 25 years, Joe Jaeger has picked up quite a number of flint arrowheads, skinning stones, and bits of pottery dropped by aboriginal inhabitants of Lots 18 and 19, south half of Concession 8 in Bayham Township. When he found another one on a high knoll about 10 years ago, he was not aware of its importance to the archaeological record. He put it with the rest of his collection where it was noticed by Lyal Tait, an ardent amateur archaeologist from Port Burwell. Lyal Tait knew it was unusual, but he too didn't know the whole story. When he realized the partial point was of the Clovis design, he returned to have a second look. In the meantime, Joe had mislaid the artifact. When it turned up recently, he contacted Lyal, who has temporary possession of it.

Clovis points were used by the Paleo-Indians for hunting caribou. The flint is fluted in a unique way to fit into the end of a dart some four to five feet long. The dart was hurled by a stick called an atlatl. Clovis points appear in the levels dating to about 11,000 or 12,000 years ago, and ending with the invention of the bow and arrow about 8,000 years ago. The caribou hunters in Bayham then were migrant and may have been only a small band, possibly a family, passing through. The Jaeger farm is crossed by a moraine marking the margin of a glacial lake during the late Pleistocene Epoch. The caribou fed on lichens and mosses that grew right up to the foot of the retreating glaciers. The few Clovis points found in Ontario have all been associated with the beaches of these lakes. The broken point is important to the story. It is common to find only broken Clovis points because the sharp end usually broke off when the projectile struck something. The most commonly found fragments are the parts left with the wooden shaft. The piece picked up by Joe was evidently in use, and not just carried to the site by someone, Indian or other, as a souvenir.

## Archaeological Find page 2

The notched arrowheads and spearheads that make up almost all of any local collection are from the bow and arrow markers, known as the Archaic Culture. They have all been made during the past 8,000 years. The type of flint from which they are made gives a clue to their age. The Port Franks outcrop of flint used by the most recent people was deep under water in the Paleo-Indian days.

While the ice covered the St. Lawrence and Niagara areas, the waters of the much larger Lake Erie reached the Atlantic by way of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. When the ice melted away, the lakes shrunk to the present Great Lakes.

Ancient Shoreline - Joe Jaeger's house sits on the top of a moraine that marks the edge of a glacial lake. The Ridge Road runs along the top of the ridge, the first road built through the area. The land was covered by tundra 10,000 or 12,000 years ago, and wandering hunters followed caribou along the northern shores of the lake. The Clovis point was found on a high knoll to the northwest of the house, tangible evidence of the early hunters. The flat fields in the foreground south of the house were under the waters of the lake. Joe Jaeger has collected a large number of artifacts over a period of 25 years. Most came from Lots 18 and 19 Concession 8 in Bayham. He holds a counter stone used, according to Lyal Tait for gambling by the natives. Evidently Lottario and Wintario are nothing new to this part of the world. It took nearly ten years to learn that one of the projectile points found by Mr. Jaeger set the earliest inhabitants of Bayham back perhaps 2,000 years to the Paleo-Indian cultural era.

The total length of the Clovis point would have been from seven to twelve centimeters. The views show each side and the cross section at the break. It is the fluted shape that sets the Clovis type apart from later arrowheads. No recent cultures made these points, which are delicately thin to fit into the wooden darts for hurling with the atlatl at caribou and other fleet-footed animals. The rare fragment was picked up on a high sand knoll. *NOT A CLOVIS POINT ACCORDING TO EXPERT.*

A villager just east of the village near Mr. Jaeger's house and close beside the Ridge Road holds some arrowheads also. A stone tool used, according to Mr. Tait, for chopping away the charred wood to form a dugout canoe. The tool was made to hold in one hand, without a wooden handle, and chop while the smouldering fire was fanned with the other hand. This adz-like tool was found on Lot 27, Concession 8 in Bayham and was turned up by a rototiller in Mr. Ardell's garden. The tool was used by people of the Archaic culture who lived in the forest that followed the ice age tundra.