

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEME PARKS, PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY,  
AND LIVING MUSEUMS: PROSPECTS FOR THE UPPER GREAT  
LAKES REGION**

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**ABSTRACT**

The development and management of heritage sites, including prehistorical and historical archaeological sites, trading posts and aboriginal traditional-use sites, is of interest to governments for their potential in the fields of tourism, youth employment and economic development. In Canada, the issues of rights, ownership and management decisions for such sites are still in contention as multiple cultures (Aboriginal, French, English) may have occupied and used these sites either successively or concurrently. The First Nations often have some claim to these sites as they are of the original culture, but the government ministries at national and provincial levels maintain some control via heritage legislation. Increasingly, the First Nations are exercising their claim to a voice in the development of such heritage resources, and co-management agreements appear to be the most successful arrangements. Examples of successfully co-managed projects will be evaluated with respect to future development in the cultural heritage sector and the prospects for a World Heritage site designation in the Great Lakes region will be examined.

**RÉSUMÉ**

Le développement et la gestion de sites patrimoniaux, comprenant les sites archéologiques préhistoriques et historiques, les forts et comptoirs et

les sites autochtones traditionnels, sont d'un grand intérêt pour les gouvernements en raison de leur potentiel de développement touristique et économique ainsi que de création d'emplois pour les jeunes. Dans le contexte canadien, les droits et les décisions relatives à la propriété et à la gestion de tels sites ne sont pas définis avec précision puisque plusieurs cultures (autochtone, française, anglaise) peuvent avoir occupé et utilisé ces sites successivement ou simultanément. En tant que culture d'origine, les Premières Nations revendiquent souvent des droits sur ces sites, mais les gouvernements tant national que provinciaux gardent toutefois un certain contrôle par l'entremise de leur politique du patrimoine. Les Premières Nations s'impliquent cependant de plus en plus dans le développement de ces ressources patrimoniales, et les accords de cogestion semblent être couronnés de succès. Cette présentation évaluera des exemples de cogestion réussie en tenant compte du développement futur dans le secteur du patrimoine culturel et examinera les perspectives de création d'un site de Patrimoine Mondial dans la région des Grands Lacs.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The upper Great Lakes region is unique with respect to natural ecological and cultural heritage. The north shores of the world's largest lakes, Huron and Superior, remain in relatively pristine condition, with low population levels. There are numerous unique natural features and archaeological sites, some of which date back to 10 000 years ago. Unfortunately, despite its ecological and cultural richness, the region is plagued by unemployment problems, particularly for youth, and by the boom-bust economies of single-industry, resource-based towns and cities. Alternative forms of sustainable economic development are desired, with tourism (particularly ecotourism) considered a key priority by governments. However, traditional forms of tourism are also changing, since people now wish to experience and learn more about nature and traditional and past cultures in a more direct way. This can take various forms, including nature science camps, living museums and similar interpretive centres with hands-on involvement. There have been some difficulties in developing and maintaining such facilities in Northern Ontario, and some of these problems will be considered. In addition, the possibility of having some areas or all of the Great Lakes region designated as a World Heritage site will be evaluated, along with the positive and negative aspects of such development on local

communities. The process of application will be considered with respect to an Action Plan, as well as potential locations for viable interpretive sites and living museums.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

This paper will first explore the opportunities which exist in the upper Great Lakes in the field of heritage resources both natural and cultural, within protected areas such as provincial and national parks as well as outside, along with the potential for archaeological theme parks and/or living museums along the North Shore. Archaeologists at Laurentian University are often contacted by local governments and economic development organizations across Northern Ontario for information on and assistance in feasibility studies for the development of interpretive centres, living museums and other similar projects. For example, several years ago the Economic Development office of Mattice (Near Kapuskasing) approached us to examine the feasibility of reconstructing Fort Wapiscogamy (the old Brunswick House), an early 18th Century Hudson's Bay Company fur-trade post on the Missinaibi River system, whose archaeological and historical significance stems from its being one of the first inland Hudson's Bay Company trading posts.

We examined the historical and archaeological remains, conducted an archival study, and made various recommendations in line with the relatively modest scale of the original post (Julig, 1995). Economic development consultants from a Toronto firm estimated at over one million dollars the total development costs to build a modest reconstruction and interpretive centre where the Missinaibi River crosses Highway 11. Because of the relatively high costs of development and the modest proposed revenues, the economics were not feasible and the plans were put on hold.

It is useful to note several other similar examples, closer to Sudbury. There was an attempt several years ago to build an interpretive centre at the Sheguiandah site, one of the oldest archaeological sites in the region, ca. 9500 years old, located in the village of Sheguiandah on Manitoulin Island (Julig et al., 1994). The work started as a project cosponsored by the Economic Development office of Little Current, the First Nations of Sheguiandah and of Sucker Creek, with participants from the Royal Ontario Museum and Laurentian University and managed by a consulting company,

Archaeological Services Inc. from Toronto. An archaeological Master Plan was drawn up for the Sheguiandah site and the surrounding areas (Robertson and Williamson, 1992). This was a true multidisciplinary research project, and the Laurentian and ROM contributors conducted archaeological work and involved geologists who studied the sediments, dated the site and resolved the outstanding issue of when the site was first occupied. Though it had been proposed by an earlier researcher (Lee, 1957) that it may have been used as early as 30 000 years ago, our studies placed the first human use of the site at ca. 9 500 years ago (Julig et al., 1994). The Master Plan also examined many other sites in the area and local Native people were interviewed during the process of recording traditional-use sites. After this considerable background feasibility work, tourism consultants conducted additional studies on the possibility of building an interpretive centre, but again the cost was high and the plans were shelved.

Since 1996, the Anthropology Department of Laurentian University has been holding biannual field schools in North Bay, as part of the La Vase River Archaeological Project (Julig, 1998). The sites involved are at the main portage route that connects Lake Nipissing with the Ottawa River system, vital in the era of the fur trade. The project has involved the participation of a group of our Laurentian University students who, every two years, carry on archaeological work for course credits, as well as public archaeology, with the participation of local school groups and tourists. The City of North Bay has considered the possibility of an interpretive centre and living museum as part of the Heritage North concept, including the rebuilding of Fort Laronde. It remains to be seen whether this will happen.

These examples demonstrate the considerable interest in heritage shown at several levels (local community groups, local government, University, students, First Nations, tourists, etc.). Feasibility studies have been done on a range of regional heritage projects, but then the projects are often shelved because of cost constraints. These local cultural/heritage development initiatives continue to emerge, and are clearly of interest to a broad segment of society. However we need to find ways to pursue these initiatives and to develop them. Possibly this can be done on a modest scale, by switching the main focus from buildings and structures, with their accompanying high costs, to a range of more modest objectives which can be accomplished within a co-management framework. With that view in mind, the development of living museums should be considered.

## 2. HERITAGE RESOURCES, TOURISM AND THE LIVING MUSEUM CONCEPT

As the public becomes more educated and well-travelled, there develops an increasing curiosity about the past, whether it be human history and prehistory or natural/environmental history. This interest extends beyond national boundaries, beyond our own culture (Goodall, 1997; Johnson and Haider, 1993; Krugler, 1991; Peers, 1996). It is reflected in Canada in heritage legislation at the provincial level (such as the Ontario Heritage Act), national level (Historical sites, managed by Parks Canada) and international level (World Heritage sites, designated by a branch of UNESCO).

With traditional tourism pursuits undergoing changes and ecotourism on the rise, tourism, world-wide, has become a key aspect of economic development strategies. The term ecotourism may be somewhat overused and misunderstood, but essentially people like to travel and want to be educated with the appropriate materials (books and other literature, electronic media), but also wish to become involved in some hands-on physical activities. Traditionally, static interpretive centres, displays and museums have served this role, but increasingly the public is demanding more, including greater participation. This can range from simply walking along trails viewing wildlife or *in situ* remains (such as dinosaur bones at Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta), to actually participating in research (for example, public archaeology) and experiencing other, often traditional, cultural practices and learning how things were done in the past. Tourists seek experiences and memories that increasingly involve doing rather than simply viewing or taking photographs.

A brief review and reflection on the changing nature of museums is useful in this respect. Museums initially began as private collections of artifacts and natural curiosities. This gradually led to the development of public museums by the end of the 18th Century (Collier and Tschopik, 1954). The types of displays in museums gradually changed and developed along with the presentation of anthropological knowledge (Ewers, 1955). Then, the graphic presentation of materials in magazines and later on T.V. and in colour motion pictures made the traditional museum presentation widely available to the general public, and the number of traditional museum visitors dwindled.

Museums reacted by using new modern exhibition approaches such

as ethnological exhibits and eventually the living museum concept was developed (De Coeur, 1999) and has become one of the major methods by which people learn about history. Historic towns, villages and plantations are recreated, built according to the best available architectural, historical and archaeological data (Krugler, 1991). Here, as opposed to the traditional museum, the exhibits and activities are commonly built into terrain which enhances the museum's function, and this terrain or location can add an enlivening aspect to the museum experience (Newcomb, 1979).

Normally, the living museum concept will involve the recreation of settlements and material remains along with cultural and traditional pursuits. Since numerous cultures may be involved, co-management is normally required for a successful endeavour. First Nations are involved in the development and ongoing operations at archaeological parks in Saskatchewan and Alberta, for example at "Head-Smashed-In", a UNESCO-designated World Heritage site, south of Calgary, where, over a period of seven thousand years, buffalo were stampeded over a cliff.

An example familiar to many in the Great Lakes region is old Fort William, a reconstructed fur-trade post in Thunder Bay, where numerous activities, ranging from the arrival of the voyageurs in large freighter canoes to blacksmithing, are conducted by interpreters. There are various levels of public involvement at living museums. For instance, at some of the sites noted, tourists are not permitted to help at making a birch-bark canoe, or experience a sweat lodge, or actually dig up a dinosaur bone or a prehistoric pot. However, there is considerable potential, across the upper Great Lakes region, for developing sites, both as living museums operating through all seasons or as traditional cultural heritage interpretive centers, where students and visitors could become involved.

### **3. DESIGNATION OF THE UPPER GREAT LAKES AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE?**

Before discussing specific regional sites and opportunities for living museum sites in the region, we will consider the designation of the upper Great Lakes as a World Heritage site, examining the process of designation itself and the possible advantages and disadvantages involved. Millions of tourists visit archaeological sites around the world. To protect such clearly world-class heritage treasures, such as the Great Pyramids of Egypt, for

example, the World Heritage Convention was established under the direction of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Cameron, 1972). After a first convention, in 1965, to establish international recognition and protection of both cultural and natural heritage sites, the World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972. It was established as:

"a trust for the world heritage that would be responsible to the world community for (...) efforts to identify, establish, develop and manage the world's important cultural and natural sites for the present and future benefit of the international community. (Lutyk, 1987, p.6)".

The convention, now with a membership of over 130 countries, seeks to compile a directory of outstanding cultural and natural sites (Treaty Series, 1987: p.6), and currently (end of 1998), there are 582 sites on the World Heritage list. There is an application process to UNESCO to be followed and in order to qualify "each prospective entry must celebrate mankind's creative genius or demonstrate the natural diversity of our planet" (Lutyk, 1987: p.6). Essentially, World Heritage sites, considered precious with respect to world heritage, are those cultural and natural sites whose loss or destruction because of human activities would represent an irreparable loss to all of mankind.

In Canada, there are 12 designated World Heritage sites, but none in the Great Lakes region; however others could (and should) be developed. There are four in Atlantic Canada and eight in Western Canada. Surprisingly there are none between Quebec City and the Alberta border. Though the Great Lakes area is a unique system of the largest freshwater lakes in the world, even though it possesses a unique natural and cultural heritage, there are as yet no sites designated in that area.

I will briefly review some of Canada's 12 World Heritage sites. In Eastern Canada, on the northern tip of Newfoundland, is the site of L'Anse aux Meadows, the first Viking settlement in the Americas, a site about a thousand years old, reconstructed by Parks Canada. Tourists drive all the way to the tip of Newfoundland in order to visit the site and since it's a reconstruction, tourists can't participate in excavation or ongoing work but can visit and experience the unique setting.

There are three other sites in Eastern Canada, including Gros Morne

National Park, in western Newfoundland, significant for its huge gorges and plate tectonics geological processes. Other sites include Old Lunenburg in Nova Scotia, and historic Quebec City. To summarize, in Eastern Canada, we have one natural geological, one archeological and two historical World Heritage sites.

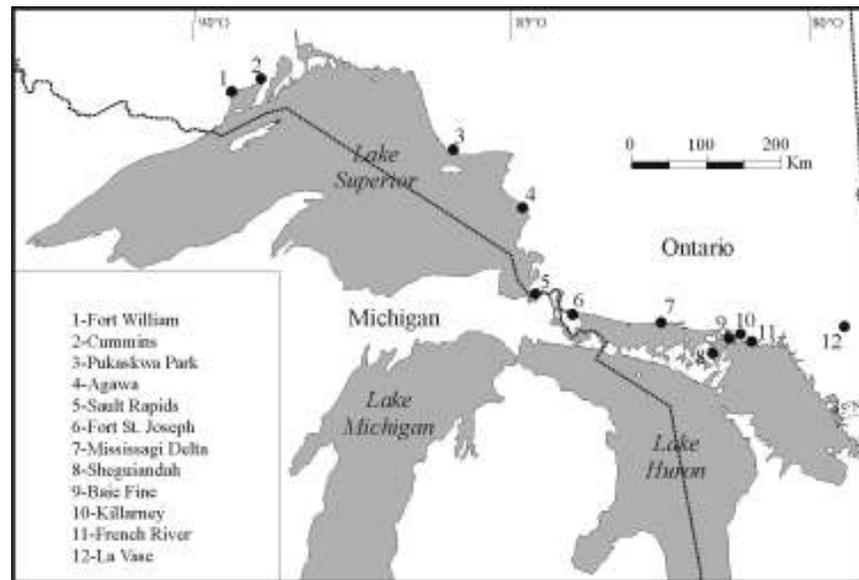
In Western Canada, there are eight World Heritage sites, mainly natural heritage sites, including Kluane Park, Nahanni Park, Wood Buffalo National Park, Waterton Lakes, Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks and Dinosaur Provincial Park. There are also two cultural heritage sites, the "Head-Smashed-In" Buffalo Jump archaeology site and the Haida site, Sgaang Gwaii, a very beautiful place with spectacular carved totem poles, at the southern tip of the Queen Charlotte Archipelago. To summarize, there are two cultural heritage/archaeological World Heritage sites in Western Canada.

However, a World Heritage site designation can cause problems: the impact of too many tourists on the local environment is quite significant. It may adversely affect local environment and residents, so the development of any such site must involve all affected parties. A good example of a well-developed co-management initiative is "Head-Smashed-In", the Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre, south of Calgary. This is a site, used from prehistoric right up into historic times over a period of about seven thousand years, where bison were stampeded over the cliff. A costly development, at about six to seven million dollars for an interpretive centre and living museum, the site is built right into the cliff kill-site, and visitors can view the various stratified bison bone deposits, examine the finds and interpretive displays and "walk through the past" to see how the buffalo were hunted and learn about the way of life of the Plains First Nations people. Tourists also have an opportunity to see the current as well as past involvement of the First Nations people and to view and participate in the archaeology and excavations in progress.

In terms of world-class heritage sites, we have designated relatively few in Canada. Somewhat surprisingly, there are none in the Great Lakes area. We propose the designation of the upper Great Lakes region as a mixed site, one with a unique cultural and natural heritage. There are currently about twenty such designated mixed sites around the world. We feel that the process of designating, either the entire upper Great Lakes in both USA and Canada or only the North Shore of these lakes as a World Heritage mixed

site, would assist the process of recognition and protection of the cultural and natural heritage and the developing of archaeological sites as interpretive centres and/or living museums. Selected examples are shown on Figure 1. An Action Plan below summarizes various possibilities towards this end.

**Figure 1: Geographic Area**



#### **4. THE UPPER GREAT LAKES REGION AND SELECTED HERITAGE SITES**

Which aspects of the North Shore from Thunder Bay to Georgian Bay would warrant a World Heritage designation as both a cultural and natural heritage mixed site? It is certainly a beautiful and relatively pristine natural area, and both the natural and cultural heritage of the North Shore are quite unique. Some archaeological sites from the western Lake Superior-Thunder Bay area to the Georgian Bay-Manitoulin Island area are shown in Figure 1. Sites range from the Palaeoindian period of ca. 9 500 to 10 000 years ago (Sheguiandah site on Manitoulin, Cummins site near Thunder Bay), to the rock-art sites such as Agawa and the fur-trade era sites such as old Fort William to the west, St. Joseph Island, and La Vase in North Bay, to name several key locations.

Certainly old Fort William in Thunder Bay is a major tourist draw. A reconstructed fur-trade era village, it is a successful example of a living museum, with work progressing on the building of traditional fur-trade canoes, voyageurs arriving at the fort and even a First Nations component to indicate their partnership in the fur trade. All in all, a recreation of what life was like at old Fort Kaministiquia. Worked into the recreated village are even opportunities for children to become involved, since one of the important aspects of living museums is that they be for all ages.

There are also many early archaeological sites along the North Shore of the upper Great Lakes, sites that have been uplifted by the rising land, that is, by isostatic uplift after the retreat of the glaciers. I spent three years excavating sites in the Thunder Bay region, studying the Palaeoindian (initial) peoples of the region (Julig, 1995). Just north of the city of Thunder Bay, there is a large concentration of sites, dating to around 9 500 years ago, along an ancient higher-level beach of proglacial Lake Minong. Some of the sites are three to five kilometers in extent, huge sites by all standards for this time period of the Palaeoindians. Unfortunately, some of them have been used as gravel pits and were destroyed when gravel extraction was carried on. Such is the case with the Cummins site where a cremation burial ground, dating from around 8 500 years ago, was removed. On these sites, we excavated many stone artifacts including spear points dating to between eight and ten thousand years ago, even some of Hixton silicified sandstone from distant sources such as ancient quarries in west-central Wisconsin, as far away as seven hundred kilometers to the south.

Cummins is such a large site that certainly many people could get involved in excavating it. It really needs work, it's tremendously large, it's right next to an urban area, and would be the kind of location that could serve as a long-term archaeological park to put students to work and to involve tourists in a public archaeology program.

In the Georgian Bay area, there are similar Palaeoindian quarry workshop and habitation sites. On Manitoulin Island and in the Killarney Park area, Palaeoindians were living and quarrying stone to make artifacts around 9 500 years ago, when the Great Lakes' water levels were higher. Like the Cummins site, these sites are situated where specific high-quality geological raw material (stone, in this case white quartzite) was available for their tools. The Sheguiandah site, for example, a quarry/workshop site at the town of Sheguiandah, is located on an outcrop of white Bar River Formation

quartzite, and along the south side of the hill, an area of over twenty hectares is completely covered with artifacts.

The Sheguiandah site is well-known as an early site in Canadian and American archaeological circles and to some extent in Europe. Excavations are urgently needed. Many people would like to be able to tour the site and/or participate in excavations. This would be a prime candidate for a World Heritage archaeological site and as part of a mixed site regional complex.

## **5. LA VASE SITES IN NORTH BAY**

A final example discussed is from the North Bay area. A local citizens group in North Bay is quite active in terms of archaeology and heritage and in conjunction with local city officials is interested in developing an ongoing archaeological heritage component, and/or a living museum at Champlain Park, as part of its Heritage North concept. The City has also purchased a larger property with a potential ecology park in mind.

Heritage research on the La Vase River (archaeological, historical, natural history) has been ongoing since 1995 and includes two Field Schools organized by Laurentian University (Julig, 1998). The research carried on by several institutions and by consultants was supported by the City of North Bay. We have now completed some of the initial research phase. We have gained an understanding of the cultural and historical background of the last 2 000 years: the cultures (Aboriginal and Euro-Canadian) which used the La Vase River and traversed the portage and, from the sites investigated, the range of its activities and structures, within the context of the great cultural changes since the arrival of the Europeans in the 17th Century. This research now provides the background for basic interpretation and for recommendations to be made (detailed below) for consideration by the City of North Bay. The recommendations will include a range of options from static interpretive displays to a seasonal living museum staffed and run largely by youth within a co-management framework. Below are the key components to be considered for three of the sites at this location in North Bay. They include:

1. CbGu-1, North Bank site, an Algonquian and fur-trade era campsite in

Champlain Park,

2. CbGu-5, Bothwell Island, at the mouth of the La Vase River, site of Fort Laronde, a ca.1820 independent French trading post and Algonquian native site, and

3. CbGu-7, the Park site, an early 19th Century Euro-Canadian farmstead site on Lake Nipissing.

**Table 1: Archaeological Research Findings and Development Potential at La Vase Champlain Park**

<p><b>CbGu-1 North Bank Site</b> Champlain Park Nipissing (Algonquian) and voyageurs short-term stopover.</p> <p>* Note : Potential living museum developments on south side of La Vase River, not only in Champlain Park.</p>	<p><u>Prehistoric components</u> -pottery, stone tools, cache pits, fishing, red ochre use -small shelters <u>Historic components</u> -large stone fireplace -trading and camping</p>	<p><u>Static interpretive displays</u> -rebuild fireplace -depictions of Nipissing F/N prehistoric way of life <u>Living museum</u> (co-managed with Nipissing First Nation) A. Summer season -traditional summer lodge -traditional manufacture of canoes, ceramics, stone tools, traditional medicine, sweat lodge, drumming, dancing, traditional ceremonies. (visitor involvement) B. Winter season -traditional Algonquian winter lodge and activities, snowshoes, toboggans, (tourists stay in lodges?)</p>
<p><b>CbGu-5 Bothwell Island</b> -Fort Laronde trading post -Prehistoric site (multiple cultures over ca. 1 500 years)</p>	<p><u>Historic components</u> -Fort Laronde remains -clay fireplace -timbers and stone supports -trading evidence ca. 1600's to 1800's <u>Prehistoric components</u> -clay pipes, stone tools, ceramic pottery, - long-term use as summer campsite and trade location.</p>	<p><u>Static interpretive displays</u> -rebuild Fort Laronde (on south side of La Vase River) -interpretations of Métis culture in Great Lakes ca. 1800 <u>Living museum</u> -students conducting traditional activities of fur- trade era, similar to old Fort William, (smaller scale) -outdoors, and in Fort, including gardening, provisioning, canoe repairs, (visitors stop for tea and bannock?)</p>
<p><b>CbGu-7 Park Site</b> Early homestead/logging era</p>	<p><u>Historic components</u> -early farmstead, logging era provisioning, horses. <u>Prehistoric components</u> (-present but not studied)</p>	<p><u>Static interpretive displays</u> -uncover parts of old building foundations for visitors to view as stop along walking trails. -potential future development as living museum?</p>

## 6. SUMMARY OF A WORLD HERITAGE SITE

- ! UNESCO's World Heritage mission is to identify, protect, preserve, and promote cultural and natural heritage sites around the world, sites that are considered **of outstanding value to humanity**.
- ! Since 1972, over 130 countries have signed the international UN Convention, and there are a total of 582 cultural and natural sites. Included are significant archaeological (Pyramids of Egypt) and historical sites (old Quebec City) and also major natural sites (such as Kluane and Nahanni National Parks in Western Canada).
- ! The World Heritage Convention is the "only global conservation treaty that focuses on the protection of universally significant cultural and natural heritage" (Cameron, 1992: p.18).
- ! Canada has 12 World Heritage sites, four in the Atlantic region and eight in Western Canada, but none between Quebec City and Alberta.
- ! The Great Lakes are unique and irreplaceable as the **largest freshwater lakes in the world and are surrounded by unique natural and cultural heritage sites** (Julig, 1998: p.3).
- ! This application would come under the mixed site category, having both outstanding natural and cultural values.

## 7. HOW TO OBTAIN WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION

- ! An application for inclusion on the World Heritage list must come from the country itself, including a plan on how the site (or sites) is to be managed. The concepts of nature conservancy and protection of cultural sites must be integrated in the application.
- ! The World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and IUCN (World Conservation Union) meet once a year to examine the nominations on the basis of technical evaluations.
- ! Once a site is selected it is placed on the World Heritage list.

**8. WHY GO FOR WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION?**

- ! The action of obtaining and promoting World Heritage designation would bring together a diversity of concerned elements (First Nations, tourism industry, FedNor, Franco-Ontarians, provincial ministries, local Economic Development groups, etc.) under Laurentian University academic leadership.
- ! Marketing and promotion of the site would provide economic development and encourage world educational travel.
- ! Student employment could be enhanced, with jobs going to Laurentian graduates.
- ! Multiculturalism would be promoted through the living museum concept, as at old Fort William in Thunder Bay and at other regional archaeological sites (Sheguiandah and La Vase, see Figure 1).
- ! Phase One, which would have the north shores of lakes Huron and Superior designated, would be the catalyst for designation of the entire Great Lakes as a World Heritage site. This would complete the work of the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes, started many years ago.

**9. ACTION PLAN**

- ! There are a number of important heritage sites and locations already protected across the upper Great Lakes (Huron and Superior north shores), and these need to be identified, linked, promoted, and managed as special educational travel destinations (Fig. 1), and possibly later as living museum sites.
- ! Approach FedNor and other funding agencies with a request for funding to develop the concept and plan Phase One which will be submitted in the year 2000.
- ! As a key aspect of our Strategic Plan, have this initiative led by Laurentian University, with the purpose of providing short-term leadership and coordinating the involvement of the different interested elements in a sustainable economic and ecological initiative.

- ! Identify the positive and negative aspects of such a designation by the World Heritage Convention (see Cameron, 1992).
- ! Consider hiring Dr. Christina Cameron (Ottawa), the former chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, as a consultant. Develop a living museum site, at Laurentian University, to be run by students as a model and training location for other sites. Students from various disciplines could participate.
- ! Phase Two will expand the designation to the entire Canadian side of the Great Lakes. Phase Three will expand the designation to both the Canadian and American sides of the Great Lakes and expand the heritage sites/living museum concept throughout the basin.

## **SUMMARY**

There are some excellent opportunities across the upper Great Lakes to develop archaeological theme parks, interpretive centers and living museums operated largely by students and co-managed by the appropriate cultural groups. They could be organized on a relatively modest scale, provide youth employment and better serve the needs of tourism, specifically ecotourism. Cultural heritage is of considerable interest world-wide, and these projects would certainly appeal to our European and Asian visitors. Already the tour boats are making scheduled stops on Manitoulin Island and the regional needs can only be expanding in this area. We can predict that the interest in living museums will expand, with winter and summer tourists requesting unique experiences, as we can see with the igloos for snowmobilers in Cochrane. As well as summer experiences listed earlier, it is likely that they would also be interested in a range of winter experiences (Algonquian lodges, northern lights, wildlife viewing, wolf listening). World Heritage designation for the upper Great Lakes would move this process forward. To ensure the success of such a project, it will be up to us, then, to consider the needs of the local populations, to help them cope with the changes that these unique cultural and natural heritage attractions will involve.

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