

# Bayer's Lake *Mystery Walls* Heritage Site

## Nova Scotia Archaeology Society

### ***Mid Spring Field Trip***

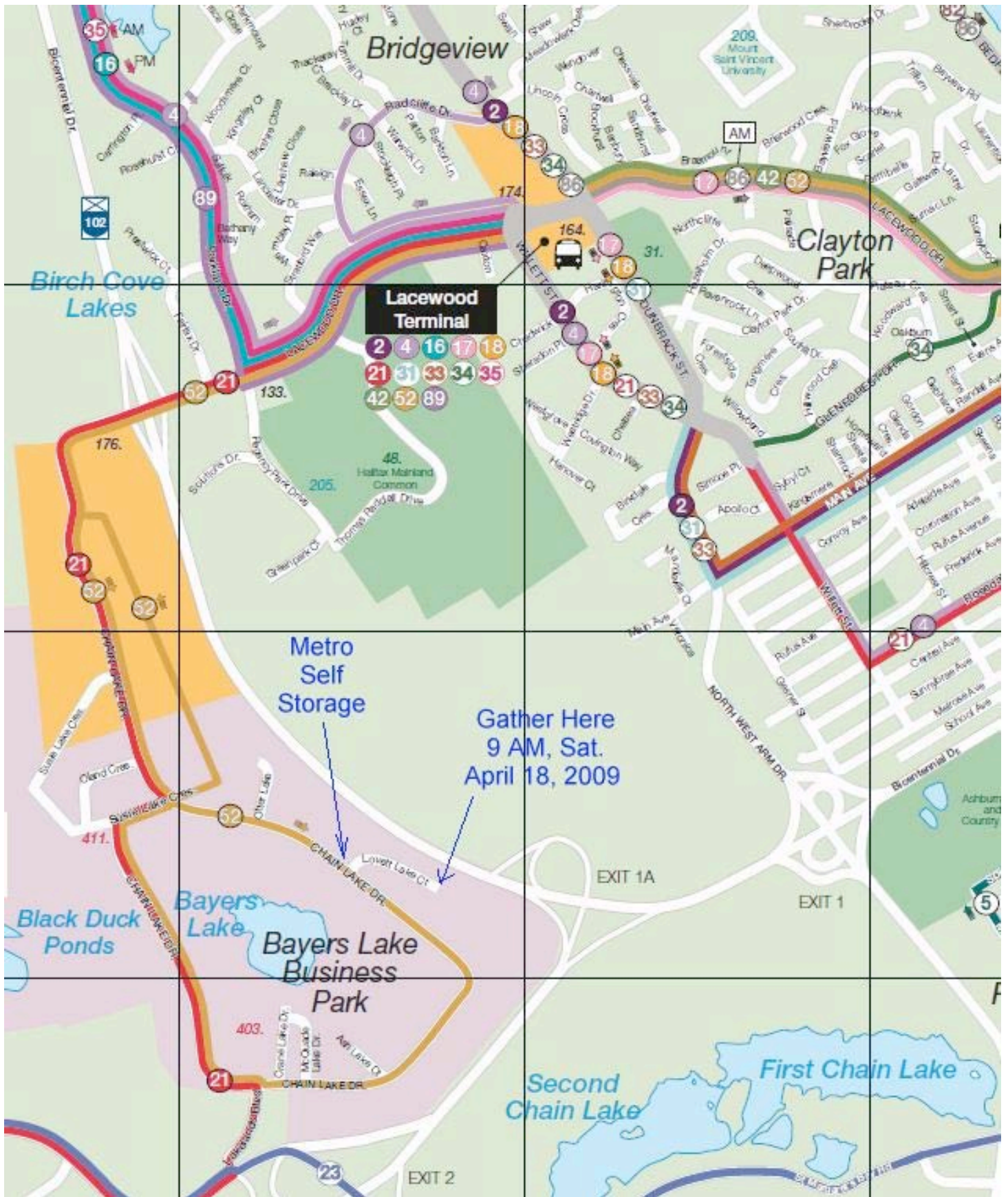
Saturday, April 18, 2009

The *Nova Scotia Archaeology Society* has arranged a special field trip to The Bayer's Lake Heritage Site, also known as the *Bayer's Lake Mystery Walls*. Members are encouraged to come, and bring a guest. The first part of the tour, taking about an-hour-and-a-half, covering most of the actual walls and the two foundation sites, is accessible through light to moderate hiking. An optional second part, requiring more strenuous hiking and bush-whacking, will be offered for those who are interested. It will cover some of the seldom seen related ruins in the Chain Lakes Watershed area to the east of the walls. This will take an additional two hours, or longer, depending on interest.

When development for the *Bayer's Lake Business Park* was started in October 1990, concerned members of the community brought the site to the attention of Provincial Archaeology authorities, seeking its protection from development. Local people had long known of its existence, but had kept quiet about it. A flurry of activity in late 1990 and 1991 resulted in a number of media items drawing attention to the site and a couple of brief studies by accredited archaeologists. The Province decided to extend *Special Places Protection* to the site in 1991, pending further study. Despite a number of suggested explanations by various experts, the most popular being that it may have been a British military training and practice area from the post-1749 period, no fully satisfactory explanation for the site has yet to emerge.

The main site, located in lot 11A of the business park, consists of approximately 150-metres of snaking carefully-built dry-stone wall of varying height and width, generally following the brow of a high ridge, along with the remains of two dry-stone polygonal building foundations. The smaller of the two foundations abuts a tall vertical cliff face and includes a stone staircase. Recent investigations in the Chain Lakes Watershed Area to the east of this have revealed a collection of enigmatic ruins that appear to be linked to each other, and to the main walls site, by the remains of a highly unusual type of road network. Despite the fact that most typical sorts of development have been prohibited in this area since it was set aside for the purpose of the City Water Supply in 1846, these enigmatic ruins must be distinguished from the many relics of Colonial activity throughout the area, including damming, road building, pipeline and canal construction, the railroad construction in 1904, electric power corridors, quarrying, woodcutting, hunting, a known homestead site, a known WWI entrenchment and machine gun installation, and recent recreational activities. We need to also be aware that a Mi'kmaq medicine woman was known to reside in this area and that there may be other relics of Aboriginal occupation to be found.

The tour will begin from the cul-de-sac at the end of Lovett Lake Ct., off Chain Lake Dr., in the Bayer's Lake Business Park. The Metro Transit Route 52 bus can drop you off opposite Metro Self Storage, at the entrance to Lovett Lake Ct., at 9:04 AM — or you can arrive by car. Parking is available at the cul-de-sac. We should all plan to gather on Lovett Lake Ct. at 9 AM. The tour will depart at 9:15 sharp, so don't be late. A locator map is provided on the reverse of this notice.



**Lacewood Terminal**

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- 21 31 33 34 35
- 42 52 89

Gather Here  
9 AM, Sat.  
April 18, 2009

Metro  
Self  
Storage

Bayers Lake  
Business  
Park

Second  
Chain Lake

First Chain Lake

Birch Cove  
Lakes

Bridgeview

Clayton  
Park

102

35 AM  
16 PM

AM

EXIT 1A

EXIT 1

EXIT 2

EXIT 5

403

176

133

411

48

Halter Mainland  
Common

Thomas Percival Drive

Chain Lake Dr

Lovett Lake Ct

Chain Lake Dr

Chain Lake Dr

Chain Lake Dr

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