

Sampling For the Time of Humans



◀ Brock researchers boring a hole in the ice on Crawford Lake.

On Feb. 20, earth science researchers from Brock University collected samples of frozen sediment from the bottom of Crawford Lake in Milton. The researchers hope that the layers of sediment at this location will indicate the beginning of the time period during which humans have been the dominant species on earth.

Crawford Lake, managed by Conservation Halton, is a meromictic lake, which means that it is so deep that little oxygen reaches the lowest levels, and the bottom layers of sediment are rarely disturbed. A study in 1971 found corn pollen in a layer dating to the mid-1400s, suggesting the presence of a Native village nearby at that time. Further excavations confirmed the location and a modern reconstruction of longhouses surrounded by a palisade can be explored here.



▲ The important core sample on a tarp. Studies on the sample will be done to investigate the time of early humans. Photos provided by Conservation Halton.

◀ The core sample of lake sediment being winched up out of the hole in the ice.